



MARCH, 1940.

SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

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To the Architects of South Africa.
Dear Sirs,

1939

Behind this letter we show an aerial view of part of the extensive factory of Jenson & Nicholson, Ltd., of London—a firm established as long ago as 1821, and which to-day ranks among the largest, most modern and most progressive paint and varnish manufacturers in the world.

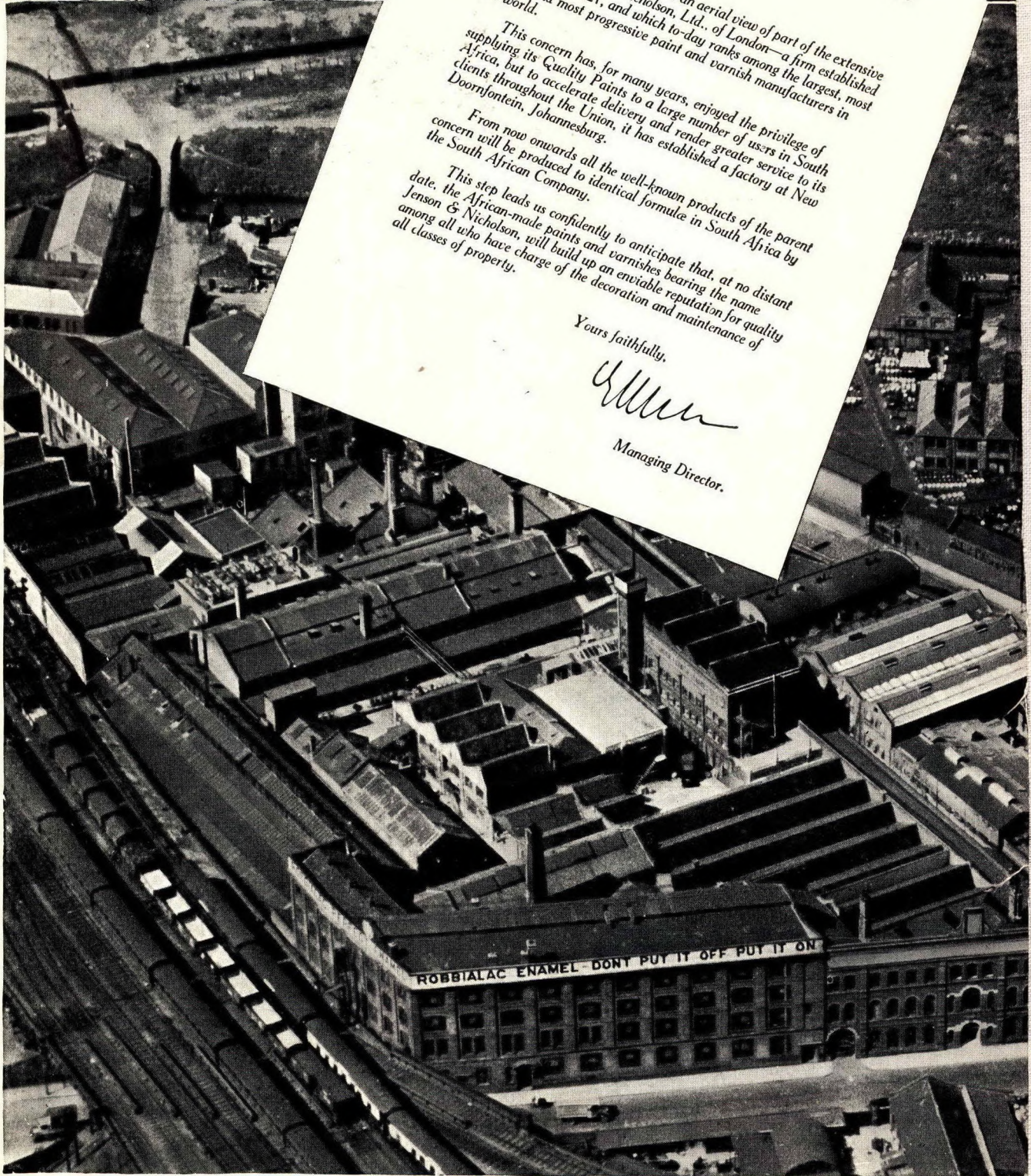
This concern has, for many years, enjoyed the privilege of supplying its Quality Paints to a large number of users in South Africa, but to accelerate delivery and render greater service to its clients throughout the Union, it has established a factory at New Doornfontein, Johannesburg.

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Yours faithfully,

Managing Director.



C O N T E N T S

- Cover: A GREEK METOPE — Photo R.M.
- Frontispiece: A RECONSTRUCTION PLAN OF HADRIAN'S VILLA AT TIVOLI. (From D'Espouy; Monuments Antiques.)

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THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

The Journal of the Cape, Natal, Orange Free State and Transvaal Provincial Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors.

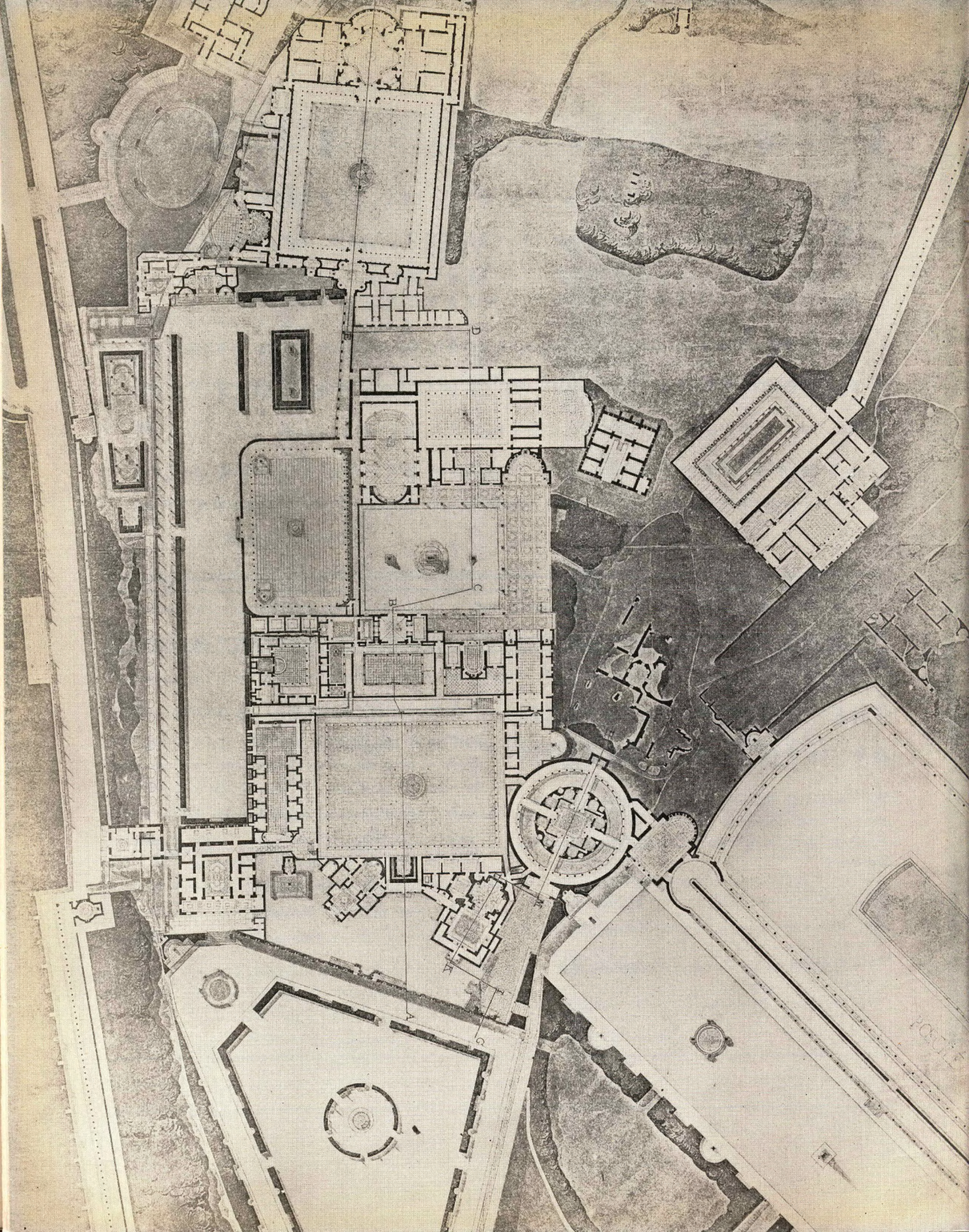
202, Kelvin House, 75, Marshall
St., Johannesburg. Telephone 33-1936

Volume Twenty Five. Number Three.
March, 1940.

The Editors will be glad to consider any MSS., photographs or sketches submitted to them, but they should be accompanied by stamped addressed envelopes for return if unsuitable. In case of loss or injury they cannot hold themselves responsible for MSS., photographs or sketches, and publication in the Journal can alone be taken as evidence of acceptance. The name and address of the owner should be placed on the back of all pictures and MSS. The Institute does not hold itself responsible for the opinions expressed by contributors.

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HON. EDITORS: G. E. PEARSE, REX MARTIENSSEN. SECRETARY: A. S. PEARSE



THE BAKER SCHOLARSHIP 1939

A CRITICAL REVIEW BY NORMAN HANSON AND REX MARTIENSSEN

The Baker Scholarship Competition¹ held last year attracted 31 candidates, who completed a preliminary en loge sketch design occupying 24 hours. From this group ten candidates were selected to compete for the final award, for which three and a half months were allowed. Candidates were required, therefore, to elaborate the drawings done in the preliminary competition, and were not intended to amend seriously their schemes which of necessity had been settled in an extremely limited time. One candidate was awarded the scholarship but, contrary to precedent, no further placings were recorded. Even with such a large number of entrants one wonders why as many as 10 finalists were allowed to proceed with the competition proper. The enormous amount of work involved in presenting these final drawings places a great responsibility on the assessors in their selection of designs considered to possess equal potentialities for ultimate success. The final schemes fall into clear categories; thus there are exhibited three schemes (including that of the winner) which may be designated as pseudo-classical, two in a picturesque medium having its origin in the English vernacular, two in a medium that one can only describe as a debased version of the Italian country house, and lastly, three schemes which attempted to solve the problem on broadly contemporary and rational lines.

Whatever qualities the assessors had in mind for making their selection of finalists, it appears evident that they were prepared to accept as promising these widely differing attitudes to the problem. If the

¹The Assessors' Report and the Programme are printed on pages 84, 85 and 86.

design in the pseudo-classical style proved acceptable to the assessors, one wonders on what grounds the candidates in the other categories were permitted to proceed to the final stage? On the face of it no critical framework could possibly have regarded them as being commensurate schemes. The position is aggravated by the failure of the assessors to place all the designs in order of merit, or at the very least, the first three. One may conclude that the problem of placing designs of a standard approaching that of the winner was an insurmountable task in view of the inconsistency of initial selection. Actually the weakness lies in an earlier stage of the competition, in the programme itself, which did not adequately indicate the looked for qualities of a winning design for the Baker Scholarship. Where, therefore, the programme plays such a vital part in the final selection of a candidate, it is disconcerting to find an incomplete statement of requirements.

The subject—a residence for a Governor-General—is grandiose in conception. Such an isolated problem as the occurrence of a residence of this type places the candidates at a distinct disadvantage, bearing as it does no relationship to the general trend of architectural development. If such a subject is considered necessary in terms of the original fund, then a lucid explanation of the detailed working of a Governor-General's residence is a minimum requirement in the programme. A study of the programme reveals inconsistencies that must have proved confusing to the candidates. For example, no indication of the situation, climatic or geographical, is conveyed; thus the onus of selecting this is thrown on the individual candidates. Again the accommodation required is not clearly categorised, which makes comprehension of the problem difficult. It seems unnecessary to have stated that the schemes should be "reasonably economical," since a condition such as this constitutes a handicap to those candidates who conscientiously endeavour to follow the literal terms of the programme, while the attempt to give expression to such restrictions appears to carry no weight in the final award in most architectural competitions.

One apparent inconsistency calls for comment. In the paragraph "(D) Suites for Guests. Entirely separate from the foregoing, two suites for guests, complete with double bedroom, bathroom, dressing room, etc.," the demand "entirely separate from the foregoing" (relating to previously stated domestic accommodation) must result in a glaring break in circulation, as the guests would have neither service facilities of their own nor access to those specified for the Governor-General's private suite. One must, therefore, condone the faults that this condition must of necessity bring about in the plans of many

of the candidates. This is especially apparent in the more clearly articulated and zoned projects.

Before embarking on a critical description of the winning scheme and of one or two other solutions submitted, it would be as well to attempt to establish reasonable standards for judgment. These prime standards fall naturally into two categories—the first where the negative piecemeal process of detailed analysis breaks the scheme under consideration into its components and by direct critical attack determines its architectural workability or otherwise; the second where the positive qualities of a complete architectural conception are postulated and the scheme measured in terms of these. The weakness of the first method lies in the isolation of elements on immediate practical grounds, while it tends to discount the broader architectural issues. The second method is preferable since it allows one to arrive at a final estimate of the result of widely differing approaches. It can be assumed that the scholarship is intended to equip the winner for problems in the realm of practical work and so influence the trend of architecture in South Africa. It is surely reasonable, therefore, to suppose that a grasp of the broad principles of architecture in relation to the requirements of to-day would be found in any scheme worthy of consideration. Otherwise one is forced to accept the competition as a blind alley exercise in an unreal medium—obviously not the spirit in which any serious student of architecture would compete. What, then, is the framework that would most completely define the degree of success attained? The qualities that should be expressed by the designer are at least:

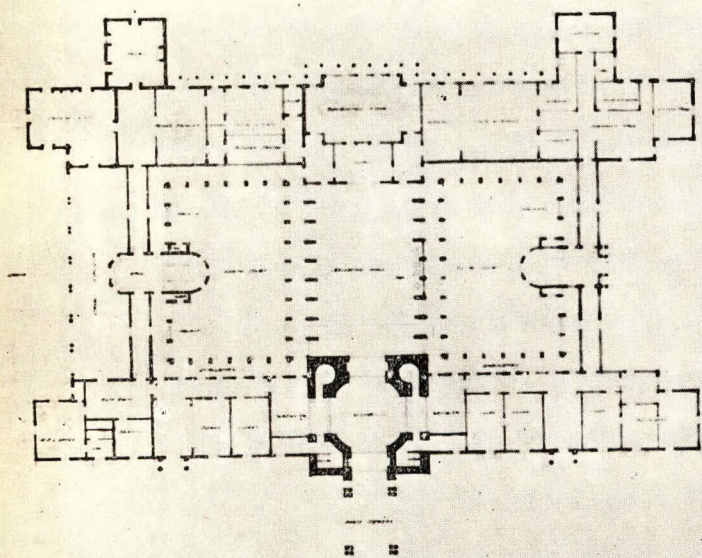
1. Creative ability.
2. A sense of organisation.
3. A sense of structure.
4. An appreciation of modern technique.
5. Ability to present the potentialities of a scheme.

The winning scheme (No. 12) can be examined under these headings without further amplification.

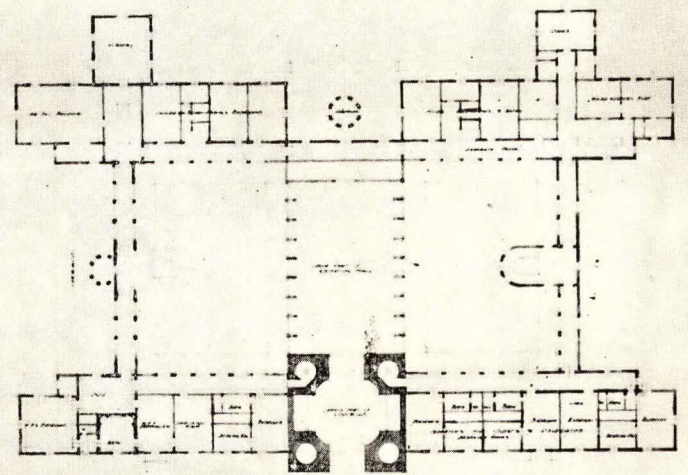
1. Creative Ability.

The resort to clichés recognisable only to a limited architectural group is an initial limitation which

THE HERBERT BAKER ARCHITECTURAL SCHOLARSHIP . 1939



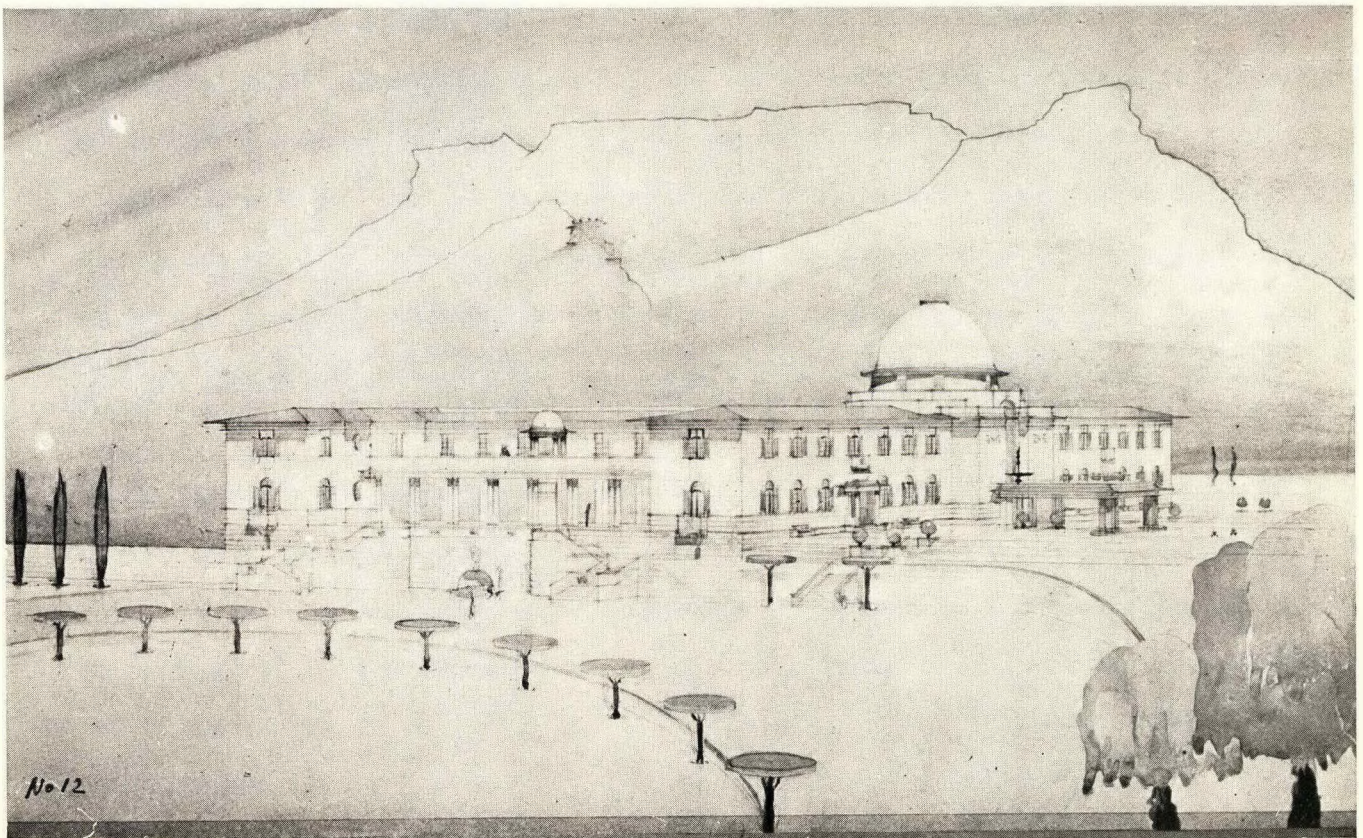
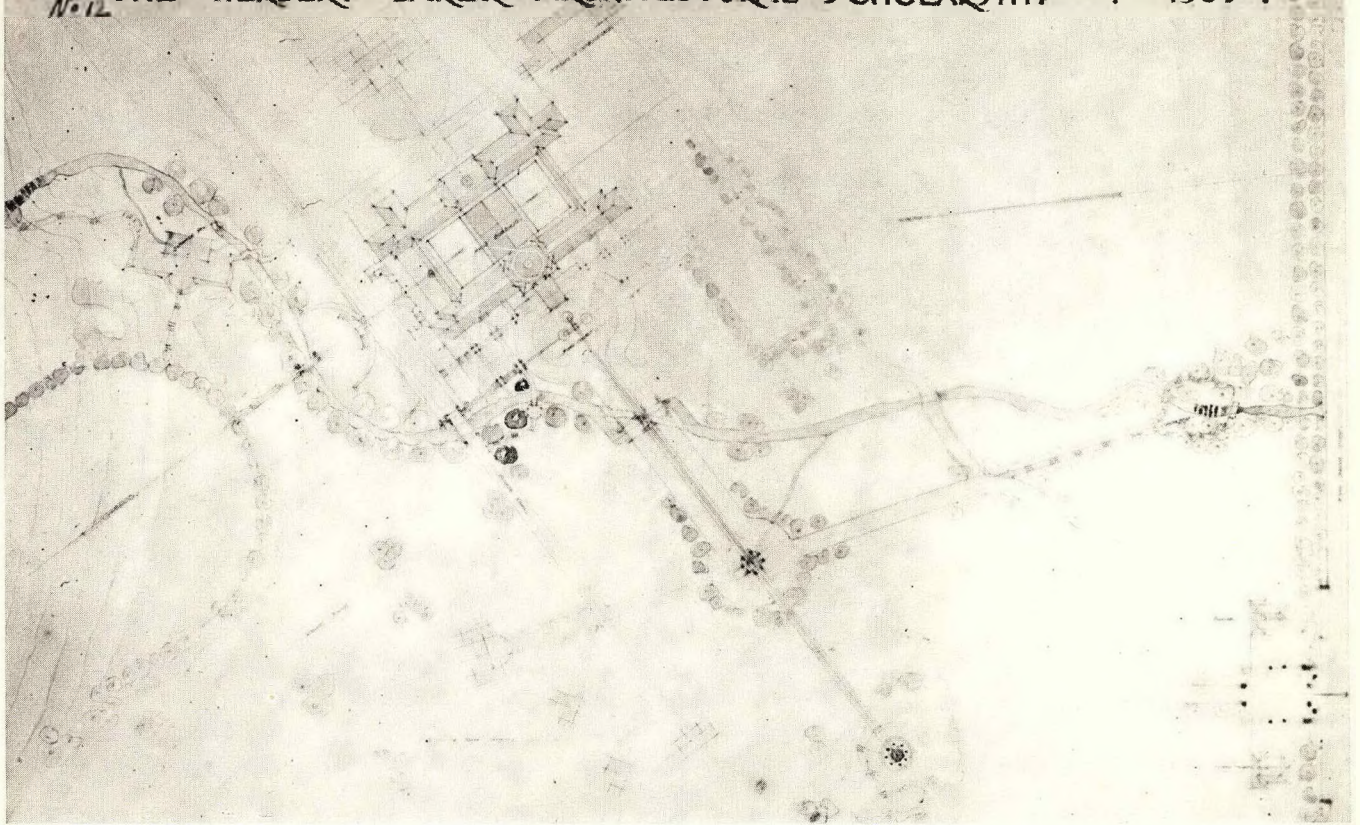
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

No 12.

THE WINNING DESIGN BY D. L. WATSON



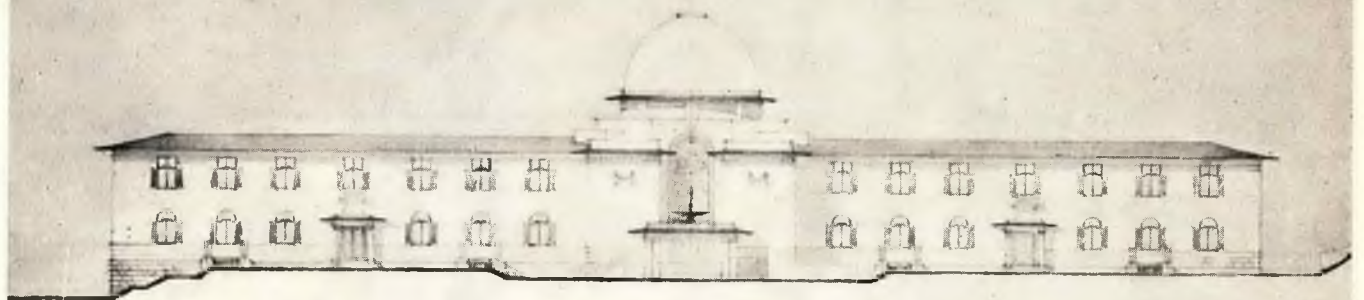
precludes almost all possibilities of inventive expression. This design reflects the features of the Anglo-Indian Imperial style as laid down by Baker and Lutyens. The use of the dome which follows a proscribed type strikes a note of familiarity, and surely has no justification in the scheme. The original dome used by Lutyens at Delhi at least formed the principal element of the Vice-Regal Palace and was conceived as a unified part of the whole scheme. Its application is a notable feature in the two previous competitions. In those contexts, however, its situation still bore some resemblance to that of the original. The present revival of this somewhat unfortunate feature newly employed as an entrance element has no architectural meaning. The illusion of broad wall surfaces (at the expense of adequate lighting), the elevationally composed pitched roofs, and the distorted classical motifs are the products of this particular type of approach.

2. A Sense of Organisation.

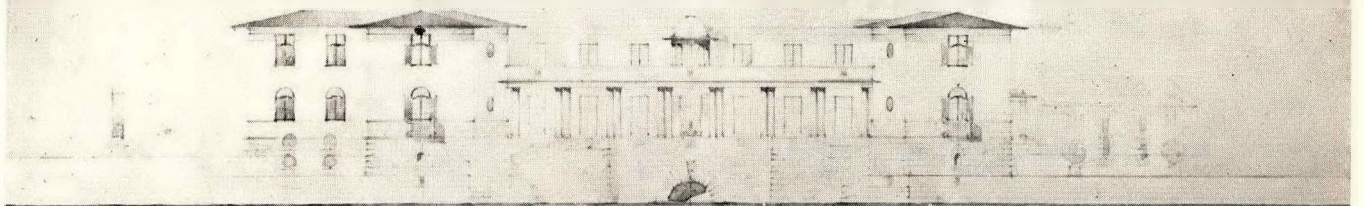
The plan form takes a familiar shape which allows of little freedom in the disposition and expression of elements. The attempt to pour diverse functions into this over-simplified mould results in displacement and confusion. Examples of this distortion can be found in the interruption of the administration offices by the domed entrance vestibule to the great hall, and in the unworkable kitchen arrangements for the Governor-General's private dining room. The general circulation is frequently interrupted and diverted according to the exigencies of the symmetry imposed upon the plan. The domestic services in general appear to have received only the most cursory attention, and the siting of the scheme as a whole shows little sense of relating building to surroundings. The great hall, in particular, suggests the insulation required for a restricted town site; no hint is given that guests using the hall could enjoy the aspect of the surrounding countryside.

On a higher plane of criticism one might mention the lack of interior organisation of wall and window surfaces—an inevitable by-product of the symmetrical prejudice. The sense of direction in the approach to the principal elements is confused by makeshift planning, and although the scale and arrangement of the great hall shows some understanding of the programme, in the main there is no firmness in plastic organisation,

THE HERBERT BAKER ARCHITECTURAL SCHOLARSHIP . 1939 .



ADMINISTRATION ENTRANCE ELEVATION .

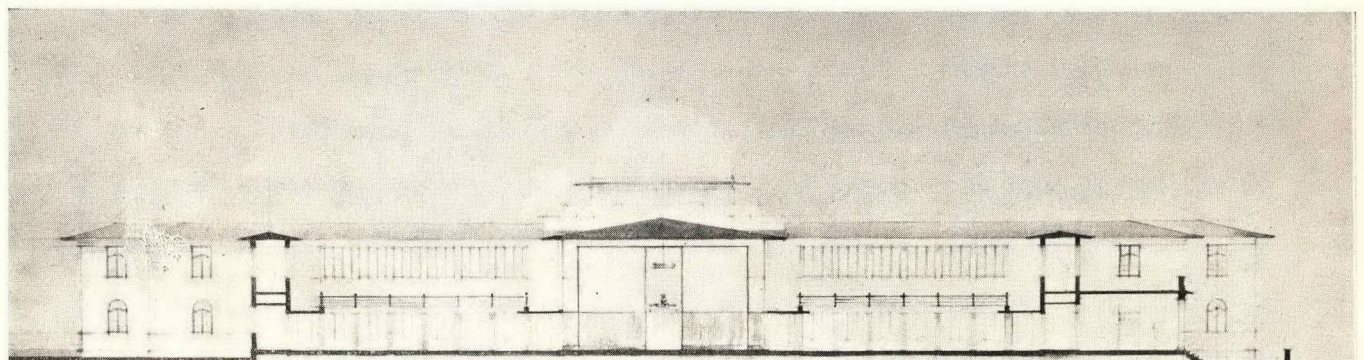


RESIDENCE GARDEN ELEVATION .

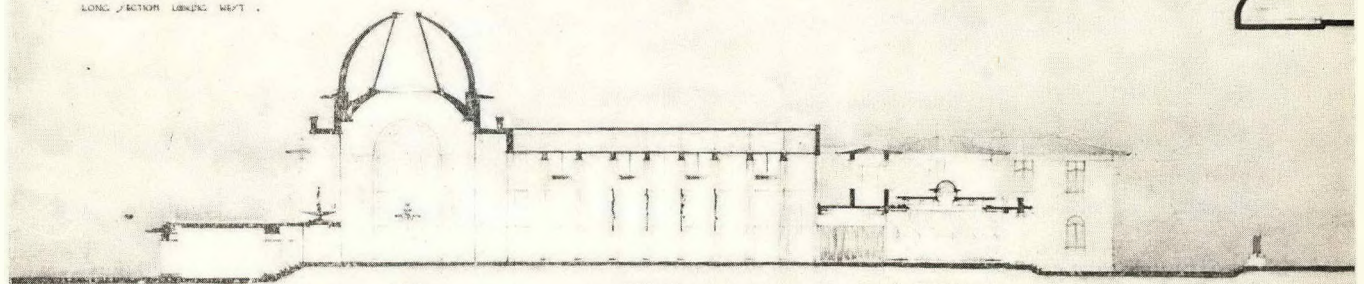
No 12

THE WINNING DESIGN

By D. L. WATSON



LONG SECTION LOOKING WEST .



CROSS SECTION LOOKING NORTH .

No 12

3. A Sense of Structure.

A requisite of a complete architectural conception is a clearly perceivable relationship between volume and structure. One assumes that all the candidates would have appreciated the fact that all past architecture reveals a structural basis which is never obscured. Such expressions of their period as the Greek temple, the Roman *thermae* and the modern stadium convincingly demonstrate this quality. In the present scheme little attempt has been made to establish such a notation. A sketchily suggested combination of stone masonry and reinforced concrete appears to be the method of construction adopted. This inevitably fails in effect where the discrepancy between the limitations of classical materials and the requirements of function clash. It is, of course, obvious that function (in the shape of long spans for verandah ceilings and *porte cochère*) must be satisfied, and that the veneer of classical elements be reduced to a travesty of their distant prototypes.

4. An Appreciation of Modern Technique.

The development in the technique of building since the beginning of the century leads to the assumption that the architect be conscious of the methods arising from this development and be able to make constructive use of them. A creative interpretation of modern construction must bring about a solution consistent with the demands of contemporary life. An example of this creative aspect can be found in the use of glass to establish significant relationships between interior volume and outer space. Study of the drawings of this scheme does not reveal an appreciation of this new potentiality.

At the least one looks for consistency of technique in an arbitrarily chosen "style." Here, however, the designer has casually enlisted the aid of a technique whose right to existence as aesthetic he ostensibly denies. Such detailed analysis as the drawings permit indicates little attempt to consider problems of surface treatment, lighting or fenestration. An appreciation of these integral factors would obviously fit the architect to carry out intelligent research in all historical fields.

5. Ability to Present the Potentialities of the Scheme.

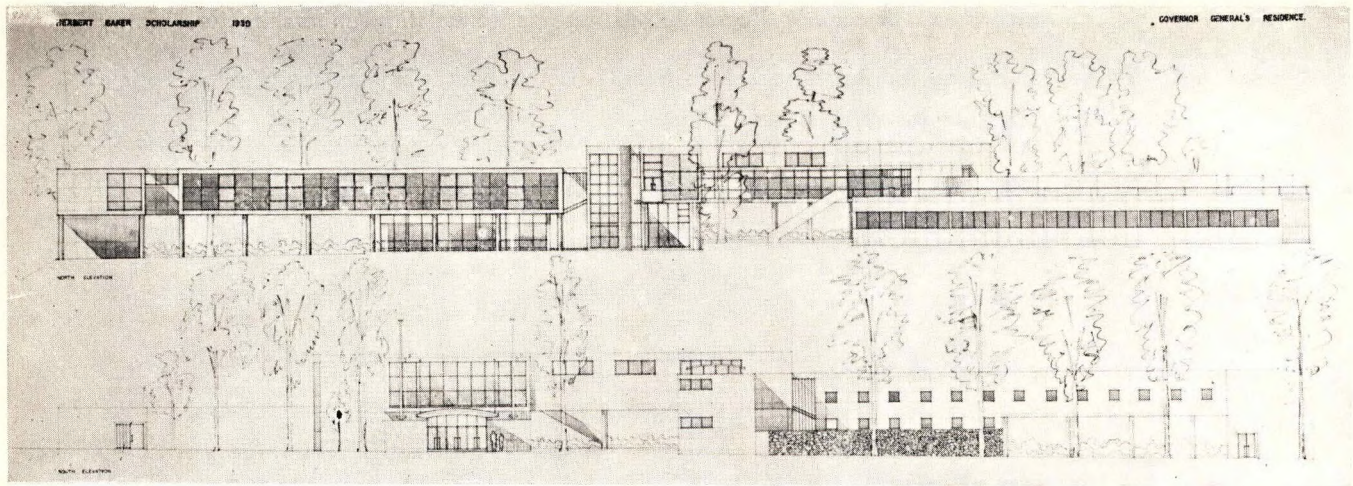
This aspect is stressed not merely because of the necessity for clear and attractive presentation of the competition drawings, but more because of the use the scholar can make of this gift in recording the

results of his classical researches. A capacity for sustained care in formulating an architectural entity and an indication of true feeling for the very real relationship between drawing and building are prime qualities in the creative architect, and are no less vital in one who hopes to interpret the architecture of the past. The drawings do not reach the standard set by some of those submitted in the same medium in the past.

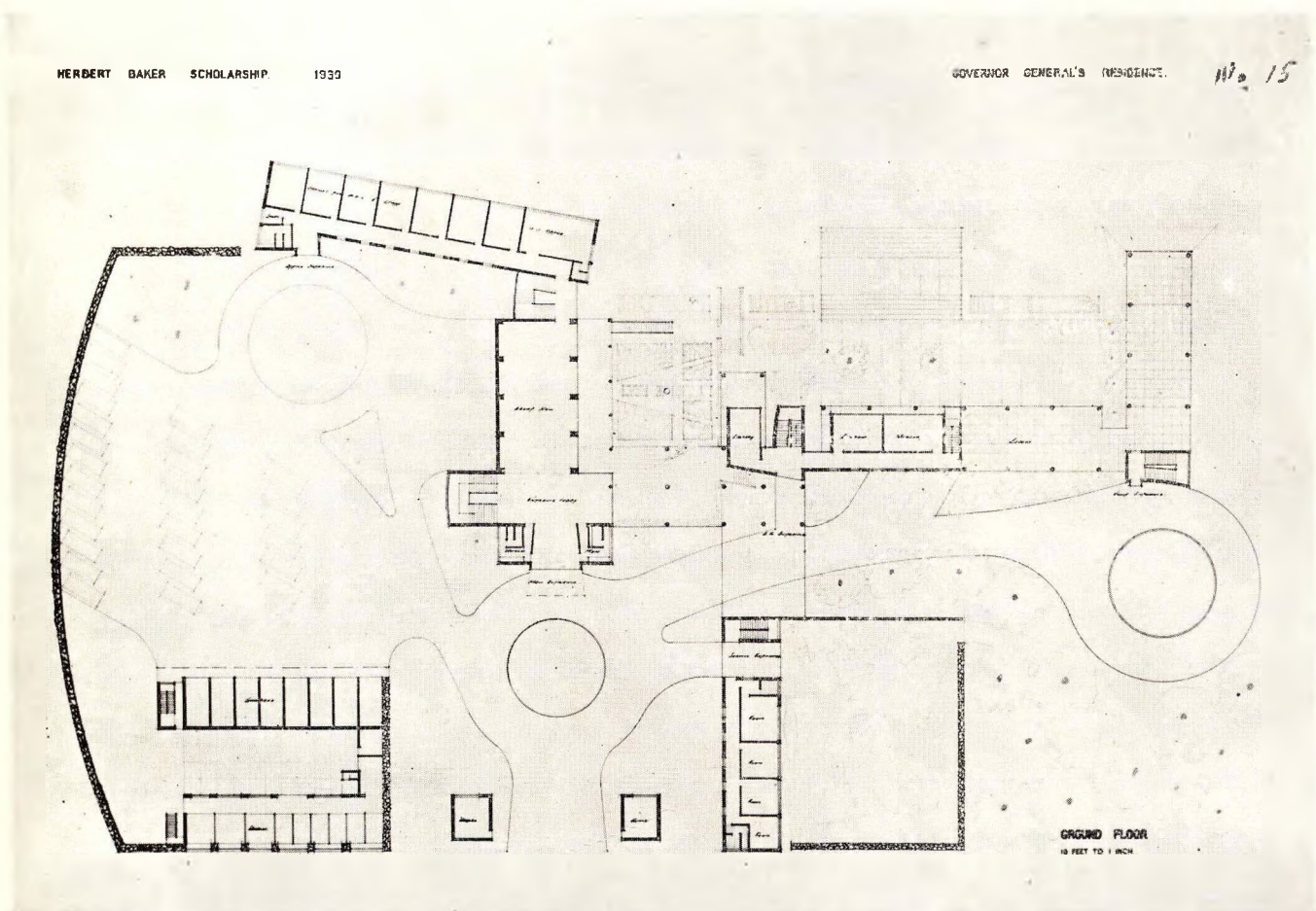
A different approach to the problem set can be studied in the scheme illustrated overleaf (No. 15). This scheme has been selected for detailed analysis because, of all the designs submitted, it represents most clearly an opposite standpoint to that of the winner.

I. Creative Ability.

The most striking characteristic of this scheme is the freshness and breadth of approach in the handling and disposition of the elements of the whole complex. The site has been imaginatively developed to embrace a generous open scheme in real contact with the surrounding countryside. This effect has been achieved by the proper separation and expression of diverse elements and a frank recognition of the practical issues involved. The scheme retains as well an essential architectural unity and a fitting sense of enclosure. It is to be regretted that the candidate, having successfully established the main lines of his scheme, was unable to bring a similar degree of rational expression to the working out, and relating, of the various components. Methods of architectural treatment and structural systems familiar to the contemporary school have been too easily assimilated and used without sufficient critical selection or sense of fitness.



ELEVATIONS AND GROUND FLOOR PLAN SCHEME No. 15



2. Sense of Organisation.

Again the grouping of the buildings shows a commendable sense of arrangement, but the failure to reconcile the detail functions of the scheme is apparent. The great hall lacks clear-cut expression, not so much as an entity, but more in its working relationship to the remainder of the scheme. Though it is true that the suggestion of terracing and link with the garden is good, it must be considered unsatisfactory to use the hall as a circulating link between the administration block and the domestic units. While the principle of extended circulation is a basic contribution to the modern idiom of planning, too great a reliance on this technique is bound to result in palpable distortion and lack of balance. The narrow wing containing corridor and room in its width is not a general solution for all cases. For example, the use of a corridor for the dual purpose of approach and service circulation results in an unfortunate situation for the Governor-General's private suite. A questionable reading of the meaning of "articulation" is shown by the unbalanced emphasis given to various elements. The Governor-General's private dining room and the banqueting hall, while correctly served from the same kitchen, are hastily placed within service zones and with unjustifiable aspects. On the other hand, circulation elements such as the corridor and staircase are placed on the north side, and the latter is even articulated.

3. A Sense of Structure.

A system of structure has been suggested showing a working knowledge of current methods. In the scheme as a whole this is given a commensurate interpretation, although in the case of the great hall there is lacking a sense of structural scale and boldness of conception.

4. An Appreciation of Modern Technique.

Internally the scheme shows a feeling for organised wall and window areas, while externally the treatment of the domestic wings and the main entrance to the great hall in particular reflects the intelligent and imaginative use of a developing technique of surface definition.

5. Ability to Present the Potentialities of the Scheme.

In spite of the favourable points emerging from the previous comments, the presentation of the scheme



P E R S P E C T I V E

S C H E M E N o . 7



B I R D ' S - E Y E V I E W

S C H E M E N o . 1

only very partially conveys its possibilities. In fact, the indifferent drawing in some parts tends to obscure what latent merit the scheme possesses. It seems a pity that this candidate did not give the fullest possible expression to the fundamentals underlying his approach. There seems no doubt that the attitude indicated by the scheme suggests ability for creative research, but the impatience shown in minutiae might have been a severe handicap in this sphere. The other schemes reflecting a similar approach show to a varying extent the same promise and the same faults. There is no lack of imagination, however, in Scheme No. 7, of which we illustrate the perspective drawing. Scheme No. 11 appears unnecessarily restricted in plan and layout.

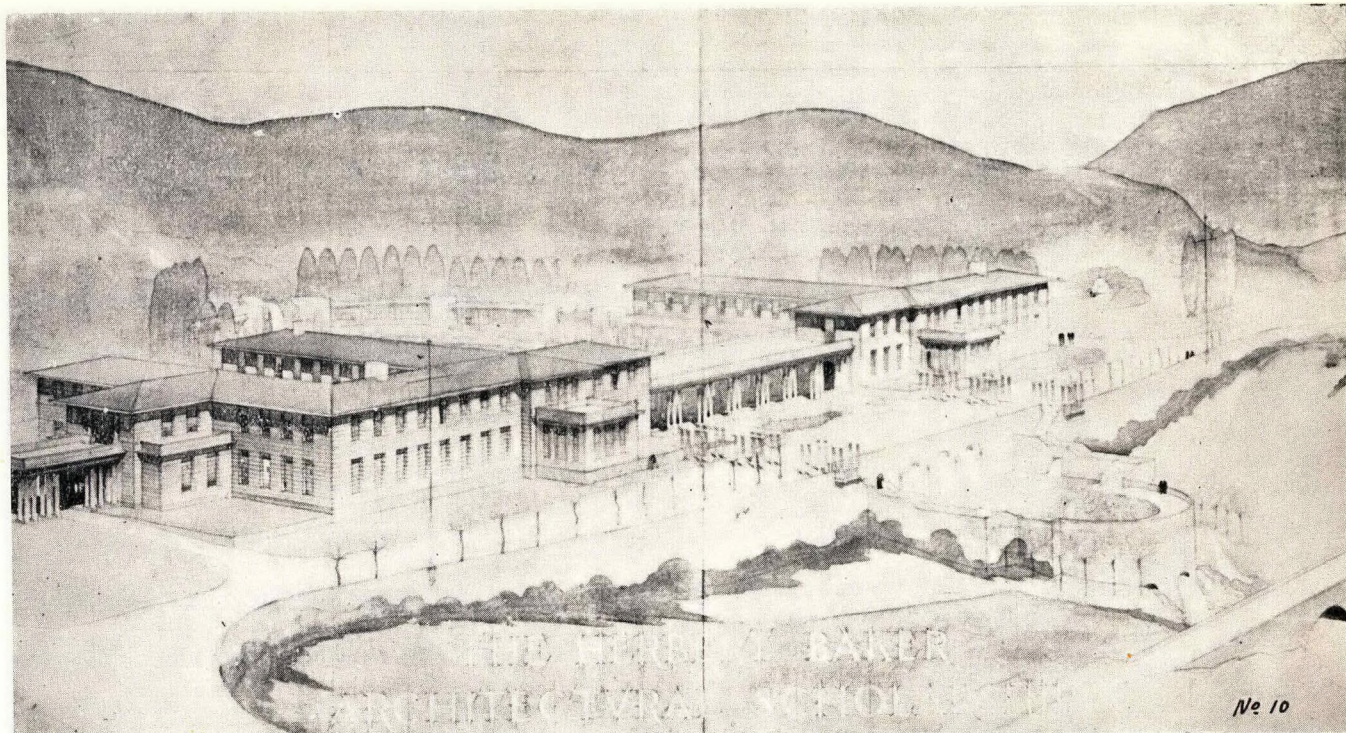
In the picturesque medium Scheme No. 1 appears to offer, on practical and sentimental grounds, more than can be found in the winning scheme, although when considered under the analytical headings established above, it obviously fails in many respects to offer an acceptable solution. The scheme shows understanding of the vernacular idiom, as can be seen in the accompanying bird's-eye view. Ability in this direction, however, cannot be considered creative, and the shortcomings resultant on forcing the requirements to fit a stylistic nucleus must produce an incomplete solution. A real attempt has been made by the candidate to evolve a workable plan, and, in spite of the handicap, self-imposed, of restricting the components to an artificial compactness, several attractive detail arrangements have been achieved.

If one takes up the viewpoint that appears to have guided the award made by the assessors, one must also seriously take into consideration the qualities displayed in Scheme No. 10. For if general workability of the scheme were a criterion, then the winning design must have been rejected. If, however, sentimental appeal only were allowed to weigh, then it is surprising that Scheme No. 10 did not have prior claim to the award. The adoption of a "dramatic" motif resulted in contradictions in the disposition of the accommodation, but the feeling for "stylistic" application shows a flair for the medium certainly lacking in the winning design.

The assessors' report, which was displayed with the drawings at the time of their exhibition must have come as a great disappointment to the entrants, in that a reasoned and detailed criticism of all the final designs was not included. Thus they were not given the benefit of the assessors' critical opinions of their efforts, nor did the brief statement placing the first award give sufficient indication of the merit that the assessors saw in it. The assessors state that the competition "has proved too complex in the matter of planning for the competitors." Since a large entry from all parts of South Africa was made, it may be assumed that the work submitted here automatically establishes a standard. This level of achievement exists in terms of its own time and place and cannot arbitrarily be defined as falling below some externally imposed standard, real or imaginary. Therefore if the programme proved too complex the fault may well lie not in the work of the candidates but in the demands of the programme itself, especially with reference to the extremely restricted time allowed for the initial solution of the problem. Under these circumstances it is not surprising that no "thoroughly workable and satisfactory scheme" was produced by any candidate. The assessors found serious disabilities in all the schemes submitted, not excluding the winner. In the light of these common disadvantages, it is to be regretted that the positive merits that were perceived in the winning design were not indicated in the report. The final paragraph of the report, in fact, far from giving support to the award, bears a peculiarly negative significance which renders the decision even more surprising.

The results of this competition as a whole point to the fact that the current method of selecting a Baker scholar for classical study is no longer adequate to its purpose. The disparity between what the successful candidate is called upon to do in the course of the competition and what he would be required to undertake in the field of classical research and reconstruction is obvious. There is no discernible connection between these two activities.

This is not the occasion to put forward constructive proposals for the administration of the Baker Scholarship, but it appears obvious that drastic review and revision are needed if Baker's idealistic intention is to be fulfilled.



PERSPECTIVE SCHEME No. 10

ASSESSORS' REPORT TO TRUSTEES

FINAL ASSESSING

After careful consideration of the schemes submitted by the ten candidates admitted to the final competition, we beg to report as follows :

1. We find that the programme set for this competition has proved too complex in the matter of planning for the competitors, and that the finalists have, in this respect, failed to produce a thoroughly workable and satisfactory scheme.
2. It has been difficult, owing to the varying merits and demerits of the different schemes submitted, to make our award. As already pointed out, the planning in all the schemes submitted leaves much to be desired, but of these we feel that Scheme No. 12 is the most promising all-round project submitted, and that the author thereof is the candidate most likely to benefit from the award of the scholarship. We therefore unanimously recommend that the scholarship be awarded to Candidate No. 12.
3. We regret that the successful candidate has chosen a motive which appears, in our view, to be somewhat slavishly based on features of design which have been successful in previous competitions for the Baker Scholarship.

(Signed) GORDON LEITH,

C. P. WALGATE,

A. STANLEY FURNER.

Johannesburg,

January 23rd, 1940.

HERBERT BAKER ARCHITECTURAL SCHOLARSHIP (1939)

Subject: A RESIDENCE FOR A GOVERNOR-GENERAL

PROGRAMME

SITE

The site chosen is in a well-wooded kloof, some distance from the city. The site commands a fine view to the north. The approach is from the south, through a dip in the hills.

A site plan showing levels is attached.

STYLE AND COST

The matter of style is left to the candidate. While the question of cost is not fundamental, the scheme should be reasonably economical.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

(A) Entrance gates; guard-house; gate-keeper's lodge.

(B) Entrance forecourt leading to a spacious lobby, with cloakrooms for ladies and gentlemen. The lobby should communicate with a lofty great hall (the area of which must not be more than 1,800 square feet). The great hall will be used, on occasions, as a ballroom.

Banqueting room (approximately 800 square feet).

Drawing room (approximately 400 square feet) for Her Excellency.

(C) Governor-General's Private Suite.

(i) Private dining room. Library, to be used as a smoking room and card room.
Boudoir for Her Excellency.

(These should preferably be on ground floor level, and have direct access to part of the garden.)

(ii) Large bedroom; bathroom; dressing room; porch. Two or three additional bedrooms, for children and nurses. Large nursery.

(These should be on first floor level, and communicate with reception rooms

C (i) by separate stair.)

(D) Suites for Guests.

Entirely separate from the foregoing, two suites for guests, complete with double bedroom, bathroom, dressing room, etc.

(E) Kitchen and Service Wing.

- (i) Kitchens (to be lofty), pantries, serveries, larders, sculleries.
- (ii) Servants' quarters. Suite for housekeeper : bedroom, bathroom, sitting room. Common room. Three bedrooms for maids. Suite for cooks and kitchen maids.

(F) The following offices are to be provided, with a separate entrance from the outside, but also to communicate with the main entrance lobby :

Large office for the Governor-General; and six or seven offices for the A.D.C. and staff, and clerical staff.

NOTE : (a) A slight modification of the aforementioned accommodation, if desired by the candidate, will be permitted.

(b) It is suggested that (A), (B), (C) (i), (E) (i) and (F) should be on the ground floor.

(c) Accommodation for the A.D.C. and official staff will be provided in small houses on the site, but do not form part of this programme.

(G) Outbuildings.

Garages and stables (which need not be contiguous). Accommodation, outside, to be attached to garage for two chauffeurs. Compound for native servants. Provision to be arranged in the layout for parking space for visitors' cars.

D R A W I N G S R E Q U I R E D

- (i) The main building is to be illustrated by means of a plan of each floor, one section, and two elevations to a scale of 1/16th in. to 1 ft.
- (ii) A sketch layout plan, to a scale of 40 ft. to 1 in., is required.
- (iii) Free-hand sketches of any portion of the scheme will be welcomed.

N.B.: Elaborate drawings are not required at this stage of the competition.

On behalf of the Trustees,

Johannesburg,

July 19th, 1939.

J. S. LEWIS,

Registrar.

THE CAPE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1939

MEMBERSHIP

The membership at the close of the year consisted of 107 practising, 41 salaried, 12 retired, two absentee members and one Life Member, a total of 163 members. The death is recorded with deep regret of E. Osbourn, J. J. Niven, H. A. McQueen, and E. Austin Cooke.

MEETINGS

One Annual General Meeting, the 40th, 17 Provincial Committee meetings, besides numerous sub-Committee meetings, and meetings with other bodies were held during the year. The following is a record of members' attendances at Provincial Committee meetings, out of a possible 17:—

R. F. R. Day	.....	Attendances	17
L. A. Elsworth	.....	"	12
Fred. M. Glennie	.....	"	9
Douglas Hoets	.....	"	17
B. St. C. Lightfoot	.....	"	13
Brian Mansergh	.....	"	11
R. F. Ohlsson	.....	"	15
J. K. Parker	.....	"	5
Hubert L. Roberts	.....	"	13

Note : Mr. Parker was absent on leave overseas during part of the year.

PATRON OF THE CAPE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE

We have to announce that Capt. the Hon. F. A. Joubert, Administrator of the Cape Province, has kindly extended his patronage to the Cape Institute. Capt. Joubert

succeeds the Hon. J. H. Conradie, whose untimely death took place recently, he having been our patron during the past nine years.

FINANCIAL

The audited accounts attached to this report show the income to have been £565 3s. 5d. and the expenditure £587 17s. 11d., leaving a debit balance amounting to £22 14s. 6d.

This debit, when compared with a profit of £61 19s. 5d. last year, is mainly attributed to an additional outlay in connection with the 1939 Congress at Port Elizabeth, and on the credit side of the account to (1) Suspension of the Grant from Central Council and (2) reduction of R.I.B.A. moieties. It will be noted from the balance sheet that capital account has been augmented to the extent of £100, being proceeds of a bequest made to the Institute by the late E. Osbourn. The attention of members is directed to the large amount of unpaid subscriptions at the close of the year (£143 3s. 6d.), with an urgent request that those who are in arrear will meet their obligations with as little delay as possible.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

The annual meeting of the Central Council was held in Port Elizabeth on April 3rd and 6th, 1939. It was deemed advisable that its deliberations should synchronise with the Congress of the Institute of South African Architects held simultaneously in the same city.

The activities of the Council, and subsequently of its Executive Committee, were briefly as follow:—

Owing to strong political advice it was decided not to proceed with Clause 3 (c) of the Act during next session (1940) of Parliament, and the Institute had no option but to act upon this advice, particularly having regard to the outbreak of war. Sub-division of the Scale of Fees has again received considerable attention by the Council. The Cape Institute, in this connection, has re-affirmed its former unanimous decision not to reconsider sub-division of the full 6% in any circumstances and not

to agree to the sub-division of the first $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the Fees as a basis for the settlement of disputes arising from abandoned work, the opinion being held that the revised Scale of Charges of the R.I.B.A., which provides for abandoned work being assessed Quantum Meruit presents the only satisfactory and equitable solution of the problem. In consequence of these considered views, the Cape Institute has proposed an amendment to Clause (a) (i) of the regulation, under the heading of "Abandoned Work," to give effect to the proposed innovation. Whilst the question of fees was under discussion by your Committee, the definition "Preliminary Sketches" was raised, and attention directed to the fact that this description (as it appears in the Scale of Charges) is inadequate and does less than justice in the lay and legal minds to the initial designs prepared by an architect for his client. It was accordingly unanimously agreed, after the matter had been fully discussed, that "Preliminary Sketches" should be deleted from the Scale of Fees, and the term "Preliminary Drawings" substituted therefor. The adoption of the proposed change has been recommended to the Central Council and will be considered in due course. Reverting for a moment to the Cape Institute's proposal that the lead of the R.I.B.A. in assessing abandoned work upon a Quantum Meruit basis, in place of a hard and fast $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ as formerly, should be followed, it is recalled that most disputes between architects and their clients have arisen from this cause, and when brought to Court the awards have, as a rule, been assessed upon a Quantum Meruit basis. A recent case of this nature, in which the magistrate gave an adverse judgment, was taken to appeal by the Central Council, primarily with the object of establishing the validity of the existing Scale of Fees, but the judgment of the magistrate was upheld, the architect having withheld his alternative Quantum Meruit claim in order to clarify the issue. This case would appear to undermine the stability of the first $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ for all time unless the fee is confirmed and agreed to by both parties at the commencement of the work. Amongst other items dealt with by the Central Council and the Executive Committee were the revision of the Conditions of Building Contract; the provision

of books in which to issue and record variation orders; signing of buildings; professional propaganda; revision of Conditions of Competition; national registration of reservists, etc., etc.

Members would learn with deep satisfaction that our President, Mr. Richard Day, was unanimously elected to fill the high office of President-in-Chief of the Institute of South African Architects for the 1939-40 session.

The Cape's representatives on the Central Council, Mr. Richard Day and Mr. Owen Eaton, are cordially thanked for their services.

THE PORT ELIZABETH CONGRESS

The Congress of the Institute, which took place at Port Elizabeth in April last, was undoubtedly a crowning success from all points of view—educational, social and fraternal.

The papers read were of a very high and stimulating order, and the general arrangements of the Congress, in the capable hands of Mr. Owen Eaton, Honorary Secretary of the Local Committee, were a model of efficient organisation. Added to this the enjoyable social functions and other forms of entertainment provided by the Port Elizabeth Local Committee for the benefit of the delegates were thoroughly appreciated. Tribute must also be paid to the other resident members of the Institute for their profuse hospitality.

THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS

During the year an appeal was addressed to all the allied societies of the R.I.B.A. for funds with which to alleviate unforeseen financial difficulties arising from the impossibility of disposing of its old premises, the sale of which it was anticipated would provide the necessary funds (or partly so) for the payment of the new building in Portland Street. We immediately supplemented the appeal of the R.I.B.A. by an appeal to all our members, and we are glad to be able to report a satisfactory response thereto. We also agreed to a reduction from $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ to 25% upon the moieties annually refunded to us by the R.I.B.A.

We fear that the outbreak of war is more than likely to have accentuated the R.I.B.A.'s financial difficulties, but it is our sincere hope that they and their advisors will, nevertheless, succeed in evolving a scheme that will postpone their embarrassment until more favourable conditions prevail.

THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

The number of students attending the architectural classes of the University of Cape Town during 1939 was 66. Of these 15 were first year, 11 were second year, six were third year, five were fourth year, 13 were fifth and sixth year, and 12 were students or architects taking part-time or refresher courses, plus four first year quantity surveying students. The following number of students qualified during the year : Six for degree course, two for diploma course, one for certificate and one for special qualifying examinations.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND EXAMINATIONS

A proposal has been made and adopted in principle by the Standing Committee that the regulations governing special qualifying examinations should be revised, to the end that this method of obtaining registration be either annulled or greatly curtailed. Appreciation is recorded of the services of Mr. Brian Mansergh, who for years past has represented the Cape in the important activities of the Standing Committee.

CHAPTER OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS

Under a recent arrangement made between quantity surveyors, master builders and architects, it has been arranged that the value of houses in respect of which quantities must be taken out is increased from the old rule of £2,500 to £3,000. Members, we feel sure, will not be slow to appreciate the benefit of this concession, particularly in the case of clients who jib at an extra charge for services which they neither appreciate nor understand.

THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN

We have to report that the City building regulations, which we were informed a year ago were approaching completion, appear still to be marking time, to the serious detriment of the building public and the inconvenience of the architectural profession. Your Committee, fully appreciating the serious difficulties under which members have to work, and the consequent handicaps imposed on the building public, are giving this matter constant attention.

That the Institute is always ready to collaborate with the City Council is exemplified by the fact that early in the year joint meetings between the Town Planning Section of the City Engineer's Department and a sub-committee of our members were held for the purpose of discussing and considering an important town planning scheme relating to the Green and Sea Point areas. After a full and free exchange of views they were able to arrive at a wholly satisfactory solution of the various problems of the scheme.

Early in the year under review a delegation of representatives of the Institute interviewed the Plans and Development Committee of the City Council for the purpose of making formal complaint regarding the difficulties and delays experienced by architects and their clients in obtaining approval to plans submitted to the authorities. A number of concrete instances were given by the delegates showing the serious results and financial losses suffered by potential builders whose schemes were frustrated or entirely abandoned for the lack of prompt decision after plans had been prepared and submitted for verification. Another complaint made by the delegates was that clients were frequently able to get plans passed on their own initiative. The matter has not yet been brought to finality, as the Chairman, at the close of the interview, asked the delegates to furnish the Plans and Development Committee with a formal written statement giving specific instances, together with full details, in substantiation of the grievances complained of. This statement, after careful editing, is now approaching completion.

It has to be admitted that to a certain extent the delay in passing plans may be

due to the state of flux existing in the building regulations, the old (which stand) presumably being interlarded with revisions, of which architects have not been made acquainted. This assumption is an added reason why the complete revision and publication of the regulations is a matter of paramount importance to the Mother City, and is an urgent work with which no considerations should be permitted to interfere.

THE BUILDING INDUSTRY UNDER WAR CONDITIONS

Soon after the declaration of war early in September, your Committee convened a meeting consisting of representatives of the Master Builders' Association, the Chapter of Quantity Surveyors and the Cape Institute of Architects. The Chairman (Mr. Day) explained that the meeting had been called for the purpose of considering the position that had arisen as a result of the war and exploring the possibility of obtaining firm prices of building materials and thereby re-establishing conditions of firm tendering in the building industry. If this were not done, continued the Chairman, he thought it probable that the building public would postpone all but essential building work, which would mean a serious dislocation of our country's second largest industry.

He understood the Government, Provincial and Municipal bodies desired to proceed with all their proposed building schemes, but it was necessary to reassure the public, and he hoped this meeting would be able to devise a method of doing so. After the matter had been discussed at length by representatives of the Master Builders' Association and the quantity surveyors, it was unanimously agreed, inter alia, (a) that it is desirable that some method of stabilising prices for building materials be established; (b) a request be made to vendors of building materials that in quoting for materials for any building contract the building contractor be given the assurance that the firm prices quoted would hold good for a period of at least four days from the date on which tenders close; (c) that the Institute of Architects be asked to circularise its members requesting them to expedite the acceptance of the successful

tender for any contract and to notify the successful tenderer of his selection within four days of the date on which tenders close; and (d) that the Chairman and Mr. Labdon collaborate in drafting a statement (for publication in the Press) intended to re-establish the confidence of the building public and assure it that building costs have not increased excessively.

At a subsequent meeting of representatives of the bodies above referred to, the following further decisions were arrived at: That the Institute of Architects be asked to circularise its members requesting them (a) to include in their invitations to builders to tender an instruction that if the tenderer is unable to obtain firm prices for any items in the bill or specification, he should communicate that fact to the architect before some specified date which should be several days earlier than the date fixed for closing of tenders, and (b) upon being reasonably satisfied that a firm price is not ordinarily obtainable for any particular item, immediately to notify all persons invited to tender that the item in question must be treated as a P.C. item for the purposes of their tenders.

A further meeting on this occasion between representatives of the Cape Town Hardware Merchants' Association and the Institute was held for the purpose of ventilating and hearing the difficulties of the former body in relation to war prices and tendering. After an exchange of views, it was finally arranged that the Cape Institute of Architects be asked to agree to builders' surety clauses, including guarantee of payment for P.C. and provisional items only, as a temporary measure to meet war conditions.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITIONS

The following competitions were promoted during the year: Nigel Town Hall, Supreme Court, Lagos (subsequently abandoned), Schotse Kloof Housing Scheme, Tuberculosis Preventorium, Child Life Protection Society and Sunshine Home for Children.

The winners of these competitions (some of which were limited) are most heartily

congratulated upon their success.

C.P.I. BRONZE MEDAL AND OTHER PRIZES

The award of the 1939 Bronze Medal for the best example of architecture executed within the Province of the Cape of Good Hope will be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

The John Perry Students Prize of five guineas for the best work done during the third year's course at the University has been awarded to Messrs. C. A. Bowie and A. J. M. Langley.

The C.P.I. Students' Prize of five guineas for the best work done during the final year of the University course has been awarded to Mr. L. G. Cohen.

EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition of the three premiated and local designs submitted for the Nigel Town Hall Competition was held early in the year. By the courtesy of Professor Thornton White an exhibition of prize competition drawings loaned by the Royal Institute of British Architects took place at the University of Cape Town School of Architecture in September/October last. Owing to the outbreak of war the annual exhibition of contemporary art has been postponed.

Mr. F. K. KENDALL

It will be remembered that a proposal was made at our last Annual General Meeting that Mr. Kendall should have conferred upon him the honour of life membership by the Institute, and this is now a fait accompli.

Mr. Kendall's many years of service on behalf of the profession, his professional probity and his genial personality render him a fitting recipient of any honour it is in our power to bestow upon him.

THE LIBRARY

The thanks of the Institute are extended to Mr. T. Moore for a gift of ten bound volumes of the Year Book published by the Central Council. One volume (the 16th) of the Wren Society has been acquired by purchase.

MISCELLANEOUS

By the courtesy of Professor Thornton White, members were invited to attend two lectures given by Mr. E. H. Berry, M.A. (S.A.), I.E., etc., in June last. The subject of the first lecture was "The Science of Seeing—the Relation between Vision and Lighting from the Designer's Point of View," and of the second "Illumination Design Data : Data for Architects in Designing Lighting for all Types of Building." A visit of members to the New South African Mutual Building, Cape Town, took place on 22nd December, at the kind invitation of the General Manager of the Society and the associated architects, Messrs. Fred. M. Glennie and Louw & Louw.

R. F. R. DAY,

President.

TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE

THE COMMITTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1939.

To the Members of the Transvaal Provincial Institute.

Your Committee has pleasure in submitting this, the Thirteenth Annual Report, together with the Annual Balance Sheet and Accounts, for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

MEMBERSHIP

The membership at the close of the year consisted of 172 Practising, 122 Salaried, 14 Absentees and 36 Retired, a total of 344 members, equal to 59% of the total membership of the Institute of South African Architects.

During the year under review 15 new members were enrolled, three members died, two resigned, and three were transferred to other Provincial Institutes, the increase in membership as compared with the previous year being seven.

The new members enrolled during 1939 were Messrs. W. J. Bain, W. J. G. Ellens, F. F. Freeman, C. Fletcher, E. M. E. Gourley, M. Hermer, A. M. Hodge, E. Lucke, E. W. N. Mallows, E. Mauthner, F. W. Mullins, W. D. van der B. Pretorius, J. M. van der Westhuysen, E. W. R. Waugh, and A. F. Wilson.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that your Committee has to record the deaths of Messrs. C. C. Deuchar, E. L. Keenor and C. Wallace.

Mr. Deuchar was a member of the Provincial Committee for some years and was President for the year 1932/33.

COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

Following the election of the Committee at the annual meeting in March, 1939, Mr. Rex Martienssen was elected President, Mr. D. L. Nurcombe Senior Vice-President and Mr. N. M. Eaton, Junior Vice-President for the ensuing year.

During the year 12 ordinary and three special meetings of the Committee have been held and following is a record of members' attendances thereat :

Rex Martienssen (President)	11
D. L. Nurcombe (Senior Vice-President)	3
N. M. Eaton (Junior Vice-President)	11
N. T. Cowin	12
S. C. Dowsett	12
D. S. Haddon	14
R. Howden	6
G. E. Gordon Leith	5
W. G. McIntosh	13
A. J. Marshall	13
Professor G. E. Pearse	10
H. G. Tomkyns	8

During the year Messrs. Nurcombe, Howden, Leith and Tomkyns were absent on leave for various periods.

Your Committee has been assisted throughout the year by Sub-Committees on Enquiries, Finance, Practice, The Journal, The Small House Bureau and The South African Academy; and the thanks of the Institute are tendered to members of those Sub-Committees for the valuable services rendered by them.

CENTRAL COUNCIL

The 1939/40 Central Council met at Port Elizabeth on the 3rd and 6th April, 1939. At this meeting Mr. R. F. R. Day (Cape Provincial Institute) was elected President-in-Chief and Mr. D. S. Haddon Vice-President-in-Chief.

Your Institute's representatives on the Central Council during the past year were :

Mr. Rex Martienssen	alternate	Professor G. E. Pearse
Mr. N. M. Eaton	"	Mr. H. G. Tomkyns
Mr. D. S. Haddon	"	Mr. Gordon Leith

Mr. R. Howden	„	Mr. A. J. Marshall
Mr. W. G. McIntosh	„	Mr. N. T. Cowin

CONGRESS

A Congress of Members of the South African Institute of Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors was held in Port Elizabeth on the 4th and 5th April, 1939, and was attended by a number of members of your Provincial Institute. A report of this Congress and the papers read thereat were published in the August and September issues of the "South African Architectural Record."

FINANCE

The Revenue and Expenditure Accounts and Balance Sheets as at 31st December, 1939, of the Institute account, the "South African Architectural Record" account and the Benevolent Fund are attached to this report.

Institute Account: It will be noted that the excess of revenue over expenditure for the year, amounting to £111 14s. 6d., shows a decrease of £75 0s. 3d. as compared with the previous year.

Subscriptions paid during the year were less than in the previous year by £71, whilst sundry revenue showed an increase of £13.

On the expenditure side there is an additional amount of £45 towards the expenses of representatives of this Institute to the Congress at Port Elizabeth, which was voted at the Annual Meeting last March. Administrative expenses show a small reduction of £6.

South African Architectural Record Account: This account showed a loss for the year of £110 8s. 9d., due to the cancellation or suspension of several advertisements after the outbreak of war.

Revenue and expenditure for the year actually balanced, but an amount of £111 19s. 1d. was written off as bad debts owing to three or four advertising companies having gone into liquidation. This, therefore, accounts for the loss.

It is pleasing to note that the support of our advertisers is being well maintained

for 1940, and the expenditure on editorial matter has been curtailed so as to come well within current monthly revenue.

O U T B R E A K O F W A R

Your Committee appreciates that the profession has been seriously affected through the outbreak of war in Europe. The question of unemployment has had the serious consideration of the Central Council and your Provincial Committee, and steps have been taken to urge the Government and the Provincial Administration to place as much work as possible with practising members.

J O I N T C O M M I T T E E — A R C H I T E C T S A N D Q U A N T I T Y S U R V E Y O R S

Meetings of the Joint Committee have been held throughout the year, and on two occasions the Committee met representatives of the Witwatersrand Master Builders' Association.

Circulars have been sent to members regarding matters on which agreement was come to at these joint meetings.

A R C H I T E C T S ' S M A L L H O U S E B U R E A U

Sufficient plans were received during the year for the inauguration of this Bureau, and the Standing Committee is now checking these plans and the specifications in preparation for their incorporation in albums.

Several enquiries have been received from the South African Railways, Municipalities, Building Societies and individuals; and it is anticipated that there will be considerable demand for these small house plans when the Bureau comes into operation.

Members may submit further plans, which will be incorporated in the albums as they are received.

E N Q U I R I E S

Several enquiries were made by the Committee into alleged cases of unprofessional conduct during the year.

A R C H I T E C T U R A L E D U C A T I O N

Architectural education is well established at the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Pretoria. The Witwatersrand School has now 122 students taking Architecture and 48 taking Quantity Surveying. At the Pretoria School there are 33 students taking Architecture.

The Fifteenth Annual Exhibition of Students' Work and Prize-giving of the School of Architecture, University of the Witwatersrand, was held in August last.

Prizes were presented by your Institute, Mr. D. M. Burton, Mr. A. S. Furner, Mr. Gordon Leith and Messrs. Farrow and Laing.

The Head of the Department of Architecture expressed great appreciation of the grant of £100 by your Provincial Institute towards the Architectural Library.

PRIZES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Competitions were held during the year for the Herbert Baker Architectural Scholarship and the Robert Howden Prize.

In the Baker Scholarship the award for the winning design was made to Mr. D. L. Watson.

No award has yet been made for the Robert Howden Prize.

ARCHITECTURAL PLAQUE

A design for the proposed plaque has been prepared by Mr. W. de S. Hendrikz and submitted to the Sub-Committee, but in view of the present conditions no further steps are being taken in connection with this matter for the moment.

THE JOURNAL

The Central Council decided last year not to proceed with the proposal to acquire the "South African Architectural Record" as a "Union Journal."

Since then the Cape Provincial Institute has agreed to recognise the "South African Architectural Record" as its official journal, and this is now published as the journal of the four Provincial Institutes and the Chapter of Quantity Surveyors.

The Committee expresses its thanks to Professor Pearse and Mr. Rex Martienssen, the Honorary Editors.

The thanks and appreciation of the Institute are also extended to the advertisers, whose support enables the continuation of this publication at its high standard of excellence.

Several more applications for copies of the journal were received during the year from various parts of the world, and articles appearing in the "Record" have been reproduced or quoted by architectural journals in Europe, the United States and Japan.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ACADEMY

The Twentieth Annual Exhibition was held in the Selborne Hall in March, 1939. The thanks of this Institute are expressed to the City Council of Johannesburg for its generous grant-in-aid and to the Academy Sub-Committee, the Transvaal Art Society, the Judges, the Hanging Committee, and all those willing helpers who assisted in making the Exhibition a success.

Appreciation and thanks are also extended to Messrs. D. F. Corlett & Co., W. F. Johnstone & Co., Mr. Coombes, Messrs. Sage & Co., Messrs. Trevail & Taylor and the Witwatersrand Technical College for assistance rendered and the loan of materials, etc., and to the local Press for their publicity support.

The Twenty-first Annual Exhibition is to be held from the 6th to the 18th May, 1940. Members are urged to support this Exhibition by sending in drawings of their current work.

BENEVOLENT FUND

During the past year the total revenue to this fund amounted to £83, whilst grants-in-aid totalled £123. Accumulated funds were reduced by £40, and the total funds at the end of the year amounted to £940.

GENERAL

Amongst other matters dealt with by your Committee during the year, the following may be mentioned :

(a) Lectures and Exhibitions: A series of lectures, to be held in Kelvin House, is

being arranged, and it is expected that the first of these will be given early in April.

- (b) Model Code of Building By-Laws for the Larger Towns of the Union : Draft copies of these by-laws have been submitted to, and considered by, your Committee, and it is expected that the model form will be adopted in the near future.
- (c) Architectural Centre : Your Committee has been considering the acquisition of a site on which to erect the Institute's offices, etc., and it hopes to report further on this matter at the Annual Meeting.
- (d) Exhibition : Institute of Architects of Malaya : The South African Institute of Architects was invited to send representative photographs and drawings of architectural work in South Africa to this exhibition, and a parcel of exhibits was duly despatched. The exhibition was held in October last, and a letter has been received conveying the sincere thanks of the Institute of Malaya for the work sent, which assisted largely in the success of their exhibition.
- (e) Variation Order Books : A standard form of Variation Order Book has been adopted by the Institute, and these books may be obtained at the Secretary's office.

PUBLICATIONS

The Committee desires to draw the attention of members to the following publications which are obtainable at the Secretary's offices :

Conditions of Contract Documents	.....	.....	1/-
Scale of Professional Charges	.....	.....	3d.
Certificate Books	.....	.....	2/6
Variation Order Books	.....	.....	3/-

By Order of the Committee.

A. S. PEARSE,

February, 1940.

Secretary.

A NOTE ON THE COVER ILLUSTRATION

METOPE FROM THE SIKYONIAN TREASURY AT DELPHI

This metope—representing cattle raiders returning home with their plunder—is one remaining of the Sikyonian Treasury at Delphi.

Of brown tufa, and measuring only $21\frac{1}{2}$ in. in height, it displays an amazing complexity of modelling within a very small scope.

The maximum projection from back to face is only $2\frac{3}{4}$ in., and on this fine difference is built up a composition with a powerful rhythmical movement which surges forward. So different is this arrangement from the usual formal and static scheme of the Attic sculptures that it seems likely that Ionian influence has strongly shaped its creation.

The vitality so clearly apparent in the photograph was emphasised by the further dimension contributed by polychrome, which was an integral factor in Greek sculpture.

We have here not only a single metope but a clue to a whole building infused with life and with humour—a building which epitomises the Greek zest for the present, for physical stimulus, and for the imposition of the artificial against the face of nature.

R.M.

PROFESSIONAL NOTES AND NEWS

QUANTITY RULE

The following notice is published for the information of members:—

" In accordance with the resolution passed at the Annual Congress of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers in South Africa held last year, the Quantity Rule of the Master Builders and Allied Trades Association (Witwatersrand) has been amended to read:—

' A member of the Association shall not submit a tender in competition with another member for any building work exceeding the value of £2,000, with a 10 per cent. margin (or tenders the sum total of which exceed £2,000 with a 10 per cent. margin), unless on quantities in accordance with the Standard System of Measurements to be provided by the party inviting tenders, which quantities must form the basis of the accepted tender. (This rule shall not apply to work on the Mines or to painting or repair work on existing buildings, or to electrical work.) ' "

TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE FOR 1940

Robert Howden, President; A. S. Furner, Senior Vice-President; W. Gordon McIntosh, Junior Vice-President; N. T. Cowin, S. C. Dowsett, N. M. Eaton, D. S. Haddon, G. E. Gordon Leith, A. J. Marshall, Rex Martienssen, Professor G. E. Pearse, H. G. Tomkyns.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

C. E. Cawse, N. T. Cowin, S. C. Dowsett, N. W. Gallagher, D. S. Haddon, D. I. H. Smail, H. G. Tomkyns.

PRACTICE COMMITTEE

S. C. Dowsett, N. M. Eaton, A. C. Fair, L. M. Geers, L. Grinker, D. S. Haddon, N. L. Hanson, A. J. Marshall.

JOURNAL COMMITTEE

N. T. Cowin, S. C. Dowsett, N. M. Eaton, J. Fassler, A. S. Furner, D. S. Haddon, N. L. Hanson, W. D. Howie, W. G. McIntosh, Rex Martienssen, Professor G. E. Pearse, T. Schaerer, C. M. Sinclair, C. D. St. Leger, Angus Stewart.

ACADEMY COMMITTEE

W. W. Battiss, Eric Byrd, Mrs. N. Field, F. L. H. Fleming, A. S. Furner, P. A. Hendricks, Wm. Hendrikz, Miss M. S. Leitch, Miss W. J. Munks, Professor G. E. Pearse, V. S. Rees-Poole, H. W. Spicer, Mrs. St. Leger, C. D. St. Leger, H. E. Winder.

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University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

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