

SAIA

14 July 2026



Headlines

UIA IN BARCELONA



REFLECTIONS AND REPORTS



OPPORTUNITIES



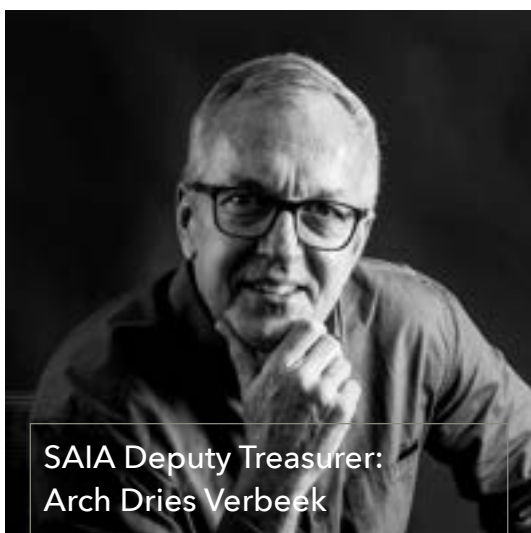
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



New Financial Year, New Opportunities

1 July is the start of the new SAIA financial year. The Board changes, as does Mancom. All members should have been informed of the updates for the 2026/27 financial year.

SAIA protocols have been completely overhauled in the first half of 2026 and you will see an improvement in services and offerings. We are also evolving our training, specifically our Practice sessions for members.



SAIA Deputy Treasurer:
Arch Dries Verbeek

There has also been movement within the Board structures.

Arch. Janet Saaiman (GlfA) becomes Immediate Past President and editorial Committee Chair. She replaces Arch. Clare McCusker (PIA), whom we thank for her service. Arch. Jeremie Malan (PIA) remains as observer to ensure a smooth transition within finances. Arch. Johan Snyman continues as FS/NC representative. Arch. John Wilson-Harris represents ClfA. Arch. Kumarsen Thamburan (GlfA): Transformation. Arch. Monica Albonico: GlfA; Arch. Nicholas Els: MPIA; Arch. Zolani Gomba: BKIA; Arch. Manie Lambrechts: Limpopo and we are very happy to welcome Arch. Mike Boulle (KZNIA) to Practice. A much needed-boost. And Education Chair is Dr Jako Nice from PIA.



SAIA President:
Arch Monique Gillespie

The SAIA Board 2026/28

Starting from 1 July 2026, Board members will now serve for two years.

The new SAIA President is Arch. Monique Gillespie from KNIA. The new SAIA Deputy President is Arch. Donette Werkman from PIA. From the Eastern Cape Arch. Dal Venables is the new treasurer. Also from the PIA is the new Deputy Treasurer Arch. Dries Verbeek.



SAIA Board: Practice
Arch Mike Boulle

STAFFING

SAIA National is seeking an Administrative Assistant

Please apply here:

<https://forms.gle/jYKImcFu3gL5DMTm6>



Practice Matters

Policy Matters

General Public Procurement Regulations, 2026

— SAIA made two submissions to National Treasury: a supporting letter aligned with the Construction Alliance South Africa (CASA) submission, and a separate submission through the SAIA Practice Committee raising concerns specific to architectural practice, including rigid evaluation thresholds, mandatory subcontracting, and the impact of turnkey procurement on design integrity. Both request an oral hearing with National Treasury's Public Procurement Office.

Draft Integrated Social Facilitation Framework (ISFF) — The Council for the Built Environment invited stakeholder input on this DPWI framework for community engagement and social risk management on public infrastructure projects. No coordinated SAIA submission was made on this consultation.

National Building Regulations

Amendment Bill, 2026 — Following the publication of Gazette Notice 54941 (3 July 2026), the Bill is open for public comment until **1 September 2026**. Members are encouraged to review the amendments and share input through their regional institutes, practice committee or with admin@saia.org.za, for a coordinated response.

SAIA Extends Goodwill to Human Settlements Practitioners

On 23 June 2026, Arch. Andrew Palframan, from the School of Architecture at Nelson Mandela University, delivered a goodwill message on behalf of the South African Institute of Architects to the Institute of Human Settlement Practitioners – South Africa (IHSP-SA) at their gathering in Gqeberha.

The message, themed *Building Human Settlements Through Collaboration, Empowerment, and Shared Responsibility*, centred on three interlocking ideas: that sustainable settlements must be community-driven rather than project-driven; that development should leave communities more empowered than it found them; and that governance and service delivery must be judged by outcomes, not by policy or plans.

SAIA affirmed its commitment to working alongside human settlements practitioners, planners, engineers, and urban designers in breaking down professional silos and advancing integrated solutions to South Africa's built environment challenges.

The occasion reinforced the shared purpose that binds our disciplines: creating places where people can live safely, build livelihoods, and participate fully in the life of their communities. *SAIA thanks Arch. Palframan for representing the Institute with such distinction.*

UIA World Congress and General Assembly 2026

BARCELONA



Photograph by Arch Hugh Fraser

28 June to 2 July 2026



Photo credit: International Union of Architects (UIA)

Source: UIA – General Assembly Elects Council for the 2026–2029 Term

UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 concluded successfully

The UIA World Congress of Architects 2026 took place in Barcelona, Spain, from 28 June to 2 July 2026, bringing together architects, urbanists and built environment professionals from more than 130 countries for one of the profession's leading international gatherings.

The Congress explored the themes of

Becoming More-Than-Human,

Becoming Circular,

Becoming Embedded,

Becoming Interdependent,

Becoming Hyper-Conscious, and

Becoming Attuned, with discussions

centred on ecological design, regenerative practices, housing, public policy and low-carbon approaches to architecture.

Global architects united for progress

The programme featured keynote presentations, panel discussions, exhibitions showcasing contemporary architecture from 55 countries, the UIA Member Sections Exhibition, the Student & Young Architects Awards Ceremony, and a range of public forums and cultural events.

The Congress opened with a public ceremony at the Three Chimneys of Sant Adrià del Besòs, where more than 5,000 attendees experienced a multidisciplinary performance celebrating architecture, culture and international collaboration.

UIA Reports

PIA & SAIA Report: UIA World Congress and Barcelona Architectural Tour: Donette Werkman

We attended the second day of the UIA World Congress and found the opening plenary session to be engaging, thought-provoking, and highly valuable. The conference as a whole offered meaningful insights and opportunities for reflection. However, we felt that the final plenary session of the day moved too far away from architecture itself and, in our opinion, was not relevant to the profession. This was surprising and prompted much discussion within our group.

One of our strongest reflections was that Africa has its finger firmly on the pulse of architecture and its value to society. Rather than feeling disconnected from global practice, the Congress reinforced our belief that architects across Africa are making exceptional contributions that are both locally relevant and internationally significant. We returned with renewed confidence that the work being produced on our continent is of genuine world-class quality.

The remainder of our programme focused on experiencing the architecture of Barcelona. Through visits to significant buildings and public spaces, one message became increasingly clear: architecture never exists in isolation. Every project is the result of collaboration, interpretation, and the relationship between people, place, history, and culture. We were also reminded of the growing importance of heritage and the thoughtful responsibility architects have in shaping the future while respecting the past.

Perhaps the greatest success of the tour was the conversations it created. The format allowed architects to engage openly, question freely, and explore ideas together in a way that conferences alone seldom achieve. These discussions became one of the most valuable aspects of the experience.

Overall, the tour was exceptionally rewarding. It was straightforward to organise, deeply enriching for those who attended, and has convinced us that similar study tours should become a regular part of PIA's programme in the years ahead.



For the “Revised Cartographies” workshop, Dieudonné Elohim, Outreach & Partnerships lead AUA Young Urbanists reports:

Extraction and Insertion: Revisiting the Plaça Idrissa Diallo (2026) By Elohim da Costa & Inam Kula, at UIA 26 IEW – Revised Cartographies by Ibiye Camp
“Extraction and Insertion: Revisiting the Plaça Idrissa Diallo” (2026) by Elohim da Costa and Inam Kula was created during the Revised Cartographies workshop, led by Ibiye Camp, at UIA2026BCN. The work explores colonialism’s dual gestures of extraction and insertion through layered textiles and photogrammetric scans of Barcelona’s monuments, port and markets.

Ships, cranes, and silos are juxtaposed with the plinth of Antonio López, re-inscribed with Idrissa Diallo’s name, fading into West African textile motifs. Central to the piece is the question of how colonial names erased from monuments persist in digital maps, revealing enduring inscriptions in infrastructures of orientation and memory. Additional information: <https://tinyurl.com/5n6c9vz2>

Regarding my **article publication with the Journal of Public Space**, here is a short description, and I have attached some photos as well:

I contributed to a special edition of the Journal of Public Space, in partnership with the UIA Public Space Work Programme, entitled “Rethinking Public Space Evaluation”.

My article, “*Spatial Dialogues: Rethinking Public Space Evaluation in Post-Apartheid Cape Town*”, was developed as an action-research project through my work on Street Experiments Africa and Young Urbanists SA.

The article is available in Diamond Open Access at the links below:

- <https://www.journalpublicspace.org/index.php/jps/article/view/1900/1041>
- <https://www.journalpublicspace.org/index.php/jps/issue/view/92>



UIA Elects New Council for 2026-2029

Li Zhang

The International Union of Architects (UIA) General Assembly, held in Barcelona, has elected its new Council for the 2026–2029 term.

Congratulations to Li Zhang, New UIA President (2026–2029)

We extend our warmest congratulations to Li Zhang (China) on his election as President of the International Union of Architects (UIA) for the 2026–2029 term. Li Zhang now assumes the UIA's highest leadership role. His election marks the beginning of a new chapter for the global architectural community.



Marco Antonio Vergara Vázquez

Congratulations to Marco Antonio Vergara Vázquez,

New UIA Treasurer (2026–2029)

We extend our warmest congratulations to Marco Antonio Vergara Vázquez (Mexico) on his election as Treasurer of the International Union of Architects (UIA)

for the 2026–2029 term.

Marco Antonio Vergara Vázquez now takes on this important financial leadership role within the UIA.

Congratulations to Teresa Táboas, New UIA Secretary General (2026–2029)

We extend our warmest congratulations to Teresa Táboas (Spain) on her election as Secretary General of the International Union of Architects (UIA) for the 2026–2029 term.

Teresa Táboas brings a wealth of leadership experience and a strong commitment to advancing the architectural profession at both regional and international levels.



Archi. Shark Tank



A Call for Entries

The Architecture Shark Tank is inviting postgraduate architecture students and recent graduates from across South Africa to pitch innovative architecture-related business ideas to a panel of experts from the architecture, finance and business sectors. Participants are encouraged to submit ideas ranging from products and services to technologies and design solutions that have the potential to shape the future of the built environment.

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to receive expert feedback, compete for cash prizes, and access business- startup mentoring. The initiative aims to encourage entrepreneurship within the architectural profession while fostering innovation among emerging professionals. For more information and to submit an entry, visit the Architecture Shark Tank application portal.

naa
NEW ARCHITECTURE NOW

Standard Bank

hansgrohe

PAPERCUT
STUDIO

ARCHITECTURE SHARK TANK

PITCH.COMPETE.WIN

Do you have a disruptive architecture-related start-up?

Architecture Shark Tank invites

Students:
_Bachelor of Architecture (Honours)
_Master of Architecture (Professional)

Graduates:
_Graduated within the last 10 years

To submit captivating entries containing:
A 3-5 minute YouTube video explaining:
_Market demand of your start-up
_Business model of your start-up
_Scalability of your business model
1-3 graphics illustrating the model
1 black and white photo of yourself

Key dates:
Submit entry by Mon, 2 November 2026 00h00
Shortlisting by Mon, 16 November 2026 00h00
Live judging (hybrid) on Tues, 24 November 2026, 17h30

All questions: ask@papercutstudio.co.za

*entries from students below Bachelor of Architecture (Honours) will not be accepted
*if you have not been contacted by Saturday 21 November 2025 please consider your application unsuccessful
*no late entries will be considered

CASH PRIZES

START-UP PRIZES

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

[Enter here](#)

Docomomo South Africa Committee Update

Docomomo South Africa Committee Update

The Docomomo South Africa National Committee continued its work during June 2026, advancing initiatives focused on the documentation, conservation and appreciation of South Africa's modern architectural heritage.

The committee remains committed to promoting the recognition and preservation of significant twentieth-century buildings and sites through collaboration, advocacy and knowledge sharing.



Existing convent facility adapted for housing



do.co.mo.mo_ south africa
Monthly meeting June 2024



The Chapel

Convent of St. John the Divine: 8 Donnelly Rd. Wentworth, Durban

SAIA and SACAP Strengthen Collaboration Through Bilateral Engagement

sAIA and the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP) held a productive bilateral meeting on 24 June 2026 to discuss key issues affecting the architectural profession. The meeting reaffirmed both organisations' commitment to enhancing collaboration and addressing matters of importance to members.

Key outcomes included:

Quarterly Engagement: SAIA and SACAP agreed to establish regular quarterly bilateral meetings, with a preference for in-person engagements. **B Arch Qualification Recognition:** Both organisations expressed support for an independent curriculum equivalence study, ideally facilitated or validated through the Council on Higher Education (CHE), to pursue recognition of the pre-2007 Bachelor of Architecture qualification at NQF Level 9.

Registration Category Misrepresentation: SACAP is exploring measures, including colour-coded licences, to improve clarity around professional registration categories. SAIA regions will assist in identifying instances where registration categories are being misrepresented.

Professional Fees: Discussions were held regarding SACAP's recent request for information on fee discounting. SAIA highlighted the importance of ensuring that data collection methods support meaningful and confidential research.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL): Progress on the RPL programme was noted, with discussions focusing on opportunities for SAIA to support candidates through Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and structured learning initiatives.

National Convention: SAIA extended an invitation to SACAP to participate in the SAIA National Convention, scheduled to take place in Bloemfontein during the last week of August 2026.

The meeting concluded with agreement to convene a joint CHE SAIA SACAP engagement on the proposed qualification equivalence study and to implement the new schedule of quarterly bilateral meetings.

Dr Mizan Rambhoros attended the RESIDE Summit 2026, held on 20–21 May at the Sandton Convention Centre, through SAIA's ticket initiative sponsored by SAHARA. The summit brought together leaders from the built environment, government, finance, technology and development sectors to explore South Africa's housing, infrastructure and urban development challenges.

Discussions highlighted the growing role of integrated data, digital technologies and cross-sector collaboration in creating more resilient, inclusive and sustainable communities.

Reflecting on the event, Dr Rambhoros emphasised the important role architects play beyond building design — contributing human-centred, place-based thinking that integrates technical, social and environmental considerations into future residential development. The summit reinforced the need for greater collaboration across disciplines to address the complex challenges shaping South Africa's built environment.

SAIA member reflects on RESIDE Summit 2026.



Photos credit: RESIDE Summit 2026





CBE Research Report:

Delayed and Non-Payment of Professional Service Providers

The Council for the Built Environment (CBE) has released a research report examining the persistent problem of government departments failing to pay built environment professionals within the legislated 30-day period. Drawing on National Treasury data, the report shows tens of thousands of unpaid or late-paid invoices each quarter, running into billions of rand, with the Department of Defence, Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, and Department of Land Reform and Rural Development among the worst offenders.

The report identifies root causes across three categories - technical (skills shortages in client departments), administrative (tender cancellations, poor communication, stalled projects) and financial (poor budget-procurement alignment) - and links these delays to serious consequences for practices, including cash-flow crises, staff cuts, and business closures. Notably, the report finds South Africa's problem is not a lack of legislation, but a failure of compliance and consequence management. The CBE recommends measures including consequence management for non-compliant officials, mandatory e-invoicing, interest and cost-recovery clauses in government contracts, and an independent Built Environment Ombuds Office.

Opportunities

Work Experience Opportunity for Architecture Students

SITE Architects is offering a 1–2 month Work Integrated Learning (WIL) and work experience opportunity for second- and third-year architecture students with a passion for architectural model making.

The successful candidate will gain hands-on experience in a professional architectural practice, contributing to real projects while developing practical industry skills. Applicants should have strong architectural model-building abilities, with knowledge of Revit and Twinmotion considered an advantage.

Students interested in this opportunity are invited to submit their CV and portfolio to **caren@sitebat.com**. This is an excellent opportunity for aspiring architects to strengthen their practical skills and gain valuable exposure within a professional architectural environment.



Herbert Prins Colosseum Awards 2026



Call for Entries Extended

Herbert Prins Colosseum Awards 2026: Call for Entries Extended

The Gauteng Institute for Architecture (GIFA) has announced an extension of the submission deadline for the Herbert Prins Colosseum Awards 2026, providing architects, heritage professionals and researchers with additional time to submit their entries.

The awards commemorate the legacy of the Colosseum Theatre, a celebrated Art Deco landmark in Johannesburg that was demolished in 1985 despite widespread public opposition. Named in honour of heritage activist Herbert Prins, the awards recognise excellence in heritage conservation and celebrate projects that protect and promote South Africa's architectural and cultural heritage.

[Call for entries](https://www.gifa.org.za)

The Herbert Prins Colosseum Awards continue to honour those advancing heritage conservation while recognising projects that contribute to preserving South Africa's built environment for future generations.

Experienced judges!

Arch. Monica Albonico Sack (Current GIfA President) holds a Master of Urban Design from the University of Witwatersrand and a B Arch from the National University of Cordoba, Argentina. It is a registered member of SACAP, SAIA, GIFA, and UDISA.

As a practitioner and educator, Monica has been at the forefront of architectural and urban design praxis in South Africa



Arch. Amanda Breytenbach is a registered architect with over 30 years of experience in higher education. She began her architectural career in Pretoria at Smith and Fisher Architects in 1994. In 1996, she joined the Technikon Witwatersrand, which became the University of Johannesburg in 2005. Throughout her academic career, she has consistently taught Design Theory and the History of Art and Design, where she is recognised as a subject expert in 20th-century architecture and design.



Prof. Katherine Munro chairs the Heritage Association of South Africa (since 2021) and is active in the Johannesburg Heritage Foundation (she is currently the Vice-Chair) and is particularly keen on promoting and documenting blue plaques throughout greater Johannesburg. She researches, lectures and publishes on heritage and architectural history. She holds the position of Honorary Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at Wits University (2011 to the present).



Dr Heather Dodd

PhD (Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture with a specialisation in Design)
 B.Arch with distinction (1991) University of the Witwatersrand
 M.Arch Research (1997) University of Cape Town
 Registered Architect – South African Council of Architects (Reg. No 4765) Member of South African Institute for Architects (SAIA)
 Member of Gauteng Institute for Architecture (GIFA)
 Accredited EDGE Auditor
 Green Star SA Accredited Green Professional





Arch. Nabeel Essa stands out in Johannesburg's creative landscape as a multifaceted architect and cultural thinker whose work blurs the boundaries between architecture, art, and cultural production. His journey began at the age of six, when an early fascination with Impressionist art led him towards a Fine Arts background at the University of the Witwatersrand. Here, he began engaging issues of identity and representation, laying the foundation for his unique approach to design.



GOLF DAY
spring day.

Hosted by
Gauteng Institute for Architecture

**TUESDAY,
01 SEPTEMBER 2026**
Registration from 10:00 am
Tee-off: 11:00 am

Wanderers Golf Club
Rudd Rd, Illovo, Johannesburg, 2116

Four-Ball Team – R4,500
Early Bird: R4,000

Includes:

- Golf for 4 players
- Halfway refreshments
- Dinner & prize-giving
- Competition entry

Individual Player – R1,200
Early Bird: R1,000

Includes:

- Golf participation
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- Dinner & prize-giving
- Competition entry

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Duncan Powell



SAIA and David Haddon Prize Winner
Announced

The School of Architecture and Planning has announced the recipient of the SAIA and David Haddon Prize for the 2025 academic year.

The award recognises outstanding achievement by a student in the programme and reflects the continued commitment of SAIA and the David Haddon Prize sponsors to supporting excellence in architectural education.

The formal prize-giving ceremony will take place during the second semester, with the date to be announced in due course.

Student Spotlight

SAIA congratulates the prize winner on this well-deserved achievement and thanks the sponsors for their ongoing support of architectural education.



Alexander Maré

South African Students Win International Architecture Competition



South African architecture students **Ruan Smith and Rudi Scholtz** from **Nelson Mandela University** (NMU) have won first place at the 2026 Saint-Gobain Architecture Student Contest, held in Belgrade, Serbia.

Competing against more than 1,300 students from 33 countries, the duo impressed the international jury with their project, *Ceding the Sava*, an innovative proposal to transform a disused and polluted cement factory on the Belgrade waterfront into a regenerative public space.

The design integrates sustainable urban strategies, including harvesting plastic pollution from the Sava River to create architectural materials, restoring wetlands, managing floodwaters through nature-based solutions, and reconnecting the city with its waterfront. The project demonstrates how architecture can serve as both an environmental and civic catalyst while preserving the site's industrial heritage.

Despite significant travel challenges—including visa delays, flight disruptions and lost luggage—Smith and Scholtz arrived in Belgrade only hours before presenting their project and ultimately claimed the competition's top honour.

The achievement highlights the quality of architectural education in South Africa and the growing impact of South African students on the international stage. The students were mentored by John Andrews, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Architecture at Nelson Mandela University, whose guidance contributed to their success.

SAIA congratulates Ruan Smith, Rudi Scholtz, John Andrews, and the Nelson Mandela University Department of Architecture on this outstanding international achievement.

Border-Kei region: report on recent CPD activities - June 2026

The SAIA Border-Kei region had a busy and rewarding week, having participated in three full-day CPD events.

The first and second, by CPD Platform, were aimed at consultants across the built environment - architects, quantity surveyors, engineers, technologists and draughtspersons among them. The region circulated invitations, and hosted a stall, which proved an excellent way to connect with many local practitioners and potential new Business Affiliate members.

The second day was aimed at regional and local government representatives, and gave us valuable contact with several non-member professional architects working in Bhisho and East London. We are keen to encourage enrolment. The main resistance we encountered is that government offers no financial assistance to its consultant staff, who must carry both SACAP and SAIA regional subscriptions with no prospect of recovery through VAT or tax.

The third day featured a series of lectures presented by CPD Authority, accredited by the Border-Kei Institute.

Together, the events brought in a welcome contribution to the region's funds. The greater benefits were networking and establishing a working relationship with the event organisers. All three events were CPD1 accredited and entirely free to delegates, allowing those who attended to earn a full year's worth of CPD1 points at no cost, which was warmly appreciated.

The Border-Kei Institute represented itself, SAIA and SACAP across all three days, and distributed a range of informational, educational and marketing material, including copies of the Architectural Profession Act, Careers in Architecture, JBCC document information, and Why Appoint a Registered Person (see - Architects Design a Better Future poster). The events were a good reminder to local consultants of both our presence and that of SACAP.

Total attendance across the three days was over 240 - a strong turnout for a small region.

By Glynis Heger
BKIA Executive Officer



PROCSA
WEBINAR



Presented by Cliff Hayim

Join Us Live

PROCSA Client / Consultant Professional Agreement

This is a training course conducted online starting from 09h00 and ends at 11h00



DATE
Aug 5, 2026 (Wednesday)
09:00 - 11:00



PRICE
Single delegate:
R 995 VAT (Excl.)

PROCSA
Professional Client/Consultant Services Agreement

CPD: 3hrs / 0.3 Credits

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ARCHITECTS
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saarchitecture.co.za

Join our upcoming **PROCSA Client / Consultant Professional Agreements Webinar** to gain practical insight into the latest PROCSA Edition 5.0, released in July 2021 after almost four years of extensive industry consultation. This edition introduces significant updates to the scope of services across all professional disciplines, shaped directly by industry feedback.

In this Webinar, you will:

- Understand the background, structure, and purpose of the PROCSA Professional Services Agreement Suites
- Learn why these agreements are commercially essential for both clients and consultants
- Explore the advantages of using PROCSA agreements — and the risks of not doing so
- Discover how to maximize productivity through effective use of and access to the PROCSA agreements

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