

AAK ANNUAL CONVENTION x NAIROBI BIENNALE 2026

DELEGATE INFORMATION PACK

Nairobi Biennale 2026

Date:

September 7th-12th, 2026

Venue:

ASK SHOW GROUND
Jamhuri Park Nairobi, Kenya

AAK Annual Convention 2026

Date:

September 16th-19th, 2026

Venue:

Diamond Leisure Lodge,
Diani

**Shifting the Centre:
From Fragility to Resilience**

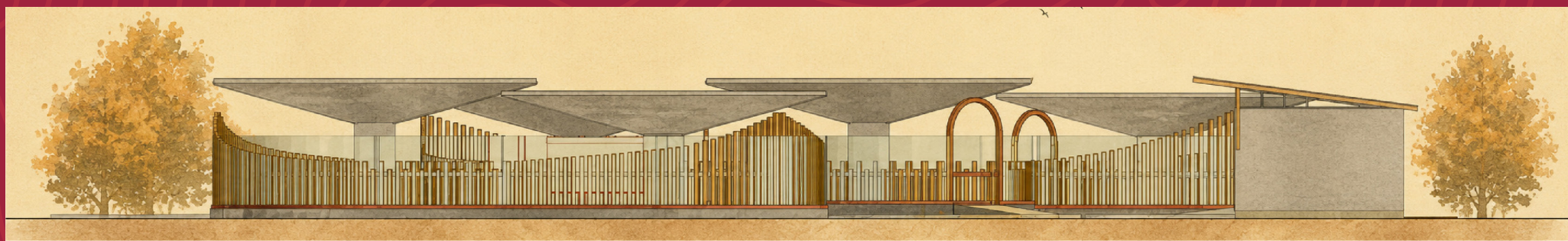
This is an information pack for individuals who wish to participate in the AAK Annual convention and the Nairobi Biennale 2026.





AAK Annual Convention 2026

Theme: Shifting the Built Environment: From Fragility to Resilience



Subthemes

1. Climate Action and Sustainability

This sub-theme explores the critical role of the built environment in responding to the climate crisis through design, planning, and environmental stewardship. Discussions will focus on climate-responsive architecture, adaptive reuse of existing buildings, material innovation, and the creation of future-proof structures capable of responding to evolving environmental conditions. It will also examine strategies for climate mitigation, environmental impact management, and sustainable development, alongside the integration of nature-based solutions such as green infrastructure, water-sensitive landscapes, biodiversity corridors, and ecological urbanism that strengthen both environmental and urban resilience.



2. Policy, Urban Governance, and Regulatory Reform

Building resilient cities requires strong governance frameworks and responsive regulatory systems. This sub-theme will examine how land-use planning, urban governance, and policy reform can shape more resilient urban environments. Conversations will address density management, planning systems, and institutional frameworks that support resilient city development. It will also consider the role of robust engineering systems and infrastructure, including resilient structural design, durable infrastructure networks, disaster-resistant engineering approaches, and long-term infrastructure maintenance.



3. People, Place, and Community Resilience

Resilient cities must ultimately serve the people who live, work, and interact within them. This sub theme focuses on the human dimension of the built environment, addressing the importance of affordable housing and inclusive urban development in creating equitable and resilient communities. It will also explore how interior environments and spatial design can support wellbeing, adaptability, and productivity through wellness-oriented design, flexible workspaces, and human-centered environments that enhance quality of life and social cohesion.



4. Innovation, Technology, and the Future of Construction

Technological advancement and new approaches to project delivery are reshaping the construction industry and strengthening the sector's capacity for resilience. This sub-theme will explore lifecycle costing, sustainable procurement practices, and economic sustainability in project development. It will also examine the role of innovation in project management, including risk management strategies, adaptive project delivery models, and procurement frameworks that enable the built environment sector to respond effectively to changing economic, environmental, and social conditions.



Experience Diani

This year, the AAK Annual Convention takes you to **Diamonds Leisure Beach & Golf Resort**, set along the stunning shores of Diani Beach. Some of the most valuable Convention moments happen outside the formal programme. Walk along the beach, share a meal, meet fellow professionals over a sunset and build connections in an environment designed to inspire conversation.

Beyond the Convention programme, discover a destination renowned for its **white sandy beaches, turquoise waters, vibrant Swahili culture and unforgettable coastal experiences.**

Unwind by the ocean, explore the coast, experience local culture, discover nature and wildlife, and connect with fellow professionals in a setting designed to inspire.



Extend The Experience - *Post-Convention Tours*

Take the Convention beyond the conference room and explore Diani's infrastructure, innovation and natural heritage through curated post-convention experiences.

FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2026
| 2:00–4:00 PM

MWACHE DAM PROJECT

Tour fee

KES 2,500 PP

Explore Kenya's first Roller-Compacted Concrete (RCC) dam and discover how this flagship Kenya Vision 2030 project is advancing water security, irrigation and climate resilience.

UKUNDA AIRPORT TERMINAL EXPANSION

Tour fee

KES 1,500 PP

Go behind the scenes of the ongoing airport terminal expansion and explore how aviation infrastructure is supporting tourism, regional connectivity and economic growth.

Departure point: *Diamonds Leisure Beach & Golf Resort, Diani*

SATURDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER
2026 | 8:00 AM

KISITE-MPUNGUTI MARINE PARK & WASINI ISLAND

Tour fee

KES 6,000 PP

Experience Kenya's spectacular marine ecosystem with **dolphin spotting, snorkelling, a Swahili seafood lunch and a visit to Wasini Island.**



YOUR TOUR FEE INCLUDES

- Return transport
- Entry fees
- Refreshments
- Guided tour and facilitation

Tour inclusions may vary by destination.

Optional personal activities are at participants' own cost.

LIMITED SLOTS AVAILABLE

Advance registration is required. Register early to secure your preferred tour.

Registration link to be shared.

Registration Process and Charges

To register, please visit <https://members.aak.or.ke/lnk/jscqxbgitw> For any additional information or registration assistance, feel free to contact the AAK Secretariat at convention@aak.or.ke or call us on +254721691337

The following rates apply:

Category	Early Bird (Until June 30 th)	Regular (1 st July – 15 th August)	Late (August 16 th Onwards)
Members in Good Standing	KES 25,000	KES 30,000	KES 35,000
Non-Members	KES 45,000	KES 45,000	KES 45,000
Student Members	KES 18,000	KES 18,000	KES 18,000
Fresh Graduates	KES 18,000	KES 18,000	KES 18,000
Group of 5	KES 112,500	KES 135,000	KES 157,500

See you in Diani!

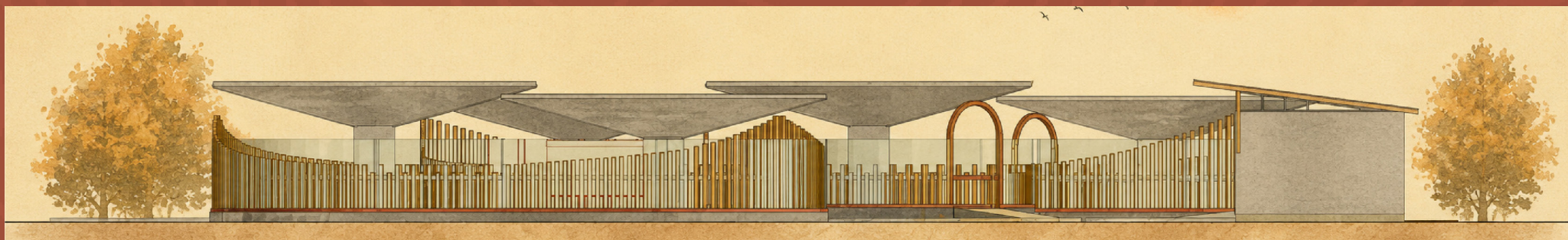


Welcome to **Nairobi Biennale 2026**

Architecture has always reflected how societies live, think, remember and imagine the future.

The Nairobi Biennale brings together built environment professional, designers, artists, engineers, policymakers, students, researchers and communities from across Africa and beyond to explore how our built environments can respond to today's greatest challenges while creating opportunities for tomorrow.

The Biennale becomes a living platform of exhibitions, dialogue, experimentation and collaboration.



Meet the Curator

HENRY MUSANGI

Managing Director - PLANNING Systems Services (Ltd)

Designed and curated by Planning Systems

An Architectural Firm with expertise in architecture, land use planning, and urban design.

The Curator shapes the intellectual and creative direction of the Biennale. Working with participating architects, artists and researchers, the curator develops the exhibition theme, guides the curatorial vision and oversees the selection of projects and installations that visitors experience throughout the Biennale.



About the Nairobi Biennale

The Nairobi Biennale is East Africa's premier international architecture and built environment exhibition.

Hosted by the Architectural Association of Kenya (AAK), the Biennale showcases groundbreaking ideas, built projects, research, innovation and creative practice from across Africa and the global architectural community.

Unlike a conference, the Biennale is an immersive public experience.

Visitors don't simply attend presentations. They:

- Experience installations
- Explore exhibitions
- Engage with designers
- Participate in discussions
- Discover innovative materials
- Network with industry leaders
- Learn through interactive experiences





From **Fragility** to **Resilience**

Across Africa, cities face unprecedented pressures—from climate change and rapid urbanisation to housing deficits, heritage loss and evolving social needs.

Yet these challenges also present opportunities.

This Biennale invites participants to rethink how built environment professional, designers and artistes can foster resilience through sustainable design, cultural preservation, technological innovation, inclusive planning and community-led development.



Why Attend?

Discover Explore hundreds of innovative architectural projects from Kenya, Africa and around the world.

Learn Gain insights from leading architects, designers, planners, academics and industry experts.

Connect Meet professionals, institutions, students, developers and innovators driving change across the continent.

Experience Enjoy installations, exhibitions, workshops, performances and curated cultural experiences.

Inspire Leave with new ideas, partnerships and perspectives that influence your own work.



What You'll Experience

During your visit you can explore:

- Architectural installations
- Interactive displays
- Product showcases
- Book of Projects exhibition by AAK
- Emerging designers showcase
- Student exhibition
- Materials innovation displays
- Public lectures
- Curated conversations
- Networking sessions
- Cultural performances
- Food experiences



Programme

Highlights

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
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
20th August	Learning from the Past for Future Resilience		McMillan Memorial Library
28th August	AAK's Town Planners Chapter Bike & Brunch		Ngong Road Forest Gate A
3rd September	The Future of African Architectural Heritage		Charter Hall, Nairobi City Hall
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	

Programme

Highlights

Time	Activity	Partner	Venue
8th – 12th September	African Architectural and Urban History Network - AFRAUHN Bi-Annual Conference	AFRAUHN https://www.afrauhn.org	University of Nairobi
Nairobi Biennale Exhibition Week			
Sunday, 6th September	Exhibition Set Up		
	Imagining African Futures		
Monday, 7th September	Opening Ceremony		Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Musical Concert	GoDown Arts Centre https://thegodown.org	Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Mobility, Density & Public Space		
Tuesday, 8th 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
Wednesday, 9th September	Memory		
	Grow A Classroom Activation	Ken-Lon and RIBA https://homegrownplus.co.uk	Muthaiga Primary School

Programme

Highlights

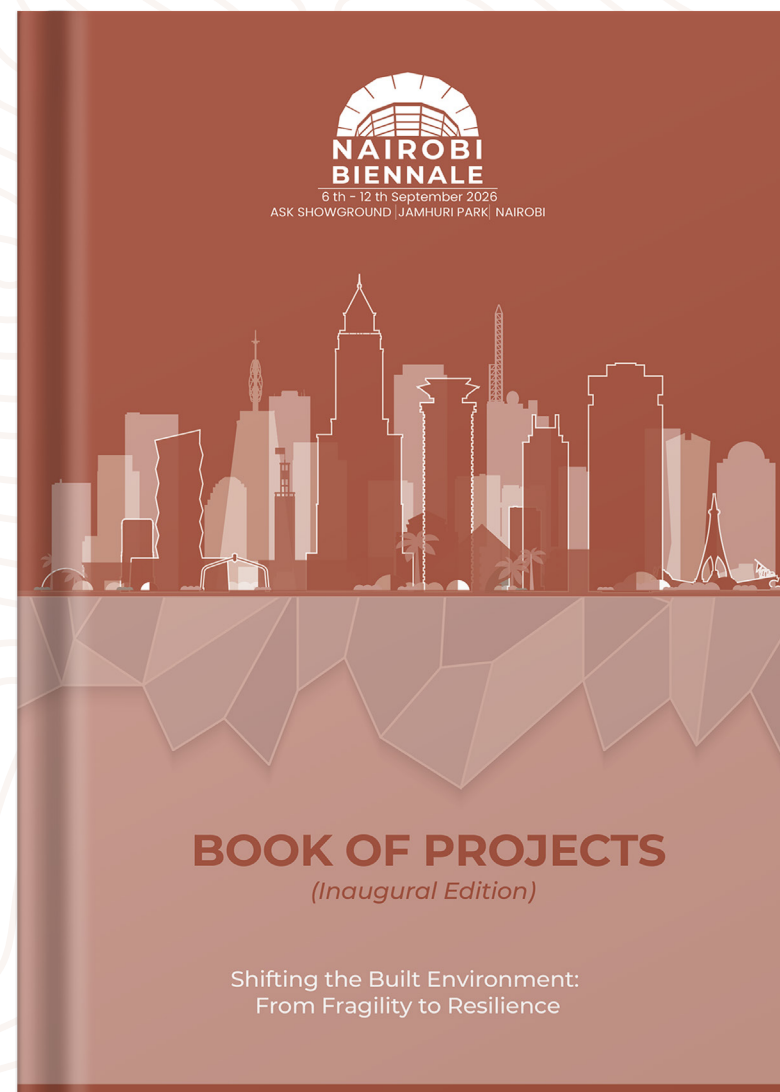
Time	Activity	Partner	Venue
Wednesday, 9th September	GBPN Workshop	Global Buildings Performance Network (GBPN) https://www.gbpn.org	Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Nairobi Then and Now Film screenings, Nairobi Heritage Photo Exhibition (photography and visual story-telling, i.e., heritage structures at risk)	NBO by Design and HOK Photography	Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Architectural Heritage Talk		Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Identity & Craft		
Thursday, 10th September	WIRE Partner Event	Women in Real Estate (WIRE) https://www.wire.or.ke	Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Partner Workshops		Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
Friday, 11th September	Technology, Business & Practice		
	Mobile Play Ground	Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) https://www.kounkuey.org	Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Awards Gala		Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
	Launch of Biennale Book of Projects		Jamhuri Expo Hall, ASK Showgrounds
Saturday, 12th September	Exhibition Dismantling		



Featured Exhibitions

Book of Projects

Explore an extensive collection of outstanding built and unbuilt works responding to this year's theme.



National & Regional Exhibitions

Experience architectural stories from across Kenya, East Africa and the wider continent through curated installations and exhibitions.



Installations

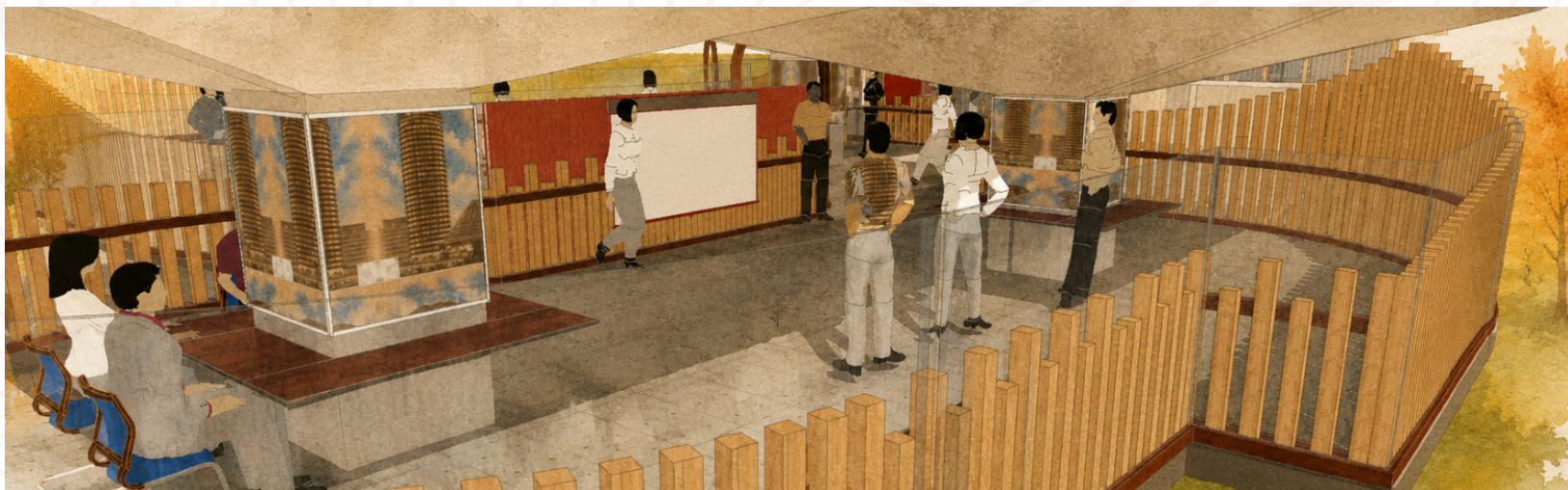
Immersive architectural installations transform the exhibition grounds into spaces for exploration, experimentation and conversation.



Talks & Conversations

Throughout the Biennale, leading thinkers will discuss topics including:

- Climate resilience
- Affordable housing
- African urbanism
- Digital architecture
- Artificial Intelligence
- Heritage conservation
- Public space
- Housing policy
- Circular economy
- Indigenous knowledge
- Community participation
- Future cities



Student Experience

Dedicated opportunities include:

- Design charrettes
- Portfolio reviews
- Career talks
- Mentorship sessions
- Emerging professionals networking





Explore Nairobi

The Biennale is also an invitation to experience Nairobi.



Recommended Attractions

- Nairobi National Museum
- Nairobi National Park
- Karura Forest
- Nairobi Railway Museum
- Bomas of Kenya
- Giraffe Centre
- Kazuri Beads
- Nairobi Gallery
- Maasai Market
- Nairobi City Walks

Optional QR codes to tourism information



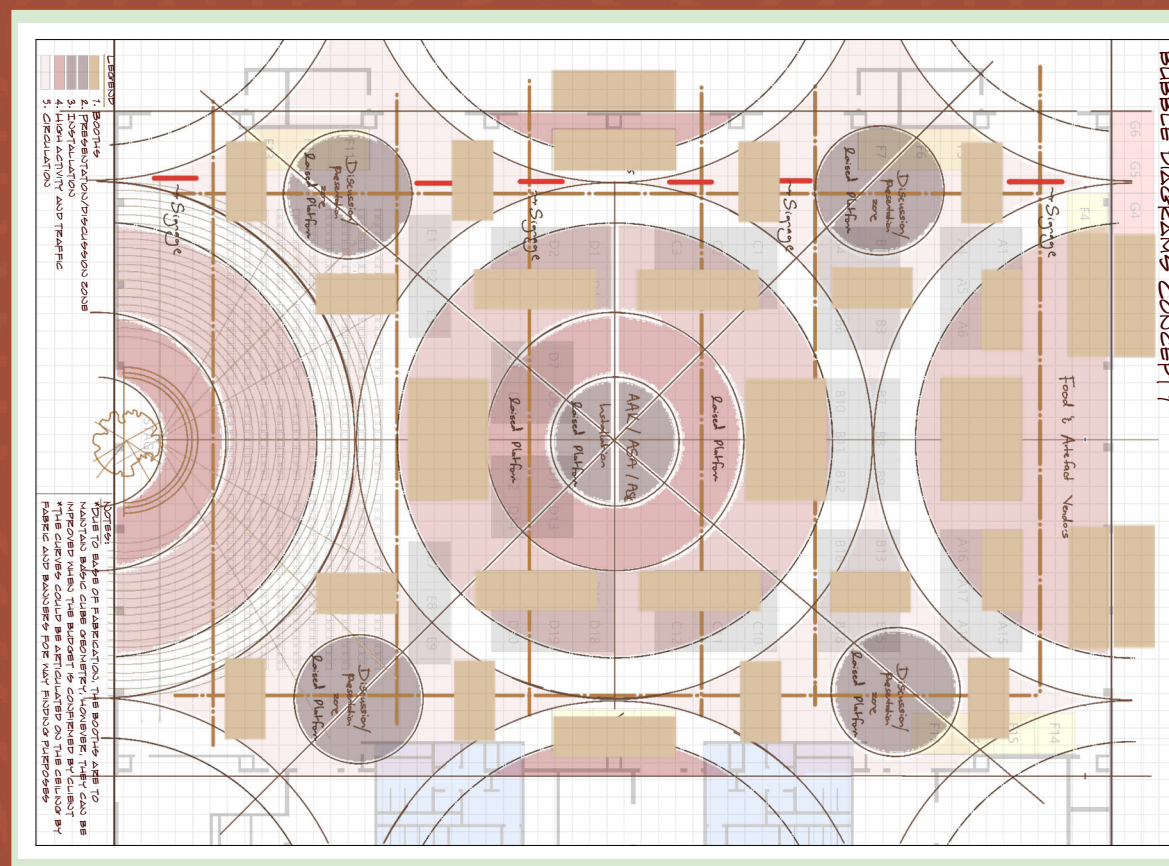
Venue Information

ASK Showgrounds

The ASK Showgrounds provide a vibrant exhibition environment with indoor and outdoor exhibition spaces designed for exploration and networking.

Facilities include:

- Food court
- Coffee areas
- Networking lounges
- Accessibility services
- Prayer rooms
- First aid
- Parking
- Information Desk
- Charging stations
- Bookshop
- Merchandise



Registration Includes

- Biennale access
- Opening Ceremony
- All exhibitions
- Digital programme
- Delegate bag
- Certificate of participation
- Networking access
- Exhibition guide

Before You Arrive

Please remember to:

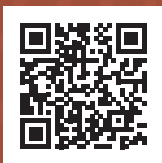
- Register online
- Carry identification
- Wear comfortable shoes
- Bring business cards
- Stay hydrated
- Charge your devices
- Follow event photography guidelines



Ticket Charges

Wish to participate?

SCAN HERE



Charges Kshs, 500

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the venue?

ASK Showground, Jamhuri Park, Nairobi.

How do I register?

Register here.

Can students attend?

Yes.

Is parking available?

Available for free



AAK | PROMOTING EXCELLENCE
IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

CONTACT US



#NairobiBiennale2026

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