SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
SAIA
saarchitecture.co.za

SAIA PULSE January 2026

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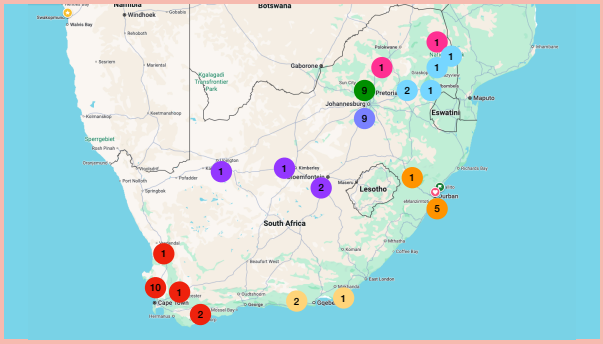


The AZA Conference Report for 2025

Dear Members and Stakeholders

By now, we imagine you are back at the grindstone. We trust you had a restful and enjoyable break, perhaps some partying. Despite current world events, there are some encouraging signs that the South African economy is growing. GDP growth is outperforming earlier forecasts, there is improved business and investor confidence, the Rand has strengthened and inflation is moving toward a revised target. Of course we remain vulnerable to world markets but the Construction Industry could do with a boost from the State and the Private Sector. So what lies ahead for SAIA in 2026. After a fairly tumultuous year last year, the SAIA National Office, has been restructured, governance has been re-invigorated and we have some exciting projects coming up during the year. Read the report **here**

SAIA Initiatives for 2026 include the **Corobrik SAIA Awards of Excellence and the Coverland Rooftile Awards of Merit.** This year is particularly exciting, we have 54 entries, including 3 abroad and 51 entries spread across the country. The sites will be visited during March 2026, with the Awards ceremony being held in Mid May 2026. A furious amount of work has been done in preparation and regular updates will be issued. The Coverland award carries a prize of R150000 of travel expenses to the World Architecture Festival being held in Miami, 12 - 14 November 2026.



A map indicating the spread of award entries

The entries will be loaded onto the **SAIA Instagram** reels. All the entries will be filmed as well to exploit the opportunities offered by social media. So keep an eye there and our **Facebook** page.

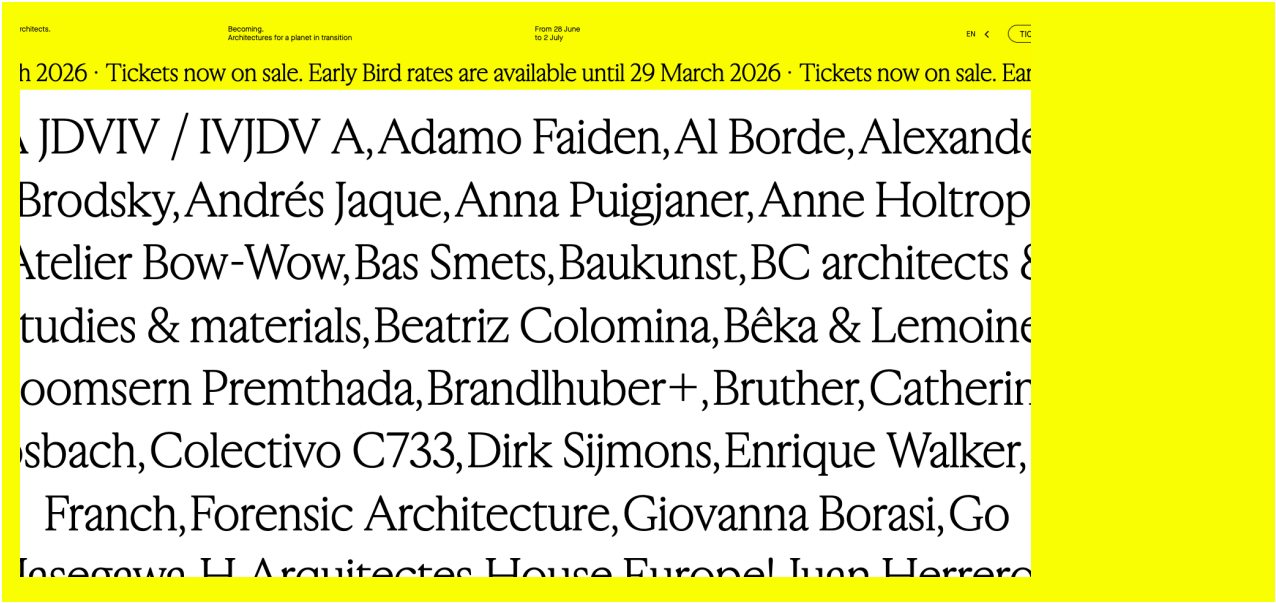


We intend ramping up our sponsorship and fundraising activities. We also plan to increase our CPD offerings and the fabulous SAIA Share programme to include more technical lectures that generate more CPD points. We will send out regular notifications regarding CPD as what it should be, continuing professional development and not a desperate end of year point grabbing exercise. **SAIA SHARE#53** will be held on Friday 6 February 2026 as usual at 14:30 hosted by Eugene Barnard. Please register via the link:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6428431202019244446



Prof Kathy Munro will be hosting the **JHF Bookshop** at Northwards, every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 to 14:00. It's an excellent opportunity to get a glimpse of Northwards which is normally very difficult to gain access. Also she has a good selection of second hand architecture books and other fields of interest.



Internationally the **UIA World Congress** is being held in Barcelona from 28 June to 2 July 2026. There is an early bird ticket for EUR 190, available until 29 March 2026, which is fairly reasonable, even by South African standards, that's about R 3595. It's also a perfect opportunity to the visit the completed Sagrada Familia and all the other architecture that Barcelona offers.

Later this year the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) will be holding its biennial world conference. **in:situ 2026.** It will be held in Auckland from 8 to 10 September 2026. More dear at around R11500.

Locally, the **Sophia Gray Memorial Lecture** will be held on Thursday 27 August 2026. The 2026 laureates are Savage + Dodd. To encourage more inclusion, the SAIA National Convention will be held in Bloemfontein, prior to the lecture. Communication will be made in due course.

The UIA World Congress of Architecture is being held in Barcelona from 28 June to 2 July 2026.

Academic Support

The CBE is conducting a research study on challenges hindering built environment persons compliance with CPD.

Click here

OBITUARIES: IN MEMORIAM

MICHAEL JOHN FREEMAN PrArch, Border Kei member and practitioner

SHIRLEY BETTISON (GNODDE) PrArch, CIfA, possibly the 1st woman Architect to graduate from UCT