



Moses Mabhida Stadium, Durban



Ellis Park Stadium, Johannesburg



Green Point Stadium, Cape Town



Free State Stadium, Bloemfontein



Loftus Versfeld Stadium, Pretoria



Royal Bafokeng, Rustenberg



Mbombela Stadium, Nelspruit



Nelson Mandela Stadium, Port Elizabeth



Peter Mokaba Stadium, Polokwane

News

By Berend van der Lans

All eyes on South Africa, so we do too. And with reason. The largest sports event ever hosted on the African continent appears to have ran well, although it is a pity that many African teams did not survive the group round except for Ghana who made it to the last eight. But after all, the stadiums and all the other infrastructure is what remains.

What does that mean for the South Africa? Tanzeem Razak from Lemon Pebble Design and Guy Trangos, architect and design tutor, will reflect upon the effects of the tournament and the impact Soccer City Stadium in Johannesburg, has had both in terms of its potential to stitch a fragmented city and in realigning a contemporary identity for the country. Tuuli Saarela, based in Ghana, will share with us her thoughts on the pros and cons of the Cup of Nations played in Ghana in 2008.

ArchiAfrika is meanwhile starting off in the new structure. In April the new board came together in Delft. The organization structure and in particular the African Perspectives 2011 conference in Casablanca were on the agenda. It is a great feeling but also a challenge to share the responsibility of the organization with Ola, Abdelmoumen, Joe, Karel and Wim. It is good to feel that we all find the organization is adding value to the architectural world and beyond in Africa. Your reactions on the activities, website and newsletters also prove that. We need your help for that as well: please feed us with issues and articles for the website and newsletter. In case you are organizing an event, inform us, the website and newsletter can be useful to announce this. We look forward to your reactions!

We like to ask for special attention for the competition Blueprints of Paradise, now opened (www.afrikamuseum.nl) and giving African architects, artists and visionaries a chance to present their vision on future Africa. We have secured a great jury consisting of; Abdoumalik Simone, Femke van Zeijl, Manthia Diawara, Lesley Lokko and Joe Osae – Addo. We look forward to a very interesting exhibition, with great prizes and opportunities for the winners.



Soccer City, Johannesburg



Fig 1.1. View of stadium looking south

Soccer City Stadium Within a Scarred City

By Tanzeem Razak

(Lemon Pebble Design, South Africa)

“Where?”

“There ...look at the horizon, the minedump ... just in front of it...”

We squinted into the horizon, as the sun set over the city, searching for the sight of the latest addition to the Johannesburg skyline: Soccer City Stadium.

Site

For three years, we watched from our office window, as the World Cup stadium rose from the ground. Low, horizontal almost, the stadium nestled in the dusty landscape amidst the nondescript roofscape. No soaring arches, or flamboyant forms for this stadium in a city known for its flash. The stadium is a low rotund earthy patchwork of panels that mimic the colours of surrounding landscape.

The whimsical interlay of openings and solids of its skin, whilst subtle from a distance, upon closer inspection makes bold statement. It belongs to this dusty red/brown landscape.

Soccer City sits comfortably in its desolate surrounding, forming an interesting foreground to Johannesburg’s characteristic mine dump formations.

Claiming resonance in the African culture for its inspiration, the local architects¹, describe the form as an “calabash [sitting] in a depression which is a ‘pit of fire’, as it were naturally fired.”² However, its real resonance, comes not from the synthetic reference to an African form, but in its world-wide programmatic function that has suddenly wrenched our global attention South. To Africa, to South Africa, to South of Johannesburg.

For the first time our gaze turned south.³

Fragmented City

You have to understand Johannesburg. It is a scarred city. It’s landscape is dissected and fragmented by the ravages of Apartheid planning. Geographic formations by God’s hands leaves a ridge that divides the city into a distinct north and a south. Apartheid planning created a prosperous north of economic certainty and lush green urbanity. The south remains a tract of dusty mines, desolation dotted with the desperate urban poor. The city centre losing its adhesiveness slowly as the economic power migrated north. As our gaze turned north, our economic hope moved with it.

¹ Boogertman Urban Edge and Partners with Populous Architects

² Lucille Davie, “Soccer City: an architect’s dream” (<http://www.johannesburg.org.za/content/view/4830/266>)

³ Hannah le Roux, “Looking South.”

Scarred Site

Within this fractured urbanity, the new stadium was built, upon another historic one.

FNB Stadium, as it was originally called, was strategically located in south western edge of the inner city, near Soweto. The undeveloped area was a harsh, sandy site -where large tracts of the land hosted the imposing, huge, flat mountains of mining residue, that separated the townships from the inner city.

The original stadium was entrenched in the hearts of South Africans as the place where Nelson Mandela upon his release, addressed the residents of Johannesburg for the first time. Despite its historic value, the area remained a deep fission in our urban landscape.

The urban gap was enormous to bridge, the site was difficult.

The choice of refurbishing the existing stadium in an area that sorely needed regeneration created an opportunity to bridge the gap. Given a distinct and valuable global identity, the area becomes viable for investment injection.

Stadiums are by their nature vacuums, adding value erratically while standing alone during the cycle of everyday life. The Nasrec Precinct, as the sports node has now being named, has now been

injected with state of the art services and much needed amenities.

A new railway link, a connection to the rapid bus system and a promenade linking the transport hub to the stadium have been implemented, with a fervent plans to connect it to the larger city grid that would make the site more accessible.

Plans have been laid out for mixed use commercial hub with a large high density housing component that is yet to be built, but the understanding remains that the sustainability of the precinct is largely dependent on a critical mass residential component.⁴

Much has been touted by the media-machine in South Africa about the “premier” stadium, comparing it to the best in the world but its true worth lies in its potential to heal a chasm within the dissected city.

The form itself, may not have the flamboyance or elegance of other World Cup stadia, but in its potential to help stitch a fragmented city, it has begun to play a significant role.

It has turned our gaze South.⁵

⁴ Interview with Muhammed Mayet (Urban Designer), 27th May 2010

⁵ Hannah le Roux “Looking South”

Images credit: Tanzeem Razak **Internal images:** Omar Hurzook
Image editing: Rachel Stella Jenkins

Fig 1.2. View of stadium from new bridge





Fig 1.3. Interior view of Stadium



Fig 1.4. Internal view of stadium patchwork skin



Fig 1.5. New infrastructure



Soccer City: Realigning and Building a Contemporary Identity for the Country

By Guy Trangos

(Architect & design tutor, South Africa)

The African pot, the calabash, the kgotla (tribal meeting place), and the protea have all been used to describe Africa's largest stadium. Soccer City in south-western Johannesburg has come to embody a national identity and spirit. If the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa was a magnifying glass, focussing the world's light on South Africa, Soccer City (hosting both the opening and closing ceremonies) would be the epicentre, the point where the light begins to burn.

South Africa currently exists in a contemporary architectural confusion. Advocates of a direct return to traditional, even tribal and more 'African' references in design, exist in parallel to architects with a far more western focus, who are sent into a flurry of excitement by the latest glass, Gulf build. On the other hand, less passionate designers celebrate their client's desires for Mediterranean manors by littering them all over our urban peripheries, while a large portion of South Africans live in inadequate housing. The paradoxes are there, but the discussion is not. It is thus very rare that a building of such regional significance to South African identity should, in a decidedly inspired manner come to fruition, particularly on such an iconic scale.

A cohesive South African identity has always been elusive, colonisation and apartheid having denied the majority of the population any inclusivity, resulting in a constructed, nationalist and minority led state. Traditional African design and building techniques were left to anthropological studies, trivialised and never acknowledged as part of an architectural heritage. Civic architecture thus only represented the 'civilised' in the eyes of respective, successive governments, taking little or no significant design cues from local culture and traditions, but their own. As a result of this fragmented architectural heritage, the emergence of a truly critical, contemporary regionalism, that celebrates culture, landscape, tradition and the modern has struggled to take root.

Central to South Africa's Soccer celebration, however, stands Soccer City. A building that unites the world around the spectacle of sport in turn unites the country around a culturally relevant icon, and unites the scattered, often opposing, architectural dialogue around a modern day, African building.

Designed by Boogertman Urban Edge and Partners, a large South African, typically commercial firm, in partnership with Populous, the well known global, sports architects, Soccer City sits at a point of urban tension and historical division in the Johannesburg landscape.

A vast pixelated facade stretches across mine-dump landscape, earth toned tiles, and the gentle curvilinear form of the building evoke the calabash or African pot inspiration. The stadium fragments, shatters into thousands of clay tiles, constantly dissolving. At night it all but dematerialises, a monumental form only visible as a series of lights, slots and portholes. Soccer City is completely different to other stadium contemporaries, where the entire form of the stadium is usually maintained and celebrated as a single object.

The calabash represents traditional gathering, sharing and celebration and it is here that the building's form, concept, meaning and tectonics become accessible. As a cultural symbol, the calabash removes the often obscure and unobtainable inspiration for architecture, allowing onlookers a greater opportunity to read and interpret the design, and its intentions.

Also, the vast stadium melts into its context. The patternation and hues of the extensive facade force the building into the ground, anchoring it heavily, while quietly mirroring the vertical change in ochre colour of the surrounding mine dumps. A gently undulating, and distinctly horizontal silhouette plays off the dominant, harsh lines of the mine dumps, inner city and disjointed site. The building is unmistakably a product of its location.

Soccer City also stands in a global media context as the representative stadium of the World Cup. Here an unmistakably Johannesburg, or at least, African identity is successfully broadcasted by the stadium - an identity without theme, adornment or cultural clichés. The stadium represents the people of South Africa, as the Allianz Arena came to represent Germany, or the Bird's Nest, China. It thus builds a contemporary identity for the country.

Architecture in South Africa has not actively partaken in building a national, contemporary identity. Few successful examples, such as the Constitutional Court, have managed to



conjure up a national fervour. Residents are keen to take visitors there, as the building directly relates to the modern day South African, and what the country stands for as a constitutional democracy. Similarly, tours of Soccer City have been booked up months in advance. Not only do South Africans want to partake in the excitement of the World Cup, they want to see the burgeoning icon, decide for themselves what it represents to them as a nation, determine what the new, massive structure means for their city, and how it assists in realigning their urban self.

The stadium, like the local spectator who visits it, is confident as a symbol of a progressive South Africa, for Soccer City is far more than an iconic stadium. It represents a shift in the direction of a clear South African identity in architecture. An architecture that remains contextually true, culturally and historically relevant, and in tune with a modern, African society.

Guy is a recent March (Prof) graduate at the University of the Witwatersrand. He currently practices at a small design and research oriented firm in Johannesburg, and tutors Design at the university.

Images of Soccer City stadium above credited to: Boogertman Urban Edge and Partners in partnership with Populous



Football: Keeping the Heart Beating

By Tuuli Saarela

Ghana is a football nation. Yet, it is a small miracle that nations like Ghana are able to compete on a global platform, considering its limited resources and the exodus of players to Europe. Despite challenges, African teams are considered rising stars in global football. And Africa has proved to unbelievers that the continent is ready to host a global sporting event like the World Cup.

Within the continent, the African Cup of Nations Tournament also moved back into sub-Saharan Africa (after a hiatus in North Africa) when Ghana in 2008 and Angola in 2010 hosted the event, each investing heavily in infrastructure and stadiums. Have these new investments benefited the people, in practical, aesthetic or functional ways?

While the necessity of investing in football may be questionable when compared to the serious challenges of sanitation, education, roads and utilities, it is overwhelmingly supported by the people, because of the unbridled passion that football stirs in their hearts. In Ghana, despite heated political disagreements between the ruling parties during an election year, almost everyone agreed to the necessity of building two new stadiums and upgrading two existing ones to FIFA standard. In fact, the public called on the government not to embarrass the country, but to build the stadiums on time.

Two years after hosting the cup, the stadiums remain largely empty, as civil society and sports organizations fail to make use of the spaces (especially in the regional capitals). The responsibility of maintenance of these structures is also in question. However nobody is too bothered. Could decades of useless development projects be responsible for sensitizing the African people to poorly planned and unsustainable infrastructure projects?

The global platform of football and the passion of Africans for the game, create powerful catalysts to mobilize resources for teams, stadiums, and also for, what in my opinion, are surprising decisions like sponsoring the travel of 2000 Ghanaian football fans on the

government bill to South Africa to “support the team.” This is often not considered money wasted, most Ghanaians are not upset that the government has prioritized football fans over for example, clean drinking water, rather they are jealous of those who got tickets to go.

Maybe the reason people are willing to sacrifice is that there is nothing like playing at a World Cup. In 2006, I was in a small rural village in Togo when its team qualified for the first time in history. While there was no electricity in the village, the entire population of 200 listened intently to handheld, battery powered radios.

As Togo scored against Senegal securing the top of their qualifying group, the entire village erupted into dance, screaming and jubilation. Grandmothers danced down the road accompanied by 100 strong assembly of drums while children threw cartwheels out of pure excitement. The President of Togo announced three days public holiday and the capital city of Lome bloomed with street parties, parades and loud music.

In this year’s World Cup, the hopes of a continent lay squarely on Ghana’s team’s shoulders as the only African team to qualify into the final 16. Two billion African voices were added to the 22 million coaches in Ghana who had an opinion about starting lineups, the coach and the team.

As I watched the game, the devoutness of the occasion was palpable. A radio presenter commented: “Football is not for the faint-hearted, some of us will not be able to watch the game [against USA] tonight.” The incredible passion, hope and emotion would simply be too much.

I realize this was true, as my friends gasped at every pass, shot and goal of the game - and also as pure joy erupted as Ghana scored the winning goal. Football really does represent the heart of the continent and countries like Ghana will continue to spend its limited resources on keeping its heart beating strongly.

10 June - 31 July 2010

Asmara - Africa's Secret Modernist City, Austria

1 July 2010 - 23 March 2011

Third Holcim Awards competition cycle for projects & visions of sustainability

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Conference on the 1960 Rome Olympics, Italy

13 - 14 October 2010

The International Social Housing Summit, The Netherlands

15 October 2010

Deadline for Afrika Museum & ArchiAfrika "Blueprints of Paradise" Competition

29 November - 3 December 2010

GEO Tunis 2010, Tunisia

Colofon

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The best way to predict the future is to invent it

- Alan Kay

- You love your African roots
- You are an architect or artist
- You have a vision on the future of Africa

Sign up for the Competition Blueprints of Paradise

The challenge

Spatial aspirations of Africa

Africa is planning for the future. Some projects, like the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, affect the entire world, others, like the works of Pierre Goudiaby Atepa, Doual'art, or the team of Takako Tajima and Aziza Chaoui, are locally focussed.

What would you put forward when it comes to presenting the aspirations of Africa?

Architects, artists and visionaries of African descent are invited to enter their ideas to the competition:

Blueprints of Paradise

Two Dutch organisations, the Afrika Museum (Berg en Dal) and African Architecture Matters (Utrecht) have set up a competition in which African Architects can demonstrate their ideas for future Africa. Too often, plans for Africa are made on Western drawing tables. These plans barely fit today's reality. African cities, for example, are indisputably modern, but different from modern cities in the West. The same goes for the villages, transport hubs and all other parts of African society that often go unnoticed to 'outsiders'.

Are you in for a challenge?

We invite African architects, artists and visionaries to send in presentations showing their planning ideas for future Africa. The jury will select 25 entries that will be shown in the main exhibition hall of the Afrika Museum in Berg en Dal (the Netherlands) from April – October 2011. In case one or more of the entries are suitable for temporary installation in the outdoor museum, this will be considered.

BluePrints of Paradise jury:

Abdoumalig Simone, Femke van Zeijl, Manthia Diawara, Lesley Lokko and Joe Osaë – Addo.

Questions to consider are:

What is the power of architecture in Africa?

How can African spaces and buildings inspire the world?

What specific qualities are important for the development of spaces in Africa (be it public, private or semi private?)

How will African identity influence spaces and buildings in Africa and other parts of the world?

What technology will influence African planning most? Is there a future for traditional techniques? Can tradition push innovation or will the planning of future Africa completely break with its traditional or colonial past?

For further information please visit :

<http://www.afrikamuseum.nl/blog/>



Vacancy

DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CITIES

The African Centre for Cities at the School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics, University of Cape Town, invites applications for the position of

DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR CITIES

(At Professor/Associate Professor level)

School of Architecture, Planning & Geomatics Faculty of Engineering & The Built Environment

The African Centre for Cities (ACC) is a University of Cape Town 'Signature Theme' under the Directorship of SARCHI Chair holder Professor Edgar Pieterse. It is an interdisciplinary research centre, located in the School of Architecture, Planning and Geomatics, but drawing on expertise from all university faculties. As an African initiative, it undertakes research, public engagement and teaching in order to promote the concept of sustainable human settlements. The Centre has grown rapidly since it was initiated in 2007: it now employs a number of research and administrative staff, as well as adjunct and honorary professors; hosts post-docs, PhDs and visiting academics; undertakes contract and research work locally and internationally; and is involved in a masters teaching programme. A Deputy Director is required to assist the Director in building a collegial and effective applied and interdisciplinary centre. He/she will be expected to assume a major role in the management of the Centre, providing leadership and mentorship to research staff, providing oversight of administrative staff and interfacing with UCT administration and researchers. In addition, the Deputy Director will undertake his/her own research, contribute to the applied research programmes of the ACC and play a substantive role in fostering the intellectual project of the ACC.

The ideal applicant should enjoy a significant reputation as an urbanist and be familiar with South African and, ideally, African urban issues. He/she should have a demonstrable track record of excellence in research leadership and management, ideally in institutions of higher education. The successful candidate should have a PhD in an urban-related field and (for appointment at professorial level) should be an internationally recognized researcher with a strong publication record.

The position is offered on a five-year contract basis.

For further information regarding this position please contact Professor Edgar Pieterse on Edgar.Pieterse@uct.ac.za
The annual remuneration packages, including benefits, at the respective levels are as follows:

- Associate Professor: R516 516
- Professor: R636 515

Application requirements:

To apply please email the completed UCT Application form available at http://web.uct.ac.za/depts/sapweb/forms/hr201_doc and all other relevant documentation as indicated on the form, to Ms Celeste Booysen at Celeste.Booyesen@uct.ac.za Staff Recruitment and Selection, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, 7700.

Telephone: +27 21 650 2220

African Centre for Cities website: <http://www.uct.ac.za>

An application which does not comply with the above requirements will be regarded as incomplete.

Reference number for this post: 2225

Closing date for applications: 31 July 2010

UCT is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity and redress. Our Employment Equity Policy is available at <http://hr.uct.ac.za/policies/ee.php>.

POLYTECHNIC OF NAMIBIA

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VACANCIES

The Polytechnic of Namibia, located in Windhoek, Namibia, is recruiting academic staff.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Contact: Ms Monica Tjirare at tel: +264 61 207 2393 or e-mail: mtjirare@polytechnic.edu.na

Applications are invited from persons complying with the requirements for the following positions in the new Department of Architecture for a term of three years. The Department of Architecture is a new department at the Polytechnic of Namibia offering programmes leading to Bachelor of Architecture honours.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

Senior Lecturer/Lecturer: Architecture (3 posts)

Requirements

Senior Lecturer: A M.Arch. (Masters in Architecture) and B.Arch. (Bachelors of Architecture, who completed a five (5) or six (6) year full-time course at an accredited Institution) with six (6) years lecturing experience or an equivalent combination of relevant professional experience. Must be able to teach Design and/or History/Theory of Architecture and/or Technology in the new programme. A proven record of research and publications, strong leadership, communication and management skills.

Lecturer: A M.Arch. (Masters in Architecture) and B.Arch. (Bachelors of Architecture, who completed a five (5) or six (6) year full-time course at an accredited Institution) with at least two (2) years lecturing experience or an equivalent combination of relevant professional experience.

Both positions require registration with the Namibian Council for Architects and Quantity Surveyors or other similarly recognised relevant statutory professional body.

Technologist Architecture (2 posts)

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At least a Degree or Diploma in Architectural or related studies with three (3) years relevant experience in Building/ Construction Technology. Knowledge and expertise in Architectural Drawing Software packages such as ArchiCad and compatible rendering software packages, as well as handling of architectural equipment.

Faculty Responsibilities

Lecturing, assessment, curriculum development, student advising and counselling, research and administration.

Applicants are requested to provide the following documentation in support of their application:

- Complete and updated Curriculum Vitae
- A brief self-evaluation by the candidate
- The candidate's vision for the department
- Details of three contactable referees of standing in the discipline, including referees who can attest to the candidate's academic and leadership qualities. The Polytechnic reserves the right to appoint additional referees.

Candidates will be expected to make a 15 minute presentation to the Selection Committee on his/her vision for the Department.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. No documents will be returned.

Closing date: 30 July 2010

Date of assumption of duties: As soon as possible

Fringe benefits: The Polytechnic offers competitive salaries and the following fringe benefits: *Pension Fund/Gratuity *Medical Aid Scheme *Annual Bonus *Home-ownership Scheme/Rental Allowance *General Leave Privileges *Relocation Expenses.

Application procedure: Applications in writing should be submitted to: The Manager: Human Resources, Polytechnic of Namibia, Private Bag 13388 or 13 Storch Street, Windhoek, NAMIBIA, fax +264 61 207 2444, or e-mail: hr@polytechnic.edu.na



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Sited in Gothenburg, Sweden, Mistra Urban Futures was set-up to better understand the challenges and possibilities facing urban areas and to establish a world centre for their sustainable development. It is funded by the Mistra Foundation for Strategic Development, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and seven founding organizations. The centre itself is hosted by Chalmers University of Technology.