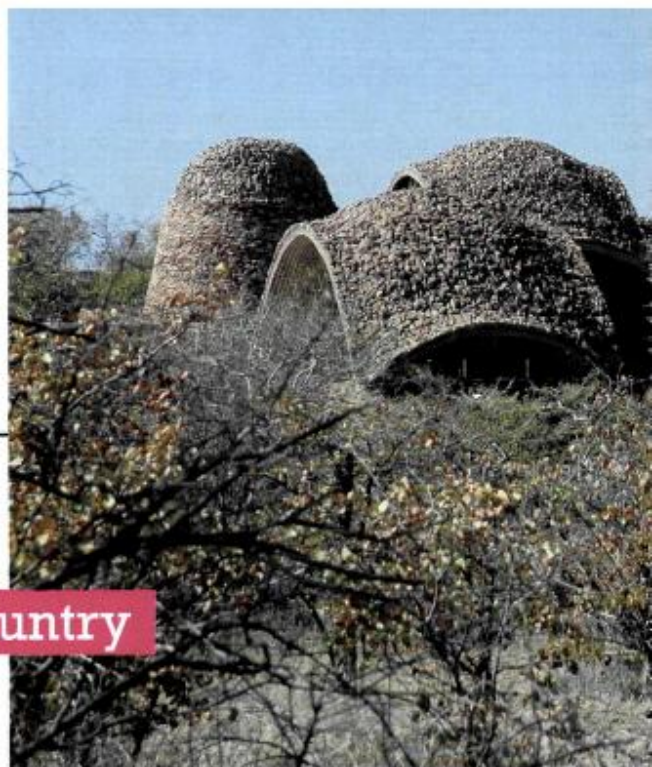


FLY [first up!]

COMPILED BY ANNA RICH
afro.optimist@fairlady.com

afro OPTIMIST

Why South Africa is the best country
for you to be in, right now!



MIELIEEEES!

If the gorgeous bag that caught your eye is bright and beautiful, it's probably made by Mielie. The technicolour bags and homeware pieces are woven from fabric offcuts sourced from designers and clothing factories. A sustainable business employing more than 45 men and women, Mielie also

supports a preschool and has started an organic food garden. The rest of the world loves these rainbow products too – they're exported to several countries. Available from selected stockists countrywide. See www.mielie.com.

Giveaway

To receive one of three Mielie sets, each worth R1 000 and including a bag, coin purse and pencil, SMS the word 'Mielie', followed by your name, physical and/or postal and email addresses to 34910. SMSes cost R2, free SMSes don't apply. **Closing date: 8 February 2010.**

TIME TO SHOOT

• **Apple Mac has launched the A-Z of ZA competition to showcase the best to be seen and done in South Africa.**

To participate, take pictures or video of *your SA*, the faces, bits and pieces, or anything else that makes this the best country to be in in 2010... Then take your pics to participating iStores in digital format, where you can use iPhoto photo-editing software to put together a photo book of your pictures. The hard-cover books start from

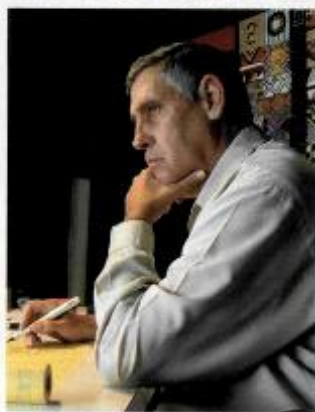
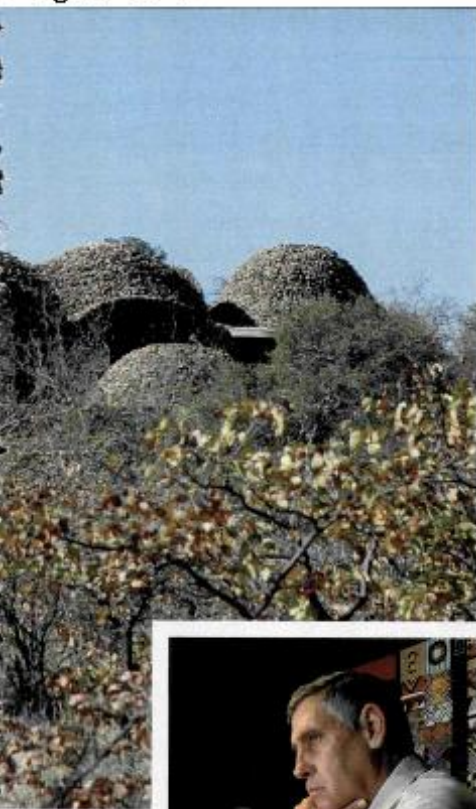
BELOW The cover of the photo book created by Team FAIRLADY.



R300 for 20 A5 pages, and can be printed on gloss or matte paper. The campaign runs until end June 2010. Go to www.a2zofza.co.za for participating retailers and more information.

• **The Africa Photographic Awards (APA) is the largest photographic competition ever, with prizes to the tune of R3 million.**

Enter online at www.africanphotographicawards.co.za until 31 March 2010. Entry fees start from R10 per entry for learners, to R200 for portfolio entries – and the best part is that The Tomorrow Trust, which finances the education of HIV/Aids orphans, receives all the proceeds from the competition. [Source: www.mediaweb.co.za]



TOP LEFT: View of the exterior: the buildings are designed to blend with nature, seeming to grow out of the site.
TOP RIGHT: The design incorporates timber latte, ramps and curved walls.
LEFT: Award-winning architect Peter Rich
BELOW: The exhibition space consists of undulating vaults in a cavernous space.

FLY [first up!]

“The consensus seemed to be that this design is about integrity, that it is unique, that though it is modern, it has a feel of being ancient. It is rooted in sensibilities that maybe we’ve forgotten.”

FAB FACTS

- The University of Stellenbosch Business School is one of the top 40 business schools in the world, according to the Aspen Institute’s Beyond Grey Pinstripes survey. This survey looks at how well students are prepared in terms of financial, as well as social and environmental factors.
- Cape Town is one of the top 10 party cities in the world, says *Lonely Planet*.

Drawing *inspiration*

South African architect Peter Rich won two awards at the World Architecture Festival held in Barcelona late last year, for completed buildings (Culture) and for World Building of the Year 2009. According to WAF programme director [and editor of *Architectural Review*] Paul Finch, this is ‘world architecture’s highest accolade’.

‘We felt privileged to be short-listed in the Culture category, competing with firms we admire most in the world,’ says Rich. ‘Then to actually win overall is quite different to what you’d expect. It’s a humbling experience; people were so generous – everyone hugs you.’ The award was for the Mapungubwe Interpretation Centre, situated where the Limpopo

and Shashe rivers meet in Mapungubwe National Park.

The centre was commissioned by South African National Parks to display artefacts from the ancient civilisation at Mapungubwe. Johannesburg-based Peter Rich Architects involved the local community in both the design and construction of the centre, drawing inspiration for the design from the landscape. Unemployed local people were trained in the manufacture of stabilised earth tiles and in building the vaulting. The centre is true to ancient African building techniques – very little cement or steel was used.

‘The consensus seemed to be that this design is about integrity, that it is unique, that though it is modern, it has a feel of

being ancient. It is rooted in sensibilities that maybe we’ve forgotten,’ says Rich. ‘In world architecture, the focus tends to be on the northern hemisphere, but this award has drawn attention to South Africa – there is now a real interest in it as a place of the fresh and new.’

