

PlatAfrica Awards 2005: Innovative interpretations

When the PlatAfrica Awards were initiated six years ago, the idea was to encourage local jewellery designers and manufacturers to work in platinum while simultaneously stimulating market demand.

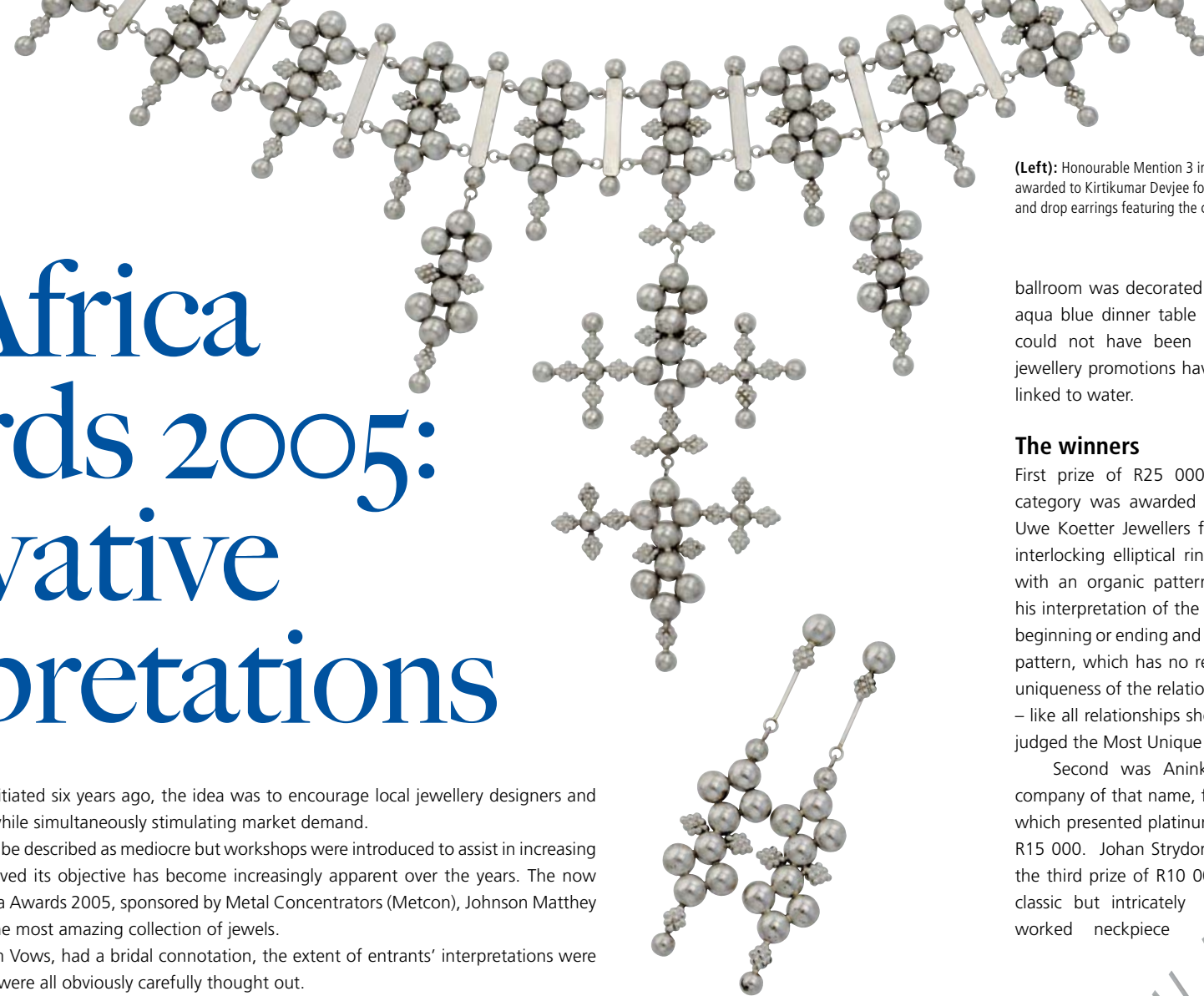
The first efforts could reasonably be described as mediocre but workshops were introduced to assist in increasing expertise. That the project has achieved its objective has become increasingly apparent over the years. The now prestigious competition, the PlatAfrica Awards 2005, sponsored by Metal Concentrators (Metcon), Johnson Matthey and Anglo Platinum, has produced the most amazing collection of jewels.

While the 2005 theme, Platinum Vows, had a bridal connotation, the extent of entrants' interpretations were innovative, to say the least, but they were all obviously carefully thought out.

Finished pieces were received from 22 professionals and 45 from students of the four training institutions, each accompanied by written interpretations detailing the thought processes behind their designs.

The platinum metal for entrants was sponsored by Johnson Matthey (SA) and the competition organised and managed by Metcon. The designs were judged by Chris van Rensburg, Lorraine Efune, Irma Theron and Alice Weil and the final results were all but unanimous.

The awards were announced at a glamorous function at the Sandton Convention Centre, hosted by the Anglo Platinum Corporation. The



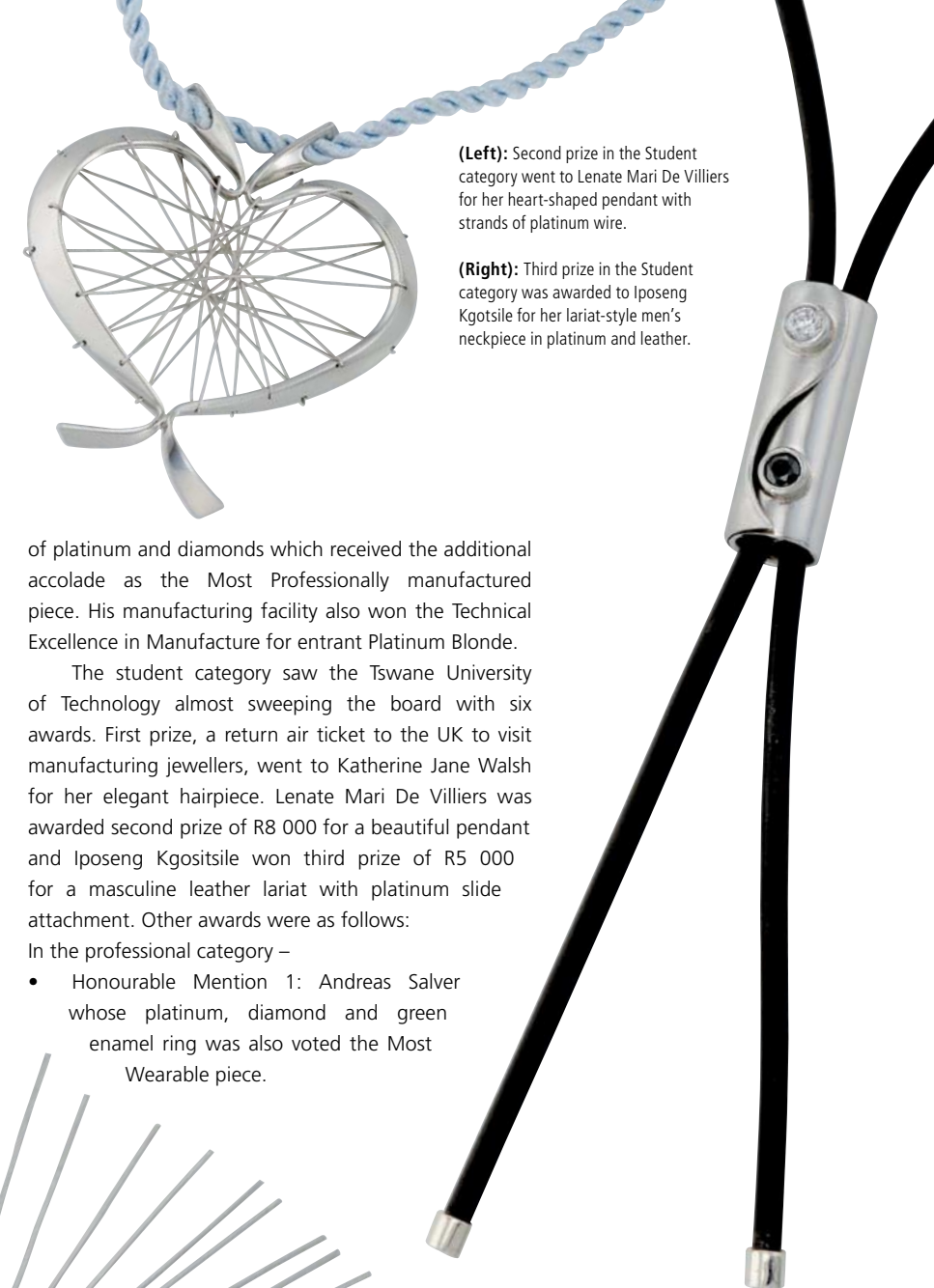
(Left): Honourable Mention 3 in the Professional Category was awarded to Kirtikumar Devjee for his matching set of neckpiece and drop earrings featuring the cross.

ballroom was decorated with silvery lighting, white and aqua blue dinner table accessories. The colour scheme could not have been more appropriate as platinum jewellery promotions have, for the past two years, been linked to water.

The winners

First prize of R25 000 in the professional jeweller's category was awarded to Capetonian Johan Louw of Uwe Koetter Jewellers for his spectacular neckpiece of interlocking elliptical rings of African blackwood inlaid with an organic pattern in platinum. Louw explained his interpretation of the theme: "The oval rings have no beginning or ending and therefore symbolise eternity. The pattern, which has no repetitive form, also denotes the uniqueness of the relationship. The pattern is not perfect – like all relationships should be." Louw's entry was also judged the Most Unique and the Most Original design.

Second was Aninka Harms, who has her own company of that name, for an equally stunning necklace which presented platinum in an unusual finish. She won R15 000. Johan Strydom of Juweel Kuns was awarded the third prize of R10 000 for his classic but intricately worked neckpiece



(Left): Second prize in the Student category went to Lenate Mari De Villiers for her heart-shaped pendant with strands of platinum wire.

(Right): Third prize in the Student category was awarded to Iposeng Kgotsile for her lariat-style men's neckpiece in platinum and leather.

of platinum and diamonds which received the additional accolade as the Most Professionally manufactured piece. His manufacturing facility also won the Technical Excellence in Manufacture for entrant Platinum Blonde.

The student category saw the Tswane University of Technology almost sweeping the board with six awards. First prize, a return air ticket to the UK to visit manufacturing jewellers, went to Katherine Jane Walsh for her elegant hairpiece. Lenate Mari De Villiers was awarded second prize of R8 000 for a beautiful pendant and Iposeng Kgotsile won third prize of R5 000 for a masculine leather lariat with platinum slide attachment. Other awards were as follows:

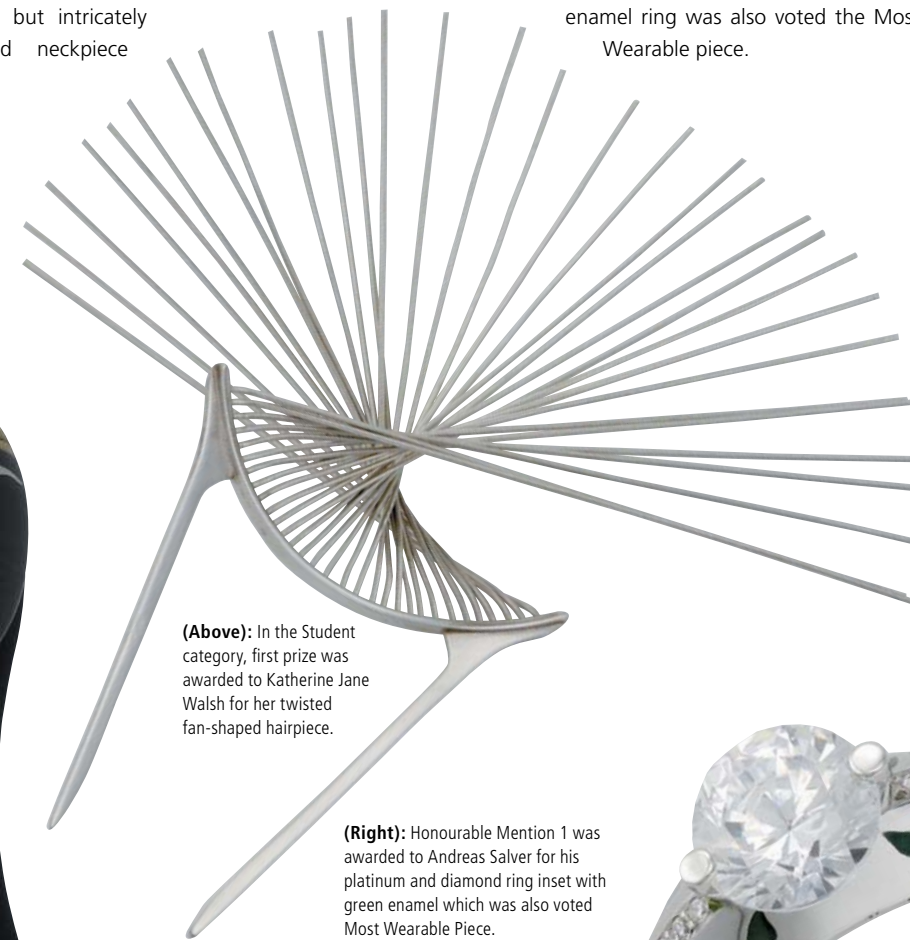
In the professional category –

- Honourable Mention 1: Andreas Salver whose platinum, diamond and green enamel ring was also voted the Most Wearable piece.



(Above): Johan Louw was placed first in the Professional category. His spectacular neckpiece in platinum and wood was also voted most original and most unique design.

(Left): Honourable Mention 2 in the Professional Category was awarded to Wayne Deglon and Suné Fick for their asymmetric platinum and gem-set neckpiece.



(Above): In the Student category, first prize was awarded to Katherine Jane Walsh for her twisted fan-shaped hairpiece.

(Right): Honourable Mention 1 was awarded to Andreas Salver for his platinum and diamond ring inset with green enamel which was also voted Most Wearable Piece.

(Far right): For Technical Excellence in Manufacture, this ring by Platinum Blonde received an award.



AWARDS

- Honourable Mention 2: Wayne Deglon and Sune Fick for a dainty asymmetric necklace featuring orchid butterflies.
- Honourable Mention 3: Kirtikumar Devjee for a matching set of necklace and drop earrings which symbolised the cross.

In the student category – (from Tswane University):

- Honourable Mention 1: Melinda Henning
- Honourable Mention 2: Lynette Greber
- Honourable Mention 3: Nhlanhla Maseko
- Most Unique design: Rene Van Heerden
- While from the College of Cape Town, Eon Hoon's charming combination of platinum and pearls was decreed the Most Creative design.

The sensational platinum wedding gown (worn by model Primrose) confirmed the malleability of platinum and its ductile properties which made it possible to weave a cloth of super-thin platinum foil (of 2/10 000mm) lined with Japanese paper. For weaving purposes this was shredded to a width of 0.3mm.

So delicate was the weaving process which was accomplished by hand that only some 50 to 60 cm could be woven in a day. The fabric was ultimately shaped by Italian stylist Mauro Adami of the Domo Adami fashion scene.

It was a fitting climax to a glamorous evening that included dance displays and a jazz band. ■



(Above): Second place in the Professional category was awarded to Aninka Harms for her ethereal neckpiece which also received an award for most innovative use of platinum.



(Centre): Most Creative Design in the Student Category was awarded to Eon Hoon for this charming necklace of platinum and pearls, which expressed the vows of the marriage ceremony.



(Below): René van Heerden received the accolade of Most Unique Design in the Student Category for this striking beaded bracelet.



(Left): Lynette Greber received Honourable Mention 2 in the Student Category for her woven platinum bangle.