





UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA  
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

**Faculty of Engineering,  
Built Environment and  
Information Technology**

Fakulteit Ingenieurswese, Bou-omgewing en  
Inligtingtegnologie / Lefapha la Boetšenere,  
Tikologo ya Kago le Theknološi ya Tshedimošo

**Department of Architecture**

# Professional postgraduate programmes

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## Introduction

The Department of Architecture at the University of Pretoria offers two one-year programmes to graduates who hold relevant qualifications (BScArch or BAS, BScInt, BScLArch or relevant and equivalent BA or BTech or similarly recognised qualification at NQF level 7) that makes them eligible for admission to the professional postgraduate programmes in architecture, interior architecture and landscape architecture. These programmes are a one-year Professional Honours, followed by a one-year Professional Master's degree. Combined these two are the equivalent of the two-year professional master's offered by some institutions.

These programmes prepare graduates for advanced and specialised professional employment through recognition of candidacy with registering bodies such as the South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP), The South African Council for the Landscape Architectural Profession (SACLAP) and the African Institute of the Interior Design Professions (IID). Our programmes are accredited by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) as professional degrees and validated by the relevant professional registration bodies. The programmes also serve as a gateway to further post-professional design or research specialisations, both locally and internationally.

As the University of Pretoria is a research-intensive university, our professional postgraduate programmes are premised on a research-led approach to design and construction. Students are encouraged to investigate real-world design problems situated in a local socio-cultural and environmental context. Directions for research themes emerge from the department's research focus areas. Nuanced developments of these themes vary from year to year as the body of knowledge responds to ongoing research endeavours.

A limited number of candidates are admitted to these programmes. Applicants who meet the minimum requirements are not guaranteed of admission to the Department. The Department employs a comprehensive selection process in order to identify the strongest prospective students for admission to the professional postgraduate programmes. Apart from academic merit, we also consider an applicant's experience, interests, skills and opinions.

## What makes us different?

The following two aspects sets the professional postgraduate programmes at the University of Pretoria apart from other programmes offered in the country.

1. The emphasis on community engagement, well-being and environmental responsibility in the curriculum instils an ethos of eco-systemic thinking which informs the normative position of the Department and prepares our students for the responsibilities they have as professionals responding to the challenges of the 21st century.
2. Students are exposed to a multidisciplinary learning environment where the disciplines of interior architecture, architecture, urban design and landscape architecture are treated as one integrated spatial design continuum.

## Description of the Honours programmes

The one year, full-time, studio-based Honours programmes in Architecture, Landscape Architecture or Interior Architecture (Professional) makes full use of the Department's interdisciplinary focus and national and international collaboration to offer students an experience that is embedded in real-life research and practice, with outcomes that promote knowledge exchange within the academic environment, as well as in the professional context. They are exposed to complex social, cultural and environmental problems at multiple scales, and encouraged to follow a holistic and regenerative design approach.

Honours programmes offered		
Total credits: 120	Duration of study: 1 year	NQF level: 8
BArchHons Programme code: 12242005	The BArchHons degree meets the requirements for registration as a candidate senior architectural technologist with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession in terms of Act 44 of 2000  <b>Entry requirement:</b> (i) BSc (Architecture) (or equivalent) degree or (ii) relevant tertiary qualification that includes spatial design at NQF level 7 (or NQF level 6 for qualifications obtained before 2009)	
BIntArchHons Programme code: 12242007	The BIntArchHons degree meets the requirements for recognition as candidate senior interior designer under the SAQA Qualifications Framework  <b>Entry requirements:</b> (i) BSc (Interior Architecture) (or equivalent) degree or (ii) relevant tertiary qualification that includes spatial design at NQF level 7 (or NQF level 6 for qualifications obtained before 2009)	
BLArchHons Programme code: 12242008	The BLArchHons degree meets the requirements for registration as a candidate senior landscape architectural technologist with the South African Council for the Landscape Architectural Profession in terms of Act 45 of 2000  <b>Entry requirements:</b> (i) BSc (Landscape Architecture) (or equivalent) degree or (ii) relevant tertiary qualification that includes spatial design at NQF level 7 (or NQF level 6 for qualifications obtained before 2009)	
<b>General notes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At least one year of practical experience and/or a record of an extended study excursion is required.</li><li>• Subject to the stipulations of G.1.3 and G.54, a candidate is admitted to the study for the Honours degree only if he or she is in possession of a bachelor's degree.</li><li>• Candidates mentioned in (ii) above may, at the discretion of the Head of Department, be required to be evaluated in prerequisite fields of knowledge (including relevant computer skills), and/or register for additional modules for non-degree purposes. A candidate who does not comply with the required level of competence may be admitted, if he or she completes additional modules, study assignments and/or examinations as required by the Head of Department.</li><li>• Students admitted with conditions must comply with all of these before all 700 series module credits and the degree are awarded.</li><li>• Candidates who completed their BScArch at the University of Pretoria with a minimum of 70% average in the final year of study and 70% for design in the final year will be granted automatic admission into the BArchHons programme after their year of practical experience but will be required to submit a portfolio of visual work. All the third-year courses must have been completed in the same academic year for this to apply.</li><li>• For further information also refer to G Regulations G.16 to G.29 and G.54</li></ul>		

The Honours programme consists of three main streams presented in quarterly modules.

## Design studios (total credits: 64)

### *Module description: Research Field Projects (RFP)*

Studios are designed as stand-alone quarter modules, with the option of linking studios per theme or site of investigation in each quarter or across different quarters. Integration with ongoing research projects and collaboration with communities and practitioners results in a rich variety of studio experiences. Examples over the last few years have included participatory research and co-design studios, human-centred and interface design, archive and heritage studios, biodiversity enhancement and ecological design, climate adaptation and sustainable precincts, as well as urban strategy studios.

The course comprises design methodologies, methods, and techniques relevant to the field, discipline or practice of architectural design, and an understanding of how to apply such knowledge in a particular context. Appropriate theoretical underpinning is assimilated by way of seminars and discussions. As the Department of Architecture offers studies in three architectural disciplines, students are encouraged to participate in studios other than their own discipline for two quarters, where the possibility exists, retaining one design quarter in their own discipline and the final quarter for their own disciplinary focus.

The pedagogical sequence of the studios ensures that students are exposed to a variety of research and design generation methods, eventually synthesising this knowledge in a critically reflective process of iteration towards detailed design resolution:

- Quarter 1 (Research, mapping and strategic development): Open choice.
- Quarter 2 (Design generation): Discipline specific or cross-disciplinary choice.
- Quarter 3 (Discipline specific design generation): Discipline specific or cross-disciplinary choice.
- Quarter 4 (Detailed resolution): Discipline-specific

## Research method theory (total credits: 32)

### *Module description: Research Field Studies (RFS 701)*

Research Field Studies comprise the basics of good research practice, along with research methodologies, methods and techniques relevant to the field, discipline or practice of architectural design, and how these are introduced and applied in a particular context. In essence students are led to work across the four quarters on a research report. The course is structured around four main study themes, which deal with data gathering research instruments and the practical application of research to form design principles and design guidelines; the research process; research methodology and finally research outcomes that considers the skills and considerations for research write up and dissemination.

Quarter 1: Research methodology and basic research skills

Quarter 2: Data capture and literature review

Quarter 3: Data analysis and report

Quarter 4: Research report

## Professional and construction theory (total credits: 24)

### *Module description: Continuing Practice Development (CPD)*

The Continuing Practice Development stream considers the practical, technological, legal and practice related aspects of the professions in the built environment to establish an ecosystemic understanding of the scientific, natural, and cultural settings within which designers work, together with the impacts of construction (building science) on individuals and society.

During the first quarter, advanced construction, technology and structural systems are considered from a philosophical perspective, to embed environmental stewardship in the mind of the designer, inclusive of the three disciplines of architecture. In the second quarter, the course explores the application of a variety of building technologies and their implementation. The objective is to develop cognisance of the origin, application, and long-term performance of specific building technologies.

In the third quarter the course aims to enable the student to technically develop and model an architectural design which considers certain critical technical and sustainable design considerations such as thermal comfort, water consumption, daylighting, carbon footprint and energy consumption. This is done through continued development and assessment of the performance of the design in terms of above-mentioned criteria. During the final quarter, the legal responsibilities implied in professional practice are explored. The course aims to introduce and instil an awareness and understanding of professional practice issues and the larger legislative frameworks in which professionals in the built environment operate.

## Description of the Master's programmes

The one year, full-time, studio-based coursework Master's in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, or Interior Architecture (Professional) programme is a personal, yet critical, design-led research-based investigation. The Department's research focus areas provide the impetus for design investigations. Students produce designs that respond to research findings. They consider the inhabitants of the design and surrounding communities to ensure local relevance. The student engages with theory and case studies to develop an approach to the making of space and form, incorporating systems and technology. A rigorous, iterative, and creative process of design postulation and enquiry, testing, evaluation, and refinement seeks to push the boundaries of architectural convention.

Students are expected to demonstrate mastery of their specific discipline while the self-motivated process is guided by the discipline coordinator who provides academic structure in the form of milestones, lectures, seminars, and studio management. The student receives individual support from an appointed and specialised supervisor.

Master's programmes		
Professional master's degree as described in regulation G 30: the successful completion of a coursework programme requiring a high level of theoretical engagement and intellectual independence as well as demonstration of the ability to relate knowledge to the resolution of complex problems in appropriate areas of professional practice. In addition, a professional master's degree must include an independent research component that comprises at least a quarter of the credits at NQF level 9, consisting of either a single research or technical project or a series of smaller projects demonstrating innovation or professional expertise.		
Total credits: 180	Duration of study: 1 year	NQF level: 9
MArch Professional Programme code: 12252026	The Master of Architecture (Professional) is a taught master's degree for the purposes of registration as a candidate professional architect with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession in terms of Act 44 of 2000 and is done by coursework, projects and a design investigation mini-dissertation and design project and discourse.  Entry requirements: BArchHons (or equivalent) degree in spatial design with at least one year of practical experience and/or a record of an extended study excursion	
MIntArch Professional Programme code: 12252028	The Master of Interior Architecture (Professional) is done by coursework, a design investigation mini-dissertation and design project and discourse. The degree meets the requirements for recognition as candidate interior architect under the SAQA Qualifications Framework.  Entry requirements: BIntHons (or equivalent) degree in spatial design with at least one year of practical experience and/or a record of an extended study excursion	
MLArch Professional Programme code: 12252030	The Master of Landscape Architecture (Professional) is a taught master's degree for the purpose of registration as a candidate professional landscape architect with the South African Council for the Landscape Architectural Profession in terms of Act 45 of 2000, and is done by coursework, projects and a design investigation mini-dissertation and design project and discourse.  Entry requirements: BLArchHons (or equivalent) degree in spatial design with at least one year of practical experience and/or a record of an extended study excursion	
General notes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Candidates with a cumulative weighted average of at least 60% for all the modules of the honours degree and who completed the honours degree in the same term (academic year), will receive preference</li><li>• Candidates who have completed a BScArchHons / BIntArchHons / BLArchHons at the University of Pretoria with a minimum of 60% average for all courses in the Honours programmes will be granted automatic admission to the relevant professional Master's programme. All the Honours level courses must have been completed in the same academic year for this to apply</li><li>• The topic of the final design project must be approved by the Head of Department</li><li>• For further information refer to General Regulations G.30 to G.40 and G.50 to G.54.</li><li>• General Regulation G.39.12 applies to the research component of the degrees</li></ul>		

The Master's (Professional) is comprised of three academic modules.

### Continuing Practice Development (CPD 810) (15 credits)

The CPD course provides the student with the necessary tools for preparing their project brief and the final mini-dissertation document. The document is a synthesis of relevant research, the identification of the design problem and appropriate methodologies; context and site investigation and analysis, establishment of a theoretical framework through the compilation of a limited literature review; the documentation of the design development and final resolution.

### Design Project and Discourse (DPD 801 (Arch), 802 (LArch), 803 (Int) (90 credits)

The DPD course focuses on the identification and development of a design problem related to the discipline of architecture, landscape or interior architecture with a scope and complexity at Master's level. Students are encouraged to think and work innovatively by embracing an intensive process of design investigation and iteration. By following a research by design approach, the Design Project and Discourse is recorded in the mini-dissertation document, as well as presented graphically in combination with models and/or prototypes at the final exam as the culmination of the year's work.

### Design Investigation (DIT 801 (Arch), 802 (LArch), 803 (Int) (75 credits)

The DIT course is a critical technical investigation that ensures the realization of the design intention. It comprises the identification of a range of technical and environmental issues intrinsic to the design proposal. The process involves a rigorous technical investigation and results in a holistic design resolution. The Design Investigation is communicated through a coherent combination of architectural documentation, models of construction details and/or prototype, and computer aided modelling and testing.

## Application

Applicants must note that they are only required to submit their academic transcripts for undergraduate studies (as well as SAQA verification for qualifications from tertiary institutions outside of South Africa, if applicable) with their online applications together with other personal documents such as ID or Passport information. Portfolios should NOT be submitted with the application. Incomplete applications will not be considered for admission, so please ensure that all required supporting documents are submitted.

Applications are done online at <https://www.up.ac.za/online-application>

## Selection process and requirements

Candidates are selected on merit – please see the section on selection for more detail. Note that all candidates should preferably have had practical experience and/or have done and recorded an extended study excursion.

### For admission to the Honours programmes

ROUND 1 of selection will be based on each applicant's academic record, a questionnaire, and academic writing assignment. The relevant documents will be shared with applicants after the closing date for applications. Submissions will be collectively considered to determine a shortlist of prospective students who will be invited to interviews in the second round.

ROUND 2 of selection is based on an interview and the presentation of design journals (visual diaries), curated portfolios and additional submissions (if required) in preparation for their interviews.

#### Journals

The following minimum requirements apply for journals:

1. Journals must demonstrate the designer's scope of thinking and personal investigations with annotated free-hand diagrams and spatial drawings. It may be used to document journeys or excursions.
2. It is preferred that journals cover a period of no less than three, but preferably more than six, months, however applicants are welcome to submit journals for longer periods if the chronology is clearly indicated.
3. Compared to the curated collection of the portfolio, the journal is a raw, personal, process driven record of a designer's thinking, skills and reflections.
4. Scrapbooking, collage and electronic media are not considered the equivalent of, or an alternative to, a journal.
5. Instructions for electronic submission will be given to applications who are shortlisted for Round 2.

#### Portfolios

The following minimum requirements apply for portfolios:



1. Portfolios must demonstrate an applicant's level of proficiency, competency, and experience from conceptual design to technical resolution and documentation.
2. Work from undergraduate or previous studies must be included and clearly labelled as such.
3. Collaborations and practice work undertaken with others should be clearly labelled as collaborative undertakings; the applicant's personal contribution to projects should be clearly identified and stipulated.
4. Instructions for electronic submission will be given to applications who are shortlisted for Round 2.

**NOTE: Please ensure that you apply for the correct programme and not for the BScHons Applied Sciences (Architecture), which does not lead towards professional registration.**

## For admission to the Master's programmes

Applicants who did not complete one of the Department's professional Honours programmes after the 2016 academic year will be subjected to the same selection process as described for the professional Honours programmes above.

Students who are currently, or have since 2017, been enrolled in the Department for Honours programmes will be considered by the respective programme coordinators on merit and according to available supervisory capacity. The programme coordinators may invite these applicants to an interview or require additional submissions or portfolios.

## Key dates

- Applications close on 30 September for all applicants.
- International students should ensure that they submit the required verifications of their qualifications before this date as incomplete applications cannot be considered.
- Selection interviews usually take place in the first half of December (depending on the academic calendar).

## International students

Non-South African residents should note that a study permit is required. It is the candidate's responsibility to make the necessary arrangements in this regard. Candidates can contact the International Cooperation Division for more information on study permits and medical insurance at [www.up.ac.za/international-cooperation-division](http://www.up.ac.za/international-cooperation-division)

International students wanting to be considered for selection must have their highest university qualification obtained outside South Africa certified by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) as this evaluation is considered during selection. All certificates issued in a foreign language must be translated into English by an accredited translator. Applicants with international qualifications must submit the following documents with their online application before the closing date:

- a) A SAQA evaluation of the completed qualification
- b) TOEFL or IELTS test results (if applicable)
- c) Certified copy of passport

South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)

Email: [saqainfo@saqa.org.za](mailto:saqainfo@saqa.org.za)

Online: [www.saqa.org.za](http://www.saqa.org.za)

Candidates wanting to register for professional postgraduate degree programmes for purposes of professional registration must further have their prior qualifications verified by the relevant registering council as to the equivalence of the relevant registration category. All costs are for the direct account of the applicant. All documentation must accompany the application and be submitted before the closing date.

## Contact details for the various professional bodies:

- South African Council for the Architectural Profession (SACAP): <https://www.sacapsa.com/>
- South African Council for the Landscape Architectural Profession (SACLAP): <https://www.saclap.org.za/>
- The African Institute for the Interior Design Professions: <https://www.iidprofessions.org.za/>

NOTE: All applicants to our postgraduate programmes must be proficient in English as it is the official language of tuition, communication, and correspondence at the University of Pretoria. Candidates who cannot provide evidence that previous studies were completed in English, must submit TOEFL or IELTS test results with their application.

Also refer to G Regulations G.42 to G.54.

## Financial support

Bursary applications close at different times of the year and usually require that you be registered. Please contact the Client Service Centre or look for funding opportunities at [www.up.ac.za/fees-and-funding](http://www.up.ac.za/fees-and-funding) . From time to time the Department may be able to offer financial support through funded research programmes and will advertise such opportunities on its website. Otherwise, we are not able to provide any financial assistance to post-graduate students.

## Contact details

The Department of Architecture does not deal with the administrative aspects of student affairs, such as applications, tuition fees or bursaries. Such queries should be addressed to the Client Service Centre or the Faculty Admissions Office

Client Service Centre	Academic Admission Enquiries	General Academic Enquiries
Student Service Centre Lynnwood Road Entrance Hatfield Campus, University of Pretoria  Tel: +27 12 420 3111 Email: <a href="mailto:ssc@up.ac.za">ssc@up.ac.za</a>	EBIT Postgraduate Administration Office Eng 1, Level 6, Room 6-8.1  Tel: +27 (0)12 420 6735 Email: <a href="mailto:eng@up.ac.za">eng@up.ac.za</a> Postal address: University of Pretoria, Private Bag X20 Hatfield 0028, South Africa	Prof. Arthur Barker Professional Master's Coordinator  Mr Johan Swart Mr Jan Hugo Professional Honours Coordinators  Tel: +27 (0)12 420 4542 Email: <a href="mailto:arch@up.ac.za">arch@up.ac.za</a>

## General regulations

The General Regulations of the University of Pretoria are available at <http://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/home> . The requirements set out in the General Regulations prevail should there be any discrepancies, anomalies, or contradictions.

## Special note

The professional degree programmes are associated with the professional outcomes of each of the discipline's professional or statutory bodies. Should you be interested in a postgraduate degree by research at the Department of Architecture, please consult the "Postgraduate Research Programmes" brochure on the department's website: [www.up.ac.za/architecture](http://www.up.ac.za/architecture) .

## Research focus areas

The Department of Architecture presents postgraduate research programmes in architecture, interior architecture, and landscape architecture in a number of inter-related fields of inquiry. Postgraduate students are expected to contribute to at least one of the following Research Programmes:

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### Urban Citizenship

*Participatory architectural research and design as instrument of urban citizenship*

Through participatory processes of research and design, the discourse of architecture is extended beyond the realm of architect-as-expert towards the dynamic collaboration of human-centred spatial agency. Immersive ways of engagement enable deepened understanding of user needs and contextual variables, to expand the empathic horizon of the designer to internalise different perspectives and worldviews. The dynamic expression of space, informed by ritual, inhabitation patterns, interpersonal networked relationships, and the appropriation of space, becomes the focus over static architectural proposals. Fluid and temporal conditions of living inform design interventions that are often small in scale, yet big in their impact on the lives of a variety of communities. The scale spectrum implies a concern beyond individual interest alone towards an intentional engagement with the public consciousness of the collective. In this way, co-design as a process is embraced as an instrument of Urban Citizenship, responsive to the complex emergence of African Urbanism.

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### Regenerative and Resilient Cities

*Future-proofing cities through climate change adaptation and systems transformation*

The future of cities will depend on our ability to adapt to changes brought about by the challenges of climate change, ecosystem degradation, new technology, rapid urbanisation and growing inequality. This research area focuses primarily on the retrofitting and transformation of Southern African cities through the interplay between the technological, systemic and spatial design decisions made when developing design solutions. As research context the focus is on scales ranging from the detailed architectural interior to the neighbourhood public realm. The theoretic locus within which the research field is framed considers the sustainability discourse from the position of complex, adaptive systems and eco-systemic thinking – going beyond sustainability to also consider resilience and regenerative design in the adaptation and transformation of cities as social-ecological systems. Current research projects range from the development of a spatial development framework for regenerative and resilient cities, to climate-change adaptation and mitigation strategies for left-over urban spaces and affordable housing.

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### Designed Ecologies

This field is about how we design multifunctional green infrastructure (GI) to help combat challenges of biodiversity loss, climate adaptation and food security. The Designed Ecologies research programme aims to foster the human nature relationship through social and ecological pathways. Several research projects exist within the programme, with both quantitative and qualitative approaches. This includes design experiments that test novel planting schemes and technologies to enhance urban biodiversity and ecosystem services; the refugia abilities of planting palettes; cultural relationships with nature; the role of local biodiversity in place perception and place identity; environmental justice perspectives; the selection of species for climate change adaptation; and the food security potential of indigenous species in vertical planting systems.

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### Smart Cities and Neighbourhoods

*Stitching the city together through data explorations*

The 21st century is defined by the way we use digital technologies to collect, interpret and exploit data. There is a growing understanding that planning, designing and initiating successful developmental projects need to be grounded within the local context and its socio-spatial dynamics, which requires a much more fine-grained form of data collection and analysis than is currently found in statistical datasets. The objective of this research programme is firstly to develop a methodological framework and digital platform for the collection and sharing of meaningful and useful visual, place-based and human-based spatial, (quantitative and qualitative) data at a street- and precinct level, such as routinely collected by students in the spatial design disciplines; and secondly, to integrate and interpret such data within neighbourhood scale proxy models (e.g. digital twins) to assist stakeholders in a) identifying areas of development potential or problem hotspots where interventions would be most useful and sustainable, and b) providing time-line data for trend and network analysis. The flagship project in this field is the development of a digital twin for the Hatfield Development District.

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## Memory, Legacy and Identity

*The recording and analysis of, and prospects for, architecture*

This research field positions architectural design in an historical continuum of international (and local) theory, practice and traditions. Researchers in this field are interested in the relationship between people, landscape and artefacts of cultural significance and heritage value. Researchers collect, record and analyse information about cultural artefacts and create prospects for architecture, informed by current best practice, as well as legal and heritage frameworks. Current research activities build on over 75 years of Departmental heritage and cultural research and publication. The Department's thriving Architectural Archive, which has generated several research outputs, presents prospective researchers with a wealth of unexploited artefacts and data on South African architectural heritage.

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## Inhabitation of Place

*Identity and meaning-making through space*

Human identity, place and context are integral to cultural production and meaning-making. This research area considers the role of spatial design in identity formation processes, in fostering belonging and in encouraging well-being. Cultural, economic, psychological, and social systems are triggers for research and design in the spatial domain. The interface/s between humans, objects and space enables multi-scalar interrogations into the nature of inhabitation. Processes of inhabitation include behaviour, identity expression, rituals, and taste-making as informants to design and research.

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## Architectural Education

*Challenging established and conventional praxis in architectural education*

Architecture, as a spatial and design discipline, in turn engages with those aspects of education, practice and research. This research focus area pertains to the scholarly enquiry about spatial design education using a wide lens that includes the explorations of the interrelationships between, and within, education, practice and research and how these relate to, draw on and critically respond to a multitude of informants, including multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary influences across a broad spectrum of interests, in the midst of a rapidly expanding production of knowledge in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This field is situated in the context of Africa and the Global South. Researchers in this field should ideally – but not exclusively – consider, reflect on, and challenge established and conventional praxis and outcomes in spatial design pedagogy with its densely layered processes and diversity of outcomes.

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For more details on current research projects and possible supervisors, please visit the Department website [www.up.ac.za/architecture](http://www.up.ac.za/architecture)