



This is the Programme in Interior Architecture at the University of Pretoria's first newsletter. This bi-annual newsletter will be published online and will provide an overview of the most important projects, achievements and events that take place in the Programme. Professor Barbara Jekot as the programme coordinator, together with all our faculty and staff (meet us on page 2) are invested

in the future of the next generation of South African interior designers. We are proud to share a number of 2013's important projects and events here. Look out for our next newsletter at [www.up.ac.za/architecture](http://www.up.ac.za/architecture) or on the **Boukunde Interior** Facebook page.



STUDY WITH US

## PROJECTS

### BOUKUNDE + RAW STUDIOS: Learning through making

16 students from the Programme in Interior Architecture participated in a week long workshop with RAW Studios during the July recess where they designed and built four shopping trolleys suitable for use at an outdoor market. RAW Studios is focused on exploring the ultimate potential of sustainable engineered materials and CNC machining processes (computer controlled cutting) in their own product range. The July workshop provided the participating students with an opportunity to learn directly from these industry specialists and provided them with a chance to build their own designs at full scale by using industry materials and processes.

The week started with a visit to the RAW Studios workshop where students were introduced to the qualities and specifics of engineered timber (specifically Finnish birch plywood), design tactics for CNC machining, methods of joining plywood and an overview of possible finishing processes. Students were required to conceptualise, design and build a prototype of a shopping trolley in groups. The trolley had to be manufactured from a single sheet of plywood, with limited use of secondary processes like clamping and gluing. Students spent a week in a focused studio environment with assistance from University of Pretoria lecturers, and designers from RAW Studios. They made use of the Department of Architecture's laser cutting facilities to test various design solutions on a smaller scale in cardboard before finalising their proposals. The final four solutions were machined from birch plywood and assembled by the students at the RAW Studios workshop. The resultant products were of a sophisticated nature and the students produced four unique trolleys that can each be disassembled to fit comfortably into a car. The students, lecturers, and designers from RAW Studios found the experience overwhelmingly positive and very gratifying!

This workshop offered students the opportunity to learn more about the materials and processes they will encounter in practice after graduation. The programme hopes to continue this interaction with industry to stimulate a learning-through-making culture.



## WHAT IS INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE?

The Programme in Interior Architecture empowers students to design sustainable, meaningful and beautiful places within the context of architectural space. Graduates possess the theoretical and technical knowledge to engage critically with proposed or existing structures. Designers of interior environments shape the relationship between space, object and user. They follow a human-centred approach and perform spatial design and research services across various scales and typologies. Graduates work as designers in the built environment and related fields such as exhibition, lighting, product and stage design. The programme offers students the opportunity to become specialists in interior design within an interdisciplinary learning environment.

## WHAT SKILLS & SUBJECTS DO I NEED?

You should be an innovative thinker who enjoys solving problems creatively. Interior architects can visualise in three dimensions and have an eye for detail that extends beyond decoration. They respond to cultural influences and are especially interested in the way people use and occupy buildings.

The minimum requirements\* for the 3 year **BSc(Interior Architecture)** programme are:

<b>AFRIKAANS or ENGLISH:</b>	<b>5 (60 - 69%)</b>
<b>MATHEMATICS:</b>	<b>4 (50 - 59%)</b>
<b>PHYSICAL SCIENCE:</b>	<b>4 (50 - 59%)</b>
<b>APS:</b>	<b>27</b>

\* Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission. Admission is subject to a selection process - details available in the Departmental brochures.

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE: 30 JUNE**

**MORE INFORMATION**

[www.up.ac.za/architecture](http://www.up.ac.za/architecture)  
[arch@up.ac.za](mailto:arch@up.ac.za)

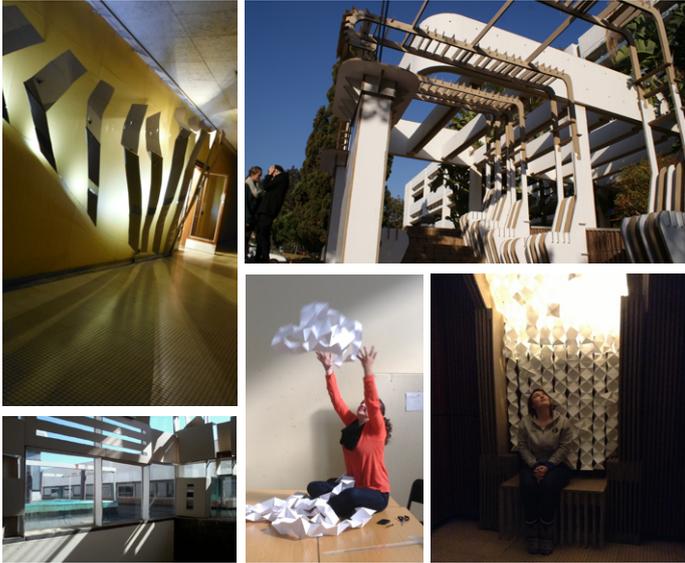
## DESIGN/BUILD: Realising the poetics of light

"This project is a celebration of building strategies concerned with small-scale structures, singular visions and modesty of purpose. It is an opportunity to construct an immersive environment in which you can examine how such a bespoke space of your imagining might be inhabited, both physically and emotionally."<sup>1</sup>

As part of the 2013 Design 203 curriculum, the second year interior architecture students were asked to conceptualise a place where students of Boukunde can **experience the poetics of light**. They had to construct the conceptualised place on the selected site from **paper-based materials in full-scale**. Xanita South Africa<sup>2</sup> kindly sponsored 10 sheets of X-board for this project, which students integrated into their final installations. Students spent five weeks designing, testing and eventually constructing their solutions. Their installations explored the transient nature of natural light, the poetic quality of artificial light and everything in between. Both the participating students and their external examiners deemed the project a great success.

The Design/Build project was initially implemented in 2012 in the second year curriculum and will remain an integral part of the studio in years to come.

1. Excerpt from the 2013 ONT 203 brief. 2. For more information, please visit [www.xanita.com](http://www.xanita.com)



## STAFF

### MEET US

**BARBARA P. JEKOT** holds a PhD and MSc. She has professional experience as an architect, designer, academic teacher and researcher. She has taught on three continents and has been an Associate Professor in the Department of Architecture, University of Pretoria, South Africa since 2005. She has published internationally and presented papers at conferences in Europe, America, Asia, Australia and Africa. Her research interests focus on environmental issues, conservation and cultural diversity.

**CATHERINE KARUSSEIT** holds a Masters by research in interior architecture. She has been teaching at the Department since 2001. She has been involved in all levels of design studio, in particular second year, honours and the master's studio. She has taught a number of theory subjects, in particular design history and inclusive design theory. Her research interests include heritage and cultural landscapes, inclusive design and 'gender and design'.



**RAYMUND KÖNIG** is currently completing his doctoral thesis which investigates interior design's contributions to the cultural system by analysing iconic interiors. Outside of professional interests, he travels, reads, lifts heavy things, dabbles in politics and enjoys living in Pretoria.

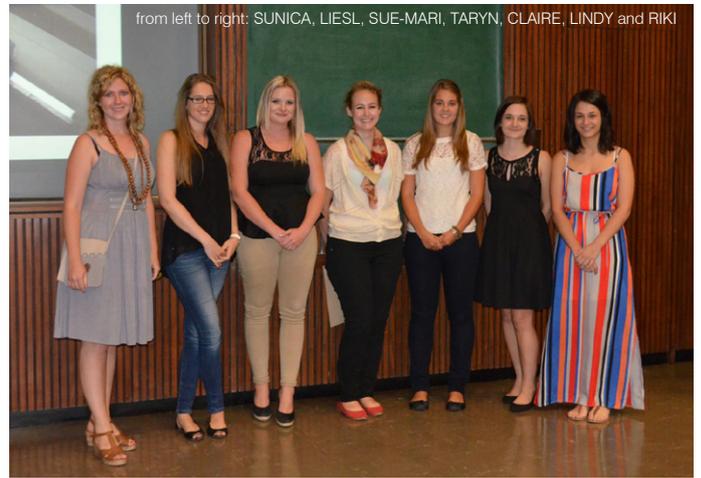


**ELANA VAN DER WATH** holds a Master of Interior Architecture (Professional) degree. She is predominantly involved in the second year design studio and the subject Material Studies. Apart from her interest in crafting (making) as a mode of thinking, she is interested in how interior design is influenced by, and in turn influences, related disciplines. Current interests include the exploration of such interdisciplinary relationships with film, video and performance art.

## STUDENTS

### 2013 INTERIOR STUDENT AWARDS

<b>Claire Helfrich</b>	1st year	ARCHNEER PRIZE: Highest average in any History of the Environment modules
<b>Taryn King</b>	2nd year	Best student in second year design - Interior Architecture
<b>Sue-Mari Heyneke</b>	3rd year	Best student in third year design - Interior Architecture
<b>Liesl Wherry</b>	3rd year	MATERIAL STUDIES PRIZE: Highest average in all Material Studies modules
<b>Lindy van den Berg</b>	Blnt(Hons)	Highest average in all modules in the Honours Interior Architecture programme  Best student in Honours design - Interior Architecture
<b>Sunica de Klerk</b>	MInt (Prof)	IID PRIZE: The best interior design project in the Master of Interior Architecture (Professional) studio  JOHANNA MULLER TROPHY: Highest average in all 700 and 800 modules in the professional Interior Architecture programme
<b>Riki Papaspyrou</b>	MInt(Prof)	PRODUCT DESIGN PRIZE: Best product design in all programmes



from left to right: SUNICA, LIESL, SUE-MARI, TARYN, CLAIRE, LINDY and RIKI

## UPCOMING EVENTS

UP Open Day: 24 May 2014  
IFI World Interiors Day

The University of Pretoria hosts an annual **Open Day** on **24 May 2014**. Prospective students are strongly advised to attend. Student work is on display and lecturers and advisors are available to answer questions. Consult [www.up.ac.za/architecture](http://www.up.ac.za/architecture) for more information.

The International Federation of Interior Architects/ Designers will celebrate **World Interiors Day 2014** on 31 May 2014. This year's theme is 'Design Matters'. For more information on activities around the world, visit [www.ifworld.org](http://www.ifworld.org)