



**SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL**  
for the  
**ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSION**

**REPORT OF THE SACAP / CAA VISITING BOARD TO THE  
ARCHITECTURE PROGRAMME:**

**School of Architecture and Planning  
Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment  
University of the Witwatersrand**

**15-17 August 2012**

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**Date of report: 29 September 2012**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Visiting Board wishes to thank the following institutions and individuals involved in the Architecture Programme, the School of Architecture and Planning, the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, and the management of the University of the Witwatersrand:

- DVC: Academic—Prof. Yunus Ballim
- Dean—Prof. Beatrys Lacquet
- Head of School—Prof. Marie Huchzermeyer
- Director of the Architecture Programme—Prof. Paul Kotze
- The Staff, Students, Graduates and External Examiners represented at the visit for making time available and sharing information

A specific word of appreciation for the Programme Director and all staff for preparing the extensive documentation and exhibition, which formed such a major component of the work assessed. The Programme Director in particular was available throughout the visit and responded immediately to requests, regardless of how mundane.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Recommendation to SACAP and the CAA

The Visiting Board recommends to the SACAP Council and the CAA Unconditional Validation of the following qualifications:

- Bachelor of Architectural Studies – BAS
- Bachelor of Architectural Studies (Honours) – BAS(Hons)
- Master of Architecture (Professional) – MArch(Prof)

The next validation board visit must be scheduled for 2016.

### General comments

The Director of the Architecture Programme and the staff are to be congratulated on the remarkable turnaround since the last SACAP Validation Board Visit in 2007 and the subsequent revisit in 2009. Staff members have been noticeably constructive and willing to engage in discussion about their courses.

### Advice

#### Pedagogy

It is evident that theory of design is implicit in all the studio exercises. A case can be made for the re-consideration of some of the approaches to studio teaching. Specifically, the studios could gain from closer alignment with the history and technology courses, and if the implicit theoretical positions in the studios were to be informed by those courses.

#### Organization of the courses

#### Community engagement

The core aspect of the community outreach projects merits being brought out more and integrated with the routine of the Programme at all levels. This would be entirely in line with the spirit and tenor of discussions about the work in the design studios, which were held after the presentation of the Programme's unique features.

#### Building structures

It is essential to engage in a constructive dialogue with Structures and Civil Engineering course conveners to enmesh these skills positively into the overall programme.

### Conclusion

The Visiting Board noted that the Programme is in a state of energetic transition in terms of course content and arrangement, as well as available accommodation, and has every confidence that this will continue.

### **Visiting Board**

The Visiting Board consisted of Prof. Rodney Harber (Chairman), Ms Madelane Gerber, Dr Arthur Barker, Ms Deborah Preller and Mr Siphon Njobe. The student representative was Mr Tudor Tenea (University of Pretoria), while the CAA was represented by Mr Phillip Kungu and Prof. Essy Baniassad. The Board Secretary was Prof. Gerald Steyn.