




SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR THE
ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION

**SACAP/CAA VALIDATION VISIT TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
9,10 AND 11 OCTOBER 2012, BLOEMFONTEIN**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Visiting board wishes to thank the leadership of the University of the Free State, the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences and the Department of Architecture for their preparations, time and hospitality, in particular:

- Prof Jonathan Jansen Vice-Chancellor and Rector
- Prof Neil Heideman Dean, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
- Ms Martie Bitzer Departmental Chair
- The Staff, Students, Graduates and External Examiners represented at the visit for making time available and sharing information
- The Administrative Staff of the Department for their help and support and arrangements for refreshments, transport and accommodation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Visiting Board recommends to the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP) and the Commonwealth Association of Architecture (CAA) Continued Unconditional Validation of the following programmes:

- Baccalaureus Architecturae Studiorum – BAS
- Baccalaureus Architecturae Studiorum (Honores) – BAS (Hons)
- Magister Architecturae (Professional) – MArch (Prof)

Advice and recommendations are contained in the full, detailed report. Below are the pertinent decisions that the Visiting Board wishes to highlight:

- The organisation, hospitality and especially the presentation of materials have been exemplary
- The Department is justifiably proud of what it considered its unique characteristics: (1) Its refurbished building, (2) The Earth Unit, (3) The Winter School for Architecture, (4) Its study tours, and (5) The Sophia Gray Memorial Lecture.
- Lack of demographic inclusivity amongst both the student body and staffing compliment continue to be of concern, although ongoing efforts to address this challenge are noted. The board recommends that a twin strategy of broadening the marketing drive beyond the borders of the Free State on the one hand, allied with a more direct and targeted approach to partnering with rural and township secondary schools be pursued.
- Members of the Board who participated in the previous Validation Visit noticed an improvement of standards. The programmes are well integrated and understood by students – there is a logical

expression in the curriculum, and the layering between years is evident.

- The building and its spaces are very special, and quite appropriate as an architectural teaching

received strong support from staff and students alike.

The Visiting Board consisted of Mr Jonathan Manning (Chairman), Prof. Alta Steenkamp, Prof. Rodney Harber, and Mr Aziz Tayob. The student representative was Mr JP de Marigny (University of KwaZulu-Natal), while the CAA was represented by Mr Narendra Dengele and Mr Waweru Gathecha. The board secretary was Prof. Gerald Steyn.