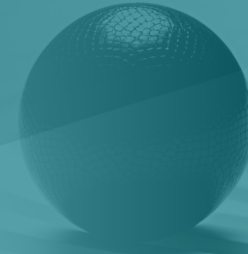




EQUI
LIBRIUM

PLATINUM AFRICA



- Structural
- Physical
- Balance
- Dynamic
- Emotional
- Nature
- Harmony
- Stability
- Duality
- Contrast
- Tension
- Resolution
- Floating
- Unity
- Motion
- Symbiotic
- Symmetry
- Asymmetry
- Beauty found in between
- Negative space



Equilibrium (the theme)

The theme of “**Equilibrium**” explores how opposing forces find harmony. Designers may explore within duality to examine the delicate compositions that hold tension in place. Equilibrium is not stillness; it is the active, conscious maintenance of stability amid complexity.

PlatAfrica 2026 encourages designers to investigate balance across multiple dimensions. Structural equilibrium speaks to engineering and material integrity, where weight and composition converse.

Physical equilibrium considers the platinum as landscape – how the metal rests, moves, and interacts with the human form. Emotional equilibrium invites reflection on inner states: harmony amid tension, strength within vulnerability.

Cosmic balance embraces orbits, eclipses, planetary alignment, but also play between positive and negative space. Ecological equilibrium confronts urgent global realities– environmental impact, humanity’s relationship with the natural world.

“Equilibrium” seeks designs where meaning is beyond narrative but structural, where beauty emerges from the honest negotiation of opposition and compositions, and where every aesthetic choice testifies to balance sustained, tension honoured and beauty found in forces, action and motion.

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CONSUMER PROFILE

Pick your consumer

This year you need to choose your own
target consumers.

We suggest you first **formulate a real person or personality**,
and then proceed to best describe them by selecting the
check boxes provided in Annexure 2.

PLATINUM AS A CANVAS OF STRUCTURAL CREATIVITY

Naturally white and durable, platinum is pure, rare and eternal. Its density offers structural advantages: it holds shape under stress, its high toughness supports complex settings, and allow for finer construction without sacrificing strength.

Platinum is the perfect canvas. Its neutrality lets form, line, and texture take definitive shape. It enables structural creativity – balance expressed through tension, negative space, movement, and the interplay of weight and reflection.

Platinum precious and rare

Platinum – is the perfect canvas, as a precious metal it is naturally white and highly durable, let the metal take the lead.

Platinum is:

ENDURING

Tenacious and tough, it's the perfect witnesses to true love that lasts a lifetime.

TIMELESS

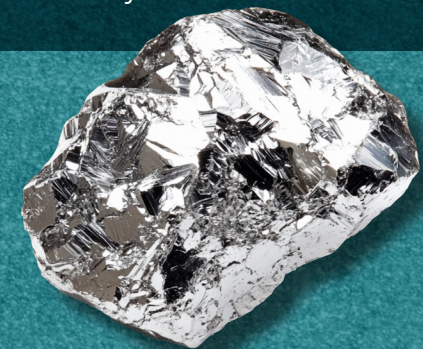
Does not fade or corrode, it stands the test of time. Perfect for heirlooms to pass to future generations.

NATURALLY WHITE

The best security for your diamonds and precious stones.

THE METAL OF TRUTH

At 950 purity it symbolises integrity, excellence and authenticity.



DESIGN HOOKS

Design hooks are design ideas that come from the latest trends that are relevant to the theme of Equilibrium. You can use them for inspiration but they do not dictate the design direction.

Structural

Contrast

Physical

Tension

Balance

Resolution

Dynamic

Floating

Emotional

Motion

Nature

Unity

Harmony

Symmetry

Stability

Asymmetry

Duality

Negative
space

> **CLICK HERE** if you wish to explore

these design hooks 

DESIGN LANGUAGE

... and what the judges will be looking for

PLAY OF ELEMENTS

- Achieve simplicity
- Clean look: less is more
- Explore one or two elements
- Unique play of:
 - Forms
 - Shapes
 - Stone settings

DESIGN EXPECTATION

- One size does not fit all
- Simplistic and timeless
- Global influences
- Highest quality
- Personalisation
- Future forward

CRAFTSMANSHIP

- Extraordinary finishes
- Touch of art
- Wearability
- Sellable
- Clean linking



Platinum metal matters

- Less is more
- Responsible and qualitative acquisitions
- Platinum key component for pro-environment technologies
- Stand out from the clutter
- Rarity brings exclusivity
- Meaningful
- Established symbol of love

Before you begin:

Mandatories

Metal allowances	Maximum Pt allowance
Professional category	100 g
Student category	20 g

Please read through the metal requirements on page eight.

Minimum Pt acceptable	
Rings/Pendants/Chains	6 g
Earrings (for a pair) 8-18 g maximum to ensure earrings are comfortable to wear.	8 g
Necklaces/Bangles/Bracelets/Armlets	10 g

- **Understand who you chose as your consumer**, consider their lifestyle and budget, and design your competition entry statement piece for your chosen consumer. **This you will both design and manufacture.**
- Platinum must lead the design.
- What would the “**Equilibrium**” theme look like for your chosen consumer in the jewellery form?
- Make sure you **clearly and concisely communicate your design story** or what your inspiration has been.

KEY REQUIREMENTS



METAL MATTERS

Silver disclosure requirement

- If **silver** is used anywhere in the piece, it **must be clearly disclosed** in **Annexure 2 on your entry form**.
- A **visual diagram** is required, showing **exactly where the silver is located** (use arrows/labels).
- **Failure to disclose silver = automatic disqualification.**

Platinum utilisation requirement

- If silver is used **in place of platinum**, and a **significant amount of platinum remains unused**, the entry will receive a major point deduction.

FINDINGS

Earring backs

- **Earring backs must be sourced/purchased**, even if they are silver.
- **Do not fabricate** earring backs anymore – handmade backs typically **do not function well** and cause fit/performance issues.

Chain / necklace presentation rule

While this is a competition, the end goal is to have a piece that is saleable. For the competition, if you have designed a pendant and a chain is needed for presentation, consider using a **black, silver or coloured cord** instead.

- Using silver or stainless chains **without properly declaring this in Annexure 2**, will result in negative marks.
- Note: **Winners will be provided a proper platinum chain** to sell with the piece.

STONES

Again, this is a competition, the end goal is to have a piece that is saleable.

Consider how using cubics impacts its saleability. Consider using natural stones or in the case of diamonds, synthetic (lab diamonds).

MANUFACTURING DISCLOSURE

Casting vs hand fabrication

- Entrants must **accurately declare** the manufacturing method used.
- If a piece is **cast** but is submitted/marked as **hand fabricated**, a **point deduction** will apply.

Definitions

- **Hand fabrication:** Built from the ground up using sheet and wire (constructed, formed, assembled).
- **Casting:** Produced via **investment casting** (wax/resin model > mold > cast).

TECHNICAL TIPS

WHY PLATINUM FINISHING MATTERS (COMPETITION STANDARD)

- **Platinum showcases craftsmanship** – a high polish reveals precision, symmetry, and clean execution.
- **Surface condition impacts scoring** – casting scale, pits, file marks, and tool scratches read as incomplete work.
- **Premium metal, premium finish** – platinum is judged as a top-tier material; finishing must match that expectation.
- **Function + comfort** – smooth edges, clean under-gallery, and refined contact points improve wearability and safety.
- **Stone security is visible** – cleanly finished prongs, seats, and bezels signal professional setting quality.
- **Limit unfinished areas** – any intentional texture must be deliberate and consistent, not leftover manufacturing marks.

FINISH EXPECTATIONS (AVOID/LIMIT):

- Casting scale/oxidation left on surfaces.
- Unpolished recesses or “hard-to-reach” areas ignored.
- Deep sanding lines, file marks, pits/porosity left visible.
- Uneven reflections, rounded-off details from over-buffing.
- If a **magnetic tumbler** is used, the piece must still be **sanded and hand-polished afterward**.
- **Magnetic tumbling alone is not sufficient** to achieve a competition-level platinum finish.

EARRINGS – PLEASE NOTE

Earrings posts–Need to be made properly

- **Earring post guidelines** **Post diameter:** 0.8–0.9 mm **Post length:** 9–10 mm
- **Safety feature:** Include **grooves/notches** (safety grooves) to help the backing grip securely and reduce the risk of the earring loosening.

0.8–0.9 mm



Videos and other platinum resource information

How to polish cast platinum: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QV6TtpAvOA>

Professional polishing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Voutk_2FJac

Platinum resource centre: <https://www.platinumlearning.com/technical-education/>



COMPETITION DETAILS

THE TWO CATEGORIES OF ADJUDICATION ARE INDIVIDUAL.

- Student/Apprentice – maximum of 20g
- Professional – maximum of 100g

Please note: entry into the student/apprentice category is limited to students/apprentices with a maximum of seven years' experience either as a student and/or an apprentice. In addition, any student/apprentice who has made the PlatAfrica competition Top Ten for two years will then move to the professional category, should they wish to enter in future.

HOW TO APPLY TO PARTICIPATE:

- If you wish to participate, please complete Annexure 1 to apply for metal.
- Design and manufacture a single piece of jewellery that fits the theme.
- Students or apprentices and professionals are at liberty to use any manufacturing process.
- Platinum must be core to the design; other materials may be incorporated.

Please note: Due to the small volume of other metals, we are unable to economically remove them during the smelting and refining process at the end of the competition. Therefore, any other metals used will be lost and no refund in either metal or ZAR will be given.

- Should you wish to include any special stones or materials that can be separated from your piece, these items will be removed and returned, where possible. You will be notified at the end of the competition whether there are any items for you to collect.
- Should you wish the items to be returned to you by courier, please note that it will be for your own cost and arrangement.
- Creativity, originality, interpretation of the theme, delivery on the design expectations and technical excellence will be assessed.

DEADLINES:

Metal requests: Should be submitted as quickly as possible.
Final requests must be received on or before 29 May 2026

MetCon casting: 22 June 2026

Submission date for entries: 20 July 2026 (no late submission accepted)

Adjudication: August 2026

Awards function: 6 November 2026
(By invitation only as a limited number of seats are available.)

Coordinators: Harriet Lamb Glynis Palm

Cell phone: 082 852 6850 082 339 2553

Email: juno@junocorp.co.za studio@junocorp.co.za



PRIZES:

Categories	First	Second	Third	Fourth
Individual professional	R40,000	R30,000	R25,000	R20,000
Individual student/apprentice	R25,000	R20,000	R15,000	R10,000
People's Choice award	R15,000			

First and second place winners will be eligible to attend one of the international jewellery shows.

Annexure 2 – Entry Form/Essay

ESSAY

Please use Annexure 2 to submit your entry and essay, articulating clearly who your client is, the inspiration and story behind your competition entry design. Please keep this concise and to the point, with a maximum word count of 100. The essay will be used by the judges to ensure that the design reflects your inspiration and the theme. Each entry must also be accompanied by Computer-Aided Design (CAD) drawings or design sketches for your competition entry. Maximim of six pages per entry.

Email a copy of Annexure 2 as an editable Microsoft Word document with your entry and essay to: juno@junocorp.co.za.



CHECKLIST

- If you are submitting a neckpiece, have you included a chain or thong to hang it on?
- Entry securely packaged in a plain, secure box that can be opened and closed easily.
- Entry and essay form (Annexure 2) attached to your entry and an electronic copy emailed to: juno@junocorp.co.za.

PLUS

- A copy of the Metal Concentrators (Pty) Ltd delivery note attached to your entry.
- Metal returns with your entry attached in a separate envelope with your details, clearly marked.
- Detail solid pieces separately from scrap and filings.

Please note: Scrap metal and leftover metal filings to be melted into a button.

Terms and conditions

INTRODUCTION

1. The terms and conditions set out in this document will regulate the Rustenburg Platinum Mines Limited's ("RPM") PlatAfrica 2026 competition. They should be read together with any specific terms of the competition which RPM has communicated in its marketing material.
2. In the event of any discrepancy, inconsistency or ambiguity between the provisions of these terms and conditions and any marketing material, the provisions of the terms and conditions shall prevail.

DEFINITIONS

3. Unless the contrary intention appears, the following terms have the meanings given when used in the terms and conditions:
 - 3.1 'Academic Institution' means an educational institution dedicated to higher education and research, which grants academic degrees and diplomas;
 - 3.2 'Apprentice' means a person who is supported by a professional jeweller of a legal entity in order to learn a trade, craft or profession in which the legal entity is instructing him or her;
 - 3.3 'Competition' means the annual PlatAfrica platinum jewellery design and manufacturing competition for the year 2026;
 - 3.4 'Legal entity' means any juristic person who participates in the competition in support of an apprentice and/or a professional jeweller;
 - 3.5 'MetCon' means Metal Concentrators SA Proprietary Limited, registration number 2007/035881/07, a private company with limited liability duly registered in terms of the laws of the Republic of South Africa, which company shall manage the platinum metal and platinum alloy on behalf of RPM;

- 3.6 'Platinum alloy' means an alloy of typically 95% platinum metal and 5% ruthenium, as supplied by MetCon for the purpose of the competition;
 - 3.7 'Platinum metal' means metal consisting of 99.99% platinum;
 - 3.8 'Professional jeweller' means a person who is employed by a legal entity in their capacity as a professional in the crafting and trading of jewellery; and
 - 3.9 'Student' means a person who is studying at an academic institution.
4. In this document, unless the contrary intention appears, the singular includes the plural and vice versa.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

1. The competition is open for entry by all students, apprentices and professional jewellers in South Africa with the support of academic institutions and legal entities. The competition is not open to students, apprentices and professional jewellers who do not have the support of their academic institutions and/or legal entities.
2. Applications for platinum metal for the competition (Annexure 1) must be submitted in writing to Harriet Lamb at juno@junocorp.co.za. Metal requests should be submitted as quickly as possible. Final requests must be received on or before 29 May 2026.

Note: all casting requests must be submitted to Metal Concentrators on or before 22 June 2026 in order to meet the competition deadlines. Casting costs are for the designers account.
3. The final designed and manufactured entries must be submitted by all participants by 20 July 2026 at 24:00 (midnight). Participants must contact Harriet Lamb on telephone: 082 852 6850 or 082 339 2553 or by email: juno@junocorp.co.za to arrange timeous collection by Metal Concentrators of their entry.

Terms and conditions (continued)



4. Each entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form (Annexure 2) and Computer-Aided Design (CAD) drawings or design sketches and the scraps or filings.
 5. Essays articulating the design, including the creative thought process, should not exceed 100 words. The essay will be used by the judges to ensure that the piece reflects the designer's inspiration and the theme. The typed essay must also be emailed in an editable format to: juno@junocorp.co.za.
 6. CAD drawings or design sketches must also be emailed to: juno@junocorp.co.za.
 7. Each entry must be an original design. The design must not have been entered into a previous competition or be part of the current stock held by the students, apprentices or professional jewellers.
 8. Platinum metal must be core to the design. The design may also incorporate other non-platinum metal materials. Your entry form must clearly indicate where you have used other metals.
 9. Entries must be submitted in a plain, secure box. Participants are required to keep packaging to a minimum while still securing the submission. Multiple entries must be individually boxed.
 10. Entries that do not include the scrap or filings will not be considered for judging.
- MANAGEMENT OF THE PLATINUM METAL**
1. RPM will supply platinum metal to academic institutions and legal entities through MetCon.
 2. Participating academic institutions and legal entities must have a valid licence, as required in terms of the Precious Metals Act 37 of 2005, as amended, for the possession, fabrication and beneficiation of platinum metal.
 3. Students, apprentices and professional jewellers will receive the platinum metal from their academic institutions and/or legal entities.
 4. The platinum metal on loan to the academic institutions and legal entities remains the property of RPM.
 5. Students and apprentices may receive up to 20 grams of platinum metal only and professional jewellers may receive up to 100 grams of platinum metal. The platinum metal allocation may not be greater than the mass provided in these terms and conditions.
 6. Platinum metal on loan to participants may only be used for the manufacturing of PlatAfrica 2026 pieces.
 7. A maximum of 5% platinum metal loss by mass will be tolerated. Academic institutions and legal entities will be liable for platinum metal mass loss greater than 5%, calculated at the platinum price and ZAR-USD rate on the day of metal reconciliation.
 8. Scrap metal and filings must be melted and returned to MetCon as a button, together with unused metal in a separate, marked, white envelope (11 x 22cm) with an original delivery note, name and surname, contact number, mass of platinum (grams) received and mass of platinum used (grams).
 9. Upon receipt of the entry, MetCon will audit and reconcile the scrap metal. Should the metal loss be greater than 5%, the academic institution or the legal entity will be invoiced for the loss.
 10. The invoice shall be paid within 30 days of receipt of invoice. Should the academic institution or legal entity fail to pay within 30 days, the entry will not be considered for judging. As soon as the metal reconciliation is complete, and the metal losses are invoiced and paid, the entries will be handed to PlatAfrica for judging.
 11. At the end of the competition, a full and final metal reconciliation of the entries will be done with the pieces melted. Any metal under or over the maximum 5% loss will be credited or invoiced to the academic institution or legal entity accordingly.

COMPETITION CONSIDERATIONS

1. The judges will consider the designers' creativity, originality, innovation, interpretation of the theme and technical excellence.
2. Adjudication will take place in August 2026. The judges' decision is final and binding, and no correspondence will be entered into in this regard.

DATA USAGE AND PRIVACY

1. By entering into the competition, participants understand and agree that RPM may collect and use the participant's personal information. This personal information may include the participant's first name, last name, email address, mobile number and, in certain instances, the participant's image. This personal data may, subject to prevailing law, be used for future marketing activity.
2. RPM will treat participants' personal information in total confidence and will not sell, share or rent this information to any other third parties. It may, however, disclose the personal information if required to do so by law or if it is required to protect the safety, rights or property of RPM, its employees, contractors or the public.

CONFIDENTIALITY

1. By entering into this competition, participants acknowledge and agree that all material and information which will come into their possession or knowledge in connection with PlatAfrica 2026, or the running thereof, or relating to RPM's business or operations, consist of confidential and proprietary data, which the disclosure thereof or use by third parties will be damaging to RPM.

2. The participants are expected and undertake to hold such material and information in strictest confidence and not to make use thereof other than for PlatAfrica 2026, and not to release or disclose it to any other party, unless so required by law.
3. Further, the participants shall not, without the prior written approval of RPM, issue any information, publication, document or article for publication concerning the PlatAfrica 2026.

USE OF COMPETITION DESIGNS

1. RPM reserves the right to use the competition entries and designs for marketing, public relations and any other purpose it deems fit.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. By entering this competition, all participants agree to be bound by these terms and conditions.
2. If any dispute arises in relation to the competition and involving RPM, the parties to the dispute shall first attempt to resolve the dispute amicably within 10 days of the dispute being raised, or any such time as the parties may agree otherwise, prior to any party being entitled to institute legal proceedings. Each party shall still be entitled to exercise its rights to seek urgent legal relief as required.