

International Union of Architects (UIA) Congress, Durban, 4-7 August 2014

The UIA 2014 Congress witnessed the historic joint working between Architects and Planners in South Africa.

The sessions hosted by the South African Planning Institute in line with the Congress theme of "Otherwhere" and in line with the various key note talks and discussions at the Congress emphasized the importance of integrated approaches to a people-based and ecologically centered built environment.

"Otherwhere" can be thought of as other ways, new ways, of thinking and designing buildings in the context of the places they are located in and activating public spaces and inclusive place making.

In particular there is a need for Architects, Planners, transport and civil engineers to jointly confront the urgent need to set the SA built environment on a new spatially efficient and equitable trajectory.

This means that the professions jointly have to work with Government in transforming public spending approaches and activating more thoughtful and innovative practice.

A commitment was made by SAPI and the South African Institute of Architects to pursue new forms of collaborative practice and to address the regulatory framework for the built environment professions.

SAPI wishes to congratulate the 2014 UIA organizing committee and SA architects for hosting a successful, historic and inspiring international learning event which will certainly leave a lasting legacy.

SAPI looks forward to taking forward the learning and collaboration into Planning Africa 2014 where the theme of "Making Great Places" will be explored further elaborated in Durban, from 19-22 October 2014.

SAPI President
Yusuf Patel
