

# Close out Report

of the New Universities Project Management Team on the

Development of New Universities in  
Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape

01 NOVEMBER 2011 - 31 JULY 2017



# Chapter 8

Architectural design competition



## 8. Architectural Design Competition

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### 8.1. THE CASE FOR AN ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION

At the start of 2013 the New Universities project had reached the stage at which the appointment of the design teams was extremely urgent. These were the first universities to be designed and built in a post-apartheid South Africa, and the vision for the two universities aimed to create iconic and inspirational architecture, embodying the aspirations of the South African public. Two major South African Universities, namely UCT (150 years old) and Wits (95 years old) are both the result of Architectural Competitions; and the general principles of those initial designs for their campuses are still the central formal feature of each campus, despite the incremental growth over time.

Because of these successful campus examples and the need to ensure a high standard of architectural quality, the NUPMT and DHET decided to implement a two-stage architectural design competition for each university.

The architectural design competition was envisaged as a means to generate new and exciting ideas and best practice concepts, as well as to identify a panel of talented designers to participate in the design of the university campuses, precincts in each campus, land parcels and/or individual buildings.

Great attention was focused on the outcome and the means to achieve this outcome. It was believed that architectural design competitions would ensure the participation of a wide section of the architectural community.

Despite the costs and the time required, a competition for each university was considered to be a fundamental investment to secure the right team for the job, and to bring the highest quality of design thinking to the fore. Both the NUPMT and the DHET

were aware that architectural design competitions are known to give clients the best range of design options and cost a fraction of total construction cost.

#### **South African Institute of Architects (SAIA)**

In its introduction to Architectural Competition Guidelines, the SAIA says:

*Architectural competition promotes interest in a project from inception to completion, and the promoter stands to gain a sense of achievement and enhanced pride of ownership in a project. The South African Institute of Architects considers that it is in the best interests of the promoter, the profession and the nation that important public buildings should be the subject of architectural competitions. It is also ideal for the design of projects in the private sector.*

Architectural design competitions offer a number of benefits to the promoter of a competition, such as:

- Attaining an outstanding and often unique design by stimulating a range of concepts....;
- Sound and experienced judgment and advice from the jury;
- Opportunity to comprehensively test the project brief;
- Promotion of the promoter and the project through publicity and exhibitions;
- Opportunities to discover talent and skill which, but for a competition, would remain unknown.

Design competitions also benefit the competitor entering ... since they afford opportunities:

- To undertake work which might not otherwise have been possible;
- For young unknown talent to come to the fore;
- For a fair and transparent way of selecting expertise.



The decision to hold architectural design competitions was taken in April 2013. At this time the 10-year implementation plans, including the Spatial Development Frameworks had been completed and the budgets had been approved by National Treasury.

## **8.2. METHODOLOGY AND APPROACH**

In order to ensure that the correct procedure was followed in terms of architectural competitions, a number of local and international precedents were researched. Ideas on competition type; their scope and briefing, programme, admission requirements and the composition of the selection jury were assessed. <sup>[8-1]</sup>

The South African Institute for Architects (SAIA) was also approached to ensure its endorsement of both competitions. An important function of the SAIA is to recognise and promote excellence in architecture and to create public awareness and debate on the built environment. The SAIA represents the majority of Professional Architects in South Africa, and members of the Institute are encouraged to enter competitions that are approved and endorsed by SAIA.

Following discussions held, the SAIA endorsed both design competitions based on the NUPMT's proposed approach. An endorsement from the SAIA was received on 6 May 2013.

In early 2013 Associate Professor Paul Kotze agreed to become the Competition Administrator with the assistance of Michael Scholes Architects who provided logistical support. Prof Kotze was chosen for his previous experience in convening and administering competitions.

Prof Kotze was approved by SAIA as the Administrator for the competitions

he sites and environments for the two universities are decidedly different, making two different competitions necessary. By running two competitions it was hoped that local architects in Kimberley/Northern Cape and Nelspruit/Mpumalanga would be encouraged to enter as they had the benefit of local knowledge, context, climate and ease of access to the site.

The two competitions started approximately one month apart and comprised two different stages. This allowed for participants to decide whether they enter one or both of the competitions, but also allowed the NUPMT and competition administrators more time to prepare the documentation. The first competition stage allowed for architects to put forward their ideas in text and images for assessment by the jurors. As each submission was limited to ten pages responding to five questions it was not an overly time consuming submission.

It was decided that at the end of the first stage, no more than ten competitors would be selected to compete in the second stage. The second stage of the competition required substantially more from the selected first stage winners, for which they received an honorarium. It was envisaged from the outset that more than one architect would be appointed at each university.

## **8.3. TWO-STAGE COMPETITION PROCESS**

The competition process was designed to ensure total anonymity of the competitors and was managed through a specially designed website. A two-stage "Design Ideas" competition was pursued, with both competition stages evaluated by the appointed Jury.

### **8.3.1 First Stage Competition**

Contestants in the first stage of the competition were required to submit text and concept drawings illustrating their thoughts on the 'nature of university' and conceptual ideas on educational architecture. In order to limit expense and unproductive time for those who participated in the first stage competitions, the required outcome was to be "*high in ideas and concepts but light on product*". The submission was limited to ten A4 pages, requiring participants to creatively transmit their ideas, succinctly and to the point.

### **8.3.2 Second Stage Competition**

After completion of the first phase competition, the jury was requested to select up to ten competitors for a second and final round of submissions. All second round competitors, whose submissions were considered acceptable by the jury, were reimbursed for the second round submission. The second stage of the competition called for the design of a building on each of the new campuses. A complex brief and accommodation schedule for a mixed use academic building was issued to test the skills of the participants, their creativity and their ability to explore and apply the ideas submitted in the first stage of the competition.

Part of the second stage of the competition was a tender submission that required a financial (fee) and preference (BBBEE) offer. This submission was made separately, and evaluated independently by a tender evaluation committee. The result of this submission was not shared with the competition administrator and jury, to ensure no undue influence on the architectural design evaluation. The inclusion of the tender during the competition process allowed for a competitive pricing structure and ensured that participants recognised the importance of the BBBEE points and the requirement for transformation.<sup>[8-2]</sup> (See the Chapter on Procurement for an elaboration of how the competition results were linked to the procurement process).

## **8.4. RUNNING OF THE COMPETITION**

### **8.4.1 Expression of Interest:**

A request for an Expression of Interest for the two architectural competitions was uploaded onto the New Universities Website, which was accessible to the public. Separate notices were sent out by the South African Council of Architectural Professions (SACAP) and SAIA, advertising the competitions to all their members. Adverts were also placed in national and local newspapers in Kimberley and Nelspruit.

Expression of Interest were received and evaluated. Applications were checked for compliance to ensure that the person Expressing Interest was a Professional Architect registered with SACAP. Any application whose name or registration number did not appear on the SACAP website was checked directly with their offices or in person. A detailed list of all submissions was established, including those submissions excluded from participating. Once the Expression of interest was verified, an email link was sent to every successful applicant. Successful applicants were then requested to register as a participant of the Architectural Competition in which they confirmed their email address which would be the only method of contact with each competitor.

### **8.4.2 The Competition Website**

The competition website was used as the tool for correspondence with the competitors. All framework documents, briefs, clarifications, etc. were uploaded onto the website. With every new document upload, an email notification was sent to all registered participants.

The only correspondence permitted during the two stages of both competitions was via the competition website to ensure anonymity of the participants. Competitors used the “submit your question tab” to submit queries for clarification, which automatically forwarded to the Competition Administrator. Queries were collated on a weekly basis and answered within three days. All queries and clarifications were accessible to all admitted participants of each individual competition. While the Administrator had the prerogative not to answer a question, generally only repeat questions were not answered.

### **8.4.3 Competition Juries**

The juries consisted of seven people appointed to adjudicate both stages of the competitions. Four of the jurors had to be directly involved in the architectural profession, either as Architects or Urban Designers. The other three jury members represented the DHET, the Interim Council of the respective University, and the respective local Municipality (Sol Plaatje in N Cape and Mbombela in Mpumalanga).

## **8.5. SOL PLAATJE UNIVERSITY COMPETITION**

### **8.5.1 Expression of Interest**

An ‘Expression of Interest’ for the competition in Kimberley was uploaded onto the New Universities Website. Separate notices of the Expression of Interest were also sent out by SACAP and SAIA, informing their members of the competition. Adverts were also placed nationally and in local newspapers in Kimberley and the Northern Cape.

For the Sol Plaatje University Competition 179 queries for the Expression of Interest were logged, and 153 people successfully registered on the Website. Briefing documents were made available on the Competition Website for download and competitors were given from 30 May 2013 to 11 July 2013 to prepare their Stage 1 submission.

### **8.5.2 Stage 1 Criteria and Questions**

The First Stage competition required participants to describe methodology and approach to five different questions on principles considered important to the SPU.<sup>[8-3]</sup> The principles included the following issues:

#### **Issue 1: Integration with the Spatial Design and Development Framework**

The entry submitted had to demonstrate how the university buildings (residences, academic and shared facilities) could relate to the public spaces and improve the civic character of the university, without compromising the integrity or functionality of the university buildings.

#### **Issue 2: Architectural Typologies that accommodate a Mixture of Uses**

The design proposal had to demonstrate how a variety of university functions and city spaces, with public and private interfaces, can be assembled and designed in an integrated manner.

### **Issue 3: Understanding of Environmental Responsiveness**

The architects had to demonstrate an awareness of, and propose possible architectural solutions to the environmental constraints and challenges found in Kimberley. These considerations should also take into account the various functions required of the University's buildings – housing, academic venues and shared amenities – and explain how these can be aligned with due diligence in environmental conservation.

### **Issue 4: Efficient Design and Construction Methodology**

The entries had to outline how improved value and quality can be achieved by a carefully considered approach to construction methods, the selection and availability of materials, and the quality of workmanship with specific reference to financial and time constraints, and the heavy demands on residential accommodation.

### **Issue 5: Buildings that are Memorable Landmarks and an Integral Part of Kimberley**

The design proposal should contain an outline describing the way in which a newly-founded university in post-apartheid South Africa can express its uniqueness in spatial terms, and how the architecture can exhibit a sense of place, of being distinctly African, and of belonging to the South Africa of here and now.

#### **8.5.3 Jury**

The jury consisted of seven people appointed to adjudicate both stages of the competitions. Four of the jurors had to be directly involved in the architectural profession, either as Architects or Urban Designers. Three of the jury members had to represent the DHET, the Sol Plaatje Municipality, and the Interim Council of SPU. For the four architectural positions, the competition administrator assembled a list of jury candidates with input from the NUPMT, the SAIA and SACAP. From the list, the following agreed to act as jury members in the Sol Plaatje University Competition:

- Sithabile Mathe (an architect based in Gaborone, Botswana);
- Prof. Rodney Harber (Architect and professor at the Univ. of KZN);
- Dr. Luyanda Mphalwa (Architect);
- Mr Cedric Daniels (nominated by UDISA -Urban Design institute of South Africa).

The following representatives were nominated by the respective client and government organizations:

- Dr Diane Parker, (Deputy DG DHET);
- Godfrey Mashope (Sol Plaatje Municipality);
- Dr Marcelle Olivier (Interim Council Representative).

#### **8.5.4 Stage 1: Adjudication**

The submission date for the First Stage competition was 11 July 2013, and 59 submissions were received. The adjudication process took place at the William Humphrey's Art Gallery in Kimberley from Monday 14 July to Wednesday 17 July 2013. The jury members were taken on a site visit followed by a presentation of the full set of documents that each competitor had access to on the website. These documents consisted of the following:

- Development Framework for New Universities in the Northern Cape and Mpumalanga Provinces;

- Recommendations on the Seats for the New Universities;
- Implementation Plan for the University in the Northern Cape;
- Call for Expression of Interest: Architectural Competition for the development of a new University in the Northern Cape;
- Stage 1 Competition Data, Briefing and Evaluation Criteria: Northern Cape;

Adjudicators were also issued with a full set of Q&A (5 sets) which comprised of all queries asked by competitors and the answers provided by the Project Management Team and Administrator.

### **8.5.5 Stage 2: Architectural Exploration Competition**

The Stage 2 Brief called for a design on a specific site next to the Central Campus Square, which forms part of Phase 1 of the Universities Implementation Plan. Erf 2503, which constitutes the Central Campus, including the competition site, formerly belonged to the Northern Cape FET College. <sup>[8-4]</sup> The property was selected as an appropriate competition site as the site has the correct zoning and rights attached to it to allow for early construction. The Central Campus is also home to the greatest mixture of university functions and uses, including housing, academic facilities, and public amenities.

The focus of the campus is the central campus square, which is surrounded by buildings that should employ various design strategies to activate the space. The Spatial Framework allows for the central square to extend across Scanlan Street to link with the existing William Pescod School. The square is also the meeting point connecting the northern and southern portions of the University. This meeting point is celebrated by means of a commemorative beacon which was constructed as part of the launch of the Sol Plaatje University.

The assembled accommodation schedule<sup>[8-5]</sup> was complex, large and multi-functional, to test the design and planning skills of the competitors and their innovation. The competition required an exploration of possible ideas for future implementation. Guidelines were set out as to the extent of the building, heights, overhangs, potential landmarks, and the competitors were all provided with CAAD drawings of the site, the design of the square, contours, extent of site and photographs.





Fig 8.1: Sol Plaatje University Architectural Competition Adjudicators at the construction site of the Launch Square.

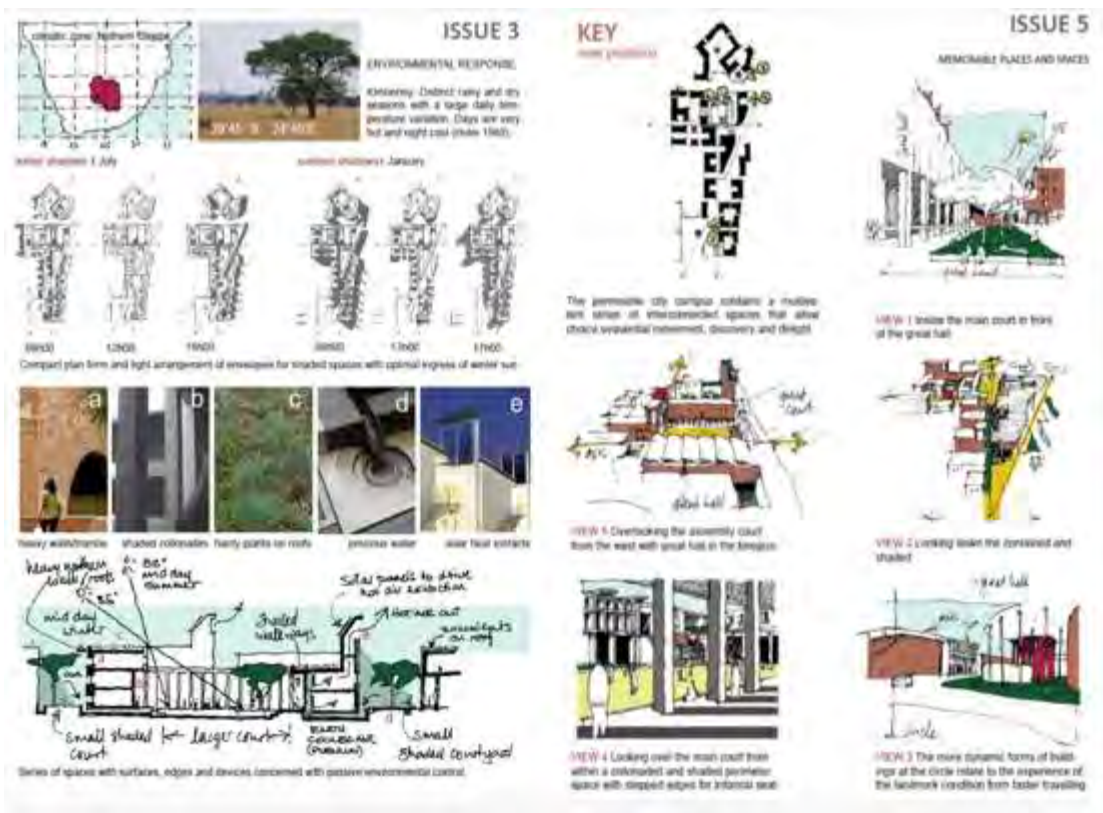


Fig 8.2: SPU Architectural Competition: 1<sup>st</sup> Phase Competition entries on 5 Key Spatial issues



Fig 8.3: SPU Architectural Competition: 1<sup>st</sup> Phase Competition entries on 5 Key Spatial issues – Entry No. NC779764

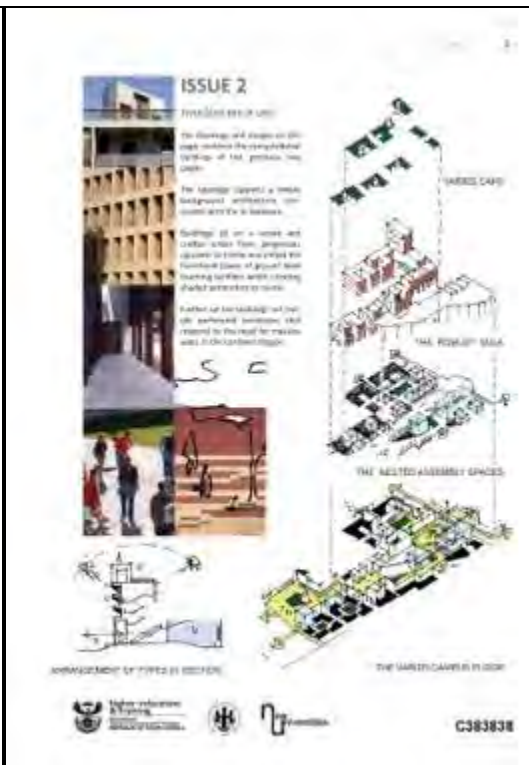
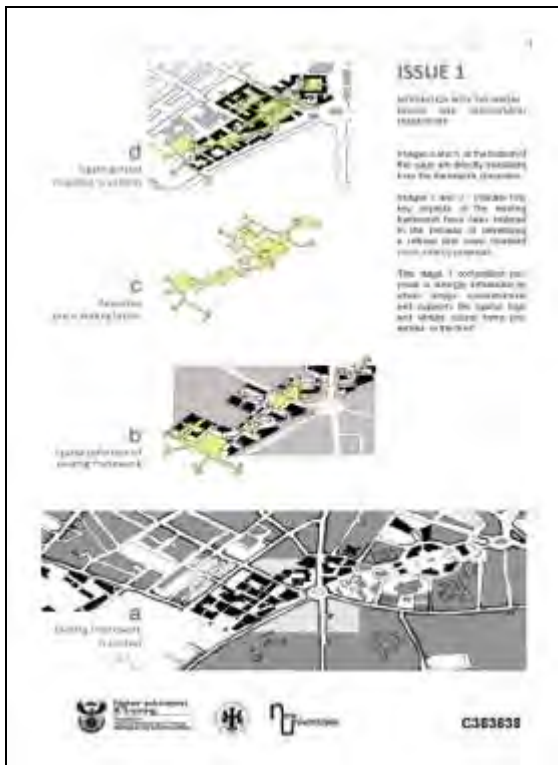


Fig 8.4: SPU Architectural Competition: 1<sup>st</sup> Phase Competition entries on 5 Key Spatial issues - Entry No. NC383838

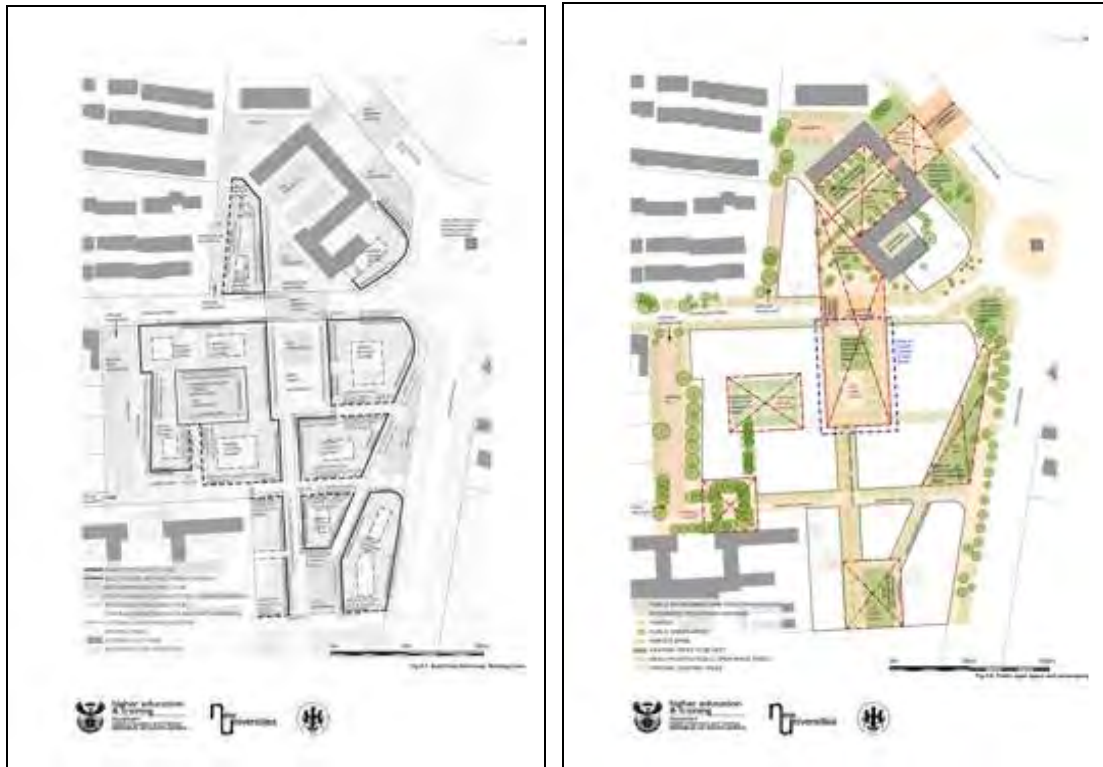
### 8.5.6 Stage 2 Criteria and Questions

Apart from a complex architectural accommodation schedule with detailed requirements for a specific site, the brief included seven principles that were to be addressed in the competitors' submissions. Included was a list of criteria that the submissions would be judged on. These principles and criteria formed the basis of the jurors' mark sheets.

- **Principle 1: Promote Integration.** Includes the integration with the city, its movement structure, social and cultural integration and the integration with sport and recreation amenities.
- **Principle 2: Equity of Access.** A concern with equity does not imply that everything should be the same. Rather, it refers to the fact that all people should have the opportunity to access a broadly equivalent set of opportunities. Spatially, equity of access implies commitment to a movement system anchored by the lowest common denominator: people on foot. Spatially, it requires the promotion of principles of universal access, permeability and ease of access in the architecture for students and visitors alike.
- **Principle 3: Promote Identity.** The term 'identity' is used here to evoke two meanings: the one relates to the physical presence of the University within the inner city of Kimberley; the second relates to academic identity. Whilst the integration of the new University with its city and surrounding community is a primary objective, it is equally important to ensure the visual identity and presence of the University.
- **Principle 4: Dignity: A Network of Shared Spaces.** The University Plan should aim to strengthen and integrate with the substantial green areas within the inner city. There are extensive open and green spaces which are located immediately around the new University campus. These include the Botanical Gardens; the sport and recreation areas of Kimberley Boys and Diamantveld High Schools; the Karin Muir Swimming Pool, the McGregor Museum and the Oppenheimer Memorial Park.
- **Principle 5: Variety of Use and Form.** Variety of experience implies a place with varied forms, uses and meaning. The University aims to be fully integrated with the city, and through developing a greater mixture it would attract a variety of people, at different times for multiple reasons. Variety ensures a rich perceptual mix of different activities, forms and people endemic to a well-functioning university.
- **Principle 6: Efficiency and Sustainability.** The University should play a leadership role in demonstrating sustainable practices in its own development. One dimension of this is the efficiency of land utilisation. The New University has to demonstrate 'best practice' in terms of a spectrum of environmental and sustainability aspects.
- **Principle 7: Flexibility and Phasing.** Complete elements of the University Campus: the underlying principle when addressing phasing for a project of this scale is that it has to create its own urbanity and sense of identity from the outset. Most large-scale developments or projects have an ad-hoc approach, with the final vision sometimes



only apparent with the completion of the whole project. The aim of the spatial framework is to establish a microcosm of the eventual completed New University Campus from its inception. The phasing pattern focuses not on buildings and infrastructure alone, but on establishing complete public spaces.



**Fig 8.5: SPU Architectural Competition: 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Competition Brief Outlining Central Campus as focus area.**



**Fig 8.6: SPU Architectural Competition: 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Competition Submission by URBA Architects and Urban Designers.**



**Fig 8.7: SPU Architectural Competition: 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Competition Submission by Chris Wilkinson, Lambrechts and GXY Architects.**



**Fig 8.8: SPU Architectural Competition: 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Competition Announcement of Winners in the William Humphreys Art Gallery.**



**Fig 8.9: SPU Architectural Competition adjudication venue.**





**Fig 8.10: Launch of the Sol Plaatje University 27 September 2013, by the Minister of DHET, Dr. Nzimande and the Premier of the Northern Cape.**



**Fig 8.11: Launch of the Sol Plaatje University 27 September 2013 on the Central Square with the University Beacon, surrounded by the SPU posters.**

### **8.5.7 Stage 2 Adjudication**

The submission date for the Stage 2 of the Architectural Design Competition for the New University in Kimberley, Northern Cape was 10 September 2013 at the National Institute for Higher Education in Kimberley. In total nine competitors submitted entries for the second stage. The adjudication process took place at the William Humphrey's Art Gallery in Kimberley from Friday 13 September to Saturday 14 September 2013. The same seven jury members who adjudicated the first stage participated in the second stage.

All adjudicators were issued with the Stage 2 Briefing document, and prior to the start of adjudication were taken onto site, where the extent of the competition site and its relationship to the Central Campus Square was explained. A 1:500 model was constructed of the completed university campus, providing jurors an additional point of reference during adjudication. Competitors also had to submit a 1:500 model, which could be placed within the overall campus model for evaluation.

A list of 12 marking criteria was proposed, all taken directly from the brief. The score for each one was ten marks, giving a total maximum score of 120 marks. The jury was requested to discuss the criteria and ensure that they all could put forward their understanding of what was being asked of them. Jurors were also asked to assess if the submissions fulfilled the honorarium payable to all participants. Mark sheets and scoring were added to arrive at a ranking of participants, which was then debated and discussed by the jurors. Of the nine submissions received in the second stage of the competition, five were recommended for appointment to undertake architectural design work on the Sol Plaatje University. The winners were (in no particular order):

- Activate Architecture – represented by Michael Magner;
- Savage and Dodd Architects – represented by Heather Dodd;
- Designworkshop: SA – represented by Paul Wygers;
- URBA (previously Comrie Wilkinson Cape and Urban Studio JV) – represented by Henri Pierre Comrie;
- Wilkinson Architects in Joint Venture with Mashilo Lampbrechts Architects and GXY Architects – represented by Chris Wilkinson

The Sol Plaatje University Jury compiled an Assessment Report highlighting impressions, challenges and recommendations regarding the two-stage architectural competition. <sup>[8-6]</sup>

## **8.6. UNIVERSITY OF MPUMALANGA COMPETITION**

### **8.6.1 Expression of Interest**

An 'Expression of Interest' for the Competition in Mpumalanga was uploaded onto the New Universities Website, which was publicly accessible from 27 May 2013. Separate notices of the Expression of Interest were again sent out by SACAP and SAIA, informing their members of the competition. Adverts were also placed nationally and in local newspapers in Mpumalanga. There were 147 successful Expressions of Interest, of which 111 people successfully registered on the Website following invitations being sent to them. The brief was posted on the competition website on 24 June 2013. Competitors were given until 1 August 2013 to prepare their Stage 1 submission.

### 8.6.2 Stage 1 Criteria and Questions

The First Stage competition required participants to describe methodology and approach to five different questions on principles considered important to the UMP. An equal weighting was applied to each of the five principal spatial issues important for the University of Mpumalanga (UMP). The five principle issues required position statements from architects and included: <sup>[8-7]</sup>

- **Principle 1: Establishing a sense of place.** Establishing a sense of place could be described as determining the quality of the way people relate to a place. It is therefore an important contributor to maintaining the sensitive environment of the locale chosen for the campus. Any plan for the new university must take 'place-making' into account, and also the need to create a sense of spatial uniqueness. An appropriate architectural response to the spatial implications of the site would include ways to use the land, the water, the topography, the landmarks, vistas and indigenous vegetation to positive effect.

The chosen university site immediately evokes a sense of responsibility and a need for sensitivity in the approach taken towards building a new campus. The architecture will be expected to embody a strong link between the university and its environment. The architects who enter proposals had to demonstrate and explain how their design approaches meet this requirement and also create a distinctive sense of place.

- **Principle 2: Establishing an overarching architectural language.** Universities endure and transcend the passing of many generations of students through their portals. In many cases they are manifestations of permanence, offering a timeless response to the constant changes occurring in their precincts and in the surrounding context. The architecture of the new university had to be viewed as a language. Therefore the designer has every right to ask what is being said, and who is being addressed. Architects were asked to represent an outline explaining how the new university in Mpumalanga can express a place-relevant uniqueness in an architecture that pushes the discourse around local identity beyond its current levels.
- **Principle 3: Creating a Landscape of Possibilities.** The Development Framework emphasises the fact that the new university should be a place representing hope, and the opportunity to exchange ideas, information, knowledge, insights and skills with others. It also aims to create a socially supportive atmosphere where friendship, cultural exchanges and emotional and psychological support can be shared.

To foster exchange, learning and growth, the architecture is required to respond to, and engage with, the open spaces on the new campus. The buildings are the essential ingredient that makes a campus successful, because they define through their forms the transition between the public and private domains, and encourage interaction between students and staff. The architects submitting entries had to demonstrate:

- i. how architecture can enhance the quality of the shared spaces on campus; and
- ii. whether the proposed perimeter building form is the appropriate architectural typology.

- **Principle 4: Conceiving an Architecture of Celebration.** The Framework for the new university views architecture as more than a representation of function or as meeting the need for shelter. In the broadest sense the university is seen as a manifestation of the aspirations of the academic staff and the students, the community, and the population of the province. It is a spatial representation of the self-image we are striving to earn for ourselves, and to be remembered by. In that sense the vision of the university is inherently utopian. The new university in Mpumalanga offered the architects who participated in the competition the opportunity to express that quality of aspiration while presenting leading-edge, fresh, imaginative, and possibly alternative designs.

Contestants were asked to use sketches to demonstrate how they would develop an iconic and memorable series of buildings for the new university, which also represents its high ideals.

- **Principle 5: Ensuring Sustainability, Environmental responsiveness and Efficiency.** Another objective of the brief for the new university in Mpumalanga was for the selected architect to play a leading role in demonstrating sustainable practices in terms of the location, design and management of the proposed buildings. These qualities should be demonstrated in both the development design and the final product. The architect had to demonstrate an awareness of, and possible architectural solutions to the environmental constraints and challenges found in Nelspruit. These considerations were also required to take into account the various functions required of the University's buildings – housing, academic venues and shared amenities – and explain how these could be aligned with the exercise of due diligence in environmental conservation, and with ensuring building efficiency.

The jury had to reflect on how the submissions engaged with the stated principles. The five position statements are interrelated, and had to be viewed as a matrix reflecting some of the core spatial principles that should be addressed in the design of the new university. The architects were required to submit their ideas, concepts and methodologies in response to the position statements by way of sketches, diagrams and precedents in architectural design and words.

### 8.6.3 Jury

The same jury composition was proposed for the University of Mpumalanga as for the SPU Competition. The jury consisted again of seven people appointed to adjudicate both two stages of the competitions.

The four appointed jurors directly involved in the architectural profession were:

- Sithabile Mathe (an architect based in Gaborone Botswana);
- Prof Walter Peters (Architect);
- Dr. Luyanda Mphalwa (Architect);
- Mr Cedric Daniels (nominated by UDISA -Urban Design institute of South Africa).

Three of the jury member represented the DHET, the Mbombela Municipality, and Interim Council of UMP. The following representatives were nominated by the respective client and government organisations:

- Prof Chris De Beer (Representative for the New Universities Interim Council);

- Ms Linda Carol Zulu (Representative for the Mbombela Municipality);
- Dr Engela van Staden (Representative for the Department of Higher Education and Training).

#### **8.6.4 Stage 1: Adjudication**

The submission date for the first stage of the Architectural Design Competition for the New University in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga was 1 August 2013 at the National Institute for Higher Education in Nelspruit. The tender box was opened and checked by a representative of the Competition Adjudicator.

A total of 47 Stage 1 Competition submissions were received. The competition administrators listed all the submissions, together with their User Codes. Three late entries were received and were disqualified. Two of these were received at the submission venue and both Submitters were requested to sign; the third was later couriered to the offices of Michael Scholes & Associate Architects. The jurors were notified of the late entries.

The adjudication process took place at the Casterbridge Hollow Hotel in White River from Monday 5 August to Tuesday 6 August 2013. All adjudicators were issued with a full set of documents that each competitor had access to on the website. These documents consisted of the following:

- Development Framework for New Universities in the Northern Cape and Mpumalanga Provinces;
- Recommendations on the Seats for the New Universities;
- Stage 1 Competition Data, Briefing and Evaluation Criteria: Mpumalanga;
- Implementation Plan for the University in Mpumalanga;
- Call for Expression of Interest: Architectural Competition for the development of a new University in Mpumalanga;
- Stage 1 Competition Data, Briefing and Evaluation Criteria: Mpumalanga;

Adjudicators were also issued with a full set of Q&A (four sets) which comprised all queries asked by competitors and the answers provided by the Project Management Team and Administrator.

The adjudication process was preceded by a presentation explaining the competition and the Spatial Development Framework. The jurors were also taken on a tour of the site to understand the relation of the competition site with the rest of the campus and its orientation with the city and surrounding context.

The process was overseen by Prof Paul Kotze, who as the Competition Administrator assisted with any queries that the adjudicators had. Adjudicators were issued with evaluation sheets consisting of the five spatial principles (refer section 8.6.2), each with equal weightings. Each juror was issued with a bound document of each submission which they kept for the whole duration of the adjudication. No submission document was allowed to leave the venue. As was the case for the Northern Cape competition, all submissions and adjudications were done anonymously, as each submission was marked only with the competitors User Code.

At the end of each day, marks were collated by the competition administrators. All 47 submissions were scored and jurors were given until 11h00 on 6 August 2013 to complete their scoring. Final marks were entered and compiled by the competition administrator. During the final afternoon the 16 top scoring the projects were highlighted to the jurors. Following extensive discussion ten entrants were finally selected as winners.

All the ten best competitors were notified on 8 August 2013 of their selection by the jury. Those not selected were notified between 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> July (spread over a few days due to errors and missing declarations).

### **8.6.5 Stage 2: Architectural Exploration Competition**

The Second Stage competitors were issued with a comprehensive brief outlining the spatial aims and objectives of the university. <sup>[8-8]</sup> The brief called for the design of a complex multi-purpose academic building on the Hill Campus overlooking the city. This site was selected for the competition as it opens the opportunity to design a memorable building, situated at a high point of the Campus, in response to its surrounding context.

The Hill Campus is also home to a large mixture of different functions and uses. The emphasis of the competition site was on creating a focal point for the University which includes various functions, such as general assembly facilities, university administrative functions, student support services, academic facilities and a large central library. In addition, the brief required the design of the central public square and lawns, and had to consider the relationship between the buildings and this important public space.

The core principles underpinning the concept for the overall campus have been described in the previous section. These have been translated into built form guidelines for the competition precinct. The architectural competition focused on Land Parcels 1 and 2, sub-portions to the Hill Campus Precinct Guidelines, and the adjacent public space.

The site comprises an approximate bulk of 15 800 sq.m, with a building height of three to four floors envisaged.

The accommodation schedule <sup>[8-9]</sup> put together was complex, large and multi-functional to test the design and planning skills of the competitors and their innovation. The competition sought to ensure that the design submission would constitute an exploration of possible ideas for future implementation. Guidelines were set out as to the extent of the building, heights, overhangs, potential landmarks, and competitors were provided with CAAD drawings of the site, contours, extent of the site and photographs.

### **8.6.6 Stage 2 Criteria and Questions**

The brief included a complex architectural accommodation schedule and seven principles that were to be addressed in the competitors' submissions. Included was a list of criteria that the submissions would be judged on. These principles and criteria formed the basis of the juror's mark sheets and in summary are:

- **Principle 1: Promote Integration.** Includes the integration with the city, its movement structure, social and cultural integration and the integration with sport and recreation amenities.



- **Principle 2: Equity of Access.** The proposals had to foresee and design for a balanced movement network addressing the needs of all University users, visitors and residents, of both vehicular and non-vehicular movement.
- **Principle 3: Ensuring a place-bound University Campus.** The design proposals had to carefully consider the principle of place-making - the creation of a sense of spatial uniqueness and identity. The spatial implication of this involved development of an appropriate response to the site and includes working with the land; working with water; using landmarks; and the appropriate use of indigenous vegetation.

To be of its place, a distinctly African University, the tectonic qualities of the Campus had to reflect:

- i. Locally based craftsmanship and technology;
- ii. The utilisation of materials with different textures and colours found within the local environment to enhance diversity in the buildings;
- iii. The inclusion of climatic controls and responses to ensure environmental performance and to bring associative, cultural and historic references to the architecture;
- iv. The inclusion of arts and crafts involving as broad a spectrum of people as possible;
- v. The choice of vegetation, landscape structuring elements, storm-water channels lighting and signage which all contribute to achieving a greater sense of place.

The most striking feature of the site is the slope descending from north to south and the distinct outcrops and ridgeline. The contours are used to shape the movement network. These in turn define the campus footprint, the open spaces and functional spread and in turn had to be reflected in the architectural competition proposal.

- **Principle 4: Quality Open Space Network**

A fundamental part of the University's spatial plan was to create common spaces for students and residents to gather. A variety of shared spaces were required, which represent the primary informal gathering or meeting spaces for students, staff and residents alike. The common spaces had to be places of surprise and wonder, places of exchange – places which spark the imagination. Spatially, the emphasis had to be on creating dignified places for informal meeting by: using all new buildings and objects to define and make space; using selective and powerful landscaping in different ways to define space and to create shade and shelter.

- **Principle 5: Variety of function and form**

The 'Hill Campus' as focus for the architectural competition, is the iconic heart of the University and was planned to accommodate predominantly administrative functions, academic teaching venues, academic offices and shared amenities e.g. library, all surrounding the focal open 'University Lawn' which establishes a link with the surrounding context.

Contestants had to display how form and function result in:

- i. Diverse meanings as a result of a variety of University functions;
- ii. Different building typologies which accommodate a broader mix of functions;
- iii. A rich perceptual mix of different activities, forms and people;
- iv. A mixture of use which occurs both horizontally and vertically. Building typologies need to be introduced which provide, for example, ground floor student amenities in the form of coffee shops, libraries or student centres and academic amenities and/or residential units on upper floors.

- **Principle 6: Efficiency and Sustainability**

The University should play a leadership role in demonstrating sustainable practices in its own development. The competitors had to demonstrate 'best practice' in terms of a broad spectrum of environmental and sustainability aspects including:

- i. Understanding the hierarchies of human comfort for different types of buildings on campus;
- ii. Designing of spaces and places ensuring thermal comfort by maximising passive heating and cooling;
- iii. Providing water management strategies;
- iv. Providing integrated recycling and waste management strategies;
- v. Maximising opportunities for rainwater harvesting and grey water applications;
- vi. Designing for the different energy use requirements of buildings;
- vii. Investigating capabilities for energy generation and the use of renewable energy resources.

### **8.6.7 Stage 2 Criteria and Questions**

In addition to a complex architectural accommodation schedule with detailed requirements for a specific site on the Hill Campus overlooking the central common space, the Stage 2 brief also included criteria that were to be addressed in the submission and were also used by the jury to assess the competition entries. These included the demonstration of:

- The appropriate integration of the buildings with the context and the existing environment;
- The ways in which the variety of land use and functions have been dealt with in an integrated manner;
- The use of a celebratory architecture that is appropriate for a new university;
- The use of landmarks and features that identify the University of Mpumalanga;
- The use of environmental and sustainable architectural practices;
- The response to the specific environmental constraints found in Mbombela;
- An appropriate hierarchy of spaces between the various public and private facilities;
- The legibility and orientation of the spaces;
- The flexibility of uses within the design;
- The relation of the buildings to the public open spaces and movement routes;
- Efficiency in design;
- A sense of place.

### **8.6.8 UMP 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage Competition Adjudication and Results**

The submission date for Stage 2 of the Architectural Design Competition for the University of Mpumalanga was 11 October 2013 at the National Institute for Higher Education in Nelspruit at 25 Rood Street. The tender box was opened and checked by a representative of the Competition Administrator. A Total of seven submissions were received. The Competition Administrator listed all the submissions, together with their User Codes No late entries were received. One of the selected Stage 2 competitors did not submit.

The adjudication process took place at the Casterbridge Hollow Hotel in White River from Monday 28 October to Tuesday 29 October 2013. The announcement of the winners of the competition for the University of Mpumalanga was made on 30 October 2013 at the Lowveld College of Agriculture in Nelspruit.

The winners in no particular order were as follows:

- Cohen and Garson – represented by Fiona Garson;
- Conco Bryan Architects – represented by Llewellyn Bryan;
- TC Design Group (Pty) Ltd – represented by Mark Pencharz;
- Gapp Architects and Urban Designers (Pty) Ltd – represented by Caron Schnaid.

## 8.7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS AT THE LAUNCH OF EACH UNIVERSITY

During 2013 the DHET and Project Management Team initiated several processes leading to the launch of both institutions and creating a platform for the recruitment of staff and the enrolment of students. These included:

- Tendering and appointment of branding and communication consultants for both universities;
- Development of the individual identity, brand image and launch brochure for each university in consultation with the Interim Councils;
- Establishment of a Launch Committee in each province leading ultimately to successful public launches on 24 September 2013 in Northern Cape and 31 October 2013 in Mpumalanga;
- Development of a website for each university to facilitate staff recruitment and enrolment.

Key to the successful launch of the universities, was the procurement of a company responsible for event management, branding, marketing and communication management services. In August 2013 HKLM – Harwood Kirsten Leigh McCoy (Pty) Ltd. was selected through a public tender process to oversee the marketing and branding of the two new universities.

Comprehensive workshops and presentations were held with a number of stakeholders to establish the new identity of the two new universities. Final presentations were given to the interim councils of both universities, an example of which is the presentation to the SPU Interim Council after which the new identity, colour spectrum and logo was finalised.

The successful conclusion of each architectural competition and its respective procurement process resulted in the announcement of the competition winners and the holding of a public exhibition of the work submitted by the winners. The launches, exhibitions and announcement of the competition winners were held on 24 September 2013 at SPU and on 31 October 2013 at UMP.

### **Extract from Speech by Juror: Ms Sithabile Mathe**

“The members of the Jury would like to start by acknowledging the preparatory work that has been carried out by the DHET and Ludwig Hansen Architects and Urban Designers. We would like to applaud the process that was selected of a Stage One submission of ideas and a methodology and a Stage Two submission developing those ideas on a specific site and with a defined programme. The strategy documents which formed the basis for the two stages of the competition were also well conceived. The documents were a cohesive basis for the Jury to assess the submissions and should be a robust informant of the onward process.

We would also like to acknowledge the efficiency, professionalism and notable high ethics of the administrators selected for the competition. It is their tireless effort which has made our work as Jury members seamless. They have maintained the anonymity of submissions and provided clerical and procedural guidance to the Jury which has been of great assistance. They have enabled the Jury to be independent and maintained our integrity at all times.”

29 October 2013

Ms Mathe is from Botswana where she is an Architect in private practice. She has wide experience on a variety of architectural projects in Botswana, Sudan, Tanzania and Norway, and her work has been included in exhibitions in Europe. She serves in several capacities including as a Council member of the Commonwealth Association of Architects and Vice President of the CAA for the Africa region.





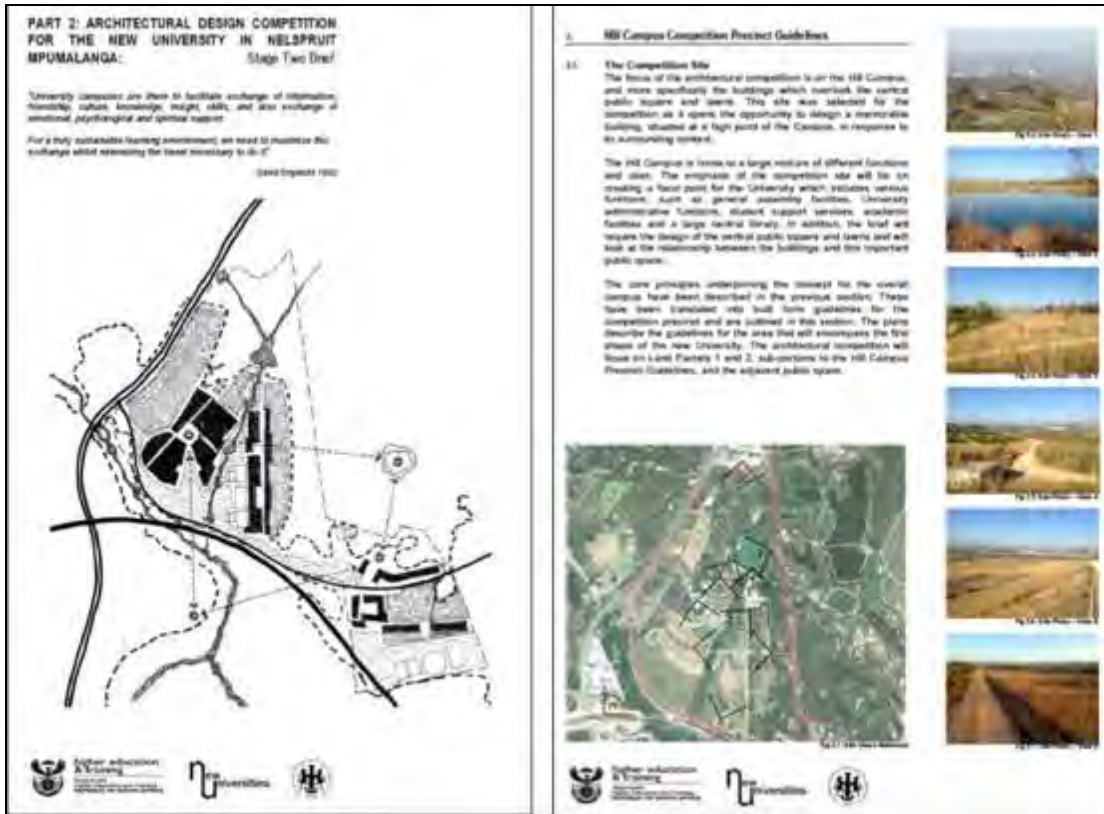


Fig 8.13: UMP: 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Competition Briefing Document with its focus on the Hill Campus.

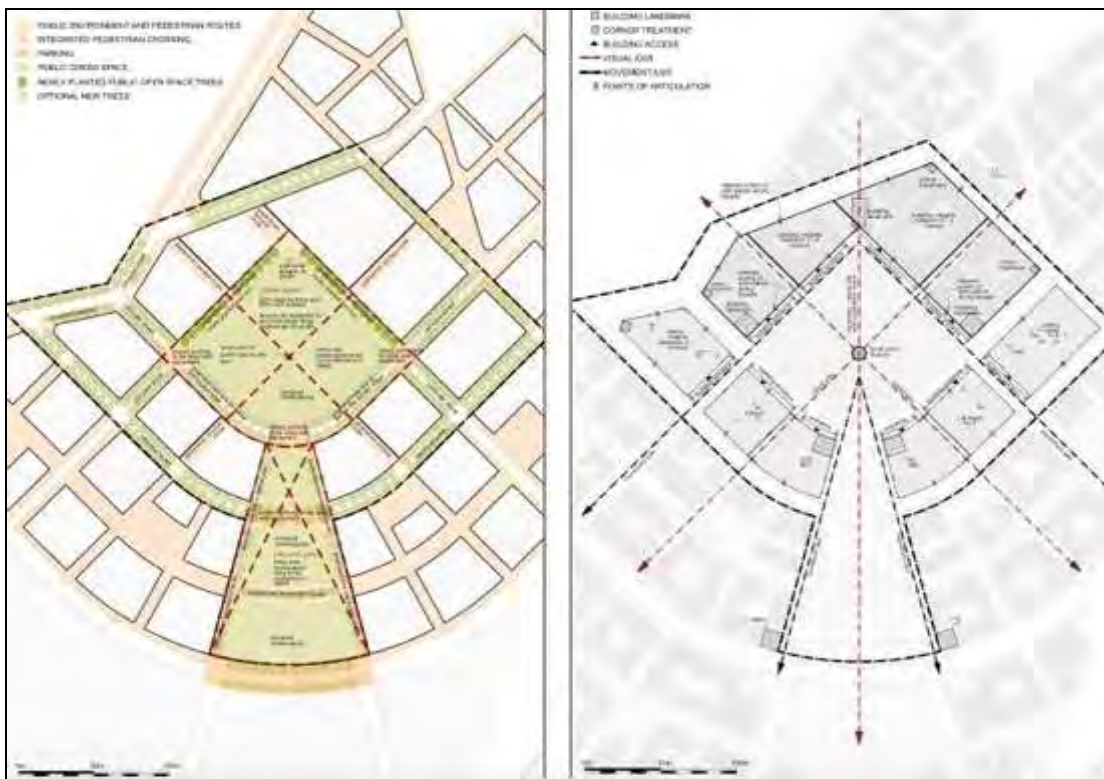


Fig 8.14: UMP: 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Competition Briefing Document with its focus on the Hill Campus central university square surrounded with the main university buildings. The brief asked for the design of a Library and Executive office building.





Fig 8.15: UMP: 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Competition Submission. Participants were allowed 6 A1 Posters – TC Design Group.

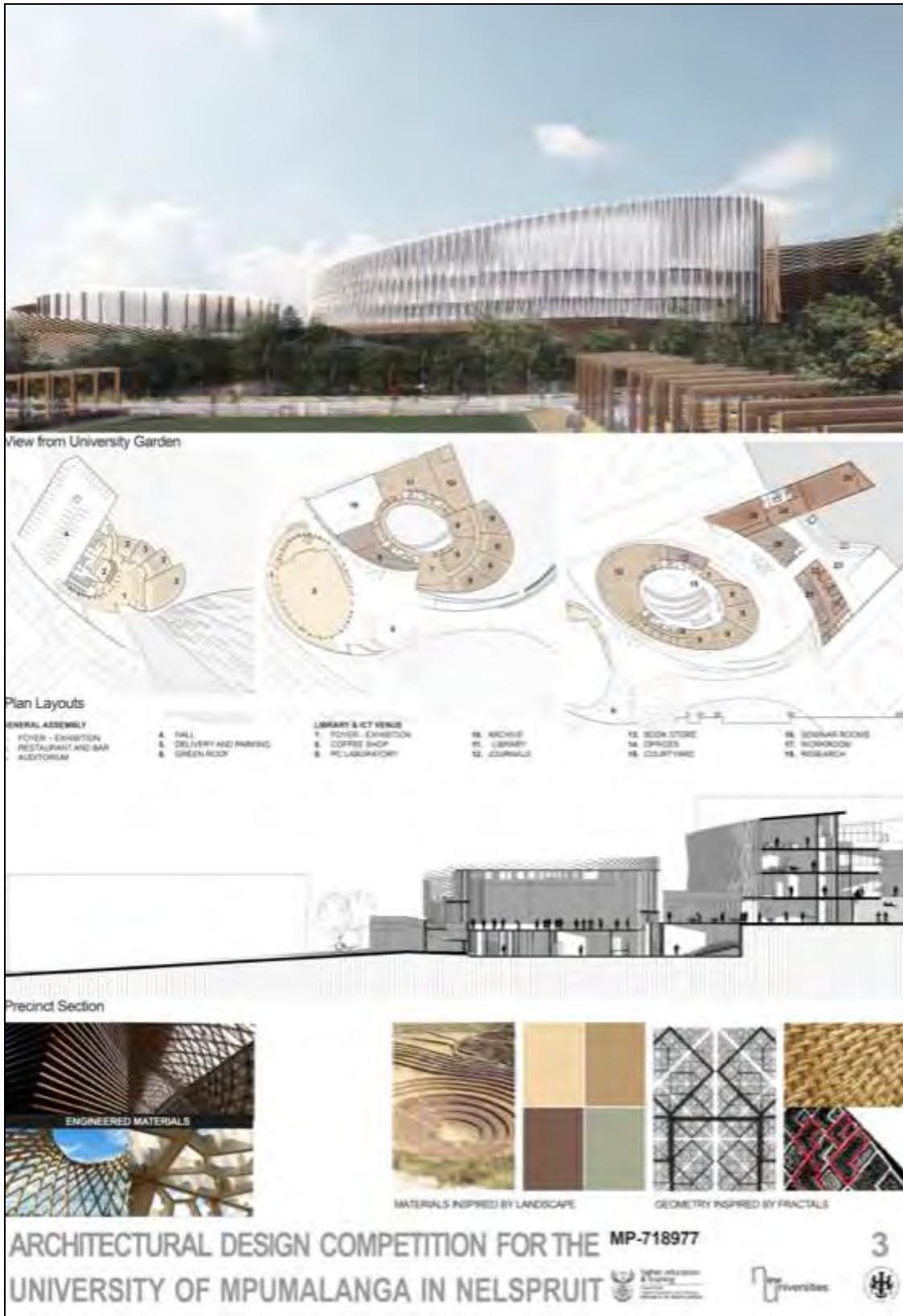


Fig 8.16: UMP: 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Competition Submission – GAPP Architects and Urban Designers.



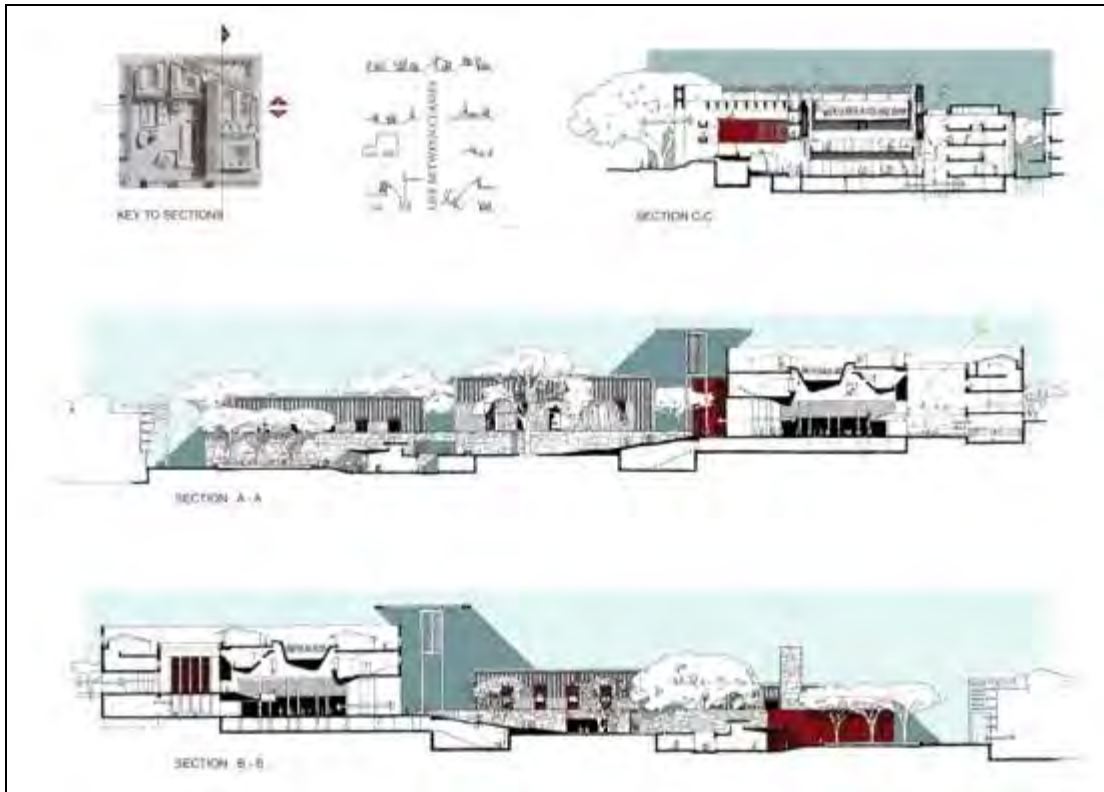


Fig 8.17: UMP: 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Competition Submission – URBA Architects and Urban Designers.



Fig 8.18: UMP: 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase Architectural Competition Winners Announcement at function addressed by the DHET Minister, Dr. Nzimande.



**Fig 8.19: Launch of the University of Mpumalanga 31 October 2013. Opening of the Memorial Garden.**



**Fig 8.20: Launch of the University of Mpumalanga 31 October 2013. Planting of tree, and the viewing of the architectural competition entries.**

## **REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

8-1 NUPMT Standard Conditions for a Design Competition

8-2 An overview of the proposed process for the appointment of consultants to provide architectural services (April 2013)

8-3 Sol Plaatje University - Stage 1: Competition Data, Briefing and Evaluation Criteria

8-4 Sol Plaatje University - Stage 2: Competition Data, Briefing and Evaluation Criteria

8-5 Sol Plaatje Accommodation Schedule

8-6 Competition Administrators Report for both universities

8-7 University of Mpumalanga - Stage 1: Competition Data, Briefing and Evaluation Criteria

8-8 University of Mpumalanga -Stage 2: Competition Data, Briefing and Evaluation Criteria

8-9 University of Mpumalanga - Accommodation schedule