

Dr. Pieter Mathews is the lead architect and principal of Mathews & Associates Architects cc. It is an award winning architectural and design practice which was formed in November 2000.



Pieter J Mathews was born in Lichtenburg North-West province where he matriculated in 1985 (head boy). He obtained his degree in Architecture at the University of Pretoria (1991), receiving the prestigious Gold Fields of South Africa Scholarship for Architecture. He completed part of his practical training in London, after which he travelled extensively around the globe. He is principal of Mathews & Associates Architects cc based in Pretoria.

Mathews & Associates Architects cc have received numerous awards and their projects have been published in many local and overseas publications with the latest being the prestigious PHAIDON Atlas (electronic), Arch Daily (electronic), UK Guardian and the official 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale catalogue. The latter was a result of his appointed by the Department of Arts and Culture as curator for the official South African Pavilion at the 15th Architecture Biennale Venice. Other biennale participation includes Sao Paulo Brazil (as part of Sharp City), Miami Beach USA 2005 and the 2012 Venice Biennale (Traces of centuries & Future steps). Pieter acted as the architectural curator for the 2020 Stellenbosch Triennale.

He was the President of the Pretoria Institute for Architecture (PIA) 2011/2012, ex board member of SAIA (South African Institute of Architects) and Cool Capital 2014 and 2016 Biennale founder and convener.

The PIA President's Award was bestowed on him in 2005 & 2014 for his book *Architecture* and *Cool Capital* respectively. He received the University of Pretoria Department of Architecture Boukunde Zero Hour recognition (edition 3) in 2012.

He was elected member of the "Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns" in 2014. In 2018 Mathews was honoured by die 'Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns' with the Medal of Honour Visual Art (Architecture). This prestigious award has only been awarded to 20 architects since the establishment of the foundation in 1909.

Pieter created Visual Books, an imprint of Mathews & Associates Architects as a bespoke architectural and design publishing house. Visual books and Mathews have published - *Detail Housed* and *Architecture*, edited the PIA *Contemporary Capital* publication and is publishing manager for *Construction Primer* by Hans Wegelin. He co-edited #Cool Capital Catalogue in 2015 with Carla Taljaard, acted as editor of the 2017 *Cool Capital Guerrilla Design Magazine*. (Both publications were exhibited at the Austrian Vienna Take festival 2017 to showcase the best international independent design publications). In 2017, *Saadjies* was released followed by *The Sample Workshop* in 2019. *Musings*, published in 2021 – a retrospective of Mathews & Associates Architect's work over the past 20 years.

Pieter was *De Kat* magazine's architectural editor and has also made more than 30 television appearances on various design programs showcasing their firms' designs.

Pieter Mathews regularly acts as an external design examiner for the Department of Architecture at the University of Pretoria (Thesis), the University of the Free State (Thesis) and the Tshwane University of Technology (3rd year).

He was invited to judge the Flemish delegation's 'Climate Change meets Street Art City mural project' (CCMSA). Honoured to co-present these awards with the visiting Flemish Minister-President H. E Mr. Geert Bourgeois in Pretoria 2017 whilst on official visit.

Passion for preserving the built environment led to the Embassy of the Netherlands appointing his firm to document the Dutch footsteps in Pretoria on an internet platform. www.dutchfootsteps.com.

Pieter acted as a judge for the 2019 PPC Imaginarium Awards in the Architecture category.

Public speaking engagements included the PIA Idea conference in 2016, TEDxPretoria 2016, various student congresses with the last being keynote speaker at the AZA 2016

conference held at the University of the Witwatersrand. In 2016 Pieter was invited by the Danish curator to take part in a panel discussion at the La Biennale di Venezia. In 2017 was a guest speaker at the Attractions Africa conference hosted by Tourism South Africa in 2017.

He is also the founding member of MG Design Box (interior design boutique), Visual Books (architecture publishing house) and the Cool Capital Biennale (a citizen driven initiative with the aim to bring design into the public domain). The Cool Capital project was a finalist in the 2015 Loerie Ubuntu awards and BASA winner Innovation for the PPC public benches project. The Saadjies travelling art collection received a BASA award in 2017. He was executive producer for the documentary film 'DorpStad' unwrapping a Cool Capital which premièred in 2015 at the Sax Theatre Irene. *Dorpstad* (ENABA) was selected for the Hilversum Scenecs Film festival in the Netherlands and one of three documentary finalists for the 2016 Kyknet Silwerskerm film fees.

Other related creative interests include furniture design, product design, and the curation of urban art. The latest urban functional art project was commissioned by the Stellenbosch Outdoor Sculpture Trust for a bicycle stand in 2018 in front of the Skuinshuis and the old synagogue in Stellenbosch. Other commissions included Southern Guild foundation, Concrete Growth as well as House & Leisure- Absolute Vodka for designing various bespoke pieces.

Sculpture is another of his keen interests: he successfully completed two sculpture courses in 2010 at the Fried Contemporary, followed by an exhibition in 2011 at the Association of Arts Pretoria called *Form, Scrap & Order*.

Art curation in the urban domain is another of his fortes.

In 2014 Mathews & Associates Architects with Pieter as curator was appointed by SANRAL (SOC) Pty Ltd and the City of Tshwane to curate public artworks for the A RE Yeng TRT bus stations. 11 of these public sculpture and artworks have already been installed throughout the city.

Appointment as curator for the 2016 Aardklop kunstefees followed. The Saadjies exhibition was selected to be showcased at the North-West University Alumni Hall, as part of a travelling exhibition. The Saadjies project has received the BASA award in 2017.

As an outflow of his belief that art, architecture and sculpture should be in constant dialogue, Mathews + Associates Architects cc have been appointed to design the new Javett Art Centre at UP that would cross Lynnwood road. This major gallery, museum, restaurant and auditorium complex would place art in the core of the public domain with a bridge gallery linking North and South Campuses.

As research component for this major undertaking he was invited in 2013 to form part of a UP study group to the USA, organized by the Andrew W Mellon Foundation to visit various Museums and gallery buildings. These included the Yale University Art Gallery, Zimmerli Art Museum, Princeton University Art Museum, The Palmer Museum of Art at Penn State University, Grey Art Gallery, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum.

Pieter completed his practiced-based Master's study in Architecture at the University of the Free State in 2019 and has completed his PhD in Architecture with Specialization in Design at the same institution in 2023.

Pieter is married to Ami and they have two boys Gian and Kyle.

