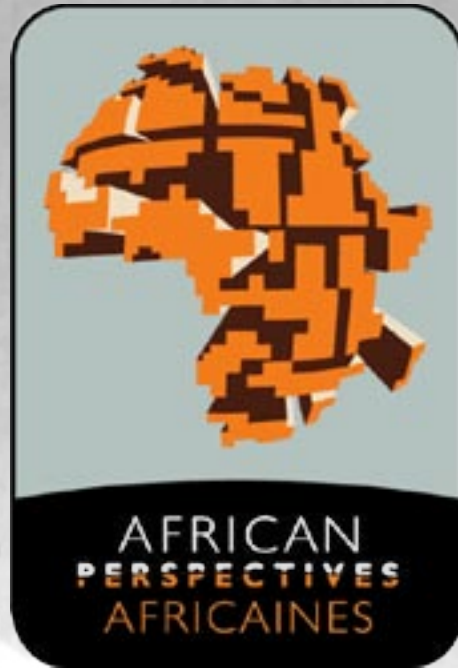


DIALOGUES ON URBANISM AND ARCHITECTURE



*The African City Centre (Re)sourced
Pretoria/ Tshwane
24 - 28. 09. 2009*

What started as a one-off event in Tanzania in 2005 under the title 'Modern Architecture in East Africa around Independence' was followed up by the 'African Architecture Today' congress in Kumasi, Ghana in 2007. During the African Perspectives event at the Delft University of Technology in December 2007, it has been decided by a group of institutes to establish the series into a bi-annual event hosted on the African continent focusing on urbanism and architecture of the continent.

www.africanperspectives.info

AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES 2009, the third international conference in the series to be hosted in Africa, will focus on the unique and diverse character of the African City as resource, as well as resourcing the city.

'the African City Centre (re)sourced' carries multiple meanings, which are translated into three themes:

**** the African City Centre in a contemporary global context***

African cities are currently amongst the fastest growing in the world. Western and Eastern societies are reviewing the form, processes and roles of the post-industrial era in the looming shadow of global warming and global economic stress. African cities are more often than not the places where products or processes, which are now unacceptable in a post industrial environments or which can be obtained more cost-effectively in Africa, occur to feed the insatiable need for growth in the 24/7 global economy. These include large scale exploitation of unprocessed resources and industrial production with accompanying large scale negative impact on the natural environment, lack of local beneficiation and appropriate infrastructure delivery as well as unsustainable and exploitative labour practice. Where evolution of Western and Eastern development will leave the African City is uncertain. However, African Cities are participating in the global economy and global culture. It is necessary to understand the role of African cities in the contemporary global context, how they are resourced and resourcing themselves, to what extent African cities have evolved individual patterns of form, growth and survival, and what the role of the African Diaspora may be in the development of African Cities. With this, the role of the City Centre as a source of the City, in the ecology of resourcing the City and its manifestations in terms of urban processes, form and architecture is explored vis-à-vis the above mentioned identity of African Cities.

**** the (historical) identity of the African City Centre***

African Cities have many identities. Many have existed through a vast depth of time. Others were Colonial creations. Some are hybrids. Within these formations the African City Centre also has many identities. The City Centre's past and future lives were and are determined by culture in general; encompassing ritual, work, recreation and dwelling, all within a larger urban, regional and global network of connectiveness. What can be said and shown of the historical and contemporary cultural identities of the African City Centre, and how does this manifest in urban form, process, pattern, place and architecture?

**** the future life of the African City Centre***

The African City manifests a strong developmental and/or survival instinct. Through an understanding of past and current identities and (re)sources of the African City Centre, what directions and solutions may be postulated and formulated for the desired sustainable future of the African City Centre? What can be said about desired, sustainable and appropriate urban patterns, processes, form and architecture, seen on a local, regional and global scale?



Tshwane - Pretoria

The University of Pretoria and the Pretoria Institute for Architecture will be hosting African Perspectives 2009.

As part of the conference where cities from all of Africa will be viewed, studied and debated, there is opportunity to workshop Tshwane as a particular case study. The challenges that Pretoria CBD faces within the development of Tshwane Municipal Area are to a certain extent comparable to many African city centres.

Besides, like other cities, Tshwane/Pretoria has its unique characteristics. Preservation and enhancement of the uniqueness of a city though, is again a shared challenge.

African Perspectives Continues

African Perspectives 2009 is seen as an event of practical solutions, to be tabled and to be challenged by expert academics of a broad multi-disciplinary background. Practical solutions mean, in the first place, design and building, as architecture will be at the core. However the expression in other media, including art, is helpful to get a foothold on the complicated matter of city building, while it assists in bridging the gap between down to earth practice and the academic approach.

The discourse on the African City Centre at African Perspectives 2009 aims at presenting innovation within continuation. New views, directions and solutions are to be introduced within the framework of historical and ongoing research and debate on the subject. What has been said at important venues like in Dakar in 1982, in Accra in the late nineties, at the Durban CBD workshop in 2000, the Urban Futures 2000 conference at Wits and the Urban Age Johannesburg 2007 workshop will be taken up and reviewed. Key players in these events are to be sourced and invited to bring in their report on post-event outcome and assessment.

African Perspectives 2009 is to be seen as a continuation of the conferences 'Modern Architecture in East Africa' (Dar es Salaam, 2005) and 'African Architecture Today' (Kumasi, 2007). From this sequence, key issues will be distilled and inserted into the themes.

At African Perspectives 2009, perspectives will be offered from different disciplinary angles within the architectural profession, allowing equal voices from multiple disciplines that make up the beautiful architectural and city design professions - design from landscape to house, building technology, conservation, architectural sociology, planning, urban design, real estate and housing management, anthropology, art. This will be achieved in the form of a practical, workshop like event, coupled with presentations and debate.



Programme Conference

The conference is to be intertwined with the workshops. The papers will be published beforehand and will be made subjects of debate. The moderators will summarize the papers and bring forward queries to the floor. Instead of lengthy paper sessions, time will be restricted to one or two presentations per theme and a debate.

An open invitation will go out to obtain abstracts on the three themes by mid-January 2009; the scientific committee will select abstracts. Papers will be published on the African Perspectives website prior to the conference.

Similar to African Perspectives 2007, a selection of papers and keynotes will be made to form the African Perspectives II book. The full proceedings will be available online.

National Student Congress

The yearly South African National Student Congress will take place during the same days as the African Perspectives 2009 conference. The students will participate in workshops that will be organized around the themes of APP'09 and carry out fieldwork in Tshwane municipality.

(Continuation overleaf)

(Continuation Conference Programme)

Des Baker and CCI students competition

The award of the prizes to Des Baker and CCI students competition will take place during African Perspectives 2009. The topic of these competitions will be strongly related to the themes of African Perspectives.

Tshwane Cycling Pretoria

We hope to be able to acquire bicycles for all participants to be able to cycle and read the city centre together, and at the same time to introduce the bicycle as a sustainable and social alternative to the motor vehicle.

Art exhibition: the heart of the African City

As at African Perspectives 2007, art will be placed at the centre of the event. This time we hope to attract multiple views from different African locations to help understand the heart of the African City.

Field Academy September 2009 – July 2010

African Perspectives will be the start of the field academy, a joint research and design program for students by the Delft University of Technology and the University of Pretoria. Students and tutors from other universities from Africa and beyond will be warmly welcomed to participate.

Organisation

steering committee

Dr. Ola Uduku, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland

Dr. Nnamdi Elleh, University of Cincinnati, USA

Dr. Kouadio Nda-Nuessan, EAMAU, Togo

Prof. George Intstifil, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana

Joe Osae-Addo, architect in Accra, Ghana

Prof. Wytze Patijn, Delft University of Technology, Netherlands

Dr. Livin H. Mosha, ARDHI University, Tanzania

Dr. Abeldmoumen Benabdeljalil, Ecole Supérieure d'Architecture de Casablanca, Morocco

Prof. 'Ora Joubert, University of Pretoria, South Africa

Antoni Folkers, ArchiAfrika Foundation, Netherlands

scientific committee

Executive Secretariat:

Karel Bakker (University of Pretoria) and Antoni Folkers (ArchiAfrika)

names of members will be disclosed by mid-January 2009

organisational committee

Genevieve Trevoux (National Students Congress), 'Ora Joubert, Berend van der Lans (ArchiAfrika), Braam de Villiers (Pretoria Institute of Architecture), Mauneen van Wijk (Pretoria Institute of Architecture), Karel Bakker, Nicholas Clarke, Leon Pienaar, Gary White (University of Pretoria), Rudolf van Rensburg (Des Baker and CCI competitions), Agnes Wijers, Mirka Hirsch (Delft University of Technology)

Financial support:



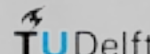
Organizing parties:



ArchiAfrika



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



For further info: www.africanperspectives.info // 2009@africanperspectives.info

*If you are interested in supporting the event, please contact Berend van der Lans through:
2009@africanperspectives.info*