



SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL
for the
ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION

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SACAP E- Newsletter: August - September 2016
From the desk of the Registrar : Edition : 05/2016

Dear Registered Person,

October is always a special month for SACAP as we join our global community of architectural professionals in celebrating World Architects Day and this year the theme is 'Design a better world'. Much has been done, but we all appreciate just how much still needs to be achieved if we are to realise the UN's 2030 Vision. Your work plays an essential role in planning for the future, sustaining population growth and tackling a number of social challenges. It's human nature to not always remember or acknowledge our accomplishments; especially so with professionals like yourselves who have exacting standards, high ideals and absorbing visions. I am the first to admire your work and am here in support to enable the potential of the profession at large.

August and September were incredibly busy months, especially with regards to the educational matters. I'll take you through some of the highlights that I am confident have brought us closer to our vision of a people-centred architecture for South Africa.

In late August we convened an Education Lekgotla, kindly hosted by the University of the Free State. President Yashaen Luckan and Chairperson of the Education Committee Councilor Rakau Lekota led the meeting of minds and highlighted the need for a flexible approach in South African architectural education within the global context. An approach that takes advantage of opportunities for E-Learning, practice-based education and Recognition of

Prior Learning (RPL). The Council for the Built Environment (CBE) also made a presentation at the Lekgotla on its ongoing research and findings on Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Labour Intensive and IDMS. If you appreciate heritage you will be interested to know that a new heritage module will be developed for the curriculum, in consultation with the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA).

Meanwhile, this year the AZA16 Scale was hosted in early September by University of the Witwatersrand School of Architecture and Planning and SACAP was a proud associate sponsor. We were also extremely proud to have co-sponsored the Architectural Student Congress this year and especially to have launched a key transformation driver: the National Architectural Student Council (NASC) on the evening of the Des Baker Award ceremony. NASC is an elected student representative body which now provides students with a collective platform and voice as the country's future architectural candidates and professionals. It forms part of the SACAP's Heads of Schools Committee agenda and Nkhensani de Klerk is the elected Interim Chairperson.

Across the country, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) architectural faculty has now achieved full validation status on its curriculum syllabus after a period of conditional validation. SACAP's Education Committee Validation Board visit, conducted by a team consisting of representatives from the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA), are satisfied and have verified that graduates who hold qualifications from CPUT met the minimum standards of the knowledge fields, competencies and associated requisite skills.

On the international front, our Registered Person Pr. Arch Mr. Msizi Mkhize commenced a two year Masters scholarship programme at Yeungnam University in South Korea for Global Leaders in Environmental Policy. It was heartening to see the overwhelming support you all showed him when we shared the news with you on Facebook. On behalf of the profession, I had the opportunity to congratulate him as part of a special send-off ceremony hosted at the Department of Public Works.

To all of our Candidates writing PPE next week on 26 October, we wish you the best of luck and look forward to sharing photos from exam writing centres around the country with our online community on the day via our social media platforms of Facebook and Twitter.

Onto regulatory matters: I am excited to share that we are fully on track with the finalization of our uniquely developed and ground breaking online Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme. We are confident that our final product will become an inspiration for other professions and will make huge strides in redressing past imbalances. Currently in the final testing phase to refine the software, it will be formally launched early next year. RPL is another of SACAP's key transformation drivers and Council is investing heavily into its development and roll out. It aims to give Historically Previously Disadvantaged Individuals who have gained architectural skills through practice the possibility of formal articulation within the profession, with its related benefits. The recent BETA testing phase saw 20 people invited to use and test the interactive online system. They identified constructive ways to improve its functionality and the overall online user experience.

Last month the Council for the Built Environment (CBE) published a notice advising that pending the review of the Competition Commissions' findings none of the Built Environment Professional Councils (BEPCs), of which SACAP is one, shall be in a position to publish guideline professional fees. We continue to advise and assure the public that the other statutory mandates of each BEPC will be executed in terms of the enabling legislation. We will keep all our stakeholders abreast of developments as they occur.

A steadily-growing number of Building Control Officers (BCO's) and indeed all architectural professionals are placing themselves into good standing with the law by formally registering with SACAP and receiving their registration number.

Many will have seen recent media reports in which we have been vocal in addressing the issue of how BCOs, who take on private drawing work after hours, must and can avoid an inherent conflict of interest when they need to submit this work for approval. These plans need to be submitted for approval to local authorities outside of their own jurisdiction. This ensures that no BCO is in a position to derive personal benefit from the actions or decisions that they and their departmental colleagues make in their appointed municipal capacity.

Before I sign off, I urge that if you would like to serve on SACAP's panel which nominates new 4th Term Council members, we would be delighted to have your application. Please do so before 31 October.

As you read this, we are in the process of moving office. Thank you to all for your patience while our phone lines have been temporarily down (temporary cell numbers are listed on the SACAP website on the homepage). As you will have seen from our website and social media pages, SACAP will be closed for business on **Thursday, 20 October from 12h00** and will be open on **Monday, 24 October 2016 at 12h00**, you can find SACAP at our new office situated 51 Wessel Road, Rivonia and use our normal landline number again: (011) 479 5000.

Please join our conversation on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SACAPOfficialPage or follow us on Twitter [@SACAPSA](https://twitter.com/SACAPSA) . I look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me directly on registrar@sacapsa.com or tweet me [@OReillyMarella](https://twitter.com/OReillyMarella)

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marella O'Reilly".

Marella O'Reilly
Registrar/CEO