



STELLENBOSCH
HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Newsletter, First quarter 2013

Heritage survey for the Stellenbosch town centre

The Stellenbosch Heritage Foundation has completed the first phase of a comprehensive heritage survey of Stellenbosch. Five of the 480 properties regarded as worthy of conservation in the historic centre of the town are recommended as Grade I and 53 as Grade II. The proposed ratings by Prof. Matilda Burden and Dr. Hans Fransen have to be confirmed by Heritage Western Cape.

[Click here](#) to read about the five Grade I entities and for information about the project.

Sustainable Stellenbosch

An excellent and informative overview of Stellenbosch was published towards the end of 2012. Sustainable Stellenbosch - opening dialogues contains contributions by round about fifty writers linked to Stellenbosch University. For this book, they collaborated across disciplines to make sense, in diverse essays, of Stellenbosch as a place. New thinking on spatial planning, economic development, engineering services, water, transport, agriculture, heritage, poverty, health services, education and many other topics presents an ongoing discussion on Stellenbosch and the people who live and work here. It is a valuable book and indispensable for anyone who wishes to join in the discussion on the town and its future.

[Condensed versions of two chapters](#) from the book, as well as a summary are available on our website.

Khayamandi

In a fire in Khayamandi on the night of 14-15 March, one person passed away and more than one thousand three hundred shacks were destroyed. Emergency services had barely commenced giving aid when some inhabitants started clearing up and rebuilding. Numerous informal homes were rebuilt within days. These facts reflect great adversity and hardship.

Members of the Foundations' executive committee have been involved in Khayamandi as fellow human beings for many years. As fellow

citizens of Stellenbosch, our immediate reaction was to help to relieve the immediate pain and loss as much as we could.

Such involvement is not removed from our involvement with heritage and planning in Stellenbosch. There are key issues that need to be addressed to prevent similar tragedies in Khayamandi in future. Among these: How should informal settlement be assisted meaningfully in Stellenbosch? What is the plan that should inform this? Which process or processes should be implemented? [Read more.](#)

Design Capital 2014

Alayne Reesberg and Ben-Carl Havemann, both from Stellenbosch, are deeply involved with the initiative to market Cape Town as the 2014 Design Capital of the World (WDC2014). This initiative includes Stellenbosch. [Read more.](#)

Meulplein, Rhenish Complex, The Braak

The Rhenish complex may be the most neglected and under-utilised historical heritage site of Stellenbosch. [Read about the promising potential](#) of these areas for the town.

The 'Urban Village' – myth or possibility?

Researchers investigated 55 developments in Great Britain that were being marketed as 'urban villages' in Great Britain. Three of these were studied in terms of the physical, social and economic characteristics of the communities residing in these villages.

[Read about their interesting conclusion](#) that the concept 'urban village' mainly existed in the terminology of the planners, and not among 'ordinary' citizens.

Heritage Western Cape reflecting on professional standards

Heritage Western Cape is asking for comment on a proposal concerning the establishment of professional standards regarding projects to which they have access. According to the proposal, qualifications, experience and the nature of the project will, both in combination and individually, play a role in the standards that the council may set for a project. Heritage Western Cape also wants to be able to endorse or reject a person or persons who may not be adequately equipped for a project. [Read more.](#)

Toyo Ito: Pritzker Prize

This year's Pritzker Prize, architecture's equivalent of the Nobel Prize, was awarded to Toyo Ito. [Click here](#) to read more and view some pictures of his work.

Architecture at the Serpentine Gallery

The architecture pavilion at the Serpentine in Hyde Park, London, has served as an interesting index of good architecture for years. Computer presentations of the current summer's architecture were issued recently.

The Japanese architect, Sou Fujimoto wrote that the Serpentine Gallery's designs are inspired "by organic structures, such as the forest, the nest and the cave". [Read more](#) about Fujimoto's designs and have a look at London from this city's recently completed highest building.

Educational project and schools

The Foundation runs an educational project that involves learners and students. We are trying to present the concept of heritage as new and relevant for a new generation. During the current year we are linking up with primary and high schools in the environment to provide information and to offer help with school projects or assignments centred on heritage. We want to develop a lasting relationship with schools and create awareness of heritage as fresh and alive, and as part of the daily experience of the place where we live and work. Write to Jolanda Morkel (morkelj@cput.ac.za) if you should like to be involved with this project.

Do also follow the discussions on [Facebook](#).