

Nando's Hot Young Designer Talent Search 2020 finalists revealed

The Nando's Hot Young Designer Talent Search (HYD) has announced its list of finalists for 2020. The competition, now in its third iteration, aims to unearth fresh new designs and launch the careers of local emerging creatives. For the 2020 edition of HYD, young designers were [asked to create a unique bench](#) that responds sensitively to seating needs in a time of social distancing.



Design challenge: A bench that can adapt to the Covid-19 times

15 May 2020



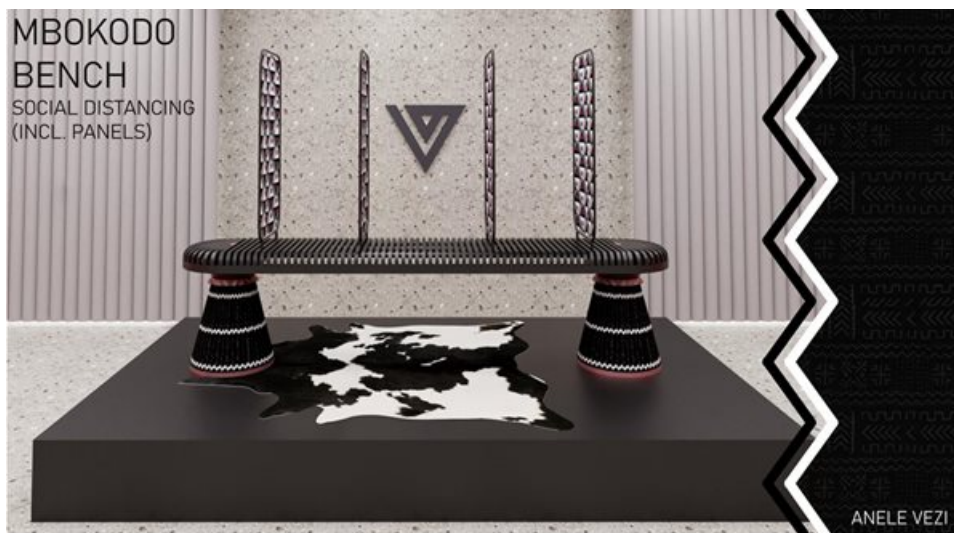
The 2020 HYD finalists were chosen by a prestigious panel of eight industry judges including pre-eminent local furniture designers Thabisa Mjo of Mash T Design Studio and Mpho Vackier of The Urbanative, who were jointly awarded Designer of the Year at the 2019 100% Design South Africa Awards; Steve Smith, the editor of *Visi*; Annemarie Meintjies, deputy editor of *Visi*; creative director Tracy Lynch of Studio Leelynch and the Nando's Design Programme; Michael Spinks, property and development director for Nando's; art director Jo Skelton of the Nando's Design Programme; and editor Malibongwe Tyilo, also of the Nando's Design Programme.

The judging took place during September 2020 and was segmented into two phases, with the process taking a total of three weeks to complete. In the first phase, a shortlist of 22 entries was created from the initial flood of submissions. Members of the Nando's Clout team, comprising Lynch, Spinks and Tyilo, voted on the shortlist inclusions using a set of criteria mapped to the entry requirements. This shortlist of 22 entries was then put before the entire judging panel, which used the same set of criteria to vote for the top ten entries.

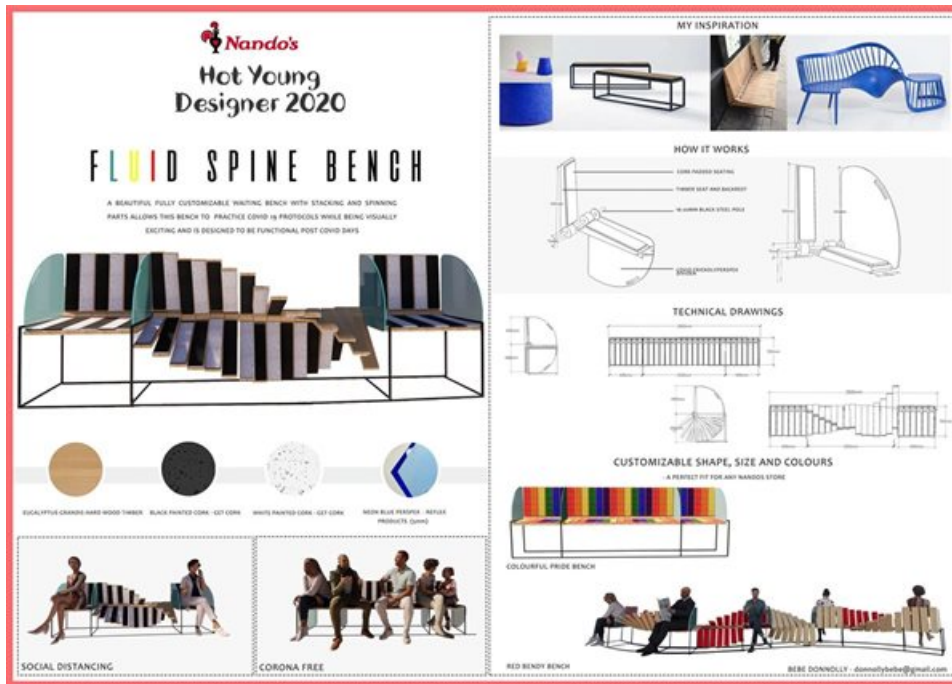
Due to the high standard of the entries received, there was a tie for one of the places, and one entry had two designers who were jointly responsible for the submission, resulting in a total of 11 projects by 12 finalists being chosen, instead of 10 names.

View the 2020 HYD finalists and their submissions here:

1. Anele Vezi



2. Bebe Donnolly

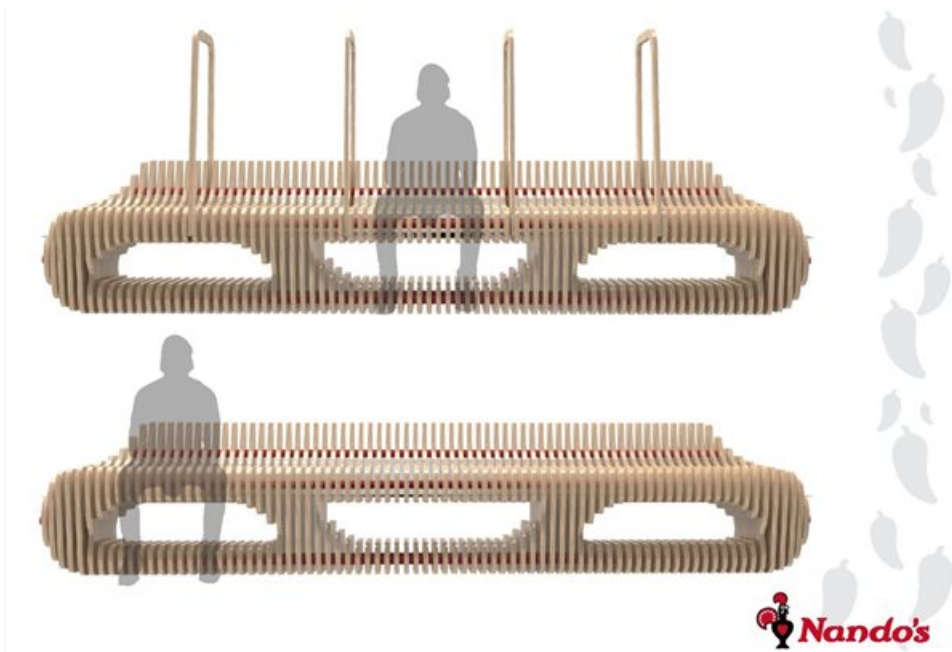


[click to enlarge](#)

3. Christian Botha



4. Darren Myburgh



5. Jan de Wet and Jeanne Scholtz



6. Katlego Tshuma



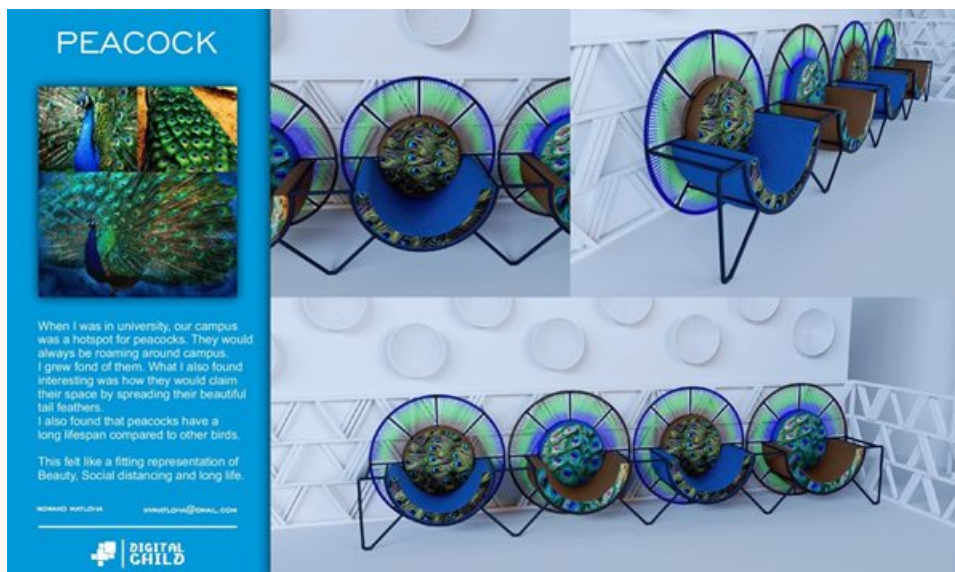
7. Mimi Roberts

Isibaya (The Kraal Bench)
"Every Casa needs a Kraal"
Traditional patterns and symbolic colours used

Kent and Lane
Mimi Roberts
mimi@kentandlane.co.za



8. Ngwako Matloha



[click to enlarge](#)

9. Sipho Twala



10. Siviwe Jali

Accessories

Top view of bench design with screen dividers in place.

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11. Thando Nxelewa

Space Bench

Concept 3:
Round Bench



Concept 2:
Corner Bench
Red



Corner Bench
Green



Waiting Bench
Concept Design

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Thando Nxelewa

Speaking of the quality of work demonstrated by the entrants, Lynch says she was blown away by the incredibly creative responses to a very challenging brief.

"The entries were powerful and beautifully presented. Receiving these well-conceived expressions, which highlight the layers of our unique heritage and reflect the future of South African design from our emerging designers, fills me with hope and happiness. If the future is in the hands of this generation, then we have so much to look forward to!" Lynch says.

Now that the HYD finalists have been announced, all 12 will be invited to a mentorship session hosted by Nando's that is set to take place in November 2020. To allow these 12 young designers to benefit from the experience and wisdom of those who are already established in their careers, a range of top local designers have been invited share their design approach, career journey and workshop style.

The overall winner of the HYD will be announced at a separate event, to be held at Constitution Hill once the first mentorship workshop is concluded.

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