

PRETORIA INSTITUTE FOR ARCHITECTURE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – PRESIDENT WELCOME ADDRESS – 2021

My President's acceptance address in November last year ended with the words:

- The PIA is the members and the members are the PIA.
- I therefore accept the nomination as President of the PIA.

I trust that the PIA and the President have lived up to these words during the past year.

Thank you to the members of the PIA for entrusting me with the role as President of the PIA. I have regarded this as an honor and privilege to serve the members. During the past year the PIA has had to deal with some of the more difficult challenges of the past years which has been to work within the confines of the pandemic.

I also trust that the Covid-19 pandemic will be controlled in the coming year and that we can return to normal.

The PIA Executive has worked closely with our Committee and the six portfolios to provide services in a consistent and professional manner.

Thank you to our Vice-President Claire McCusker who has assisted on a high level on all matters of PIA importance. Claire has taken to her portfolio with dedication and shown results despite mothering her family and running a practice.

Isia Ortner our Immediate Past-President continues with her quiet and reserved manner and she considers the challenges posed and always provides a well thought response and her valuable insights, comments and directions have continued to be an invaluable contribution to the PIA.

The Executive also consists of our Executive Officer, Maureen van Wyk who has the task of keeping us properly informed and coordinated. She tirelessly works to serve the PIA members and remains a library archive of PIA matters. She leaves no stone unturned and continues to do so – thank you Maureen. We also recognize our staff who work tirelessly i.e. Ishara, Marlize and Evelyn. Especially Ishara and Marlize who have contributed immensely during the past year with too much on their plates – big thank you.

The committee welcomes new members to the PIA and all are most welcome to offer their undivided attention and time discussing matters which if left untouched will have a negative impact on our profession and members.

The committee also consists of highly regarded members of long standing and who continuously provide professional inputs way past the requirements to serve the members. These members are champions of the profession and serve us all without compensation or reward and we are highly indebted to them. All protocol reserved thank you especially to Karlien Thomashoff, Dries Verbeek, Adriaan Louw and Colin Scott.

Our committee consists of sub-committees with various responsibilities and they are required to attend meetings, preparing reports / minutes, making decisions and advising on a variety of matters. Sterling work is also recognized from Helene, Arthur, Dries, Camilo, Adriaan, Mostert, Mike, Camilo, Jean, Jan, Emile, Gerd, Donette, Maryke and Erna who also represents us at the NDPW and I. We

have co-opted members and thank Chris Wilkinson, Fritz Thomashoff, Engela de Beer and Anton de Jongh for representation at Council.

Often, we are asked what does the PIA do for its members and the answers are mostly of administrative content and seemingly uninteresting but without the dedication to resolve matters as a group we won't be able to serve ourselves better as individuals. Our functions and events with CPD points on offer are highlights which are all well received and attended.

Nonetheless the additional highlight during the year was our bi-annual Merit Awards Programme which provided high excitement and interest. We received high quality projects which were meaningful, resourceful and sustainable besides being beautiful. The entries will be exhibited at a venue to be determined and possibly at public facilities to maximize exposure for our entrants. There were 4 Awards of Excellence, 7 Merit Awards, and 15 Commendations for Architecture – well done to all that entered their projects and also congratulations to those receiving awards.

A special congratulations to the architects of who were awarded Awards of Excellence:

- Len Joubert Architects - House Ströh with Pool House
- W design architecture studio - triggering GROWTH
- W design architecture studio - back to the start
- Slee&Co. Architects - Die Groenhuis

We trust that our events have contributed to our members' professional development. This year we had 34 events and 108 speakers which is truly a remarkable effort by our committee members and staff – thank you all. The year was packed with our usual events plus the highly successful IDEAS Conference and Merit Awards Programme.

Furthermore, our Practical Practice Programme courses are of the highest standard and will continue to be so with excellent programmes which will be lined up by Mauneen and her team in the new year. Thank you to Colin and the team for your most professional efforts.

We also trust that other functions and events in the coming year will be successful and held live again and look forward to the President's breakfast's, JAM Sessions and **speakers'** forums where prominent architects and designers can highlight their latest work and we will also plan visits to particular buildings, districts or towns of architectural interest. These would again include bus tours and wine evenings of which one such event was held during the past year where terroir, labels and wine glasses were also discussed.

We also continue to liaise with the City Council regarding the administration of SDP's, building plans and rezoning. The success of these deliberations lies in the positioning of our case for efficient liaison with Council and we continue to work for an electronic submission and tracking system and also for more architects at Council to deal with our complicated issues. Nonetheless the past year has been the most challenging yet as their offices were closed or partially closed for a long time due to the lock down. The PIA represents our members at the Tshwane Public Development Forum where we use the opportunity to state **architects'** position regarding building plans, SDP's and development initiatives by the private sector. The PDF and Task Teams is an excellent platform initiated by Council and the Capital City Business Chamber to address these issues.

We have had many heritage challenges during the past years and we continue to see the steady demise of historic suburbs such as Brooklyn, Arcadia, Clydesdale, Hatfield, CBD west and Marabastad. The historic suburbs seem to take the brunt of rezoning and in the long term we are all the poorer for it. Nonetheless the PIA will continue to support new development but have generally

become an interested and affected party to provide a heritage insight. We have a heritage committee who has set a course to provide electronic documentation and a database of buildings in Tshwane considered to be of value. This is an undertaking in cooperation between the City Council and the UP – Department of Architecture under Prof. Arthur Barker and Jan Hugo who have commenced with this database – thank you.

We have sub-committees responsible for considering and / or liaising regarding transformation, practice matters, members benefits, education (TUKS and TUT), events and marketing. These committees put in sterling work and long hours to arrange, plan, execute and then start all over again. Too much to say and not enough time...

A special note of thanks to the Transformation Portfolio who have consistently placed this agenda on the table, Chair Nompilo Okyere-Dede, Jeremy Gibbert, Camilo Mogni and Claire McCusker. They have made the point that the youth need earlier access to the professional environment and we will be focusing on this in the new year. We have already seen a growth in young architects joining the PIA during the past year. Nompilo and team have had two very successful events with the University of Pretoria Department of Architecture and Seat @ the Table Webinar which focused on the views and perceptions of a wide range of different ages, genders, races, political and architectural views. Both were very successful and energized the participants – thank you.

One of the duties of the President is to liaise with SACAP and SAIA. The PIA President is a board member of SAIA and also deliberates on the massive challenges the profession faces seeking solutions. This year has seen our CEO Mtembeni Mkhize pass away due to Covid-19 and a new Executive Officer has been appointed. SAIA has had major challenges in administration but we have a new President in Reuben Reddy and a new Vice President in **Amira** Osman who is also a PIA member – congratulations.

We also have a good working relationship with SACAP and trust this will continue in the new year with various challenges regarding a new MOU and fee schedules. We were concerned with a proposed new code of conduct from SACAP and after forwarding our concerns to them we were well heard – thank you to our Practice Portfolio and SACAP.

Our website has undergone major changes recently with a fresh new look and easy access. We are highly indebted to Mauneen, Marlize and Ishara who worked tirelessly with the tech company, Building Brands for a major success. Trust that all members are using the website to good effect.

The PIA undertakes to address all professional matters of our members in the best and most suitable manner given the context and possible outcomes. Don't hesitate to correspond with our secretariat on any matter you may deem to be of importance and mutual benefit. We can't resolve all matters but surely will try our best. We also urge you to grow the PIA by firstly paying subscription fees and encouraging other architects to join our membership circle. We presently have ± 60% paid up and 18 new members for a net growth rate in membership for the year and we are now 563 members.

I trust that the coming year will be less stressful and that our members' contribution to architecture in Tshwane will be of the highest standard to which we have become accustomed. Noting that the origins of the PIA was conceived with the foresight and leadership of Norman Eaton who also laid the foundations of a modern style in Southern Africa and which is also referred to as Pretoria or Transvaal Regionalism. This style paved the way for transformation of architecture from Colonial to the modern styles which broke away from the design traditions of the past.

I sincerely trust that the PIA will continue in the proud footsteps of many excellent and celebrated architects who have preceded us.

The PIA is for the members and the members are for the PIA.

Thank you.
Jeremie Malan
PIA President