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SIDE EVENT

On the occasion of the UN Habitat 24th Governing Council Meeting

Art and Architecture at Work

Art and architecture for inclusive and sustainable urban development in Africa

The European Commission values the role of **art and architecture in urban space planning to positively impact inclusiveness, sustainability and stability in urban capitals**. Bottom-up and participatory approaches are increasingly sought after in urban planning. Alongside state-driven initiatives, art centres and architects together can bring significant value to the process and the quality of the participatory process. Through their interventions in the city, they engage civil society towards cultural ownership and steer urban growth towards sustainable and inclusive patterns.

The role of artists and architects therein is crucial, as it is they who feel the pulse of a city's evolving cultures, identities, and movements. Their input into urban planning is essential in today's African cities, which face unprecedented growth and challenges.

This side-event's purpose is two-fold:

- Present two exemplary cases of visionary projects involving an inclusive approach and targeting the long-term economic development of the project areas.
- Present recommendations for the translation of the input from inclusive approaches into the urban planning process, based on discussions around the Nairobi case held at a stakeholders' meeting on April 16, 2013

Presentations

Heinrich Wolff will discuss architecture's role in urban development. The discussion will be located within the context of his work in South Africa. The role of the architect will be considered in situations where the city is largely developed without design professionals. A case will be made for the necessity of architecture and a working method will be illustrated in which architects can contribute to the outcomes of social change. Issues such as the need to create a more labour absorbent economy, the reduction of energy use, the role of infrastructure and the necessity to contribute to contemporary urban culture will be discussed.

Joy Mboya will present some ongoing projects by the GoDown Arts Centre, Nairobi, that show how the cultural sector can be involved in issues of sustainable urban development, in particular the mobilization of stakeholders and beneficiaries for inclusive and participatory urban processes. The GoDown Arts Centre will share direct and indirect strategies they are using towards this end, how and why they have forged specific partnerships, and how they have leveraged their networks. Two ongoing complementary GoDown projects will serve as specific case studies that highlight direct strategies adopted and the experiences and lessons from these to date. These are:

- *Shukisha Nairobi: Common Ground*: a project in partnership with White Architects, Sweden, primary stakeholders being – the Kenya Railways Corporation, the City Council of Nairobi, the Kenya Roads Authority and the Technical University of Kenya.
- *Nai ni Who*: the project is a 12-week long people-driven city festival, celebrating the diverse neighborhoods of Nairobi and promoting cross-neighborhood interactions and discussions on everyday Nairobi life – highlights and challenges.

Indirect approaches to be presented include:

- Building legitimacy and profile through regular cultural Nairobi-centric community activities
- Adopting the role of convening agency for diverse actors, on diverse issues

Moderated by Joe Osae Addo

Heinrich Wolff (South Africa) together with his wife Ilze created Wolff Architects, design studio. His work has been exhibited internationally, the most significant exhibitions being the Venice Biennale (2006 & 2010), the Sao Paulo Biennale (2005 & 2007) and the South American Architecture Biennale in Ecuador (2008). In 2011, Heinrich was selected as the *Designer of the Future* by the Wouter Mikmak Foundation (the Netherlands). In 2007, he won the prestigious DaimlerChrysler Award for South African Architecture. Together with Jo Noero, in 2006, Heinrich received the Lubetkin Award from the RIBA for the best building in the world (outside the EU) – in this case, the Red Location Museum of Struggle in Port Elizabeth. He has won several other international and South African awards for excellence in design, most notably for public buildings such as schools and hospitals. Heinrich has taught at universities in South Africa and in the USA and currently holds an adjunct Associate Professorship at the University of Cape Town. He is also a founding member of Docomomo South Africa, an organization dedicated to the documentation and conservation of Modern Architecture. Some of his projects include: the Inkwenkwezi Secondary School (2006), The Red Location Museum of Struggle (2005), the Usasazo Secondary School (2003) and the Vredenburg Hospital (in progress).

Joy M'Boya (Kenya) is the Executive Director of The Performing & Visual Arts Centre Ltd, popularly called The GoDown Arts Centre - a nonprofit facility providing subsidized space and residency opportunities for Kenyan artists and presenting artistic public programmes for local audiences. She is a Trustee of Gaara Dance Foundation (Kenya) whose aim is to develop contemporary African dance. She is also a Trustee of the Kalasha Film Awards (Kenya). She has served on the Board of Trustees of Action for Music. In 2004, she received the National Women's Council of Kenya Merit Award for her contribution to the development of the performing arts in Kenya. Through appointment by the Minister of Gender, Sports, Culture and Social Services, she has served on the Governing Council of the Kenya Cultural Centre, which includes the Kenya National Theatre. Joy worked for 7 years as an architectural designer with a practice in Nairobi. At the same time, she joined the Kenyan pop band Musikly Speaking as lead singer. In the late '90s, she initiated a training programme in Nairobi on performance-making for young people aged 15 to 22. This organization, Fame Trust, was among the 'founder' groups of a communal arts space concept, which was finally realized as The GoDown Arts Centre. Since 2010, Joy has led Godown in a neighborhood development initiative, in collaboration with White Architects of Sweden, and with all stakeholders of the railway station neighborhood.

Joe Osae Addo (Ghana) trained at the Architectural Association in London. He worked in Finland, the UK and the USA, setting up his practice in Los Angeles in 1991. His work has been influenced by 'genus-loci', and how architecture responds to this by creating pieces which are both site-specific and meet the needs of the people who will interact with them. He is a founding partner in the A + D Museum, Los Angeles, whose mission is to advance knowledge and to enable people to appreciate and understand architecture and design. He moved back to his native country, Ghana, in 2004 and is currently the CEO of Constructs LLC, an innovative design firm based in Accra and Tamale in Ghana. Addo is on the Board of ArchiAfrika, a network devoted to contemporary African architecture, recently moved to Accra.