

UIA 2014 DURBAN

Sunday 03 August - Wed 07 August 2014

Other Thinking | Other Regions | Other Practice | Other Disciplines | Other Communities

ARCHITECTURE, UN AUTRE AILLEURS

“ Looking elsewhere for other ways
of creating a better future ”

RESILIENCE, ECOLOGY, VALUES

architecture
OTHERWHERE



UIA 2014 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMPETITION

PART 1
THE COMPETITION BRIEF,
REGISTRATION PROCESS
AND SUBMISSION
REQUIREMENTS

TABLE of CONTENTS

	PAGE
01 UIA 2014 International Student Competition - introduction	02
02 UIA 2014 International Student Competition - background and context	02
03 UIA 2014 Durban - thematic framework	03
04 Competition Site 29° 51' 34.9236" S 31° 0' 51.8544" E	03
05 Big Visions - Small Interventions	05
5.1 LONG TERM - LARGE SCALE INTERVENTION	05
5.2 MEDIUM TERM - MEDIUM SCALE INTERVENTION	05
5.3 SHORT TERM - SMALL SCALE INTERVENTION	06
06 Unique NEEDS within the WARWICK JUNCTION AREA	06
6.1 Affordable and short-term accommodation	06
6.2 Innovative service systems	06
6.3 Storage facilities	07
07 Suggested project client/s	07
08 Important dates	07
09 Consultations with the experts and availability of data	07
10 Organizer and implementer of the UIA 2014 student competition	08
11 Registration process	08
12 Eligibility	08
13 Products and submissions	08
14 Judging process	09
15 Application fee	09
16 Competition entry submission method	09
17 Required drawings and language	10
18 Copyrights and disclaimer	10
19 Awards	10

01 UIA 2014 International Student Competition - introduction

The UIA 2014 International Student Competition explores WARWICK JUNCTION, a unique location within central Durban.

This vibrant transport node provides a setting for predominantly informal traders at an unprecedented scale. The competition aims to recognise the complex systemic ecology that underpins the economic, cultural and social dynamics inherent to this area, and to find ways to strengthen, reinforce or expand these systems in a beneficial way.

Drawing from the three UIA 2014 Congress sub-themes of RESILIENCE, ECOLOGY, VALUES, this competition aims to explore OTHER practice, crossovers between OTHER disciplines, and an engagement with OTHER urban dwellers. The competition encourages the exposure of OTHER city layers, bringing to light OTHER views and OTHER ways of inhabiting the city - through architectural interventions, which should improve the daily experiences of urban dwellers.

In addition, the fostering of a long-term collaborative relationship between the architectural profession, government, communities and relevant development partners should be seen as a key aim.

Finally, the competition brief makes allowance for inspiration to be drawn from global charters and contemporary enterprises - specifically, the COP 17 Built Environment Charter.

02 UIA 2014 International Student Competition - background and context

The 25th International Union of Architects World Congress on Architecture, UIA 2014 Durban, will be held at the International Convention Centre in Durban from 3-7 August 2014. This is the first time that this Congress is being held in Southern Africa and delegates are expected from around the world.

The selection of the Congress host city is made six years in advance. At the UIA 2008 Torino Congress, the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) won the bid to host this triennial World Congress with the support of the national Department of Public Works, barely nine years after SAIA's post-Democracy readmission to the UIA.

Globally, the field of architecture is being challenged with the question of investigating and harnessing alternative modes of living and alternative forms of dwelling. UIA 2014 Durban invites architects, architectural students, built environment and design professionals, activists and thought leaders, and communities from around the world to celebrate Durban and its unique place in the global world system. In light of 'looking elsewhere for other ways of creating a better future', the diverse and multi-layered nature of Durban has guided the development of the Congress themes and the UIA 2014 International Student Competition.

Durban is a sophisticated cosmopolitan city of over three million people - a city where east meets west - the home of Africa's best managed, busiest port. With Durban as a living laboratory and testing ground, the question of OTHERWHERE is relevant as a conceptual grounding for a student competition. OTHERWHERE reinforces the idea that different lifestyles and beliefs (philosophical, religious and cultural), different ways of doing, different ways of [co]inhabiting the city, and the many forms of integration which exist, all contribute to the unique identity of Durban - which the Congress and the Competition have set out to emphasize and celebrate in various forms.

03 UIA 2014 Durban - thematic framework

eThekweni, as a well-connected city-region with significant infrastructure nodes and agents that operate within and through the city, has created its own specific urban context. Within this context, the UIA 2014 Student Competition identifies a need for project[s] to respond to these city dynamics, urban agents and their specific agency.

The first UIA 2014 sub-theme is RESILIENCE, explored through the ideas of EMERGENCE, POVERTY ALLEVIATION, and SPATIAL and GEO-POLITICAL ECONOMIES. Resilience is defined as life strategies developed by communities; critical interventions that contribute to poverty alleviation; and the important role of government investment towards re-configuring the spatial economy to the benefit of all. While some of these ideas will delve into South African problems and solutions, their significance finds voice within all forms of architecture and development practices globally.

The second UIA 2014 sub-theme is ECOLOGY, encompassing ideas such as TIME, EVOLUTION, SYSTEMS, PROCESSES and ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. Ecology acknowledges the role of the architect in a bigger, interlinked, and systemic network - thus encouraging a long-term design perspective. Time, as part and parcel of the design and decision-making process, is perceived as crucial to the future of architecture. Evolution, intrinsically linked to the concept of time, requires processes of architectural production that acknowledge people and place. Interventions should aim to understand the city as an ecosystem that requires sensitivity to maintain existing systems in a balanced way. By preventing urban sprawl and incorporating agricultural production in and around cities, desertification can be prevented while providing shelter for threatened species in urban areas.

VALUES is the third sub-theme at UIA 2014 and includes ideas addressing the specific notions of ARCHITECTURAL PRACTICE AND EDUCATION. UIA 2014 will explore practice to address highly specific developmental problems, and question traditional in relation to contemporary values. In striving to establish a new relationship with a living planet, humility is essential and most importantly, a sense of respect through diversity. The UIA 2014 Congress intends to organize collaborative interactive education platforms for communities and professionals. Platforms are meant to re-assess professional values, develop methods and techniques for professional engagement, and interrogate the ethics associated with architectural and design practice.

In the light of these themes, the student competition is meant to explore and translate these notions into a project proposal, which aims to suggest processes of intervention and models of community participation.

04 Competition Site 29° 51' 34.9236" S 31° 0' 51.8544" E

Like other South African cities, Durban's morphology is marred by a condition of fragmentation. This fragmentation results in a socially and physically segregated city where the city centre, Durban's historic white suburbs and black townships appear insulated from each other. This is the legacy of the spatial engineering of Apartheid, later reinforced by post-Apartheid housing policies. By investing in large-scale township housing projects, the democratically elected South African government, unwittingly, further exacerbated the economic disadvantage of a large percentage of South Africans. Parallel to this condition are environmental disadvantages due to the extensive sprawl, poor infrastructure and limits to urban mobility.

Transportation nodes are a crucial link between peripheral conditions and Durban's current polycentric structure. They define places of interaction where very different worlds "collide". Warwick Junction, in central Durban, exists as one such colliding world - with unique qualities and at an unprecedented scale.

Almost half a million users pass through Warwick Station on any typical day. As a transportation junction, it provides commercial opportunities for approximately 6000 traders. Research indicates that the financial capital in circulation within Warwick Junction's trading system equates to the capital flows of Durban's city centre or to any of its major shopping malls. It is a place that continues to thrive despite the various challenges faced by its users and inhabitants.

Although different to the formal commercial and economic systems within Durban, Warwick Junction stands as an example of a place where the formal and the informal exist in complete unison. With 9 specific markets [Victoria Street market, *Mpepho* (traditional incense) and Lime market, Brook Street market, Bead and Herb market, Music Bridge market, Berea market, Early Morning and Bovine Head market] one is struck by the noise, the "hustle and bustle", smells and crowds, constant movement and density of activity that happens in a relatively small part of the city.

A quieter part of the complex is found in the *muthi* market (traditional medicines). Located on a flyover pedestrian bridge that slopes across the area, the *muthi* market exemplifies the crossover between culturally specific medical practices, local beliefs and their commercialization. At the same time, it stands as an example of an existing social division within South African cultures, social groups and beliefs.

Special reference should be made to the Brook Street Cemetery, adjacent to Warwick Junction. Bordering Brook Street, Theatre Lane and Joseph Ndluli streets, and adjacent to the main market, the cemetery is of prime historical significance. It represents a communal place of burial for Muslim, Parsee, Jewish and Christian denominations. In addition, the cemetery has prominence as the burial place of Badsha Peer, a revered Muslim figure in Durban.

Spatially, the cemetery is an island within the city, although it is physically connected to the main activities of the market through a steel shed constructed over Brook Street. As an architectural type, the shed acts as interface mechanism through its emphasis on the main cemetery entrance, and provides shade for daily small market stalls in this particular urban connection, as well as for an annual religious procession. Mostly used for taxi parking, the rest of the cemetery's border context remains largely undefined due to hard tarmac surfaces and surrounding low-rise buildings.

Witnessing this distinctiveness and difference, the question arises of the role that space plays in a critique of this place-space structure. Is Warwick Junction's diversity and contrast to be encouraged, celebrated, or bridged? If so, through what means and in what terms?

The question of what role Warwick Junction's spatial-economic complex plays within the urban framework of Durban is crucial. Beyond traditional problems of borders, edges and aspects of urban program, Warwick Junction's place as an informal commercial centre, tucked alongside a broader commercial structure, needs interrogation. For instance, how does the superficially chaotic informal sector become integrated with the linear, seemingly ordered configuration of businesses found along bordering streets?

Other questions can be raised in relation to Warwick Junction's physical centrality, as node and landmark within the city, or its apparent lack of such significance. Historical and cultural memories of the place and kerb-side agencies claimed by traders invite examination of conditions found on the periphery of the various markets, as well as the scope and scale of prior interventions, while simultaneously emphasising possible crossovers between spatial design and the facilitation of alternative urban development practices.

05 Big Visions - Small Interventions

The competition brief requires three products;

- [a]** the development of a LONG-TERM - LARGE SCALE vision for WARWICK JUNCTION
- [b]** the development of a MEDIUM TERM - MEDIUM SCALE INTERVENTION on one edge of the BROOK STREET CEMETERY
- [c]** a SHORT TERM/IMMEDIATE - SMALL SCALE INTERVENTION as urban catalyst in WARWICK JUNCTION

The focus of the competition will fall on OTHER ways of critiquing, arguing and interacting with the problem beyond the confines of the architectural studio / office, beyond the confines of architectural literature, or beyond the conventional parameters of architectural professional practice. Emphasis will be placed on seeking solutions within OTHER unexpected places, local knowledge, habits, traditions, movement networks, evolving habits and highly specific perspectives and how these directly impact architectural materialization, in terms of concept, orientation, tectonics and embedded or external technologies.

5.1 LONG TERM - LARGE SCALE INTERVENTION:

Long-term visions are to be seen as useful instruments in contemporary planning practices to help establish the desires and aims of any project. Embodiment of long-term visions may materialize goals and desires within social, spatial, financial, or political strategies, or a combination of the above mentioned domains. Visions may include a number of scales and cover a large portion of any city or cities. A conceptual design of a larger urban developmental framework for the region of Warwick Junction would be interpreted as a pivotal point of departure. This vision will also demand an understanding of Durban and its particular structure and dynamics in order to understand Warwick Junction in its given context. Focus within the framework needs to be given to the urban and regional characteristics, which may include:

- i. Formal and morphological [urban] landscape; edges, borders, nodes, polycentric structures and urban networks
- ii. Socio-economic user groups: forms, structures and strategies of commercial enterprise, user groups, trade and financial systems
- iii. Spatial-temporal practices: commerce, daily life, trade strategies, day / night processes.
- iv. Religious and cultural traditions
- v. Developmental strategies and urban policies: governance, municipal regulations, city and regional policies

Presentation products: 1 x A1 Poster

5.2 MEDIUM TERM - MEDIUM SCALE INTERVENTION:

As a sub component of the first LONG-TERM vision, MEDIUM TERM INTERVENTION is meant to focus on one identified edge of Warwick Junction - to be selected by the competition entrants. At this scale, the aim is to explore and focus on the relationship between an immediate site / edge and the developmental strategies as identified in the LONG TERM INTERVENTIONS.

- i. Materialization of the MEDIUM SCALE STRATEGIES have to include a spatial proposal of an urban / landscape program for the identified edge questioning the idea of OTHERNESS. It is advised to explore mixed use and the crossover of programs, time, agents and possible architectural structures within the materialization process
- ii. As part of the submitted entry, the individual teams have to put forward a brief advisory text (500 words or less), which should outline and define suggestions to the client elaborating on implementation, processes, cycles and the implementation of the various architectural products. This should be a part of the submitted poster for this component of the project. The focus is on graphic communication

- iii. See section 1.3 for further information relevant to this medium term, medium scale intervention and possible programmes to be accommodated. It is acceptable that some project teams may elect to focus on one particular need identified within the area - as long as they demonstrate an understanding of the diversity and complexity of Warwick.

Presentation products: 1 x A1 Poster

5.3 SHORT TERM- SMALL SCALE INTERVENTION:

Project teams are, as final requirement to the brief, required to suggest an immediate implementable intervention on the selected edge as defined within the MEDIUM SCALE INTERVENTION. Using the LONG and MEDIUM SCALE INTERVENTIONS as developmental guides, the small, low-cost project would act as a catalyst for achieving the urban goals in the long term. It simultaneously presents a moment of opportunity to rethink the role, effects and agency that architecture and architectural practice still hold within the city. Whether the catalyst is seen as a singular entity or as part of a collective, the SMALL SCALE INTERVENTION should be conceived within the limits of:

- i. Budgetary constraints
- ii. Period of implementation [which may not exceed 1 week]
- iii. Life expectation of the catalyst
- iv. Links to OTHER elements, agencies and processes
- v. Stakeholders / Partners / Agencies which will help contribute to the project

Presentation products: 1 x A1 Poster

06 Unique NEEDS within the WARWICK JUNCTION AREA

While the above components of the project are to be considered in a holistic and integrated manner with a view to supporting and improving the daily conditions for users and passers-by through Warwick Junction, there are some very unique NEEDS and challenges that emerge that need special consideration in the development of the projects. These NEEDS must be reflected in the programming for MEDIUM TERM - MEDIUM SCALE INTERVENTION, but must also be addressed in the proposals for the long term and short-term interventions. There are listed as follows:

6.1 Affordable and short-term accommodation

Many people travel to trade at Warwick Junction, and many people sleep in the area and the surrounding areas. There is a need for short-term, affordable accommodation options. "Rent-a-bed" or traders sleeping next to/above their trading stalls are possible solutions to be considered. How could this be managed in a manner that provides an efficient solution, but at the same time achieves dignity and good quality service to the users?

6.2 Innovative service systems

The apparent disrepair of amenities such as the ablution blocks is testament to the ambivalent view given to Warwick - and all informal settlements/activities. The strong stench emerging from the ablution blocks and wastewater on the streets in some sections of Warwick are issues that need immediate remedial action. But how is that to be addressed? Can the city service network be upgraded or should the area aim to become a "closed-loop" system where minimum resources are drawn from the grid and minimum waste sent back into the city?

6.3 Storage facilities

Where there is informal trading, there is always a need for innovative storage solutions for the goods being traded. Many traders trade from pavements and other locations where there are no secure storage areas. How might this be addressed and incorporated within the program of the medium- and small-scale interventions?

07 Suggested project client/s

While this project will assume a consortium of clients, the eThekweni Municipality (City Architects Division) is the assumed main client. Below is a statement from Durban City Architects regarding the competition:

“The City Architects’ enabling involvement in the Warwick area had its genesis in 1992 when squatters moved into the area, particularly building shacks on the then disused freeway where the *Muthi* Market was later built. The realisation that this area provided an economic foothold for people who are not part of the formal economy and the concomitant responsibility of the City to support informal initiatives, were part of the motivating factors.

Several projects have developed in the area over the past 20 years, many on the basis of creating an intervention, judging its effect, and further planning based on the resulting impact. Ten Markets of Warwick have been developed in the area with varying degrees of infrastructural support. Given intense movement, trade, exchange and engagement in the area plus meaningful interventions, the area is often cited as a hallmark project with many researchers and student projects being developed in the area. The idea of the UIA 2014 Student Competition sited here and connecting with the theme of the Congress makes perfect sense. We look forward to the engagement of students with the area, which is often referred to as the ‘soul of Durban’.”

08 Important dates

June 2013 - competition announced

June to September 2013 - questions

31st October 2013 - registrations close

31st March 2014 - projects submitted, competition closes

7th April 2014 - adjudication starts

May 2014 - shortlisted teams announced

August 2014 - **winner announced at the UIA 2014 Congress in Durban**

09 Consultations with experts and availability of data

A number of identified experts will be available online and via the UIA 2014 website www.uia2014durban.org to answer questions about Warwick Junction. This will permit teams who are unable to physically visit the site to be able to develop a better understanding of the site. The registered competition entrants will also have access to data on the site. More information on these and other support for the competition entrants will be announced via the website and emails. Once the students/teams are registered online, they will be able to download additional information to assist them in the design process.

10 Organizer and implementer of the UIA 2014 student competition

The International Union of Architects (UIA) is the official organizer of the UIA 2014 student competition. The South African UIA2014 Organisation Committee for the Congress will oversee the implementation of the competition. The competition is run in conformity with the UNESCO-UIA rules for international architecture and town planning competitions.

11 Registration process

The competition teams or individual entrants must register online, via the UIA 2014 website www.uia2014durban.org. All team members must be listed with contact emails; however a team leader and correspondence person must be identified. The information required includes the architecture school where the entrants are registered as students as well as the school's physical address. Only entries submitted through the website will be accepted. Only one of the 4 site edges mentioned in section 5 must be selected for the detailed design proposal. Personal data will be used for UIA 2014 purposes only.

12 Eligibility

This competition is limited to students who study architecture (undergraduate and graduate levels). Copies of Student Identity Cards or documentation proving that each member of the team is a student at the time of submitting the competition entry must be provided on registration. The students may submit projects that were done under the supervision of lecturers at their schools of study.

13 Products and submissions

Only students who have registered online and paid their registration fee prior to October 2013 will be permitted to submit entries. All entries must be submitted digitally in PDF format at 300dpi. Shortlisted candidates will be notified after the initial selection rounds have been completed. Submission packages are to be submitted in line with the instructions for submission on the UIA 2014 website, with the documents in question to be clearly named by registration number alone. Submission packages are to include documents in the following order:

Document 1: Completed and signed registration form

Document 2: Supporting text document to include a project title, concept, description and explanation of low-cost principles applied for the small-scale intervention - as the project entries are expected to be explained graphically as per Documents 3, 4 and 5 below, this document needs to be kept concise and to a maximum of 700 words. This and all following submissions must not include names or affiliation of the students. Include the unique registration number received after the submission of the registration form and payment of the fees.

Document 3: LONG TERM - LARGE SCALE INTERVENTION [Max 1 x A1]

Document 4: MEDIUM TERM - MEDIUM SCALE INTERVENTION [Max 1 x A1]

Document 5: SHORT TERM / IMMEDIATE - SMALL SCALE INTERVENTION [Max 1 x A1]

14 Judging process

This is a competition of design ideas and will be assessed accordingly. The competition closes on the 31st March 2014 when all the submissions must be available on the UIA 2014 online system. During the period 31st March to 7th April 2014, the UIA 2014 entries will be screened in terms of completion, anonymity and adherence to the submission requirements listed in section 11 such as the selection of ONE of the site edges for the medium term, medium-scale intervention. Entries which do not comply will be disqualified at this stage. Adjudication will be anonymous - it is therefore crucial that there are no names of entrants or mention of affiliation in any of the submissions, with the exception of the application form.

The jury will have a first Skype meeting on the 8th of April 2014 and a second meeting (again via Skype) on the 15th April 2014. The intention of these 2 meetings is to select the 15 short-listed projects. The 15 short-listed entries may be asked to submit additional documents for exhibition purposes. The exhibition will be put up at the UIA 2014 Congress venue. This venue will be closed to the public and anonymity will be maintained with no names or affiliations being displayed on the projects. The jury will again meet in Durban during that weekend and before the opening of the Congress on Sunday the 3rd of August 2014 for the final adjudication process. The jury will assess the entries in terms of the following adjudication criteria:

- i. Has understanding of the context been achieved? Does the student/team express an appreciation for the formal and morphological [urban] landscape of Warwick in its unique Durban location?
- ii. Does the student/team have an understanding of the context in terms of the user groups and agents that operate in the area, as well as the patterns of use of space - and have they articulated how this impacts on the design decision-making processes for the project?
- iii. Has the MEDIUM SCALE STRATEGY been translated into a proposed architectural scale intervention on one of the cemetery site edges and has the programme been developed in accordance with the UNIQUE NEEDS identified in section 4.
- iv. Is the project innovative in approach at the 3 levels?
- v. Does it convey an understanding of OTHERWHERE and OTHER PRACTICE?
- vi. Is it well presented and are the concepts graphically competent?

15 Application fee

The application fee is set at **R 500** (South African Rands) per competition project entry. This is payable via credit card or PayFast or EFT to UIA 2014. Instructions are available on the website:

www.uia2014durban.org

16 Competition entry submission method

Submissions will be accepted via the UIA 2014 website. A confirmation email will be sent once the entry is uploaded. Before submitting an entry, the individual/team must have already registered online and submitted evidence of student status before the announced deadline. All entries will be given a unique number for anonymity. Submitted entries will be saved by the UIA 2014 team and published in documents only after the adjudication process is complete.

17 Required drawings and language

There is no specific scale requirement for the submitted drawings.

The language of the submission is English. The format is Adobe PDF, 3 A1 sized pages, portrait orientation. The applicants who are notified that their projects are shortlisted will be asked to submit for printed material and exhibition purposes (PDF A1 size, 300 dpi). These 3 A1 sheets must include the 3 levels of intervention:

LONG TERM - LARGE SCALE INTERVENTION
 MEDIUM TERM - MEDIUM SCALE INTERVENTION;
 SHORT TERM/IMMEDIATE - SMALL SCALE INTERVENTION.

The winners will be asked to also prepare a PowerPoint presentation of 10 slides.

18 Copyrights and disclaimer

While students/teams/institutes retain copyrights to the projects, the UIA maintain the right to publish the projects. Entries must not infringe on other copyrights - if deemed to do so, they will be disqualified. In the case of any disputes, this is the responsibility of the project entrant - the UIA and the South African UIA 2014 Organisation Committee and Scientific Committee will accept no liability whatsoever. Any legal issues must be discussed with the competition entrants directly. However, if the qualified entrants are proven to have infringed on copyrights of other individuals or agencies, then the project will be disqualified and the UIA 2014 Organisation Committee and Scientific Committee will claim for prize money received and a refund of any other costs covered in good faith by the UIA 2014.

19 Awards

The monetary value of the awards is estimated as follows **in South African Rands:**

GOLD R 50 000
SILVER R 30 000
BRONZE R 20 000

There will be several other awards by various sponsors to be announced at a later date.



XXV International Union of Architects (UIA)
 World Congress

uia

