02 MARCH 2026

ISSUE 1 2/26



PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

I ndustry **D**evelopment & **A**dvocacy

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT & ADVOCACY

E ngagement **&** **O**pportunities

ENGAGEMENT & OPPORTUNITIES

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS SAIA saarchitecture.co.za

MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNITY

SAIA PULSE

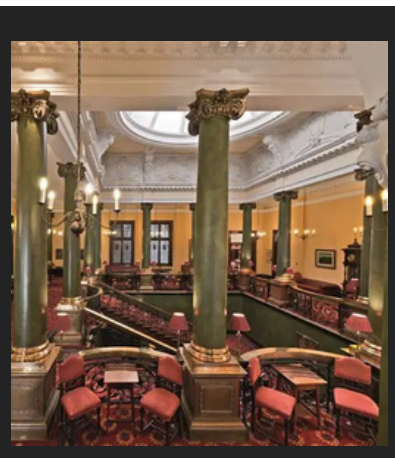






Announcement of Corobrik SAIA Awards of Excellence 2026

SAIA is proud to highlight the upcoming Corobrik SAIA Awards of Excellence and the Coverland SAIA Awards of Merit.
The biennial Corobrik SAIA Awards of Excellence feature 54 entries submitted by the regions that progressed from the 2025 Regional Awards programme. These projects represent the highest standard of architectural achievement across South Africa.



CorobrickSAIAAwards event to be held at the Rand Club 28 May 2026

National adjudication visits are scheduled over nine days in March and will be conducted by the appointed panel chaired by SAIA President, Arch. Janet Saaiman. She will be joined by Arch. Mfundo Maphamulo (KZNIA), Professor Emeritus Iain Low (UCT), Arch. Sonja Spamer (UCT), Art Deco specialist Petra Mason, and Corobrik representative Shauneez Naidoo. The programme is coordinated by Arch. Hugh Fraser, CMO: SAIA.

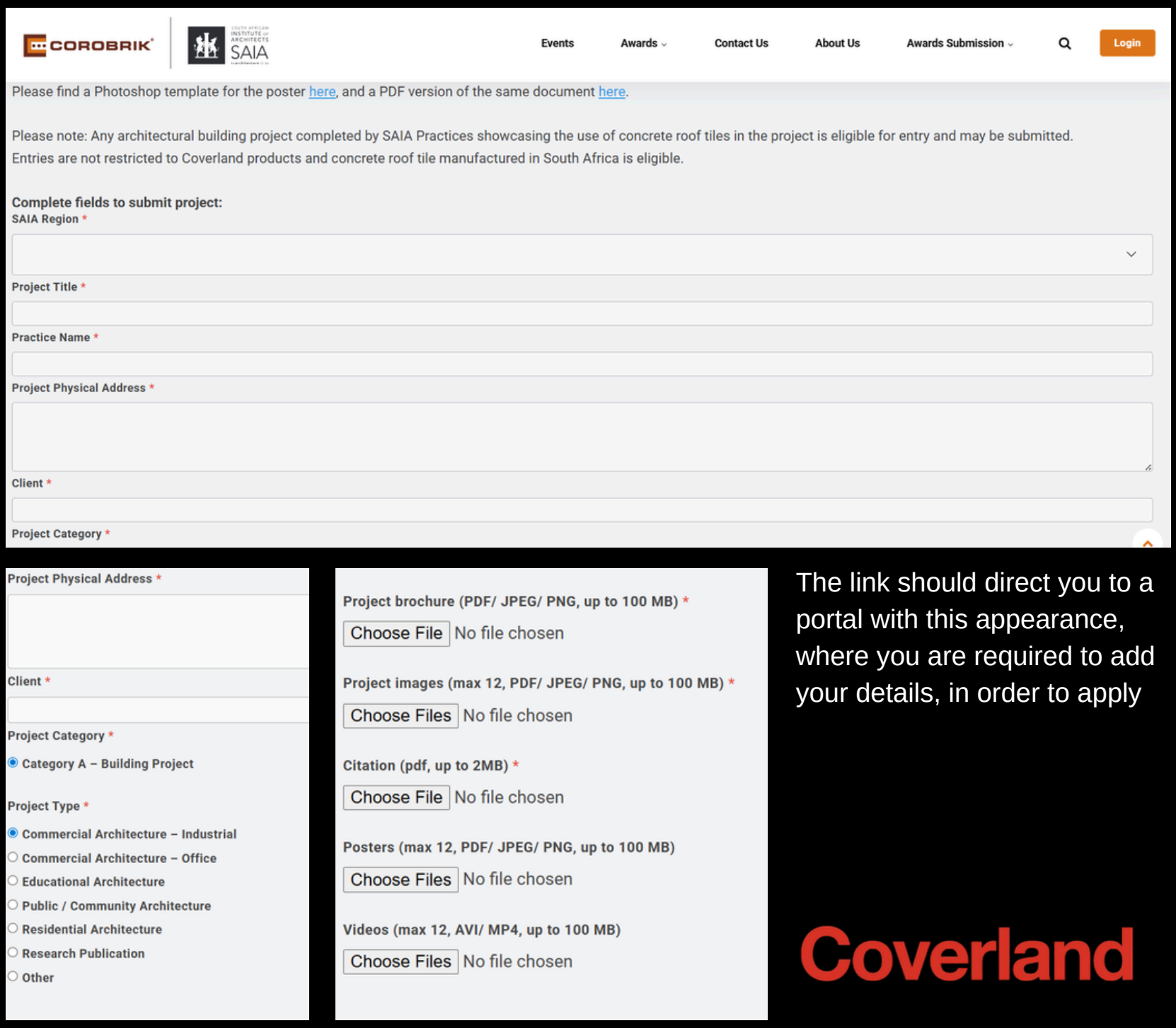
The #**CorobrikSAIAAwards** event will be held at the Rand Club on Thursday evening, **28 May 2026**. Updates will be shared in due course.

Coverland Awards

The Coverland SAIA Awards of Merit recognise excellence in roof tile application. This award is open and free to SAIA members and is not restricted to Coverland products; submissions may include any roof tile used in South Africa, .

For further information and entry:

Submission portal for The Coverland Roof Tile Award for Excellence



The link should direct you to a portal with this appearance, where you are required to add your details, in order to apply

Coverland

Call for Entries

Entries are now open for design submission or to volunteer as an adjudicator for the Steel Awards. For award eligibility, entrants must have a practice declaration available on the ePortal site.

CPD POINTS --- new opportunities

As of October 2025, SACAP registered professionals who participate in adjudication of awards by recognised voluntary associations and/ or built environment organisations or serve on Committees are now eligible to claim Category 1 CPD points.

International Collaboration

The Architects Registration Board United Kingdom (ARB UK) recently conducted a whirlwind tour to South Africa to explore potential for a reciprocal arrangement between SACAP and the ARB UK.
The Architects Registration Board (ARB) is the statutory regulator of architects in the UK, responsible for maintaining professional standards, regulating registration, and protecting the title “architect.”
Such an agreement could enhance professional mobility and create broader international opportunities for Professional Architects. SAIA’s President, CEO and CMO proudly hosted the delegation at our Sandton office. In the exchange we sought to convey a full picture of the South African profession with its diversity and distinctive strengths and challenges, and understand the UK context. The dialogue explored some of the opportunities and hurdles international architects may encounter when seeking to establish themselves locally, and vice versa. Against this backdrop, SAIA contended that there would be a demand for a formal instrument such as a Mutual Recognition Agreement, and that such an agreement would be actively used to unlock opportunities. This conversation set a foundation for future collaboration versed in the differing contexts of the UK and South Africa for mutual benefit.





Industry Development and Advocacy

AUA

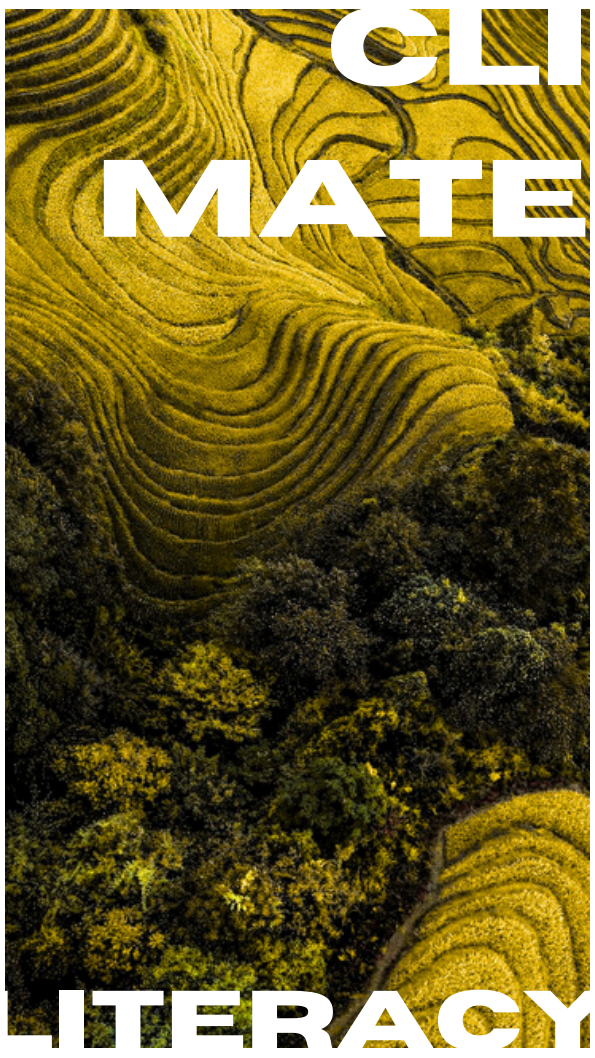


THEMBA ORVALL MALUEKE

AUA Appointment Announcement
The African Union of Architects (AUA), a pan-African professional body representing over 70,000 architects, promotes collaboration and professional development across the continent.
We congratulate Architect Themba Orvall Maluleke, appointed as Chairperson of the AUA Research and Technology Commission. Themba is Executive Chairman of Orvall Corporate Group and brings over two decades of experience in architecture and property development. Currently pursuing his doctorate at UKZN, he continues to drive innovation and sustainable impact across the built environment in South Africa and the wider region.
Known for his calm, strategic approach and dedication to excellence, Themba leads a skilled team across architecture, interior design, project management, and technology to deliver innovative, client-focused solutions. This appointment highlights his leadership and commitment to advancing architectural practice across Africa.

Commonwealth Association of Architects

The Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) Education Committee is undertaking a research project on embedding climate literacy in architectural education. The project aims to identify current practices, gaps and opportunities, and to support Schools of Architecture with regionally relevant tools, capacity-building, and cross-Commonwealth collaboration. South Africa has been invited to participate in this phase of the research. We can nominate one representative per Higher Education Institution (maximum 10 institutions) to take part in a national focus group. Ideally, the participant should be someone familiar with how climate literacy is currently taught within the curriculum.
If your institution is interested in participating, reach out to SAIA. Your involvement will help shape future resources and strengthen climate-responsive architectural education across the region.



SAIA Perspective Architecture & Climate Literacy

Architecture is more than the design of buildings. It is the shaping of environments that influence how people live, work, and interact with the world around them.

Climate literacy, in the context of architectural education and practice, refers to an informed understanding of climate science, environmental systems, carbon impact, resilience, and sustainable design strategies. It equips architects to respond meaningfully to climate change through responsible material selection, energy-conscious design, water-sensitive planning, and regenerative approaches to the built environment.

SAIA believes that climate literacy is not an optional add-on to architectural education, it is fundamental to the future relevance of the profession. As climate pressures intensify across the African continent, architects must be equipped with the knowledge and tools to design responsibly within diverse and often vulnerable contexts.



Congratulations

Aidan Schippers, now an intern at DHK, recently received a metal from the Commonwealth Association of Architects in recognistion of his contribution as a student

Aidan Schippers

EPWP Infrastrusture Guildlines

EPWP Infrastructure Guidelines – Fourth Edition Review

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) continues to play a critical role in creating work opportunities while delivering essential public infrastructure and services across South Africa. Through labour-intensive methods, the programme not only supports economic participation but also promotes skills development and community upliftment.

Within the built environment sector, EPWP projects provide valuable practical experience for emerging professionals and contractors, contributing to capacity building and transformation in the industry. The programme encourages collaboration between government departments, municipalities, and built environment professionals to ensure sustainable, high-quality project delivery.

Members are encouraged to remain informed about EPWP compliance requirements, reporting standards, and opportunities for participation. Continued engagement strengthens the profession’s contribution to inclusive growth and national development.

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THE INDUSTRY





The EPWP Infrastructure Sector (Department of Public Works and Infrastructure) is reviewing the Third Edition of the EPWP Infrastructure Guidelines (June 2015) to produce the Fourth Edition.
Key enhancements under review include:
Decent Work Agenda: Universal principle across all projects
Social Facilitation: Community engagement as a core consideration
Exit Strategies: Skills and enterprise development for long-term sustainability
Reporting Standards: Rigorous data collection and impact reporting
Expanded Scope: Incorporation of ICT Infrastructure, Mine & Brownfield Rehabilitation, Land Reclamation
Technical Refinement: Improved guidelines and terminology for clarity and compliance
Given your expertise in the sector, the EPWP Branch invites you to provide feedback on the draft Fourth Edition.

Contact / Reference: Odwa Tiya, EPWP Branch





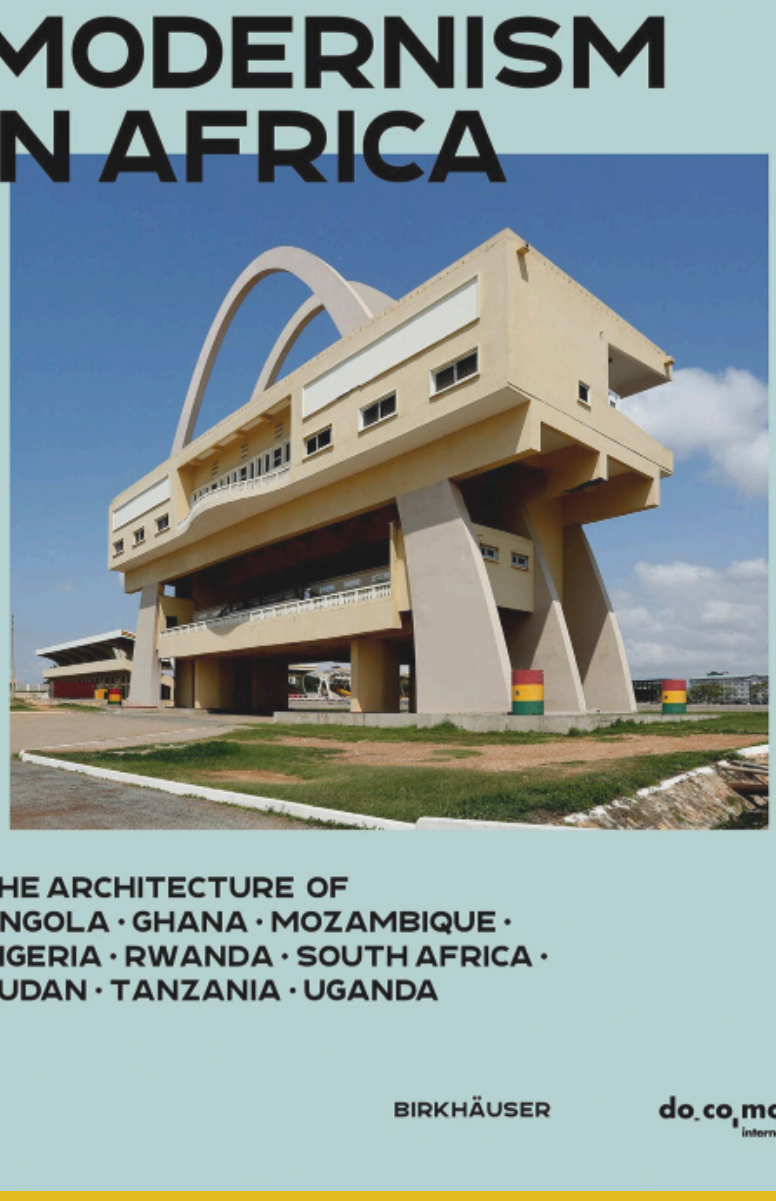


Engagement and Opportunity

Docomomo South Africa

Docomomo South Africa is the South African chapter of Docomomo International, the international working committee for the documentation and conservation of Modern Movement buildings, sites and neighbourhoods. It acts as a watchdog for significant modern and 20th-century heritage at risk, and raise awareness and discussion around the continued relevance of the Modern movement and its legacy in South Africa.

Docomomo South Africa is a conservation body registered with Heritage Western Cape and KZN's Amafa. It also comments on heritage-related applications referred to it by local authorities. Its current focus is to document more local modern buildings and sites and investigate the nomination of modern movement sites for formal protection by local municipalities and provincial heritage authorities. Part of an international network, it recently contributed to the Docomomo International publication, Modernism in Africa, The Architecture of Angola, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, of which an open access e-book version is available for download https://birkhauser.com/en/book/9783035628333



Docomomo South Africa have individuals, student and institutional memberships available, renewable in March/April each year.
Membership benefits include:
Hard copies of the Docomomo Journal (approximately 2 issues per year). As part of Docomomo International's efforts to be more accessible and open-source, past journals can also be accessed at: https://docomomojournal.com/index.php/journal/index

Reduced registrations for the International Docomomo Conference (takes place every 2 years). There is an upcoming conference in Los Angeles, 17-22 March 2026, themed Multiple Moderns; Climate, Community, Creativity, for which virtual attendance is still possible:
https://www.docomomo2026.com/

The member card provides discounts accessing places and events all over the world (although none in SA at the moment) - see https://docomomo.com/list-partners//

SAIA is presently an institutional member, which qualifies us for three free copies of the Docomomo journal, and three reduced registrations for conferences. SAIA is invited to nominate representatives as point persons to take part in its activities more actively and benefit more directly from the institutional membership benefits. Please reach out to ceosaia@saia.org.za should you be interested in being nominated for the role.

Docomomo South Africa meets online once a month on a Friday afternoon. It welcomes collaboration and discussion: please feel free to email them or follow them on social media.

UIA Atlas of Learning Environments

UIA 2026 – Early Bird Registration Reminder
Early bird registrations close on 29 March 2026. Register before this date to secure your spot at a discounted rate!
The programme promises an engaging and dynamic line-up of speakers and discussions.
More information and registration: https://uia2026bcn.org/







Reside conference

A reminder that, because you are partner of the Summit, your members receive a big discount to attend the event on the 20 - 21 May at Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg.
Please can you send this code to your members so that they can benefit from the discount
https://reside.ivent.co.za/attend?invite=6504
The programme can be found here:
https://residesummit.co.za/programme/

Architects in conversation

Major reforms to the education of architectural professionals were heralded with the promulgation of Act 44 in 2000. In well intended efforts, degrees were restructured from a five- or six-year B.Arch programmes into composite programmes. The single course previously offered was divided into a three-year undergraduate, plus one-year honours, plus one year master degree. This format had a number of important advantages.

It aligned with the degree format of most other degrees and many international programmes. It allowed individuals to articulate between institutions and programmes, and to exit after three years with a credential to show.

It does however also mean that professionals that graduated under the old regime have a single bachelor's degree to show for a comparable investment of academic years. In contrast young graduates with similar years of study will have a master's degree to their name. For some time, this difference was masked by naming the bachelor's degrees as bachelor of architectural studies (BAS) or Bachelor of Science (Architecture). The regulator points out that its recognition accounts for these differences by admitting holders of 'old' B.Arch degrees (subject to the usual candidacy requirements) to its highest professional category – 'Professional Architect'.

Indeed, for many of the nearly 3000 'old' B.Arch graduates still professionally active, this is not a limitation. However, for most it is unjust. And for many it is frustrating and sometimes career limiting. Barriers arise in academic circles where a master's degree is a requirement to access teaching posts, undertake examining assignments and more. Progression and compensation in public sector roles are generally tied to qualifications, and here human resource personnel are rarely sensitising to the lack of substantive equivalence between the 'old' six year undergraduate and 'new' three-year undergraduate degrees. Tender awards heavily advantage qualifications of applicants in functionality criteria. In these contexts a bachelor's degree is a bachelor's degree. This obscurity is compounded because, recently, some universities and universities of technology are reverting to the course title bachelor of architecture, without the distinguishing addition of 'science' or 'studies'.

The result is that the schools of architecture, government departments and building projects are deprived of some of the most experienced and willing practitioners to their staff bodies. Delegations have approached SACAP and SAQA to mediate or assist, with marginal impact. Some initiatives confront the situation at institutional level. For example, exceptions are articulated in written policy explicitly permitting suitable professionals with six-year qualifications to examine master's students at some institutions. Yet, this issue continues to harm, and remains a discussion point for the individuals it affects. It leads to various questions:

Can the injustice be remedied? Is it really an injustice or a thinly veiled attempt to avoid transformation? What are the trade-offs (if any) should the situation be rectified somehow?
Join the conversation at an online workshop on the 10th March 2026.
Enquire at ceosaia@saia.org.za

Participate in a Nationwide Survey

A2. Participate in a Nationwide Survey
PhD candidate Quintin De Klerk (University of Pretoria) is conducting research on **dispute resolution, payment systems, and cash flow management in South Africa's construction industry**.

- Time required: 10–12 minutes
- Participation: Anonymous and ethically approved

Take the Survey

Adoption of Mass Timber in South Africa
Ferdinand Senam Hassan, PhD candidate at the University of Pretoria, invites construction and design professionals to participate in a study exploring the factors influencing the adoption of mass timber (engineered wood products) in South Africa. The survey examines perceptions, challenges, and suitable applications of timber as a structural material.
Participation is voluntary and confidential.
Access the survey here: https://forms.gle/r9kKpY7ykHiREzK16



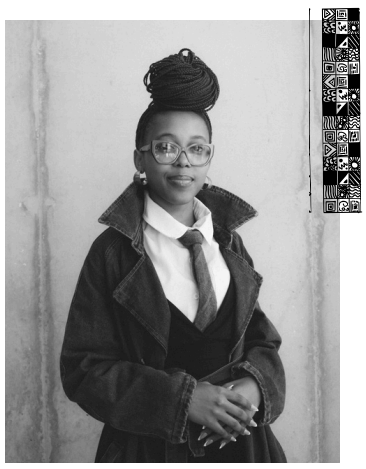
Membership and Community

Farewell Avela Lindiwe Swana



As we say goodbye to our outgoing team member, we celebrate the incredible growth, dedication, and impact she brought to SAIA. Your contributions in administration, governance, and strategic thinking have made a lasting impact, and it has been a pleasure to witness your growth and commitment to advancing the profession.
We wish you every success in your next chapter and are confident that your curiosity, work ethic, and drive will continue to create positive change wherever you go. You will always be part of the SAIA family.

Welcome to Our New Administrative Assistant



Please join us in welcoming Tshwanelo Cecilia Khambule (TCK) to SAIA as our new Administrative Assistant
A BAS candidate from Wits University and describes herself as a storyteller.
With architecture as her foundation, she branches into art and creative strategy, shaping spaces and visuals that move people deeply and intentionally.

As she begins her journey with the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA), she steps into a space that nurtures growth, dialogue, and the advancement of the architectural profession. She is excited to learn, to contribute, and to expand both within the discipline and beyond it.
We are delighted to have her join the SAIA team and look forward to the energy and perspective she brings.

In Brief

Docomomo Journal (past issues): https://docomomojournal.com/index.php/journal/index

RESIDE Summit Registration: https://reside.ivent.co.za/attend?invite=6504

It came to our attention that it is a legal requirement for practicing SACAP members to check with SACAP that their employees are registered, and not just take the employees word for it.

Become a SAIA Member: Access resources, events, and CPD opportunities → Join Here

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Become a SAIA member

Membership with SAIA connects you to a national network of professionals committed to excellence in architecture and the built environment.

Why Join SAIA?

- Advocacy and representation at national and international level
- Access to CPD opportunities and professional development
- Industry news, research, and policy updates
- Participation in awards and recognition programmes
- Networking through events, regional structures, and committees
- Opportunities for collaboration locally and internationally

Who Can Apply?

- If you're interested in becoming a member, please check with your regional office regarding applications.

How to Apply

Apply here: https://www.saia.org.za/membership

If you require assistance with your application, please contact the SAIA office for support.

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