



South African Council
for the Architectural Profession

 51 Wessel Road, Right Wing,
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Introduction

1. The South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP), established in terms of section 2 of the Architectural Profession Act, 44 of 2000, is mandated to regulate the architectural profession in South Africa. SACAP fulfils its statutory mandate by prescribing and maintaining standards for education, registration, professional competence, conduct, and ethics, and by ensuring compliance with those standards.
2. SACAP hereby announces that the architecture conference will take place on 10–11 September 2026 at the University of Cape Town (UCT). The conference will be hybrid. The theme of the conference is “Architecture in Changing Times”, taking place

Background & Context

3. Architecture is no longer concerned solely with aesthetics and functionality, but increasingly with climate resilience, sustainability, energy efficiency, and the responsible use of resources. The profession is now required to design buildings and spaces that reduce carbon emissions, adapt to changing climatic conditions, and contribute meaningfully to environmental and social sustainability.
4. Architectural education and practice in South Africa, as in the rest of the world, are at a pivotal crossroads. Many programmes are grappling with outdated curricula that have not kept pace with urgent challenges like climate change and social inequality, alongside a pressing need to decolonise and diversify traditional teaching methods. In light of these challenges, there is a growing urgency to transform how we teach and practice architecture so that it remains relevant, inclusive, and responsive to our changing society.

Aim and objectives of the conference

5. The conference theme, “Architecture in Changing Times,” reflects our commitment to exploring how architectural education and the professional practice can adapt and lead amid rapid evolution in society and the environment. Therefore, the objective of the conference is to explore and develop strategic interventions through architectural education and practice, addressing climate change, sustainability, and inclusiveness, in order to contribute meaningfully to environmental and social well-being.
6. We aim to discuss transformative approaches, from integrating sustainable design and new technologies into curricula to promoting inclusive, decolonised pedagogies that address local and global needs. By bringing together academics, registered persons, and students, this conference will serve as a collaborative platform for generating ideas and strategies to drive the profession forward.



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Call for Papers

7. Researchers, academics, students, and registered professionals are invited to submit papers for presentation and panel discussions at the conference. Submissions should address the challenges outlined and contribute to reimagining our collective future. We warmly welcome papers on the following topics:
 - a) Sustainable and climate-responsive designs.
 - b) Inclusive design
 - c) Professional fees, building contracts, and ethical considerations.
 - d) Integration of theory and practice
 - e) Impact of the AI and BIM on architecture.
 - f) Orientation of the National Building Regulations and Standards Act and SANS 10400 to mandate climate-responsive, inclusive, and sustainable designs.

Publication of conference papers

8. SACAP will explore the possibility of agreeing with one of the recognised journals to publish papers developed from presentations at the conference.
9. Therefore, accepted papers will be published in a recognised and accredited journal. This presents both an opportunity and a responsibility for prospective presenters to uphold high academic standards and engage with current professional insights, contributing to the evolving discourse in architecture. In short, we seek contributions that not only share knowledge but also advance the conversation in the field.

Guidance for Submissions

10. When preparing your submission, kindly include the following details for clarity and consistency:
 - a) Papers should be ≤ 600 words, typed in 11-point Arial, with one-and-a-half line spacing, justified text, and in English.
 - b) Include title, author(s), and educational institution, and clearly indicate the theme or focus area aligned with the conference.
 - c) Specify authors/collaborators and the format (research study, design project, case study), including methodology and approach to peer review.
 - d) Papers should be analytical, well-referenced, and accessible to both academic and professional audiences.
 - e) Submissions will be reviewed based on relevance, originality, alignment with conference objectives, and research rigor.
 - f) Educational institutions are encouraged to coordinate submissions to ensure a broad range of perspectives.

Submission Timelines

31 March 2026: Full Paper Submission

31 May 2026: Notification of Acceptance

15 June 2026: Final Paper Submission

10–11 September 2026: *Architecture in Changing Times* Conference



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The papers should be submitted by email to SACAP at callforpapers@sacapsa.com

We look forward to insightful contributions from academics, registered professionals, and students, and to strengthening our collaborative relationship with all accredited architecture programmes as we address these challenges together.

