

SA's Venice pavilion



STONE CIRCLE A land art exhibition created by Ke Neil We and Banele Khoza is being exhibited at the 2016 Venice Architecture Biennale

PHOTO: KE NEIL WE



BUILDING BRIDGES Boys from the Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool paint a pixelated robot transformer under a bridge in Pretoria

PHOTO: ALETTE PRETORIUS



GUERRILLA ART The Virus, a sculpture made of road cones by artist and teacher Gordon Froud, intervenes in industrialisation

PHOTO: PIETER MATHEWS

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At least 1 000 South African designers and artists staged a “guerrilla exhibition” at the opening of the **Venice Architecture Biennale** this week, showcasing thousands of art interventions, many unsupported by government, which were installed across Pretoria in 2014 as part of the Cool Capital Design Activism initiative.

The projects at the exhibition range from fabric-bombing of the iconic Pretoria fountains, paint protests stopping the removal of centuries-old jacaranda trees, a land art exhibition in Mamelodi and the installation of 10 concrete benches throughout the city, all creating the world's first uncured biennale.

The project's convener, architect Pieter

Mathews, calls the participants “assiduous people who like to get things done and see results, frustrated by the inefficiencies and hurdles present in most South African cities”.

The project came about when Mathews' firm was asked to exhibit at the 2012 biennale. “I realised that the conversation had to go beyond Venice,” Mathews says. “The whole idea was to get everyone involved and bypass the bureaucracy. Most of the projects were self-funded, but the larger efforts partnered with corporate sponsors to be realised.”

Despite the R3.5 million project (excluding the leasing of the site) only getting the green light from the department of arts and culture less than two months ago - international exhibitors are given the go-ahead two years before the unveiling - organisers were able to set

up the exhibition in time for the all-important press preview this week.

“Because we got appointed so late, I had to get my office to nag and scream and shout at the Venice organisers to get us into the international catalogue, otherwise it's absolutely pointless to even show there.”

Mathews goes on: “We just refused to miss the deadline and so now our posters are all over Venice. We're in the catalogue and, come hell or high water, we opened before that press preview.”

The project will be exhibited in Venice until November, but South African audiences are invited to participate in the next Cool Capital biennale in September.

DESIGN OF THE WEEK



ALBUM REVIEW

He's our fire

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Majozi: Fire

Universal Music

R89.99 from iTunes

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I didn't know who Majozi was until I realised I had been humming his tune Darling for days and had simply not connected the dots. Although he sounds like he should come from Cape Town, Nhlanhla Majozi hails from Durban, a city that keeps producing breakout stars.

His first full-length album, **Fire**, feels like a long walk along the KwaZulu-Natal coast. Other standout tracks include The Lighthouse, Breathing and Fire. He's got an incredibly mellow, charismatic voice, and all his lyrics are accessible and uplifting.

The album is a slickly produced affair and I wouldn't be surprised if there are some awards in his future.

Majozi's music is folksy, chill and a little bit hipster - so if that's not your flavour, you might want to give it a miss. But if you're into that laid-back life, it will be the perfect addition to your playlist.

Urban chic with a kasi twist

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The **ChesaNyama Grill House** was recently unveiled in the heart of Braamfontein, Joburg. This is the first concept restaurant for the takeaway franchise and the set-up is urban chic with a kasi twist.

On the walls hang pictures and words such as “awe” and “heita”. Plastic and wooden crates have been repurposed and made into chairs, and old baths have been transformed into chairs with cushions. To be honest, the décor is a little kitsch.

One of the partners of ChesaNyama Grill House, Dion Liountlis, says the idea is to create an environment that's more than just a place to eat.

Students can come in, connect their laptops and do some work using the

restaurant's free Wi-Fi.

“We are planning to host talk nights. The idea is to get students from Rosebank College, Wits University and the University of Johannesburg to come in and listen to South African speakers from all walks of life. The speakers will be people who have made it in their respective fields and they will give inspirational advice,” he says.

“We really want to make informal education a big part of the restaurant.

“We'll also host quiz nights and music events ... South African food, South African DJs, South African speakers - because our brand is proudly South African at the end of the day.”

● The ChesaNyama Grill House at 23 Jorissen Street, Braamfontein, is open Monday to Saturday from 8am to 8pm

EATING OUT



NEW KID ON THE BLOCK The ChesaNyama Grill House is the franchise's first sit-down outlet



KITSCH KOOL The décor features chairs made out of repurposed crates



STUDENT FRIENDLY The restaurant wants to be a place where young people get inspired



WHO WILL IT BE? Daisies is still to announce the line-up, expected to include big names like K.O.

PHOTO: JAN RIGHT

Daisies rocks hip-hop

Following years of fierce campaigning, the organisers of **Rocking the Daisies** have heard the cries of fans and this year's instalment will bring with it the anticipated hip-hop stage.

The Two's Up stage will bring the festival's total number of stages to 10 as it celebrates its 11th year. As someone who has been to the festival once or twice, I can testify that this latest addition is a needed one.

The way the hip-hop game is currently set up in SA, it is ridiculous that it has taken this long to show the genre and the local industry the respect it deserves. So Daisies is basically playing catch-up.

The pressure will be on in terms of delivering a legit line-up, which is yet to be announced. But points must be given to the organisers for having the vision to team up with Pop Bottles Entertainment, who know a thing or two about hip-hop. – **S'thembile Cele**

● The festival will take place at the Cloof Wine Estate from October 6 to 9. Visit rockingthedaisies.com for updates