South African Institute of Architects

Practice Declarations

Join the SAIA practice community

Architects join the South African Institute of Architects through their regional institutes. Architectural practices – including sole practitioners – become part of the **national SAIA family** through a **Practice Declaration**.

This simple declaration confirms that **50% + 1 of a practice's eligible professional staff are SAIA members in good standing**, as provided for in the SAIA By-Laws.

Declaring your practice is **free** and unlocks additional benefits including **eligibility for SAIA awards, editorial exposure, access to SAIA's digital knowledge archives, professional recognition, and inclusion in the SAIA practice network**.

Declare your practice and strengthen the collective voice of the profession.

Practice Declaration

Becoming part of the SAIA practice community

Membership of the South African Institute of Architects (SAIA) is held by **individual professionals through their regional institutes**. Architectural practices, however, can formally associate themselves with the national institute through a **Practice Declaration**, as provided for in the **SAIA By-Laws**.

A Practice Declaration is a simple affirmation that **a majority of the practice's eligible professional staff (50% + 1)** are **SAIA members in good standing**. In doing so, the practice signals its commitment to professional standards, ethical conduct, and the collective advancement of architecture in South Africa.

The declaration applies to **all forms of architectural practice**, including large firms, partnerships, and **sole practitioners**. The process is straightforward, requires only a short declaration, and **is offered at no cost**.

By declaring a practice, firms join the **national SAIA practice community**, strengthening the professional network that underpins the Institute's work in advocacy, knowledge sharing, and recognition of architectural excellence.

Benefits of Declaring Your Practice

Practices that submit a declaration enjoy a number of additional benefits:

Professional recognition

- Practice certificate
- Eligibility to use a **"SAIA Declared Practice" digital badge**

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Members: eportal.saia.org.za Visitors: saia.org.za

SAIA Board as of 26 November 2025

Management Committee: Arch. Janet Saaiman (President), Arch. Monique Gillespie (Vice-President & SAIA KZNIA), Arch. Jeremie Malan (Treasurer), Arch. Dal Venables (Deputy-Treasurer & SAIA Eastern Cape), Arch. Peta de Jager PhD (CEO, Ex Officio), Arch. Claire McCusker (Immediate Past President).

Board of Representatives (elected): Arch. Zolani Gomba (SAIA Border-Kei), Arch. John Wilson-Harris (SAIA CIfA), Arch. Johan Snyman (SAIA FS/NC), Arch. Monica Albonico (SAIA GIfA), Arch. Hannelie Smit (SAIA Limpopo), Arch. Nicholas Els (SAIA Mpumalanga), Arch. Donette Werkman-Kruger (SAIA PIA/ NWPIA), Arch. Monique Gillespie (SAIA KZNIA), Arch. Dal Venables (SAIA Eastern Cape), Arch. Kumarsen Thamburan (Chair: Transformation).

- Listing in the online **SAIA Practice Directory**

Awards and professional profile

- **Eligibility to enter SAIA Regional and National Awards programmes**
- Opportunity for **one project to be featured on the SAIA Blog**
- Potential editorial inclusion in **Architecture Digest**

Knowledge and resources

Complimentary access to SAIA's **Digital Archive**, including:

- *Architecture SA*
- *Architecture Digest*
- *SAIA Study Aid resources*
- The complete *SAIA Practice Compendium*

Visibility and communication

- Opportunities for **practice features in SAIA publications and communications**
- Inclusion in **SAIA professional networks and communications**

Professional engagement

- Invitations to **practice leadership discussions and professional forums**
- Participation in **consultation processes affecting the profession**

Talent and professional development

- Visibility to **students, interns, and candidate professionals**
- Alignment with practices committed to **professional mentorship and development**

A shared commitment

The Practice Declaration, as set out in the **SAIA By-Laws**, strengthens the connection between individual members and the practices in which they work. It reflects a collective commitment to professional excellence and helps build a stronger voice for architecture in South Africa.

Declaring your practice is a small step that contributes to a **larger professional community**.

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