

eastern cape institute of architects

December 2013

Dear Colleagues,

I know it is that time of the year where energy levels are low and even reading your favourite Newsletter can feel like hard work. So, I promise to be brief. I will spare you're the lengthy "2013:... the year that was" and just feed you a few snippets that may remind you that there are opportunities for you as an architect to make a selfless, "Mandela like" contribution to our profession and to the building of the green, people centred cities of our future.

Firstly, I must report back to you on the two days I spent last week as an external examiner for the final year Architecture Students at NMMU. I, like other Architects from all over the country, was happy to give of my time to this important task, because come to think of it, this is the last opportunity the profession has to say " Sorry! You're not quite ready to be released into the world and call yourself one of us" Yes there is the SACAP board exam that will ensure the required skills with the JBCC and the Client Architect agreement, but we all know that this exam speaks nothing to the values that promote excellent, creative "human centred" built environments that Architects have a long and proud tradition of authoring. So no, ladies and gentleman, the SACAP exam is not the critical threshold. It's the fifth year thesis exam and we must volunteer our time to participate here where we can. It's fun to see all the young minds, untainted by practice. It's stimulating to debate finer aspects of current architectural theory with top academics. So, please, volunteer your time. Contact Boban Varghese at NMMU (Boban.varghese@nmmu.ac.za). I am sure he will have something for you to do. Critting, Lecturing, examining...Who Knows?



Secondly, we are very happy to report, that because of Phillip Loot's "Tree Promise" programme, the ECIA is able to boast that in 2013 we were able to see to the planting of a small forest. 464 new trees were planted as the result of the direct instruction of ECIA members in the past year. That's a great achievement and a "gift that goes on giving" for decades and perhaps centuries to come. But can we do more? Yes I am sure we can. So let it be known that I today commit the ECIA to the target of 800 trees planted in 2014 as the result of the direct instruction of its members in the region. All you have to do is to count up the trees on plans that will be built in the course of next year, then send that "Tree Promise" to Phillip Loots at Tel: +27 41 585 4555 Phillip Loots phillip@muse-arch.co.za

Thirdly, for those of you who do not yet have a copy on Albrecht Herholdt's "Coastal Contemporary", please purchase your copy from Kathy Hess(041 5858037) before its too late. "Coastal Contemporary" is a beautiful coffee table book edited and published by Albrecht Herholdt. Though it is Albrecht's personal project, the ECIA is committed in its campaign to popularise this unique publication which celebrates excellent and interesting works in our region in the last 10 years. If you add one book to your collection this year, this should be it. This book will or course make an excellent Christmas gift (and it costs just about the same as the bottle of good whisky you would normally give away at this time of the year), But hurry because the ECIA offices close on 13 December 2013 and Kathy will be away until 13 January 2014.

Lastly, I must say a special thank you to all of us who worked hard to make “Urban Assembly 2013” a resounding success. Under Debbie Wintermeyer’s direction many of our members were able to lead discussions and presentations which were of significant benefit to practitioners, students and the general public. Your spirit of selfless commitment to the cause of Architects and Architecture is what makes our profession great. Please take time to watch the presentations and proceedings on the ECIA YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg71vjXqFnru37NT6TlakuA> . Take time also please to look at the fantastic work of this year’s winners of the “ECIA Regional Award for Architecture” . The winning projects are all featured on the ECIA website at : <http://www.ecia.co.za/gallerylist>

- Hopewell Visitors Centre - KOOP Design
- New Advice Centre Gqebera Walmer - NOH Architects
- Helenvale Multi-Purpose Community Centre - The Matrix cc
- SAPS 10111 Radio Control Centre Korsten PE - The Matrix cc
- House Thomson Bonnyview 2 - Thembela Architects
- Walmer Link Houses for Rental - Erik Voigt Architects
- House Schoeman Little Walmer Golf Estate - J Rushmere, & The Workplace

And with that I must say good bye and well done to getting to the end of 2013.

2014 will be a great year for Architects and Architecture if we choose to make it so.

I, for one, do choose to make it so!

Thank you!

Yours in the service of our beautiful profession,



Tim Hewitt-Coleman (*President – Eastern Cape Institute of Architects*)