



**'ONGOING AND EMERGING DISCOURSES  
IN AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICES'**

**3 – 9 JULY 2024**

University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

**SCHOOL  
& OF ARCHITECTURE  
PLANNING**

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND,  
JOHANNESBURG



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### **Ongoing and Emerging Discourses on African Architectural Practices**

Conference run by: Campus Innovation Laboratory (CIL) and The South African Chair in Spatial Analysis & City Planning, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

In collaboration with: The Bartlett School of Architecture, University College, London and The African Architectural & Urban History Network (AFRAUHN), July 3 – 9th 2024.

### **SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:**

Professor Nnamdi Elleh, Head of School of Architecture and Planning, University of Witwatersrand

Professor Philip Harrison, University of Witwatersrand

Dr Ludwig Hansen, University of Witwatersrand

Professor Murray Fraser, Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London (UK)

Professor Eva Branscome, Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London (UK)

Professor Ola Uduku, Manchester School of Architecture (UK)

Dr Sechaba Maape, University of Witwatersrand

Associate Professor Geci Karuri-Sabena, University of Witwatersrand

Prof Amira Osman, Technical University of Tshwane, Pretoria

Associate Professor Philipa Tumubweinee, University of Cape Town

Dr. Neal Sashore, The London School of Architecture (UK)

Dr Warebi Brisibe, Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Nigeria

Dr. Irene Appeaning Addo, University of Ghana, Legon

Prof Julia Gallagher, SOAS University of London (UK)

Associate Professor William Williams, University of Cincinnati (USA)

Professor Ikem Okoye, University of Delaware (USA)

Professor Marshall Brown, Princeton University (USA)

Dr Amy Latessa, University of Cincinnati (USA)

Ms Cloe Magagane, University of Witwatersrand

Ms Cézanne Henney, University of Witwatersrand

Architect Jenna Stelli, University of Witwatersrand

## Welcome from the Deanery

Welcome to the Conference on *Ongoing and Emerging Architectural Practices* hosted by Campus Innovation Laboratory (CIL), the South African Chair for Spatial Analysis and City Planning, School of Architecture and Planning (SoAP) at the University of Witwatersrand, in collaboration with the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London, and African Architectural and Urban History Network (AFRAUHN).

SoAP was established in 1922 to develop train architects, skilled labour, and technology for the construction of the mining town, Johannesburg. SoAP and the School of Construction Economics and Management, and five schools of engineering form the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment at the University of Witwatersrand. when the University was founded to developed skills and technology.

The foundations for the Martin and Lucy Endowment at CIL, and discussions for the renovations and constructions of a new block for the School of Architecture & Planning, and the School of Economics and Construction Management, were initiated in 2019. We are happy that you are able to join us in the inauguration of these projects and in celebration of Martin and Lucy's life at this conference.

### **Prof. T Majozi,**

PhD (UMIST), CEng, PrEng, FIChemE, FAAS, MASSAf, FWISA, FSAAE  
Executive Dean | [Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment](#)

## INTRODUCTION

In April 2024 the Campus Innovation Laboratory (CIL), a research, teaching and practice entity, along with the South African Chair for Spatial Analysis and City Planning, School of Architecture and Planning at the University of Witwatersrand, and in collaboration with the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London, invited proposals for papers about emerging discourses and themes in African architectural and urban practices for a major international conference that would be held at the University of Witwatersrand, July 3rd- July 9th 2024.

Recognizing that discourses about African architecture and urban planning are more complex than the bifurcated 'traditional'/'colonial' or 'African'/'Western' models which tend to dominate current research, writing, environmental design and spatial design practices in the continent, this conference invited contributions that critically examine the status quo(s) of these disciplines, be that in terms of academic, practice, national or regulatory institutions, or as imagined by policy-makers through forms of urban development that are then disseminated to the public.

The call for papers arranged the conference around four themes—EDUCATION AND RESEARCH; GLOBALIZATION FORCES; TRANSFORMING PRACTICES; ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATIONS—each of which include a range of topics that are organized into separate panels/sessions outlined in this Conference Programme. We received more submissions than we could accommodate due to the limited spaces for participants in the conference at the WITS Rural Campus (see the appendix for the call for papers).

Planning for this conference began after CIL was founded in 2019 and it was supposed to take place in 2022 when the University was going to celebrate a historical landmark however, it was shelved due to the Covid pandemic. In 2022, the Wits School of Architecture and Planning, the oldest design school on the African continent, celebrated its 100th Anniversary alongside the commemorations for the establishment of the University of the Witwatersrand.

Besides the collaborations between the University of Witwatersrand's School of Architecture and Planning and the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College London, the conference is also the formal launching of CIL to carry out one of its' mission to expand research among colleagues in the African continent, Europe, the United States, and beyond. African Architectural and Urban History Network (AFRAUHN) was founded during the Covid pandemic to explore new ways of thinking about Africa's histories and planned and built environments. The collaborations among the School of Architecture and Planning, University of Witwatersrand, the Bartlett School of Architecture, and AFRAUHN is timely. Your contributions and participation in this premier conference are making the collaborations and the mission of CIL a reality. We are looking forward to your participation in expanding the network in future programmes.

Thank you for the contributions to Ongoing and Emerging Discourses in African Architectural Practices, and welcome to the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

Sincerely,

**Prof Nnamdi Elleh**

Head of School of Architecture and Planning, University of the Witwatersrand

**Prof Eva Branscome**

Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, UK

**Prof Murray Fraser**

Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, UK

**Cezanne Henney**

Programme Coordinator, School of Architecture and Planning, University of the Witwatersrand

**21 July 2024**

# ONGOING AND EMERGING DISCOURSES IN AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICES

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa  
3rd – 9th July 2024

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**Tuesday, 2nd July: 8:00am - 12:00pm**

**Tour of Freedom Park, Voortrekker Monument, and Pretoria Environs**

**Discussant Panel after the Freedom Park Tours:**

Mphethi Morojele and Tunde Oluwa (MMA Design Studio), Graham Young (Newton Landscape Architects), Servin Naidoo (GAAP), Chris Kroese (Office for Collaborative Architects OCA), and Jane Mufamadi (Chief Executive Officer Freedom Park).

The first tour will be to the Freedom Park, Pretoria. The Freedom Park architectural team was originally constituted by MMA Design Studio and GAPP Architects and Urban Designers after a failed international competition in the year 2000. The Freedom Park Trust felt at the time that the design process had to become more consultative and inclusive and could not be the outcomes of a competition. MMA and GAPP, together with Newton Landscape Architects, led by Graham Young, undertook Phase 1 of the project – the masterplan – enabling the infrastructure, visitor centre and Isivivane, the first of the many contemplative spaces to be designed and built. The architectural team was then led by Barry Senior, Chris Krouse and Sarvin Naidoo from GAPP and Mphethi Morojele and Tunde Oluwa from MMA. In 2004, the need to have a more inclusive design team brought Mashabane Rose Architects (MRA), led by Phil Mashabane and Jeremy Rose, to join. A consortium called the Office for Collaborative Architects (OCA) was formed to drive the project. Moreover, Green Inc (led by Anton Comrie) and MoMo Art Gallery (Monna Mokoena) were part of landscape architecture team.

*[The dedication of this tour to Jeremy Rose and Phil Mashabane of MRA, who are no longer with us, underscores their pivotal roles and lasting legacies in the realization of this monumental project].*

After lunch, the Voortrekker Monument, the Union Building Complex (drive-by only), and other venues in Pretoria will be visited depending on time.

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**Wednesday, 3rd July 2024: PRE-CONFERENCE TOURS DAY 2**

The tours on Wednesday 3rd July will be to two locations: the Apartheid Museum and Soweto, and then, after lunch, the Origins Museum and the Evolutionary Institute at WITS University Campus. Tour guides tbc.

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**Wednesday, 3rd July 2024: PRE-CONFERENCE KEYNOTE LECTURE**  
**Venue: John Moffatt A1**

**17.30**

**Welcome by the Dean, Prof Thokozani Majozi,**  
Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment

17.40–19.00

***Not Quite Thinking Things Through: Discursive Territories in Contemporary African Architecture and Urbanism***

**Associate Prof Ikem Stanley Okoye**

African architectural writing and their cultures are still only partially constituted as critiques, thanks to histories, theories and criticism that are produced under constraint – as for instance the especially visible absence of the voices of women. This leaves unreliable interpretations of the architectural past to which at least some architects refer or succumb, and from which we/they seek inspiration and direction. The talk will seek ways to overcome the reading of architecture through the traditional discursive lenses of the global north, in favour of critical engagement with the ways in which African culture has thought and situated its knowledges. Such an approach seems to offer ground not only for historical reconstruction, but for a radical critique of the discursive territories of contemporary architecture.

19.15

**SoAP Atrium** – Talk by Tanzeem Razak about the design by Lemon Pebble Architects for the new extension to Wits School of Architecture and Planning

19.30

**Drinks reception**

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**Thursday, 4th July 2024: TRAVEL to WITS RURAL CAMPUS**

[Please see separate document for information]

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**Friday, 5th July – Monday, 8th July 2024:**

**5:30am–8:30am** *Courtesy game drives. Sign up will be at WITS Rural*

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**Friday, 5th July 2024: CONFERENCE DAY 1**

09.30–10.00

**Conference introduction by Professor Nnamdi Elleh**

10.00–12.00

**Session 1a: *The Lost Spaces and Material Cultures of Africa***  
Chairs: **Dr Irene Appeaning Addo + Prof Julia Gallagher**

It is widely known that Africans and peoples in the 'East' (a region typically defined as including the 'Middle East, China and India'), and also African and those in the 'West', have long engaged in trade and cultural exchanges that were also manifested through architecture and art. While such exchanges can be seen as enriching architecturally and culturally, they have also had a major impact on the way in which the production of Africa's built environment in the modern era is continually situated as having originated from elsewhere outside the continent. How, then, might we rethink these ancient links among global cultures without reducing the contemporary African architectural experience to simply being the receptor of external ideas of modernity? What kind of lost or ignored spaces and practices in Africa should we be re-examining to create a broader and more balanced account? This session therefore welcomes papers that examine how 'African', 'Eastern', and 'Western' cultures interacted and produced spatial manifestations which are still extant and/or being practiced within present-day cultures on the continent, and which hence help us to understand better Africa's own significant contributions to modernity.



**Speakers:**

**Kwabena Appeaning Addo** (Ghana)  
*Postmodernist architecture on the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) campus.*

**Chidi Eghelle** (Nigeria)  
*Oral tradition in architectural research: A case study of historic Mbari houses*

**Dr Joseph Godlewski** (USA)  
*Reviving lost spaces through an expanded spatio-historical imagination*

**Nnenda Ihunwo + Dr Warebi Brisibe** (Nigeria)  
*Proliferation of the Portuguese style in select colonial districts of the Old Rivers province*

**12.00-13.00**

**LUNCH BREAK**

**13.00-15.00**

**Session 1b: Decolonizing African Modern Architectural Epistemes**  
Chair: **Prof Nnamdi Elleh**

The main question to be examined in this session is whether there can be other intellectual registers through which to frame and understand modern-day African architecture and planning, beyond the paradigms of European colonialism and then independence? To date the histories written about modern architecture in Africa are framed in this manner, even though we know that by the late-1400s Africans and Europeans were already engaged in manifold exchanges – material or otherwise – which included architectural influences, even if it was then still largely limited to the coastal areas of the continent. This attribution of African modern architecture always to factors from the colonial era thus negates the important exchanges between Europeans and Africans in the Early Modern period, including during the Italian Renaissance. How can we rethink conceptions about the emergence of modern architecture and planning in Africa to help decolonize knowledge in these fields?

**Speakers:**

**Ramota Obagah-Stephen** (Nigeria)  
*A framework for integrating Nigerian traditional building techniques into contemporary architectural education*

**Nokubekezela Mchunu** (South Africa/Ireland)  
*Towards Counter-Historiographies: Regional Africa and Architectural Modernity*

**Dr Finzi Saidi + Nomalanga Mahlangu** (South Africa)  
*Reimagining the architecture curriculum in Johannesburg as if the context does matter.*

**Martien de Vletter** (Netherlands/Canada)  
*From connecting to collecting: Or how post-custodialism can fill gaps in knowledge production*

**15.00-15:30 COFFEE/TEA BREAK**

**15.30–17.30**

**Session 1c: African Architectural and Planning Scholarship within the Global Context – A workshop for emerging scholars**  
Chair: **Prof Murray Fraser**

Critical studies of architectural design, education, practice and production have been written for many years in all global regions. Yet with the recent proliferation, indeed explosion, of new avenues for information/data flows – largely due to the internet – how does this affect those who are writing about historical and contemporary architecture and urban planning in Africa and its diasporas? Who should be producing these accounts, and how should they be being conceived in relation to broader surveys of historical and current practice? While it is vital to encourage students and scholars to learn more about their own heritage, it also remains paramount for them to know about other parts of the world too. This workshop draws upon lessons such as compiling the two-volume Sir Banister Fletcher's *Global History of Architecture* (2020) to discuss new processes and techniques for thinking about how to engage with and write global architectural and planning history from an African perspective.

**Speakers:**

**Joseph Conteh** (Sierra Leone)  
*Around Africa in 10 buildings*

**Kabage Karanja** (Kenya)  
*The horse latitudes and prime meridian: Intersecting caves and maps of resistance to fracture the Anthropocene*

**18:30–19:30: Dinner**

**19:30–21:00: Keynote lecture**

***Contributions of African-American and African Architects in the Diaspora to Architectural Discourses***

**Prof Marshall Brown**

This lecture will examine the contributions made by African-American and African architects in the wider diaspora to modern and contemporary discourses about architecture at a global level. What were the interactions and exchanges between these African-American and diasporic African architects with those who were working in countries in the African continent? How might such connections be developed and consolidated for present and future collaborations that can enrich architectural and cultural practices in Africa?

Respondents:  
**Prof William Williams, Associate Prof Craig Wilkins**

## Saturday, 6th July 2024: CONFERENCE DAY 2

**5.30 – 8.30am:** Game Drives\* at personal cost. Sign up for Game Drive at WITS Rural

**10.00–12.00**

**Session 2a:** *Building the Architectural Knowledge Gaps among Africans and Africans in the Diaspora*  
Chair: **Craig Wilkins**

We are all familiar with studies of African art, and of the arts produced by Africans living in North American and the wider diaspora. However, parallel studies about the production and exchange of ideas about African architecture, or indeed the buildings produced by Africans in the diaspora, remain far scarcer. Moreover, whereas by now many Africans have been educated in architectural and planning courses in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), rarely do we find discourse about this topic. How might these knowledge gaps be remedied, made more current, and then sustained as an aspect of cultural heritage in the academy, the profession and popular culture? We welcome papers that explore these longstanding transnational connections, seen across multiple spheres of art and life, yet which are still unknown or underdeveloped within the fields of architecture and planning.

### Speakers:

**Dahlia Nduom** (USA)  
*The impact of African architects and discourse at HBCUs*

**Dr Adedoyin Teriba** (USA)  
*Masquerades: Writing the history of architecture*

**Dr Betty Torrell** (USA)  
*Material culture of the African diaspora in the Mid-Atlantic States: An alternate lens for teaching design fundamentals in a course for the School of Architecture and Planning at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, USA*

**Prof Rina Williams** (USA)  
*Space(s) and place(s) in film from Hollywood and Bollywood to Nollywood*

**12.00-13.00 LUNCH BREAK**

**13.00–15.00**

**Session 2b:** *Constructing Coloniality: Heritage, Memorialization and the African Built Environment*  
Chair: **Prof Eva Branscome**

Our built environment is never coincidental and as such it continually reasserts existing power imbalances. We need to be aware of this. At the same time architecture, monuments and urban spaces also embody our collective memories as material history. Buildings are important as individual structures, but also as clusters which interact with the spaces in between. All host shared interactions and act as stages for society to take place. This session seeks to reassess the architecture which remains from British, Dutch, French, Portuguese, German and Spanish colonialism on the African continent, as well as in the settlements of the African diaspora more globally, for their agency in the past that can act as quasi-Trojan horses for today's existing inequalities.



**Speakers:**

**Prof Julia Gallagher** (UK)  
*Architecture, art and the difficulties of decolonising state structures*  
**Dr Amy Latessa** (USA)  
*Visuality and architecture as colonial propaganda in 1930's East Africa*

**Bonolo Masango** (South Africa)  
*Exploring the significance of landscapes of memory for local communities in South Africa and Botswana*

**Mologadi Moshapo** (South Africa)  
*Memory and space: Monuments and architectural heritage in post-apartheid South Africa*

**15.00-15:30 COFFEE/TEA BREAK**

**15.30-17.30** **Session 2c: Constructing Coloniality: Infrastructures of Imperialism and the African Built Environment**  
Chair: **Dr Tsepang Leuta**

For the past decade the renaming of roads has become a strategy across those nations bound together by troubling legacies of European imperialism and the transatlantic slave trade. Arguably, road names are among the most tenacious devices imposed to structure and orient human dis/connectivity, and changing them can evoke both a feeling of empowerment and disorientation. But roads and the association with those in power are not the only infrastructures of persistent coloniality. This session seeks to explore other networks of connectivity, such as railway systems, shipping terminals and airfields, and also schools and religious institutions, to dislodge how they have functioned as devices of racial stratification.

**Speakers:**

**Dr Kirsten Dormann** (South Africa)  
*Bungalow compounds: Accommodating what was, what is and what could be*

**Dr Khangelani Moyo** (South Africa)  
*Etching migrant identities, belonging and non-belonging in the socio-physical spaces of Johannesburg, South Africa*

**Dorothy Takyiakwaa, Dr Irene Appeaning Addo, Dr Joseph Oduro-Frimpong + Prof Akosua Adomako Ampofo** (Ghana)  
*(Re)colonising African spaces? A reading of street (re) naming and signs*

**Prof Guy Trangos** (South Africa)  
*Dark night: The urban effects of failing night-time infrastructures in Johannesburg*

**18:30-19:30: Dinner**

**19:30–21:00:** Keynote lecture

***Collecting, Archiving and Documenting African Architectural Production***

**Prof Amira Osman**

Government archives, university libraries, Public Works Department files and architects' archives are the best-known locations for finding written resources about African architecture. However, these locations are also scarce and often not even accessible. This lecture will discuss the experiences and methods for collecting, archiving and documenting African architectural research, looking also at the potential offered by the study of professional journals from the continent and other kinds of associated publications.

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**Sunday, 7th July 2024: CONFERENCE DAY 3**

**5.30 – 8.30am:** Game Drives at personal cost. Sign up for Game Drive at WITS Rural

**10.00–12.00**

**Session 3a: *Black Women Architects***

Chair: **Associate Prof Philippa Tumubweinee + Lynette Thabo**

When we speak about African architecture, the space of making architecture remains in the domain of male architects – often those from the global North, or in more recent years, Chinese construction companies. The reality however is that African women have long been contributing to architectural practice yet the contributions they make are generally never heard and recognized. This session welcomes papers about African women who have over the last 25 years contributed to the making of architecture on the continent or in the diaspora. The aim, to reassert their voices in discourses on the making of architecture and the built environment on the African continent.

**Speakers:**

**Althea Peacock**

(South Africa)

*Seeking complaints: Complete form 3.4.5 section 08, refer to clause A.1 and D.1 if ...*

**Dr Enitan Oloto**

(Nigeria)

*Leave no one behind: Unveiling gaps in inclusion among female architects in the Nigerian construction industry*

**Sandra Felix**

(South Africa)

*Questioning mastery: Unearthing the structural reasons for Black women architects' absence in South African architectural awards*

**12.00-13.00 LUNCH BREAK**

**13.00–15.00**

**Session 3b: *Architectural and Planning Practices in Contemporary African Countries***

Chairs: **Prof Nnamdi Elleh + Prof Phil Harrison**

This session is interested in collaborative learning about the current aims, practices, histories and indeed historiographies of architectural and planning across the African continent. This kind of foundational knowledge is crucial as otherwise projects of architecture and urbanization in contemporary Africa are still typically being attributed entirely to factors relating to western norms, or else as legacies from European colonization. Instead, the speakers in this session will present diverse accounts about architecture and planning in Africa in recent decades. What issues sought to be regarded as most urgent and important? Who should be designing buildings and urban spaces? And what kinds of design ideas, materials, tools and strategies should they use?

**Speakers:**

**Mpheti Morojele** (South Africa)  
*The projects of MMA Design Studio*

**Dr Elisa Dainese** (Canada)  
*Their genius: Women designers and builders in West Africa*

**Dr Sechaba Maape** (South Africa)  
*AI and African architecture: New tools for old questions*

**15.00-15:30 COFFEE/TEA BREAK**

**15.30-17.30** **Session 3c: *Aligning the Architectural Curriculum with Innovation and Industry***  
Chair: **Garret Gantner + Dr Heather Dodd**

In South Africa, students go out to work in the profession/industry before returning to the fourth year of their Bachelor's degree in Architectural Studies (BAS Honours) and then take the Master of Architecture degree. The aim is for students to gain experience prior to these final two years of their architectural education, part of the long period it takes to educate an architect and for them to develop levels of competency. However, the important changes in technology which are driving the field are not coming from architecture but from engineering and allied building industries.

Consequently, people in the architectural profession find themselves in need of catching up with these developments. How can architecture remain a leading profession in the built environment field while it is always catching up with emerging technologies? What role does architectural education play in educating architects of the present and future to learn about and support changes in the industry? We invite papers which interrogate professional architectural practice and the status of architectural education in African countries along lines which can encourage technological innovation while still minding the atelier-based traditions in which students hone their skills and grow into architects.

**Speakers:**

**Dr Taiwo Afinowi** (South Africa)  
*Digital transformation in the built environment: Examining the role of BIM and technological innovations in shaping architectural education in South Africa*

**Dr Mawabo Msingaphantsi** (South Africa)  
*Towards an agenda for artificial intelligence in urban planning: A review of applications in practice and a reflection on the implications for planning education*

**Chizy Akani** (Nigeria)  
*Building architecture practice through a strategic human-centred approach*

**18:30–19:30: Dinner**

**19:30–21:00: Keynote lecture**

***Bringing Planning into the Discussion: Promises, Disappointment and Pathways Forward***

**Prof Philip Harrison**

Discussions on architecture cannot take place in a vacuum and must always refer to the contexts of politics, governance and planning. This lecture will thus direct specific attention to a troubling trajectory of urban planning in post-apartheid South Africa.

Planning after apartheid brought the promise of spatial transformation and of integrated development. A raft of new laws, policies, programmes, and planning instruments were introduced to give effect to these promises. However, in undertaking research for a book on planning since 2008, jointly authored with Alison Todes, we encountered a pervasive sense of let-down, frustration, and even despondency among planners in South Africa. This is even though internationally, as well as in South Africa, the period from 2008 has seen positive developments surrounding planning such as the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 and the New Urban Agenda in 2016. In South Africa, there has also been new legislation such as the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act of 2013, plans and policies which including the National Development Plan, the Integrated Urban Development Framework, and District Development Model (DDM), and also promises of smart new cities. This left a paradox that requires explanation. Why then is there this sense of disappointment when the period since 2008 has seen significant advances in the systems and status of planning in South Africa and globally?

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**Monday, 8th July 2024: CONFERENCE DAY 4**

**5.30 – 8.30am: Game Drives at personal cost. Sign up for Game Drive at WITS Rural**

**10.00–12.00**      **Session 4a: *Smart Cities and Artificial Intelligence in the African Context***

Chair: **Dr Geci Karuri-Sabena**

The concept of Smart Cities seems novel and intriguing to architectural educators, students and policy-makers alike. The unanimous understanding is that a lot of technical and social knowledge needs to be learned and put in place before coordinated smart cities can work safely. In many African countries there are reports of ‘New Smart Cities’ which are intended to be built. For instance, in South Africa in two consecutive State of the Nation addresses in 2020 and 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa referred to Smart Cities that would be built in major urban regions such as Gauteng. Other African countries, such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana and Nigeria, are discussing similar proposals and implementing initiatives for Smart Cities – often in relation to existing urban centres. What is interesting is that most of these proposals are accompanied by computer-rendered images of ‘super glitzy’ buildings and elevated electric public train systems which showcase the notion of Smart Cities being based on movement at high speed. Besides, the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) machines for problem-solving or for design seems to make these visions of Smart Cities achievable realities. Some also propose that AI can be a tool to retrieve and rehabilitate previously forgotten or repressed cultural systems into contemporary African culture. How might Smart Cities be facilitated by the growth in Artificial Intelligence machines, and what steps should we be taking to develop such cities as part of contemporary practices? We welcome papers which engage with the promises and challenges of Smart Cities and the linked cultural role of AI technology.



**Speakers:**

**Diana Hodulikova** (Ethiopia)  
*Smart cities as catalysts for change: Unveiling the potential for transforming informal settlements in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia*

**Daniel Munthali** (Zimbabwe)  
*Creating context relevant African smart cities through the ethno-mathematics of vernacular architecture*

**Dr Isiaka Musodiq** (Nigeria)  
*Study of the virtual environment of architectural space implemented in a world of virtual reality*

**12.00-13.00 LUNCH BREAK**

**13.00-15.00** **Session 4b: Traditional, Modern and Contemporary Architectural Production and the Alienation of Africans from Urban Space**  
Chair: **Prof Stefan Winter**

Urban space is where the rapidly changing traditions in the lived experiences of African are being manifested in different media: art, dance, film, music, commerce and other ways of life, all too often captured through graffiti and different visual representations. These modes of representation in built urban environments constitute an urban scripting of cultural memories. However, these inscribed memories often have little roots because the discourses on African architectural productions are engaged along two diametrically and artificially opposed traditions: indigenous and colonial structures, envisaged as distinct categories.

This dualistic classification of African architecture is based upon the premise that any structure built with industrially manufactured materials is either an imitation of the Western tradition or indeed a Western construction, and through that claim, Africans are alienated from their cities and from modernity as projects of European/North American ownership and dissemination. This session includes papers that interrogate the received concepts of African modern architecture and its cities as primarily Western contributions to the continent, and which instead propose alternative readings which discuss African agency within such processes.

**Speakers:**

**Prof Kathy Munro** (South Africa)  
*Title and abstract forth coming*

**Dr Solam Mkhabela** (South Africa)  
*Urban scripting: Shifting frames and twilight stories*

**James Hampton** (UK)  
*Post-colonial collaborative practice: Building from the earth at the 32 degrees East Arts Centre*

**Muhammad Moola** (South Africa)  
*A material atlas of contemporary urbanism: Johannesburg*

**15.00-15:30 COFFEE/TEA BREAK**

**15.30–17.30**

**Session 4c: Spatial and Urban Design Implications  
of Historical African Universities**

Chair: **Dr Finzi Saidi**

Shortly after many African countries achieved independence in the 1960s, universities were established in the outskirts of the cities on large landscaped sites to provide room for growth. Unfortunately, the distances that were involved isolated these campuses and made them 'ivory towers' with little connection to their nearby cities. This isolation was not just physical and measurable according to distance, but also in terms of a lack of engagement with the wider society. Moreover, connections with the commercial and cultural experiences of the local communities that the universities were supposed to educate were limited. Even in cases where the cities have grown and encircled the university, the idea of keeping lecturers and students away from the public influences associated with urban vibrancy and complexity has increased cultural and political alienation between the academy and society. This session calls for papers that engage with the historical origins of African universities within their host urban communities from colonial through to post-colonial times. What types of relationships might be re-envisioned that would mutually benefit these universities and their host communities today?

**Speakers:**

**Deborah Kirkman** (South Africa)  
*'The Open University in South Africa' and the rethinking of campus  
building typology(ies)*

**Jabu Makhubu** (South Africa)  
*Towards equitable spatial development: Reimagining the future  
of South African university campuses*

**Sundeep Jivan** (South Africa)  
Challenges and opportunities in conserving our spatial history and  
reimagining our collective history

**18:30–19:30: Dinner**

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**Tuesday 9th July 2024: TRAVEL to JOHANNESBURG**

[Please see separate document for information]



## Conference In Memory of Martin & Lucy Reinheimer

Ongoing and Emerging Discourses on African Architectural Practices is sponsored by the Martin and Lucy Reinheimer Trust in celebration of their beliefs about peace, harmony, and justice among people from different parts of the world, regardless of their race, religion, political affiliations, gender, or beliefs. The contributions of the Trust made it possible for scholars from the continent, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the USA to attend the conference. A significant portion of the Reinheimer Trust found a home at the Campus Innovation Lab (CIL), School of Architecture & Planning, Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. The funds are an endowment that will support African students and scholars from all over the continent. We are grateful for the collaborations with the South African Chair for Spatial Analysis and City Planning, and for the financial contributions of the University College London on behalf of the Bartlett School of Architecture towards the support of many scholars who are attending the conference from the continent. The collaborations with African Architectural and Urban History Network (AFRAUHN) made this conference possible.

Martin was born in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1918. He died in 2009. In 1937, Martin fled Germany at the age of 19 because of the increased hostilities towards the Jews. He arrived in New York City by himself and his family followed a few years later. The family finally settled in Chicago, Illinois. Upon his arrival, his uncle took him to a refuge club in Chicago where he met the owner of a local butcher shop. He immediately started working as a delivery boy, then got a job at a wholesale fabrics house and sold ice cream bars on the weekends. During this time he enrolled at Lake View High School in an adult education class to improve his English. He was already fluent in French and German, and he could translate Latin into the two languages. In 1941, Martin enlisted in the United States Army where he served five years in the Signal Corps as a translator. He was discharged honourably from the Army at the rank of First Lieutenant.

After World War II, Martin registered at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), Chicago, where Mies van der Rohe was still developing the campus and presiding over the programmes. Four years later Reinheimer graduated summa cum laude.

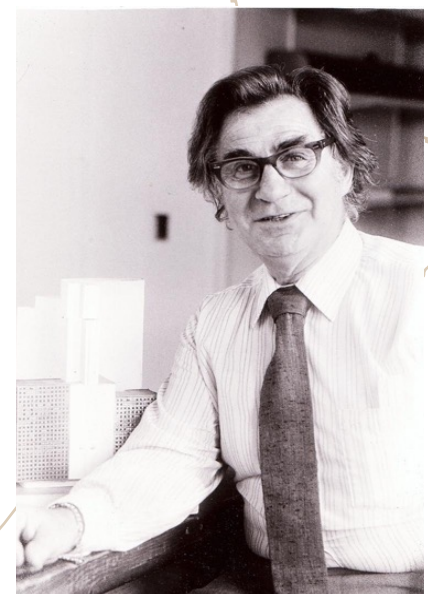
Shortly after, he met Lucy Jewett from Keokuk, Iowa, who was born in 1926 (died 2019). Lucy was a seamstress and latter a physical education teacher.



**Fig. 1.** Photo of Lieutenant Martin Reinheimer, the United States Army, 1941-1945.



**Fig. 2.** Photo of Martin and Lucy, early 1950s.



**Fig. 3.** Architect Martin Reinheimer in his studio/office

Martin worked for two architectural firms before he was hired in 1954 by Hirschfeld & Pawlan. He made partner and was eventually the head of the firm. Martin and Lucy believed that everyone, regardless of who they are or where they were born, should have the opportunity to develop their talent and explore what they want to do in life. For them, education is a collective endeavour to which society contributed for the development of its citizens. He often said that the Boy Scouts in the USA saved his life, and he paid them back by becoming a Boy Scout Leader and teacher at the Central YMCA Central College in Chicago.



**Fig. 4.** Left to right: Scout Leader, Mr. Martin Reinheimer, Village of Glencoe, Illinois, an unidentified Boy Scout, and Brent Reinheimer, 1968. This photo should be viewed in the context progressive 1960s civil rights movement in the United States of America. The smile on Mr. Reinheimer's face shows his deep love for humanity. To put place the photo in some of the most significant events of the period, we are reminded that President John Fitzgerald Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, while Martin Luther King Junior was assassinated in 1968, the year this photo was taken.

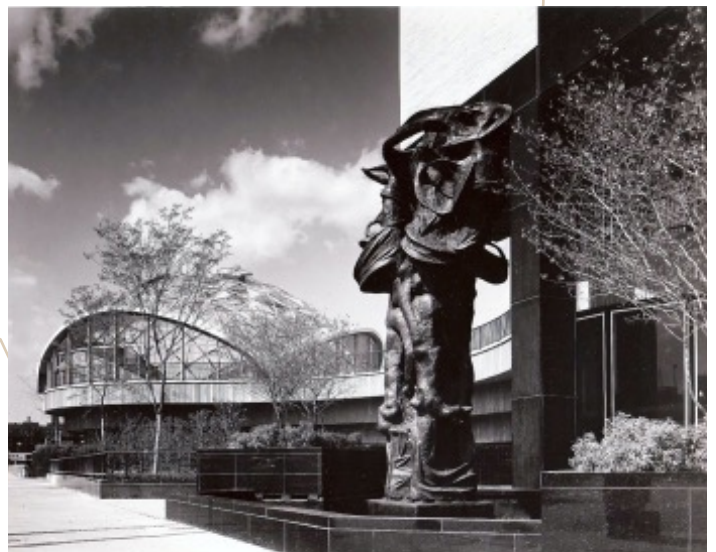


**Fig. 5.** Martin taught in the architecture studio, Central YMCA Community College, 211 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois, circa. 1978. His experience in Germany inspired him to support the

The buildings Martin designed and saw to completion include homes, factories, high-rise condominiums and apartment buildings, and office buildings. Reinheimer's buildings include the 27-story Carriage House at 215 E. Chicago, 40-story, 940-apartment complex at Outer Drive East, which overlooks Lake Michigan at 400 E. Randolph, and the Carlyle on Michigan Avenue, Chicago's Magnificent Mile.



**Fig. 6.** Outer Drive East, Chicago, the Gold Coast area off Lake Michigan



**Fig. 7.** Close view of the Outer Drive East, with the domed pool house in the background and a sculpture in the foreground.



**Fig. 8.** A view of the mezzanine of the Carlyle Condominium, 1040 Lake Shore Drive, off Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois



**Fig. 9.** The Carlyle Condominium, 1040 Lake Shore Drive, off Michigan Avenue (Chicago's Magnificent Mile), Chicago, Illinois

### **They Adopted the World, and the World Adopted Them**

In their older years, Martin and Lucy's passion turned towards helping newly arrived foreign students from overseas to adjust in their new settings. They worked with the Foreign Students Office at Northwestern University who introduced them to students from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and different parts of the world. Their support included finding apartments, providing funds to help with schooling expenses, furniture, and shopping for winter clothing, something students who were arriving from tropical Africa had absolutely no clue about until the Chicago winter and its snow descended upon them. Their home became the home where many foreign students could experience Thanksgiving, Fourth of July, and other holidays throughout the year.

This begs the question, why would a couple who lived in a northern suburb of Chicago, have an impact on the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa with a financial endowment for students and scholars? The Reinheimers were well-travelled, and Martin, in particular, had encountered untold hardships due to political unrest and anti-Semitism. Therefore, they paved the way for many students from around the world, and Africa in particular, to realize their full potential in the United States.

Now, through their foresight and philanthropy, the Reinheimers' spirit of generosity is brought to South Africa. The Reinheimer Endowment, at the Campus Innovation Lab (CIL), SoAP, FEBE, WITS, is one more seed of academic excellence sowed to make education accessible to everyone. This conference on Ongoing and Emerging Discourses on African Architectural Practices, is a celebration of the Reinheimers and their belief in humanity. We are delighted that you made the time to respond to the call for papers with an abstract, which we hope, will be developed into a paper and published. Martin and Lucy's beliefs are along the strong tradition of inclusivity, public service, and rigorous academic endeavours, at University of Witwatersrand, located in the golden, mountain, city of Africa, Johannesburg, eGoli. The spirit of sharing that is bringing us together at this conference would have made Martin and Lucy happy. Join us to celebrate a life well-lived life by a wonderful couple, and welcome to the University of Witwatersrand.

### **Nnamdi and Ann Elleh**

Johannesburg, South Africa  
21 July 2024

## WITS CONFERENCE

### SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

#### **Kwabena APPEANING ADDO**

Kwabena Appeaning Addo is pursuing a PhD at KNUST's Department of Architecture, from where he holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees. He was previously a teaching assistant in its Construction and Technology Management Department and worked at various Accra architectural practices. He researches into sustainability in heritage building and green architecture.

#### **Dr Irene APPEANING ADDO**

Irene Appeaning Addo is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana, in Legon. She has published extensively, and her research areas include decolonizing architectural traditions in Africa, understanding urbanism in African cities, and postcolonial studies. She is an architectural historian and a practicing architect.

#### **Dr Taiwo AFINOWI**

Taiwo Afinowi is a part-time lecturer and postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Architecture, University of Pretoria, South Africa. He holds a Master's in Built Environment and a PhD from University of the Witwatersrand. His research interest lies in global development frameworks, African cities, digital transformation, and digital twin cities.

#### **Chizy AKANI**

Chizy Akani is a Lecturer at the Rivers State University, Port-Harcourt, Nigeria. He obtained his MSc in Architecture from the Rivers State University, and has a postgraduate degree in Project Management from the University of Bradford, UK. His research interests are heritage buildings and sustainability studies in architecture.

#### **Prof Eva Branscome**

Eva Branscome is Professor of Architecture and Cultural Heritage at the Bartlett School of Architecture, UK. In May 2023, she chaired and co-hosted the Annual Conference of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain. She worked for many years in heritage conservation in Britain for the Twentieth Century Society.

#### **Dr Warebi BRISIBE**

Warebi Gabriel Brisibe teaches architecture at the Rivers State University, Port-Harcourt, Nigeria. He obtained his MSc in Architecture from the University of Jos, Nigeria, and his PhD from Newcastle University, UK. His research interests are in vernacular and heritage buildings as well as colonial and post-colonial studies in architecture.

#### **Prof Marshall BROWN**

Marshall Brown is Professor of Architecture and Director of Post-Graduate Programmes at Princeton University. Brown is an architect, urbanist, and principal of Marshall Brown Projects. In 2016 Brown represented the U.S. at the Venice Architecture Biennale. His work is in the permanent collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

#### **Joseph CONTEH**

Joseph Conteh is an architect, educator, researcher and author in Freetown, Sierra Leone. He graduated from Westminster University, UK, and founded JU:KO Designs in London. In 2018 he received research/travel grants from the Churchill Fellowship and Graham Foundation to co-curate the exhibition about Demas Nwoko at the 2023 Venice Biennale.

#### **Dr Elisa DAINESE**

Elisa Dainese is a historian/theorist of architecture and urbanism, currently Assistant Professor at Georgia Institute of Technology, USA, specializing in the history of the production of architectural knowledge focusing on cross-cultural exchanges between Africa/ Europe/North America. She co-edited *War Diaries: Design after the Destruction of Art and Architecture* (2022).

#### **Martien DE VLETTER**

Martien de Vletter joined the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Montreal, in 2012 as Associate Director, Collection. Her current projects relate to Critical Cataloguing and Reparative Descriptions, and non-extractive collaborations. She studied architectural history in Amsterdam and worked as Chief Curator at the Netherlands Architecture Institute and at SUN Architecture Publishers.

**Dr Heather DODD**

Heather Dodd is a partner in Savage + Dodd Architects based in Johannesburg South Africa. Savage + Dodd Architects believe in the power of design in restorative spatial justice and urban resilience. This is reflected in the scope of projects undertaken in the Practice.

**Dr Kirsten DORMANN**

Kirsten Dormann is an architect educated at the Sorbonne (France), RWTH Aachen (Germany), ETH Zurich (Switzerland) and Berlage Institute (Netherlands). She works at University of the Witwatersrand, where she recently completed her PhD on the transformation of the Victorian bungalow into urban compounds in selected suburbs in Johannesburg.

**Chidi EGHELLE**

Chidi Siene Eghelle is an architect and researcher who is currently pursuing a PhD at the Rivers State University in Port-Harcourt, Nigeria. She runs an architectural practice called SparkHouse Limited, also located in Nigeria, and her research interests are largely in vernacular architecture and its relationships with anthropology.

**Prof Nnamdi ELLEH**

Nnamdi Elleh is the Head of the School of Architecture & Planning at the University of Witwatersrand. His publications include *African Architecture, Evolution and Transformation* (1996); *Architecture and Power in Africa* (2001), *Reading the Architecture of the Underprivileged Classes* (2014), *Architecture and Politics in Nigeria* (2017), and "African Studies Keyword: Okà" (2022).

**Sandra FELIX**

Sandra Felix is an architect, educator and researcher with more than 25 years of practice experience in South Africa, who currently teaches in the School of Architecture and Planning at Wits University. Her research interests lie at the intersection of self-ethnographic practice-based design research and architectural pedagogy.

**Prof Murray FRASER**

Murray Fraser is Professor of Architecture and Global Culture at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, UK. He edited the two-volume *Sir Banister Fletcher's History of Global Architecture* (2020), which has won numerous awards. He also co-edits an Open Access journal, the *ARENA Journal of Architectural Research* (AJAR).

**Prof Julia GALLAGHER**

Julia Gallagher is a Reader in International Development at King's College London, UK. She writes about western ideas and images of Africa, China in Africa, and Zimbabwean politics/international relations. She is currently studying state buildings, publishing on aesthetics and the state in Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and South Africa.

**Dr Joseph GODLEWSKI**

Joseph Godlewski is an Associate Professor of Architecture and Senior Research Associate at the Maxwell African Scholars Union at Syracuse University, USA. He holds a PhD in Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley. He is author of *The Architecture of the Bight of Biafra: Spatial Entanglements* (2024).

**James HAMPTON**

James Hampton is the Founding Director of New Makers Bureau in London, UK. He established the practice to make architecture that is designed both for its experiential quality and environmental value. He studied at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London, from where he graduated with distinction.

**Dr Ludwig HANSEN**

Ludwig Hansen is the founder and Principal of Ludwig Hansen Architects + Urban Designers (LHA + Ud). He is on special duty for the University of Witwatersrand as the Director of the Projects and Infrastructure Management Division. LHA + Ud has completed numerous large projects master plans for a number of universities in South Africa. Hansen won the Roelof Uytenbogaardt Urban Design Institute of South Africa Award in 2023.

**Prof Philip HARRISON**

Prof. Philip Harrison is the South African Research Chair in Spatial Analysis and City Planning. He served as a member of the National Planning Commission in the Office of the President from 2010 to 2015. His latest publication is *Governing Complex Cities in the Twenty-First Century: Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa* (2024).

**Diana HODULIKOVA**

Diana Hodulikova is pursuing a PhD at the University of Technology in the Czech Republic, focusing on urbanization and its impact on informal settlements. She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in architecture and urban design, and is currently developing sustainable urban solutions as an architect working at UNICEF Ethiopia.

**Garret GANTNER**

Garret Gantner is an architect, urbanist and educator holding a Master of Architecture from Yale University. He is the Director of the Architecture Programme at the University of Witwatersrand and is a registered architect in the US and South Africa, and a LEED accredited professional. He has managed projects in East, West, and Southern Africa.

**Sundeep JIVAN**

Sundeep Jivan is a graduate of Wits University and the director of SAJ ARCHITECTS since its inception in 2006. As a Johannesburg-based architect with an interest in spatial equity, and spatial justice, he is passionate about how considering multiple narratives allows for inclusiveness and ownership of our collective spatial history.

**Kabage KARANJA**

Kabage Karanja is an architect who co-founded Cave\_bureau, an architectural research practice in Nairobi, Kenya, and also Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia University, New York. He leads 'The Anthropocene Museum' project, exhibited in New York, Denmark and Venice. He is now co-curating the British Pavilion for the 2025 Venice Biennale.

**Deborah KIRKMAN**

Graduating from University of Pretoria, Deborah Kirkman worked for various architectural firms in Johannesburg, including Mashabane Rose Architects and Cohen and Garso Architects. After working on projects like the Apartheid Museum, Freedom Park, Liliesleaf, Witwatersrand University Art Museum, and University of Mpumalanga, she has taught at Wits and Johannesburg University.

**Dr Amy LATESSA**

Amy Latessa works at the University of Cincinnati, USA. She has a background in art history, linguistics, visual culture theory and architectural theory with a focus on race and representation, memory and technology. She currently manages the outreach/engagement department at the University of Cincinnati's interdisciplinary research facility, Digital Futures.

**Dr Sechaba MAAPE**

Sechaba Maape is Director of Afreetecture and Senior Lecturer at Wits School of Architecture and Planning. His research explores people/place relationships, rituals and climate change adaptation, while his projects integrate indigenous knowledge with contemporary architecture, culminating in his curation of the South African Pavilion at the 2023 Venice Biennale.

**Nomalanga MAHLANGU**

Nomalanga Mahlangu is an artist, architect and academic at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. She holds a Master's in Architecture from the University of Johannesburg and Bachelor's from Wits University. She is passionate about interrogating the impacts of colonisation and apartheid on our understanding of space and spatial theories.

**Jabu MAKHUBU**

Jabu Absalom Makhubu is an academic and researcher at Wits University in the fields of architectural education, urban design and African urbanisms. He is currently a doctoral candidate with a thesis title of 'Radical Praxis', which explores shifts in architectural education with the focus on African urbanism in design studios.

**Bonolo MASANGO**

Bonolo Masango is an architect and educator at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Her work is grounded on exploring the African identity in architecture, as well as post-colonial African landscapes and indigenous knowledge systems. In 2023, she curated the 'Origins' exhibition at the Venice Biennale for MMA Design Studio.

**Nokubekezela MCHUNU**

Nokubekezela Mchunu is a South Africa-born PhD student at University College Dublin, Ireland, part of an ERC-funded project on 'Expanding Agency: Women, Race and the Global Dissemination of Modern Architecture'. Previous work includes architectural practice, research, teaching, and project management. She also sits on the CCA Research Network's steering committee.

**Dr Solam MKHABELA**

Solam Mkhabela was educated at Waterford Kamhlaba and Cooper Union, USA, and holds a Master's from the University of Cape Town and PhD from University of the Witwatersrand, where he convenes the Master's in Urban Design. He researches into audio-visual storytelling as a site reading in marginalized colonial contexts.

**Muhammad MOOLA**

Muhammad Moola is architect and researcher with a MA in Architecture from the University of Johannesburg. His interest lies in the formation of African cities, their states of existence, and potential forms of inhabitation. His current research documents Johannesburg's urbanity which is beginning to define emergent contemporary urbanism across Africa.

**Mphethi MOROJELE**

Mphethi Morojele is the owner and founder of the award-winning Johannesburg-based MMA Design Studio which provides professional services in architecture, urban regeneration, design, research and strategic thinking. MMA design projects respond to and enhance the historical and emerging African social, cultural, artistic and economic conditions. The studio has been lead designers in several award winning projects like the Freedom Park.

**Mologadi MOSHAPO**

Mologadi Moshapo possesses a MPhil in Conservation of the Built Environment from the University of Cape Town, South Africa. She has over thirteen years' experience in the private/public sectors and is interested in the intersection of conservation practices with the politics of spatial transformation, urban change, social justice, and development.

**Dr Khangelani MOYO**

Khangelani Moyo is a Senior Lecturer in the Sociology Department at the University of the Free State (Qwaqwa Campus), South Africa. He trained in sociology, social anthropology, migration studies and urban studies. Research interests include migration management, refugee governance, migrant transnationalism, spatial identity, and social vulnerabilities in urban peripheries.

**Dr Mawabo MSINGAPHANTSI**

Mawabo Msingaphantsi is a town planner and urban designer at University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. His PhD developed a statistical model for describing imageability and urban design qualities to predict pedestrian volumes. His current GIS-related research examines how land cover and kriging can determine locations for intermodal transport hubs.

**Daniel MUNTHALI**

After a Bachelor's degree at National Science and Technical University in Bulawayo in Zimbabwe, and a Master's degree at the North China University of Technology, Daniel Munthali works with a particular focus on computational design for sustainable development and context-appropriate architecture and infrastructure, integrating vernacular design patterns into contemporary designs.

**Dr Isiaka MUSODIQ**

Isiaka Musodiq Kehinde studied at the University of Jos in Nigeria for Bachelor's and Master's architectural degrees, before doing a MPhil in urban and housing studies at Obafemi Awolowo University. His PhD was carried out at Crescent University in Abeokuta, where he now teaches while publishing on architectural topics.

**Servin NAIDOO**

Sarvin holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration, a National Diploma in Architecture, and a Diploma in Project Management. The projects he worked on include the Apartheid Museum, Freedom Park Heritage Site, the Domestic Terminal at OR Tambo International Airport, and projects for the University of Johannesburg and the Society for Animals in Distress.

**Dahlia NDUOM**

Dahlia Nduom is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture at Howard University, USA. Her work investigates dwelling spaces of the African diaspora and social, cultural, political, economic, and climatic issues affecting housing, design and equity. Her teaching/scholarship are recognised by a 2022 AIA-DC and a 2024 Diverse awards.

**Ramota OBAGAH-STEPHEN**

Ramota Obagah-Stephen is a researcher, lecturer and architect, currently pursuing a PhD at the Rivers State University, Port-Harcourt, Nigeria. Her research on 'Postcolonial Perspectives' earned a grant from the CCA/Mellon Foundation at the Canadian Centre for Architecture for their Centring Africa project. Her research interests include architectural history and education.

**Dr Ikem Stanley OKOYE**

Ikem Stanley Okoye is Associate Professor at the University of Delaware, USA, and a co-curator at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He has held fellowships at the Canadian Centre for Architecture – for his book project, ‘Where was Modernism’ – and the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University.

**Dr Enitan OLOTO**

Enitan N. Oloto is a lecturer and interdisciplinary researcher at the Department of Architecture, University of Lagos, Nigeria. She is an EDGE-trained architect and a PhD grant recipient. Her research interests are industrialised construction methods, innovation decision processes and behavioural studies in the built environment, housing, and gender studies.

**B. Tunde OLUWA**

Babatunde Oluwa is a registered architect who has experience in various sectors of architectural consultancy in several African countries. He served served as a juror in a number of architectural competitions, tutored in universities. He worked closely Mphethi Morojele’s Team for the design of the Freedom Park.

**Althea PEACOCK**

Althea Peacock is founding partner and co-director of LEMONpebble Architects and teaches at Wits University. Her research work confronts the politics of spatial archiving and erased identities, relative to racially historicised spaces. She has been an invited juror for national architectural awards and a conference speaker/guest critic at various universities.

**Tanzeem RAZAK**

Tanzeem Razak co-founded LEMONpebble Architects and Urban Designers. A graduate of the University of Witwatersrand, she has a MArch in Human Settlements from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium. She designed the new building for the Wits School of Architecture and Planning, and exhibited at the 18th Venice Architecture Biennale.

**Dr Finzi SAIDI**

Finzi Saidi is an academic, architect and landscape design tutor at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Having taught in four African universities, his teaching and research interests explore the ever-shifting contours knowledge of the disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture and urban design, as relevant to our African context.

**Dorothy TAKYIAKWAA**

Dorothy Takyiakwaa is an urban and feminist sociologist who works as a Lecturer at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. Her major research interests are in the areas of African urbanities, migration and social mobility, informal networks, gender and sexualities. She explores these subjects primarily from southern and decolonial perspectives.

**Dr Adedoyin TERIBA**

Dr Adedoyin Teriba is an Assistant Professor of modern and contemporary architecture at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, USA. His recent publications include a chapter in Race and Modern Architecture: A Critical History from the Enlightenment to the Present (2020) and another on architecture in The Interwar World (2024).

**Lynette THABO**

Lynette Thabo is a Senior Architectural Technologist. She holds a Master of Urban Design from Wits University, and she is interested in exploring informal settlements beyond preconceived perceptions rather than understanding how they evolve. She is the current Chair of the Transformation Committee at the Cape Institute for Architecture (CifA).

**Betty TORRELL**

Betty Torrell is an Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at Morgan State University, an HBCU institution in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design and a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Washington, Seattle, USA.

**Dr Guy TRANGOS**

Dr Guy Trangoš is an Associate Professor at University of Johannesburg’s Graduate School of Architecture, South Africa, and principal at Meshworks Architecture and Urbanism. He holds a Doctor of Design from Harvard University, USA, and MSc from LSE, UK. His research explores urbanisation’s nexus with society, science, technology and infrastructure.



**Prof Craig WILKINS**

Craig Wilkins is an associate professor of architecture at the University of Michigan's Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning. A recipient of the 2017 National Design Award from the Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, Wilkins is a hip-hop architectural theorist, architect, artist, academic, and activist. His creative practice specializes in engaging communities in collaborative and participatory design processes.

**Prof Rina WILLIAMS**

Rina Verma Williams is Professor of Political Science and Associate Dean for Social Sciences at the University of Cincinnati, USA. Her PhD is from Harvard University. She publishes and teaches extensively on comparative politics of the developing world, including portrayals of religion, gender and nationalism in popular global cinema.

**Prof WILLIAMS WILLIAMS**

William Williams is a registered architect. He holds a B.Arch from University of Houston, and M.Arch: Harvard University. He and David Brown (2005) co-edited ROW: Trajectories Through the Shotgun House. Architecture at Rice, a study in African American vernacular architecture.

**Prof Stefan WINTER**

Stefan Winter is philosopher and author, is Honorary Professor for Artistic Research at Film University Babelsberg and Visiting Professor at Wits School of Architecture and Planning in Johannesburg. In his research and teaching at five universities and four art schools in Europe, he traversed and connected artistic and scientific knowledge cultures.

**Graham YOUNG**

Graham Young is a registered landscape architect with degrees from the University of Pretoria. He has been practicing landscape architecture for over forty years, and lectured in different countries in Africa, and beyond, including at the University of Rhode Island and at Harvard Graduate School of Design Landscape Architecture. Graham has received several design awards, including the Institute of Landscape Architects of South Africa (ILASA) Presidential Award for the Riverside Government Office Complex and Isivivane, Freedom Park.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM**

Led by Ms Motsei Choabi, a number of colleagues at in the School of Architecture and Planning in the University of Witwatersrand have worked hard to make this conference possible. They include:

### **Steven BLUMBERG**

Steven Blumberg is an experienced IT administrator with over 8 years in managing educational technology. Proficient in network administration, automation systems and technical support, he is dedicated to enhancing digital learning environments and ensuring seamless IT operations.

### **Motsei CHOABI**

Motsei Choabi has been School Administration Manager for three years, mentoring administrative staff colleagues. She has an undergraduate degree in Business Administration and Masters in Executive Coaching. She is an avid hiker, having walked the Fish River Canyon in Namibia, Amatole in Eastern Cape, and to the summit of Kilimanjaro.

### **Veronica FISHER**

Veronica Fisher stated at the School of Architecture and Planning as the undergraduate programme coordinator, and in 2022, she became the postgraduate coordinator. She took on extra-duties in support of the conference logistics.

### **Cézanne HENNEY**

Cézanne Henney has a background in architecture and project management. She is currently the Programme Coordinator in the School of Architecture and Planning. Her passion shifted from aesthetics and functionality in the built environment to a keen interest in sustainability, and is currently pursuing a Masters qualification in that subject.

### **Lerato NKOSI**

Lerato Nkosi is the Research Administration Coordinator in the School of Architecture and Planning. She supports lecturers and students by facilitating all matters regarding ethics and research, and coordinates research grants.

### **Orateng MOSEKI**

Oretang Moseki joined the School of Architecture and Planning recently at the Acting Bookkeeper. She has a postgraduate diploma in financial management, and was responsible for organising all the flight bookings and travel logistics.

### **Batseba QWABE**

Batseba Qwabe is the Clerical Assistant for the School of Architecture and Planning. She manages the facilities and venues, and as such ensures that lectures and programmes have got the equipment they need.

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