Title of the Campus: Sustainable Urban Management: Integrated Infrastructure Planning and Communities' Welfare
Organizer(s) Names: Africa Union of Architects (AUA)
Other Partner Organization(s) Co-Hosting the Campus: The South African Institute of Architects (SAIA)
Date and location: Thursday, 19 October 2017 to Friday 20 October 2017 / Gauteng, South Africa

Urban Thinkers Campus in figures:

UTC narrative

Executive summary
SAIA (South African Institute of Architects) hosted an Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) at Pure Café, University of Pretoria on the 19 and 20th October 2017. The initiative was in collaboration with the Africa Union of Architects.

Initially, the UTC was planned for Johannesburg, but University of Pretoria proved to be a better venue for the event. Because of this, speakers used case studies from both Pretoria and Johannesburg which both fall under the province of Gauteng. Through presentations from two senior lecturers from the Department of Architecture and students who attended, the UTC found the perfect academic partner in University of Pretoria.

The workshop set out to tackle the theme by involving academics, students, government agencies and practitioners. Present at the workshop were representatives from the South African Institute of Architects, Africa Union of Architects, Johannesburg Development Agency, The Architecture Departments at the University of Pretoria and Tshwane University of Technology, as well as Slum Dwellers international (SDI).

South Africa continues to exhibit two parallel economies. Any effort to look into a component of our built environment without touching on this glaring inevitability becomes unreal. This reality was well captured by Slum Dwellers International’s Ms Rose Molokoane statement when she made reference to ongoing developments in Pretoria. Sighting the number of cranes in developed parts of town while impoverished areas remain without the most basic services. The problem of inequality continues in South Africa and is evident in all spheres including the built environment.

After a thoroughly absorbing two days of presentations and discussions, as highlighted at the end of this report, suggestions were tabled to ensure that steps can be taken to assist in realising a better sustainable urban environment in our cities. Most of the speakers used PowerPoint to communicate their views on the topic. The structure of the sessions is illustrated in the table below.

Key findings of the workshop were that community participation and not political targets, are better drivers of development. How construction infrastructure developments have to be structured must empower the poor as opposed to large scale construction companies. There was a sense that communities’ welfare is paramount in any intervention. From conceptualisation, planning and implementation, the ordinary citizen on the city must feel part of the process. Then there is the challenge of coordinating efforts to eliminate duplication and wasteful expenditure. Maintenance of facilities is another important challenge that hinges on project coordination during the planning phase. It is likely that residents closest to a park or any other public amenity would feel a sense of ownership, and hence stewardship if consulted in design. Further, whether we have to introduce a new transport system, housing project or any other infrastructure amenity in our cities, it is pertinent to ask the question: Is it the most important need for our society?

The main resolution which came out of the meeting was that: University of Pretoria, SAIA and SDI are to collaborate more in Studios based in Communities to instil practical knowledge to learners. SDI has already partnered with University of Johannesburg on such a project and University of Pretoria has a similar project in Mamelodi. Dr Combrinck suggested that this be part of the curriculum as compulsory community service. There is also a possibility of influencing a different model of housing delivery that includes a close relationship between the expertise of people on the ground and the department of Housing.
Introduction to the Campus

The Campus was organised by the South African Institute of Architects on behalf of the Africa Union of Architects in Pretoria. It therefore had more participants coming from the architectural that any other industry.

Sessions were structured over two days. Mr Sikhumbuzo Mtembu who is a Durban based architect is an external relation officer at the Africa Onion of Architects and was the programme director on both days. Second day discussions were hosted by Dr Emmanuel Nkambule of Tshwane University of Technology.

The variety of speakers beyond built environment professionals was meant to capture understanding and perceptions from ordinary South Africans and academics. The executive summary elaborates further on the day’s proceedings.

Summary of all session

Dr Carin Combrinck: Embedding a Culture of Participation towards Collaborative Urban Citizenship
The efficiency of government is possibly hampered by the perceptions of state capture and corruption which result in service delivery protests, beyond this, the advent of violent crimes demonstrates the much needed healing in our society. There is current apathy in working together as society and partnering with government for better urban environments.

Dr Combrinck urged that community engagement modules need to be included in the curriculum for architectural training as a way of facilitating environmental awareness to students. It is an important step towards urban citizenship: self-determination through the residents own organisations to influence policy making.

Entokozweni Day Care centre is an example of how University of Pretoria was involved in such a project. It provides a practical environment in which taught lessons can be tested. Study included data analysis on existing facilities and where possible nodes could develop in future. It was great to learn from the audience that the University of Johannesburg has also set up a community studio with Slum Dwellers international before.

The exercise teaches students about scheduling activities, phased development, assimilation of civic values, improved capacity to engage with complexity and Interdisciplinary research and teaching.

Dr Chrisna Du Plessis: Future of cities, Smart, Sustainable. Resilient.
Professor Du Plessis opened her account with housing images from the apartheid era to present day Soweto. There has been an addition of larger houses in the township, but this unfortunately does not mean an overall improvement in people’s economic situation.

The presentation looked at overseas examples on how urban environments can be improved with cost-effective innovative ways for wayfinding, pedestrian safety and comfort as well as valuable information for public transportation. The assertion is that walkable, equitable and liveable cities
are Sustainable. Innovative ideas such as seating areas along walking routes, public library, drinking fountains are some of the smaller details which make urban environments special. The smart cities idea sets out to enhance convenience and efficiency through the use of technology. Online government portals, intelligent public transport system, wall to wall WIFI, real time trend data are just some of the ways to improve user experience in the city. In addition, waste management, recycling water and urban agriculture challenge our day to day behaviour to embrace awareness on food security and conserving our natural resources.

Ms Yasmeen Dinath: Johannesburg Development Agency: Future Projects and Priorities

The purpose of the UTC was to find practical constructive means to engage Government, the public, academia and private sector consultants. Very often in Workshops, government initiatives are either not acknowledged or are unknown. We found it imperative to find out what is currently taking place in the city if Johannesburg through a representative from the Johannesburg Development Agency.

The institution was established in 2001, it has implemented approximately 330 projects in all regions of the City in its 15 years of operation. The agency has a Capital expenditure of about R9.7 billion at an operating cost of R570 million. Some of their drivers in interventions include intention to catalyse growth and investment, co-produce solutions, create great places and connect people to opportunities.

The agency has set out 5 major issues to address: Spatial inequalities and the job-housing mismatch, 2. Increasing pressure on the natural environment, 3. Urban sprawl and fragmentation, 4. Exclusion and disconnection And 5. Inefficient residential densities and land use patterns. The cities tasks are then broken down in priority areas listed below, each with just one example.

**PRIORITY 1**: Strengthening the Core Johannesburg CBD is being established again as a strong core with significant economic and residential opportunities. Park station precinct.

**PRIORITY 2**: Consolidating the Public Transport Backbone: Consolidate appropriate growth and development opportunities around existing and future public transport nodes. Randburg to OR Tambo future corridor.

**PRIORITY 3**: Kliptown: Optimising Opportunity in Soweto: The idea is to transform Soweto into a liveable transit oriented city district in its own right with access to jobs and the full array of urban amenities. **PRIORITY 4**: Unlocking the Mining Belt: The city of Johannesburg owes its origin from mining, as the city diversifies over the years, mining areas have remained fragmented and need inclusion.

**PRIORITY 5**: Addressing Marginalisation, and example is Dipsloot, in which the city is addressing the problem of service delivery and disconnection to enhance a liveable environment.

**PRIORITY 6**: Priority Economic Zones: Sandton. As a major economic hub Sandston is one of the areas targeted to unlock economic growth and development potential which can hopefully roll-over to other precincts.

Dr Emmanuel Nkambule. Place making by integrating urban informal settlement infrastructure

This topic explored that the essence and meaning of cities are people. There is no city experience without each other. Pathways create both linkages and meeting opportunities, close proximity means people can take care of each other. Economic opportunities develop in meeting places and as such, these natural nodes need to be earmarked for enhancement and linked to other such opportunities.
It is in the delivery of infrastructure that we should consider Place making, and avoid the creation of sterile places, to strengthen and expand existing socio economic activities. This approach presents the possibility to mix small and large elements, new and old. Dr Nkambule proposes that an inventory of what exists needs to be compiled so that additions are relevant. The presentation examined Surubaya in Indonesian as a case study. The project exhibits self help community development projects which in turn contributes to the spirit of community. Organic waste taken back to gardens, plastics recycled and grey water also recycled for irrigation.

Ms Nahungu Lionjanga City transportation
Most of the income of an average poor person is spent on transport fares, it always is an important exercise to examine the feasibility of new interventions and whether they indeed bring change to the life of the poor.
During her presentation, Nahungu played some video clips on rapidly growing cities and climate change. The talk was about the possible future of the planet and the depletion of natural resources as a result of human developments. It seems the most important aspect in our planning are reuse, repurpose and modification to limited. The use of the all-important private vehicle needs to be limited so that we can give the streets and the city back to the people.
In Johannesburg, public transportation is through metered taxi, uber, buses, gautrain high speed rail, metrorail trains and bus rapid transport. Nahungu is currently studying the bus raid transport buses known locally as “Rea Vaya” (Sotho for: We are going). The presentation illustrated maps showing links on Nodes and other transport modes, jobs and general accessibility.
Social benefits of the transportation system do not result is welfare improvement is residents. One will expect construction jobs and fewer operation work opportunities of cause. In the townships, there is still a section of the population which cannot afford the bus system. Nahungu notes that the system in Johannesburg (Phase 1A) is beneficial as a transport project but not as a general urban intervention able to improve the overall social wellbeing of served communities.

Ms Rose Molokoane: Housing and Social Justice
Ms Molokoane spoke of the work she does in South Africa and globally. The organisation she is part of is based on the premise that residents as a collective should unite and organise themselves to solve their own social problems. There is great merit in this ideology as the best knowledge of a location is with the locals themselves. SDI has already been involved in housing delivery projects implemented with social sensitivity and empowering smaller contactors.
Unemployment, marginalisation and poverty affect millions of South Africans. Infrastructure in South Africa is generally spread according to economic affluence which started along racial lines historically. SDI Champions the cause of the poor and believes that the ultimate wealth and resource is humans.
As an organisation, SDI keeps records of most data in the informal settlements. The number of structures, people per home etc. This is the critical information needed to propose any intervention in townships. SDI believes that, services are incorrectly sized as a result, sewage blocks often.
Currently the link with the Housing Department is erratic and marred by red tape resulting from insurmountable regulations and political heads to encourage interaction with such organisations. Solutions have been documented, it is the implementation of ideals that meet the hurdles.
Key outcomes of the UTC

The Key outcomes of the UTC include sight into the nature and structure of society. By having conversations about ourselves and infrastructure in the city we were able to see what works and what needs improvement.

Empower smaller contractors: Infrastructure projects need to be packaged in such a way the emerging contractors and local tradesmen benefit from the work. The irony of having a large construction company developing low income housing for examples is striking, and sets economic transformation back by years. Targeted beneficiaries must benefit meaningfully in developments.

Re-use, densify and repurpose: Amidst a rapidly growing global population, resources and energy are exhausted quickly. To ensure equity and efficiency: reuse, densify, repurpose means that we need to re-evaluate infrastructure capacity and intensify use to curb resource use which results is further climate change challenges.

Urban management: Linked closely to repurpose is the issue of safekeeping. The idea that public infrastructure belongs to us and as society we are the first people to protect and steward it. Over and above that, implementing departments must be able to table and handover new projects to maintenance companies or departments with a clear sustainable plan. Maintenance departments must thereafter monitor amenities with residents.

Encourage Participation towards collaboration: Self-determination as a collective effort has power to influence policy along the most relevant and contextualised strategies. Embedding the culture during training amongst students creates awareness and instils the sense that no single profession can define the built environment, but society as a whole.

Harness efficiency through technology: The concept of Smart cities needs to be contextualised. Information on services can be made available through various means based on affordability. In spreading information to the public on available services, help and awareness is spread wider more efficiently.

Commendable existing urban environments: Critical analysis of our urban environments. Durban has its beachfront, which has everyone meet at its promenade on Saturday mornings to enjoy the sea and outdoors. Accessibility is by taxis, cars and non-motorised transport. It is a place is the city which is enjoyable and special. Another example is Sunnyside in Pretoria, which is alive most of the night and hence creating a safer urban environment to walk in at night. Whether we celebrate a natural feature like the sea, or create mixed use development like Sunnyside, the good lessons in our environments must be recognised and promoted.

Conclusion & way forward

The South African Institute of Architects as organisers of the UTC were requested to consider the relevance and lead a task team to seek inclusion of community based studios from SACAP.
Opportunities exist with the housing department as they feel that a similar workshop at their premises will have a better chance of more officials who are decision makers attending the sessions.

The University of Pretoria, architecture department was urged to open its doors for SDI to interact with students, as SDI already has contribution in European Universities but not South African.

In essence, the triad of professionals (SAIA), Academia (University of Pretoria) and a social organisation (SDI) must henceforth maintain communication through Mr Mtembu, Dr Combrinck and Ms Rose Molekoane in championing the key outcomes of the UTC.

**On the basis of the UTC outcomes, what are your recommendations to National Governments and other Stakeholders, including local and sub national governments, in order to effectively contribute to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda?**

The UTC provided a practical starting point for future interactions between the architectural profession and government.

Housing, more than any other infrastructure component seemed most important to understand in our context. A senior official from the National Housing department was in attendance and welcomed the fruitfulness in the discussions. Further she felt that a workshop at their premises could reach more decision makers and help influence policy.

The South African Government already has a policy for projects awarded to large contractors: that 30% of the work must be subcontracted to local smaller companies as a way of empowerment. Further to this, we can recommend that, projects which consist of separate components can be to given different contractors so that more firms benefit as compared to making one large company even larger.

Avenues exist to accelerate project delivery when it comes to Stadia, airports etc. The same effort is not matched when services have to be delivered to the poor. Land rights, regulations all become a hindrance. To create a holistic nation, political will and expenditure must not only favour the rich. South Africa is not a poor country in terms of resources. The economy is in the top 40 of largest economies in the world. The disparity between the rich and the poor needs to be tapered.

Leadership seems to lack a uniting vision for the country. The National Development Plan lists a number aspects that affect our welfare but not so much a starting point for our common humanity. The promise of a rainbow nation with values of Ubuntu, love and forgiveness have fizzled out after 1994.

**Monitoring & reporting**
How do you intend to monitor the achievements and progress in the implementation of your action plan approved at your Campus (success indicators and other measures of achievement should be proposed)?

Success of our campus can be measured through these three key targets,
One, having access to the Johannesburg Development Agency and National housing department means the discussions of this campus can be recommended to important decision makers. To have such discussions and see implementation on actual projects we can celebrate the success of the UTC. Plans are in place to have a follow up meetings with these departments.
Two: The richness brought by SDI in housing and infrastructure delivery discussions in townships will be followed by consultations between architects and SDI. A Durban architectural firm has requested that we look at formulating a partnership between the firm and the organisation. The success of such a partnership will indicate that our workshop yielded results.
Lastly, SAIA will have to consider discussions with SACAP along the lines of curriculum modification to increase public participation awareness amongst students. Further, the profession has an obligation to demystify architecture and find ways in which the public is both aware and can contribute to a holistic built environment in our cities.

Explain how you intend to share the results of your action plan with the WUC community and other partners in order to jointly implement the New Urban Agenda?

The success of our action plan forms part of the overall New Urban Agenda drive in the country. Therefore, our implementation of key outcomes links directly to many other such developments. We acknowledge the role of coordinating the different players needed to make our dreams a reality.
Our action plan will run parallel with initiatives that are currently taking place in the country towards the New Urban Agenda. A programme of barefoot architecture by the International Union of Architects (UIA) will be championed in Durban and intends partnering with SDI on housing pilot projects. We have good partnerships with local city government and are hoping that we can overcome red tape and share the experience with the WUC community.
In line with working with already accumulated discoveries we are proud to share that the Design indaba achieved a successful 10 x 10 housing projects, constructed using alternative technology of sand bags. The project was funded by construction product manufacturers and exemplifies how we can tackle the housing backlog. Numerous inner city housing projects in Johannesburg such as Elangeni are also prototypical.

Reuse, repurpose and limit new footprint to avoid further climate change and unnecessary usage of energy. It is with initiatives such as the UTC that we can forge a stronger link with relevant government departments and speak truth to power. Beyond government, opportunities exist in civil organisation initiated projects to implement exemplary designs to conserve space and resources. This can be monitored through already existing Habitat committees in Africa union of Architects and the South African Institute of Architects.
Data and conference resolution sharing is an important part of adding into an already existing vault of knowledge on infrastructure delivery. If we do not compile and revisit discoveries made
already, then new workshops are a mere fruitful less talk. In the South African context, we had a WE DESIGN conference held in Durban, where the then Finance minister Mr Pravin Godhan requested 10 do’s and 10 don’ts in improving or urban environments. Our action plan involves carrying out similar initiatives that have already started.

At our UTC workshop, the urban transportation presentation revealed to us that current Bus Raid transport project does not add significant change in the lives of the poor. Metrorail is currently looking at modernising rail in the country with new coaches, station and nodes which are opportunities for commerce.

Long Term, we have to share implementation of how our schools can assimilate new curricula that will help change our built environment perception.

List of key speakers

1. Professor Chrisna Du Plessis, University Of Pretoria. South African
2. Dr Carin Combrinck, University Of Pretoria, South African
3. Dr Emmanuel Nkambule, Tshwane University of Technology, Swaziland
4. Ms Nahungu Lionjanga, University Of Pretoria, Botswana
5. Ms Rose Molokoane, Slum Dwellers International, South African
6. Ms Yasmeen Dinath, JD A, South African

List of Participants

1. Bingham Kevin Gary, SAIA. South african
2. Caetano Alexander, Architect , South African
3. Combrinck Carin, University Of Pretoria, South African
4. Haiden Lauren Ann, SAIA, South African
5. Matsemela Patrick , SDI, South African
6. Mirembe Jennifer: Deprtnt of Housing , South African
7. Schoulund Dario, Architect , South African
8. Sikepu Maureen: SDI, South African
10. Makolomakwe Abraham: SDI, South African
11. Poulsen Lone : Open Architecture, South African
12. Ras Jan Willem: SAIA, South African
13. Mudimu James; SDI,South African
14. Murundwa Takalani: Student, Universiy of Pretoria, South Africa
15. Esther van Tonder : SAIA, South African
16. Zwane Mthobisi: ADI, South African
17. Mofokeng Alina: SDI, South African
18. Sebe Penelope: SAIA, South African
19. Khoza Abi: ADI, South African
20. Lebona Christopher: SDI, South African
21. Vena Nobom: SDI, South African
23. Grobbler Kle', Architect, South Africa
24. Kirk Debbie, SAIA, South Africa

List of Partner Groups Represented

1. Research and academia
2. Grassroots Organizations
3. Farmers
4. Civil Society Organizations

List of organizations represented

1. Africa Union of Architects
2. South African Institute of Architects
3. Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
4. FEDUP Federation of the Urban and Rural Poor
5. University of Pretoria, Architecture Department

List of Countries represented

1. Botswana
2. Swaziland
3. South Africa

UTC Photos