



Dear SAIA members

Welcome to our first edition of the SAIA newsletter for the term 2022-2023. In this first edition, we would like to introduce you to your new leadership and our plans for our term of office. Continuity, collaboration and partnership are key. As the current president, I acknowledge the incredible work done by my predecessor, Architect Ruben Reddy. Ruben ensured that we “inherited” a clean organisation in terms of administrative and financial processes. He continues to support us with this task for the next year as the immediate past president. Kate Otten set the scene for “many voices”, publications and conversations that will continue long after her term. And just this last week, we met with the team of the Minister of Human Settlements after we, in partnership with Platform 100 and the Chair for Spatial Transformation, had hosted Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi at the World Urban Forum (WUF) in Katowice, Poland in June 2022 in a session discussing the role of architects in supporting her work. This engagement was initiated by Architect Luyanda Mphahla during his term as SAIA president.

We also welcome to the team Architect Mokena Makeka who will be introduced in this newsletter as our new Vice President. Thank you to those who responded to our call for representatives for the various portfolios of the African Union of Architects South Region (AUASR). We look forward to introducing you in a coming edition. We will also be introducing the SAIA staff and other contributors to the various portfolios.

I also want to acknowledge Leon Krige and to thank him for permission to use his artwork for this edition (8779-Broadway--Juta-Dusk; copyright L F Krige 2014). A link to his bio is also included here.

Welcome!

~Amira Osman



AMIRA OSMAN
SAIA PRESIDENT 2022-2023

Amira Osman is a Sudanese/South African architect, researcher, academic, activist, public speaker, and author. She is a Professor of Architecture at the Tshwane University of Technology and holds the position of SARChI: DST/NRF/SACN Research Chair in Spatial Transformation (Positive Change in the Built Environment).

Amira is currently a joint coordinator for the international Council for Research and Innovation in the Built Environment and Construction (CIB W104) Open Building Implementation network, served as the Vice-President of the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) (2021-2022) and is the convener of the SAIA-endorsed conference series: A City is [Not] a Tree: The Urban Ecologies of Divided Cities. She is the director of the organisation PLATFORM100 which is a thinktank and a collaborative vehicle for promoting change in conversations and practice around architecture, space and cities.

[Read More](#) | [Link to Full Bio](#)

[Manifesto](#) | Amira Osman

[SAIA Incoming President's Speech](#)



MOKENA MAKEKA
SAIA VICE-PRESIDENT 2022-2023



Mokena Makeka is a Principal in Dalberg Advisors.

Mokena Makeka is a South African raised in Maseru, Lesotho and New York, USA and is an accomplished architect, artist, creative, curator, global leader, scholar, speaker, urbanist. He holds a B.Arch. Dist. Hons, (Magna Cum Laude) University of Cape Town (UCT).

He was the Azrieli Visiting Critic of 2020, Carleton University School of architecture and urbanism- Canada, Adjunct Professor Cooper Union- New York, and is a Board member of the South African Green Building Council and is a board member of the Cape Town Central City Improvement district.

He is a Young Global leader at the World Economic Forum (2015) and is a member of the WCS Young leaders in urbanism. (Singapore).

[Read More](#) | [Link to Full Bio](#)

[Manifesto](#) | Mokena Makeka



**CECILIA JANSE
VAN RENSBURG**
SAIA TREASURER 2022-2023

Cecilia is a founding member and the sole proprietor of Cecilia Architects CC, which was established in the Lowveld in 1983. Her expansive knowledge and experience traverse diverse design fields ranging from residential to commercial and public architectural projects.

Cecilia has a distinguished track record and after more than 30 year involvement with the architectural profession, she remains inspired by the varying challenges and learning that each successive project brings. As the firm's principal architect, her commitment to expert design and personal involvement with projects ensure the 'full circle' of the architectural process. She provides sustained involvement throughout all project phases from initial client briefing and concept design, through production of the built form to completion.

[Read More](#) | [Link to Full Bio](#)

[SAIA Incoming Treasurer's Speech](#)



COBUS GOUWS
SAIA VICE-TREASURER 2022-2023



Jan Jacobus (Cobus) Gouws is an Architect, Property Investor, Drone Photographer & Entrepreneur. Cobus holds a M.Arch(Prof) from the University of the Free State and a MSc Built (Property Economics & Valuation) from Nelson Mandela University. His Treatise was titled, a Framework for the optimisation in commercial Property in Africa. It was presented and published at the DII International Conference, Development & Investment in Infrastructure in Zambia in October 2021.

Cobus is a registered Professional Architect with SACAP (PrArch21345). He has been practicing architecture in the private sector since 2010 and was a director and shareholder at Intsika Architects (Pty). Currently he is the director and a shareholder with C Square Architects (Pty) Ltd and has over ten years of experience as an Architect and Principal Agent. In his professional career, Cobus has been involved with various commercial projects including; office blocks, educational schools and universities, industrial developments, retail complexes, hospitals, health planning, tourism, mixed-use and residential developments.

[Read More](#) | [Link to Full Bio](#)



LEON KRIGE
PHOTOGRAPHER & ARCHITECT

Leon Krige is a photographer and an architect who documents urban and natural topography. He lectures architectural theory & design at the University of Johannesburg, previously at Universities of Witwatersrand & Pretoria in South Africa, using both analogue and digital nocturnal high resolution photography to further research projects about cities.

He has been photographing cities, people and plant morphology since the early 1980s. Initially using medium format analogue film for printing on vintage black & white paper as historic documentation, he explored Johannesburg in detail since 1983. Shooting medium format is a timeous process, which requires inverted composition on a 6 x 9cm glass plate, after reading light with a hand meter, manual focus, before exposing and subsequently processing film according to the experience of each place, circumstance and phenomenon, often demolished landscapes or imploded structures.

[Read More](#) | [Link to Full Bio](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

1 SAIA 'many voices' webinar – Architecture for well-being
03 October 2022 (World Architecture Day)
16:00 – 18:00 (SAST)

[Architecture for Wellbeing – Webinar Invite](#)

2 SAIAshare #17
07 October 2022
14:30 – 15:45 (SAST)

[SAIAshare #17 – Webinar Invite](#)



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