Issue 08/06/26

SAIA PULSE



Headlines



SAIA COROBRIK AWARDS



SAIA PARTNERS AND MEMBERS

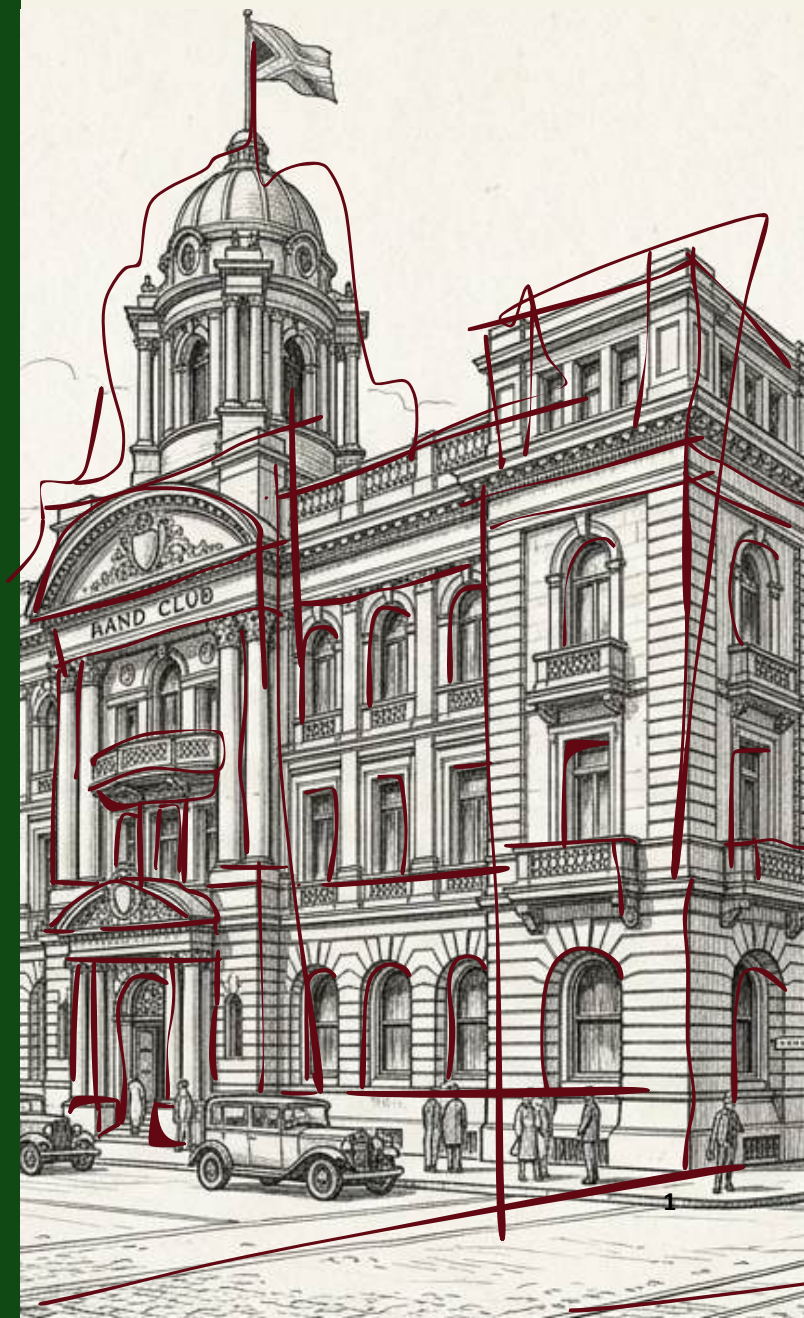


CELEBRATING THE YOUTH

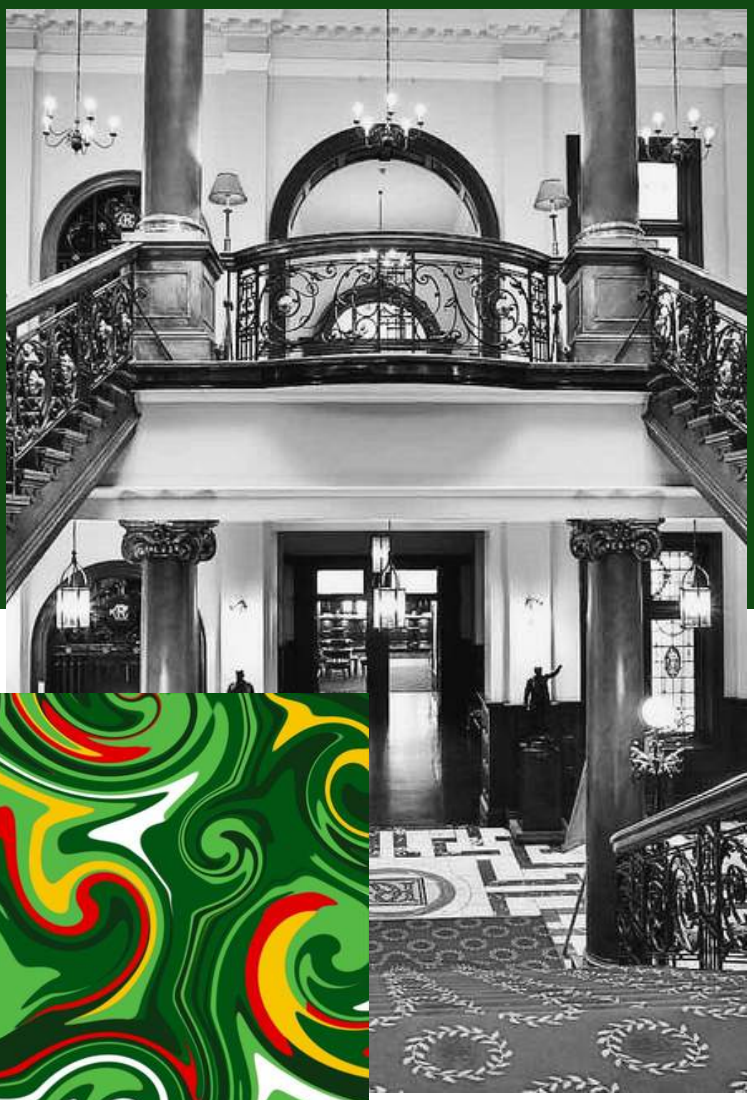
AGM

Reminder: Annual General Meeting (AGM) – June, 5:00 PM via Zoom

A reminder that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place in 23 June 2026 at 5:00 PM via Zoom.



SAIA COROBRIK Awards



Internet sourced image

The 2026 SAIA Awards of Excellence, sponsored by Corobrik, took place on 28 May at the Rand Club in Johannesburg, celebrating outstanding architectural achievements from across South Africa.

SAIA congratulates all the winners and extends its thanks to the judges, sponsors, student ushers, volunteers, and the Rand Club team for helping make the event a success.







On 28 May 2026, the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA), proudly sponsored by Corobrik, hosted the annual SAIA Awards of Excellence at Johannesburg's historic Rand Club.

The event brought together architects, built environment professionals, industry partners, and guests from across the country to celebrate architectural excellence and recognise projects that demonstrate innovation, design quality, sustainability, and meaningful social impact.

This year's ceremony also marked an important milestone for the Institute with the inauguration of Janet Saaiman as SAIA President. In her inaugural address, she reaffirmed the profession's commitment to creating architecture that responds to South Africa's unique challenges and opportunities while maintaining the highest standards of excellence.

President Saaiman presented the President's Award, recognising a project that has made an exceptional contribution to the community it serves.

The evening celebrated the achievements of practices from across South Africa through Awards of Excellence, Awards of Merit, and Commendations, showcasing the remarkable diversity, creativity, and resilience of the architectural profession.

SAIA extends its congratulations to all award recipients and thanks Corobrik, the judges, sponsors, volunteers, student ushers, and the Rand Club team for contributing to the success of the event.

Photographs by Architecture student and photographer at the Witwatersrand university **Avela Sisilana**



Thomas Leask receives Brick award from Gary Westwood, Sales Manager Northwest and Mpumalanga and Masana Mabasa



Images from the live

This year's Corobrik SAIA Awards of Excellence extended beyond the walls of the venue through a live-streamed broadcast, allowing members of the profession and the wider public to share in the celebration of South African architectural excellence.

The live programme featured conversations with architects, award recipients, jurors, and industry leaders, offering valuable insights into the projects, ideas, and people shaping the future of the built environment. These discussions highlighted the role of architecture in addressing social, environmental, cultural, and economic challenges while showcasing the innovation and creativity that continue to define the profession.

The broadcast created an important platform for knowledge-sharing and reflection, reinforcing the value of architectural discourse and making the Awards accessible to a broader audience across South Africa and beyond.

As the profession continues to evolve, initiatives such as the Corobrik SAIA Awards of Excellence play a vital role in recognising achievement, inspiring future generations, and fostering meaningful conversations about the future of architecture.

Watch live here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofQWel8hea8&t=689s

Our MC's for the night



Second from the right: Avela Swana
Far Right: Mfundo Archibald Maphumulo

A Tribute to Janet Saaiman

As SAIA prepares for a new financial year, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Janet Saaiman for her dedicated leadership and service to the Institute.
Throughout her tenure, Janet has championed the profession with passion, integrity, and commitment, helping to strengthen SAIA and support its members across the country. Her contribution has left a meaningful impact on the organisation and the broader architectural community.

While we look forward to an exciting new chapter, we do so with sincere gratitude for Janet's leadership and the legacy she leaves behind.
Thank you, Janet, for your service, dedication, and continued contribution to the profession.



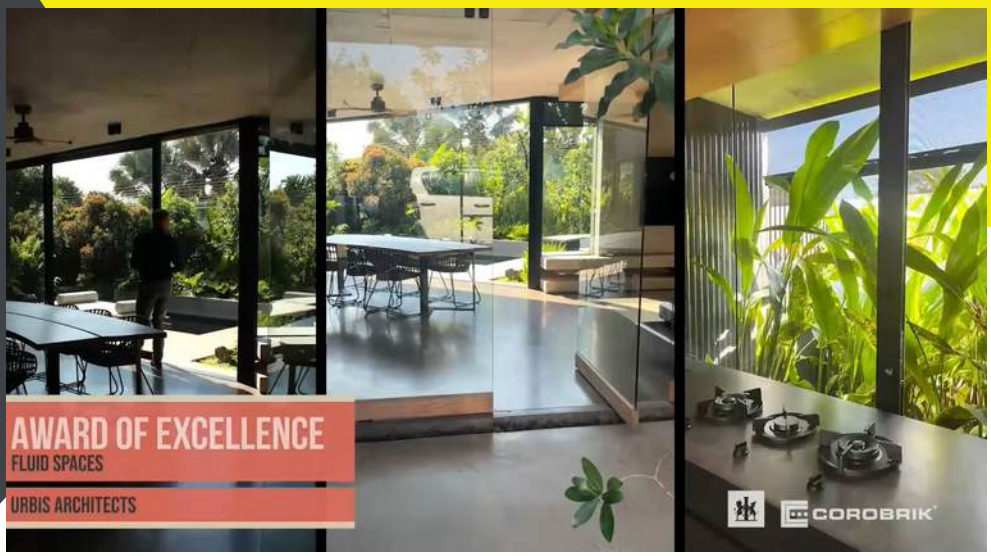
The adjudicators


AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
UNBOUND
W DESIGN ARCHITECTURE STUDIO
COROBRIK


AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
KHANYISA
REBEL BASE COLLECTIVE


AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
UPSIDE DOWN HOUSE
DREW ARCHITECTS (PTY) LTD
COROBRIK


PHOTOGRAPH BY SARAH DE PINA
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
NEW HIGHVELD HOUSE
MESHWORKS ARCHITECTURE + URBANISM
COROBRIK


AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
FLUID SPACES
URBIS ARCHITECTS
COROBRIK


AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
HOUSE MONTROSE
KLG ARCHITECTS


AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
MOSTERT'S MILL
GABRIEL FAGAN ARCHITECTS
COROBRIK


AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
REDHILL EARLY LEARNING CENTRE
HUBO STUDIO
COROBRIK


AWARD OF EXCELLENCE
HOUSE HILL
MONOGRAPH ARCHITECTS
COROBRIK

A Special Thank You to Our Student Ushers

Photographs by Architecture student and photographer at the Witwatersrand university **Avela Sisilana**



Third from the left: Mandisa Zulu



Avela Sisilana



Lloyd Nyalungu



Left: Karabo Komane
Right: Tshwanelo C Khambule (SAIA)



Left: Liyema Dintsi
Middle: Mabotshe More

SAIA extends its sincere appreciation to the student ushers for their time and energy to support the 2026 Corobrik SAIA Awards of Excellence. From assisting with event preparations and guest registration to working alongside the Rand Club team throughout the evening, their professionalism, enthusiasm, and dedication contributed significantly to the success of the event.
We thank them for their valuable contribution and look forward to seeing them become the next generation of leaders in the architectural profession.

Awards of MERIT

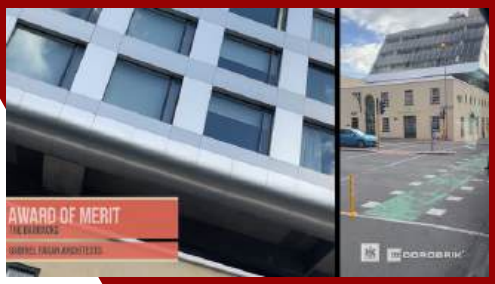


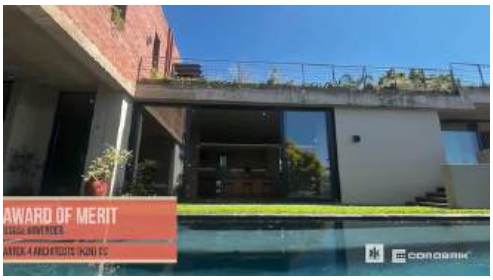










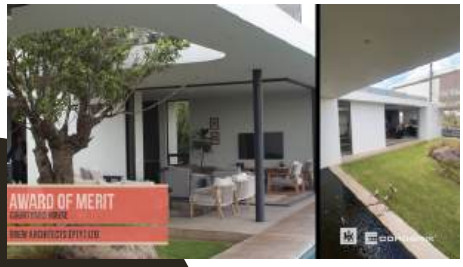












Commendation

























COROBRIK SAIA Awards













COROBRIK SAIA Awards













COROBRIK SAIA Awards







Docomomo South Africa National Committee Update

advocacy for our profession, our industry and our works starts around the table.

The Docomomo South Africa National Committee continues to strengthen collaboration between SAIA and the South African chapter of Docomomo International, advancing shared objectives in the documentation, conservation, and advocacy of Modern Movement and 20th-century architectural heritage.

Current Focus and Activities

The Committee remains committed to upholding SAIA's values, mission, and professional standards while supporting meaningful dialogue, knowledge exchange, and cooperation between the two organisations. This partnership promotes the conservation of modern architectural heritage and contributes to a greater understanding of its significance for future generations.



City context proposal: view from corner of Strand and Bree Streets (Courtesy of DHK Architects SDP Report)

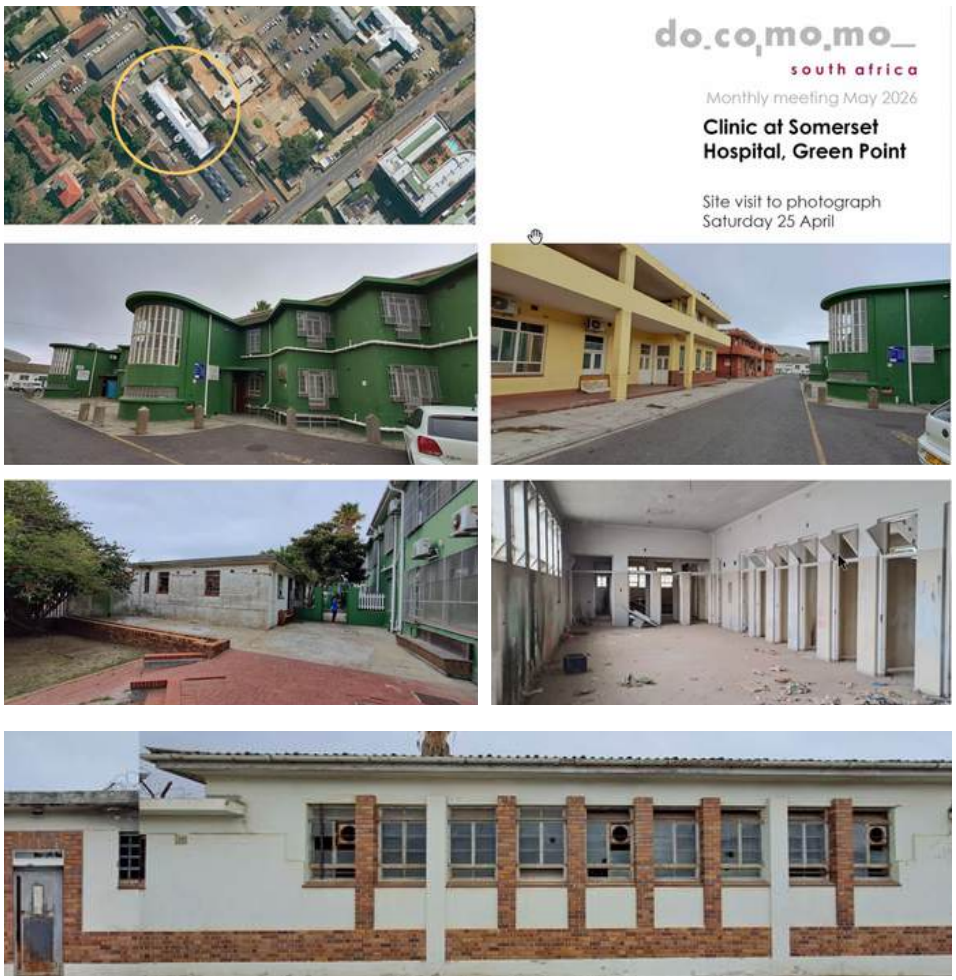
Key Projects

The Matrix Development, Cape Town CBD

The Committee reviewed and provided comments on "The Matrix", a proposed mixed-use development involving the redevelopment and partial demolition of a city block bounded by Strand and Loop Streets in Cape Town's CBD. The project remains under consideration as part of ongoing heritage and urban development discussions.

SAHRA–SAHRIS Register
Work continues on the development of a register of noteworthy Modern Movement buildings and sites at a regional level. The agreed process includes compiling documentation for nominated buildings, committee review and approval, and submission to the SAHRIS register.

A notable discussion centred on the inclusion of the Red Location Museum, designed by architect Joe Noero. The Committee supported its inclusion based on its modernist architectural principles, innovative structural design, and significant place within South Africa's socio-political history.
Somerset Hospital Clinic Documentation Project



In April 2026, Committee members conducted a site visit to the Somerset Hospital Clinic in Cape Town to document the building before further alterations take place. Particular attention was given to original window detailing and materiality, contributing to Docomomo's ongoing documentation and conservation records.

Looking Ahead
One of the Committee's key priorities is expanding regional representation to strengthen conservation efforts across the country. Work is underway to encourage broader participation and ensure more comprehensive national engagement.
The next Docomomo South Africa Committee meeting is scheduled for 12 June 2026.
"The Docomomo South Africa Committee continues to work towards conserving buildings and sites of the Modern Movement in South Africa."

Accelerating Urban Transformation: Reflections from RESIDE Summit 2026





The RESIDE Summit 2026, held at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg on 20–21 May 2026, brought together leaders from the built environment, government, finance, development, and academia to discuss the future of South African cities. The event created a valuable platform for interdisciplinary engagement around the opportunities and challenges shaping urban development.



A recurring theme throughout the summit was the importance of collaboration. Speakers emphasised that meaningful urban transformation cannot be achieved by any single profession or sector acting independently. Instead, successful outcomes depend on partnerships between government, private developers, investors, planners, architects, engineers, and local communities.

Housing delivery and urban regeneration featured prominently in discussions. Delegates explored innovative approaches to increasing housing supply while ensuring developments remain socially inclusive, economically viable, and environmentally responsible. The need to address spatial inequality through integrated urban planning was repeatedly highlighted.



Another key focus was sustainability and resilience. As cities face increasing environmental and economic pressures, the summit showcased strategies for creating more adaptable urban environments. Discussions ranged from energy-efficient buildings and infrastructure investment to the role of design in supporting long-term social and environmental wellbeing.

For architects, the summit reinforced the profession's critical role in shaping places that are functional, sustainable, and meaningful. Beyond the design of individual buildings, architects are increasingly called upon to contribute to broader conversations about urban systems, community development, and the future of cities.
One of the most valuable aspects of the summit was the opportunity to engage with professionals from diverse disciplines. These interactions highlighted the importance of shared knowledge and collaborative problem-solving in addressing complex urban challenges.

The RESIDE Summit 2026 demonstrated that South Africa possesses both the expertise and the ambition required to advance urban transformation. Continued dialogue and cooperation across sectors will be essential to translating ideas into tangible improvements for cities and communities across the country.
Dr Mizan Rambhoros attended the RESIDE Summit 2026 through a complimentary ticket provided to SAIA members and affiliates.



Dr Mizan Rambhoros

For more information on the RESIDE Summit, including programmes and future events, visit the RESIDE website:
RESIDE Conference Website

In Memoriam



Obituary Tribute:
Architect Olufemi Adetokunbo (Femi) Majekodunmi
Past President of the International Union of Architects (UIA)

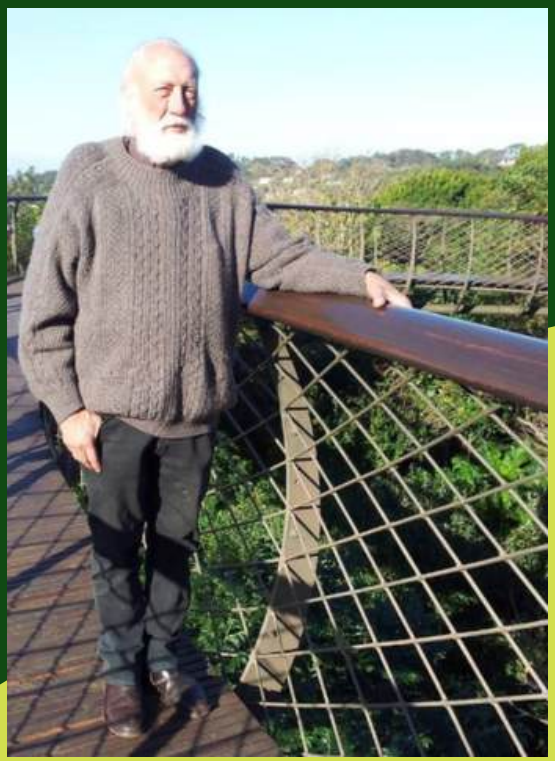
Image Source
fmaarchitects.com/FMABrochure.pdf

The South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) mourns the passing of Architect Olufemi Adetokunbo “Femi” Majekodunmi, one of the most distinguished figures in African and global architecture.

A visionary practitioner, educator, and leader, he dedicated more than five decades to advancing the profession across continents.
Born in 1940, Majekodunmi trained in the United Kingdom before returning to Nigeria, where he founded FMA Architects, one of Africa’s earliest multinational architectural practices. His work shaped civic, institutional, and commercial landscapes across Nigeria, Botswana, and South Africa, reflecting a deep commitment to contextual, human-centred design.

His leadership was equally transformative.
As Founding Secretary General of the African Union of Architects, First President of the Nigerian Institute of Architects, and President of the International Union of Architects (1990–1993), he championed African architectural identity and strengthened global professional solidarity.
SAIA honours his extraordinary legacy and extends heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, and the many communities he inspired.

His life’s work will continue to guide generations of architects.



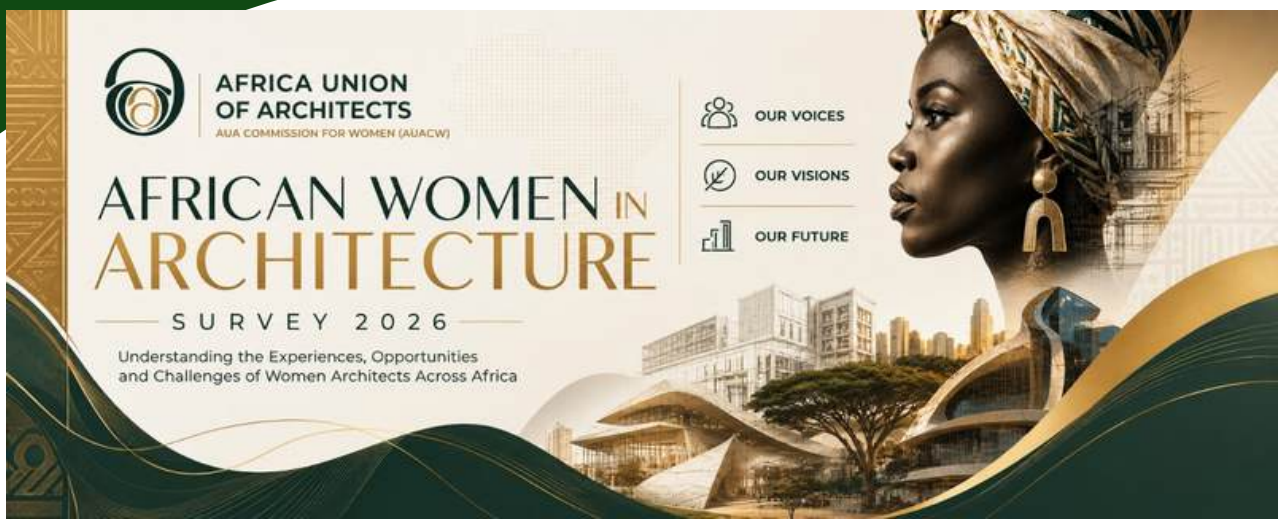
Dr Heinrich Kammeyer was a respected South African architect, urban designer, educator, and mentor.

Obituary Tribute:
Dr Heinrich Kammeyer

The South African Institute of Architects recently bid farewell to Dr Heinrich Kammeyer, a respected architect, educator, mentor, and retired member of SAIA.
Heinrich's contribution to architecture extended far beyond his built work. He inspired generations of students and colleagues through his teaching, intellectual curiosity, and thoughtful engagement with the profession.

His award-winning design for the Cathedral of the Holy Nativity in Pietermaritzburg remains a significant contribution to South African architecture- modest, whimsical, and deeply rooted in its urban context.

Remembered for bridging traditional architectural design with innovative, community-focused approaches and an African sensibility, Heinrich leaves behind a legacy that continues to enrich our architectural landscape.
On behalf of SAIA and its members, we extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends, colleagues, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.
His memory will live on through his work, his teachings, and the many lives he touched.



CALLING WOMEN ARCHITECTS ACROSS AFRICA

Arc. Mobolaji Adeniyi, FNIA, Immediate Past President of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA) and Pioneer Coordinator of the African Union of Architects Commission for Women (AUACW), invites women architects and female architecture students across Africa to participate in the African Women in Architecture Survey 2026.

Goal

To gather responses from 1,500 women architects and female architecture students representing all 54 African countries.

Why Participate?

Your insights will help shape future advocacy, leadership development, mentorship programmes, research initiatives, and professional opportunities for women in architecture across the continent.

Survey Details

• Duration: 8–10 minutes
• Confidentiality: Anonymous and confidential

Your participation is valuable. Every response contributes to building a stronger, more inclusive future for women in architecture across Africa.

Please complete the survey and share it widely within your professional and academic networks.

"Every voice counts. Every response shapes the future."

Survey Link: https://tinyurl.com/AUACW-2026-SURVEY

Celebrating Excellence in Architectural Education



Kayla de Jager



Keanan Cantor

SAIA extends its congratulations to Keanan Cantor and Kayla de Jager on their outstanding academic achievements.

Keanan Cantor received recognition as the Best Architecture Student over the Final Two Years of the Professional Degrees, while Kayla de Jager was awarded the David Haddon Prize for the Best Architecture Student in Professional Practice.

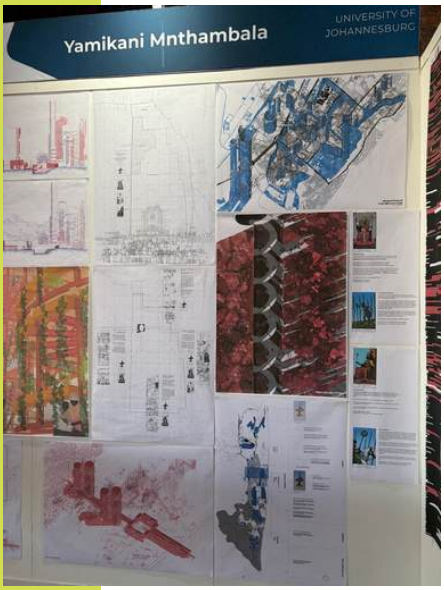
SAIA also extends appreciation to all partners and supporters who continue investing in the growth and development of future Built Environment professionals.





Corobrik Student Architecture Awards









A moment for the student's projectssubmission for Corobrik Student Architecture Awards

Gauteng Institute for Architecture
a region of SAIA



2026
HERBERT PRINS COLOSSEUM AWARDS
The Greater Highveld

CALL FOR ENTRIES

All submissions will be accepted online

CLOSING DATE: 30 JUNE 2026



CALL FOR ENTRIES | Herbert Prins Colosseum Awards

Honouring Heritage.
The Herbert Prins Colosseum Awards recognise outstanding contributions to heritage conservation across the greater Highveld region, including PIA, SAIA Mpumalanga, and SAIA Limpopo & Northwest.
Inspired by the legacy of the Colosseum Theatre and heritage architect Herbert Prins, the awards celebrate excellence in:
• Conservation, Commemoration & Adaptive Reuse
• Rescue & Advocacy Efforts
• Research & Publications
Entries are open to the public, architects, academics, property owners, developers, and their representatives.

Entry Fee: R1700.00
Celebrate heritage, honour excellence, and help inspire the future of conservation within the Built Environment.

2025 SURVEY OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS, GRADUATES, AND EARLY-CAREER PROFESSIONALS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

The Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) has published the initial findings of its 2025 survey of architecture students, graduates, and early-career professionals across the Commonwealth. Led by CAA Youth Representative Hugo Chan, the study is the first of its kind, capturing the experiences and perspectives of young architects aged 18–35 across 26 countries and all five Commonwealth regions. Conducted between February and July 2025 as part of the CAA's 60th anniversary year, the report builds on earlier research from 2020–2021 and provides evidence-based insight into the challenges, aspirations, and realities facing the next generation of the profession. The full report is now available on the CAA website, with key findings highlighted for further reading.

REPORT LINK

Call for Volunteers Committees and Juries

SAIA will is issuing a general call for volunteers to serve on various structures, including UAU Committees, SAIA Committees, and juries. Members are encouraged to participate and contribute their expertise to support the profession and strengthen institutional governance and engagement across all platforms.

SAIA Annual General Meeting 2026
Date: 23 June 2026
Time: 17:00 (Johannesburg)

Join the Meeting
Join Zoom Meeting: https://saia-org-za.zoom.us/j/92703655395?pwd=dLQP6JkmhFoUPy4bfgyXtckQjK1upU.1
Meeting ID: 927 0365 5395
Passcode: 004978
Meeting Chat
https://saia-org-za.zoom.us/launch/jc/92703655395
One-Tap Mobile Access
+27 21 426 8191,,92703655395#,,,,*004978# (South Africa)
+27 87 550 3946,,92703655395#,,,,*004978# (South Africa)
We encourage all members to attend and participate in this important annual gathering of the Institute.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS







































