We are announcing an exciting opportunity for the Open Building Network. We will be hosting a workshop that will coincide with the International Conference on Appropriate Technology. We believe that many of the existing conference themes align very well with Open Building principles, thinking and practice.

The conference brochure can be downloaded at www.appropriatetech.net

For those unfamiliar with Open Building, please visit this link which will give you a background to the concept: uj-unit2.co.za/open-building-versus-architecture-or-open-building-as-architecture/

Open Building and Appropriate Technology have many overlaps in terms of the following:

- Democratising the building process - involving many in the design and implementation process
- Building as a social process and how the built environment is based on social structures and relationships
- The development of small construction enterprises and skills transfer in the construction process
- Open Building as a tool to manage complexity in Built Environment Ecosystems

Please join us on Tuesday 24th November 2020, 9am - 11am (SAST)

- We will be hosting several speakers well-known in the field. This will be an interactive session
- Registration for the conference is free at architectureandagency.co.za/workshop-registration
- Questions may be directed to osmanaos@tut.ac.za

Workshop coordinators

Prof Amira Osman (Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa) and Prof Jia Beisi (The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong)

Joint Coordinators of CIB W104 Open Building Implementation
Amira Osman is a Sudanese/South African Professor of Architecture at the Tshwane University of Technology. She currently holds the position of SARChI: DST/NRF/SACN Research Chair in Spatial Transformation (Positive Change in the Built Environment) and is the Joint Coordinator of the international group CIB W104 Open Building Implementation. She is also the Chair of the Local Organising Committee for the 9th International Conference on Appropriate Technology (ICAT), Pretoria, November 2020. Amira obtained a B.Sc. in 1988 and an M.Sc. in 1996 both from the University of Khartoum in Sudan.

She has a diploma from the Institute for Housing Studies in Rotterdam (IHS) in 1992 and a Ph.D. in Architecture from the University of Pretoria in 2004. Amira hosted and convened the World Congress on Housing in 2005 at the University of Pretoria and the Sustainable Human(e) Settlements: the urban challenge in 2012 at the University of Johannesburg. She served as UIA 2014 Durban General Reporter and head of the Scientific Committee for the International Union of Architects (UIA) and the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA).

Dr. Nadim is Associate Professor in Architecture and Building Technology at The German University in Cairo (GUC), Egypt. She received her PhD and MSc degrees from the University of Salford, Manchester UK, and her BSc. Degree in Architecture from Cairo University in Egypt. Dr. Nadim joined the E10 Million EU funded Integrated Research Project on Open Building Manufacturing/Manubuild (2004-2009) where she was responsible for developing training and education packages including a VR training demonstrator. She authored/co-authored several refereed journal papers/book chapters on the innovative uptake of offsite construction in the UK and Europe. Recently, as the Principle Investigator, Dr. Nadim completed a project funded by the Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) with the Title: Affordable and Adjustable living and Mobility for an Integrated Urban System in Egypt (AL2MOBILIUS) investigating the potentials of Open Building for social housing in Egypt.

Dr. Nadim is supervising MScs and PhDs concerned with improving Architecture and Construction practices in Egypt with particular emphasis on housing covering topics including BIM, VR, PPP, daylighting, natural ventilation, flexibility, aesthetics etc. Dr. Nadim was also the coordinator for SB13 Cairo Conference, and SBE16 Cairo conference in 2013 and 2016 respectively as part of the international conference series: Sustainable Built Environment organized by the CIB, FIDIC, iSBE, UNEP. Dr. Nadim is also a Hubert Humphrey Alumna in Construction Technology Policy and Management at Rutgers University in the USA. Dr. Nadim has further practical experience in construction project management in multinational construction projects ranging from £100Mill. - £170Mill.

Born in 1963. Beisi holds a Bachelor of Architecture Nanjing Institute of Technology (NIT China) and Postgraduate Diploma of Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich). He obtained a Ph.D in Architecture History and Theory in 1990 through a joint program of NIT and ETH Zurich.

His Post-doctorate research projects in Zurich include a survey of housing projects in Switzerland, the result of which was published in a book Housing Adaptability Design. Since January 1996, he has been a tutor, lecturer and coordinator of programmes of Bachelor of Art in Architecture Study of the school. Besides design studio, he is teaching in courses History of Chinese Architecture and Housing in Urban development in his school. He is supervisor of MPhil and Ph.D students. His students have won more than 30 national and international student design competition, including 1998/99 Dupont Benedictus Awards, and in exhibitions, such as UIA XXII World Congress of Architecture 2005. He was invited as guest and visiting professor in Ball State University in US, University of Montreal in Canada, Southeast University in China, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, and etc.

He is the joint coordinator of W104-Open Building Implementation in International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB). He participated in organization an international conference on Open Building and student competition almost annually since 2003, in Zurich, Beijing, Derban, Boston, Paris, Bilbao - named a few in last few years. Since 2008 an international student competition has been held along with the conference. Since 1996 he completed several research projects in housing adaptability and housing sustainable development based in China and Hong Kong. Jia Beisi has published 4 books and about 53 papers in international and/or national journals including Open House International, Landscape Research, Habitat International. He has been guest editor for issues of journal Open House International, reviewer and organizer of journals and conferences.

He is also the Director and Partner of Architectural design office Baumschlager Eberle Hong Kong Ltd, led and/or participated in 12 major projects and competition winning projects since 2008 including housing, shopping mall, institutional buildings, urban design and hotel.

Wafaa Nadim, Germany
André Eksteen is a founding member of Earthworld Architects; a Pretoria-based practice with commissions throughout Southern and East Africa as well as South-East Asia. Born and bred in Pretoria (B.Arch. UP) and passionate about tectonics, materials and regenerative- catalytic design. At the core of his thesis was integrated and catalytic development of Sub-Rural Communities with skills development its secondary goal.

In the early 90’s he worked on various educational projects which formed part of the newly elected democratic government’s Reconstruction and Development Programme. This exposure, to the then RDP Program, laid the foundation for his interest in community development and regenerative design. After establishing his own practice in 1997 he completed various design/build projects where his keen interest in materials was thoroughly explored. This early phase led to many noteworthy residential designs but, it wasn’t until mid 2000’s that bigger public commissions and competition entries gave him the opportunity to explore his early passion for sustainable development and regenerative design.

Earthworld have received recognition for their work in many publications with more than 40 awards of merit and commendations awarded to them in the various provincial as well as national merit award programs in South Africa. Also notably selected as finalist in the “Educational” and “Best use of Timber” categories at the 2019 World Architecture Festival in Amsterdam. His current focus is on the design of buildings as catalysts for social innovation and the role of the architect in the rapidly evolving technological landscape. He has an intense interest in the use of BIM as driver for innovation and democratic industrialization. Keen on exploring new forms of communication and knowledge transfer as well as translation into language for digital manufacturing has become key drivers to their design aesthetic and theoretical base. He asks whether architecture, traditionally the most meaningful of all humankind’s artefacts, still have a place in our complex socio-political and technological landscape. Can architecture be used as a tool to facilitate change and inspire social innovation.

He argues for the re-establishment of the architect’s role as maker, artist and custodian of healthy and meaningful artefacts and BIM, Digital Design and Manufacture as the mediator and facilitator to achieve this.

With algorithms predicting and filtering our exposure to what is meaningful and valuable, the role of the modern architect must be re-aligned to translate the global into local, thus re-establishing meaning and belonging.

Can creative intervention reconnect the complex networks, thus re-calibrating our relationship to, both our physical and virtual context.

Can Building Information Modelling and the opportunities brought on by the 4IR re-establish the Architect as pivotal to social innovation and regenerative design?

Dr. Kendall is Emeritus Professor of Architecture at Ball State University. He earned a professional degree from the University of Cincinnati, a Master of Urban Design from Washington University in St. Louis, and a PhD in Design Theory and Methods from MIT under the direction of Professors John Habraken and Donald Schön. Prior to his 35-year academic career, which included teaching in the U.S., Japan, China, South Africa, Indonesia, and Italy, he designed hospitals, schools and residential buildings as a registered architect, and built small residential buildings as a design/builder.

His research and writing focus on the Open Building approach to a resilient building stock. He has written more than 45 papers and book chapters; co-authored Residential Open Building (2000); and has authored numerous technical reports and funded research projects. His edited book Healthcare Architecture as Infrastructure: Open Building in Practice (Routledge), was published in 2018. His edited book Residential Architecture as Infrastructure: Open Building in Practice will be published in 2021, as well as THE SHORT WORKS OF JOHN HABRAKEN (Co-edited with John Dale) and A PRIMER ON OPEN BUILDING: New Design Skills for a New Time (in collaboration with John Habraken), as part of Routledge’s OPEN BUILDING SERIES.

He co-founded the Council on Open Building (councilonopenbuilding.com) in 2017. It’s mission is to expand sustainability and resilience practices to include planning and designing neighborhoods and buildings for incremental upgrading and for diverse and evolving uses.
Dr. Rosamônica da Fonseca Lamounier, Brazil


She is a professor and researcher at CEUNIH, UIT and IBMEC/BH; leader of the Research Group LabFlex at CNPq.

She studies different contemporary processes, methodologies and instruments – analogical and digital – for the architectural and urban space production that involve the distinction between decision levels in different phases of design, construction and use of space, the autoconstruction, the spatial flexibility, the open architecture, open building and so on.

She is author of several papers, book chapters and lectures.

Rosamônica works with different kind of design and have many projects, especially housing.

Mr. Yan had been studying and working in Japan for 20 years. As the Chief Representative of Japanese SHIPU Design, he was involved in the community planning, architecture and interior design of various residential projects, including mega super high-rise housing, premium CCRC Elderly apartment, large-scale real estate projects developed by Yanke and other major developers, and especially several China-Japan pilot projects.

His design The Yashi Alloy won the Jeme Tien Yow Residential Award.
Dr. Jin-Ho Park teaches architectural design, theory, and history as a professor in the Department of Architecture at Inha University, Korea. Prior to joining Inha University, he taught in the School of Architecture at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA as an associate professor with tenure. He earned a Bachelor degree in architecture from Inha University, Korea, a Master degree and Ph.D. in architecture from University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), USA.

He chaired and edited the proceedings of the Fourth International Symposium of the Asia Pacific Architecture, 2001 in Hawaii. He served as corresponding editor of the Nexus Network Journal, a member of editorial board of the Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering, Space Academia, and Open House International. Now, he serves as a contributing editor of Open House International.


He was honoured as a recipient of the University of Hawaii “Board of Regent’s Medal for Excellence in Teaching.” in 2002, and received national recognition as the 2003 recipient for “the ACSA/AIAS New Faculty Teaching Award.” He also received Best Teaching Award at Inha University and a Muae Special Award from the Architectural Institute of Korea. He was twice recipient of the Best Paper Award at the Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering (JAABE) in 2003 and 2013. He was honoured as a recipient of the Chief Commissioner’s Award of the Presidential Commission on Architecture Policy from the Korean Government in 2011.