



# CONCEITUALAR AFRO-IDENTIDADES

Promote critical awareness about the role of architecture in building African identities, inspiring architects, students and the public to value African traditions and integrate them into contemporary practices.

**REVISTA-EDIÇÃO 2026**

# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

Aims to celebrate and awaken the urgency of rethinking how African identity is translated into space, form and habitation. It proposes to look at architecture as a language of belonging, capable of telling stories, valuing cultures and creating spaces that welcome both the body and collective memory.



## COMMUNITY

Intended for students, architecture professionals, artists, designers, historians and sociologists, designed to awaken architectural thought not only as a constructive technique, but as cultural, social, artistic and humanitarian expression

## WHAT'S NEW

Conceptualizing Afro-Identities is not just a theoretical exercise, but a practice that incorporates when designing, teaching and inspiring. It is to understand that each project can be an act of cultural resistance, of remeaning and affirmation of African plurality.

## OVERVIEW

Be a reference platform in the promotion of contemporary African architecture in Angola, inspiring and empowering professionals to recognize and value African cultural identities as a foundation for authentic and transformative architecture.

## GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Promote critical awareness about the role of architecture in building African identities, inspiring architects, students and the public to value African traditions and integrate them into contemporary practices.

*Identity is the soul of people and the strength of architecture*  
Arch.Aquitofel Mananga

# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

**EDITION 2026**

LUANDA 8 AUGUST 2026 - ENAPP

Auditório

WORKSHOP  
DE ARQUITECTURA

Temas:

Conceptualization of Afro-Identity

*Identity is the soul of people and the strength of architecture.  
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# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

New paradigm in architecture:  
The Impact "Conceptualizing Afro-Identities 2026"

The year 2026 set an indelible milestone in the history of urban planning and critical thinking in Angola and its diaspora.

The movement Conceptualize Afro-Identities Angola 2026, curated by the foundation Aquitofel Mananga and organized by Muilotec, has consolidated itself as a true ecosystem of ideas focused on answering a crucial question: "Do we design for Africa or do we design from Africa?"

After months of academic sessions and challenging digital pre-events, the in-person meeting and its international debates brought together some of today's brightest minds to rethink space through memory, culture, and the future.

**EDITION 2026**

LUANDA 8 AUGUST 2026 - ENAPP

# EDITION 2026

## PRE-EVENT-INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

We were honored to live a creative and intellectual diving experience that aims to celebrate and awaken the urgency of rethinking how African identity is translated into space at the international webinar with Brazilian landscape architect Karen Coquejo on the theme: REWRITING COLONIAL SPACE. Landscape interventions as a strategy for the re-designation of squares, gardens and spaces marked by colonial heritage.

Karen Coquejo is a renowned Brazilian biophilic landscape architect, often associated and integrated with the contemporary architecture universe.

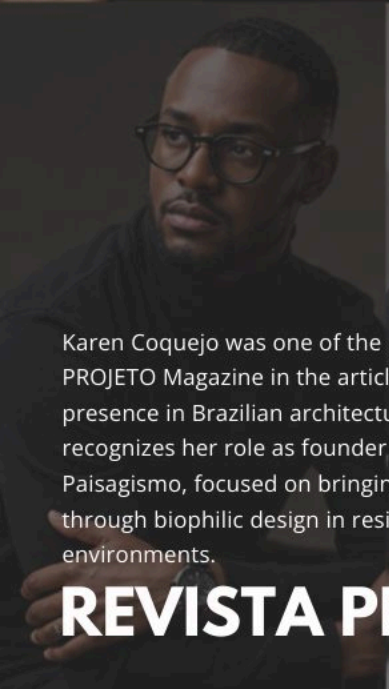
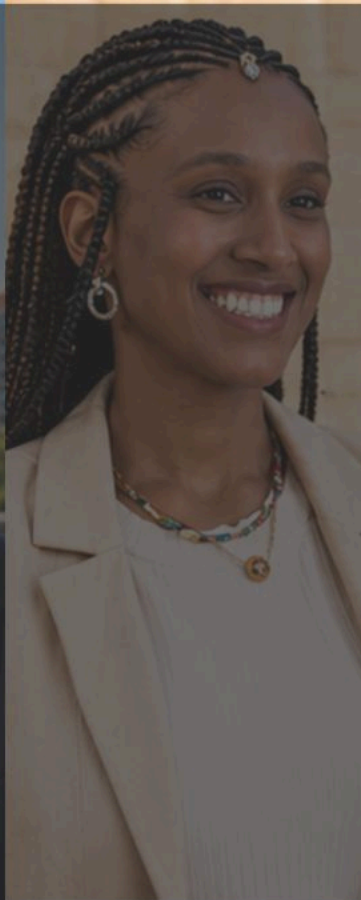
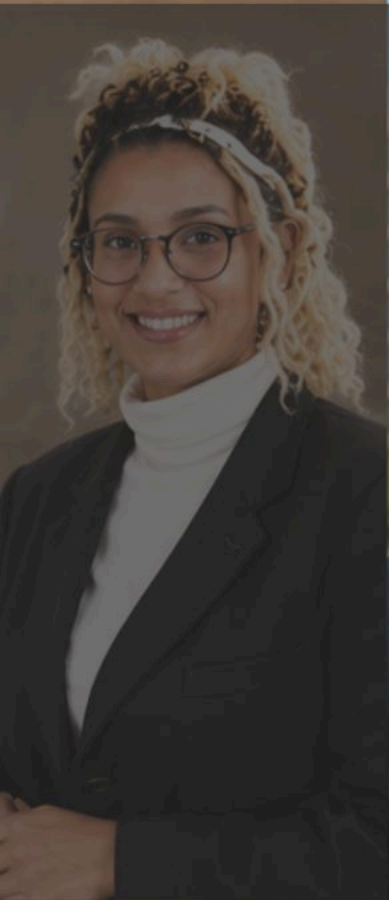
Karen founded the office Coque Paisagismo , where she creates authored projects that use greenery and vegetation as pillars of well-being, quality of life and sustainability

His professional practice is based on the biophilia, integrating organic compositions and natural elements in residential gardens and small urban environments to reconnect humans with nature

He defends landscape design as a technical and complex reading that goes beyond the aesthetic choice of plants, collaborating closely with architectural studios (such as Lyric Architecture) and participating in forums for debate on the occupation of public space.

His work has gained projection in the national and international scene. Karen Coquejo stands out for her active voice in the use of landscaping as a cultural and political tool





Karen Coquejo was one of the names highlighted in PROJETO Magazine in the article "A tribute to black presence in Brazilian architecture". The article recognizes her role as founder of the office Coque Paisagismo, focused on bringing people closer to nature through biophilic design in residential and urban environments.

**REVISTA PROJETO**

# EDITION 2026

## PRE-EVENT-INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

The context of Afro-centered architecture and the cultural rescue movement, the Brazilian architect and landscape gardener Lucas Alves Silva Teixeira plays a fundamental role alongside the Angolan architect Cecília Marcos. Together, as founders of Múcua Arquitetura, they establish a creative and conceptual bridge between Brazil and Angola, focused strictly on conceptualizing the afro-identity in the design of space and territory.

Given its focus on landscaping, its contribution to the debate on Afro-identity is reflected in the appreciation of the natural environment, in the choice of plant species with a symbolic and historical charge. He proposes urban and organic residential spaces that prioritize community coexistence and the relationship of symbiosis with the surrounding, traits strongly rooted in African vernacular logics.

By moderating international webinars and high-impact workshops, she has been one of the leading voices guiding the strategic debate on how to design space from a genuinely African matrix

Cecília Marcos is a 32-year-old Angolan singer who has gained great notoriety in the musical scene of Rio de Janeiro. Her sound blends traditional African music with contemporary rhythms.

Known for her striking voice and full of Africanity, she performed at the renowned Festival Back2black, focused on Afro-Brazilian culture.

In 2025, he released his first original song called "Cisola". He also collaborated on Afrohouse projects with DJ Joss Dee, as in the track



# EDITION 2026

## PRE-EVENT-INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

The Brazilian architect and urban planner was one of the most striking voices of the international webinar "Conceptualizing Afro-Identity", bringing to the debate decolonial ethnobotany and the urgency of designing spaces that breathe ancestry and healing.

There are those who look at a garden and see only an aesthetic composition of shapes and colors. And there are those who look to the earth and see a living archive of silenced stories, resistance, and shifting identities.

It is in this group that the Brazilian architect, urban planner and landscaper Tainã Dorea positions herself. Doctorate from the prestigious Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of São Paulo (FAU-USP), Dorea has become an unavoidable reference when weaving and practicing what she defines as fraforreferenced landscaping, an approach that shifts the axis of landscape architecture from strictly Eurocentric references to reconnect urban space with the Afrodiasporian worldview.

Her recent participation in the "Conceptualize Afro-Identity" movement has cemented her role as one of the most innovative minds of her generation. At the event, Tainã Dorea provoked the audience by proposing a deep reflection: how can our public and private spaces reflect our true identity if we ignore botany, history and ancestry that connect us to the land?

Among its prominent public participations are lectures in the area of Landscape Architecture, artistic exhibitions dedicated to afro-diasporic landscapes and the creation of striking spaces such as the "Jardim da Memória Afro-Brasileira" at Expoflora in Holambra.

paisagista

Tainã  
Dorea

acasa  
direto



# EDITION 2026

## PRE-EVENT-INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

The preservation of memory and reconstruction of black territories in Brazil gain a new layer of depth through the work of Joana D'Arc de Oliveira. An architect, social scientist and professor at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of São Paulo (FAU-USP), she has consolidated her role as one of the most active voices in the contemporary debate about Afro-Brazilian cultural heritage and its connections with the diaspora.

With a distinctly multidisciplinary background, Joana D'Arc de Oliveira crosses sociological analysis with urban space. Doctorate and post-doctoral in Architecture and Urbanism, her intellectual production is dedicated to answering fundamental questions about the post-abolition, the visibility of black communities in cities and socio-spatial asymmetries. At the head of NEA ONNIM (Nucleus for Studies in Afrodiasporic Architecture), he leads investigations that cross the borders of the Atlantic, establishing theoretical and practical bridges between Brazil and the African continent.

The international reach of their thinking and the relevance of their research were recently shared in the International Webinar "Conceptualizing Afro-Identity" with theme Diaspora Architecture - Spaces that preserve memory

The event was set up as a crucial space for global debate, bringing together intellectuals and researchers dedicated to deconstructing Eurocentric views and proposing new reading matrices for the black experience in the diaspora.

When discussing the conceptualization of Afro identity, the researcher shared the methodologies and findings of her avant-garde projects, such as the mapping of black architectures in the state of São Paulo.

His intervention reinforced that conceiving the afro-identity today requires, obligatorily, to recognize the black man **not** only as a labor force of the past, but as historical subject, architect and designer of contemporary urban space.



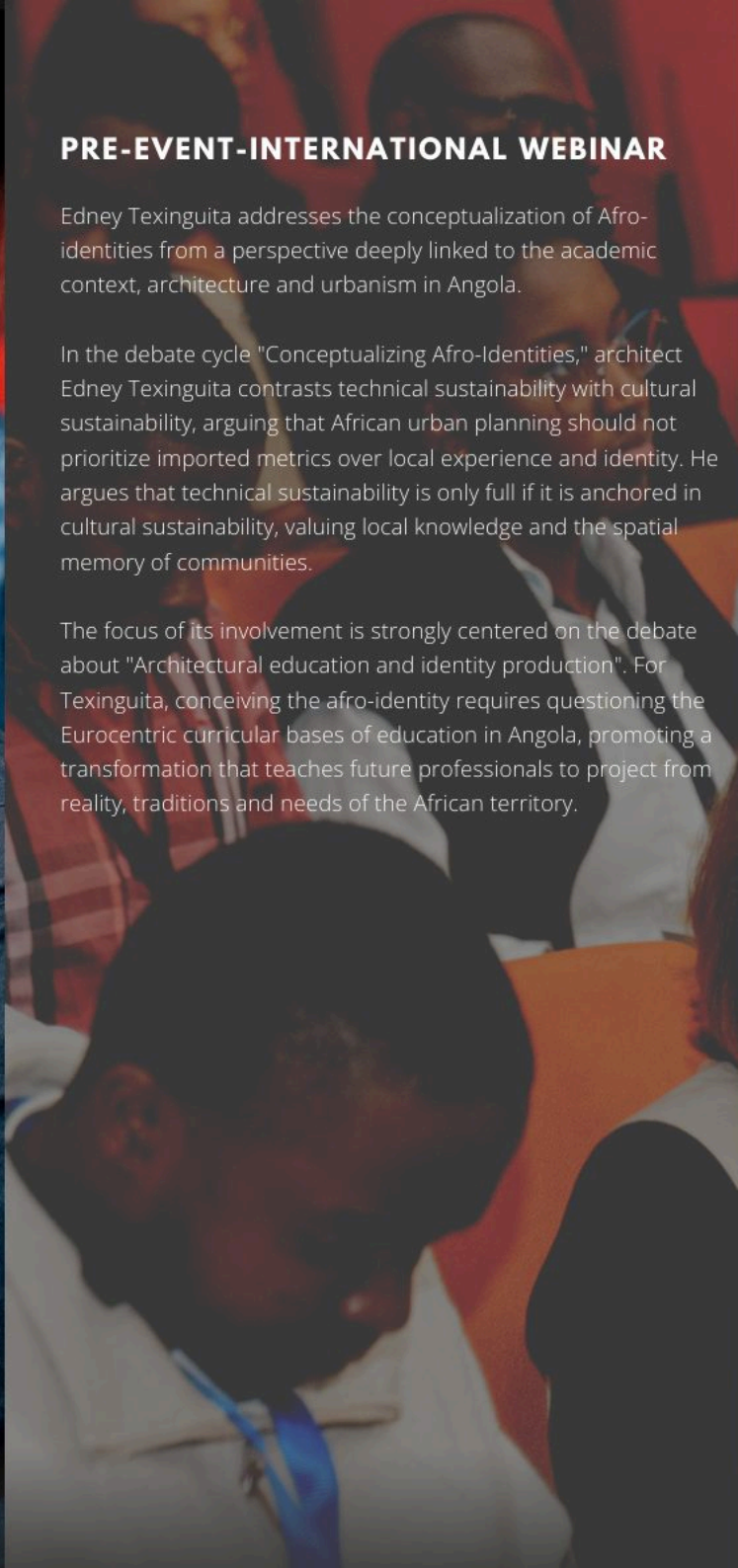
# EDITION 2026

## PRE-EVENT-INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

Edney Texinguita addresses the conceptualization of Afro-identities from a perspective deeply linked to the academic context, architecture and urbanism in Angola.

In the debate cycle "Conceptualizing Afro-Identities," architect Edney Texinguita contrasts technical sustainability with cultural sustainability, arguing that African urban planning should not prioritize imported metrics over local experience and identity. He argues that technical sustainability is only full if it is anchored in cultural sustainability, valuing local knowledge and the spatial memory of communities.

The focus of its involvement is strongly centered on the debate about "Architectural education and identity production". For Texinguita, conceiving the afro-identity requires questioning the Eurocentric curricular bases of education in Angola, promoting a transformation that teaches future professionals to project from reality, traditions and needs of the African territory.



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## PRE-EVENT-INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

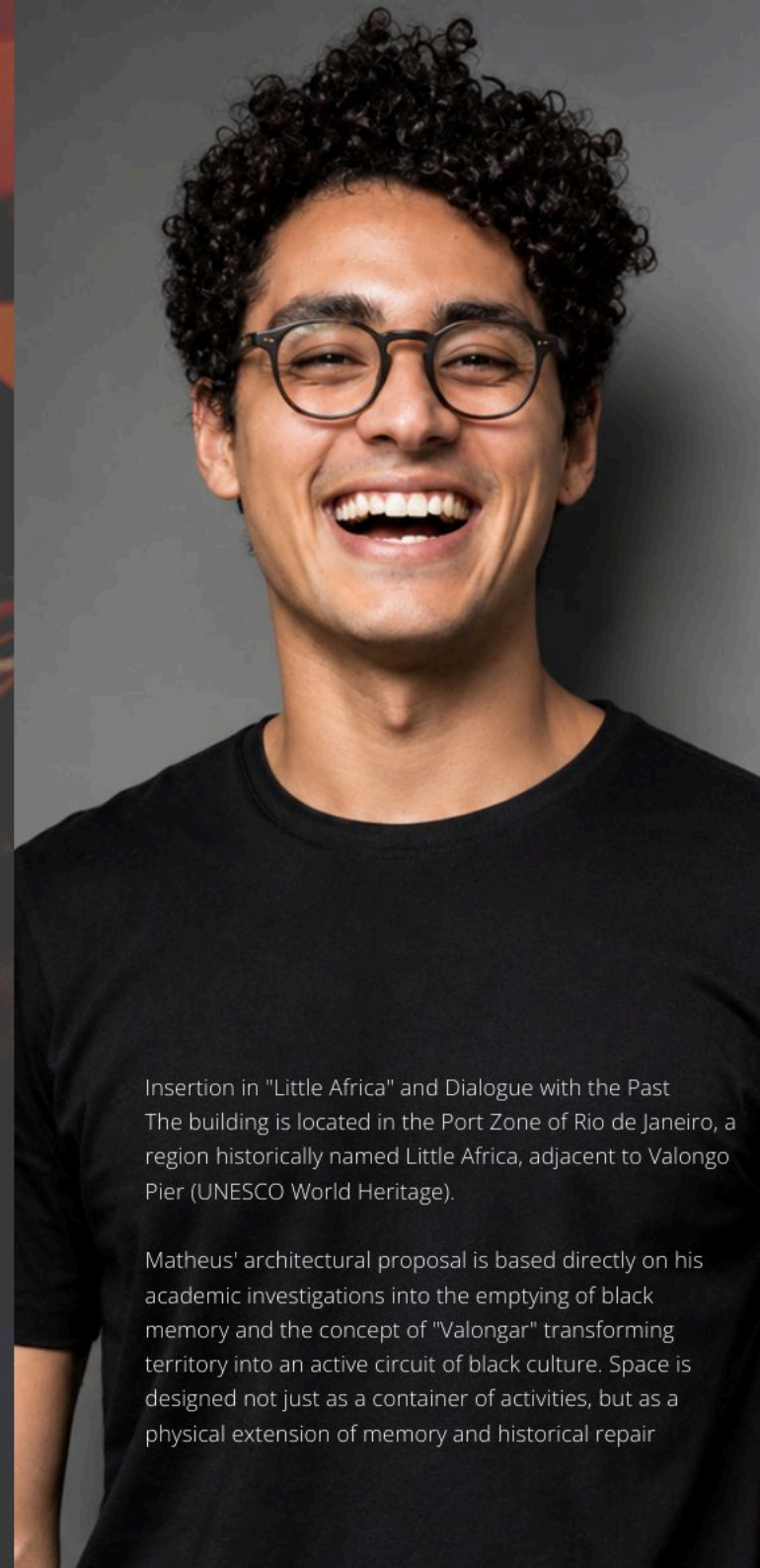
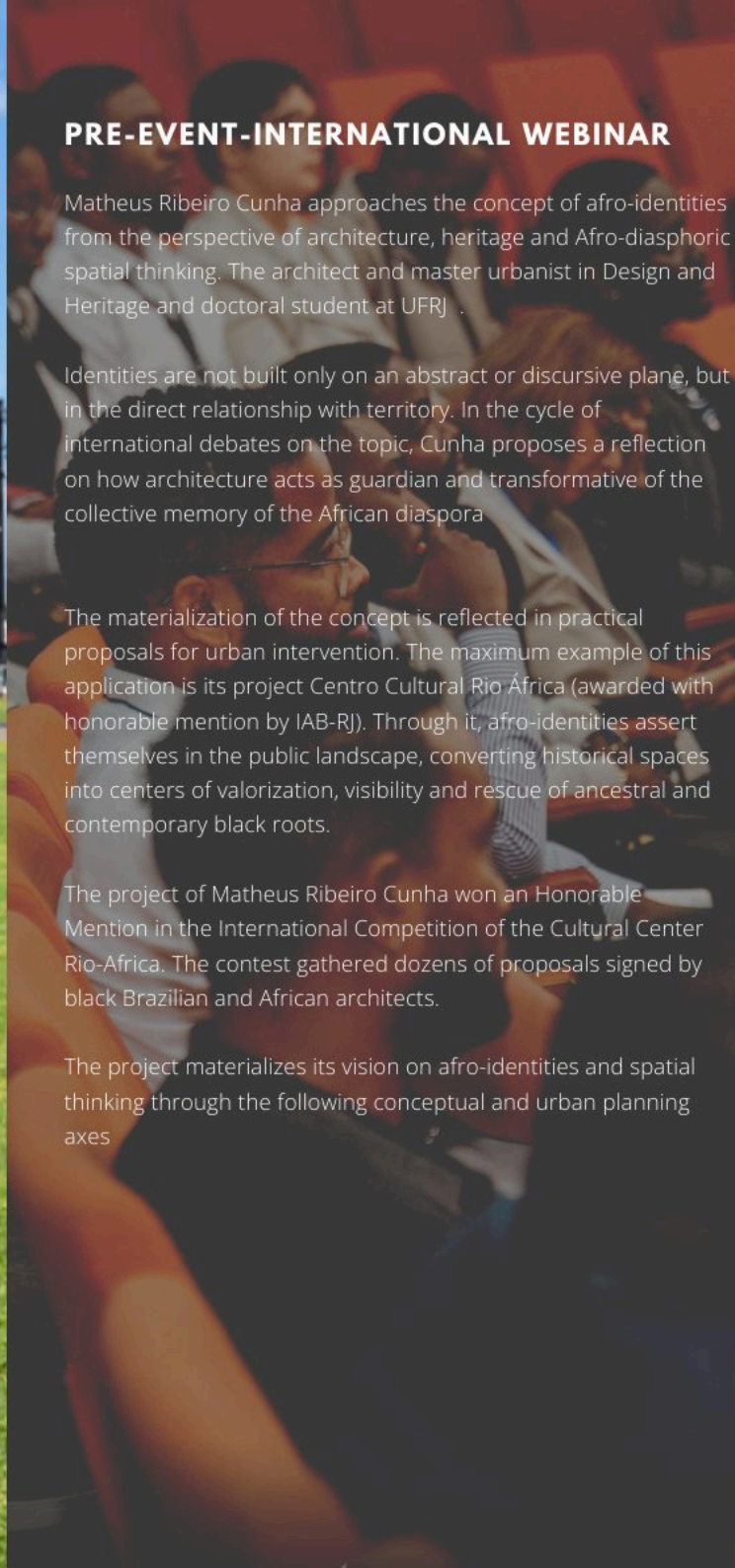
Matheus Ribeiro Cunha approaches the concept of afro-identities from the perspective of architecture, heritage and Afro-diasporic spatial thinking. The architect and master urbanist in Design and Heritage and doctoral student at UFRJ .

Identities are not built only on an abstract or discursive plane, but in the direct relationship with territory. In the cycle of international debates on the topic, Cunha proposes a reflection on how architecture acts as guardian and transformative of the collective memory of the African diaspora

The materialization of the concept is reflected in practical proposals for urban intervention. The maximum example of this application is its project Centro Cultural Rio África (awarded with honorable mention by IAB-RJ). Through it, afro-identities assert themselves in the public landscape, converting historical spaces into centers of valorization, visibility and rescue of ancestral and contemporary black roots.

The project of Matheus Ribeiro Cunha won an Honorable Mention in the International Competition of the Cultural Center Rio-Africa. The contest gathered dozens of proposals signed by black Brazilian and African architects.

The project materializes its vision on afro-identities and spatial thinking through the following conceptual and urban planning axes



Insertion in "Little Africa" and Dialogue with the Past  
The building is located in the Port Zone of Rio de Janeiro, a region historically named Little Africa, adjacent to Valongo Pier (UNESCO World Heritage).

Matheus' architectural proposal is based directly on his academic investigations into the emptying of black memory and the concept of "Valongar" transforming territory into an active circuit of black culture. Space is designed not just as a container of activities, but as a physical extension of memory and historical repair

# EDITION 2026

## PRE-EVENT-INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

In the ecosystem of debates of the movement "Conceptualize Afro-Identities", the architect, urban planner and teacher Kátia António from Angola approaches the concept with a focus on teaching, the decolonisation of knowledge and the role of the professional in the local urban network. Professor at the Agostinho Neto University and researcher, her contribution stands out in the international webinar of the initiative under the specific theme "Afrocentrar o Ensino: Métodos, Conteúdos e Transformação Curricular"

For Kátia António, the construction of an afro-identity in space starts in the classroom. She argues for the urgency of a profound curricular transformation that breaks with the strictly Eurocentric references that dominate architect training in Africa. "Afrocentrar" means placing African methods, history, and contexts at the center of architectural knowledge production

His vision directly intersects with his research on "The Place of the Angolan Architect in the City of Luanda of the 21st Century". It conceptualizes identity not as a decorative element of the past, but as the ability of the local architect to respond with autonomy and ownership to the social, cultural and housing challenges of contemporary African cities

The Afro-Diasphoric and continental identity is expressed through the validation of local methodologies. In line with her studies on community-based solutions and traditional knowledge, she proposes that designing from Afro-identity requires documenting, respecting, and reinterpreting the vernacular constructive techniques and ways of living of real communities





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# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

The project serves as an essential space for dialogue to bring together reflections and experiences about Angolan architecture and its identity ramifications. The main goal of the activity is to challenge conventional models of construction and urbanism, stimulating critical, creative and innovative approaches



The initiative focuses on discussing our heritage, ancestry and how we shape and preserve spaces that represent society. The project focuses intensely on how future professionals and architecture students can actively protect, build and re-signify this heritage.

This activity promoted by Miulotec thus reaffirms itself as an indispensable platform for thinking about Angolan cities from their own cultural and social matrices.



**WORKSHOP  
DE ARQUITECTURA**  
Tema: **Conceitualizar afro-identidade**

# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

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# CONCEITUALIZAR AFRO-IDENTIDADES

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# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

As an architect committed to social transformation, I affirm that architectural practice goes beyond design, taking on an active role in the construction of cultural meaning.

In the contemporary African context, the use of concrete is often associated with modernity and raises a critical question: can this material preserve identity or tend to standardize architectural language?

Before material choice, a deep cultural awareness is required, for buildings are not just physical objects, but constructed narratives that reflect memory, belonging and social transformation.

Arqt Aquitofel Mananga



Urbanization must therefore be understood as a phenomenon produced by the combination of different factors, including the historical context, technological domain, geographical and environmental characteristics of the place, social and political structures, the anthropological and cultural characteristics of their authors, economic systems, forms of power organization and modes of relationship between society and territory.

There are sources for the understanding of urban centers in Angola.

Oral tradition - Archaeological sources - Historical sources

Linguistic Sources - Philosophy and Anthropology

Dr. João Lourenço.



# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

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# CONCEITUALIZAR AFRO-IDENTIDADES

Construir Ideias ou Construir Espaços?

Juventude, Associativismo e Justiça Espacial  
na arquitetura de África

A justiça espacial não é apenas sobre onde se constrói. É sobre  
quem decide, quem acede e quem beneficia.

Em África, a exclusão espacial é frequentemente uma herança  
colonial, e a arquitetura pode ser uma ferramenta de reparação.

Dieudonné Elohy da Costa  
Ativista social- Design espacial



O Sistema Habitacional Triádico não representa apenas uma nova  
forma de compreender os musseques. Representa uma mudança  
de paradigma. Durante muito tempo procurámos adaptar  
África às teorias do urbanismo moderno. Hoje, talvez seja tempo de  
perguntar até que ponto a experiência urbana africana pode  
contribuir para renovar a própria teoria do urbanismo.

Overdado desafio do século XXI já não consiste apenas em  
urbanizar os musseques, mas em reconhecer que os musseques  
encerram conhecimento capaz de ajudar a construir cidades mais  
resilientes, mais inclusivas e culturalmente enraizadas

Arqt Ângela Mingas



# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY



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# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

Looking at architecture as a language of belonging, the construction of space from contemporary African sensitivity, is our commitment



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Arch. Yuri Antonio



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# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

Architecture is not only a functional response to the needs of a society it is also a form of language, memory and cultural representation.

If architecture transforms societies, it can also disrupt them when it distances itself from the place, its history and the people who inhabit it. Therefore, we advocate an architecture capable of being born from the territory, understanding its values and translating its identity into built space.



Arch. Zeca Santos



Arch. Djamila Cassoma

# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

Architecture is not born only from design or technique. It is born from the ideas, stories, values and visions that a society chooses to preserve and transmit.

At a time when the need to rethink our identity and the spaces we inhabit is growing, this conversation promises to bring valuable perspectives for students, professionals and architecture enthusiasts.

## EDITION 2026

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ROUND TABLE: Arch. Yury António - Djamilia Cassoma - Zeca Santos

The event was distinguished by the presence of great figures and references in architecture, whose interventions proposed a break with traditional Eurocentric models and designed new narratives for African and Afro-Diasporic territories.

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Arch. Ilído Daio e Zeca Santos



# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

Within the framework of Conceptualizing Afro-Identities, the foundation Aquitofel Mananga recognizes and integrates, through its curatorship, figures who have contributed to the thought, practice and construction of new perspectives on architecture in Angola.

Among these voices is the Arqt.Joao Afonso Bunga, whose presence stood out not only for his participation in the event, but also for his commitment to the formation, debate and appreciation of architecture as an instrument of transformation of the territory and society.

As official sponsor of Conceptualizing Afro-Identities, João Bunga brought a perspective that synthesizes one of the central issues of the initiative.



Architect and Urban Planner, he is founder of JAB-Architecture, a company dedicated to the production of architectural projects, technical consulting and supervision of public and private works. Its practice is based on technical rigor, professional responsibility and a strategic vision about architecture and territory.

He is also promoter of the MasterClass "Arkidemia", a platform dedicated to promoting events, debates, masterclasses and open classes related to architecture, urban planning, teaching and professional practice.

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Arch.João Bunga



# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

The architect, urban planner and technical advisor Cléusio Vulola plays a prominent role in facilitating and leading the movement "Conceptualize Afro-Identities". By assuming the moderation and mediation of this cycle of strategic reflections, Vulola consolidates itself as an essential link between anthropological thought and the praxis of contemporary urban design in Angola.

By leading international webinars and meetings of the movement, he guides in-depth discussions about pre-colonial architectural life forms and spatial logics.

For Cléusio Vulola, the involvement in the conceptualization of Afro-identities goes beyond the aesthetic debate constitutes an indispensable methodological tool to respond to the contemporary challenges of regional development and sustainable urbanism in the Angolan territory.



Believes in architecture as an instrument of social transformation. He is the founder of the Um Arquiteto Solidário project, dedicated to providing free technical assistance and advice to needy communities, and of the Sako Azul Project, a design and innovation studio oriented towards the reuse of recycled plastic. Their initiatives articulate technical knowledge, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. professional practice.

«

Currently, he works as a Technical Advisor to the Vice-Governor for the Technical Services and Infrastructure of the Province of Lunda-Norte, following processes and matters related to Infrastructure and land use planning within his remit.

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Arch.Cleusio vulola



# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

The materialization of a cultural manifesto requires more than vision; it requires solid foundations, sensitivity and partners who understand the intangible value of art and ancestry. Therefore, the organization of the event Conceptualize Afro Identities publicly expresses its deepest gratitude and prestige to the Café do Arquiteto, whose sponsorship was the fundamental foundation for the success of this edition

There is an intrinsic poetry in the union between architecture and identity. While our project aimed to decode, debate and celebrate the aesthetic and narrative lines of afro-identities, the Café do Arquiteto is a space that, by its very nature, celebrates the trait, structure and innovation offered the perfect counterpoint. They have shown that supporting culture is also a way to design the future of our society.



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# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

**PRE EVENT : LUSÍADA UNIVERSITY  
OF ANGOLA**

Architecture, technology and tradition: conflict or opportunity.

We understand that architecture is a tool of social and even more powerful transformation if current technology is combined with this climate of reflection and constant preparation for the great event to conceptualize Afro identity

"Tradition reminds us who we are but modernity what we can be"  
Arqt.Aquitofel Manannga



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# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

PRE EVENT: METHODIST UNIVERSITY  
OF ANGOLA

EDITION 2026

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# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

Pre-event: Independent university



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# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

Pre-event: IMETRO University

"We must have cultural critical awareness despite  
technological advancement  
Arch.Aquitofel Manannga



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# CONCEPTUALIZE AFRO-IDENTITY

Pre-event: Oscar Ribas University



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# WORKSHOP DE ARQUITECTURA

Tema: \_\_\_\_\_  
Conceitualizar afro-identidade



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*Identity is the soul of people and the strength of architecture*  
Arch.Aquitofel Mananga

Auditório  
Conference Room

# WORKSHOP DE ARQUITECTURA

Tema: \_\_\_\_\_  
Conceitualizar afro-identidade



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*Identity is the soul of people and the strength of architecture*  
Arch.Aquitofel Mananga

Identity is the soul of a people and the strength of an architecture, afro Identity is more than aesthetics is memory, territory, ancestry and voice.

We had the honor of living an experience of creative and intellectual diving that aims to celebrate and awaken the urgency of rethinking how African identity is translated into space.

And look at architecture as a language of belonging, the construction of space from contemporary African sensitivity.

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**EDIÇÃO 2026**

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*Identity is the soul of people and the strength of architecture*  
Arch.Aquitafel Mananga