

“Architect”

*A revolution in the  
South African use  
of the title*



Date: 8th June 2023  
Time: 18h00-19h00  
Online  
CAT:1 - CPD: 0.2  
Cost: Free

## GIFA INTERVIEW SERIES ARCHITECT KRYNAUW NEL

“THE ENHANCED TITLE “ARCHITECT” CARE OF GIFA”  
How to have yourself addressed as architect, your  
letterhead, business card, meetings, etc”

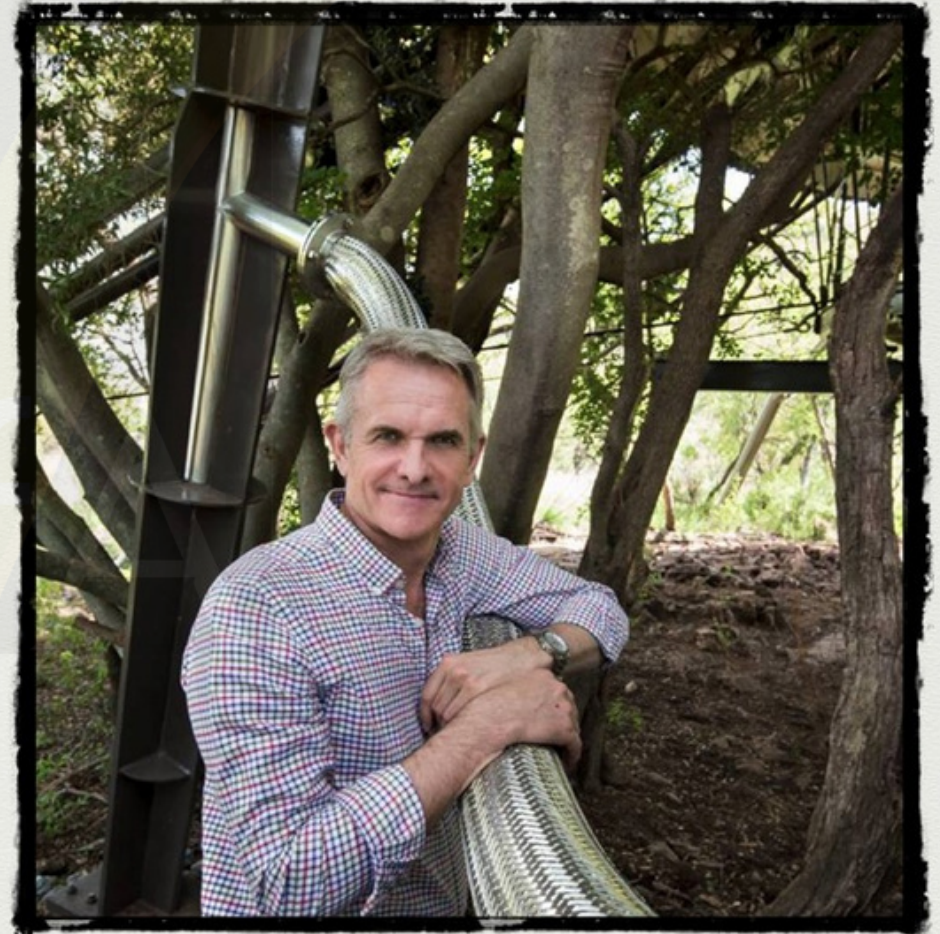
Arch. Krynauw Nel is the **Immediate Past President of GIFA** and has contributed to the profession in numerous ways. Join us on the (date) as we learn about Architect Krynauw Nel's journey in Architecture as he ceaselessly strives for transformation through his work.

[Book your space](#)



# Architect Krynauw Nel

- One-man practice
- Does a wide range of work
- Several national and international awards
- IPP GI/A, Director JBCC, Director NBR RB, GI/A Practice and GI/A Transformation Committees Chair
- Known for work regarding SACAP, Duty of Care appointments, this initiative





## Short history of the title architect

Imhotep - 2780 BC  
African Architect  
King Djoser/Pharaoh Zozer



Stepped pyramid of  
Zozer, Saqqara



Short history of the title architect

- Mostly craftsmen rising to the top through bought apprenticeships and a guild system eg Brunelleschi
- The Greek origin and the aspirated H sound are important later in the current abbreviation - (“archangel” but “arch enemy”)

Short history of the title architect

- Academic architecture – Academie d'Architecture, Paris 1671 - a direct challenge to the guild systems - abolished with the French Revolution c. 100 years later
- Ecole de Beuax Arts founded in 1807
- First USA degree around 1868 (MIT) and 1871 (Cornel)

Short history of the title architect

- Then there is the “peel-off” of other professions
- Engineers – first distinction
- QSES c.1870
- Interior Designers/Interior Architect Prominence in the 1920s - 1950s
- Landscape Architects probably most recent
- In SA we inherit the British AND Commonwealth way of expressing the title post-nominally
- Herbert Baker Architect
- Like other quaint British idiosyncrasies like John Radford Esquire and a 6 year degree which was called
- a Bachelor but everyone understood to be honours equivalent

**Short history of the title architect**

- SACAP and Act 44/2000
- The unfortunate naming of the Act includes the word “Architectural”
- Architect as a title can only be used by a Pr. Arch - misleading for other categories to misrepresent
- qualifications by calling themselves architects= can lead to trouble esp on cvs or relationships with
- clients and even with SACAP, whose code of conduct prohibits the over-statement or misrepresentations
- of qualifications
- Compared to the medical Professions not called the Doctoral Professions act
- Pr Arch
- PSAT or Pr Arch ST
- PAT or Pr Arch T
- PAD or Pr Arch D (is this an architect with a Ph D?)

## Short history of the title architect





Themba Mabone Architect, Pr Arch

Themba Mabone, Pr Arch

- Loss of status and recognition since the new Act 44/2000
- The 2 “unpaid” parts of an architect’s responsibilities



- Role as agent of society and expressing aspirations (eg. Arch. Nadia Tromp)



- Role as agent for the environment (Malapa)

Why was this important to me?

# Why was this important to me?

- Artists and visionary
- A lack of understanding by a society that has had little exposure to the impact of great
- Architecture and the understanding of difference between producing functional buildings and architecture
- Because RSA produces currently the most exciting architects in the world – society of constant change, a new non-Western African expression and tight budgets

- In around 2018 as convenor of the GI/A Prac Com I saw an opportunity to address the issue -
- Non-Commonwealth countries do not use the post-nominal expression
- Some of our architects attending international events called Mr, Mrs, Ms, while other countries' attendees are called Architect
- Approx. 2017 started a 3 year process of interactions with SACAP and SAIA to
- address the issue under the drive to decolonize the title but it has other advantages too:

- More international standard
- Gender neutral
- Does not disclose marital status
- Differentiates Pr Archs in a clearer way from other architectural categories
- Equal status to medical and legal professionals with similar qualifications and training period eg Dr. and Adv.

**Advantages of “Arch.”**

# Architect Jackson Hlungwane

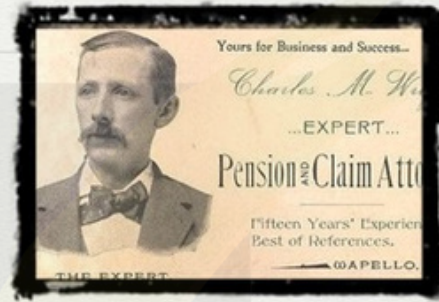
Arch. J. Hlungwane as a written abbreviation at end of letters, on envelopes etc.

Whether we see this in online standard website title tick boxes, I leave to the next generation

In oral address “Architect Hlungwane”, “the architect”, but not really “Mr, Mrs Ms”

Forms of Address

# Business Card Sample



Architect Joan Smith, Pr Arch (SACAP)

Job Title CEO, Marketing Manager

Academic qualifications

Memberships

Physical address

Postal address and/or email address

Website and social, media accounts

# Business Card Sample

BAS (Wits) B Arch Hons (NMMU) M Arch (UCT)  
(or with modesty only the most senior degree)

If you have other titles like Doctor (Ph D) or Professor, these will be in order of seniority, eg.

“Prof. Dr. Arch. Nnamdi Elleh” in writing  
but in spoken spoken we use only the most senior eg Professor.

Then after your qualifications you can add memberships eg MSAIA, MGIfA - I prefer a small “m” eg. mSAIA, mGIfA, mMENSA



Thank you!

