

The Nairobi Biennale & AAK Annual Convention 2026

— Programme of Events

The Nairobi Biennale

Date:

September 6th-12th, 2026

Venue:

ASK SHOW GROUND
Jamhuri Park Nairobi, Kenya

AAK Annual Convention 2026

Date:

September 16th-19th, 2026

Venue:

Diamond Leisure Lodge
Diani, Kenya

PROGRAMME

The program below outlines the various events that will happen pre, during and post the Nairobi Biennale of Architecture and the AAK Annual Convention 2026.



Time	Activity	Partner	Venue
Monday, 11th - 15th May	Design Charrette	Boogertman + Partners	Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
AAK Heritage Talks			
11th May	African Architectural Identity	Dr. Arch. Joseph Kedogo, Prof. Arch. Joseph Kamenju	Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
18th June	Histories That Shape Our Cities	Prof. R. A. Obudho, Prof. Jason Mochache, Christine Muchiri	Nairobi Railway Museum
9th July	Heritage Under Threat		Murumbi Gallery/ Heritage House (Athi River)
30th July	People, Culture & Memory		Sarakasi Dome
20th August	Learning from the Past for Future Resilience		McMillan Memorial Library
3rd September	The Future of African Architectural Heritage		Charter Hall, Nairobi City Hall
3rd – 9th August	International Network for Traditional Building, Architecture & Urbanism (INTBAU) – Kenya Summer School – Urban Design Charrette	INTBAU-KENYA https://www.intbaukenya.com	Old Town Mombasa
3rd & 4th September	Board of Registration of Architects and Quantity Surveyors (BORAQS) CPD Seminar	BORAQS https://www.boraqs.or.ke	
5th – 12th September	Africa Union of Architects Summer School 2026	AUA https://www.aua.archi	
8th – 12th September	African Architectural and Urban History Network - AFRAUHN Bi-Annual Conference	AFRAUHN https://www.afrauhn.org	University of Nairobi

Time	Activity	Partner	Venue
Nairobi Biennale Exhibition Week			
Sunday, 6th September	Exhibition Set Up		
Monday, 7th September	Imagining African Futures		
	Opening Ceremony		Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
Tuesday, 8th September	Musical Concert	GoDown Arts Centre https://thegodown.org	Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Mobility, Density & Public Space		
Wednesday, 9th September	Nairobi Urban Renewal and Rivers Regeneration.	UN-Habitat https://www.unhabitat.org	Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Partner Workshops		Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
Thursday, 10th September	Memory		
	Grow A Classroom Activation	Ken-Lon and RIBA https://homegrownplus.co.uk	Muthaiga Primary School
	GBPN Workshop	Global Buildings Performance Network (GBPN) https://www.gbpn.org	Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Nairobi Then and Now Film screenings, Nairobi Heritage Photo Exhibition (photography and visual story-telling, i.e., heritage structures at risk)	NBO by Design and HOK Photography	Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Architectural Heritage Talk		Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
Friday, 11th September	Identity & Craft		
	WIRE Partner Event	Women in Real Estate (WIRE) https://www.wire.or.ke	Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
Saturday, 12th September	Partner Workshops		Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Technology, Business & Practice		
Sunday, 13th September	Mobile Play Ground	Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) https://www.kournkuey.org	Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Awards Gala Launch of Biennale Book of Projects		Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
Sunday, 12th September	Exhibition Dismantling		

AAK ANNUAL CONVENTION 2026

Diamonds Leisure Beach & Golf Resort, Diani

(Shifting the Built Environment from Fragility to Resilience)

Time	Activity	Point Person
Tuesday, 15th September 2026		
0900-1200	Secretariat travel and accommodation	CEO
1200-1800	Exhibition set-up	Sponsors / APRM
Wednesday, 16th September 2026		
SESSION ONE: Official Opening		
ALL DAY	Arrival and Registration	AAK Secretariat
	Charity Golf Tournament	
0900-1400	Grow A Classroom Mentorship at Mabokoni Primary School	AAK GC and Delegates Alex Otieno
1400-1500	Lunch	
1600-1800	Exhibition Footfall	Sheila Okongo
	Welcoming Guests at the Opening Ceremony	
1800-1815	Welcome Remarks by President, Architectural Association of Kenya, Arch. George A. Ndege	
1815-1830	Guest Speech by Dr. Margarita Garfias Royo , University College of London	
1830-1845	Remarks by International Body Representative, QS Audily Chatora, President of the Zimbabwe Institute of Quantity Surveyors (ZIQS)	
1845-1900	Keynote Presentation by H.E. Fatuma Achani , Governor, Kwale County, or H.E. Dr. Kithure Kindiki , Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya	
1900-2100	Opening Cocktail	
Thursday, 17th September 2026		
SESSION TWO: Climate-action and Sustainability		
0800-0900	Delegates' Code Scanning	AAK Secretariat
	Early bird gifts and Entertainment	Partner + MC Albert Kipruto
0900-0920	Presentation 1: <i>Nature Based Solutions as a tool for Resilience in the Built Environment</i> By Dr. Land. Arch. Sunday Abuje	
0920-0940	Presentation 2: <i>Beyond Green Buildings: Circular Material as the Next Frontier of Urban Resilience in Ecosystems in Africa</i> By Arch. Roy Githaiga	
0940-1020	Plenary and Q&A discussion: • Arch. Roy Githaiga • Dr. Land. Arch. Sunday Abuje	Discussant: Arch. (Dr.) Martin Mbidhi Rapporteurs: L. Arch. Brenda Waruinu & ID. Jacinta Serem

Time	Activity	Point Person
1020-1030	Platinum Partner Presentation	
1030-1100	Health Break	
	Exhibition footfall (Dedicated Networking Spaces) & Prize surprise	
SESSION THREE: Policy, Urban Governance and Community Reform		
1100-1200	Workshop: Discussion on implementation of subthemes in the Built Environment by ADC Fellowship, MASS Design Team	Discussant: Michelle Ouma Rapporteurs: Grad. Eng. Matilda Nimatsutsu & (TBC)
1200-1210	Partner Message	
1210-1230	Presentation 1: <i>Devolution Has Fragmented Urban Governance in Kenya: Legislative Layering, Coordinated Resilience Planning, and the Case of the Nairobi Metropolitan Region</i> By Pln. Simon Kamau	
1230-1250	Presentation 2: <i>Urban Rental Housing: The Missing Lever in City Climate Action _ A Policy Brief</i> By Dr. Linda Gichuyia	
1250-1330	Plenary and Q&A discussion: - Pln. Simon Kamau - Dr. Linda Gichuyia	Discussant: Pln. Christine Muchiri Rapporteurs: Ms. Mercy Ateka & Ms. Lucy Kimani
1330-1430	Lunch Break	
1430-1600	Built Environment Baraza: Discussion on outcomes of survey on practice in the Built Environment by Association / Institute Presidents, regulatory bodies, members of the various professions	Discussants: Gikonyo Gitonga Rapporteurs: Ms. Michelle Ouma & Ms. Mercy Ateka
Friday, 18th September 2026		
SESSION FOUR: People, Place and Community Resilience		
0800-0900	Delegates Code Scanning	AAK Secretariat
	Early bird gifts and Entertainment	Partner + MC
0900-0930	Crowd-puller activity	MC
0930-0950	Presentation 1: <i>From Sophistication to Stigma: Reclaiming the Swahili Urban Legacy for a Resilient Kenya</i> By Mohammed Ali Mwenje , Curator, National Museums of Kenya, Lamu Museums and Lamu World Heritage Site	
0950-1010	Presentation 2: <i>Designing Africa from Within: Cultural Anchors and Community Resilience in the Built Environment</i> By Arch. Hatem El Taher / Arch. Rehab Elnaggar	
1010-1040	Panel and Q&A session Mohammed Ali Mwenje Arch. Hatem El Taher / Rehab Elnaggar	Discussant: ID. Jacinta Serem Rapporteurs: L. Arch. Brenda Waruinu & Ms. Mercy Ateka

Time	Activity	Point Person
1040-1110	Health Break	
	Exhibition footfall + Dedicated Networking Spaces & Prize surprise	
	Quiz & Gift	
SESSION FIVE: Innovation, Technology and the Future of Construction		
1110-1120	Partner Message	
1120-1140	Presentation 1: <i>The Role of Material Logic on Spatial Outcomes in Kenyan Juakalis: A Case of Thika Kigandaini</i>	
	By CPM. Maria Wanjiku Gicheha	
1140-1200	Presentation 2:	
	By Eng. Howard M'mayi	
1200-1240	Panel and Q&A Session	Discussant: QS. David Aganyo Nyangau
	• CPM. Maria Wanjiku Gicheha	Rapporteurs: Ms. Lucy Kimani & Eng. Matilda Nimatsutsu
	• Eng. Howard M'mayi	
1240-1300	Call to Action: Rapporteur General Report	Arch. Michael Mathenge
	Delegation Photograph	
1300-1400	Lunch Break	
1400-1800	Build Tour of Kwale organised by AAK Coast Branch	Catherine Kiruku (BDM)
	• Ukunda Airport	Rapporteurs: Alex Otieno
	• Mwache Dam	
1400-1800	Team Building: Water Polo, Beach Volleyball	
1800-1900	Gala Dinner Preparation	
1900-Late	Closing Gala Dinner	MC
	Grow A Classroom Student Design Competition Awards	

Saturday, 19th September 2026

Post-Convention

ALL DAY	Build Tour of	Catherine Kiruku (BDM)
	• Kisite Mpunguti Marine National Park / Wasini Island	Rapporteurs: TBC
	• Mombasa Lunatic Express	