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Press release

An initiative of Faculty of Architecture, Delft University of Technology and ArchiAfrika.
Une initiative de la Faculté d'architecture, l'Université de Technologie de Delft et ArchiAfrika.

AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES event acts as a stimulus to inspiring dialogue between Africa and the Netherlands on architecture and urbanism

On 6, 7 and 8 December 2007, TU Delft's Architecture Faculty will form the backdrop to a unique, international event: 'African Perspectives, dialogues on Urbanism and Architecture'. This three-day event is a joint initiative of the Architecture Faculty and the ArchiAfrika foundation and aims to promote an inspiring exchange of expertise and experience between African and Dutch colleagues in the field of Urbanism and Architecture.

The motivation behind this initiative is TU Delft's 165th anniversary. This year's theme is 'Sustainable Solutions, focus on Africa'. This is the context for the African Perspectives event; a marketplace in which architects, urban planners and other professionals, academics and students from around the world can meet. The idea is for African Perspectives to act as a stimulus for the future structural exchange of experience with respect to architecture, urban development, housing, urban heritage and the explosive growth of large cities on the African continent.

The event is fully bilingual: in English and French, the major languages of the African continent. The event concept and programme have been devised by Wytze Patijn (Dean, Faculty of Architecture, TU Delft), Antoni Folkers (ArchiAfrika) and Paul Meurs (TU Delft). During the event, five perspectives which correspond to a number of specific processes in Africa will be discussed in detail. Each perspective is led by a team comprising an African architect/academic together with a Dutch counterpart:

1. **Urban Development:** programme on urban evolution in Africa
Led by Iain Low (Cape Town University) and Arie Graafland (TU Delft)
2. **Architectural heritage:** programme on built cultural heritage in Africa
Led by Samuel Sidibé (director, Musée National de Mali), Pierre Maas (architect) and Paul Meurs (TU Delft)
3. **Building in Africa:** programme on construction technology in Africa
Led by Joe Addo (architect in Ghana and the USA) and Fons Verheijen (TU Delft)
4. **African Diaspora:** programme on the African diaspora in Europe.
Led by Ola Uduku (Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland), Wytze Patijn (TU Delft) and Hein de Haan (TU Delft)
5. **African Architectures:** programme on the definition of African architecture
Led by Abdel Benabdeljalil (Ecole Supérieure d'Architecture de Casablanca, Morocco) and Tom Avermaete (TU Delft)

Each perspective has an accompanying programme of workshops, lectures, debates and exhibitions which are brought together at the event. The full programme can be found on www.africanperspectives.nl.

Entrance to African Perspectives is free of charge, including to anyone with a general interest in culture. In addition to the professional sessions, there are a number of activities for the general public, including:

Faculty of Architecture / Faculté d'architecture

P.O. Box 5043 / 2600 GA Delft / The Netherlands **Boîte postale 5043 / 2600 GA Delft / Pays-Bas**
www.africanperspectives.nl / africanperspectives@tudelft.nl www.perspectivesafricaines.nl / africanperspectives@tudelft.nl
telephone: +31 (0)15 27 84237 **téléphone: +31 (0)15 27 84237**

'Titus Matiyane. Cities of the World' tentoonstelling

The centrepiece of the event will be the exhibition 'Titus Matiyane. Cities of the World'. Matiyane lives and works in Atteridgeville, a township near Pretoria. His panoramic drawings of cities and landscapes in South Africa and elsewhere in the world (1.5 metres high and from 6 to 46 metres long) give the impression that the artist has studied cities and landscapes from the air. However, even though he has been making panoramic drawings since the early 1980s, he did not fly in an aircraft for the first time until 1998, when his work was exhibited at the Netherlands Architecture institute. 'Cities of the world' presents his panoramas of London, New York, Hong Kong, Rotterdam, Amsterdam and the South African cities of Durban, Pretoria and Pietersburg. The exhibition of Titus Matiyane's work reflects the central theme of the event: Dialogue. It shows us intercontinental urban landscapes through his African eyes.

The curators of the exhibition are Stephen Hobbs (Gallery Premises, Johannesburg) and Annemieke de Kler (curator and producer). The book 'Titus Matiyane. Cities of the world', with contributions of Stephen Hobbs, Annemieke de Kler and Melinda Silverman, will be launched by 010 Publishers and presented at the African Perspectives event. **The exhibition opens at 16.00 on 6 December at TU Delft's Faculty of Architecture and will run until 25 January 2008.**

Cities, Culture, People

In 2008 and 2009 there will be a series of public symposiums called 'The Superlative City - a series on megacities'. This programme starts on Saturday 8 December with: '**Cities, Culture, People - Perspectives on the African City**'. Via *Tales of the Invisible City* on Kinshasa, told by Philip de Boeck and the film *Many Words for Modern* on Dar es Salaam, the African city comes to life and will be discussed by Abdelkader Benali, Joe Addo, Winnie Maas, Lieve Joris, Joe Addo and others. This programme is developed with Versteegen & Stigter Cultural Projects.

Public Filmprogramme in November and December

In collaboration with Mustsee Cinemas, Delft, a series of films touching on the themes of African Perspectives on a documentary and cultural level will be shown on Tuesday nights. The film programme is meant for a wide audience. Margit Tamás (TUD) has prepared a selection of films, including 'U-Carmen' (Marc Dornford-May, 2005), 'Bamako Sigi Kan, le pacte de Bamako' (Manthia Diawara, 2002) and 'Many Words for Modern' (Jord den Hollander, 2007). They will be shown at the Mustsee Cinemas in Delft in November and December. Please check the website for the full programme and further details.

Building with mud

During the event, a workshop is being organised as part of the Built Heritage perspective. In this workshop, bricklayers from Djenné (Mali) and a group of students will build a tall mud tower in the Architecture Faculty's exhibition area. This student workshop, developed in conjunction with Stylos Study Society and supervised by the bricklayers, will kick off on 10 November. The event will offer members of the general public the opportunity to participate in the building process during two public workshops.

Press information

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Information:

More information on the perspectives and the full programme can be found on www.africanperspectives.nl.

Attending the event

You are very welcome to attend the African Perspectives event. Entrance is free. If you wish to attend the opening event, please register in advance as there are a restricted number of places available. Please register by telephone on +31-(0)15-2781360 or by E-mail via africanperspectives@tudelft.nl.