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KZNSA NEWS

KZNSA AWARDS CEREMONY

At a function held at KZNSA Gallery on Thursday, 5th November, seven KZNSA Special Mentions and five KZNSA Awards for Architecture were conferred by KZNSA-President Ruben Reddy for buildings and projects completed during 2013 and 2014. Readers are referred to Journal issue 2/2015 for details of the various winning projects.

KZNSA AWARDS FOR ARCHITECTURE



MAKING HISTORY

Design Workshop submitted three projects and walked off with three KZNSA Awards for Architecture! The respective certificates for the houses at La Lucia and Vilanculos and for LIV Village at Tongaat were received by Mark Horner, Anna Goldman, Pauline Hayward and Carina Cloete.



An Award for Architecture went to the new Southern Depot for eThekweni Water & Sanitation at Prospecton by eThekweni City Architects in association with Robert Johnson Architect & Associates and Lees & Short Associated Architects. With KZNSA-President Ruben Reddy are Gary Short, Nina Saunders representing City Architects, and Robert Johnson.



On receiving his Award for Architecture, in his acceptance speech, Robert Brusse stressed the importance of his professional collaborators in the restoration of Government House, Pietermaritzburg.

KZNSA SPECIAL MENTIONS



eThekweni City Architects' Department was honoured with a Special Mention for the 2014 UIA Spatial Legacy Projects and Urban Activation Initiatives, the UIA Public Art and Installations, and the Accessible Introduction to the Architecture of Durban. In accepting the certificate for these 'works of social importance' Acting Deputy Head: Architecture, Nina Saunders, called up all contributors to the three projects present: Jonathan Edkins, Dean Ramlal, Angela Baker, Rodney Choromanski, Bhavisha Naidoo, Mary-Anne North, Helen Reeves, Anna Goldman, Michael Brunner, Nina Saunders, Gabriella Peppas, Shannon Moffett, Janina Masojada, Garth Walker, Chantal Pieterse, Walter Peters, Joanne Hayes, Jenny McGee, Rodney Harber, and KZNSA-President Ruben Reddy.



A Special Mention for the Engineering Training Centre at Springfield went to eThekweni City Architects in association with Michael Watts Architects. From left: Nina Saunders representing City Architects, KZNSA-President Ruben Reddy, Tiffany Murray and Michael Watts.



Ocean Architects received a Special Mention for Qalakahle Early Childhood Development Centre at Mansel Market, the certificate of which was accepted by Gareth Knox and Michelle Quarmby.

Photographs by Roy Reed



An elated Amanda Lead clutching the certificate of Special Mention for her extensions to Manor Gardens Primary School.



Monique Gillespie accepted the Special Mention for Metier head office, Pinetown, together with Siphon Kula and Johan Klaasens of GCP Projects.



A beaming John Smillie accepted the Special Mention for the house he designed at Zinkwazi.

TRAINING FOR GLOBAL, CITY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITIES

The Department of Architecture at the Durban University of Technology is proud to contribute to the KZNSA Journal, showcasing a variety of collaborative projects and allowing local architects an insight into the operations of the Department. We are currently part of the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, which offers a plethora of Engineering qualifications, as well as Built Environment focussed programmes such as Architectural Technology, Town Planning and Construction Management and Quantity Surveying. Hopefully this journal edition assists in laying out some of the scope of our work, presenting our students and staff as relevant, competent and real.

As a merged Department, the current Department of Architecture combined two different philosophies and approaches which have more recently been cemented in a Departmental working vision: we aim to be an internationally credible department that trains accountable professionals in a broad and inclusive manner for contemporary and future demands.

Furthermore, given the immensely challenged background that many of our students come from, it is important that we strive to empower independent thinking students for an ethical and contemporary professional life, leading to a department that strives towards an understanding of the international built environment, nurturing what we would eventually like to be world class architectural practitioners. This 'real' approach is one which forms a thread throughout teaching and learning from first year through to B.Tech, as well as our fledgling Master of the Built Environment programme in which our students, many of them in practice, engage with ideas in a critical and meaningful fashion which feed into their local communities, and contribute to the formation of the built environment at multiple levels.

Globally, we have begun an internationalisation project, and are involved primarily with Hochschule Koblenz, Germany, and Gdańsk University of Technology, Poland, having sent two students and two staff members to participate in the student (and staff) workshop in June 2015, addressing public space, public realm and public participation. This was an indirect spin-off from an earlier project in which students participated in a 'virtual studio' with students from Koblenz, working on a project on a site at the confluence of the Rhine and the Mosel Rivers. We have an active link with Sapienza, Rome, through the Urban Futures Centre based within the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment.

At a city level, our B.Tech studio engaged with German students in an intensive workshop in March 2015, which, together with members of the Urban Futures Centre situated within the Faculty, interrogated the spaces in an around the proposed dig out port precinct.

At a neighbourhood (town) level, our students and staff engaged with the complexity of urban space around DUT in a two week vertical studio in February 2015. This was for some, extended into collaboration with the Urban Futures Centre and its Blue Skies project exposing the student participants to urban dynamics and the critical role that appropriate planning plays in dense inner city space.

At a community (village) level, students and staff participated in the Alliance Française project (City without walls) interrogating the means by which walls can practically be removed in order to deconstruct the defensive spaces that we create in Durban.

Many of these projects are presented in the following pages.

Currently we offer a three year National Diploma: Architectural Technology, which can be followed up by a Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) Architectural Technology, allowing graduates to register, once candidacy is complete, as Senior Architectural Technologists. The National Diploma graduate, upon completion of candidacy, is able to register with SACAP as a Professional Architectural Technologist. As noted earlier, we have a fledgling Master of the Built Environment (MBE) programme, a research Master's degree focussing on the Built Environment.

In 2017 we hope to be commencing the first year of the new degree programme, the Bachelor of the Built Environment (B.BE). This means that the first year of the diploma programme should be phased out in 2016 and the subsequent years from thence. Opportunities to complete the diploma will be limited, thus we urge students who are in industry and who have not completed their studies as yet to contact the Department in order to establish these timelines and the options open to them.

Our current staff profile is actively engaged in practice and research. Some of this practice work is presented in this edition. Our current general areas of research as staff are architectural pedagogies, urbanism, heritage and the historic built environment, social sustainability in the historic built environment, spatial qualities and character, and environmental sustainability. Two of our staff members are also engaged with an international collaborative book project on public participation in the urban realm, loosely known as the 'Agora Project'. This is driven by Gdańsk University of Technology and is hoped to be released in early 2016.

We hope that you find the information in the following pages of interest, and add insight as to the variety of projects with which we are involved apart from the quotidian duties of teaching and learning.

Debbie Whelan, Guest Editor with Louis du Plessis

Dr Whelan is Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Architecture, Durban University of Technology



Members of the full-time DUT Architecture teaching staff. Sitting, from left, Louis du Plessis (Deputy Head of Department), Debbie Whelan (Head of Department) and Tsidi Moahloli; standing, from left, Jacques Theron, Kamal Orié, Paulo da Costa and Yashaen Luckan. Om Moodley was unavailable.

DUT MASTER PLAN FOR INTEGRATION AND CONNECTIVITY

Len Rosenberg

The Durban University of Technology (DUT) was born from the merger, in 2002, of two historically racially exclusive Technikons.

Technikon Natal for white and M Sultan Technikon for Indian students, which had developed adjacently, separated by a fence, with a building stock consisting of a combination of old schools, block of flats, houses and new multi-storey buildings built from the 1950s to 1990s. The disparate building stock with various architectural expressions, a lack of legibility and disconnectedness are key characteristics of the current campuses.

DUT is a multi-campus university consisting of 5 sites in Durban and two in Pietermaritzburg. The three main campuses in Durban, namely the Steve Biko, Ritson and ML Sultan campuses are located on the edge of the inner city at the base of the Berea, adjacent to Warwick Junction the major intermodal transport hub of Durban.

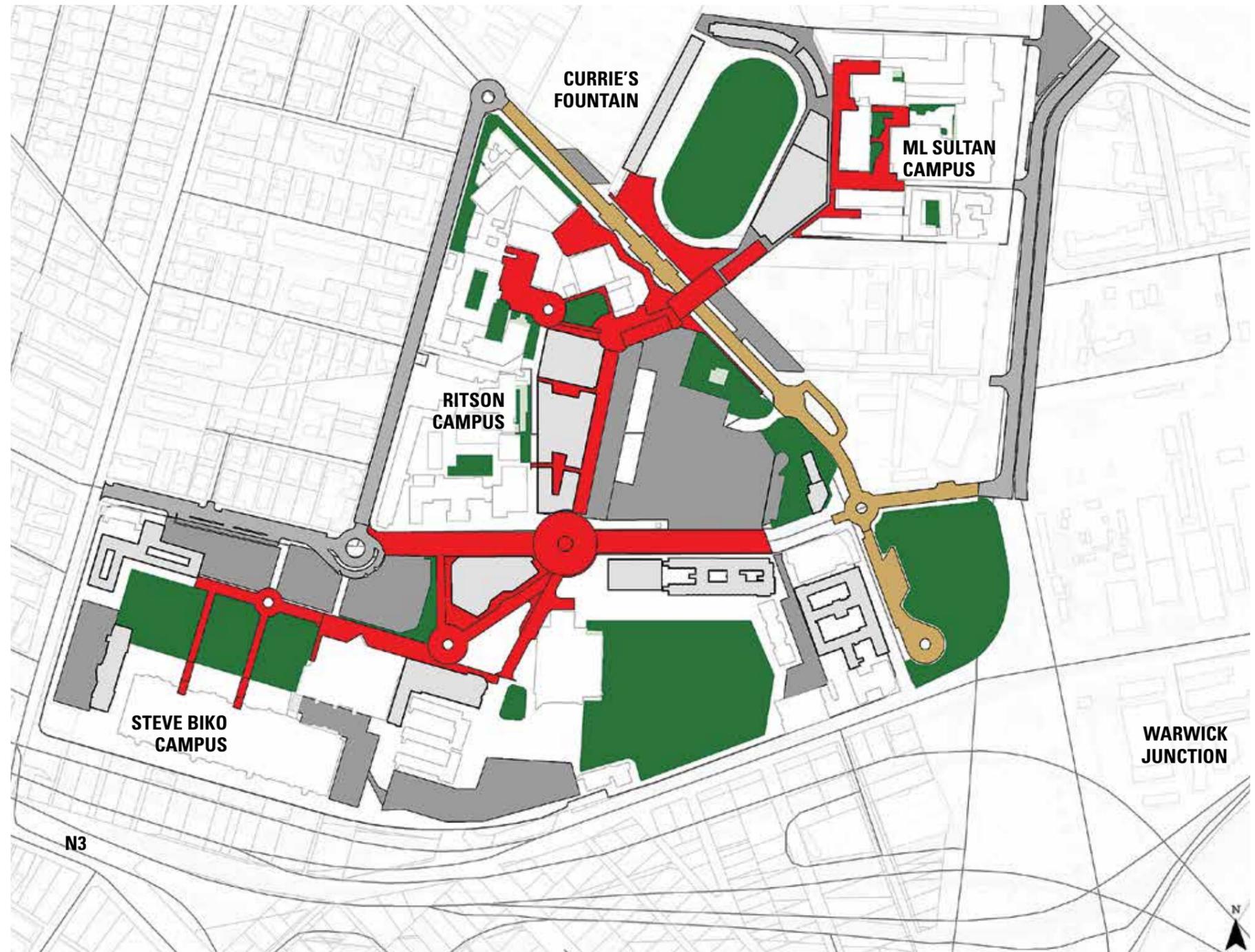
The campus master plan provides a framework for the incremental spatial development of the campuses that addresses the following key issues:

- Integration and connectivity between historically spatially divided campuses, including Currie's Fountain sports ground
- Future growth
- Consolidation of campuses to improve efficiency
- Student Centred learning environment
- Green Campus
- Identity

Key elements of the master plan include:

- Integration of Currie's Fountain sports ground, which is owned by the City and leased to the Currie's Fountain Sports Development Centre (CFSDC). The proposed Sports Development Centre includes, a 'Workers' Square', a museum and heritage route that commemorates and celebrates the natural, political and sports heritage of the site and the area.
- Future building developments would be clustered along a pedestrian concourse to link ML Sultan campus via the Sports Development Centre to Ritson and Steve Biko campuses.
- A consolidated administration building freeing up space for the academic sector for growth on ML Sultan campus.
- Re-organisation of vehicular and public transport and clustering of semi-public facilities on a pedestrian boulevard on Steve Biko Road.
- Integration with Warwick Junction urban fabric.

Len Rosenberg is Manager, Physical Planning, DUT.
Editor



DUT Master Plan for Integration and Connectivity



The proposed Workers' Square linking Currie's Fountain Sports Development Centre and Ritson Campus



Steve Biko Boulevard proposed as the major east-west pedestrian artery

CITY WITHOUT WALLS:

A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROJECT

Yashaen Luckan

The project was initiated by the collaborative efforts of the DUT Urban Futures Centre and the CSIR, which focussed around the concept of 'city without walls' as a humanistic response to safety and security.

The research led to the identification of a prominent site at the corner of Lilian Ngoyi (Wundermere) Road and Sutton Crescent, which is occupied by the Alliance Française.

The building accommodates a café and library at the ground floor and training rooms on the first floor. Although this corner site enjoys a high level of visual exposure, visual permeability and interaction between street and the site is rendered impossible by a hard, obscure edge defined by a solid brick boundary wall. (Fig A)

Conceptual approach (Fig B)

Redefinition of the wall: the existing building is regarded as a wall in itself. Visual permeability and interaction with the street were regarded as mechanisms for safety and security – passive surveillance. Walls as screens and enclosure were considered only where necessary, either to form a use-space such as the stage, or to define edges or planes for giving direction as in the transitional space between the forecourt and the inner court.

Client: Alliance Française, Durban
Research and development: CSIR (Dr Tinus Kruger); DUT, Urban Futures Centre (Prof Monique Marks and Olabode (Emmanuel) Odunmakinde in collaboration with Chris Overall) & Blue Security
Participating students: Cecil Khumalo, Nqobile Mthembu, Njabulo Mbuyazi, Nondumiso Mbatha & Bonga Khawula.



Fig A

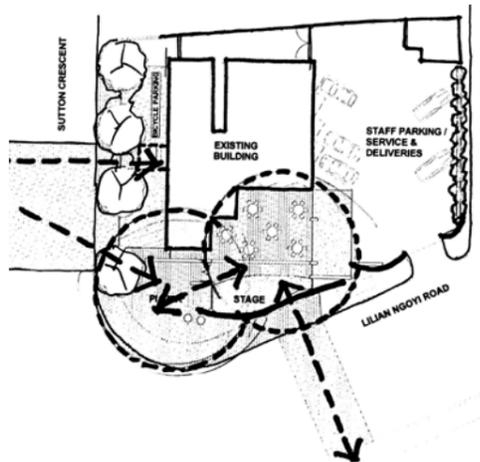


Fig B

The site had to acknowledge Sutton Park and relate to it, while undesirable noise from the street had to be shielded from the inner court, which serves as the outdoor café and performance arena.

Design development

The design developed through collaborative think-tanks between DUT, the CSIR and the Alliance Française, with input on surveillance and active security from Blue Security and Mr Chris Overall. The discussions with the client resulted in the development of a concept. (Fig D) This, however, merely changed the material sense of the wall – it remained a wall, nevertheless.

There is now a generally acceptable plan and perspective. (Figs C & E) The sculptural enclosure defines the stage area and screens noise while allowing light and visual permeability between the vertical concrete 'ribs'. Furthermore, and very importantly, sensitivity to human scale and the privacy gradient are better achieved. Hence, an exclusive, hostile space can be transformed into an interactive, yet subtly defensible place for human socio-cultural activity. This is work in process, nearing finalisation through an iterative, collaborative design process.

Yashaen Luckan facilitated this Third Year design studio project. *Editor*

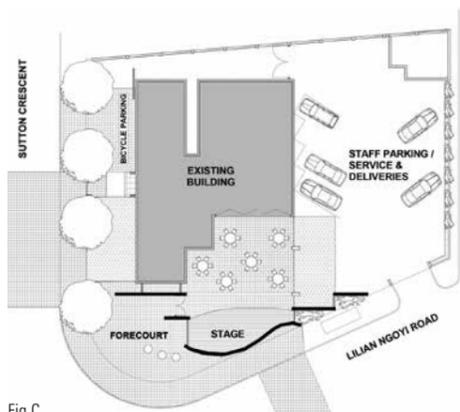


Fig C

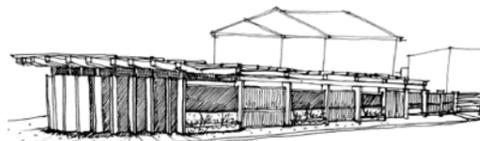


Fig D

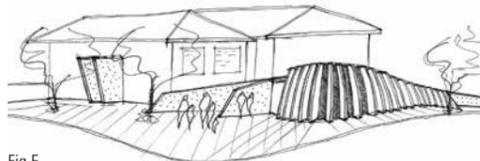


Fig E

THE THIRD YEAR MAJOR INTEGRATED PROJECT

The third year integrated project is the culmination of the three years of the Diploma course, and is, in effect, a mini-dissertation which sutures the full curriculum of the year into a single project.

The project presents the opportunity for the students to apply theoretical understanding of 'place' in order to engage in a design project that relates to an area of interest in architecture and urbanism. The Students' broader aspects of sustainability were to be considered: social, economic and environmental. Hence, the project would necessarily be informed by research and analysis of theory, context and precedent. Further, students were required to write a motivation for their preferred project, define the criteria for site selection and motivate for a particular site, establish the brief and accommodation schedule and produce a design for the project and a variety of detailed technical documentation and specifications associated with the other integrated subjects. This approach is considered important to mitigate the tendency by students to

consider subject offerings independently, rather than as interrelated components of any single design.

The scale and type of projects varied from community centres to art galleries to retirement villages, demonstrating an increasing social conscience amongst the student body as well as a firm engagement with place and their individual positions in a contemporary South Africa - ultimately feeding into the departmental imperative of developing ethical and independent thinking.

Using Rashin Ahmed's 'Self-sustainable shelter' project as an example of the process, the thinking moved from conceptual consideration and specific design generators (Fig 1) to considering the options intrinsic in making integrated design decisions exploring the tectonics (Figs 2 and 3), and developing the fully resolved design integrating the critical elements of landscaping and building services (Figs 4 and 5), which were then turned into formal construction and studio drawings.

Staffing: Principles of Architectural Design 3 - Yashaen Luckan | Construction and Detailing 3 - Paulo da Costa | Studio Work 3 - Louis du Plessis
Building Services 3 - Paulo da Costa | Landscaping 3 - Prof. Debbie Whelan



Fig 1

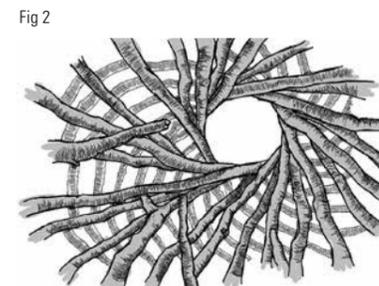


Fig 2



Fig 3

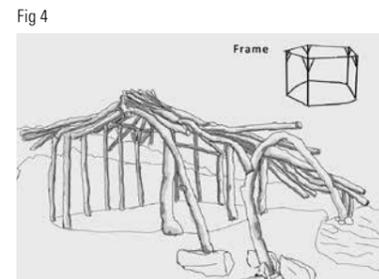


Fig 4

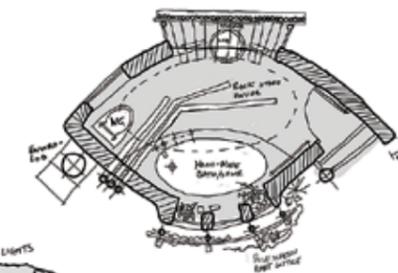
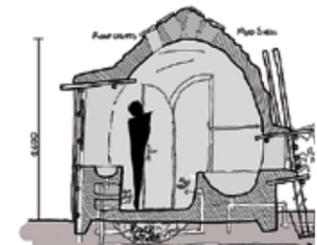
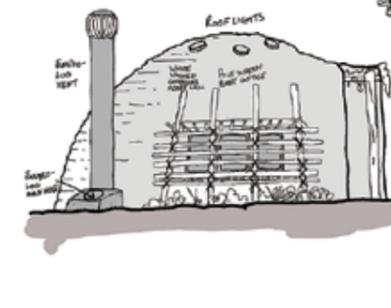


Fig 5



STAFF CONSULTANCIES:

A HOUSE TO RETIRE IN - FOREST HILLS, DURBAN, KZN

Paulo Luis C da Costa

The brief was to design a house for a couple nearing retirement on a site located near the Krantzklouf Nature Reserve overlooking a meadow, on the remainder of the client's sub-divided property.

The property, in its original standing, contained a nondescript single storey house (which was to be passed down to the family), a swimming pool and a deteriorated tennis court positioned at the bottom-most (east-end) part of the site that ultimately made way for the new build.

The client wanted a practical, maintenance-conscious house that would harmonise with its environment and perform well to the microclimate through the implementation of passive design strategies as they relate to natural lighting, natural ventilation and thermal comfort, specifically.

In terms of the building programme, the building comprises two separate zones or 'entities': the family realm* (ground floor) which consists of private and common spaces for visiting family members and

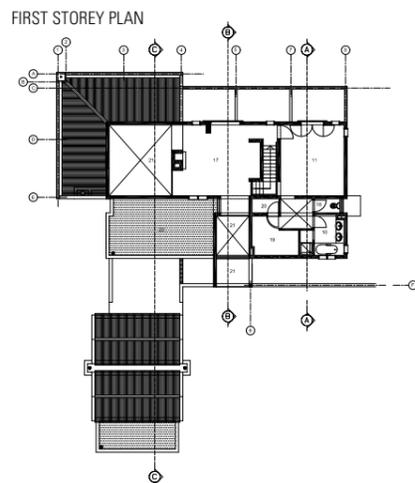
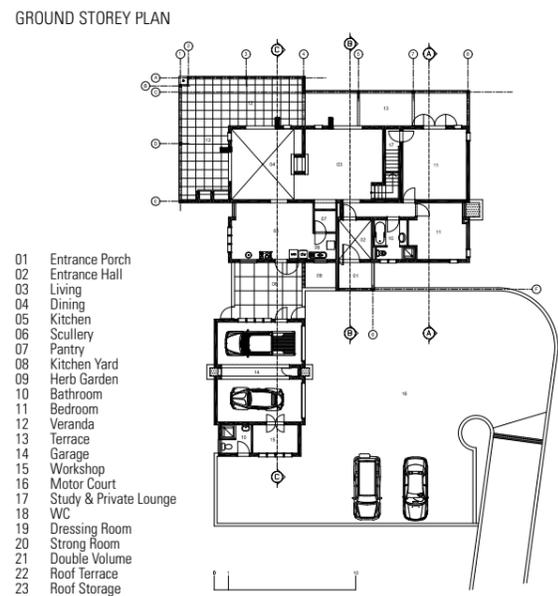
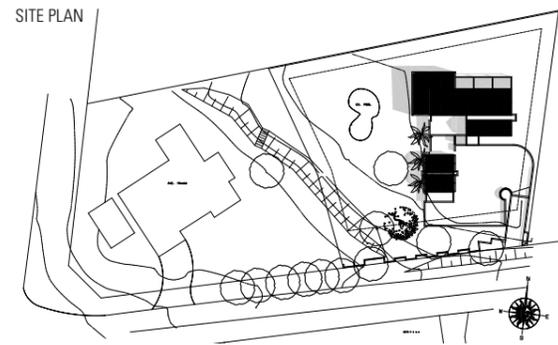
friends, and the couple's realm* (first floor), the restricted part of the house.

Further, the building programme is translated into a *Building Complex**. Although not completely manifesting "the actual social facts of the situation", recognition and application lead to the articulation of the building's resultant scale and proportions.

The elongated plan shape of the main building is orientated in the east-west direction achieving optimum results in terms of aspect and prospect. Materials were chosen for their functional and practical purposes embracing their characteristics associated with environmental, maintenance and aesthetic values in terms of colour, texture and appropriateness to context.

Paulo da Costa is a Senior Lecturer with the DUT Department of Architecture. *Editor*

* Reference is made to Christopher Alexander's A Pattern Language, pattern numbers 75, 95 and 136 in particular.



AN ARCHITECTURAL INTERVENTION: REDEFINING LOST SPACE SEAVIEW, DURBAN SOUTH

Yashaen Luckan

The client required high quality office space while avoiding the disruption of business operations, or the loss of parking bays during the construction phase.

The architectural character of the building had to provide a fresh aesthetic to a rather uninspiring industrial built environment (Fig 1). The architecture had to reflect the dynamic and energetic nature of the company.

Given the density of the existing structures and parking on site, much thought had to be given to the allocation of space to build, while allowing business to operate as usual – additions or alterations

Client: MG Electrical
Architects: Kuppam Architectural Designs in collaboration with Yashaen Luckan Architect

were not options. This led to the identification of 'lost' or 'wasted' space as the only viable place for development (Fig 2). This challenge would, however, initiate creativity in design and in the programming of the building. The reduction of wet trades and the incorporation of lightweight framed steel construction made sense (Fig 3). The tectonic architectural form developed 'inside-out' as an incidental outcome of place-making, technology, functionality and identity (Fig 4 and 5).

Yashaen Luckan is a Lecturer in Architecture at DUT and incumbent President of the South African Council for the Architectural Profession. *Editor*.



Fig 1: The existing streetscape



Fig 2: The site within a literal hairpin bend at the confluence of Harden Ave and Umhlatuzana Rd, Seaview



Fig 3: The steel-framed structure



Fig 4: Detail of the entrance landmark



Fig 5: The completed building

ASPECTS OF CULTURAL AND CLIMATE-SENSITIVE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS:

GERMAN - SOUTH AFRICAN WORKSHOP, DUT, DURBAN, MARCH 2015

Dagmar Eisermann

The collaborative Koblenz-Durban Studio in March 2015 was prefaced by a 'Virtual Studio' which took place from October 2014 until January 2015. This studio was intended as an online interface, in which students at DUT could participate in real time with students at Hochschule Koblenz. This resulted in a project in which three DUT students, Sensikile Mlambo, Lulama Manzana and Mlungisi Nyathi collaborated with an International Studio in Germany, working on a project which was sited at the confluence of the Rhine and Mosel Rivers. Skype sessions with their counterparts in Europe were held on a regular basis, forming the collaborative critique, with lecturer Tsidi Moahloli from the Department facilitating. At the final presentation, the DUT Department of Architecture was represented in Koblenz by Tsidi Moahloli, who presented our students' work as well as participated in the critique sessions with the International Studio.

Debbie Whelan, Head of Architecture, DUT.

The Durban Harbour interface project was carried out during March 2015, simultaneously by 4th Year students of DUT directed by Jacques Theron, and of Koblenz University of Applied Sciences by Dagmar Eisermann.

The field trip and workshop were one of the most profitable events for the Koblenz students of this year, and opened up unprecedented views and insights in cultural- and climate-sensitive design.

We asked the students how a new design for the environment around the construction area of the proposed future new excavated harbour or 'dig out port' should look. The new harbour is proposed to emerge through the complete excavation of the former airport site in southern Durban near the Indian Ocean, with the inlet located in the coastal industrial zone. The extensive automotive industry severely impacts on the residential area of Isipingo and on the mouth of the Isipingo River with its mangroves and long sandy beaches.

The Koblenz students commenced the project with an introductory tour of inspection of selected exemplary buildings in South Africa. They compared cities, townships and waterfront designs in the two large metropolises of Cape Town and Durban and, based on these experiences and findings, participated at DUT in the one-week workshop 'Durban harbour interface'.

The workshop was organised and managed by Jacques Theron (of DUT) with the support of architect and lecturer Dirk Schnitzler (of Bonn, Germany) and in collaboration with myself.

Thanks to Jacques, the 30 students worked intensively in mixed teams, analysed the site area and developed various design approaches, like bundling commercial and industrial facilities along the highway north of the harbour and, by contrast, sought to enhance the residential and recreational environments south of the harbour inlet.

Many deficiencies were identified: pollution (air and water), soil contamination, insecurity and disorientation by unclear road directions, dead ends, no artificial lighting, a lack of identity, a loss of amenity in public spaces, a characteristically low building culture and more. In response the students proposed the following options: a need for common areas for informal meetings in the open; a need for public facilities for everyday services, hygiene and healthy eating; and a need for recreational facilities such as nature and adventure walks, and opportunities for informal trading.

Thanks to the relaxed yet expert input by Jacques, the staff at DUT and the intensive and creative workshop discussions, in the course of further engagement the Koblenz students established subtle and sensitive design criteria for socially sustainable architectural projects, of which four selected submissions will serve to demonstrate.

We are grateful to Jacques, the staff and departmental head Debbie Whelan, Dean Dr T Andrews, and most emphatically DAAD, German Academic Exchange Service, for the support in this design seminar within the PROMOS programme. Finally, I want to express my hope that South African and German students will by way of this documentation be encouraged to spend a semester abroad, in order to prepare them for the manifold challenges which architects will need to face in the future.

Dagmar Eisermann is an architect and Professor for Principles of Design and Design in the Department of Architecture, Koblenz University of Applied Sciences. *Editor*

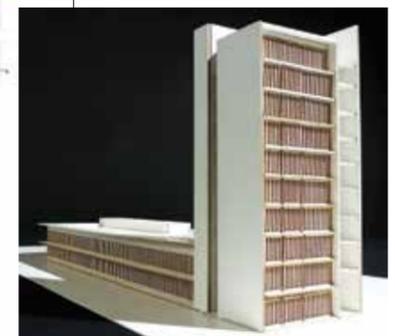
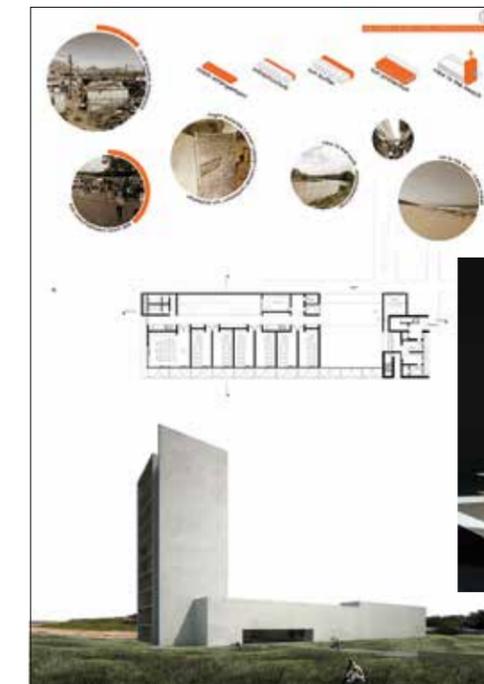
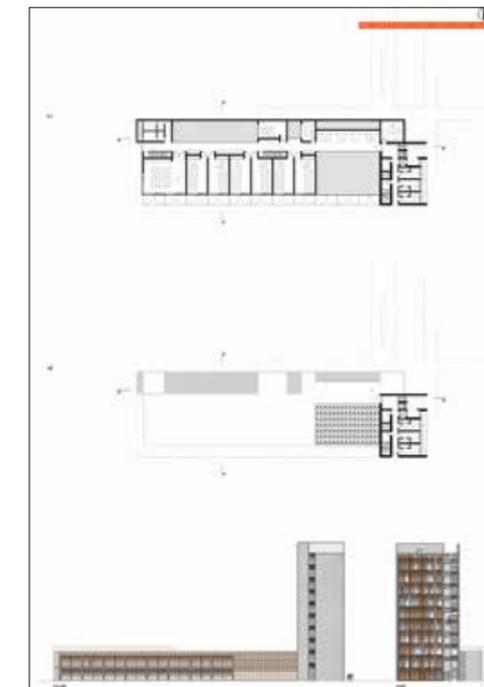
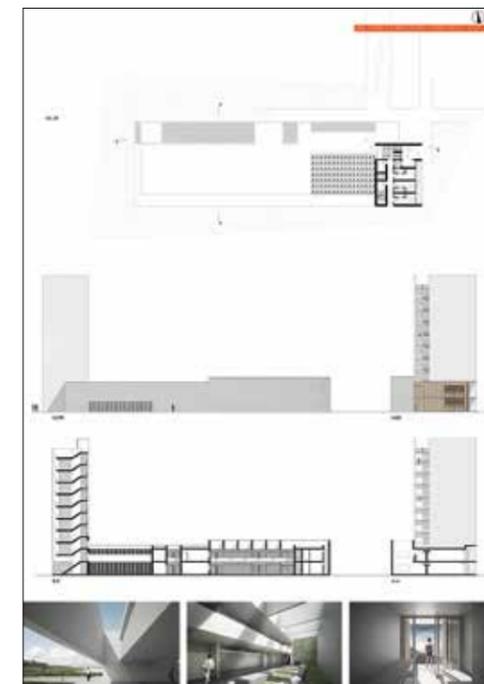
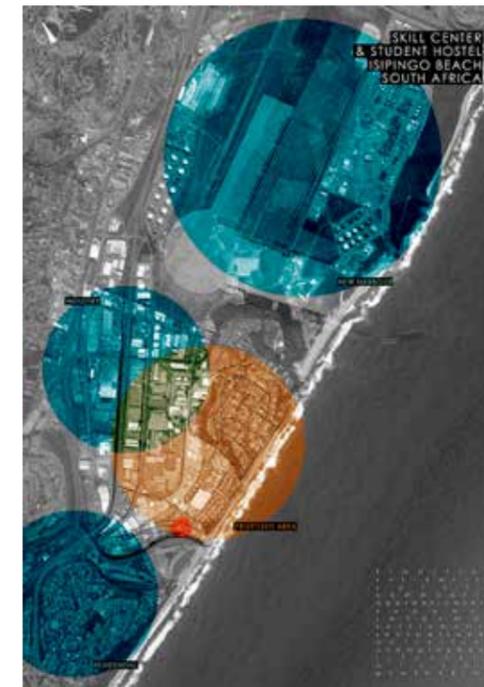
SKILLS CENTRE AND TRAINEE RESIDENCE ISIPINGO BEACH Roman Hofmann

The team in which Roman worked proposed a green strip to follow the topography in a north-south direction and in this way set a limit for the industrial zone while providing an expansion of the residential area of Isipingo Beach. The mouth of the Isipingo River and its natural environment form the southern boundary.

Roman designed a striking yet 'balanced object building' as a transition between the coastal environment and the interior. Sited behind the dunes, the elongated double-storey educational building, with large panoramic roof terrace, is countered on one end with a point block to provide trainees with short-term accommodation in minimal bedrooms with balconies.

The educational building contains classrooms and associated spaces for a skills centre to promote craftsmanship, entrepreneurship or self-help to the community. At its heart lies the main workshop hall with skylights, with a gallery connecting the teaching spaces with a study area and library. Generous folding doors open all main rooms to the outdoors.

The combination of off-shutter concrete, rough vertical timber slats and sliding shutters provides a durable yet well-balanced minimalist composition within the harsh coastal climate.



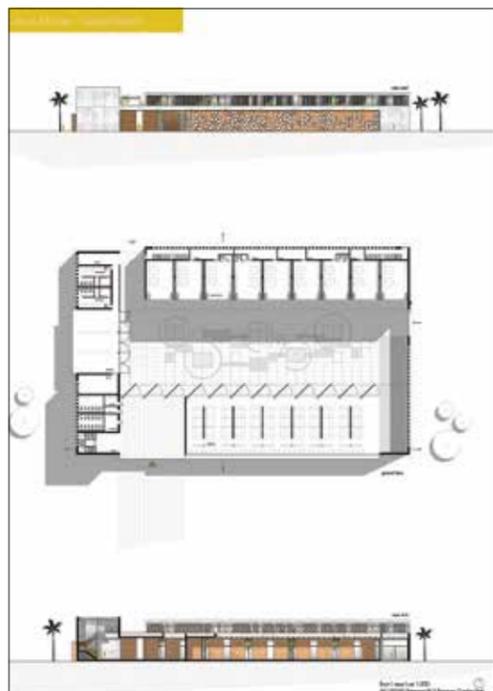
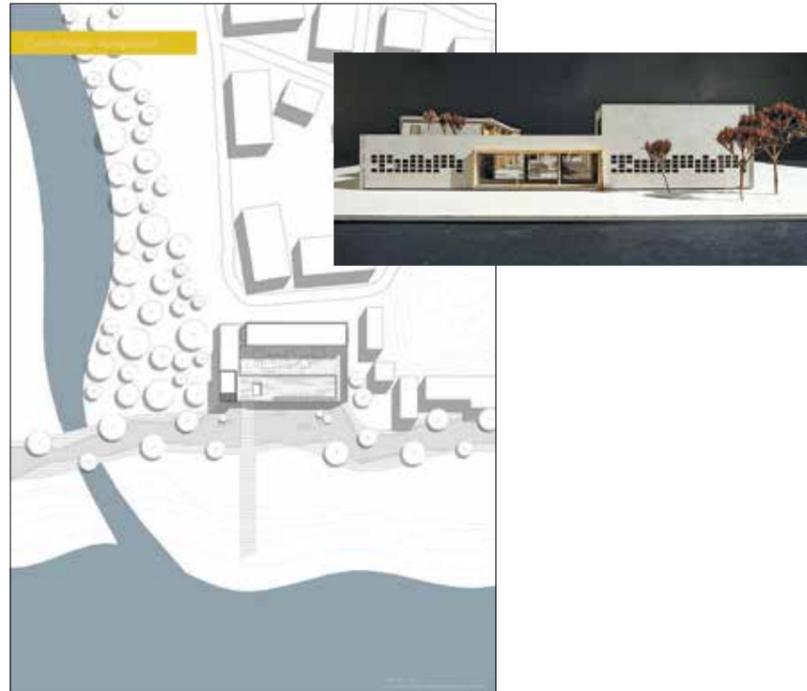
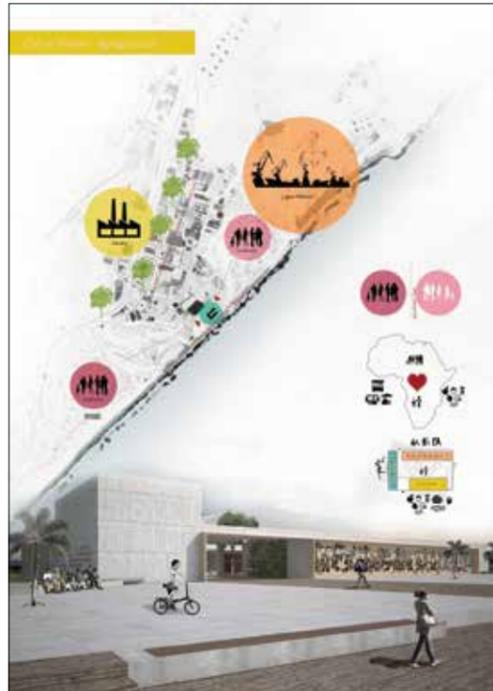
CULTURAL MARKET ISIPINGO BEACH Carolina Sürdt

Prompted by the findings of the workshop held in Durban, Carolina conceived her project as a 'cultural market'.

The team in which she participated sought for a connection between Isipingo Beach and the southern residential areas near the coast because the new harbour inlet could suffer a significant loss in quality. A green buffer was proposed to protect against the influences of the western industrial zone and prevent further expansion towards the ocean. Carolina's design is sited along a wide promenade adapted to the tide, with a bridge over the Isipingo River. Directly behind the beach and the flora at the estuary, she positioned her project, which convinces in its objectives of 'social cohesion'.

The cultural market is more of a semi-public urban space than a building. It offers activities for all ages and income groups, and different milieus. In the centre are located the arts and crafts market, a food market and a dance hall, which can open to the courtyard. Upstairs is a series of simple apartments with a wide porch and shared balconies. Residents can enjoy the large, green roof garden with café.

The design concept draws on the pergola typology and at ground level combines this with a protective and secure wall, and decorative openings for visual references and air movement. The outside might appear solid but inside the scope for individual design is to be extended using recycled materials.



MARKET HALL ISIPINGO Franziska Scheuermann

This market hall was conceived as a mixed-use project with retail outlets, a hostel and concomitant recreational and green areas.

The core idea was that of a viewing platform with shops for daily needs in the form of a market hall for small traders selling locally produced merchandise, both agricultural and craft. The classical typology of the

atrium was rediscovered with services and offices around three sides, and the market stalls in the centre opening to the north, with a terrace enjoying views to the ocean. The design is climatically attuned with good natural ventilation while roofs designed as sails provide shade. In order to encourage acceptance and identification, small-scale parts to the façade could be designed, made and inserted by users.



NATURE CONSERVATION CENTRE ISIPINGO Kim Karina Müller

Kim pursued the idea of a green belt between the concentrated industrial zone along the highway and the residential area on the coast line. She designed several public 'oases'.

The design shows one of them; a conservation centre in the re-established natural vegetation along the Isipingo River and a proposed new pedestrian pathway.

The spaces for recreation and education are 'flooded' in a bright, fresh and friendly atmosphere, and draw upon the bio-diversity of the Isipingo River mouth.

The pavilions are constructed of renewable materials (particularly timber) used in a modular system. The interiors are minimal, and the outer spaces offer a peaceful sojourn along the river or under shady roofs. The open space of the interior could invite locals and guests to various public events.



DUT participated in an international workshop hosted by Politechnika Gdańska, 30 May - 5 June 2015



The principal seaport of Poland, Gdańsk, lies at the mouth of the Motława River, on the south of Gdańsk Bay on the Baltic Sea. This is where the Solidarity trade union movement under Lech Wałęsa emerged in the 1980s and brought an end to Communist rule

Upon our arrival at the rather chilly Lech Wałęsa Airport on 29th May, we were met by one of the Polish students who was also taking part in the workshop.

He confirmed the research I had briefly conducted on Polish people and their hospitality. He kindly escorted us via public transport to the city, where we met our hosts. Slowly but surely we were separated from our trusted lecturers and were now in the company of students roughly our own age. My host, Sylvia, took me to the building where she stayed and got me settled into my own private dorm, after which the students hosting me suggested we go out to the 'Old City', which is a district in Gdańsk.

As tired as I felt from travelling for 24hrs, I experienced a surge in energy at the excitement of the chance to be lost somewhere in Europe. They took me out to the historical part of the city, which I found to be architecturally rich, and brought perspective to some of the subjects we do, as we learn a lot about European architecture. I was the only one among my companions who felt very cold; it didn't come as a surprise because they are used to below zero temperatures during their winter seasons. While losing myself in the Old City, I quickly lost track of time as they have very long daylight hours. The sun only started to set after 10 p.m. in the evening, which took its toll on me mentally in terms of getting rest so I could be productive for the workshop.



Scenes from the brick-built old part of Gdańsk



Medieval port crane



30 May 2015 (Sat) – on this day we met the other participants of the international workshop representing our respective countries. Students, mentors and lecturers all met, introduced ourselves and discussed how the workshop would unfold. Fellow DUT student Senzi Mlambo and I found ourselves in different groups. This took us out of our comfort zone as we were not going to be around our lecturers or each other and gave us a chance to interact with other students from other countries like Germany, Turkey, USA, to name a few. I thought this would create a language barrier but I endeavoured to learn their language as much as they were open to learn mine.



Monument to the fallen shipyard workers of 1970



Typical streetscape in Orunia in the south of Gdańsk

After our meeting, we took a highly efficient tram to the European Solidarity Centre to learn about the shipyard strike that started a revolution in the politics in Poland. On arrival, our first sight was of a rusted, architecturally inspired building. I thought to myself, what a unique building, unique in an informed manner. To the ordinary person it would easily be referred to as ugly, but because I knew the history behind it and why it was built, I quickly understood everything about the Solidarity building. The tour was highly educational to say the least, and the amount of information was so overwhelming as to the events that took place that one could easily get dates and events mixed up.

31 May 2015 (Sun) – by 3 a.m. the sun's rays penetrated my dorm window and lit up my room like it was 12 noon. I jumped out of bed

and reached for my phone to check how late it was. To my surprise the time was 3:30 a.m. I quickly relaxed and waited for my 6:30 a.m. alarm to go off so I could get ready for the day ahead. We travelled to a district called Orunia, to a community centre where the workshop was to take place. We met for a lecture on the importance of free-hand sketching. I was very intimidated as my free-hand sketching is not the best but I was assured that it did not matter. So we went out into the community to do some free-hand sketching. I immediately became a celebrity with the local children for my 'exotic' skin tone. A black person is a rare sight in this part of the world so Senzi and I were a much welcomed sight. *Piękny, piękny* they kept saying, which means beautiful in Polish. After our sketching exercise, we went back to the community centre to showcase our work and show how refined our skills were when drawing under time limits. The exercise proved to me that I'm not completely useless when it comes to hand drawing, to my surprise.

1 June 2015 (Mon) – The international workshop officially started on this day. Each group brainstormed on how they would contribute to the topic which was the market place. The group that I was part of, the 'light group', had a more design oriented approach to adding light to the market place. My group members not only consisted of architecture students, but urban planners as well. Our aim was to make the market place family friendly, as well as a 24-hour hot spot; the fact that they have 16 hours of day light was a bonus. Many factors influenced our designs as all our contributions mattered. It is very easy to feel intimidated in a set-up of this nature, but we all came together with a common goal. For the next five days we worked tirelessly to make sure we had a solid presentation come Friday noon. Somewhere in the long hours we put in, we made time to see as much of the beautiful city of Gdańsk and interact with the locals and with our fellow students who were with us for the workshop. It was a week full of tense excitement of getting a presentation ready as well as soaking up as much as I could of a foreign land.

5 June 2015 (Fri) – presentation day is here, I witnessed the sun come up as I had not slept because I was busy making a model for our presentation. Needless to say my habits of working overnight at the S-Block Steve Biko campus, DUT, boarded the plane with me when I left for Poland. Tired? Yes I was but the thought that we were so close to completion kept me going, and the model was the last piece of the puzzle. When we all met at the community centre, my group members seemed to have all secretly agreed that I would be presenting our work and just told me with no stress at all. I was out voted and outspoken. I asked for a Polish translator who would translate for the others who couldn't understand English. When I was told that local reporters would be there to listen to us present, I asked my group members if they were sure they wanted me to present our work - my way of trying to avoid the lime light. All presentations from five different groups were well received and all sparked essential dialogue. I could tell our mentor, Natalia, was very pleased from the big smile she wore and from the comments she gave after presenting. Polish lecturer Dr Rembarz gave positive feedback as well. I felt relief when I saw huge smiles and loud applause from my lecturers Louis du Plessis and Prof. Whelan.

After all presentations were done, we had to say our goodbyes to our Turkish participants as they were leaving immediately. For those of us who had a few hours to spare we saw fit to gallivant one last time. Our hosts took us to the Baltic Sea where we chilled and had a few beers. Soon after the sun was out of sight, we boarded a train to Sopot, a seaside resort, for a clubbing experience we will never forget; my first time in a night club and I thoroughly enjoyed myself, responsibly of course. I got back to my dorm and made sure I had packed all my items as we were going to leave for Wałęsa airport early in the morning for our 6 a.m. flight to Frankfurt.

Our trip to Poland was an experience of a life time, one I will never forget, one I want to repeat in the near future and one that will be one of the highlights of my 'varsity days'.

Mlungisi Nyathi is a Third Year student and Sensikile Mlambo a B.Tech student. *Editor*

IAKS SILVER AWARD FOR RUBEN REDDY ARCHITECTS

At a function held in Cologne on 23rd October, Ruben Reddy Architects landed a Silver Award for their Bolshoy Ice Dome in Sochi, Russia, a stadium built for the 2014 Winter Olympics in association with SIC Mostovic, a local practice. The Award for the dome, modelled on a frozen drop of water, was conferred by the International association of Sports and Leisure Facilities (IAKS), a Recognised Organisation of both the International Olympic and Paralympic Committees. The jury concluded that the 12000-seat plus 128 wheelchair arena set new standards for universal access in Russia (SB magazine 5/2015: 28). Huge congrats! Editor



UKZN ARCHITECTURE LEARNING SITE

SACAP ACCREDITATION Following a re-visit in November, the South African Council for the Architectural Profession has accorded UKZN unconditional validation for both the BAS and M.Arch degrees until 2018!

Best news of 2015! Editor.

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS FOR UKZN STUDENT

The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations sponsored an international wood design competition concomitant with the XIV World Forestry Congress held in Durban in September. The competition focussed on what it termed two of the "most significant issues facing humanity today", namely the growing urban population and the threat of deforestation, and called for innovative wood housing and urban building solutions through two distinct open competitions.

One design competition, 'Treehousing' in Durban, challenged participants to design an affordable residential and/or mixed-use complex on the 2280sqm site on the corner of the major intersection of Johannes Nkosi (Alice) Street and Ingcuze Road (Albert Street).

At the ceremony held on 10th September, Nkosi Market, the entry by Koura Studios and ARUP, Seattle, and 'Jungle Gym' by UKZN Honours Year student, Ayla Harvey, were announced joint first prize winners of the US\$6000 purse! Wow!

Organisers and jurors were Michael Green of MGA, Vancouver; Andrew Waugh of Waugh Thistleton Architects, London; and Richard Stretton of Koop Design, Durban.



The submission by Ayla Harvey



UKZN Hons. student Ayla Harvey accepting joint first prize for the open international 'Treehousing' competition from assessor Richard Stretton of Koop Design, Durban

2015 COROBRIK KZN REGIONAL STUDENT

At the function held in Shepstone Building, UKZN, on Wednesday, 2nd December, Najeeba Hassim was declared Corobrik KZN regional architectural student of 2015.

For her design thesis 'Defining Architectural Typology: Inner City Green Centres within South Africa – Towards an Environmental Research Facility in KwaZulu-Natal', Najeeba had chosen a location on the north bank of the Umgeni River, between the vehicular and train bridges.

Second prize went to Jean-Piere Audibert who also received the prize for the 'best use of clay brickwork' while third prize went to Julie Marie-Ange Eneman.

Najeeba Hassim holding her certificate as Corobrik KZN region Architectural Student of the Year, 2015, flanked by Mthembeni Mkhize (left), UKZN Discipline Head of Architecture, and Alan Dangers (right), Corobrik Director of Sales, with UKZN lecturer Juan Solis-Arias (extreme right), supervisor of the thesis



KZNIA SCROLLS OF HONOUR

At the Awards ceremony held on Thursday, 5th November, KZNIA-President Ruben Reddy presented Scrolls of Honour to four members.

Mthembeni Mkhize was honoured for his contribution towards stabilising architectural education at UKZN.



Joan Seirlis was acknowledged for her steadfast battle for a universally accessible built environment. As she had succumbed to cancer on the night before, the scroll was awarded posthumously and accepted by her children Ari and Angela Bax.



Sydney Baillon was honoured for his legendary participation in the biennial KZNIA Awards programme and for his availability in resolving issues in practice.



Ken Howie was honoured in absentia for his wise and generous council in matters practice over many years.

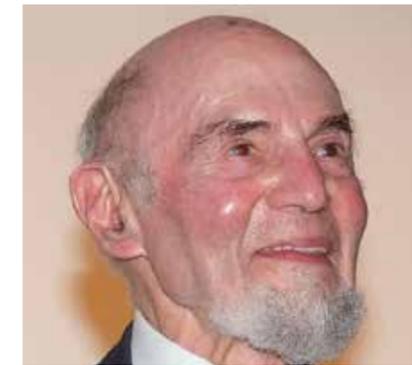
Also enjoying the ceremony were SAIA Vice-President Kevin Bingham and Corobrik Managing Director Dirk Meyer.



Dave Barrow, Roz and Rodney Harber, Don Perks.



OBITUARIES



Issy Benjamin (1925-2015)
Although Issy would immediately correct me saying that it was Crofton & Benjamin, much like Barcelona is associated with Gaudi, Durban's modern Brazilian-inspired architecture is associated with Issy Benjamin. Born in Germiston, Issy (Isaac) studied Architecture at Wits before being transferred to Durban where, soon after, he commenced practice with fellow student and employee Derek Crofton until 1964. In voluntary exile in London, Issy re-commenced practice with expatriate Ted Levy, with much of the work on the Iberian Peninsula. But, Durban had a special place in his heart "my kind of town, my kind of people" was his summary. Issy last visited Durban in 2011 when KZNIA conferred upon him Honorary Life Membership and a Scroll of Honour, posthumously, on Derek Crofton.
Walter Peters



Dennis Claude (1933-2015)
Dennis Claude was a much beloved member of the architectural profession in Durban. After a long struggle he died on Saturday the seventh of November at the age of eighty-two.

Andre Duvenage said to me a few days ago that to him Dennis was a survivor from a different age when friendship, academic intelligence, learning, caring and performance were the hallmark of civilization. A Renaissance Man.

His thrashings around the squash court well into his seventies, his devotion to music, all kinds, conversations around the dinner table, absolute

dedication to teaching and his students, immersion into the needs of the deprived, love for history especially if it had something to do with the Egyptians and Art Deco and the world around those, the bush and all that resides and struggles within it.

Travel. Many an hour we spent with the Old Masters in Italy where Dennis regaled us with the finer points of their creations. He was part of an awesome trio of academics and architects with Dr Barrie Bierman and Dr Ronald Lewcock who ushered in an extraordinary era for the university and town when the making of architecture and respect for its inhabitants kept students and many practitioners energized. There was a search for the indigenous, the patterns, the wind, the rain, light and dark, the oneness and harmony with the environment.

Together and separately with them and later with many other partners he produced some exceptional work such as the Medical School for the University of Natal (since demolished). Rural clinics and schools in Zululand, the Valley of a 1000 hills and all over. Ever inventing, exploring. The Killie Campbell library, Bush camps in the game reserves and a number of very interesting houses and alterations around town and later on the Highveld.

He was born in Kimberley of a long line of French Huguenots and the famous baron of Munchausen. He never did manage to complete the book dealing with the Colonial exploitation and greed and the remarkable development throughout its short reign as the diamond capital of the world when he was a boy. He often talked about the long train rides and silly rituals that were part of a white child's upbringing in distant boarding schools and institutions. His architectural education began in Cape Town but continued in Durban where he qualified in 1959.

With the heat on for members of what he called the Modern Movement and an urge to experience the greater world he moved to London where at a lonely bus stop, in the drizzle he spied Marianne, a glorious member of the Viking race. Although not immediately, they soon produced two boys and on trying again, a lovely daughter Anna who quite a few years later followed in father's footsteps and enticed him late in life to partner with her in a Johannesburg practice. During the time in England he also managed to find time to be the project architect for Sir Robert Matthew on the Brighton College of Education and as the planner for the University of Cambridge development plan with partner Sir Andrew Derbyshire. And that is important if you are from Kimberley.

His deep interest in indigenous architecture led him to the discovery of the last of the great homes and homesteads of the Tsonga people who live in the far north east of Kwazulu-Natal that he recorded in great detail. He prepared many a story, lecture

and paper on his multitude of passions and travelled all over the world to deliver them and to sit on councils for their preservation.

A short while before his death he published his Red Book of memories. A lovely well-crafted collection of short stories called 'Faces in a mirror' which will be launched at his Going Away Parties in Johannesburg and Durban soon. Photography and Water-colour were his media for recording the moods of nature that were so important to him right to the end.

He lives in me now as a memory, the fifteen years we spent teaching together and our little adventures into commerce and development. GOF; the gang of four with Gorgio Antoni and John Dennen. We bought wonderful orphaned old buildings and gave them a new life. We built a few new ones too. Then the Plaza hotel and turned it multi-racial. Judges a great restaurant and together with the Moon and the Rainbow brought African jazz to the public. Dennis; so ready to give and share. But mostly I will recall his humour and what he indistinctly whispered to me when we carried him to the lounge and propped him in a chair, his head drooping to the side. I was talking to him about what he meant to us and about letting go, when he whispered, hardly audible ...
"Alas, poor Dennis, I knew him well."
Paul Mikula



Joan Seirlis (1936-2015)
Joan Mackenzie (née Emslie) graduated at the University of Cape Town in 1958. While there she met Manol, her later husband, and partner in the Pinetown office of the national practice Myles, Pugh, Porter, Sherlock, Seirlis & Jarvis, established with their fellow student and exact contemporary Derek Sherlock (1936 - 2003). Following on from Manol's sudden death in 1989, their son Ari was involved in an accident, which left him paralysed. In response, Joan dedicated her career towards the promotion of a universally accessible constructed environment. This she did in practice and in teaching, but also as an assessor on the Amafa heritage agency or in matters litigation, while always balancing seriousness with compassion. Our thoughts are especially with Ari and daughter Angela Bax.
Walter Peters