



**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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**CALL FOR PRACTICE PARTICIPATION**

UIA 2014 DURBAN EXHIBITION OF AFRICAN  
ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICES

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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, UIA2014Durban invites practitioners, academics, and 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 will be unique. The hosting of the congress in South Africa is meaningful at a time 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 the African architectural profession and this 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 an opportunity to showcase African architectural practice to the world's architectural community.

**We invite you...**

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## CALL FOR AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE PARTICIPATION @ UIA 2014 DURBAN – AN EXHIBITION

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With only 3 months to go to the event, we are inviting your practice to be involved in a number of ways. Our first call for African architectural practices is for submissions to an exhibition to be displayed at the event. This exhibition will be accessible to both the delegates and the public.

The prescribed format will allow the Organizing Committee to present the submissions in various ways and, thus, disseminate information of African practices widely – nationally and internationally.

The intention of the Call for Practice Participation is to:

- Involve African Architectural Practices in UIA 2014 Durban
- Enrich the UIA 2014 programme content
- Offer practices an opportunity to showcase their work to the international audience of UIA 2014
- Create African dialogue on architecture and practice

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### Benefits of participation

- Association with a recognized global event with a track record of 75 years
- Inclusion in the official UIA 2014 Congress programme
- Exposure through the UIA 2014 Communications and Marketing campaign to the networks of UIA 2014, its partners and stakeholders and to local and international media
- Rights to use the official UIA 2014 logo and branding (some conditions apply)

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## APPLICATION

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### Submission guidelines and format

An A3 poster in a UIA 2014 Durban prescribed format which presents the practice focusing on a general perspective on the practice's work/approach, or on one unique project representative of the practice's work, or selecting a particular SCALE of intervention: large scale or small scale (urban design to detail). The poster will form part of the exhibitions that will be held in and around the congress venue. The format is provided in attached documents

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### Eligibility and process

- The call is open to all African architectural practices, from all countries and regions.
- The fee must be paid upfront and is non-refundable.
- The UIA 2014 Durban organising committee will not be editing the submissions; the text must therefore thoroughly reviewed before submission.
- The posters must be saved and submitted as a PDF document.

- Venue, printing/mounting and all logistics related to the exhibition will be managed by the UIA2014Durban Organising Committee.
- Participating practices will be contacted at a later date with regards to other forms of participation in the event.

### Submission review and selection

Submissions will be reviewed by the UIA 2014 Project Review Panel and are expected to meet these minimum criteria:

- Adherence to proposal submission instructions and the prescribed poster format.
- Potential for engaging participants in substantive discussions.
- Originality.
- Engaging and inspiring contribution to the UIA 2014 Congress.
- Submissions may be made in the following languages:
  - English
  - French
  - Arabic
  - Portuguese
- High quality images and well-written, relevant accompanying text.

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## POSTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2014

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- The submission form below must be completed and submitted in electronic format to [callforpractice@uia2014durban.org](mailto:callforpractice@uia2014durban.org)
- The poster must be submitted as a PDF document as per the following instructions:
  - Step 1: Save your PDF file using the following protocol: **UIACFAP\_Company Name**
  - Step 2: Upload all files to a folder in YOUR OWN DropBox account
  - Step 3: Label your DropBox file using the above file name
  - Step 4: Share this file with [dropboxsubmit@uia2014durban.org](mailto:dropboxsubmit@uia2014durban.org)
  - You will receive a confirmation email once the submission is received
- **Submission costs: R1500 [ZAR]**, which is roughly equivalent to \$147 [USD]

#### Banking details

FIRST NATIONAL BANK- South Africa  
Account Holder: Turners Conferences  
Account No: 62328620986  
B/Code: 22 14 26  
Swift No: FIRZAJJ  
Reference: UIACFAP-COMPANY NAME

If you experience any difficulties, please send a separate email to [nomfundo.nxumalo@uia2014durban.org](mailto:nomfundo.nxumalo@uia2014durban.org)

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**Outcome of review process will be communicated to practices: 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

Congress updates will regularly appear on the UIA2014 Durban homepage at <http://www.uia2014durban.org>

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## SUBMISSION FORM

CONTACT DETAILS	
Submitting Person's Name (Main Contact)	
Designation	
Partners and members of the company	
Organisation	
Postal address	
Phone (landline and cell)	
Email address	
Website	
Brief statement (100 words maximum) to be used for media and promotional purposes	

SUBMISSION FOCUS – (note: this will allow us to correctly position your submission in the overall exhibition/publications)	
General perspective on the practice's work/approach	
One unique project representative of the practice's work	
Specific focus SCALE of intervention: large scale OR small scale – please specify	
Representation of practice across various scales – large scale to small scale (urban design to detail)	

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