



Association of Professional Heritage Practitioners

PROGRAM

APHP VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM: 7th November 2024 @13h15

“Heritage Issues in Southern Africa’s Changing Inner City Environments”

13:15 Welcome by APHP Chairman William Martinson.

13:30 Introduction of first speaker, **Dr Stephen Townsend**, by MC Elwyn Harlech-Jones.

- *Matriculated at Kimberley Boys High; B Arch at University of Cape Town (including two years at Delft Technical University, Netherlands); diploma in conservation studies at the University of Rome; PhD at UCT.*
- *Worked in the building industry in various capacities in SA and Italy for 20 years; worked for the City of Cape Town (in heritage and in land-use-management); in private practice specialising in planning and conservation matters for nearly 20 years; CEO of Heritage Western Cape for two years; HWC Council member for three years (chaired its BEL Comm and IA Comm); and currently on the panel of MEC’s Appeals Tribunal.*
- *Member of three professional institutes (of architects, planners, heritage practitioners) plus ICOMOS SA and of APES; and served on the management committees of most of them for shorter or longer periods.*
- *Established and ran the M Phil in Conservation of the Built Environment at UCT as Adjunct Assoc Prof for ten years; been teaching CPD courses for 20 years.*
- *Regular contributor to professional and legal journals and books.*
- *Fields of interest: the legal and administrative system regulating development; the making and enriching of settlements; training and professionalisation of heritage practice.*

13:35 Presentation by Dr Stephen Townsend:

***“Heritage Issues in SA’s Changing Inner City Environments.
Decision-Making in terms of the NHRA.”***

The effects of the NHRA are often argued by players in the building industry to be too uncertain to confront with confidence. As a consequence, in many parts of the country the local authorities ignore the Act and, in parts of the country where the Act is more scrupulously administered, investors avoid applications that will trigger the Act. The argument will (i) briefly explore the intrinsic difficulties faced in the administration of the NHRA and in heritage management generally (not only in South Africa); (ii) discuss two important judgments that have multiplied the uncertainties; (iii) turn to the actual process of decision-making by officials, by the authorities and by appeal tribunals and how these processes routinely ignore the relevant provisions of the NHRA and of the Constitution; and (iv) conclude with questions about the values and value of heritage in dispute in the growth of cities in South Africa.

14:10 Questions and Discussion.

14:15 Introduction of second speaker, **Helene Potgieter**, by the MC.

- *Helene founded HPA in 2002 to produce original, functional & sustainable designs that encompass Building Conservation and Adaptive Reuse, HBIM as well as Skills Transfer & Development.*
- *Examples of Helene’s work in the field of Building Conservation & Adaptive Reuse are: Parliament Precinct Security Upgrade Cape Town (2024); Diepkloof Community Learning Centre (2024); JDA City & Suburban Affordable Rental Accommodation (2024); and Pretoria City Hall restoration (2022-3).*

14:20 Presentation by Helene Potgieter:

“Heritage issues opportunities in Pretoria’s changing inner city environment”

This presentation will look at three case studies in the Pretoria inner-city to illustrate why Building Conservation and circular economies make good financial sense. The presentation will illustrate that Building Conservation can be executed at 40-50% of the cost required to demolish and do a new build.

The buildings are: Madeleine Hotel (Pretorius Street, Sunnyside Pretoria), Park Lodge Hotel (opposite the Burgers Park and Melrose House), and Vergeet-My-Nie Female Residence, University of Pretoria, Hatfield Pretoria. These will be discussed with attention to Skills Transfer and Development, the Narrative of historic buildings, and how Building Conservation & Adaptive Reuse make good economic sense.

14:55 Questions and Discussion.

15:00 Introduction of third speaker, **Agnes M Shiningayamwe**, by the MC.

- *Agnes S.M. Shiningayamwe is a dedicated heritage professional with experience in the management of heritage sites. She previously served as the Site Manager for the Twyfelfontein //Ui-æ//aes World Heritage Site and currently holds the position of Regional Heritage Officer at the National Heritage Council of Namibia.*
- *Agnes holds a Master's Degree in Education, a Postgraduate Diploma in Heritage Conservation and Management, and a Bachelor of Education (Honours) all from the University of Namibia.*
- *She is currently pursuing a PhD in Eco-Tourism and Protected Area Management at the International University of Management. Her research interests include Heritage Education, Heritage Tourism, and Heritage Conservation and Management.*

15:05 Presentation by Agnes M Shiningayamwe:

***“Decolonizing Heritage Management Systems:
New Directions in Digital Heritage Management from Namibia.”***

Namibia, like many other African countries, inherited a colonial system of heritage management. Despite efforts in the post-independence era to decolonise heritage management, there remain significant gaps and biases in how Namibia's diverse heritage is recognized, celebrated, and protected.

This presentation will examine the existing deficiencies in Namibia's heritage management system. It will also outline the ongoing efforts to develop more inclusive and effective management tools. The presentation will argue for the adoption of a broader, decolonised approach to heritage management, one that better represents Namibia's post-colonial identity and promotes a more equitable recognition of its heritage.

15:40 Questions and discussion.

15:45 Introduction of the fourth speaker, Bryan Wintermeyer, by the MC.

- *Bryan Wintermeyer has over 20 years of experience in the heritage and architectural sectors. He holds a Master's in Architecture (2004) and a Master's in Philosophy (Conservation of the Built Environment)(2015). He worked at NOH Architects in Gqeberha for four years before co-founding The Workplace Architects. After serving as an Executive in corporate architecture for three years, he rejoined The Workplace Architects, rebranded as The Workplace Agency, in June 2018. The firm currently focuses on master planning and heritage-related projects.*

15:50 Presentation by Guillaume Bruwer on behalf of Bryan Wintermeyer:

**“History and Heritage in Inner-City Townships:
The Example of Duncan Village, East London.”**

Inner-City Townships in South Africa, such as Duncan Village in East London in the Buffalo City Municipality, hold important yet under-recorded heritage tied to the country's urban development. These spaces reflect cycles of change and regeneration, often amidst socio-economic challenges and a degrading built environment.

Duncan Village's heritage, although currently limited to a few older structures and public monuments, is more essentially rooted in cultural expressions like politics, music, and theatre. Current efforts aim to document these histories, promote tourism, and appropriately use key sites through mechanisms like heritage signage. There is also a call from the Eastern Cape Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (PHRA) for the heritage resources of this Inner-City Township to be identified and, where appropriate, be formally protected.

16:25 Questions and discussion

16:30 Introduction of the fifth joint speakers, Brian McKechnie & Brendan Hart, by the MC

- *Brian McKechnie is a Johannesburg-based heritage architect. His favourite projects span the adaptive reuse of Innes Chambers (with Activate Architects, Colosseum award commendation winner), the (gradual) restoration of the*

landmark Ansteys Building and reimagining and curating the interiors and spaces of the historic Rand Club.

- *Brian was selected as one of the 200 Most Influential Young South Africans in the Mail & Guardian Top 200 and was nominated for the 2012 Colosseum Award for his work at Ansteys Building. From 2012-2024 he served on the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority Gauteng. He is a trustee of the Johannesburg Heritage Foundation and a member of its Heritage Plans Committee.*
- *Brendan Hart is an architect, academic and heritage practitioner. He holds architectural degrees from Wits University and a Masters in the Conservation of the Built Environment from UCT. In 2012 Brendan established Mayat Hart Architects (with Yasmin Mayat), an architectural and heritage practice that combines architecture, research, conservation and advocacy with considered projects that respond to the rich and complex history of South Africa. Award winning projects include the New Delville Wood Memorial (SAIA Award of Excellence), Restoration of Aiton Court (Docomomo International Rehabilitation Award), Restoration of the Workers Museum Cottages (GfA Award) and the Restoration of Merton Keep (PIA Award).*

16:35 Presentation by Brian McKechnie & Brendan Hart:

“What Is Heritage And Conservation Practice In Johannesburg Now?”

Heritage and conservation practice is guided by international charters and guidelines which define what is considered international best practice. But what does that mean in a third world context? In a context where conservation needs to navigate a dynamic and complex context of poverty, urban decay and social change where traditional concepts of conservation are simply unfeasible? Brian McKechnie and Brendan Hart aim to explore this in a discussion looking at how to practice conservation in a challenging and dynamic city like Johannesburg, all with the hope of starting to tease out a new way to practice and think about being a heritage practitioner.

17:10 Questions and discussion.

17:15 Closure by MC