

WHERE  
ARCHITECTURE  
MEETS

**4-7<sup>th</sup>  
SEP 24**

UNIVERSITY OF  
JOHANNESBURG  
APK CAMPUS

# CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



*Image courtesy of Leon Krige*

WHERE ARCHITECTURE MEETS...

**US  
PLANET  
FUTURE**

**Conference hosted by:**

SA Institute of Architects (SAIA), Gauteng Institute for Architecture (GIFA) and University of Johannesburg (UJ)

# PRESENTS

WHERE ARCHITECTURE MEETS...

**US**  
**PLANET**  
**FUTURE**

## Call for Abstracts

The 2024 AZA Conference on Architecture invites submissions that explore the intersections of race, class, and architecture within the South African context.

We seek academic abstracts that critically examine how issues of race and class influence architectural practice and design in South Africa through the lens of 3 subthemes titled:

1. Where Architecture meets us
2. Where Architecture meets the planet
3. Where Architecture meets the future

Topics may include but are not limited to the impact of historical injustices on urban planning and development; the role of architecture in addressing social inequalities; sustainable architecture practices in marginalised communities; and the relationship between architecture and environmental justice.

Submissions should engage with current debates and discussions in the areas of architecture, urban studies, practice, and other similar fields, while also offering innovative insights and solutions to pressing challenges facing the built environment in South Africa. We also encourage interdisciplinary approaches that draw on theory and methods

from fields such as sociology, anthropology, geography, STS, and environmental science.

Accepted abstracts will be presented at the conference and published in the conference proceedings. Presented work must be original and previously unpublished. While work will be reviewed for selection, it will not undergo a blind peer review process. Authors are also encouraged to submit their work for consideration in a special issue of a leading architectural journal.

Please submit abstracts of no more than 500 words by **10 July 2024** to [architectureza.org.za/submit-an-abstract](https://architectureza.org.za/submit-an-abstract). Include your name, affiliation, contact information, and a brief bio. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by **26 July 2024**.

We look forward to engaging with diverse perspectives on how architecture can contribute to creating more just and equitable built environments in South Africa. Join us at the AZA 2024 Conference to share your research and connect with colleagues working at the intersection of architecture, race, class, and sustainability.



# CONVENED THEMATIC SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

## Where Architecture Meets **US**

**5 September 2024**

In the exploration of “Us,” we confront the enduring legacies of historical injustices that have shaped South Africa’s urban fabric. Exploring the intersection of race, identity, and spatial practice, this subtheme interrogates how apartheid-era policies and capitalist practices continue to manifest in spatial segregation, disenfranchisement, and marginalisation. By critically examining the role of architecture in reinforcing or challenging social hierarchies, scholars uncover the complexities of identity formation within the built environment. Education plays a pivotal role in this discourse, as it seeks to decolonise architectural pedagogy and amplify diverse voices and narratives. By addressing the systemic inequalities embedded in urban planning and development, this subtheme calls for a reimagining of inclusive, equitable spaces that honour the multifaceted identities of South Africa’s diverse populace.

## Where Architecture Meets **PLANET**

**6 September 2024**

In investigating “The Planet,” we confront the intersecting crises of climate change, environmental degradation, and social inequity. This subtheme examines how race and class intersect with sustainable architectural practices, revealing disparities in access to eco-friendly design solutions and resources. By centering marginalised communities, scholars illuminate the disproportionate impacts of environmental degradation on vulnerable populations, foregrounding questions of environmental justice. Education becomes a catalyst for change, as it empowers architects to integrate principles of sustainability and social responsibility into their practice. Through innovative approaches to design and construction, this subtheme envisions resilient, regenerative architectures that mitigate climate risks while fostering social cohesion and inclusivity.

## Where Architecture Meets **FUTURE**

**7 September 2024**

In envisioning “The Future,” we confront the dual imperatives of environmental justice and self-representation in the rapidly evolving landscape of architectural practice, particularly in the context of increasing AI utilisation. This subtheme expands its focus to address how advancements in artificial intelligence intersect with questions of race, identity, and cultural representation within architecture. It critically examines how AI technologies, shaped by existing biases and data sets, might perpetuate stereotypical imagery and narratives about African identities and spaces, or be powerful tools for imagining alternative futures and practices.

As we navigate this terrain, African architects, spatial practitioners, and artists are called upon to assert their agency and center themselves in shaping this new future. Education emerges as a critical battleground, empowering practitioners to critically engage with AI technologies, challenge biased algorithms, and assert their cultural sovereignty in the digital realm. Through speculative design, critical discourse, and creative interventions, this subtheme explores how African voices can redefine architectural narratives, reclaim agency, and envision futures that reflect the rich diversity and complexity of African identities and experiences.

# SCHEDULE

**10 Jun 2024**

➤ **Issue Call for Abstracts**

**10 July 2024:**

➤ **Abstract Submission Deadline**

Submit to: [architectureza.org.za/submit-an-abstract](https://architectureza.org.za/submit-an-abstract)

**26 July 2024:**

➤ **Share Feedback with Applicants + Registration Link**

**04 September 2024:**

➤ **Day 1: Arrival at AZA 2024 Conference**

# AZA 24

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
NATIONAL CONVENTION



WHERE  
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MEETS

For additional information  
email: [abstracts@ArchitectureZA.org.za](mailto:abstracts@ArchitectureZA.org.za)

Abstract submission:  
[architectureza.org.za/submit-an-abstract](http://architectureza.org.za/submit-an-abstract)

[www.ArchitectureZA.org.za](http://www.ArchitectureZA.org.za)

Hosts:



Organisers:



Image courtesy of Leon Krige