



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

## UIA 2014 DURBAN GENERAL REPORTER (GR) FINAL REPORT SUMMARY\_September 2014

From the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2014 Durban hosted the International Union of Architects Congress. UIA 2014 Durban received over 4000 delegates from over 100 countries. Durban, and its people, created the most amazing backdrop to the event with inspirational city activation projects.

ARCHITECTURE OTHERWHERE has been interpreted, re-interpreted, adopted and adapted; it has triggered people's imagination and has translated into OTHERthinking and OTHERpractice. It has generated many responses and influenced our vocabulary and how we look at OTHERplaces and OTHERcommunities. OTHERWHERE became an invitation, not only to invent new words, but also encouraged us to invent a new way to engage in meaningful professional conversations.

As General Reporter, I aimed to reflect the thinking and intentions of the Scientific Committee – a group of people that have inspired and offered a sense of direction for the event. I have been collaborating closely with, and constantly advised by, the core members of the committee: Hilton Judin, Mokena Makeka and Mphethi Morojele. This core committee was supported by the larger Scientific Committee which had well-known South African practitioners/academics as well as UIA-appointed representatives from the 5 UIA world regions.

The Congress sub-themes were RESILIENCE ECOLOGY VALUES (Education/Practice). The main programme provided inspiration for the development of the Congress themes in a very deliberate manner through the statements by the South African hosts and the selection of keynote speakers. The keynote panel debates were intended to offer reflections on informal markets, public space and African practice.

The Congress has seen the establishment of partnerships which enriched the programme and added relevance and depth to the content – as did an intensive parallel programme of presentations, meetings and workshops that contributed to the debates and added value to the event. We planned for approximately 400 presentations in 38 venues – including a dedicated Student Programme. The ambitious programme, as envisioned, was about 85% achieved.

We received over 500 abstract submissions, from 61 countries. 300 were accepted for publication in the abstract book and for presentation and 200 full papers are published in the proceedings. This process was supported by an international panel of 87 reviewers. All of these documents are available for download from the website.

We managed over 500 registrations from 51 countries for the UIA 2014 Durban International Student Competition – 165 entries were adjudicated by an international jury panel. The competition was instrumental to furthering the intentions of the Congress and the 15 shortlisted entries were exhibited at the event.

The Scientific Committee also managed the UIA 2014 Durban Call for South African Practice Participation, with the support of a SAIA-appointed assistant. In the First Call for Practices, 65 poster entries were received which were printed on A1 banners and exhibited at the Durban Exhibition Centre.



**UIA 2014 Durban:** Patron - Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu

**Organisation Committee:** Hassan Asmal (President) Karen Eicker (Commissary General) Amira Osman (General Reporter)  
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The submissions were also printed in 500 books which were on sale at the UIA 2014 Durban Congress Book Lounge. A Second Call for Practice Participation resulted in 4 presentations given by South African architects focusing on challenges that architects encounter in practice.

The Scientific Committee also produced a number of digital and printed publications: the Official Congress Programme Book, the Abstract Book, the Proceedings Book, the Special Publications Book, the Student Competition Book and the Practice Posters Book.

The feedback on UIA 2014 Durban has been incredibly positive and it is obvious that the approach and outcomes have resonated with the delegates and the public, with many believing that UIA 2014 Durban has set a new precedent for UIA Congresses going forward.

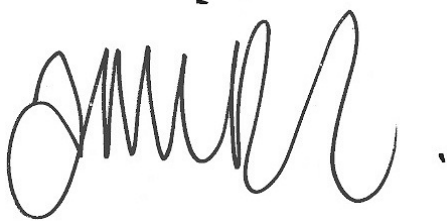
I have no doubt that the legacy of UIA 2014 will live on... and that OTHERWHERE will make its way into our offices, design studios, university campuses and building sites – in our quest to transform thinking, teaching and practice.

## UIA 2014 Durban has been an “otherwhere” experience

The large scale of the event – and specifically the diversity, complexity and extent of the scientific committee programme – meant that it required a large and dedicated team in order to cover every aspect that would lead to its success. The whole team, without exception, in the General Reporter’s opinion, successfully, professionally and with great coordination, managed to deliver a Congress of high quality and that has been highly acknowledged.

## A call for a continued conversation

A detailed report on process has been prepared separately for the next UIA Congress Organisers in the hope that this is not only a start of a conversation with regards to future Congress Organisation and management, but also with regards to the many concepts, values and methods – in architectural education and practice – suggested by the Congress themes and in the comprehensive set of Congress Publications.



Prof. Amira Osman

UIA 2014 Durban, General Reporter  
Associate Professor, University of Johannesburg



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