Issue 02/04/26

SAIA PULSE



GOVERNANCE



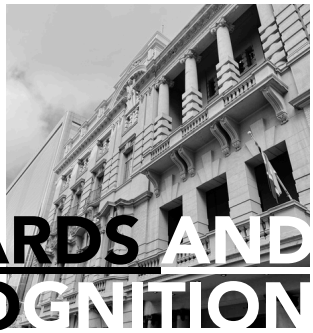
OUR MEMBERS

Headlines

Welcome to this edition of the South African Institute of Architects newsletter.
As we share updates, insights, and milestones from across our community, we also take a moment to reflect on the people who shape our profession.
This edition carries both celebration and remembrance, honouring the work, impact, and legacy of those within our architectural family.
Thank you for being part of a community that continues to design, inspire, and build with purpose.



FEATURE ARTICLE



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

GOVERNANCE AND COUNCIL

do.co.mo.mo_ journal

JBCC

EDUCATION & ACADEMICS

Arch. Janet Saaiman
PRESIDENT OF SAIA

President's Corner



Dear Colleagues,
We are often asked what the South African Institute of Architects is doing. Behind the scenes, significant work has been underway to align our policies and protocols with best governance practices, in accordance with the Companies Act and the King V Code of Corporate Governance.
We are currently finalising the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Ethics Committee, after which a call for nominations will be issued to serve on this important body.
Similarly, the ToR for the core Education Committee is being completed, enabling us to continue with the forum discussions already in progress.
A key focus remains the alignment of the former BArch and current MArch qualifications within the NQF framework, and we are actively exploring viable pathways.
The re-established Transformation Committee is preparing for a long-overdue in-person workshop, aimed at meaningfully advancing this critical area of our organisation.
In addition, we have refined our sponsorship and industry partnership protocols and are engaging both existing and new partners to strengthen these relationships.

We are also pleased to announce an upcoming lecture series in collaboration with **Royal Institute of British Architects and Osmond Lange**, and we encourage all members to support this initiative.
Internationally, we have re-established our presence within key bodies, including the **African Union of Architects, the International Union of Architects**, and **Docomomo International**. SAIA continues to be well represented, and we will share updates from these platforms as they become available. We also maintain representation across various national bodies, and extend our sincere gratitude to all members who volunteer their time and expertise in service of the profession.

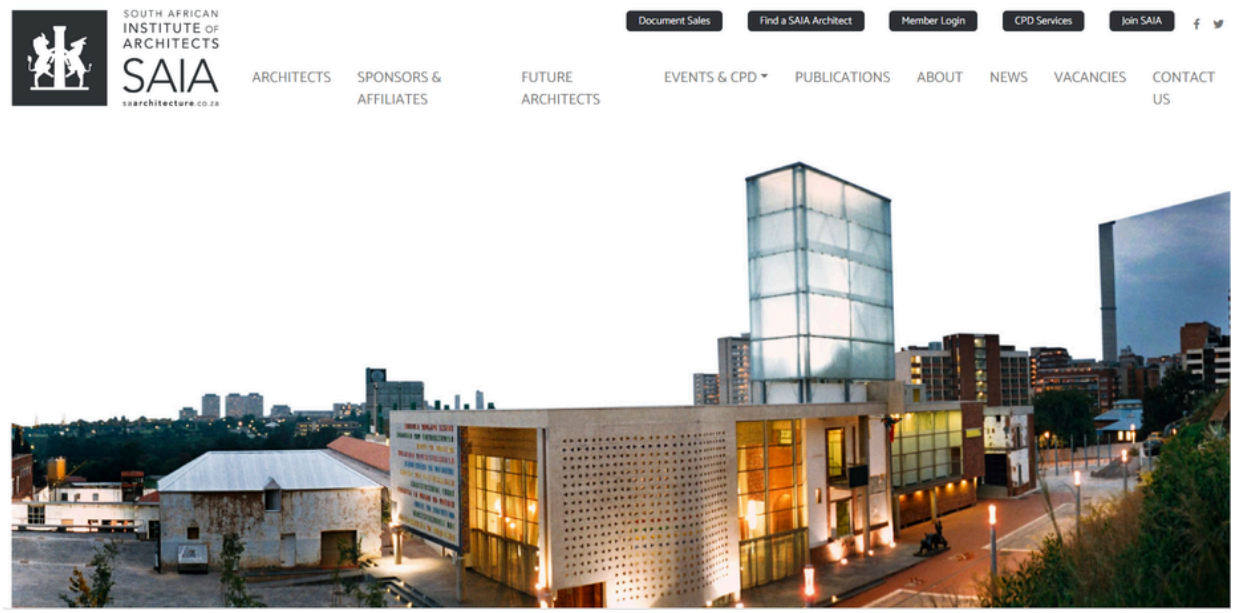
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE & INSTITUTIONAL INSIGHT

The South African Institute of Architects (SAIA)

The South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) is the voluntary professional institute representing architects in South Africa.
It serves as a collective voice for the profession, bringing together practitioners, students, academics, and industry stakeholders to advance architecture as both a discipline and a public good. SAIA operates at the intersection of practice, policy, and people, ensuring that architecture remains relevant, ethical, and responsive to the country's social, cultural, and environmental context.

SAIA exists to support architects while shaping a built environment that serves society.

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
SAIA
saarchitecture.co.za



The South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) website

The South African Institute of Architects website serves as a central hub for all things architecture in South Africa, offering access to industry news, events, resources, and updates from the institute. It is a valuable platform for members and the broader public to stay informed, explore opportunities, and engage with the work and initiatives shaping the architectural profession.

Focus on the Future: Vision & Opportunities

As SAIA looks to the future, it remains focused on building a resilient, inclusive, and progressive profession that delivers greater value to its members and society at large.
Central to this vision is the continued growth of its membership base and the celebration of professional achievements, ensuring that the contributions of architects are recognised and amplified.
The institute is equally committed to improving communication and support systems, providing members with clearer, more consistent engagement and access to opportunities. Strengthening governance and streamlining internal processes are also key priorities, aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability, and trust across the organisation.

The Industry Partner Programme forms an important part of SAIA's forward-looking strategy, creating structured opportunities for collaboration between architects and industry stakeholders. Through a tiered partnership model, the programme enables knowledge-sharing, supports events and initiatives, and helps shape the future direction of the profession.

Importantly, SAIA encourages its members to play an active role in this future.
Opportunities to serve on committees, contribute to awards and competition panels, and participate in thought leadership initiatives allow members to directly influence the profession's development.
Declaring practices within the SAIA framework further enhances visibility, credibility, and alignment with industry standards.
Through these collective efforts, SAIA not only supports its members but empowers them to drive meaningful change, ensuring a strong and sustainable future for architecture in South Africa.

Why SAIA Matters

Architecture shapes how people live, move, and experience the world. In a country like South Africa, with its layered histories and urgent spatial challenges, the role of architecture is critical.
SAIA plays a key role in ensuring that the profession contributes meaningfully to:
Spatial transformation
Social equity
Sustainable development
Cultural expression
By supporting architects, SAIA ultimately supports better cities, better communities, and better futures.

SAIA

NEW IDENTIFICATION OF WORK FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION

South African Council for the Architectural Profession

51 Wessel Road, Right Wing, Rivonia, Sandton, 2128
P.O. Box 1500, Rivonia, 2128
Tel: 011 479 5000 | Fax: 011 479 5100
Email: info@sacapsa.com
Web: www.sacapsa.com

Policy & Practice Update

The South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP) has officially published the updated Identification of Work (IDoW) Policy under Board Notice 901 of 2026. This policy replaces the previous 2021 framework and marks an important development in the regulation and structuring of architectural practice in South Africa.

At its core, the IDoW policy defines and clarifies the scope of work permitted for each category of registered professional within the architectural profession. It provides a structured framework that ensures architectural services are undertaken by individuals who are appropriately qualified, registered, and competent to perform the work assigned to them.

This update is particularly significant in reinforcing the relationship between qualification, competency, and responsibility. Rather than relying on outdated or simplified measures of project scale, the policy introduces a more nuanced approach that considers factors such as project complexity, technical requirements, and the level of professional expertise required. This ensures that the allocation of work is more accurately aligned with real-world practice conditions.

The policy also strengthens regulatory clarity across the profession. It makes explicit that:

- Architectural work must be performed by individuals registered in the appropriate category
- Professionals may only undertake work aligned with their level of competence and registration
- Any work outside of this scope requires formal processes and oversight

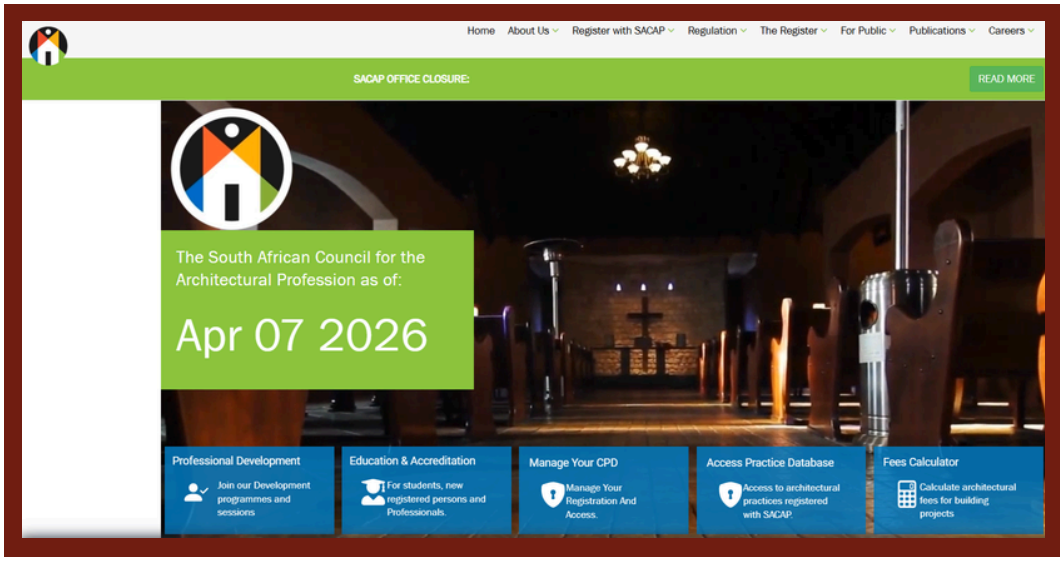
In doing so, the IDoW policy plays a critical role in protecting the public, maintaining the integrity of the profession, and ensuring the quality and safety of the built environment.

Beyond regulation, the policy reflects a broader shift towards a more inclusive and competency-based profession. It recognises different pathways into practice, including work-based experience and Recognition of Prior Learning, while still upholding rigorous standards. This approach not only supports professional development but also encourages greater participation and transformation within the field.

Importantly, the IDoW framework also acknowledges the complexity of contemporary architectural practice. It emphasises the need for professionals to understand not only design, but also construction, coordination, and compliance. By aligning scope of work with competency and project complexity, the policy enables more effective collaboration across disciplines and clearer accountability within project teams.

For members of the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA), this update is both a regulatory requirement and a professional opportunity. It calls for a renewed awareness of one's scope of practice, a commitment to ethical compliance, and a proactive engagement with the evolving standards of the profession.

As the built environment continues to grow in complexity and responsibility, frameworks such as the IDoW policy are essential in ensuring that architectural work in South Africa remains competent, accountable, and aligned with the public interest.



SACAP WEBSITE

SAIA MEMBERS

**The South African Institute of Architects mourns the passing of one of our valued members.
We extend our heartfelt condolences to their family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time. Their contribution to the architectural community will be remembered and appreciated.
May their legacy continue to inspire, and may their soul rest in peace.**





Tribute in Memory of
Pieter Charles Bakker
25 August 1947 - 21 March 2026

Piet will be remembered not only for his professional accomplishments, but also for his integrity, leadership, and vision. His legacy lives on in the colleagues he mentored, in the many projects he helped bring to life, and in the architectural community he helped strengthen across Africa and beyond.

He departed, always the Architect, the Husband, the Father, and the Oupa.

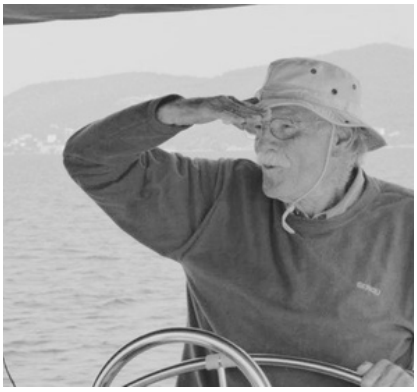
Piet was a man who lived with both heart and hands, an architect who loved to design and build, an avid sailor who crafted his own boats, and a passionate Alfa Romeo enthusiast.

Piet Bakker made a significant and lasting contribution to the practice and profession of architecture in South Africa and across the African continent. After graduating from the University of Pretoria in 1971, he completed a Diploma in Property Economics at the University of South Africa in 1977. He practised architecture full-time from 1977 onward, initially in Durban, where he won first prize in the competition for the Pinetown Public Library.

In 1985, he incorporated his practice into Stauch Vorster Architects, becoming the managing partner in Cape Town and later the National Group Chairman of SVA International in 2009. From then onward, he played a central role in expanding the practice's presence across Africa.

Piet was a member of the South African Institute of Architects from 1974 and of the Cape Institute for Architecture from 1985. He served the CIA's Practice and Professional Development Committee from the late 1980s to 2012, convening the committee from 1999 to 2006 and serving on the Management Committee during the same period. He also contributed to the Practice Committee of SAIA and represented the profession on various committees of the South African Council for the Architectural Profession, particularly in the development of regulation.

In all these roles, Piet was a steady, reliable, and wise voice , someone whose contributions greatly advanced the standing and influence of the architectural profession.



Michael Sutton sailing on Pegasus - Sourced by Henry Paine



HOUSE BRYAN

Architect Spotlight:

Michael Sutton
This edition highlights the work of Michael Sutton, an architect whose approach to design reflects a deep sensitivity to context, materiality, and lived experience.
Sutton's work is often characterised by a quiet yet deliberate architectural language, one that prioritises spatial clarity, light, and the relationship between structure and environment.

A notable example is the Smithers House (House Bryan) in Sandton, which we had the opportunity to visit as part of a heritage experience. The house offers insight into Sutton's design thinking, where spatial sequencing, material honesty, and a strong connection between interior and exterior come together to shape a cohesive architectural narrative.
Through his work, Sutton contributes to a broader conversation about South African architecture, one that values place, history, and the **subtle power of well-resolved design**.

ACHITECT SPOTLIGHT

Article by Tshwanelo C Khambule

Before exploring one of his notable residential works, it is important to situate Michael Sutton within the broader architectural landscape he helped shape. His work reflects a deep commitment to context, material honesty, and the crafting of spaces that respond thoughtfully to both environment and inhabitant.







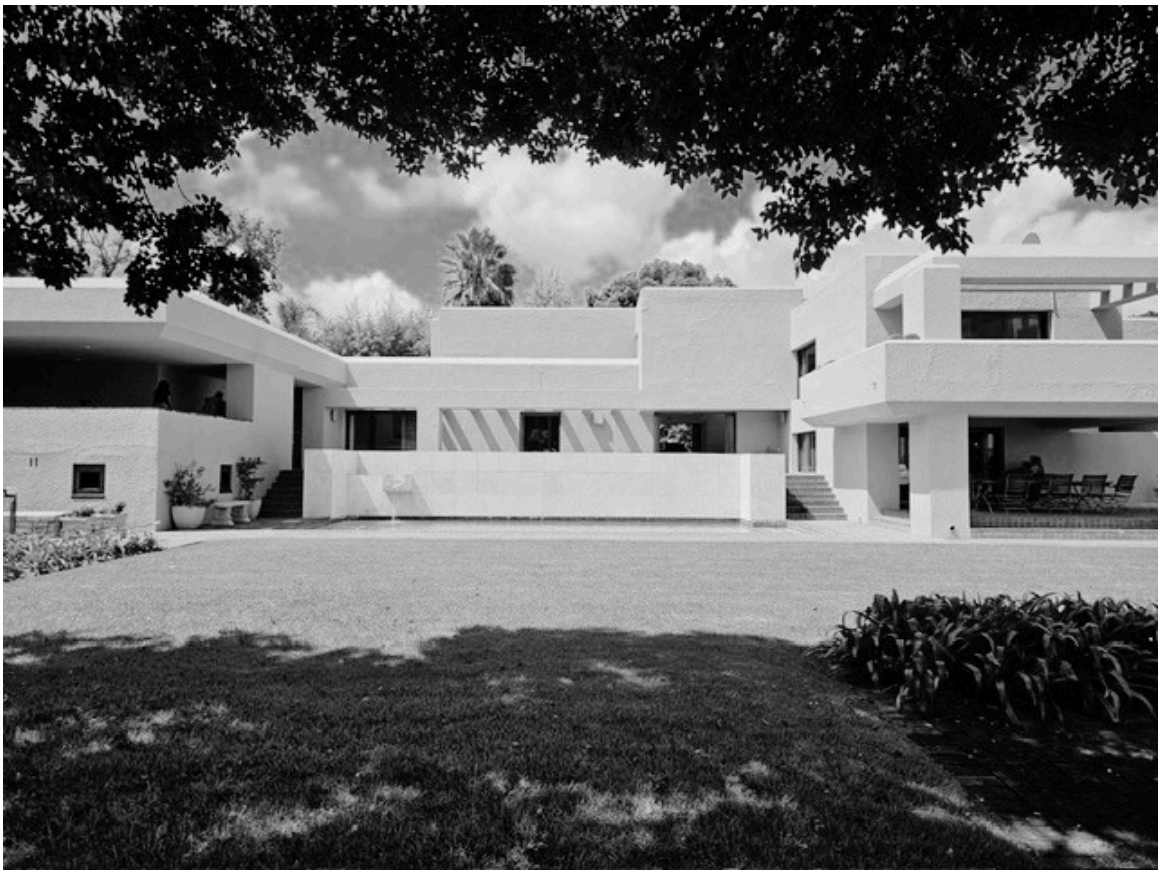
A Hyde Park Residence, 11 9th Road: An Exercise in Restraint and Spatial Clarity

A visit to the residential work of Michael Sutton at 11 9th Road in Hyde Park, Johannesburg, offers a direct encounter with an architectural language grounded in clarity, proportion, and lived experience.

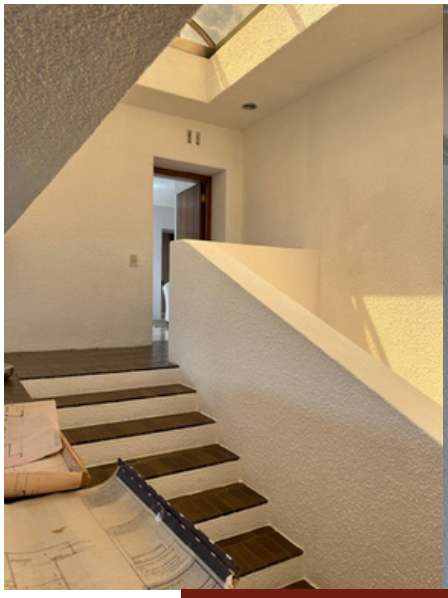
Rather than presenting itself as an object of display, the house is composed as a sequence of spaces that unfold gradually. The design reflects Sutton's consistent approach to residential architecture–prioritising internal coherence, and privileging the experience of movement, light, and enclosure.

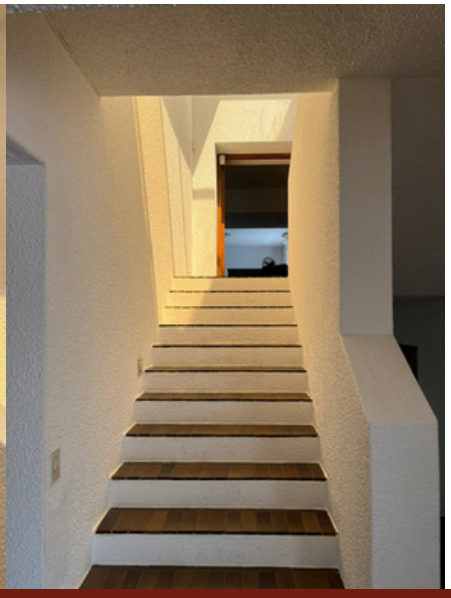
Thresholds are carefully articulated, guiding the transition between exterior and interior, public and private. Entry into the house is mediated through layered spatial moments that establish a sense of arrival. These moments of compression and release contribute to a rhythm that defines the inhabitant's journey through the home.

Material expression remains restrained through a limited palette of materials. Surfaces are allowed to speak through their texture and weight, rather than through ornamentation. This approach reinforces a sense of continuity: materials are not merely applied finishes, but integral to the architectural whole. It is an architecture that reveals itself not immediately, but gradually, through inhabitation.











A notable characteristic of the house is its relationship to light. Openings are positioned and scaled to control both illumination and privacy, allowing natural light to penetrate deeply into the interior while maintaining a sense of enclosure. This balance creates spaces that feel calm, contained, and responsive to their context.

In a suburban environment often shaped by repetition and visual excess, the Hyde Park residence stands apart through its quiet confidence. It does not seek to dominate its surroundings, but rather to engage with them subtly, establishing a dialogue between built form and site.

Ultimately, the house reflects Sutton's broader architectural ethos, one that values restraint.



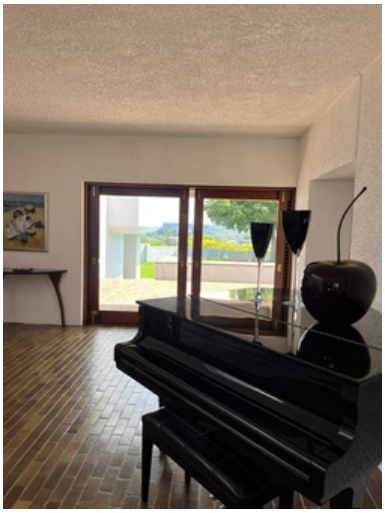
A defining moment within the house is the entrance sequence. One is immediately met by a striking artwork by Tamara de Lempicka, whose bold depiction of the human form establishes a clear and confident tone.

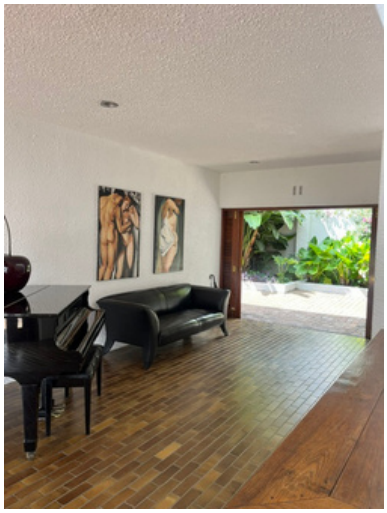
This curatorial gesture signals, from the outset, that the space is not merely domestic, but architectural in its intent.

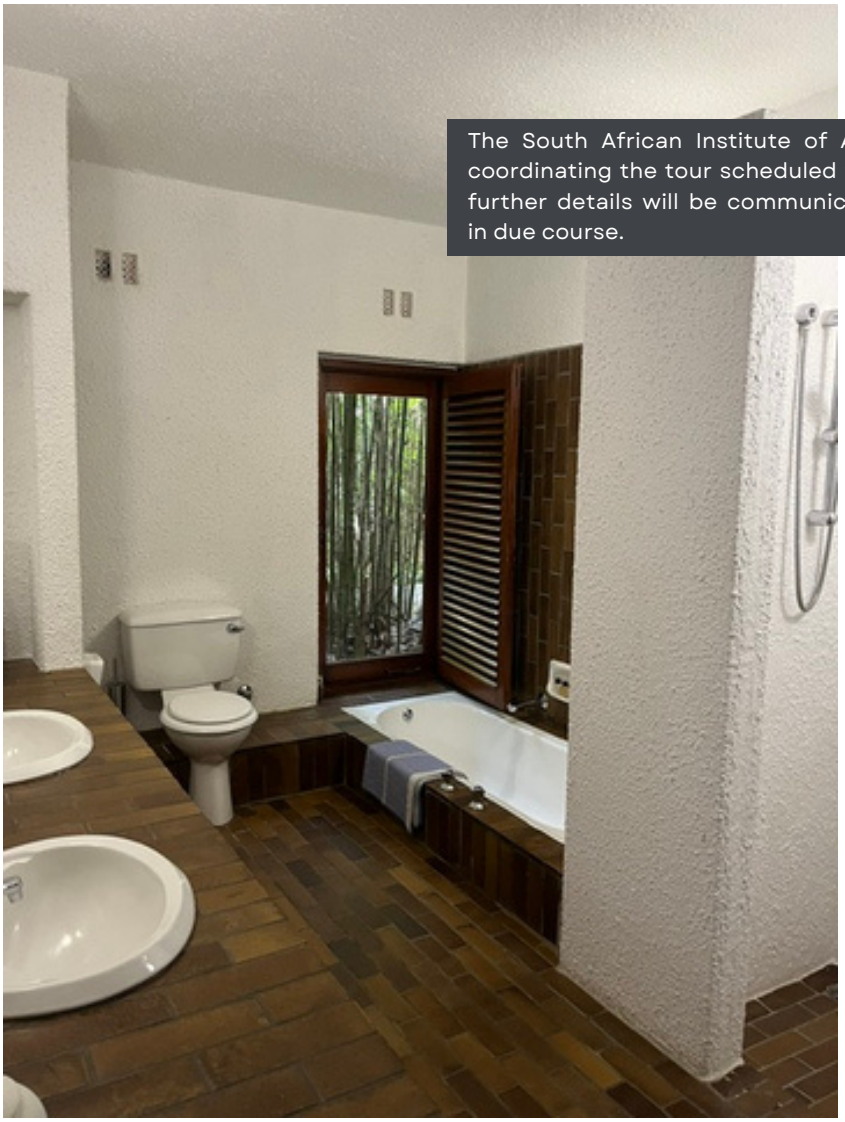
The presence of the artwork frames the experience of arrival, introducing a layer of cultural and aesthetic depth before the spatial qualities of the house fully unfold.

It reinforces a sense of authorship, an indication that the environment has been carefully composed rather than casually assembled.

As a threshold, the entrance operates not only as a point of transition, but as a moment of orientation. It prepares the inhabitant to engage with the architecture as a considered whole, where elements of art, space, and material are brought into deliberate dialogue.







The South African Institute of Architects will be coordinating the tour scheduled for early May, and further details will be communicated to members in due course.

The bathrooms emerge as another compelling aspect of the house. Defined by carefully controlled light and spatial intimacy, these spaces extend the architectural language established at the entrance. Sunken bathtubs are set deliberately within the plan, opening out toward a bamboo garden that introduces a quiet, contemplative quality.
The interplay between enclosure and openness allows natural light to filter in softly, reinforcing a sense of calm and retreat.

Taken as a whole, the residence reflects the enduring architectural ethos of Michael Sutton: a commitment to clarity, restraint, and the careful orchestration of space. The visit offers a valuable insight into an approach to architecture that privileges experience over excess, and intention over display.

COUNCIL AND GOVERNANCE UPDATE:

Thank you to all members who submitted nominations for office bearers for SAIA.

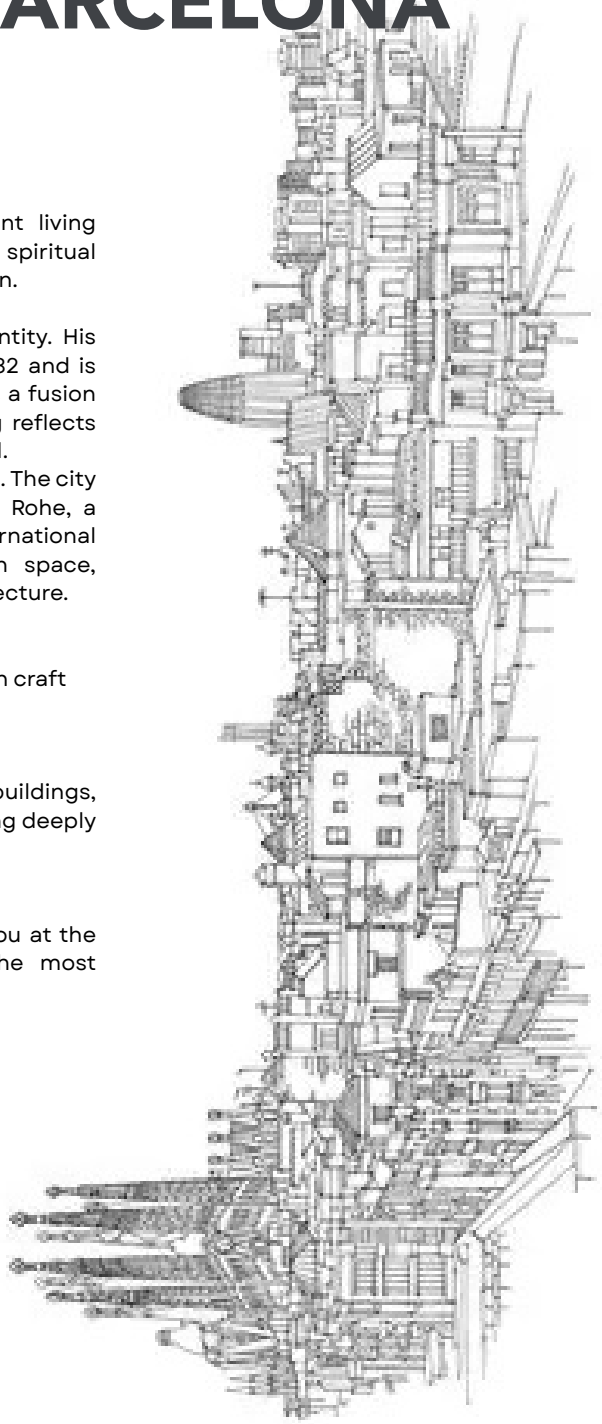
SAIA BOARD NOMINATIONS 2026



The nominations were well received for the following positions on the South African Institute of Architects Board:
Vice President
Deputy Treasurer

THESE ROLES WILL BECOME VACANT ON 1 JULY 2026.

ARCHITECTS IN BARCELONA



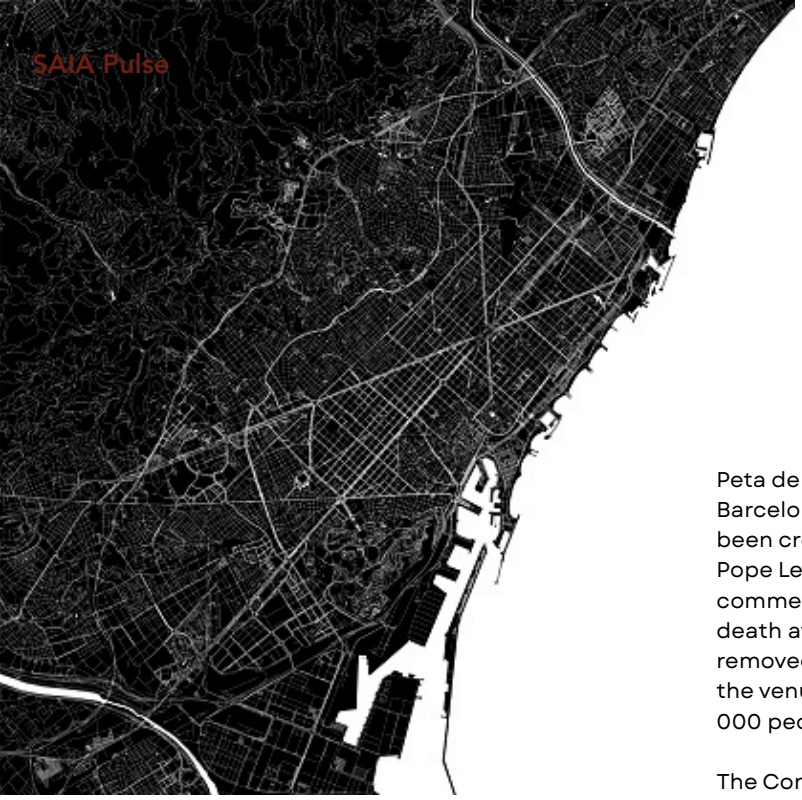
Barcelona is not just a city, it is one of the world's most important living laboratories of architecture. From experimental modernism to deeply spiritual design, it offers a rare intersection between history, culture, and innovation.

At the heart of this is Antoni Gaudí, whose work defines the city's identity. His masterpiece, La Sagrada Família, has been under construction since 1882 and is expected to reach key completion milestones around 2026. Designed as a fusion of Gothic structure and organic, nature-inspired geometry, the building reflects Gaudí's belief that architecture should mirror the logic of the natural world.
Barcelona's architectural significance, however, extends far beyond Gaudí. The city is also home to the iconic Barcelona Pavilion by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, a landmark of modernist architecture. Originally built for the 1929 International Exposition, the pavilion introduced revolutionary ideas of open-plan space, minimal structure, and material clarity, shaping the future of global architecture.

What makes Barcelona unique is its layering of architectural movements:
- Modernisme (Catalan Art Nouveau): expressive, symbolic, and rooted in craft
- Modernism: minimal, rational, and material-driven
- Contemporary design: experimental, urban, and globally influenced

This makes the city an essential destination for architects, not just to see buildings, but to understand how architecture can evolve across time while remaining deeply connected to culture and place.

Why This Trip is Different
Attending the UIA World Congress of Architecture in Barcelona places you at the centre of global architectural discourse–surrounded by some of the most influential buildings ever designed.
This experience is not only about visiting architecture, but about:
- Understanding spatial storytelling across cultures
- Experiencing architecture at urban, building, and detail scale
- Engaging with global practitioners shaping the future of design



BARCELONA IN JUNE --- EPIC TRAVELS IN STORE FOR ZA ARCHITECTS

Peta de Jager
Barcelona at the end of June promises to be very special! It has been crowned the World Capital of Architecture for 2026. Pope Leo XIV has confirmed his presence at the central event commemorating the hundredth anniversary of Antoni Gaudi's death at Sagrada Familia, which has had its scaffolding finally removed after extensive renovation. Moreover, Barcelona will be the venue for the 2026 UIA World Congress of Architects, with 10 000 people expected.

The Congress will take place in Barcelona from 28 June to 2 July 2026, under the theme "Becoming. Architectures for a Planet in Transition." This landmark event will convene thousands of architects, planners, and thought leaders from across the globe, offering a platform for professional and cultural exchange.

Key Highlights
Programme Structure: Over 200 speakers and 100 sessions across eight stages in three days.
Six Thematic Lines:
Becoming More-than-human
Becoming Circular
Becoming Embodied
Becoming Interdependent
Becoming Hyper-conscious
Becoming Attuned

Format: Each half-day is dedicated to one theme, blending keynote contributions, critical responses, and open debates. Evening gatherings at the Three Chimneys venue will extend dialogue in an informal setting.

Special Events:
June 18: Inauguration of the Central Exhibition
June 19–27: International Emerging Workshop
June 28: Opening Ceremony
July 2: UIA Awards and Closing Ceremony at CCIB
South Africa will be there!
The thematic focus on planetary transition resonates strongly with South Africa's own challenges in sustainability, heritage, and transformation. The Congress represents a pivotal opportunity for architects from around the globe to showcase their work, engage in dialogue, network and indulge in cultural exchange.
Dr Solam Mkhabela will be presenting at the Congress.
SAIA have secured a stand at the event.
Tempted to join?
A growing crowd of fellow architects from KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng are making preparations.
Visit the official website of UIA 2026 here: www.uia2026bcn.org.

Join PIA President, Donette Werkman for

ARCHITECTS IN *Barcelona*



SEMI-GUIDED TOUR 25 JUNIE - 4 JULY 2026

+UIA WORLD CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTURE

Organised by
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20 pax

R 51 200 pp

Included:

- All flights and airport taxes (flight prices valid for 24 hours)
- Private return airport transfers
- 8 nights in Barcelona at Hotel Astoria, breakfast daily
- Free entry to the Egyptian Museum of Barcelona
- Day tours:
  - Barcelona: Sagrada Familia Skip-the-Line Guided 9Tour and Tickets
  - Montserrat & Cogwheel Train, Gourmet Wine Tasting & Tapas/Lunch
  - Mies van der Rohe Pavilion: Skip-the-Line Ticket.

Cost to be confirmed:

Group entry for 2 days attendance of PIA at UIA World Congress of Architecture



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Engage with Future Talks sessions, earn CPD points, and gain practical insights applicable to your profession. Build valuable relationships, discover new suppliers, and unlock opportunities that extend far beyond the show floor.

DOCOMOMO

POINT PERSON



Arch. Elwyn Harlech-Jones

Welcome and Introduction
SAIA and Docomomo South Africa warmly welcomes Arch. Elwyn Harlech-Jones in his role as the SAIA-appointed point person for engagement with Docomomo South Africa, serving for the 2026–2028 term under the established Memorandum of Understanding.

This appointment represents an important step in strengthening collaboration between South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) and **Docomomo International**, through its South African chapter, in advancing shared goals related to the documentation, conservation, and advocacy of Modern Movement and 20th-century architectural heritage.

Docomomo South Africa forms part of a global network committed to identifying, researching, and protecting significant modern heritage at risk. In the South African context, its work includes raising awareness, fostering critical dialogue, and supporting efforts to preserve buildings, sites, and neighbourhoods that reflect the legacy of the Modern Movement.

SAIA, as the professional representative body for architects in South Africa, plays a complementary role by upholding professional standards, ethics, and governance within the built environment. The relationship between SAIA and Docomomo South Africa is therefore collaborative in nature, grounded in a shared interest in architectural heritage, cultural relevance, and the public interest. Through formal cooperation, both organisations align on initiatives that promote conservation, knowledge exchange, and responsible engagement with modern architectural legacy.

As the designated representative, Arch. Harlech-Jones is entrusted with upholding the values, mission, and professional standards of SAIA, while contributing to meaningful dialogue and coordination between the two organisations. His role will support effective communication, continuity, and alignment across joint initiatives, ensuring that both organisations can work together constructively.
SAIA looks forward to a productive and mutually beneficial relationship, grounded in shared commitment to architectural heritage, ethical practice, and the advancement of the discipline.



SAIA REPRESENTATION ON THE JOINT BUILDING CONTRACTS COMMITTEE (JBCC)



Dr Judith Ojo-Aromokudu

Message from Dr Judith Ojo-Aromokudu

I am honoured to accept my appointment as a director representing the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) on the Joint Building Contracts Committee (JBCC).
I take on this role with a strong sense of responsibility to the profession and to the broader built environment sector, particularly at a time when questions of equity, delivery, and accountability are increasingly central to how we practice architecture in South Africa.

My professional trajectory has been shaped by a dual commitment to practice and academia. As a registered architect with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP), and through my teaching in architectural contracts and professional practice at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, I have engaged with the JBCC not only as a contractual framework but as a critical instrument that structures relationships, allocates risk, and ultimately influences the quality and viability of our built outcomes. This dual lens has reinforced my belief that contracts are not merely technical documents, but socio-professional tools that mediate trust, ethics, and delivery in complex project environments.

Beyond the profession, my experience as a director within the non-profit sector has exposed me to governance structures under conditions of constraint and urgency. This perspective has been further deepened by my academic research, which focuses on building standards and housing in informal settlements. This work has highlighted the limitations of conventional procurement and contractual models.
In accepting this appointment, I am particularly interested in contributing to discussions on how the JBCC suite of agreements can remain robust, relevant, and responsive. I look forward to working collaboratively with fellow board members and stakeholders to ensure that the JBCC continues to serve as a credible, inclusive, and forward-looking standard within the built environment.
Dr Judith Ojo-Aromokudu

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

COROBRICK SAIA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

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.



Awards & Recognition
On the Road: Adjudicating Excellence Across South Africa
Across cities, towns, and in between landscapes, adjudicators for the South African Institute of Architects Awards of Excellence have been travelling extensively, engaging directly with the built work submitted for this year's programme. This process, while rigorous in its evaluation criteria, is equally immersive–rooted in experience, observation, and dialogue with architecture as it exists beyond drawings and representations.
Moving through diverse contexts, adjudicators encounter projects not only as isolated objects, but as lived environments–spaces shaped by climate, community, materiality, and intention. Each visit becomes an act of translation: from concept to construction, from idea to inhabitation. The journey itself reveals patterns, tensions, and moments of clarity about the current state of architectural practice in South Africa.
There is something deeply revealing about standing within a space that was once only imagined. The way light enters a room at a particular hour, the way materials weather over time, the way users occupy and reinterpret space, these are aspects that cannot be fully captured in submission boards. The adjudication process therefore becomes one of listening as much as assessing, where buildings speak through their presence, their performance, and their impact.

It has truly been a pleasure being an adjudicator, seeing so many creations, knowing how they were brought into life- context, locality design and construction of these. Truly beautiful.

ADJUDICATOR'S WORDS





Follow the tours and interractions on our social media pages
Instagram- saia.org.za
https://www.facebook.com/SaiaArchitects/



The adjudicators followed a structured, multi-day itinerary combining travel, accommodation, and scheduled site visits across various locations. Each day included planned project visits, allocated viewing times, and coordinated travel to subsequent sites, with clear logistical details such as contacts, distances, and budgeting for transport and accommodation. Overall, the programme ensured an efficient and well-organised journey, allowing the adjudicators to engage thoroughly with each project while maintaining a smooth travel flow. The first location was the Eastern Cape



The adjudicators at the School of Architecture and Planning- Witwatersrand University

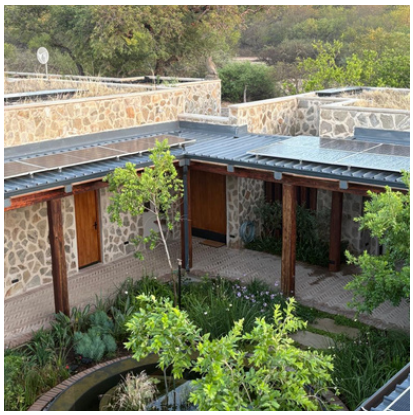
As adjudicators move between projects, a layered narrative begins to emerge. There are projects that respond quietly and sensitively to their contexts, embedding themselves within existing urban or rural fabrics. Others assert themselves more boldly, challenging conventions and proposing new spatial languages. Some works prioritise social engagement and accessibility, while others explore technical innovation or material experimentation. Together, they form a complex and evolving portrait of architectural practice in the country.
Travel, in this context, is not merely logistical, it is intellectual and reflective. The distances covered between sites allow for moments of pause, comparison, and recalibration. What defines excellence in one context may shift in another.



Questions begin to surface: What does relevance look like today?
How do we measure impact?
Where does architecture succeed—not only as a discipline, but as a service to society?
The adjudication process is also a reminder of the responsibility carried by architects.
Each project represents a series of decisions—ethical, environmental, economic—that extend far beyond aesthetics.
In visiting these works, adjudicators are able to trace these decisions, to understand the constraints and ambitions that shaped them, and to evaluate how effectively they have been resolved.
There is an undeniable energy in witnessing the breadth of work being produced. From small-scale interventions to larger, more complex developments, the range of submissions reflects both the challenges and opportunities present within the South African built environment. It becomes clear that architecture continues to operate within a dynamic field—negotiating between tradition and innovation, scarcity and resourcefulness, permanence and change.



At times, the process is demanding. Travel schedules are tight, environments vary, and each project requires focused attention. Yet, there is also a sense of privilege in being able to engage so closely with the work of peers across the country. It is an opportunity to see, to question, and to learn.
Ultimately, the adjudicators' journey is about more than selecting award recipients. It is about taking the pulse of the profession—understanding where it stands, where it is heading, and how it continues to respond to the complexities of the world it helps shape.
As the visits continue and deliberations unfold, one thing remains clear: the act of travelling to experience architecture firsthand is not only necessary—it is invaluable. It grounds the awards process in reality, ensuring that recognition is not based solely on representation, but on lived, spatial experience.



NEXT
Western Cape
DAY 2













Western Cape
DAY 3



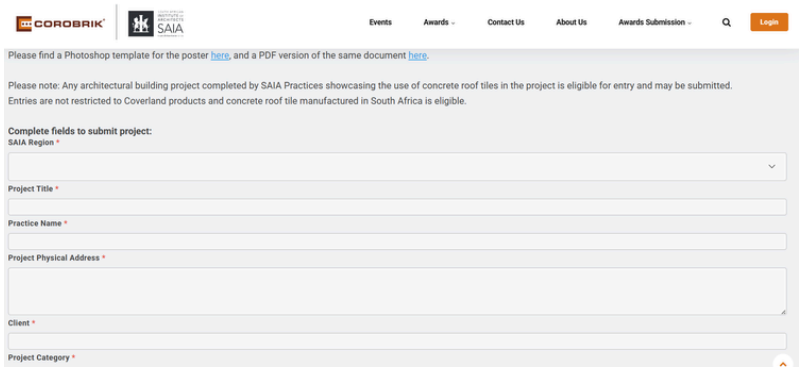


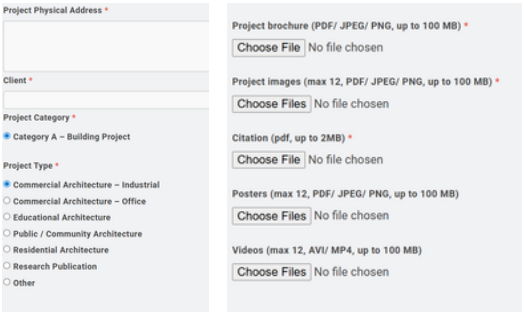


COVERLAND AWARDS

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

EDUCATION & MENTORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND PRACTICE



Architect Olivier Galenge believes that architecture transcends the act of building; it is the deliberate shaping of human experience and the environments in which life unfolds.
As Director of OLIGATI GROUP Architects, he leads the practice with a vision rooted in clarity of form, purposeful space, and meaningful impact.
A registered Professional Architect with SACAP and a member of SAIA, Olivier combines creative exploration with technical discipline. His approach is guided by context, culture, and sustainability, resulting in architecture that is contemporary yet timeless.
Through thoughtful design and strategic leadership, Olivier strives to create spaces that are not only well-built but deeply considered–environments that enhance how people live, work, and connect within the evolving South African landscape.

REFLECTIONS BY OLIVIER GALINGUE

“My name is Olivier Galingue, and I am a professor. My decision to initiate a work-integrated learning programme stemmed from a clear need identified by the university, to bridge the gap between academic training and professional practice, particularly in response to students struggling to secure internships.
In response, I introduced an initiative through our studio to provide students with practical exposure to the realities of architectural practice. The intention was to equip them with a deeper understanding of architecture beyond the academic environment, recognising the significant difference between university work and professional expectations.
I began by mentoring second-year students, bringing them into a structured internship environment where they could engage with the principles of practice and develop a grounded understanding of the profession. Over time, I have seen remarkable growth. Some of these students are now in their fourth year, with one currently among the top-performing students at the University of Johannesburg.
This experience has proven invaluable in helping students develop clarity about their future in architecture. Many initially struggled to distinguish between conceptual design and practical application. Through the internship, they gained insight into critical aspects such as proportion, design development, client briefs, and technical documentation.
My primary aim has always been to offer students a realistic and holistic view of architecture, while facilitating a meaningful transfer of knowledge. Reflecting on their progress, I am encouraged by how they now articulate design ideas and produce work with confidence and clarity. Among the cohort, several students have emerged as top achievers and have received academic recognition and awards.
What is most fulfilling is witnessing the transformation of these young individuals. It reinforces the importance of mentorship and affirms that we are contributing to the development of a future generation of architects who are thoughtful, skilled, and well-prepared for the profession.
Of course, the journey has not been without challenges. Initially, the focus was on helping students understand what architecture truly is, and how it evolves alongside broader societal and technological advancements. A key part of the process involved guiding them in using tools effectively–from hand sketching as a foundation for design thinking, to digital translation using industry-relevant software such as Revit.

THE STUDENTS



JOHN EZISSI



NOBUHLE S MAHOKO



KLEOPATRA BOBIĆ



KGWERANO CHOSHI

Equally important was teaching them to connect design with construction, to understand not only how to conceive ideas, but how to realise them in the built environment.
Balancing the conceptual and the practical was a central challenge, but ultimately one that has yielded meaningful results.
Today, I am deeply satisfied with the progress made.
This journey has demonstrated that with the right guidance, exposure, and commitment, we can meaningfully shape the future of architectural practice."

Call to Members: Bridging the Gap Together

As we reflect on the importance of mentorship and work-integrated learning, we invite members of the South African Institute of Architects to consider their role in supporting the next generation of architects.

How are you contributing to the development of students within the profession?
In what ways can you help bridge the gap between academic learning and professional practice?
We encourage you to share your insights, initiatives, and experiences with us.
Your contributions can help shape a more inclusive, responsive, and supportive professional landscape.
Please send your inputs to: admin@saia.org.za

WITS ARCHITECTURE INDUSTRY SURVEY:

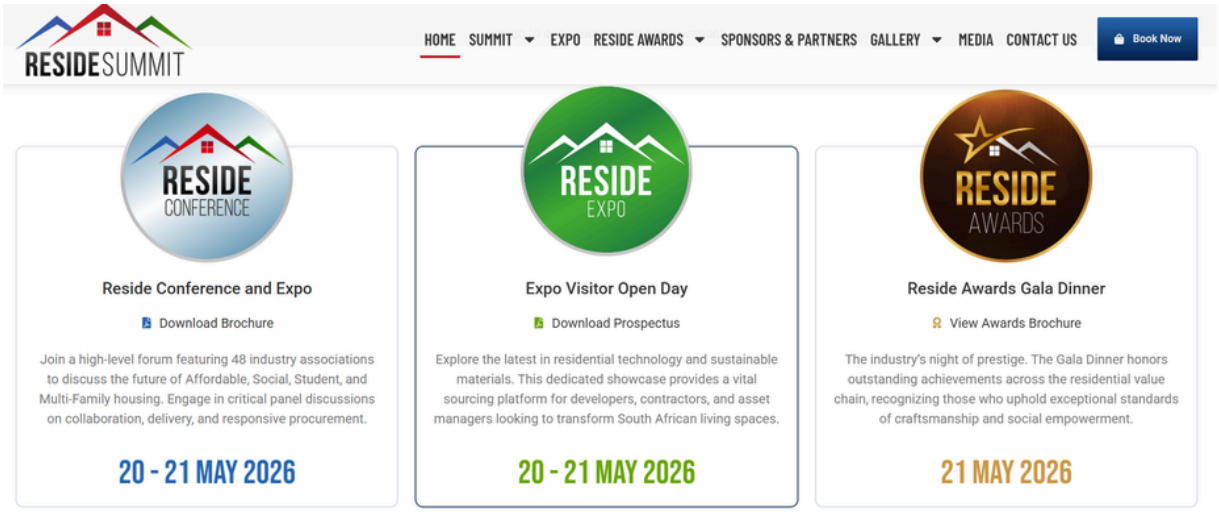
Digital Tools & Practice
The Wits School of Architecture and Planning invites members of the South African Institute of Architects to participate in a short industry survey focused on the software and digital tools commonly used in architectural practice.
This initiative follows discussions held at an industry advisory board meeting and aims to better understand current professional workflows, tools, and emerging trends within the built environment sector.

Estimated time: 15 minutes
Survey link: Architecture Industry Survey: Graphic Software – Fill out form

Your input as a practitioner is valuable in helping shape more responsive and relevant architectural education and training.
We encourage all members to participate and contribute to strengthening the connection between academia and practice.

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/



OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS







