

CALLS FOR ABSTRACTS IN THREE MAIN CATEGORIES:

1. RADICAL **DISCOURSE**
2. RADICAL **DISCIPLINE**
3. RADICAL **DEVELOPMENT**

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

In this second volume of FOLIO: Journal of African Architecture, we are seeking submissions from architects, urbanists, academics, practitioners and students across a range of related disciplines which address the idea of 'radical' in three main areas (above). Three **guest editors** have been appointed for their expertise and research interests in each of the three categories. Professor **Mark Olweny** (Uganda Martyrs University); Professor **Iain Low** (University of Cape Town) and Professor **Caroline Wanjiku Kihato** (University of Johannesburg) will work together with Prof **Lesley Lokko** (University of Johannesburg and FOLIO Editor-in-Chief) to produce 21 essays/projects across the three categories. We welcome all forms of submission, from visual to design-research led and traditional forms of scholarship. We particularly welcome emerging and diasporic voices, reiterating FOLIO's commitment to encouraging and advancing scholarship on African issues beyond the continent's geographical and disciplinary boundaries.

We look forward to a robust and rigorous set of challenging interpretations.

Prof Lesley Lokko

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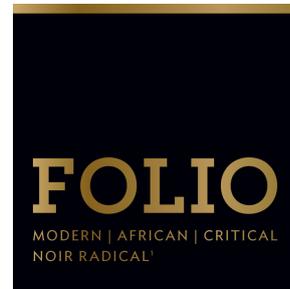
1. RADICAL DISCOURSE

Guest Editor: Prof Iain Low, University of Cape Town

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This section of FOLIO Vol. 2 is devoted to architectural discourse and is concerned with the thinking that informs the making and shaping of space. It seeks abstract submissions from potential authors who are concerned with and engaged in the critical processes by which architecture and space are made.

Space may be understood as the representation of a particular set of power relations that reflect the dominant discourses of any period. Discourse involves a process of critical reflection intent upon surfacing knowledge that is useful in moving forward the human project. It asks thoughtful questions concerning what is possible under any given set of circumstances that may lead to us acting differently in our approach to design thinking and making. 'Radical' may be understood through its etymological meaning of 'rootedness', both as an originating trope and as a grounding mechanism, which holds particular relevance at this time on the African continent. The prospect and potential of decolonisation demands that we engage the capital-aligned Western model of the city differently. Alternative approaches should surface radical thinking for the project of architecture and its concomitant typologies, morphologies, authorship practices, modes of production, material usage and pedagogic and research models.



Issues that hold particular relevance for this section include:

- Theories and thinking design from the South
- Decoloniality and the dialectics of tradition and modernity
- Co-Production and/or New Modes of Production
- interrelationships between Thinking, Making and Representation
- Design Build Research and emerging studio cultures

Abstracts are sought that critically identify and uncover alternative forms of design processes, both at the theoretical, speculative, educational and design/practice-led level.

2. RADICAL DISCIPLINE

Guest Editor: Prof Mark Olweny, Uganda Martyrs University
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This section of FOLIO Vol. 2 is dedicated to architectural endeavours that serve to inform and (re)define architecture as a discipline. We seek abstracts from prospective authors that explore activities that shape and have shaped the discipline of architecture across Africa.

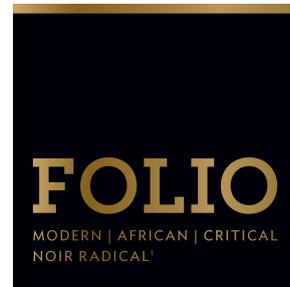
As a discipline, architecture encompass a diverse array of elements: from education through to theoretical and critical design explorations, all essential to ensure the growth and continued relevance of the discipline. However, since disciplinary evolution occurs largely with 20/20 hindsight and is often invisible, engaging with this discourse is often difficult and serves only to entrench the status quo. 'Radical', in this context, may be viewed as explorations that question or challenge the status quo, seeking to define 'paths of change'. These could include everything from engagement with society, education, practice and/or theoretical explorations that affect the discipline's very core, in all its diversity. This raises a number of questions: how can these concepts/projects/critical reflections influence (or how have they been influenced by) prevailing socio, political and cultural factors? What elements of the discipline of architecture present as 'radical' explorations and what is the goal of this kind of engagement? How does this idea of 'radical' influence architecture as a critical project?

Of particular relevance for this section are the following issues:

- Contemporary and future challenges
- (Re)Production of architectural culture
- Pedagogical explorations
- Ethical practice and engagement
- Role of architecture and architectural education

Abstracts are sought that explore the discipline of architecture in its broadest sense, reflecting on the nature of pedagogy, practice and/or theory. Submissions may be theoretical, speculative, educational or design/practice-led, but should address the idea of architecture as a *radical* discipline.

Seven abstracts will be selected for further development and subjected to a two-stage process of blind review with author consent. Abstracts should be submitted to: molweny@umu.ac.ug by 28 February 2018 and between 300 and 500 words. Abstracts should include: Title/Author Name & Institutional Affiliation (as appropriate) and be supported by key references. We look forward to a robust set of challenging interpretations and propositions.



3. RADICAL DEVELOPMENT

Guest Editor: Prof Caroline Wanjiku Kihato, University of Johannesburg
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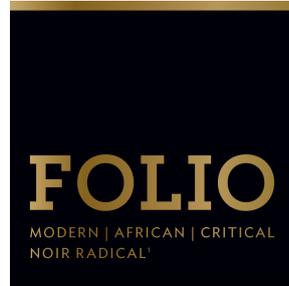
This section of FOLIO Vol. 2 seeks articles, visual essays, and projects which explore what radical development might mean in contemporary African cities. We define 'radical' as departure from tradition, as acts and practices which challenge dominant (Western) readings of urban space and notions of success, progress, and development.

All too often, urban scholars and policy makers discuss African cities, a manifestation of the failure of development. That unlike cities in the West, the evolutionary process of development has stalled, or been disrupted, in African cities. To be sure, the dominant images that Africa's cities conjure are ones where the landscapes are rolling shantytowns, toilets "fly", rivulets of sewerage snake through cobbled-together homes, states have lost control, and economies have failed. Africa's cities it seems, tell a story of crisis. To be sure, African cities experience infrastructure, governance, financial and population challenges, but these challenges are not the sum total of their experiences. Indeed through their innovation, ingenuity and desire to survive, African urban actors are redefining economies, identities and statehood in ways that call us to rethink what we define as progress, development and success.

We are looking for *radical* contributions that depart from our traditional and dominant ways of seeing African cities. These could include ethnographic, speculative, visual, fiction — ways of story telling that complicate the narrative of failure, humanize African urban experiences and locate African cities at the centre of global development trajectories and discourses. Submissions could explore the ways in which urban dwellers complicate the idea of a failed development project through:

- Everyday urban livelihoods
- Urban cultures and ways of being
- Alternative urban economies
- Forms of political mobilization
- New modes of theorising

We seek 300-500 word abstracts that engage with the idea of 'radical development' in African cities. Seven abstracts will be selected for further development and subjected to a two-stage process of blind review. Abstracts should be submitted to: ckihato@mweb.co.za by 28 February 2018. Abstracts should include: Title/Author Name & Institutional Affiliation (as appropriate) and be supported by key references. We look forward to a robust set of challenging interpretations and propositions.



SCHEDULE

- . —**February 28** Abstracts due to Guest Editors.
- . —**March 15** Editor(s) notify authors of acceptance or rejection via e-mail.
- . —**May 1** First draft submission, including images and permissions, to Editor(s).
- . —**May 15** Submissions sent for peer-review (if applicable) to two external reviewers.
- . —**July 1** Reviewers comments sent to authors for review and amendments.
- . —**September 1** Second draft to Editor(s) for final edit. Editor to send for proof- and copy-editing
- . —**October 1** Final draft to authors for final check and approvals.
- . —**November 24** Launch at GSA Summer Show.

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