



HASSO PLATTNER
d-school
AFRIKA*

1-4 JUNE 2026 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA + ONLINE

Afrikan Design Thinking Convening '26

Hosted by the Hasso Plattner d-school Afrika
at the University of Cape Town (UCT)



To learn more about the convening, [click here](#)

<https://dschoolafrika.org/afrikan-design-thinking-convening-2026>



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1-4 June 2026 | Cape Town, South Africa + Online



Day 1

Monday 1 June 2026

V = also available for virtual experience

V* = available for virtual experience dependent on demand

Time	Type	Venue	Session Title	Contributors
V 11:30 - 11:40			Energising / Onboarding virtual participants Facilitation Team	
V 11:40 - 12:40	KEYNOTE	Atrium	African Life-Centred Design: Beyond Human-Centred Design in an Age of Acceleration and Complexity	Pumla Maswanganyi Afrikan Life-Centred Design, South Africa
V 13:30 - 13:40			Warm-up & Focus / Onboarding virtual participants Facilitation Team	
V 13:40 - 14:30	FIRESIDE CHAT	Atrium	Elevating Global South perspectives in Design and Innovation	Mugendi M'rithaa Machakos University, Kenya Anirban Battacharya The Painted Sky, India Moderator: Maurisa Moloto (d-school Afrika at UCT, South Africa)
V 14:30 - 15:15	STORY HARVEST	Studios	Gathering stories of design ingenuity from our diverse contexts	Facilitation Team
V 15:30 - 16:30	LAUNCH	Atrium	Launch of the Afrikan Chapter of the Global Design Thinking Alliance	Richard Perez d-school, South Africa Hoda Mostafa American University of Cairo, Egypt Stephen Kagwathi / John Ngila Africa Nazarene University, Kenya Uli Weinberg GDTA, Germany Moderator: Jenni van Niekerk d-school, South Africa
V 16:30 - 17:00	CLOSING	Atrium	Daily Harvest & Reflection	Facilitation Team

Day 2

Tuesday 2 June 2026

V = also available for virtual experience

V* = available for virtual experience dependent on demand

Time	Type	Venue	Session Title	Contributors
V 8:30 - 8:45			Creative Connection & Recap Facilitation Team	
V 8:45 - 9:45	DIALOGUE	Atrium	The role of design thinking education as a transformative pedagogy in higher education and society	Josef Kembel CSCHOOL, United States Kasturi Bahari-Leak University of Cape Town, South Africa Moderator: Tiego Moraneng
V 9:45 - 10:45	EXPOSÉ	Atrium	Design Thinking Pedagogy in Practice: Enquiries and experiments in research, teaching and learning	1. Jenni van Niekerk 2. Babalwa Ngcongolo 3. Rael Futerman 4. Precious Ndebele



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Day 3

Wednesday 3 June 2026

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Time	Type	Venue	Session Title	Contributors
V 9:00 - 9:30	Creative Connection & Recap Facilitation Team			
V 9:30 - 10:30	DIALOGUE	Atrium	Design, Innovation, and Entrepreneurial Futures	Jewel Thompson Ashesi University, Ghana Solange Rosa Bertha Centre for Social Innovation, South Africa Moderator: Rael Futerman d-school Afrika, South Africa
V* 10:30 - 11:00	INTERACT	Atrium	From Insights to Action: framing collective enquiry on emergent topics, applying design thinking to challenges in our contexts.	Facilitation Team
V* 11:15 - 12:15	OPEN SPACE	Studios 1-4 + Atrium	From Insights to Action: Collaborative exploration of chosen topics in Open Space studios)	Topic hosts and facilitation team
V* 13:15 - 13:45	HARVEST	Atrium	Open Space harvest	Facilitation Team
V 13:45 - 14:40	DIALOGUE	Atrium	Leadership, Creativity and Complexity in Afrikan contexts	Prof Kosheek Sewchurran University of Cape Town, South Africa Amollo Ambole Kenya Puleng Makhoalibe Alchemy Inspiration, South Africa Moderator: Richard Perez d-school Afrika, South Africa
V 15:10 - 15:30	REFLECT	Atrium Interactive	Presencing practice: What am I being called to do?	Facilitation Team
V 15:30 - 16:30	INTERACT	Atrium Interactive	Collective Convergence: What does a transformative, regenerative design thinking practice look like that builds towards a thriving future?	Facilitation Team
V 16:30 - 17:00	CLOSING	Atrium	Closing Conversations, Gratitude and Action Day planning	Facilitation Team