Architecture in the Commonwealth

Australia - Royal Australian Institute of Architects
Bahamas - Institute of Bahamian Architects
Bangladesh - Institute of Architects Bangladesh
Barbados - Barbados Institute of Architects
Belize - Association of Professional Architects Belize
Bermuda - Institute of Bermuda Architects
Botswana - Architects Association of Botswana
Canada - The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada
Cyprus - Cyprus Civil Engineers & Architects Association
Fiji - Fiji Association of Architects
Ghana - Ghana Institute of Architects
Guyana - Guyana Institute of Architects
Hong Kong - Hong Kong Institute of Architects
India - Indian Institute of Architects
Jamaica - Jamaica Institute of Architects
Kenya - Architectural Association of Kenya
Malawi - Malawi Institute of Architects
Malta - Kamra Tal-Periti
Namibia - Namibia Institute of Architects
New Zealand - New Zealand Institute of Architects
Nigeria - Nigerian Institute of Architects
Pakistan - Institute of Architects Pakistan
Papua New Guinea - Papua New Guinea Institute of Architects
Sierra Leone - Sierra Leone Institute of Architects
Singapore - Singapore Institute of Architects
South Africa - South African Institute of Architects
Sri Lanka - Sri Lanka Institute of Architects
St Kitts and Nevis - St Kitts and Nevis Institute of Architects
St Lucia - St Lucia Association of Architects
St Vincent and The Grenadines - St. Vincent & The Grenadines Institute of Architects
Tanzania - Architectural Association of Tanzania
Trinidad & Tobago - Trinidad And Tobago Institute of Architects
Uganda - Uganda Society of Architects
United Kingdom - Royal Institute of British Architects

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The Kamra tal-Periti (Chamber of Architects & Civil Engineers), Malta, was established on 19 June 1920. It is a full member (founder) of the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA), which was founded in Malta in 1965. The Kamra tal-Periti is intended for the advancement and regulation of the profession, the defense of its rights and for keeping high its prestige. Its mission is to support members of the profession in achieving excellence in their practice of architecture and engineering in the interest of the community.

All the ‘Periti’, or Architects and Civil Engineers, who hold a warrant to practice the profession in Malta are automatically included in the Organisation, as included in the Register of Warrant Holders. Members are divided into two categories: Ordinary and Full Members, the former being an obligatory status while the latter is voluntary.

All Periti who hold a Warrant to practice the profession in Malta are automatically considered to have become Ordinary Members of the ‘Kamra’, or Chamber, on the same date as their inclusion in the Register of Warrant Holders, in the sense that they are subject to the Code of Professional Conduct and to the Kamra’s disciplinary procedures. Full membership may be acquired through appropriate application and will empower the right to have an active voice in the Kamra tal-Periti, including that to vote at AGMs and/or sit for a Council post seat, besides reaping the benefits of the services and advantages offered and organized by the Council, including discounts on levies, information through newsletters and circulars.

The Council is normally made up of eleven members, including the President. All members are elected at the annual General Meeting for a two year term with only half the Council being elected each year. The Vice President and Secretary are elected directly in alternating years too. The President’s commitment, however, reaches out for five years as he has two years as Vice President, two as President and one as Past President, thus ensuring smooth transition periods and continuity.

The Council for 2016 is as follows:

Perit Christopher Mintoff: President
Perit Alex Torpiano: Vice President
Perit Amber Wismayer: Hon Secretary
Perit Stephen Farrugia: Past President
Perit Anthony Fenech Vella
Perit Simone Vella Lenicker
Perit Andre Pizzuto
Perit David Felice
Perit Chris Grech
Perit Anthony Bezzina
Perit Sandra Cini
Perit Marc Spiteri

Perit Vincent Cassar, a former President of the Kamra tal-Periti, has taken over as the President of the Commonwealth Association of Architects for the period 2016-2019. This followed a period of three years (2013-2016) as Senior Vice-President of the same Association.
The University of Nottingham is a public research university based in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England, United Kingdom.

The University of Nottingham traces its origins to the founding of an adult education school in 1919, and the University Extension Lectures inaugurated by the University of Cambridge in 1873—the first of its kind in the country. However, the foundation of the university is generally regarded as being the establishment of University College Nottingham, in 1890 as a college preparing students for examinations of the University of London. In 1873, an anonymous donor provided £10,000 to establish the Work of the Adult Education School and Cambridge Extension Lectures on a permanent basis, and the Corporation of Nottingham agreed to erect and maintain a building for this purpose and to provide funds to supply the instruction.

The university college underwent significant expansion in the 1920s when it moved from the centre of Nottingham to a large campus on the city's outskirts. The new campus, called University Park, was completed in 1928, and financed by an endowment fund, public contributions, and the generosity of Sir Jesse Boot (later Lord Trent) who presented 35 acres (14 ha) to the City of Nottingham in 1921.

Nottingham's main campus (University Park) and teaching hospital (Queen's Medical Centre) are situated on the outskirts of the City of Nottingham, with a number of smaller campuses and sites located elsewhere in Nottinghamshire, Derby, Derbyshire, and Lincoln. Outside the United Kingdom, Nottingham has campuses in Semenyih, Malaysia and Ningbo, China. Nottingham is organised into five constituent faculties, within which there are more than 30 schools, departments, institutes and research centres. Nottingham has about 44,000 students and 9,000 staff and had a total income of £593.9 million in 2014/15, of which £119.4 million was from research grants and contracts.

The university is made up of a number of schools and departments organised into five faculties.[28] The faculty of arts, faculty of engineering, faculty of medicine and health sciences, faculty of science and the faculty of social science. Each faculty encompasses a number of schools and departments.

The University is governed by two main bodies: Council and Senate. At the head of the University are the Chancellor, Sir Andrew Witty and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Greenaway. The University's administrative and support departments support the running of the University and contribute to its growth and success both nationally and internationally.
The Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) is a membership organization for professional bodies representing architects in Commonwealth countries. Formed in 1963 to promote co-operation for the advancement of architecture in the Commonwealth and particularly to share and increase architectural knowledge, it currently has 32 members.

Country Institute and The Association

Australia - Australian Institute of Architects
Bahamas - Institute of Bahamian Architects
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Fiji - Fiji Association of Architects
Ghana - Ghana Institute of Architects
Guyana - Guyana Institute of Architects
Hong Kong - Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Jamaica - Jamaica Institute of Architects
Kenya - Architectural Association of Kenya
Lesotho - Lesotho Architects Engineers & Surveyors Association
Malawi - Malawi Institute of Architects
Malta - Karins Tal-Periti
Namibia - Namibia Institute of Architects
New Zealand - New Zealand Institute of Architects
Nigeria - Nigerian Institute of Architects
Pakistan - Institute of Architects Pakistan
Papua New Guinea - Papua New Guinea Institute of Architects
Sierra Leone - Sierra Leone Institute of Architects
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Sri Lanka - Sri Lanka Institute of Architects
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Uganda - Uganda Society of Architects
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Zambia - Zambia Institute of Architects
Zimbabwe - Zimbabwe Institute of Architects

The Association is best known for its procedures for the validation of courses in architecture which converge international visiting boards to schools to assess courses against set criteria. Under the umbrella of the Commonwealth CAA subscribes to its core values, and in particular, developmental support to the smaller and younger members. The Commonwealth network is increasingly valued as a means of accelerating improvement in the world’s living conditions and to ensure a sustainable future for the planet. The built environment has a key part to play and CAA works to ensure the maximum participation of the architectural profession at all levels.

CAA’s constitution sets the aim of the organisation as “the advancement of Architecture throughout the Commonwealth, and the acquisition of knowledge of the various arts and sciences connected therewith”. In particular, promoting co-operation between members and other equivalent organisations; ensuring the maximum contribution of architectural knowledge to the wellbeing of society; and encouraging activities on a regional basis. CAA runs two awards concurrent with each General Assembly normally every three years, the Robert Matthew Award for a body of work making an innovative contribution to development of architecture relevant to the country or region of operation and the Student Design competition.

The Lahore Chapter of the Institute of Architects Pakistan organised a three-day event “IAPEX 2016” from March 03 to 05, 2016 along with several CAA Events. Over 450 architects, engineers, builders and those associated with the building industry and students from various national institutions attended it.

National and international speakers were invited to address the architects and the building industry of latest international techniques and innovations. The event conference was dedicated to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to discuss opportunities and challenges that could surface as a result of its implementation. The Corridor is going to have mega development projects aimed at connecting the Gwadar Port in Pakistan’s south-west to China’s north-western autonomous region via a network of highways, railways and pipelines to transport oil and gas.

IAPEX 2016 also hosted several CAA events such as Council Meeting, CAA Robert Matthew Award and the CAA Students’ Competition. The Convener was Ar. Azhar Mamoion Suzeni and Chairman Lahore Chapter Ar. Sajjad Kausar, and President IAP is Ali Zafar Gazi.
CAA EVENT: LAHORE: NEW CAA COUNCIL FOR 2016-2019

At a CAA-RM Award Ceremony held at Lahore, Pakistan on 4th March 2016, a new Council of CAA was elected for the period 2016-2019. Perit Vincent Cassar took over as the next President of the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) for the period 2016-2019. This followed a period of three years (2013-2016) as Senior Vice-President of the same Association to which post he was elected in 2013. Perit Cassar succeeds Architect Rukshan Widyalankara of Sri Lanka who served as President from 2013-2016 and who will now sit on the CAA Council as the Immediate Past President. The CAA, which had its first meeting in Malta in 1968 and thus celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, is made up of organizations that represent the body of architects in Member Countries of the Commonwealth. The local Kama Ili-Perti, of which Perit Cassar is a former President, is a full member of the CAA. The CAA Council for 2013-2016 was present in Malta during CHOGM 2015 and took an active part in the events held during the meeting.

The other members on the new CAA Council (2016-2019) are Rukshan Widyalankara (Immediate Past President – Sri Lanka), Kalim Siddiqui (Senior Vice-President – Pakistan), John Geeson (Secretary/Treasurer – UK), Sithabile Mathe (Vice President Africa – Botswana), Dik Jorman (Vice President Oceania – Australia), Jalal Ahmed (Vice President Asia – Bangladesh), Peter Oborn (Vice President Europe – UK), Wycliffe Morton (Vice President Americas – St Kitts and Nevis), Jayantha Perera (Chair Communications – Sri Lanka), Christos Panayiotides (Chair Education – Cyprus), Chandana Edirisinghe (Chair Practice – Sri Lanka), Musa Sada (Alternate Vice President Africa – Nigeria) and Nadeesha Yahampath (Executive Director – Sri Lanka).

Perit Cassar, a graduate in Architecture and Civil Engineering from the University of Malta, joined the Public Service in 1973 as a Junior Architect and Civil Engineer with the then Public Works Department. In 1992, with the reorganization of the Public Works Department into the Works Division made up of a number of Departments, Perit Cassar was appointed as its first Director General, a position he actively occupied till 2003. Following the Malta General Elections in April 2003 Perit Cassar was appointed as the Permanent Secretary within the Ministry for Youth and the Arts which portfolio included all aspects related to Youth, Sport, the Arts, Theatre, Music and Cultural Heritage. In February 2004 with the establishment of the Ministry for Urban Development and Roads, responsible for urban development and land transport, he assumed the responsibility for that Ministry as its Permanent Secretary. Perit Cassar retired from Government service in June 2008 and since April 2013 holds the position of Chairman of the Malta Environment and Planning Authority.

CAA Council Meetings & CAA RM Award

The 78th Meeting of the Council of CAA was held at Failettl’s Hotel in Lahore. The Event was hosted by Institute of Architects Pakistan (IAP) and The Lahore Chapter. The CAA held its last Council meeting for the period 2013-2016 and this was followed by the first meeting for the period 2016-2019.

During this event the CAA, in conjunction with the Institute of Architects of Pakistan, announced the winners of the Robert Matthew Award. This Award which commemorates CAA’s first President, Sir Robert Matthew, recognizes also the innovative contributions to the development of architecture in the Commonwealth context. The Award is given to an architect or architectural office making the most outstanding contribution having particular relevance to the country or region in which the architect or architectural office operates. This year’s Award was shared jointly by Grimshaw Architects of the UK and Pervaz Vandal and Associates of Pakistan. The members of the CAA also had the opportunity to attend the Institute of Architects of Pakistan Expo (IAPEX2016).

Perit Cassar, together with Architect Sithabile Mathe, a member of the CAA Council, also attended a meeting with students of architecture from the various Schools of Architecture from around Pakistan and at which meeting they answered questions posed by the students.
C.A.A. & THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM - PROJECT TSHELA REPORT
Matt Cobb, 10th June 2016

Project History & Ambition

A group of talented second year architecture students have just returned from building their first nursery school: a pretty impressive achievement for a young team of untrained, but highly enthusiastic "designers-turned-labourers". For many, it was their first encounter with a drill, let alone a building site. Project Tshele is the sixth instalment in Nottingham University’s live build initiative, which gives students the opportunity to design and build a nursery school for a rural community in South Africa. The project is baked into the core studio module and launches students on a grounded, empathetic and challenging design process.

The site of this year’s project was a small village community called Mokomatsie, located 30 minutes south of Tzaneen, Limpopo. This rural region is renowned for its incredibly divided wealth. Lavis game reserves span between very poor communities of crudely constructed dwellings with very limited access to services. Mokomatsie is one such village and is still waiting for its mains water supply, having only recently received electricity.

Education Africa is the body responsible for connecting local communities with the University, through their 'Social Architecture' programme. The Thusoan Trust is the local education provider suggesting the pre-schools in need of support. They define the ambition for the project that ensures the completed nursery school ticks the necessary boxes to receive state funding. Without this investment the nursery would not have been able to support the children that attend it as it would lack the resources to provide food and teaching equipment. Prior to the project, the existing school in Mokomatsie operated on a volunteer basis confined to a basic 3m x 6m brick structure. Before designing began students sent questions to the head teacher of the school, allowing the community to be involved which is a narrative and feedback loop that runs throughout the project.

Students must digest these requirements and respect the existing building in order to create a place that becomes indispensable to the local community. This is a daunting responsibility for students who are likely to only have designed a handful of schemes prior to entering second year.

Tshele Design + Rationale

The design stage begins eight months prior to work commencing on site. In teams of six, students compete against each other to design the nursery that all would go out and build. The students started by conducting detailed research into the pedagogy of teaching and the typology of the nursery school. Many were shocked at the conditions that the existing school operated under, abiding to standards that are very far from what we are blessed with back in the UK. They tirelessly researched South African culture, climate, topography and history; a process that proved crucial to the understanding of place that crafted a building that now feels like it truly belongs to this community.

After many sleepless nights designing, detailing and presenting, the students emerged with six impressive schemes. Each team presented a building that embraced the ambition and limitations of the brief, while deeply understanding the needs of the local community and its children. Unlike many student projects, Project Tshele actually gets built. By the students. Detailing a building ready for construction, with limited access to materials and an unskilled workforce shows an impressive level of technical resolution and was clearly articulated by each student.

I think it’s important to mention fundraising here before we get to life on site. A large part of this project is the dedication of each student to raise £1000 in contribution towards the building materials. This is not a negligible amount of money for a student living off their loan. After plenty of charity fundraisers, events, bake offs, marathons and fun runs the students hit their target, which was a relief knowing that there might actually be some timber on site when we landed.

Certainly this has already been an eye opening process, and one that would only become all the more real once students experience the site and community first hand.
CAA & THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM - PROJECT TSHELA REPORT

Life on site
The working day began at 7 o’clock sharp with students eager to get to site. Mokomatsi is situated at the foot of a beautiful valley and is blessed with a stunning backdrop of striking rock formations and rolling mountains. The short 30 minute journey from our base in Tzaneen gave brief insights into the day-to-day lives of these rural communities. Much of the groundwork was already completed by a local contractor prior to the arrival of the students, allowing work to begin off the slab from the get-go. The build is split into two key phases, each containing half the student cohort and lasting around 16 days.

Phase One greeted the empty site and began crucial work on assembling a temporary workshop while cracking on with the primary structure. The first few days were fraught with problems. In such a remote location, procurement of materials can be challenging, and this year we battled intermittent heavy downpours during the first week.

The primary structure centres around eight prefabricated steel columns set within tall brick piers, between which span thick timber trusses carrying a cantilevering mono-pitch roof. This pitch provides impressive form to the front elevation of the building, helping the structure stand tall across the site and offers a welcoming face to the larger community. To the rear, where the pitch is lowest, a much smaller scale building is presented. The primary roof covers the main open plan classroom as well as a small office and sick bay. To the side of the scheme is a sunken secondary room that provides a quiet escape from the rest of the building. High level windows and translucent doors fill the main classroom with beautiful diffused light, crafting the perfect environment for learning.

Phase One worked extremely hard and by the time Phase Two arrived the trusses had been erected, low level masonry had been started and the primary roof was all but completed. The outline of a finished building was clearly there, but it was obvious that there was plenty of hard graft left for Phase Two in order to finish the building within the month.

In the heat of the day temperatures can reach into the mid-thirties and offers nothing but sweltering work. It wasn’t until the roof was clad with the corrugated iron sheets that some respite was eventually provided. The range of materials used throughout the building provided a great wealth of different jobs for students to get stuck into.

I love the culture created on site. Everyone is fully engaged with their mission and all contribute to such a valuable common goal. I think there is so much value in going out and learning what it actually requires to build a wall, to assemble a window, to fit a door frame, to clad a wall, to assemble a truss, to build a roof, to mix concrete, to chop timber, to enclose space, to appreciate scale... Students have a perspective for sequencing and construction that is unachievable without such an experience. This translates deeply into their architectural education and the benefits are undeniable. Students take this project from a crude hand-drawn site plan, to inhabitable building all within their second year of studies. Every student emerges with a deep understanding of place, social responsibility and technical resolution that is impossible to replicate through traditional programs of study.

Reflection & Impact
There are many facets to the overwhelming success of this year’s project, but one that will forever remain is the moving response from the community during our final few hours on site. After weeks of hard graft, the students downed their tools an hour before sunset and gathered to hand over the keys to Selena, the very excited new head teacher. Within minutes, the entire village had descended on the completed school and joined in celebrations that ran well into the night. Grandparents were thanking students for this gift to their grandchildren and the kids were busy playing on the array of small play equipment that had also been built. Never have I seen kids so delighted by something as simple as a tyre based merry-go-round. With such pride and gratitude shown towards the students on this night, I think it’s safe to say that Project Tshele far exceeded every expectation. There is no doubt that it will flourish into a place that makes a profound contribution to generations of school children to come.

A word about the author:
Matt Cobb is a recent graduate of Nottingham University department of architecture. He and his colleague Ben Tynegate were first involved in the similar Aga Sikalo project in 2013. They have both been involved as student mentors to the South Africa projects since graduation, to mutual benefit. Their return to site as contributors to Project Tshele in 2016 was made possible by a generous sponsorship by the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA).