Change by Design
Tools and tactics for community-led development in Cape Town
South Africa 2017

An initiative by ASF-UK with DAG. Supported by 1to1 Agency of Engagement.
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01_About ASF-UK

Architecture Sans Frontières – UK (ASF-UK) aims to make community and international development issues integral to the practice and teaching of architecture. Through training & capacity building, live projects and advocacy, we strive to make architecture relevant to the world’s majority – people who are marginalised or living in poverty.

Our actions are structured into two main programmes: Change by Design and Resilience by Design.

Change by Design explores participatory design and planning as a tool for advocacy and socio-spatial transformation in informal urban contexts. Resilience by Design addresses the need for bottom up sustainable development approaches in both rural and urban areas of the global south. These are complemented by the crosscutting programme Challenging Practice – an independent-learning course that seeks to enable built environment professionals to engage reflexively with the challenges of international development in the global south.

02_Change by Design

Change by Design unites a series of workshops and seminars developing and disseminating a participatory design methodology with the objective to contribute to the empowerment of urban marginalised groups and communities.

The programme is concerned with advancing the thinking and practice of participatory design in ways that contribute to the democratisation of city-making and to addressing urban socio-spatial inequalities. Activities focus on contested urban sites such as informal settlements and inner city areas that have been earmarked for regeneration, both in the Global South and the UK. Through its commitment to action learning and knowledge co-production, Change by Design uses urban design and planning skills to support community groups in developing plans and strategies that foster the production of more just cities.

In 2015/2016, the Change by Design programme focused on the development of long-term collaborations with civil society partners, with the objective to enhance the impact and sustainability of its activities. Two strategic partnership documents were produced, one focusing on activities in London with Citizens-UK, and one building on the relationship with...
Development Action Group in Cape Town, South Africa.

03_ASF-UK - DAG Partnership

In April 2015, ASF-UK in partnership with DAG hosted a Change by Design workshop entitled: Reimagining regeneration through participatory design in Cape Town. The workshop focused on how inner-city regeneration could be re-imagined as a process that would bring about a more equitable and democratic city.

Since the Change by Design: South Africa 2015 workshop, ASF-UK has formed a strategic partnership with Develop Action Group (DAG) a leading NGO in the South African urban sector. ASF-UK are working in partnership with DAG to support their actions in creating, implement and supporting opportunities for community-centred settlement development.

ASF-UK are committed to supporting DAG to advocate for and foster a pro-poor policy environment which addresses economic, social and spatial imbalances across Cape Town, South Africa.

ASF-UK’s strategic partnership proposes a series of workshops developed and delivered until 2020 to strengthen DAG’s work in the urban sector across Cape Town, producing a portfolio of options for community-based organisations and developing an action plan for future housing developments and upgrading.

04_CbD: South Africa 2017

Within this framework, the workshop will explore three sites in Cape Town dealing with inadequate housing conditions, homelessness, and the risk of displacement. The aim is to co-design tools and tactics for community-led development that can be adopted by DAG and local residents to challenge uneven access to housing and rights in the city.

Over two weeks, we will work closely with local stakeholders and civil society organisations, adapting the Change by Design methodology to test how participatory design can support community capacity building, and contribute to realising DAG’s wider vision of vibrant, equitable, inclusive and spatially integrated human settlements in Cape Town.

The Change by Design workshop is strategically integrated into DAG’s Active Citizens programme and will support local Civil Society Organisation representatives to participate in the training. The workshop also contributes to DAG’s primary goal of expanding the provision of social housing.
and to raise awareness about the different types and benefits of “affordable housing” that can be implemented locally. This is understood against the increase in land and property prices in the area taking place since the 1980s. In this context, DAG aims to expand the existing opportunities for affordable housing across Cape Town by capitalising on existing norms and planning measures. Their additional goals in the three areas include linking the different organisations that are currently active in the area; promoting participatory, community-driven processes across the city; expanding of the concept of affordable housing; promoting alternative forms of housing finance.

In addition, the workshop will have the following aims:

1. To act as catalyst for the platform of organisations working on questions of equitable urban development in Cape Town, creating a further opportunity of collaboration and knowledge exchange.

2. To support Development Action Group by building their capacity to use integrated participatory design and planning in their work across inner city townships and informal settlements.

3. To provide all participants with a workshop experience from which they can learn in action about another context, develop and share their skills in integrated participatory design, and question the role of professional and local knowledge in such contexts and projects.

4. To further develop an integrated methodology using participatory design and planning methodologies as a means to formulate community-based strategies to affordable housing and urban regeneration.

5. To act as a catalyst for a wider debate on the outcomes of urban regeneration processes, affordable housing and in inner areas in South Africa, with possible learnings for elsewhere.

05_CbWorkshop Partners

Development Action Group (DAG)

DAG, a leading NGO in the urban sector, was established in 1986 when a group of built environment professionals and development practitioners came together to establish an organisation offering technical and professional advice to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and community groups threatened with forced removal in Cape Town. DAG has three integrated
Programmatic result areas - participatory urban governance; housing and human settlements; and capacity building. These are implemented through a seven-step methodology: building strategic partnerships; citizen mobilisation; capacity building; research; advocacy/lobbying; demonstration projects; and learning from practice.

1-1 Agency of Engagement

1-1 Agency of Engagement is a not-for-profit group that facilitates spatial design strategies through critical engagement with residents in poor or unsafe areas of South Africa.

06_Timeline

The workshop will take place on 26th June-7th July 2017 (10 working days):

Week 1: 26th June -1st July  
Break: 2nd July  
Week 2: 3rd July - 7th July

Accommodation will be provided at Riverview Lodge, 5 Anson Road, Observatory.

Workshop will include a City Tour that captures the urban dynamics of Cape Town also a symposium which will bring together different stakeholders working in this sector from across the city.

Activities will be based in the DAG office in Observatory and in other community venues across Cape Town.

07_Post Workshop Outputs

Post-workshop, the outputs from different sites and scales will be developed into an accessible toolkit for community led development. An ASF-UK intern will provide project support to ASF-UK and DAG in Cape Town and develop the outputs with local stakeholders to increase the impact of the partnership.