One of the key issues emerging from the #feesmustfall campaign is the vast shortage of appropriate and affordable housing for university students. There is an estimated shortfall of up to half a million beds nationally (BDlive, Feb 26 2015). Universities find existing residence models impossible to economically reproduce and private sector housing of quality is often full.

The lack of vision for this element of the extended campus brings huge risks to the effectiveness and security of the university. While developers use architects, they seldom allow for innovation in the process of designing social housing. With low returns, the mandate of the architect and hence the time for innovation in design, site selection and construction is totally constrained.

Buildings as tools for the occupants to transform as instruments of liberation rather than static objects. (Saitowitz, 1974)

Renowned US based, Wits educated architect Stanley Saitowitz invites you as new generation designers to respond to this desperate housing condition by rethinking a unique solution that can raise questions and spark conversation.

Imagine converting low value properties, left over land, industrial structures or vacant spaces into distinctive, cost-effective housing models.

By understanding how do students live, learn, study, and socialize today one can rethink the possibilities and relationship between site, typology and furniture.

Physical settings through physical properties determine the experiences possible. The physical nature of the environment can enlarge each person’s possibilities of experience, or turn people into passive users. (Saitowitz, 1974)

The masterclass runs from 28-31 August, which precedes the AZA2016 conference from 1-3 September. 12-16 places will be offered to strong graduate students and young architects from around South Africa.

Applications close/ 31 July
Announcement of selected applicants/ 4 August

Application requirements/ 6 pages
PDF sent via wetransfer.com / email to azaSSmasterclass@gmail.com
1 page CV
1 page write up on your statement/ experience on student housing
4 pages A4/ A3 format portfolio of work which includes at least one residential project

The masterclass will take place in the Wits Architecture studios. Participants will be required to stay in overnight communal accommodation for two nights of the class.

Sunday 28 August/ 2pm onwards Briefing, site visits and introduction by Stanley Saitowitz to his work on housing from Johannesburg to San Francisco. Group dinner.
Mon-Wed 29-31 August/ en lodge studio at Wits, with accommodation in Braamfontein hostels.
Panel discussion by invited design and housing practitioners.
Thursday 1 September/ Masterclass presentation and Exhibition.

Cost R1000 inclusive of dormitory accommodation and meals. Bursaries available to students on financial aid.

Selected work will be included in a publication following the Masterclass.