



AFRI TEC TUR E

Symposium:
AFRITECTURE – Exchanging Knowledge

November 14 & 15, 2013

Symposium: AFRITECTURE – Exchanging Knowledge

What relevance does socially committed architecture have in Africa and what can the global North learn from the buildings constructed in sub-Saharan Africa? These and other questions will be discussed in the symposium which will take place at the Ernst von Siemens-Auditorium in the Pinakothek der Moderne. Architects and clients alike will introduce the projects designed and initiated by them and share their long-lasting experiences. The Architekturmuseum der TU München together with the Goethe-Institute sub-Saharan Africa and the Bavarian Chamber of Architects will hold a three-panel discussion, featuring international guest speakers to address central aspects of the exhibit, such as participation and urbanization.

A.M.
ARCHITEKTURMUSEUM DER TU MÜNCHEN

TUM

Das Symposium wird gefördert durch die



und durch den Förderverein des
Architekturmuseums der TU München



Bayerische
Architektenkammer



Important Information about the symposium:

November 14, 2013

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Keynote-Lecture:

Lesley Lokko „The Culprit is Culture“

November 15, 2013

9 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Symposium:

„AFRITECTURE – Exchanging Knowledge“

The main conference language will be English.

Registration is required and binding:

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E-mail: archmus@lrz.tum.de

Location:

Ernst von Siemens-Auditorium

In der Pinakothek der Moderne

Barer Straße 40

80333 München

www.architekturmuseum.de

Keynote-Lecture

November 14, 2013

Lesley Lokko

„The Culprit is Culture“

6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

The word ‘culture’ is said to be one of the most complex words in the English language, followed closely by the word ‘civilization’. The Latin root of the word ‘culture’ is colere, which can mean anything from cultivating the soil to worship in its widest sense. In Arabic, the word for ‘civilization’, ta‘mmadon, has its roots in the name Madina, the first city of Islamic history. Contained within these two words is the epic story of humanity’s historic shift from rural to urban existence, from an agricultural base – the land – to a supposedly more ‘refined’ state: the arts, learning, science. In this sense, Africa is widely viewed as the least ‘cultured’ and most ‘natural’ of continents, valued primarily for its abundant raw materials, unspoiled nature and labour. Within Africa, the words ‘culture’ and ‘tradition’ are often (wrongly) seen as interchangeable, and accompanied by a fear of letting go of the past. In this short paper, I explore some of the ramifications of the confusion between the two terms and argue that without a bold, forward-thinking and risk-taking approach to culture that encourages artists (in the widest possible sense of the word), to reinvent and re-appropriate tradition, contemporary African architecture will remain an elusive goal.

Moderation:

Andres Lepik

Symposium:

„AFRITECTURE – Exchanging Knowledge“

November 15, 2013

1. Panel

Hands on Architecture

9.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.

In order to prove the long-term benefit of architecture by addressing a specific requirement of a given community, built examples are necessary. The speakers of the first panel discussions from South Africa, Kenya, Rwanda and Austria will introduce in their presentations how they developed carefully planned and executed building projects in Africa through the close observation of local conditions and participation of the actual beneficiaries of the projects. The questions inevitably arising from this methodology, like the roles of the architect, owner and the final user in the planning and execution of a project, as well as how these projects could be transferred onto a large scale implementation will form the basis of the discussions.

Panelists:

Luyanda Mpahlwa

„Design for Social Change“

Baerbel Mueller

„...and it becomes something else“

Jimmy Kilonzi

„The Skills Centre – Nairobi; reflecting on the experiences of international exchange in construction“

Respondent:

Killian Doherty

Moderation:

Stefan Krötsch

2. Panel

Expanding Urbanism

1.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

The rapid rate of urbanization in Africa creates a new set of social, economic and political conditions. In terms of African urbanism, the current dynamics, particular realities and individual ‘liveworlds’ that define these urban centers must be considered. Today the majority of African urbanites already live in informality and often self-built environments. How do we engage with these informal structures that emerge spontaneously and function effectively outside the city planning and formal architecture modes? What creative ideas materialize to shape the unique, hybrid and often informalised modernities that have become so spatially apparent on the continent? Clearly, more research and a practice-based approach are needed to implement successful strategies that engage with the diverse conditions in African cities. In this panel, three different case studies will be presented in the context of African urbanization, followed by discussions on the varied approaches taken by practitioners.

Panelists:

Angela Mingas

„Multiple Dimensions of Musseques“

Thorsten Deckler

„Leaving Architecture Behind“

Koku Konu

„My Lagos“

Respondent:

Naeem Bijivi

Moderation:

Lien Heidenreich-Seleme

3. Panel

Learning from Africa

4.00 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.

The third panel “Learning from Africa” will focus on the transferability of examples and findings encountered in African contemporary architecture, the reach and limitations, their applicability and level of relevance. How to encourage a profession to engage with even more complexity will be another subject addressed. Architects can offer society visualizations of complex situations and find creative tools to enable communication between all stakeholders in order to create socially relevant architecture. Are there lessons to be learned for architects and decision makers in Europe? How could projects funded by donations or government subsidies in some of the poorest areas in the world offer valuable insights to some of its richest?

Panelists:

Nabeel Hamdi

„Practice in the mess of informality“

Alen Jasarevic

„The Islamic Forum in Penzberg, Germany – a route description“

Alexander Hagner

„Learning by Doing“

Respondent:

Doung Anwar Jahangeer

Moderation:

Julia Hinderink

Participants



Naeem Biviji (Kenya/Nairobi)

Naeem Biviji studied architecture at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated in 2004. He has worked for HCP in Ahmedabad, India, and as a furniture maker in Kenya and Scotland. In 2005, in collaboration with Bethan Rayner, he co-founded Studio Propolis in Nairobi, Kenya. Operating across disciplines and scales, their approach to architecture combines studio-based design work with a direct involvement in the process of making. Studio Propolis is involved with a broad range of work from design and built architecture projects to prototyping and manufacturing custom furniture and joinery. Work includes institutional buildings, houses, gallery spaces, mass seating solutions and one-of-a-kind pieces of furniture.



Thorsten Deckler (South Africa/Johannesburg)

Thorsten Deckler studied architecture at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. He has worked for OMA/Rem Koolhaas on projects in Europe and Asia, where he gained international working experience. In South Africa, Deckler worked together with Peter Rich on rural developments. He operated his own architectural practice for three years before joining forces with Anne Graupner to co-found 26'10 south Architects. Their work focuses on the various contexts of the city. Projects range from large-scale works to housing, from private residences to building conversions. Exhibitions, art installations and community events represent another line of their architectural services. 26'10 initiated an independent research project which investigated the „Informal City.“ In 2012, the office was selected as the best emerging practice in South Africa.



Killian Doherty (Rwanda/Kigali)

Killian Doherty is an architect based between Rwanda and Sierra Leone. Besides working in Stockholm, Dublin, and London, he volunteered with a grassroots organization, contributing to the post-hurricane Katrina reconstruction of New Orleans. His research interests include the exploration of fragmented sites, settlements, and cities at specific thresholds of racial, ethnic, or religious conflict. He runs his own collaborative practice, a design and research studio focusing on critical community-driven issues relating to housing and the city. Doherty is also a visiting studio tutor at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm and Gothenburg and at the University of Johannesburg, as well as at the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology in Rwanda.



Alexander Hagner (Austria/Vienna)

A carpenter by trade, Alexander Hagner went on to study architecture at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, Austria. There he joined initially the master classes of Johannes Spalt, and later on those of Wolf D. Prix. He graduated in 1995. In 1999, he founded gaupenraub+/-, together with Ulrike Schartner, as an open office for architecture, design and urban strategies, which deals with very specific topics. Since 2002, Hagner committed himself to create architectural alternatives for the homeless. One of these results is the emergency overnight accommodation VinziRast 2004, the flat share shelter VinziRast-WG 2010, and the brand new VinziRast-mittendrin – a home for the homeless as well as for students working at gaupenraub+/- . Currently, he is trying to get a low threshold housing service constructed in Vienna. Besides all this, Hagner is teaching at TU Vienna and TU Graz.



Nabeel Hamdi (England/Oxford)

Nabeel Hamdi holds an architecture diploma from the Architectural Association in London 1968. He worked for the Greater London Council between 1969 and 1978, where his award-winning housing projects established his reputation in participatory design and planning. From 1981 to 1990 he was Assistant, then Associate Professor of Housing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he was awarded a Ford International Career Development Professorship. In 1997, Hamdi won the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honor for his work on Community Action Planning. He is currently Professor Emeritus at Oxford Brookes University. Hamdi has consulted on housing, participatory action planning and upgrading of slums in cities to all major international development agencies, and to charities and NGOs worldwide.



Doung Jahangeer (South Africa/Durban)

Doung Jahangeer is a Mauritian born artist based in Durban, South Africa. He is trained as an architect but his passion lies with alternative ways of engaging space encapsulated in his concept/philosophy 'anarchitecturewithoutwalls'. In 2000 he implemented his 'CityWalk' initiative as a way of encountering and observing the flux and mutability of his adopted city. It now includes 9 cities worldwide. He is deeply engaged in issues concerning urbanity. His work includes live performance, film/video, sculpture, painting, installation and architecture. In 2008 he co-founded an interdisciplinary organisation called dala which focuses on devising initiatives which engage art/architecture for social justice. He is currently Creative Director for the UIA 2014 in Durban.



Alen Jasarevic (Germany/Augsburg)

Alen Jasarevic was born in 1973 of Bosnian descent and grew up in the Federal Republic of Germany. He completed his architectural studies at the Hochschulen of Augsburg and Zurich with diploma in 1998. Subsequently he worked at "Kehrbaum Architekten" in Augsburg until setting up his own company in 2003. Besides working as freelance architect he held several teaching positions at the Hochschule in Augsburg, which focused on design and architecture. His designs encompass both his commitment to European modernism as well as his muslim roots. A prime example of this dichotomy is the Islamisches Forum in Penzberg, Germany. As his work is highly prized at international exhibitions, Jasarevic has received already many awards for his accomplishment of putting architecture and dialogue in a context.



Jimmy Kimau Kilonzi (Kenya/Nairobi)

Kilonzi holds a bachelor degree in community development and a postgraduate diploma in human resource management. His subsequent commitment to work as a social- and child support worker brought him 2008 to the well-known American development agency USAID. There, Kilonzi was specifically involved to help orphans. He initiated several aid programs on his own in the Slum of Mathare, as well as in rural areas. In 1997 he started Child Support Kenya, a NGO that helps children, and in 2003, he founded New Support Kenya, to help young adults through vocational training. The Skill Centre, which was erected in 2010 in Malaa, near Nairobi, to accommodate these adolescent students, is the result of his persistence. He is chair of the board, managing other funded projects for the German Charity Promoting Africa.



Koku Konu (Nigeria/Lagos)

Koku Konu graduated from the Canterbury College of Art where renowned architectural theorists Cedric Price, Chris MacDonald and Christopher Tadgell tutored him. Konu believes that design elements should be distilled to their pure essence, and that the chance factor, including seemingly random elements, be allowed to articulate this quest. On completion of his formal training, Konu worked for various architects and designers in the UK, most notably Sheppard Robson and ORMS, before setting up Konu & Morrow (Lighting Consultants). This UK firm later mutated into Island Nominees Limited, a strategic design and build firm based in Lagos, Nigeria.



Lesley Lokko (Ghana/Accra)

Lesley Lokko studied at the Bartlett School of Architecture and Planning, University College London, graduating in 1995, followed by a PhD from the University of London in 2007. She has held various teaching positions, e.g. the University of Illinois at Chicago; the UK (Bartlett School of Architecture, Kingston University, London Metropolitan University and the University of Greenwich), as well as in South Africa. Since 2004, she has been Visiting Professor at the University of Westminster. Lokko is the editor of *White Papers, Black Marks: Race, Culture, Architecture* (Minnesota 2000) and has been an on-going contributor to discourses around identity, race and African urbanism.



Angela Christina Mingas (Angola/Luanda)

Angela Christina Mingas is both director of the CEIC Arquitectura (Center for Studies and Scientific Research) and the FCT (Faculty of Technological Sciences) at the University Lusiana of Angola. Since 2004 she has held different positions at this institution in her primary fields of expertise, such as architecture, pedagogy, and academic administration. In 2013, she received her PhD from Universidade Lusiana, Oporta, Portugal. Mingas gained experience as an architect and consultant in various venues, both private and public. For the Expo Zaragoza 2008 she was on the technical sub committee for the Angola pavillion, and from 2009 to 2011 she was the technical consultant to the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Angola in Luanda.



Luyanda Mpahlwa (South Africa/Cape Town)

Luyanda Mpahlwa's architectural education in South Africa in the 1980s was interrupted due to his incarceration for political activities against apartheid. As exile in Germany, he completed his architectural degree at Technische Universität Berlin. In 2000, Mpahlwa relocated to his native South Africa, where he founded the Cape Town studio of MMA Architects. In 2009, he established his own design practice, Luyanda Mpahlwa DesignSpaceAfrica. He is the recipient of the South African Institute of Architecture Award of Excellence for the South African embassy building in Berlin. As the first African ever, Mpahlwa was awarded the International Curry Stone Design Prize in 2008. Another career highlight was his role on the technical committee team organising the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.



Baerbel Mueller (Austria/Vienna)

Baerbel Mueller founded nav_s baerbel mueller (navigations in the field of architecture and urban research within diverse cultural contexts), which has focused on projects in Ghana and the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 2002. She is assistant professor at the Institute of Architecture (IoA) at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, and professor at the New Design University in Sankt Pölten, Austria. From 2002 to 2011 she taught at the studio of Wolf D. Prix, directing student realization projects and interdisciplinary courses. Since October 2011, she has been the head of the IoA lab (applied) Foreign Affairs, which investigates spatial and cultural phenomena in rural and urban sub-Saharan Africa through research-based workshops and field trips.

Other participants



Jean Jacques Kotto (Cameroon/Douala)



Bisrat Kifle Woldeyessus (Ethiopia/Addis Ababa)



Comlan Ambrose Adjamagbo (Togo/Lomé)



Günther Klix (Tanzania/Daressalam)



Issa Diabaté (Ivory Coast/Abidjan)



Susanne Hofmann (Germany/Berlin)