

## MEMO

7 May 2018

**FROM:**  
Unit 12 Teaching Team

**TO:**  
Mr Lebethe Malefo  
Ms Lisle du Plessis

**RE: Unit 12 Réunion Island Field Trip March 2018**

---

### BACKGROUND:

In 2018, with the support of the Internationalisation Office, who covered 50% of the total field trip costs, Unit 12 at the Graduate School of Architecture (GSA) embarked on an international field trip with 18 Master's students to the island of Réunion in the Indian Ocean. The field trip formed part of a three-year research project, whose outputs have been published internationally and are freely accessible to the public in the form of online articles, press releases and videos. In 2015, Unit 12 received funding from the Internationalisation Office for a trip to Zanzibar and in 2016 received further funding for a trip to Cabo Verde. The 2018 trip concludes the tripartite of these research trips focusing on the créole (mixed-race) cultures from islands located around the coasts of Africa. The work that was undertaken by the post-graduate students has started to bear tangible outcomes, resulting in publication, exhibitions and international awards. Full details of the research outputs for 2015 and 2016 can be found in the *GSA Annual Reports*, available from the GSA Senior Ops Manager ([dfouché@uj.ac.za](mailto:dfouché@uj.ac.za)).

### SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS:

The trip to Reunion was a four-night stay, which included a tour of the island. Staff and students visited major cultural and geological sites of the island. The trip was also an opportunity for students to build links, strengthen their interpersonal relationships and establish synergy within the group. On their return to South Africa, students in Unit 12 presented their findings and Major Design Proposals to a review panel of international and local visiting critics. Their projects will be shown publicly at our Q3 and Final Review weeks (August & October 2018), and will form part of the GSA's annual Summer Show exhibition in November 2018.



**Image 1:** On tour around Réunion Island



**Image 2:** Visiting the ruins of thermal baths



**Image 3:** A visit to the 'Pas de Bellecombe' volcanic site





**Image 4:** Review of Unit 12's work at Fox Street Studios, Maboneng



**Image 5:** Presenting their findings to critics

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

We would like to thank **Mr Lebethe Malefo** and **Ms Lisle du Plessis** of the UJ Internationalisation Office and their staff for the continued support and assistance given to the GSA throughout the years. The travel opportunities afforded our students allows them to not only broaden their horizons but gives them the confidence to contribute meaningfully to international discourses on architecture, identity and culture, fast becoming hallmarks of architectural research at the GSA.