



ARCHIFEMME

A support network for female architecture students based at the UCT

Archifemme was founded in 2018 with the intention of creating a support network for female students studying architecture at the University of Cape Town. The key aim of this initiative is to provide academic and emotional support for students by establishing meaningful connections across the various years. This is primarily done through a one-on-one mentorship programme, which partners up postgraduates with undergraduates, hopefully allowing for a relationship where advice and knowledge can be exchanged. To compliment this, we run round-table critique sessions that are open to all and allows for a non-intimidating space for learners to get feedback and guidance on their work. The team also organises themed discussions, which provides a platform for dialogue around issues and aspirations of female students.

The second objective of this organisation is to challenge the under representation, and often, mis representation of women in architecture. At a university level this starts by interrogating our curriculum and the dominance of the narrow narrative of who constitutes an architect. In order to try and reconstruct the status quo Archifemme aims to showcase the work of female architects across history, current practice, academic theory and, of course, that of our own students.

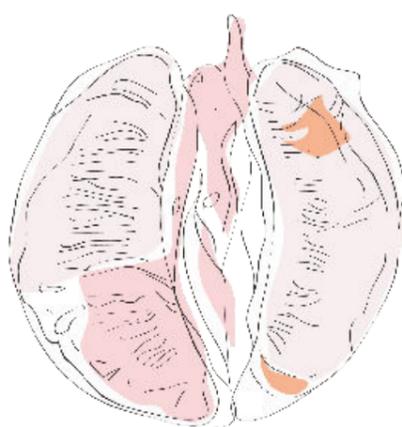
And that is exactly what tonight's exhibition is all about! On display is the work of 20 amazing women who studied in the postgraduate programme in 2018. The layout is grouped according to the four design research studios which were on offer and there is a mixture and both honours and master's scholars.



@ archifemme_uct



jade_budd@hotmail.com



MATRI-ARCHI

Matri-Archi(itecture) is an intersectional collective that empowers African women as a network dedicated to African city development and spatial education.

Matri-Archi is a design, research and film-making collective geared at exploring intersectional narratives and African place-making. Matri-Archi hosts a digital network of members in the spatial industry across the globe and African continent.

Matri-Archi is co-directed by two womxn with architecture backgrounds who consider themselves diverse spatial agents - Khensani de Klerk and Solange Mbanefo. The collective itself, made up of 12 young pluri-disciplinary creatives, finds itself active in Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria, Switzerland and California. As an establishment, it is predominantly based between Switzerland and South Africa fostering conversations in the creative space between African and European markets with a focus on African diaspora as a channel of communication and connection.

Matri-Archi publishes multi-media research via its webspace, engages in built work through projects and exhibitions, and brings its members together through live events, workshops and initiatives within the realm of spatial education for the advancement of African research.

Matri-Archi, engaging predominantly in the Architectural domain, is involved in a variety of different projects currently. The diverse scales and media of these projects maintains a healthy momentum in the collective that drives a constant engagement with the spatial industry. Last month, in March 2019, Matri-Archi was invited to and collaborated with Nairobi Design Week to create a new recurring project titled FACE-ing Urban Africa, a photo series capturing the spatial lens, stories and portraits of local global Kenyan womxn at the design week. On a design project scale, Matri-Archi is currently leading the architectural design envisioning for the restoration of civil rights movement activist - James Baldwin's - home in St Paul de Vence, France; which seeks to maintain a spirit of intersectionality and creativity in a place where Baldwin conceived ways of thinking that resonate and inspire progressive thought for youth today.

Matri-Archi maintains its impetus to contribute to African spatial knowledge - in its creation, dissemination and archival such that it reflects, records and evolves the creative and sustainable thinking inherently ripe in Africa.



www.matri-archi.com



@ matri_archi



Matri_Archi



wearematriarchi@gmail.com



THE W.H.Y PROJECT

We. Hear. You
a mentoring network for female architects in South Africa

There is a lack of representation within the profession of architecture of the most marginalised. The work of the W.H.Y project aims to support and grow this representation within our industry.

WHY?

- Why do black woman only make up 3% of the total number of registered architects in South Africa? 'Statistics reflect an unacceptably low level of Women in Architecture in South Africa, while the demographics of this small group of professionals highlights the extensive marginalization of Previously Disadvantaged Individuals.(PDI's)*
- Why is the number of PDI woman students who 'drop out' of architectural tertiary programmes so high?
- Why are there so few woman (and even fewer black woman) owned architectural practices in South Africa?
- The W.H.Y Project started by asking the question 'Why', but it is also an acronym for the words, We.Hear.You.

the aim

To create a platform for real transformation in the industry, through the network of mentoring relationships for women by women.

the vision

To address the extreme marginalisation of black female architects in South Africa, and to be a platform for real transformation in the industry, through the network of mentoring relationships for women by women.

the mission

- To establish a mentoring network for women in architecture
- Through the mentoring network, identify needs and provide the necessary support for students, particularly black female architects, over their years of study.
- Through the mentoring network, identify needs and provide the necessary support for black female owned business to grow and become the norm rather than the exception.
- To develop a platform for the sharing of resources, skills and information.

Please contact us for more information, applications and to be part of the conversation!



www.thewhyproject.space



[@thewhyprojectza](https://www.instagram.com/thewhyprojectza)



[thewhyprojectza](https://www.facebook.com/thewhyprojectza)



kirsty@colabconcepts.co.za



Exemplar

An online platform showcasing and celebrating women doing exemplary work in architecture

Exemplar is an initiative which aims to become an online showcase, and celebration, of women doing exemplary work in architecture and related fields across the African continent. The intention is not only to raise the profile of women architects but also to start to build a resource, and community of women contributing significantly to better built environments across Africa.

The idea for the project was born out of a search for female 'industry champions'. Whilst there are an increasing number of articles and stories of examples of women who are making an exceptional contribution to the industry, few reference women working in Africa.

The debate about women in architecture is sometimes met with mixed emotion. Whilst some people are outspoken about the prejudice experienced, others simply shrug their shoulders, not necessarily convinced by the merits of such claims. The reality is that men are still, by and large, the face of the profession, particularly in Africa. One solution to addressing the imbalance is to shift the perceptions of women in the industry, particularly in the eyes of men, thereby instilling more confidence in the abilities of women architects.

Exemplar seeks to be a platform for exposure which will increase the visibility of talented women working in our unique context. It also aims to build a network and a larger community, and provide relatable mentors and 'champions' for both men and women to look up to. The initiative is still in Concept Development stage and aims to launch in earnest by August 2019.



sarahp@dhk.co.za



W P N

Womens Property Network

The Women's Property Network was established in 2000 to create a forum for women in a predominantly male industry to join together to exchange information, develop business contacts and enhance professional success. There are chapters in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, the Western and Eastern Cape, with over 800 members countrywide.

WPN is dedicated to advancing the success of women in the commercial property industry. To accomplish this, the Executive and Regional Committees are acting as a catalyst for change within the industry by:

- Providing members and sponsors with opportunities to network and do business with each other.
- Making funding available through a bursary scheme to identify young women who can be developed in the industry.
- Providing skills development workshops to nurture new talent

The WPN seeks to:

- Enhance the image and profile of the WPN as a dynamic, respected and influential national organisation within the property industry of South Africa.
- Constructively and positively promote the role of women in the industry.
- Retain and attract into the WPN diverse women from all areas of the commercial and industrial property industry.
- Through educational programmes assist women to achieve economic selfsufficiency and promote the entry of more women into the property industry.
- Transform the WPN so that it fully reflects the demographics and of the country.
- Support and encourage development and growth through skills development workshops / programmes.
- Recognise and honor top women in the industry through related awards.
- Promote interaction, participation and business opportunities through innovative networking activities.
- Practice good governance and be socially responsible.



www.wpn.co.za



[@womenspropertynetwork](https://www.instagram.com/womenspropertynetwork)



Women's Property Network



info@wpn.co.za



Cifa

Cape Institute for Architects

The Cape Institute for Architecture (Cifa) has embarked on a process of transformation.

The following are key aims:

1. To address the role of architects and our need to be more relevant within our communities.
2. To raise the profile of architects and create greater awareness of what architects do.
3. To make the profession of architecture attractive and accessible to a greater diversity of entrants.

We have begun the process by setting up an information portal on our newly updated website that will assist young South Africans with all the information necessary to select a path of study, as well as to apply to institutions and bursary opportunities.

We have offered free membership to all candidate architects and technologists, with the aim of seeing how we can assist candidates becoming fully registered professionals. We are looking forward to engaging with this group to make sure that the institute work at supporting their processes and interests.

We are committed to ensuring that all talks and exhibitions at the institute promote relevant issues and celebrate our complex and challenging society.

We are delighted to host this exhibition 'Ignite', which celebrates the new spatial realities emerging from the UCT graduates of 2018.



www.cifa.org.za



@cifarchitecture



Cape Institute for Architecture



nicola@ccnia.co.za



WiASA

Women in Architecture South Africa

WiASA aims to encourage, support, educate, develop and transform women in the profession, as well as those wanting to enter the profession. Transformation of the Profession and changing the culture within the profession as well as the organizations allied to it is also an objective. WiASA is set to open up and enable opportunities for all women, and black women in particular. WiASA is progressive, broad and far-reaching, and provides a structure within which women in architecture can begin to address their needs. WiASA is women-led with Karuni Naidoo as Chairperson of the Task Team. WiASA will be developed in partnership with Voluntary Associations (Institutes) and Accredited Learning Sites (Universities) in the regions. Roll out is planned for 2015/2016, with a launch in August 2016.

OBJECTIVES

- Addressing access by women into the profession
- Accelerating the entry of black women into the profession
- Encouraging educated, qualified & skilled women to remain in the profession
- Supporting women to build successful careers in architecture
- Supporting the development of women owned practices
- Building on and creating new leadership to drive this transformation
- Profiling successful women currently in the profession as role models
- Promoting architecture as an attractive career choice for young women

PROGRAMME

- Database & Survey
- Marketing Architecture
- Education Support
- Development and Support
- Communication
- Lead Advocacy



WiASA KZN



jacqueline@twigacommunications.co.za

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

