UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

African Perspectives continues

African Perspectives 2009 is seen as an event of practical solutions, to be tabled and to be challenged by expert academics of a broad multidisciplinary background. Practical solutions mean in the first place design and building, as architecture will be at the core. But, as we have learned from African Perspectives 2007 in Delft, the expression in other art media is helpful to get a foothold on the complicated matter of city building. Another contribution of the multimedia approach is that it assists in bridging the gap between down to earth practice and the academic approach.

The discourse on the African City Centre at African Perspectives 2009 aims at presenting innovation within continuation. In other words, new views, directions and solutions are to be introduced within the framework of historical and ongoing research and debate on the subject. This means that what has been said at important venues like in Dakar in 1982, in Accra in the late nineties, at the Durban CBD workshop in 2000, the Urban Futures 2000 conference at Wits and the Urban Age Johannesburg 2007 workshop will be taken up and reviewed. Key players in these events are to be sourced and invited to bring in their report on post-event outcome and assessment.

Besides, African Perspectives 2009 is to be seen as a continuation of the events to which ArchiAfrika actively participated. The conference and workshop on Modern Architecture in East Africa held in Dar es Salaam in 2005 and the conference on African Architecture Today in Kumasi in 2007 may be seen as predecessors of the African Perspectives formula minted in Delft in December 2007. From this sequence, key issues will be distilled and inserted into the themes. The publication of APD'07 selected and reworked papers will be probably be available to the attendants of African Perspectives 2009. This selection focuses on the self-built African City, the historic African City and the global African city.

At African Perspectives 2007, perspectives were offered from different disciplinary angles within the architectural profession. For African Perspectives 2009, the same broad approach is aimed at, allowing equal voices from multiple disciplines that make up the beautiful architectural and city design professions - design from landscape to house, building technology, conservation, architectural sociology, planning, urban design, real estate and housing management, anthropology, art. At African Perspectives 2009, these voices should be heard simultaneously in order to create a multiplier effect. This is believed to be achieved in the form of a practical, workshop like event, coupled with presentations and debate.