

# NEWSLETTER

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PRETORIA  
INSTITUTE FOR  
ARCHITECTURE  
A REGION OF SAIA

September/October 2024



## Architect

[noun] /'ɑ:kitekt/

A job title for someone who can turn "I don't know what I want, but I'll know it when I see it" into an invoice.

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## President's Pen

Dear Colleagues,

Before you ask, "Who is this woman?" — let me introduce myself. Becoming the president of the PIA is not just about being elected; it's about stepping up when called.

My biggest claim to fame? Running my architecture business, I fondly refer to as 'die Weduwe se kruik' (the Widow's Flask) — a firm that keeps my family, a philosophy professor, two brilliant daughters, and four dogs afloat. Along the way, it's funded hockey tours and emergency shopping sprees! But this letter isn't about me — it's about us as architects and how we move forward as a profession.

Architecture is not a solo journey. It's a collective effort. Every project, line, and building is the result of collaboration. Whether it's with engineers, contractors, or clients, none of our work exists in isolation. Remember those varsity group projects? They were the academic version of Survivor — one person does the work while everyone else supervises. We thought we'd left that behind when we graduated, but the truth is, our entire profession is group work on steroids. Collaboration is the foundation of architecture — no one can carry the load alone.

Our industry faces unprecedented challenges: regulatory delays, economic constraints, competition from unregistered practitioners, and diminishing recognition of our expertise. These challenges demand more from us than ever before. And the truth is, no one of us has all the answers. But together, we do. As architects, we are changemakers. We transform master plans and visions into built realities. But we can only do this effectively when we collaborate. Together, we can influence policy, champion sustainability, and design cities that are functional, equitable, and inspiring.

I want to share a lesson from my own career. In the first 20 years, I embarked on a solo career to support my then-dominee husband in his ministry, managing the miracle of being a working-class woman while juggling church responsibilities. It wasn't easy, and in a solo career, you don't get the luxury of sound boarding ideas with a team. But as the years passed, I realized that teamwork — real collaboration — saved me. Engineers, contractors, product specialists, and fellow architects stepped in, and together we made things happen.

Fast forward to today, and I'm no longer navigating this industry alone. Joining a voluntary institute like the PIA has been a game-changer. It has provided me with a support network — a community of architects who understand the value of collaboration.

At the PIA, we stand for fairness, justice, sustainability, and economic opportunity. These values can only be realized when we support each other and work together. So, to my fellow architects, I urge you: collaborate, share your ideas, and build partnerships. Together, we can achieve far more than we could alone.

Collaborative Regards  
Donette

## Lethabong Secondary School

The Lethabong Secondary School project is a BMW CSI funded project situated in Soshanguve, North of Pretoria. As a school in this area, they were in need of amenities such as a nutrition centre, assembly hall and guardhouse. ARCA acted as the principal agents and principal consultants in the project and was instrumental with the master planning of the site for this project and future projects. By analysing the existing occupied spaces, green field areas, flow of movement of pupils, activities taking place and reviewing existing services, we were able to suggest the best positions for proposed new buildings.

### Nutrition Centre:

The school feeds a 1400 pupils in a 45min window per day. The design and form of the Nutrition Centre was lead by the flow of the food prepping and making process as well as the proposed piazza space feeding from the existing school buildings. The area identified for the kitchen centre was previously known as the naughty area where broken school furniture was discarded and mischief happened. ARCA designed a piazza area in lieu of this rubble area - the area was rife with established marula trees which informed where in the design seating would be located around - a space where pupils could enjoy their meals and chats with friends.

Sustainable low maintenance materials and services were chosen to ensure the longevity of the building. Sustainability also played a big role in the design - The site has no sub-surface stormwater system and all of the stormwater drains towards this building and piazza. The piazza is thus designed as an attenuation pond - not only dealing with the stormwater dispersement but also cooling the area off during hot summer days via delayed dispersing of rainwater. A vegetable garden, water storage and solar water heating is amongst other green design features in the project.



### Assembly Hall & Guardhouse:

The design language for the project as a whole is a combination of respecting the existing building tectonics and adding new materials that enhance the design appeal and complement what is there existing. This language was used as a common thread to the Guardhouse and Assembly Hall design. Here the flow of pupils during morning and afternoon traffic combined with the amount of scholars accommodated in the hall determined the shape of the building. The opportunity to add more classrooms to an overcrowded school was satisfied by fitting classrooms under the mezzanine seating area.

The Assembly hall building will be multi-functional and con-cyclical. On weekends the hall is available for community events and thus the flow needed to be restricted to the rest of the school. Instead of using a typical fence to curb movement, breeze blocks form a human scale walkway around and below the hall - limiting movement but maximising natural ventilation and light. Landscaping plays an important role to create a university boulevard feel when entering the site through the new guardhouse.

Through the coming years, BMW will continue to invest in Lethabong Secondary School, now a School of Specialisation with a focus on Automotive. The next phases include the renovation of existing classrooms and enhancement of school sports amenities. At ARCA, we take immense pride in contributing to transformative CSI projects like this. Prior to this initiative, BMW and ARCA upgraded the neighboring primary school, ensuring that pupils transitioning from Grade 7 to Lethabong can feel proud and excited about joining a school that exemplifies innovation and excellence.



LOCATION: Soshanguve, North of Pretoria.

COMPLETED: 2024

CONTRACTORS: Sebcrta (pty) LTD

STRUCTURAL, FIRE, AND WET SERVICES

ENGINEERS: Griffin Consult

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS: Aircycle Engineering

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING: EEDI - Energy Efficient

Design Integration

PHOTOGRAPHY: Ruan Jansen van Rensburg.

ARCHITECTS: ARCA UNLIMITED ARCHITECTS



# Featured Architect



**Inge Wilkinson**

Inge Wilkinson nee Wessels was born in 1972 in Bloemfontein in the Free State and she matriculated at Oranje Girls School in 1990. Thereafter she acquired a diploma in architecture and worked for renowned stage designer, Johan Badenhorst. During this time, she was directly involved with the physical construction of installations of numerous well-known stage productions, such as Tosca amongst others, that were usually performed in the grandiose Sand Du Plessis theatre.

Growing up in Bloemfontein and a farm in the Eastern Free State, allowed the young Inge to learn to speak South Sotho fluently. This linguistic attribute allowed her to teach literacy classes to Sotho speaking people to supplement her income and save money for a European tour and further her studies at the University of the Free State and the University of Pretoria, where she obtained her degree with cum laude.

Since 2008 Inge started to do contract work and was extensively involved with smaller and larger scale planning projects in the mining town of Hotazel in the Northern Cape. After a brief partnership with another practice, Inge established Solo Architect in 2010. She very quickly established herself as a specialist architect in the field of refurbishments and restoration of residential architecture with either historical or architectural merit.

In 2013 and 2021 she received awards of merit from the PIA for the refurbishment and alterations to respectively, House Steyn and House Fouche. Both projects are special projects of merit originally designed by well-known and respected Pretoria architect Johan De Ridder.

Concurrent to running her practice she was also, together with architects Karlien Thomashoff and Marguerite Pienaar, the co-founder of the concept factory, Wit op Wit. The latter being a design studio focussing on products, installations and events, where design concepts find inspiration in South Africa's rich, multi-cultural history.

Inge was also part of the core design and construction team of the "The Commons" community project in Muckleneuk Pretoria, which started in 2018. This project, which is a community park was built and funded entirely by the community and fundraising events. Inge also belongs to a ladies creativity group that gets together once a week, where everybody present indulges in sharing their crafts such as knitting, sketching, crochet and cooking.

## Office News

We are entering the very busy last stretch of the year.

*It is with great sadness that we notify you of the passing of Arch Anton Richter. Our most sincere condolences to his family and friends.*



We have several **upcoming events** and we urge you to go to our website and book now. Please also ensure that you have done sufficient CPD events before the end of November to keep your SACAP registration valid. We'll once again be assisting our members with their submissions to SACAP during the 1st week of December.

Please also remember to remind your suppliers to **support** us by **sponsoring** our events, exhibitions, etc. We can promote them to our membership and they assist us in keeping all we offer more affordable to our membership.

Our contact detail on our website is also only as up to date as you keep it. Please do visit the website and sign in - ensure that all your contact data is correct **or send an e-mail to finance@pia.org.za**.

We encourage our members to communicate any concerns, ideas, etc. which you may have with us. We are having a **planning for 2025 meeting** on 24 October and we welcome any input and suggestions.

Also remember that you can **upload your projects** to our website as it was designed to market our members to the public.

## We call on you to participate for World Architecture Month! (October)



We'll be hosting an exhibition together with our AGM at Boukunde in celebration of World Architecture Day which is on Monday, 7 October 2024.

Our AGM is on 10 October and the exhibition will be at Boukunde for the duration of the week.

If your poster is still outstanding, please deliver it as soon as possible.

To those who did not have time to make posters, please forward us 4 images of your project, the name of the project and 200 words describing the project and we'll exhibit it via social media.

Please e-mail to [management@pia.org.za](mailto:management@pia.org.za)



## Office News Continued...

Our new address is: GritSpace, Rosemary Forum, 356 Rosemary Road, Lynnwood.

We are fully operational and when you visit the lovely renovated centre next door, please don't forget to come and say hi!

Thank you to all our members in their support of one another via our WhatsApp group. Community is indeed everything.

We look forward to the last 3 months of this year and to be there to assist you in any and all things architectural.

Thanks also to our committee and staff for their valued efforts in all we do.

Serving you is a pleasure!  
Kind Regards, Mauneen 083 297 4697

## Get Involved: We need you

Please forward us your contributions for our newsletter articles and social media posts! We would like to feature all contributions from all our members

- Featured Architectural Professional
- Project Spotlight
- Heritage - Then & Now
- Design Trends
- Favorite Architectural Quotes

Please mail to: [management@pia.org.za](mailto:management@pia.org.za)

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### Making your fee payments easy!

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Via your banking app - easy scheduling on your terms (monthly payments)

## PIA Finances

Our invoices are out: Thank you to the 66% of our members who have already paid their fees.

We invite you to please contact Ishara on [finance@pia.org.za](mailto:finance@pia.org.za) to discuss any payment matters and to make arrangements which will suit you best.

You are also always welcome to contact Mauneen via e-mail, phone or whatsapp to discuss any matters which you need to have addressed. [management@pia.org.za](mailto:management@pia.org.za) or 083 297 4697

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## ARCHITECTS AS ARTISTS EXHIBITION - CALL TO EXHIBIT

**29 NOV 2024 - 15 JAN 2025**  
**TRENT GALLERY, 198 LONG AVENUE, WATERKLOOF**

We are inviting all the creative architectural professionals to enter photos of their best artwork (not architecture) by no later than 4 November 2024 for curating by Trent Gallery. (This could be paintings, sculptures, carpentry, mosaic, photography, etc.)

[WWW.PIA.ORG.ZA](http://WWW.PIA.ORG.ZA)

## Architects as Artists Exhibition

Our invitation to participate in this year's Architects as Artists Exhibition has gone out. Please get your art together and save the date of the 29th of November for the opening of the event.

Keep an eye open for more information or contact the PIA Office if you missed the 1st call.

We look forward to yet another fantastic exhibition and event!

See you all there!





## Breakfast




**President's/ Professional Breakfast**

THE PRESIDENT OF THE PIA, DONETTE WERKMAN, INVITES YOU TO JOIN HER FOR HER FIRST BREAKFAST AS PRESIDENT OF THE PIA

04.10.2024 08:00 - 10:00

0.2 CPD Credits in Cat 1  
Blos Cafe  
Plot 66 Olympus Drive | Faerie Glen | Pretoria

## Annual General Meeting



**World Architecture Exhibition & Lecture by the Various Architects**

Exhibition and interaction with UP Students  
UP Industry Day

10.10.2024 16:00 - 19:00

0.3 CPD Credits in Cat 1  
Lecture Hall 2:6 Boukunde University of Pretoria

## 16 October 2024

**Program:**  
The National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure  
Directorate Architectural Services  
In conjunction with  
Pretoria Institute for Architecture (PIA)  
Presents:  
Architectural Forum: 16 October 2024  
Venue: ZOOM Platform

8:00	Welcome and Introduction – Rakau Lekota (DPWI- Chief Architect)
8:15	Water Efficient Buildings – Xanthe Roux (Arumloo)
9:00	Questions
9:15	Navigating the future of our coasts by understanding how the Ocean influence life on earth? - Sheila Heymans (European Marine Board (EMB)
10:00	Questions
10:15	Break
10:30	Unravelling the Regulatory Framework Regulations (AZ4 and Section A19 of the National Building regulations as amended by DTIC in 2008)– Corne Nel (Roof Critique)
11:30	Questions
11:45	Perspectives from Copenhagen – Jama Mcoteli & Sibusiso Lwandle (DPWI)
12:30	Questions
12:40	Lunch
13:15	The Infinite Cladding Solutions of Sintered Stone – Kerry-Lee Mannix (Interslab)
14:00	Questions
14:15	Reimagining the Parliament of South Africa – Nadia Tromp (Ntsika Architects)
15:00	Questions
15:15	TBC
16:00	Questions



Photos courtesy of Jama Mcoteli & Sibusiso Lwandle

## THE MUCKLENEUK WALK

19.10.2024



HOUSE HONIBALL    HOUSE WYNAND SMIT    HOUSE MOERDYK    TELKOM TOWER

09:00 ————— 12:50

PLEASE ARRIVE BY 08:50  
MEET AND FINISH AT 245 JOHN STREET, MUCKLENEUK  
PREFERABLE UBER RIDE SHARE  
CPD: 0.5 CREDITS, CATEGORY L

**PIA ARCHITECTURAL ADVENTURES**

Go read more and book for any of the PIA Events:  
[www.pia.org.za/events](http://www.pia.org.za/events)



# HERITAGE MATTERS

We invite our members across Gauteng and in the North West to share their articles or “Then&Now” images with us to share with our readers. We celebrated heritage month with numerous new Then&Now posters as well as some heritage videos on social media. We also hosted a very informative heritage workshop.



## PIA HERITAGE WORKSHOP

Another very successful PIA Heritage Workshop was hosted on 27 September in the Ou Raadsaal.

Excellent presentations by our presenters:

Prof Susan Buillon

Helene Potgieter

Pieter Swanepoel

Andre Krige

Yolanda van der Vyver

Walking Tour with Adriaan Louw

Thank you to all who participated and attended.

