

CONFERENCE BOOKLET

29-31 AUGUST 2025

University of Johanesburg Auckland Park Kingsway Campus

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CONVENOR FOREWORD



Nomonde Gwebu AZA 2025 Convenor

Architecture Meets 2025 centers architecture's interconnectedness to the planet, broader creative practice and the ever-critical task of vision-building and crafting the future we hope to inhabit. The University of Johannesburg (in collaboration with the South African Institute for Architects and the Gauteng Institute for Architecture) is the perfect host of this platform to critically engage architecture's relationship with broader creative practice, being that its Department of Architecture and Graduate School of Architecture are situated within the Faculty of Art and Design.

South Africa is a land of pressing infrastructural challenges on one hand, and a land of unparalleled opportunity on the other. Creative practice therefore emerges from world-class learning institutions, but it is also forged out of struggle and necessity. What are the roles of architecture, design and creative practice in search of a heart-to-heart with such a complex society? What is the true role of design in the face of the various crises we collectively face in our built environment?

AZA Meets 2025 connects those who are, at different scales and in different ways, exploring creative responses to the questions that the South African and global conditions demand. AZA Meets 2025 is a rare moment for students, professionals, industry and creative practitioners to have meaningful interactions, within thoughtfully crafted conversation spaces. Through the large gatherings, but also the more subtle, intimate interactions, AZA aims to nurture ideas, exchanges and collaborations that form the beginnings of renewed, situated lexicons, creative discourses, design and of architecture that endures.

South African Institute of Architects

Phone Number 011 782 1315

Website https://saia.org.za/

Email admin@saia.org.za

Office Address
2nd Floor, 165 West Street, Sandton, 2031, ZA.

Postal address: Postnet Suite 128, Private Bag X31, Saxonwold, 2132

General enquiries
For attention: Ms. Rosinah (Neo) Sebogodi, SAIA
General Assistant

Email: SAIA – admin@saia.org.za

Reconstituted in 2015, the South African Institute of Architects is a voluntary association and is the natural successor to the Institute of South African Architects which was originally established in 1927 and renamed the South African Institute of Architects in 1996.

SAIA incorporates the nine existing regional institutes: Border-Kei [Eastern Cape], CIfA [Western Cape], Eastern Cape, Free State, GIfA [Gauteng], KZNIA [KwaZulu-Natal], Litmpopo, Mpumalanga and PIA [Gauteng.

The mission of the Institute is to act as the collective voice serving the interests of its members in pursuit of excellence and responsible design. It aims to uphold the dignity of the architectural profession and contribute meaningfully to the enhancement of society and the environment. The fundamental principles of equality and justice are implicit in our Constitution.

SAIA is a member of the Africa Union of Architects (AUA), the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA), the International Union of Architects (UIA), the International Commission on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the International Committee Documentation and Conservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the Modern Movement. (DOCOMOMO).

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INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Saarchitecture.co.za

Gauteng Institute for Architecture

Phone Number

+27 10 006 5566

Website

https://www.gifa.org.za/

Email

membership@gifa.org.za enquiries@gifa.org.za

Office Address

2nd Floor, 165 West Street, Sandton, 2031, ZA.



The Gauteng Institute for Architecture (GIfA)

is a progressive regional architectural institute which, together with its members and built environment partners, unlocks communities' access to a sustainable built environment. It recognizes the immeasurable potential of responsible architecture to improve the quality of life.

By joining GlfA, you gain access to a dynamic professional community where knowledge, ideas, and opportunities are shared. Membership benefits include:

- Professional growth CPD-accredited events, lectures, and tours.
- Networking connect with architects, students, and allied professionals.
- Recognition participate in the GlfA Regional Awards and exhibitions.
- Advocacy GlfA represents architects' interests at every level.
- Discounts reduced rates for events and special initiatives.
- •Support for students and young professionals mentorship, exposure, and career growth.

Be part of shaping an innovative, inclusive, and sustainable built environment.

Apply for membership today via the GIfA website www.gifa.org.za and click on membership

The South African Council for the Architectural Profession

Phone Number +27 11 479 5000

Website

https://www.sacapsa.com/

Email

info@sacapsa.com

Office Address

51 Wessel Road, Right Wing, Rivonia Sandton, 2128



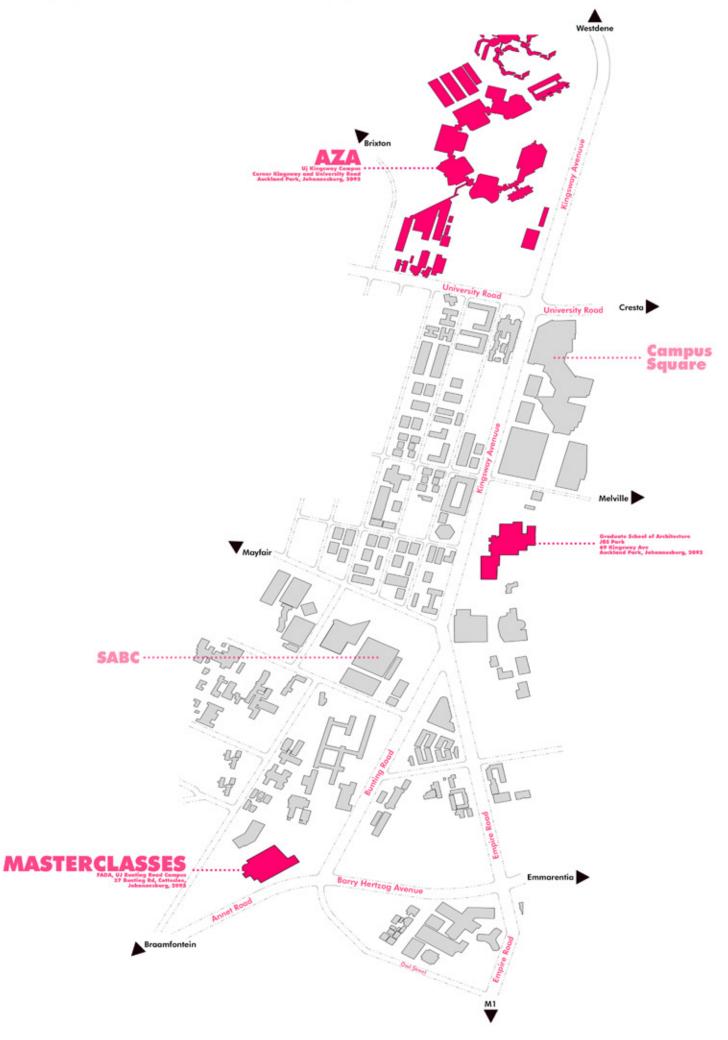
South African Council for the Architectural Profession

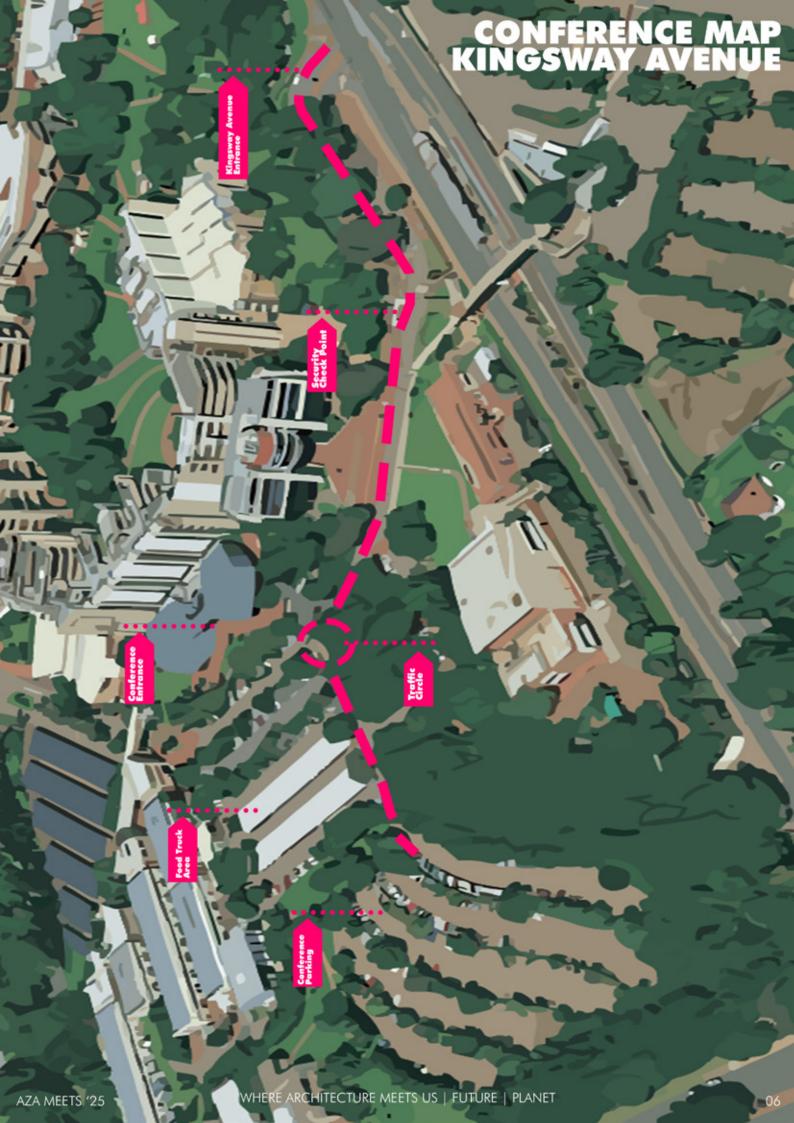
The South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP) is the statutory body mandated to regulate the architectural profession in South Africa, in accordance with the Architectural Profession Act, No. 44 of 2000 ("the Act"). The profession includes professional architects, senior architectural technologists, architectural technologists, draughtspersons, candidates in each registration category, and individuals registered in specified categories.

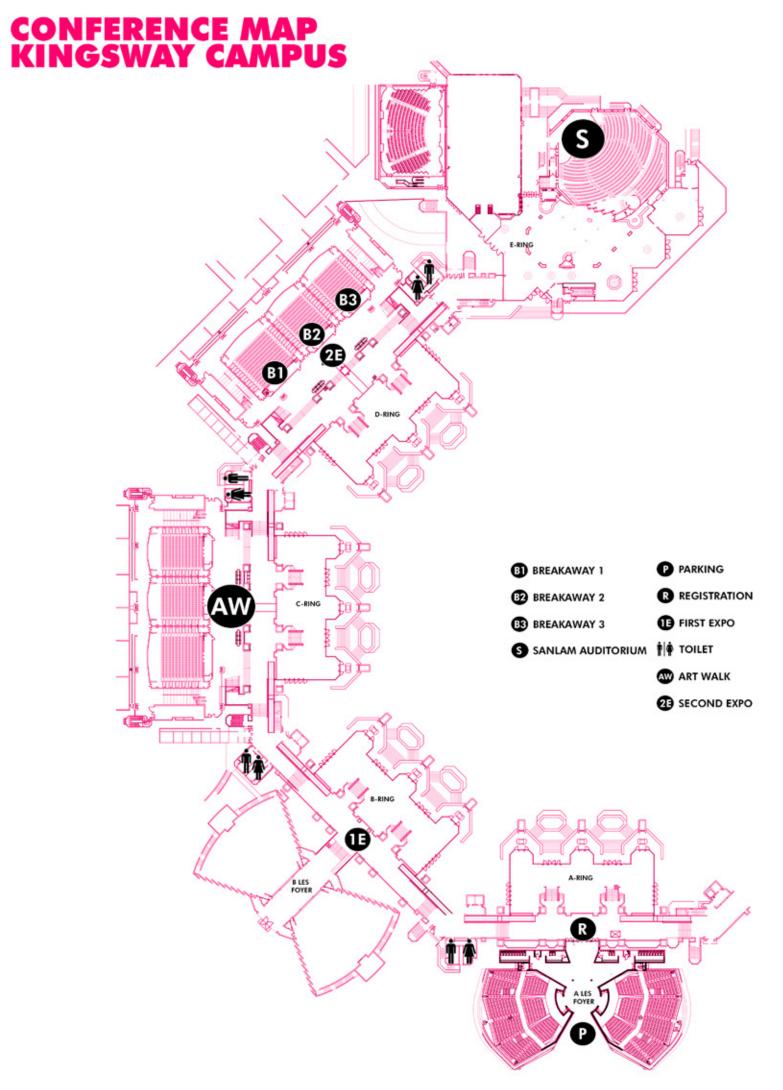
SACAP fulfils its regulatory mandate by setting standards for registration, education, the accreditation of architectural programmes, the determination of conditions for continuing professional development, and professional ethics. It determines the Guideline Professional Fees, defines the scope of work applicable to each registration category, and prescribes the requirements for the recognition of voluntary associations. SACAP also undertakes measures to enhance the standard of professional services and to protect the public. Additionally, it maintains a register of all registered candidates and professionals.

For more information, please visit our website: www.sacapsa.com.

AUCKLAND PARK CONTEXT MAP







PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ArchitectureZA 2025 (AZA 2025), hosted by the University of Johannesburg (UJ), is South Africa's premier interdisciplinary architecture and design conference. As one of the country's youngest universities, established in 2005 as a merger, UJ has embraced a transformative agenda that extends beyond demographics into the very structures of knowledge production. This year's AZA leverages that mission by curating a programme that is intentionally diverse in age, race, experience, and disciplinary background, with the aim of shaping new, inclusive futures for architectural practice and education.

Uniquely, Architecture at UJ is the only school of architecture in South Africa housed within a Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture (FADA). This location enables and compels the discipline to exist in constant dialogue with fashion, fine art, multimedia, and industrial design. AZA 2025 builds directly on this ethos, drawing energy from the intersections and frictions across creative disciplines to explore how architecture meets other fields and futures.

Over three days, AZA 2025 unfolds across three thematic arcs:

"Where Architecture Meets the Planet": looks outward, situating South African design debates within wider planetary conversations on climate, justice, and global interdependence.

"Where Architecture Meets Us": Interrogating the discipline itself: practice, pedagogy, politics, research, and lived experience.

"Where Architecture Meets the Future":

Speculative and critical reflections on identity, technology, place, and design imaginaries.

The programme is structured with intent: established practitioners alongside emerging voices, academics next to students, and architects in dialogue with artists, fashion designers, data practitioners, and cultural producers. This mix reflects the conference's commitment to inclusivity, creating spaces where difference is generative rather than marginal.

Adding to this richness, AZA 2025 has invited international keynote speakers whose versatile voices will broaden the conversation and situate South African and continental debates within a wider global frame. These contributions underscore the conference's ambition to think not only from Johannesburg, but outward into the world, positioning African perspectives at the centre of future-making in design.

AZA 2025 aims to be a platform for reimagining architecture's place in society. It embodies UJ's transformative agenda by amplifying alternative voices, creating interdisciplinary connections, and positioning African perspectives at the centre of design futures.

Nomalanga Mahlangu

Program Coordinator

OPENING

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THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 2025:

	University of the Witwatersrand John Moffat Building, East Campus
09:00 - 13:00	Arrival at SOAP
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome Note The opening address will introduce the theme of the day and set the tone for the programme. It will reflect on how creativity, experimentation, and entrepreneurial thinking can open new possibilities for architectural practice and shape the future of the profession.
10:15 - 10:45	Standard Bank Session Standard Bank speaks on its role in supporting business growth, with a focus on empowering young professionals. This session will highlight opportunities, resources, and financial tools available to help emerging architects and designers turn bold ideas into thriving enterprises.
10:45 - 11:45	Workshop Session For Students & Business Ideas A session led by architects and designers who have successfully started their own practices. They'll share lessons learned, strategies for turning creative vision into a viable business, and tips for navigating the challenges of entrepreneurship in the design world.
11:45 - 13:15	Business Idea Pitches Candidates pitch their entrepreneurial concepts, sharing innovative approaches to architecture and design as viable business ventures. This session allows peers, industry professionals, and emerging innovators to engage and provide feedback.
13:15 - 13:30	Closing Remarks

	Keyes Art Mile
29.345	21 Keyes Ave, Rosebank
18:00 - 22:00	New Architecture Now Exhibition
	NAN showcases outstanding student work from all 13 of South Africa's architectural Learning Sites (Universities). NAN foregrounds emerging architects by celebrating student work in a captivating display of their skill, resilience and imminent contribution to South African architecture. NAN includes models, installations, hand-drawings, Al aided design,water colour renders and many more innovative ways of guiding audiences through the architectural narrative.

For all NAN-related queries, please contact: Hello@papercutstudio.co.za



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FRIDAY 29 AUGUST 2025: JOINT SESSION

Auckland Park Bunting Road Campus 37 Bunting Rd, Cottesloe Johannesburg, 2092 Venue: FADA Auditorium		
TIME	SESSION	
08:30 - 11:30	Masterclasses Spirit & Scale: The Ritual of Modelmaking Mark your Way: The intersection between Graphic Design and Architecture Architecture of the Eye: The art of analogue Where Architecture meets Professional Practice Sketch like a Bad*ss	
	•Tlhologello + Letlhogonolo Sesana •Zinhle Zulu + Ilhaam Khan •Leon Krige •Munetsi Chiunda •Jacbus Uys	

	Graduate School ofArchitecture (GSA) 69 Kingsway Ave, Auckland Park Johannesburg, 2092 Venue: GSA Zone A	
TIME	SESSION	
12:30 - 13:30	GSA: Architecture Week Student Exhibition Walkabout	





FRIDAY 29 AUGUST 2025: JOINT SESSION

Campus: Kingsway Campus Auckland Park Venue: Sanlam Auditorium		
TIME	SESSION	
14:00 - 14:45	Registration	
14:45- 15:00	Event Opening	
	• Jacobus Uys • Oratile Mothoagae	
15:00 - 15:15	SACAP Welcome Note	
	•SACAP President - Mr. Charles Nduku	
15:15 - 15:30	UJ Welcome Note	
	• Prof. Federico Freschi + Dr. Finzi Saidi	
15:30 - 15:45	Poem: Architecture Meets Planet Us Future	
	•Dr. Afua Wilcox	
15:45 - 16:40	Keynote Speaker Introduction: Arjun Malik	
	• Prof. Guy Trangoš	
	Where Architecture Meets Planet: India	
	•Arjun Malik	
16:40 - 17:20	Keynote Speaker introduction Georg van Gass	
	• Dr. Afua Wilcox	
	Where Architecture Meets Planet: South Africa	
	•Georg van Gass	
17:20 - 17:35	Break	
17:35 - 18:30	Keynote Speaker Introduction: Prof Felicity Atekpe	
	Stephen Steyn	
	Where Architecture Meets Planet: England	
	Prof. Felicity Atekpe	
8:30 - 19:25	Keynote Speaker Introduction: Brendan MacFarlane	
	Veronica Teixeira	
	Where Architecture Meets Planet: France	
	*Brendan MacFarlane	
19:25 - 19:55	Panel Discussion	_
	Brendan MacFarlane + Prof. Felicity Atekpe + Georg van Gass + Arjun Malik	8
19:55 - 20:05	Closing	8
	•Jacobus Uys •Oratile Mothoagae	

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TIME	SESSION			2000	4000	
20:05 - 21:05	Trade Show Opening	g/ Networking Re	eception			



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SATURDAY 30 AUGUST 2025: JOINT SESSION

TIME SESSION	
08:00 - 09:00	Arrival (COFFEE & CONVERSATION)

	SANLAM AUDITORIUM
09:00 -	Framing the day and Introduction
09:15	• Oratile Mothoagae • Jacobus Uys
09:15 -	Where Architecture Meets Us: Beyond the Blueprint
10:00	This session brings together practices that have been building, slowly, deliberately, and often against the grain, for nearly a decade, alongside established firms with longer legacies. It's not a conversation about arrival, but about endurance: what it means to build a practice that is responsive and reflective over time. Speakters are invited to go beyond the blueprint, to share what it has taken to survive, adapt, hold values, and remain in conversation with a profession that is constantly shifting.
	Speakers: Oratile Mothoagae Steven Sotiriou Nisha van der Hoven Sundeep Jivan
	Moderators: Ngobile Lombo Thato Mashele
10:00 -	International Keynote: Introduction.
11:00	•Jacobus Uys
	International Keynote: Where Architecture Meets US
	•Bijoy Ramachandran
11:00 - 11:15	Question and Answer Session
11:15 -	11:30 Break

11:30 -12:30

BREAKAWAY ROOM 1:

Where architecture meets US: **Production of Situated Practices** of Repair

Repair is not a soft alternative to design, it is design. This session invites practitioners to consider repair as an architectural methodology grounded in context, rigour, and responsibility. Speakers are asked to reflect on how their practice engages repair not as sentiment, but as strategy, where detail, authorship, and situated knowledge come together to produce architecture that restores, reclaims, and reimagines.

Speakers:

- Mark Schaerer
- **LEMONPebble**
- Ant from Frankie Pappas
- Arjun Malik
- Dr. Jan Hugo

Moderators:

- Bongisa Msutu
- Tumisho Serumula

BREAKAWAY ROOM 2:

Where architecture meets Us: Fear and Beauty eJozi: An Interdisciplinary Read of the City

This session prompts the panel to reflect on understandings of fear and beauty found in Johannesburg. The discussion asks: what new forms of knowledge, representation, and agency emerge when we work across disciplines to address the complexities of lived experience? What can emerge when we intercreate the discourse between create the discourse between create the discourse between create the discourse between create the discourse between creater than the creat interrogate the dialogue between architecture and lense based media

Speakers:

- Dr. Hendrik Auret
- Njabulo Pekani
- **Boitumelo Mazibuko**
- Steven Sotiriou
- Leon Krige

Moderators:

- Alex Opper Nyeleti Mashele
- Dr. Afua Wilcox

BREAKAWAY ROOM 3:

Where architecture meets US: Neither Here Nor There: **Design Across Geographies**

This session calls on designers to critically engage with the spatial realities that exist between the rural and the urban, not as fixed categories, but as interdependent geographies of movement, memory, and belonging. In a country where commuting, remittances, and dual residence are common, how can architectural form, language, and typology respond? Rather than treating these conditions as exceptions or informal, speakers are invited to reflect on how Architecture with a capital A can evolve to meaningfully intervene in the complexities of rural-urban-township life, designing with nuance, permanence, and designing with nuance, permanence, and dignity in the spaces in-between.

Speakers:

- Mbalentle Mnotoza
- **Vedhant Maharaj**
- Thorsten Deckler Mohau Setlhako
- Ilana Steenkamp Peter Rich
- Menzi Ndlovu
- Moderators:
- Tebogo Ramatlo
- Nomalanga Mahlangu

12:30 - 13:30 Lun

SANLAM AUDITORIUM

13:30 14:30

Session Introduction - Prof. Guy Trangoš

Where architecture meets Us: Al and Us: Ethics, Agency, and Architectural Practice Today

This session invites a rigorous and critical examination of Al's presence in architectural practice and society as it exists today. Speakers should reflect on the ethical complexities, questions of agency, and power dynamics that arise as Al increasingly intersects with spatial design and identity, particularly within the South African context. The conversation aims to move beyond hype and futurism, focusing instead on the nuanced, sometimes fraught, realities of living and designing with Al today.

Speakers:
• Menzi Ndlovu
• Dirk Coetser
• Ntetleng Orepa Mosidi.

Moderators:
Prof. Guy Trangoš
Mohau Setlhako

14:40 16:00

Session Introduction - Mxolisi Makhubo

Where Architecure meets US: Holding the Centre While Expanding the Edges

Growth is not the problem, in fact, it is long overdue. African architectural practices deserve to scale, to lead, and to shape the global design landscape. This session asks: as firms grow in size, scope, and reach, how do they stay rooted in the places, people, and politics that shaped them? Speakers are invited to reflect on what it takes to build big while staying grounded, holding the centre of identity, responsibility, and context even as the edges expand.

Speakers:
• Guy Briggs
• Kate Otten
• Cllr Mandisa Pepeta Greg Truen

Moderators:
•Mxolisi Makhubo
•Fanele Zondi

16:00 - 16:15

16:15 -17:15

BREAKAWAY ROOM 1:

Where architecture meets Us: 31 years Post...Race, Politics and Us

It's been 31 years post-apartheid, yet the spatial legacies of race, class, and power remain largely intact. This session is not a commemoration.

It is a provocation:

What are we doing, as architects and spatial practitioners, to break the cycle? Beyond declarations of transformation, how are our practices unsettling inherited systems, redistributing space, and reimagining the politics of design in South Africa, not someday, but now?

Speakers

- Jo Noero
- Discussant: LandmarQue
- Discussant: Mohau Setlhako

Moderators:

- Letlhogonolo Sesana
- Thologello Sesana

BREAKAWAY ROOM 2:

Where architecture meets Us: **Becoming Her Architect**

South Africa sees thousands of women graduate from architecture schools, yet few go on to lead practices, shape policy, or author the built environment.

Becoming Her Architect is both a personal and political project: about the woman navigating the profession, and the urgent need to build frameworks where future "hers" can thrive.

This session invites honest, critical dialogue on the invisible labour, systemic exclusions, and necessary reimaginings that define what it takes, and what it means, to become her architect today.

Speakers:

- SACAP Vice President Letsabisa Shongwe
- Sandra Felix
- Kgaugelo Lekalakala Nisha van der Hoven Thato Motlafi

- Dr. Afua Wilcox
- Charmaine Maleho

BREAKAWAY ROOM 3:

Where architecture meets Us: Creative Research and Design

This session brings together practitioners, academics and PhD candidates invested in research-led practice or transitioning toward it. It also opens space for emerging researchers to test ideas, methodologies, and provocations. Presenters are asked to reflect on how their work engages architectural research, and what it means to pursue a PhD in South Africa today, politically, institutionally, and creatively.

The session encourages cross-dialogue, mentorship, and a deeper understanding of the evolving role of research in design

Speakers

- Leah Jardine
- Dr Judith Tinuke Ojo-Aromokudul
- Sadiyah Geyer Dr. Heather Dodd + Prof. Jonathan Noble + David van der Merwe
- Bijoy Ramachandran Cllr Mandisa Pepeta

Moderators

- Tariq Toffa Fanele Zondi

17:15 - 17:30 Lunch

SANLAM AUDITORIUM

17:30 Session Introduction - Bakalele Chisiza

18:30

Where Architecture Meets Us: Beyond the Blueprint

This session brings together practices that have been building, slowly, deliberately, and often against the grain, for nearly a decade, alongside established firms with longer legacies. It's not a conversation about arrival, but about endurance: what it means to build a practice that is responsive and reflective over time. Speakers are invited to go beyond the blueprint, to share what it has taken to survive, adapt, hold values, and remain in conversation with a profession that is constantly shifting.

Speakers

- Presenter: Vedhant Maharaj Discussant 1: SACAP Vice President Letsabisa Shongwe
- Discussant 2: Peter Rich

Moderators:

- Bakalele Chisiza
- Tariq Toffa

18:30 -

Session Introduction - Tebogo Ramatlo

19:30 Presentation and Panel Discussion

Speakers:

- Mphethi Morojele + Kgaugelo Lekalakala Experiencess on Venice Stephen Steyn
- Experiencess as a curator -Chinenye Chukwuka

19:30 - 19:45 Closing Remarks - Oratile Mothoagae + Jacobus Uys

19:45 - 21:00 Wine and Networking Reception

Moderators:

- Tebogo Ramatlo
 Sunshine Dlangamandla



SUNDAY 31 AUGUST 2025: JOINT SESSION

TIME	SESSION	
08:00 - 09:00	Arrival (COFFEE & CONVERSATION)	

		SANLAM AUDITORIUM				
09:00 -	Framing the day					
09:15	Oratile Mothoagae Jacobus Uys					
09:15 -	Session Introduction - Dickson	Adu-Agyei				
10:30	Where architecture meets the Future: Cultural Production and Entrepreneurial Futures					
	What strategies do young entrepreneurs in the creative and design sectors use to navigate challenges and build sustainable entrepreneurial futures? This panel highlights the resourcefulness and challenges of a new generation harnessing culture as both a practice and an economy.					
	Discussions will focus on how youthful ambition is attempting to reshape creative industries and expanding opportunities across the continent.					
	Speakers: •LandmarQue •Asher Marcus •Atusaye Msiska •Adonia Mankou Yanate •Ilana Steenkamp	Moderators: • Dickson Adu-Agyei • Khwezi Kheswa • Thireshen Govender				

10:45 -

11:45

BREAKAWAY ROOM 1:

Where architecture meets the Future: **Building Alternative Future Pedagogies**

What does it mean to build pedagogies that what does it mean to build pedagogies that are not only alternative but also anticipatory? This panel explores experimental teaching methods, interdisciplinary approaches, and collaborative knowledge production that prepare students to engage with complex tutures.

Discussions should focus on how these pedagogies challenge traditional power structures and create spaces for radical magination in architectural education.

- Prof. Jonathan Noble
- Dr. Finzi Saidi
- Prof Guy Trangoš Tariq Toffa
- Jabu Makhubu

Moderators:

- Sandra Felix
- Dr Judith Tinuke Ojo- Aromokudu

BREAKAWAY ROOM 2:

Where architecture meets the Future: The Future of Material Afterlives and Heritage in Cities

Heritage is not only what we choose to remember, it is also what we inherit, reuse, and reconstruct. This room explores how material afferlives shape the identities, futures and ecologies of contemporary cities

From informal preservation to adaptive reuse, the session challenges traditional heritage frameworks and proposes new futures for the urban past.

Speakers:

- Nenpin Dimka Jo Noero
- Yasmin Mayat + Brendan Hart Thato Nadia Chaka
- Farieda Nazier

Moderators:

- Sunshine Dlangamandla
- Luthando Thomas

BREAKAWAY ROOM 3:

Where architecture meets the Future: GRWM: A Day in the Life...

This session spotlights the new wave of Inis session spotlights the new wave of architects, students, and designers shaping the profession through social media. From TikTok "Day in the Life" videos and GRWM posts to YouTube vlogs and Instagram takeovers, these young voices are transforming how architecture is seen, shared, and experienced.

Speakers will reflect on why and how they create content, the challenges of public practice online, and what this means for the future of architectural storytelling, education, and community-building.

Speakers:

- Jacobus Uys
- Nyeleti Mashele
- Shanell Musachi
- · Avela Swana

Moderators:

· Carmen Songabau

11:45 - 12:00 Break

SANLAM AUDITORIUM

12:00 -Session Introduction - Simphiwe Mlambo 13:00

Where architecture meets the Future: Creative Praxis and Continental Futures

How can creative practice become a methodology for imagining and enacting alternative African futures? This panel invites speakers to reflect on the intersections between art, design, and architecture as tools for social transformation, cultural continuity, and speculative thinking. By situating practice within the broader continental context, the discussion aims to uncover how interdisciplinary creativity challenges dominant narratives and contributes to the reworlding of Africa.

Speakers: •KayKay Ribane •Rare Blaq •Thembalethu King

•Naadira Patel •Muhammad Dawjee

Performance LandmarQue

Moderators:

Simphiwe Mlambo

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

	SANLAM AUDITORIUM			
14:00 - 15:30	Session Introduction - Oratile Mothoagae Architecture meets Film - Dickson Adu-Agyei and Nhlakanipho Mashinini Secology			
	Speakers: Moderators: *Avela Sisilana *Veronica Teixeira *Avela Swana *Thato Nadia Chaka			
15:30 -	15:45 Break			
15:45 - 16:45	Session Introduction - Bongisa Msutu Where architecture meets the Future: Where to from here? Architecture in the Wake			
	What does it mean to design from South Africa rather than in South Africa? This session interrogates the intellectual and spatial frameworks that underpin contemporary architectural and design practice on the continent, questioning inherited models of modernism and global development. Speakers are invited to reflect on how they theorise place, history, and identity within their built and speculative work			
	Speakers: * Yasmin Mayat and Brendan Hart * Thireshen Govender * Tlhokomelo Molokwane * Nyeleti Mashele * Cllr Vusi Phailane			
17:00-	Session Introduction - Jabu Makhubu			
18:00	Where architecture meets the Future: Futures Made Familiar			
	In a world obsessed with the futuristic as the foreign or technologically advanced, what does a future rooted in the known look like? This room invites speakers to reflect on how local narratives, rituals, materiality and memory shape what is yet to come and how they practice. How can familiarity be leveraged to imagine design as radical inclusive, decolonial, and contextually grounded?			
	Speakers: Moderators: *Dr Sechaba Maape *Khensani Jurczok-de Klerk *Thorsten Deckler *Mathebe Aphane			





Ashak Construction

Phone Number +27 61 12 7425

Fax

086 676 6232

Website

https://www.ashakconstruction.co.za/

Email

Queries: Cindy@ashak.co.za Orders: Orders2@ashak.co.za

Head Office Gauteng:

473 Sam Green Rd Tunney Ext 9, Germiston, 1614

Branches:

Cape-Town

Physical Address:

Unit 1, 12 Vonkel Street Saxenburg Park 2, Blackheath

Tel: (021) 905 6176 Fax: (021) 905 7049

Email: admin@ashakwc.co.za

Durban:

Physical: Unit 7, Springhawk Industrial Park,

10 Beechfield Cresent, Springfield

Tel: (031) 579-2477 Fax: 086-680-6381

Email: dbnoffice@ashak.co.za

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Website

https://easyivy.co.za/

Email

info@easyivy.co.za

Head office

Johannesburg Unit 2, Progress Industrial Centre 24D 4th St Wynberg Johannesburg, 2146

REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE

Cape Town
The Exchange, Unit J10
1 School St, Milnerton
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Head Office

14 Jackson, Factoria, Krugersdorp, 1739 Gauteng

Cape Town Office

57-59 Coronation Road, Maitland, 7407 Cape Town

Tel: +27 21 510 7466/7/8 pratleycape@pratley.co.za

Durban Office

Unit 14, Cornubia Cube, 27 Crassula Rd, Ottawa South, Blackburn, 4339, Kwazulu Natal

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sales@eva-last.com

Johannesburg Head Office

84 Short Street, Muldersdrift, Johannesburg, 1739 South Africa

Cape Town Office

9 Dawn Road Montague Gardens Cape Town7441

Telephone:

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Ggeberha Office

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https://knauf.com/en-ZA/

Email

Suria.Ramnarain@knaufinsulation.com

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Phone Number

+2774t

Website

https://knauf.com/en-ZA/

Email

Suria.Ramnarain@knaufinsulation.com

Knauf Africa Trade

Zone industrielle El M''Ghira I – lot n° 9, 2082 Fouchena - Tunisia +216 71 444 409

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