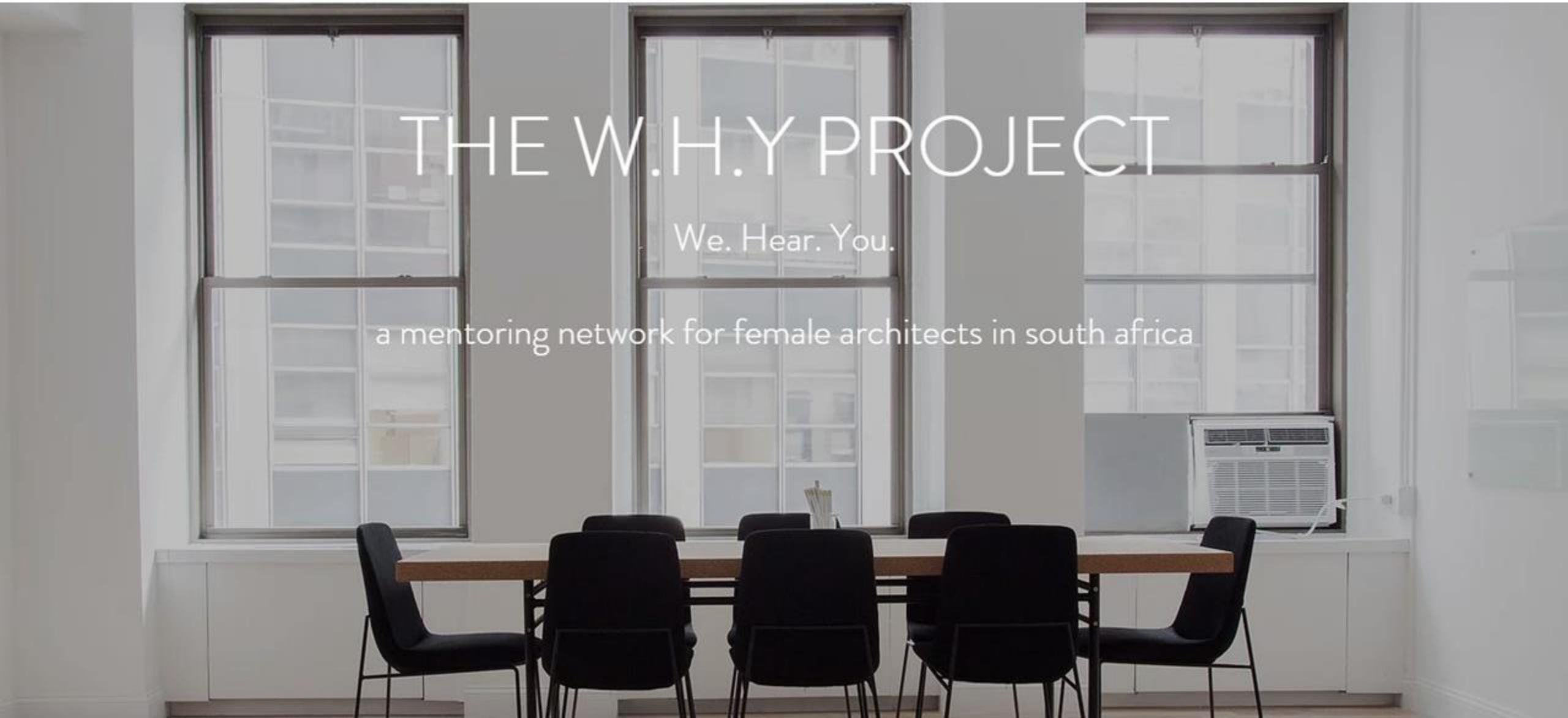


# THE W.H.Y PROJECT

We. Hear. You.

a mentoring network for female architects in south africa

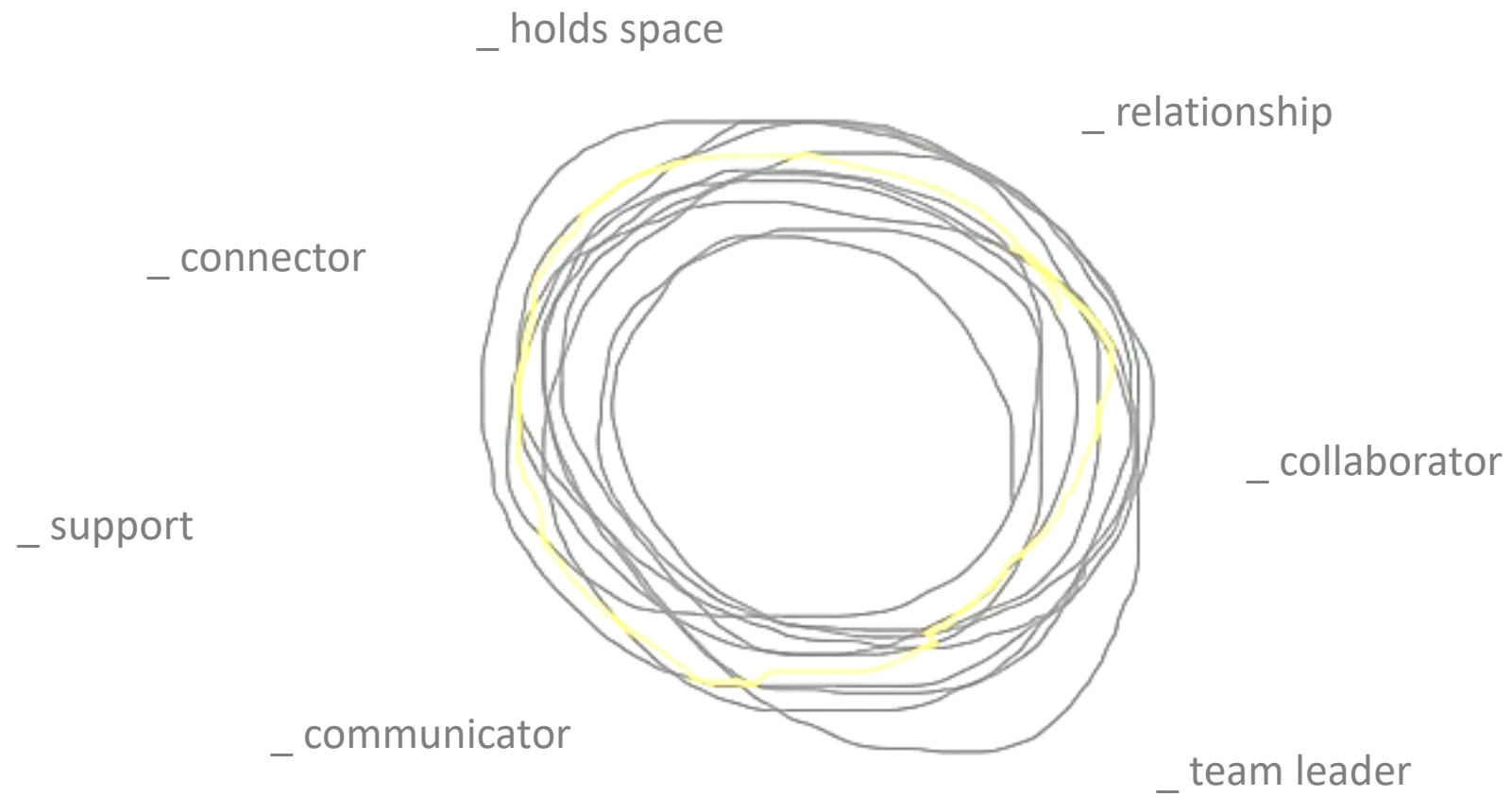








through representation we can create a better city for all



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the architect\_intrinsic skill

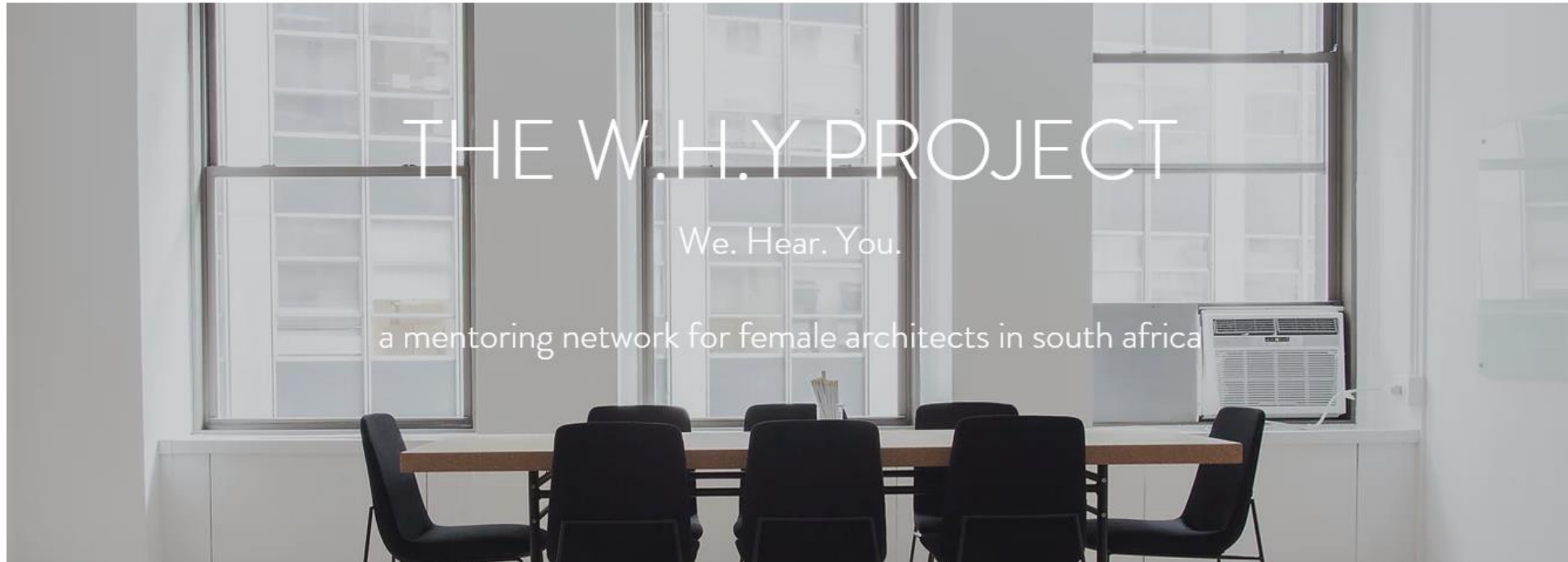
representation matters.



the architect\_ intrinsic responsibility

The W.H.Y Project  
[www.thewhyproject.space](http://www.thewhyproject.space)

THE W.H.Y PROJECT



representation matters.



# the concern

'Statistics reflect an unacceptably low level of Women in Architecture in South Africa, while the demographics of this small group of professionals highlights the extensive marginalization of Previously Disadvantaged Individuals.(PDI's) '\*

Why do black women only make up 3% of the total number of registered architects in South Africa? That's 271 out of 8 842 registered architectural professionals!

*Women, in particular women of colour, continue to be under represented in all professions.*

Why is the number of PDI women students who 'drop out' of architectural tertiary programmes so high?

Why are there so few women (and even fewer black women) owned architectural practices in South Africa?

*Are female architects failing to get the support and encouragement they need to fulfil their potential?*

*Are they opting instead to change careers?*

*Are we losing highly talented and skilled architects to other professions and industries?*

# the vision

To address the extreme marginalisation of black female architects in South Africa, and to be a platform for real transformation in the industry, through the network of mentoring relationships for women by women.



# the mission

- To establish a mentoring network for females in architecture
- Through the mentoring network, identify needs and provide the necessary support for students, particularly black female architects, over their years of study.
- Through the mentoring network, identify needs and provide the necessary support for black female owned business to grow and become the norm rather than the exception.
- To develop a platform for the sharing of resources, skills and information.

# the objectives

- To match students and mentors who will through a mutually beneficial relationship of trust and honesty, address various needs and provide the relevant support necessary through the mentoring relationship
- Set up regular events with influential speakers in order to critically engage with relevant architectural thought and workshop ideas.
- To create a platform to encourage women to support each other, share their stories and discuss issues particular to women in architecture.
- Provide a platform for both learning from experienced female architects as well as up-and-coming young female architects and acknowledge achievements in the industry.
- To monitor and evaluate the relevant statistics to establish if more female architects graduate (particularly black female architects) as a result of the mentoring network.
- To monitor and evaluate the relevant statistics to establish if more female architects register professionally.
- Apply to SACAP to have mentoring recognised as a CPD activity
- To provide scholarships to black female architectural students in need.

honesty. integrity. trust. respect



THE W.H.Y PROJECT

*Mentoring is a fantastic mix of support and continuing professional development which is beneficial for both sides of the partnership, developing key skills in communication, resilience, confidence, leadership and self-awareness.*

- Creating a '*learning ecosystem*'. It's about lots of varied parts coming together, sharing knowledge, being stronger as a collective, and the industry benefiting from that added value.
- Mutually beneficial relationship of trust and support
- Building your network
- Increased social capital- *Social Capital* is a term used to describe the links, shared values and understanding that enable individuals and groups to trust each other and work together. The central premise of social capital is that social networks add value.
- Improved self awareness- Self-awareness is defined as "*conscious knowledge of one's own character, feelings, motives and desires.*"



## Mentors can...

'One of the greatest gifts of value you can give someone is to light their imagination up, give them hope, and inspire the confidence to chase their dreams.'

- Develop a mutually beneficial relationship, by sharing your knowledge and experiences as a mentor, you can open up entirely new paths and dramatically influence the direction an individual will take in their career.
- Develop soft skills in communicating and understanding people's strengths and weaknesses
- Build relationships with local universities through mentoring students.
- Be inspired, engage with current architectural thought and even new technologies.

## Mentees can...

- Be introduced to the concept of professionalism and the value of a professional conduct
- Gain insight into the working life at a practice
- Be able to observe the design process in practice
- Start to understand the business of architecture and gain insight into the experience of running a practice
- Get support on professionally-related matters

# The W.H.Y Project

[www.thewhyproject.space](http://www.thewhyproject.space)





The W.H.Y Project  
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**UN  
LOC  
KED**

Join us for our series called Unlocked\_ conversations with Entrepreneurs. Instalive, stay tuned for details

@thewhyprojectza

**UN  
LOC  
KED**

Join us for our first installment of Unlocked\_ conversations with Entrepreneurs. Instalive Friday 12 June at 14h00.

Our first guest is Ntsako Mgiba, co owner of Jonga and host of his own YouTube channel, the Focussed Millennial.

@thewhyprojectza

**UN  
LOC  
KED**

Join us for our second installment of Unlocked\_ conversations with Entrepreneurs. Instalive Friday 26 June at 18h00.

Our next guest is Mosidi Modise, owner of Moop and one of the most inspiring woman I have ever met!

@thewhyprojectza

resources

Your help and support is standing in solidarity with the aims of the organisation and about belief in equality within the field of architecture.

How can you be a part of this?

- 
- Mentoring
  - Financial support and funding opportunities
  - Engage with us





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be an active participator to change