



**architecture**  
**OTHERWHERE**  
**durban**  
**2014**

**XXV International Union of Architects (UIA)**  
**World Congress DURBAN 2014**

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Sunday 3<sup>RD</sup> August – Thursday 7<sup>TH</sup> August 2014

Other Thinking | Other Regions | Other Practice | Other Disciplines | Other Communities

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**ARCHITECTURE OTHERWHERE – RESILIENCE, ECOLOGY, VALUES**

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**ECOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS: SHOWCASING  
RESEARCH AND APPLICATION OF SUSTAINABLE  
BUILDING PRACTICE INTERNATIONALLY – with a focus  
on African-led sustainable building networks**

**A UIA 2014 DURBAN STUDENT PECHA KUCHA EVENT**

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**INTRODUCTION**

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**Background**

The 25th International Union of Architects World Congress of Architects, UIA 2014 Durban, will be held at the International Convention Centre in Durban from 3-7 August 2014. This is the first time that this Congress is being held in Southern Africa and we are expecting 6000 delegates from around the world.

The International Union of Architects (UIA) organizes a World Congress every three years, and there have been 24 previous UIA Congresses. The UIA is a non-governmental organization accredited by the United Nations, and it represents professional associations of architects in 124 countries, and approximately 1,3 million architects worldwide. The UIA secretariat, located in Paris, is responsible for the Union's management and general administration.

The selection of the Congress host city is made six years in advance. At the UIA 2008 Torino Congress, the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) won the bid to host this triennial World Congress with the support of the national Department of Public Works, barely nine years after SAIA's post-Democracy readmission to the UIA.

The Congress theme is ARCHITECTURE OTHERWHERE, and the intention is to acknowledge the built environment as a major force that can be harnessed towards a better life for all.

In support of this goal, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu has endorsed UIA2014 and generously agreed to become the patron of the Congress.

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### **UIA 2014 Durban**

UIA 2014 Durban is a unique and highly relevant opportunity for South Africa to showcase the development of its built environment in the twenty years since democracy.

Against the backdrop of a diverse and multi-layered city, UIA 2014 Durban invites practitioners, academics, designers, students, thought leaders, activists, artists and communities from all disciplines involved with city making to contribute to a unique debate on architecture, human settlements and the evolution of cities.

The event is intended to be a truly inclusive event bringing together different role players to explore how architects play a pivotal role in addressing social and environmental developments through the Congress sub-themes of Resilience, Ecology and Values.

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## **CONGRESS THEMES**

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### **Congress theme**

Other Thinking | Other Regions | Other Practice | Other Disciplines | Other Communities

UIA 2014 Durban will be unique. The hosting of the congress in South Africa is meaningful at this stage in the country's development when the realization that the spatial realities of the country and its cities need to be closely interrogated in light of values that are key in the post-Apartheid era. The congress will also have significant relevance globally at a time when "business as usual" is being questioned.

ARCHITECTURE OTHERWHERE will celebrate diversity by exploring other communities, other regions, other disciplines, and other ways of thinking about the practice and teaching of architecture.

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### **Sub-themes**

#### **Resilience**

The first UIA 2014 sub-theme is RESILIENCE, which is to be explored through several focus areas: EMERGENCE, POVERTY ALLEVIATION, SPATIAL and GEO-POLITICAL ECONOMIES. Resilience is defined as life strategies developed by communities as well as critical interventions that contribute to poverty alleviation. Concepts of resilience also emphasise the important role of government and government investment towards the re-configuring of the spatial economy to the benefit of all. While some of these subjects will delve into South African problems and solutions, their significance finds voice within all forms of architecture and development practice globally.

This sub-theme allows for inter-disciplinary debates on the roles of all space and place makers in spatial transformation, with an understanding that innovation exists at the interface of different disciplines. A specific focus area will be SUSTAINABLE HUMAN(E) SETTLEMENTS: social and technical considerations in the development of new visions for practice in the built environment.

## **Ecology**

ECOLOGY encompasses a number of focus areas, which include: TIME, EVOLUTION, SYSTEMS, PROCESSES and ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. This sub-theme acknowledges the role of the architect in a bigger, interlinked, and systemic network – thus encouraging a long-term design perspective. The consideration of the 4th – temporal – dimension of TIME as part and parcel of the design and decision-making process is crucial to the future practice of architecture. Evolution is intrinsically linked to the concept of time as it considers processes of architectural production which acknowledge people and place – and aims to intervene in the built environment by understanding the built environment as an ecosystem requiring sensitivity to help maintain existing systems in relative states of balance.

This sub-theme will allow for a focus on SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY-EFFICIENT DESIGN and GREEN BUILDING. It also allows for a focus area on sustainable architecture under conditions of change and concepts of Open Building.

## **Values**

VALUES is the third and final sub-theme. Here, focus areas include OTHER notions of ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE and EDUCATION. UIA 2014 will explore African practices, related to global practices, as a way to address highly specific developmental problems, question traditional in relation to novel values, establish new relationships to a living planet, and, most importantly, establish a sense of respect through diversity and humility. In addition UIA 2014 intends to organize collaborative interactive education platforms for communities and professionals.

These platforms are meant to re-assess professional values, develop methods and techniques for professional engagement, and interrogate the ethics associated with architectural and design practice. There will also be a particular focus on engaging with INFORMALITY AND URBAN POVERTY THROUGH DESIGN EDUCATION AND PRACTICE.

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# **THE WORLD CUP OF ARCHITECTURE IS COMING TO DURBAN!**

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This is an incredibly exciting time for architectural education and it is, in general, a special time for South Africa in terms of cities, space and design. This 20<sup>th</sup> year of democracy is also the year of Cape Town World Design Capital, a celebration of 20 years of Design Indaba and numerous other small and large events looking into spatial transformation in South Africa. Great synergies are being discovered between the various programmes – and great conversations are being initiated between South Africa`s major cities.

This is a unique opportunity for architectural students from around the world to present their own perspectives on the failures and successes of current practices in architectural education and to contribute to charting a new course forward.

This is a unique opportunity for architectural students from around Africa to showcase the work being done in their countries to improve the local ECOLOGY.

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## STUDENT PROGRAMME AT UIA 2014 DURBAN

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This year's National Student Congress will be an integral part of UIA 2014 Durban. The Congress has previously drawn audiences of up to 1000 students from around the country and rotates between the South African schools of architecture who host it yearly.

In 2014, the Student Congress becomes a part of the UIA 2014 Congress while maintaining its own identity and being managed by a Student Steering Committee that is constituted of students drawn from the two Durban architecture schools.

The student programme takes in the three sub-themes of the congress and expresses them in uniquely student centred events running over the three conference days. The objective of the UIA 2014 Durban Student Programme is to provide a platform for students from around the world to come together and to share their stories, voice their opinions and learn from each OTHER in a less formal but equally as informative atmosphere against the backdrop of a uniquely South African city. The student activities also provide opportunity for students to engage with academics and professionals from the built environment both formally and informally in the hopes of encouraging inspiring mentorships.

**We invite you...**

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### TO SHOWCASE YOUR COUNTRY'S ECOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS - A UIA 2014 DURBAN STUDENTS / PECHA KUCHA COLLABORATION

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Countries around the world have a 'secret' wealth of knowledge in ecological innovation in sustainable building technologies and ecological systems, both hi-tech and low-tech, which quietly improves the lives of people and their environment in rural and urban settings.

Drawing on the theme of ECOLOGICAL INNOVATION participants are invited to showcase the advances being made in the research and application of sustainable building practice, students are to present a PECHA KUCHA presentation of innovative, contemporary sustainable practices as well as those traditional and low-tech building technologies used in their countries to improve local urban and rural ECOLOGY. These may be spatial innovations as much as they are conventionally 'green' approaches to design in the built environment. The objective is to expose the 'secret' wealth of knowledge of building technologies from hand-made to hi-tech that exist across the African continent.

#### **The Pecha Kucha Story**

The first *Pecha Kucha Night* was held in Tokyo in February, 2003 and used a simple, and very graphic presentation style where designers could share their unique perspectives on common issues and in a fast-paced and painless style for speaker and audience alike. The 20 x 20 format sees speakers present 20 images for 20 seconds each with a total of 6 minutes and 40 seconds and has proven particularly powerful amongst architects who naturally tend to lengthy discussions of..everything. Good Pecha Kucha presentations uncover the unexpected, tell great stories, briefly,

concisely and powerfully. Like an “elevator pitch”, there is no other chance, no “next slide” or “go back one, please” at a Pecha Kucha event. Pecha Kucha Durban is a non-profit and informal forum in which great ideas can be shared. Find more information about Pecha Kucha at [www.pecha-kucha.org/night/durban](http://www.pecha-kucha.org/night/durban), or email [info@pechakucha-durban.co.za](mailto:info@pechakucha-durban.co.za).

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## BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

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- The opportunity to expose work done either by yourself or by others in your country to an international audience.
- Association with a recognized global event with a track record of 75 years
- Inclusion in the official UIA 2014 Congress programme
- Offer students a platform to showcase the advances being made in the research and application of sustainable building practices throughout the world, with a focus on Africa.
- Create international awareness and encourage the creation of African-led sustainable building networks.

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## APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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### APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS OF ARCHITECTURE AND ALLIED DISCIPLINES

#### Submission guidelines and format

Students are to submit a proposed presentation consisting of 20 slides and 1 accompanying word document of no more than 750 words. The final presenters will be selected from these submissions and announced on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014. Entries must be submitted in English - presentations will be conducted in English only.

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## PRESENTATION PROPOSAL DEADLINE:

# Monday 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2014

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- Submissions must be completed and submitted in electronic format to:
- Emails must use the subject: UIA SSC – PECHA KUCHA
- Save your PDF file using the following protocol: UIASSC\_Pecha Kucha\_(Your Presentation Title)
- **Submissions must be completed and submitted in electronic format to: [Phumelelemkhize@uia2014durban.org](mailto:Phumelelemkhize@uia2014durban.org)**
- You will receive a confirmation email once the submission is received.

### Key Dates

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June** - Deadline for submission of proposals

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June** - Final presenters announced

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July** - Final presentations to be submitted

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August** - UIA Student Pecha Kucha at the ICC, Durban. The exact date will be announced on the interactive

For further information as well as Congress updates, visit the UIA2014 Durban homepage at <http://www.uia2014durban.org>

