Housing in South Africa is often with limited or no involvement of the Architect. The noninvolvement of the Architect has been blamed on both the architectural practices and also on the attitude of the state to the importance of the architect in housing. Architecture being a profession that takes on socio cultural and environmental dimensions of the built environment has the ability to respond to the housing challenges in South Africa. But the South African Architect despite being skilled to take on such complex built environment challenges has so far not participated and deteriorates to a national crisis level. The paper starts out by outlining the background of architecture practice in South Africa and concludes by proposing ways the planner and architect may get involved in state housing.

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**Key words:** Housing Challenge, Built Environment, Architectural Practice.