

Seminar Week

Urban-Think Tank Chair of
Architecture and Urban Design

Trip Dates

12 - 19 March

Kostenrahmen: F

Professors

A. Brillembourg & H. Klumpner

Danny Wills

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Partners

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With a population of over 50 million and the continent's largest economy, South Africa is often seen as a source of relative stability and prosperity in the region. Yet economic inequality remains high. Around 1.5 million households (approximately 7.5 million people) live in 2,700 informal settlements scattered across the country, which faces an overall shortage of 2.5 million houses. While the government's record on housing delivery is laudable, the scale of need means informal settlements will remain for the foreseeable future. In response, authorities have slowly begun shifting the focus to incremental upgrading, including committing in 2010 to improve the quality of life of 400,000 households in well located informal settlements by 2014 through improved access to basic services and land tenure.

During Seminar Week, students will travel to Cape Town as an extension of the Urban-Think Tank Design Studio. This trip will serve as a critical study of the architecture, urbanism, culture, and social exchange in South Africa, with a specific emphasis on informal housing settlements. Students will take part in a series of lectures and building tours by local experts in architecture, city planning, and history. The trip will include tours around the surrounding landscape of the Cape Flats to build an all encompassing understanding of Cape Town. We will also hold community workshops with residents in the township of Masiphumelele, an apartheid created township which has recently been devastated by fire. Here students will see a variety of design approaches to the housing crisis, from government projects to bottom-up initiatives, while having an active role in the shaping of this township.

Enrollment in the Urban-Think Tank design studio is NOT required to attend this seminar week trip. It is recommended though NOT required for those enrolled in the design studio.



RENEW
OVER
REBUILD
REDESIGN
REPRO
REPAIR