



**The Faculty of Architecture of the
University of the Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg and its role
in the community.**

Monte Bryer

**The Faculty of Architecture of the
University of the Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg and its role
in the community.**

by

Monte Bryer

B Arch (Witwatersrand) B Litt (Oxon)
D Arch honoris causa (Witwatersrand)
Member of the Board of the Faculty of Architecture
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.



© Published by
the Faculty of Architecture
of the University of the
Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
1 Jan Smuts Avenue
Johannesburg 2001
South Africa

ISBN 0 85494 533 4

Printed by the Central Printing Office,
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

To the late Rex Martienssen and David Haddon
and to Gordon McIntosh, Norman Hanson, Erik Todd and Douglas Calderwood
with whom it was my privilege to be intimately associated over many years

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks go to the senior academic Dr D M Calderwood, Professor of Building Science, and to the Heads of the Departments in the Faculty of Architecture at Wits, Professor C Walker, Quantity Surveying, Professor T J Olivier, Building Science, Professor N N Patricios, Town and Regional Planning and Professor A d' A M Guedes, Architecture, for information of which there would appear to be no record or of which no record has so far come to light and which has been included in this monograph. For such further information I am grateful to my colleagues Dr W G McIntosh, architect, quantity surveyor and town planner, and Mr J O Quail, quantity surveyor, the two most senior members of the Board of the Faculty of Architecture and also the two whose membership of the Board is of the longest standing, namely, 28 and 30 years respectively. I am greatly indebted to Mr H R Powell, Secretary of the Faculty of Architecture, for supplying me with facts and figures from the University's official records and to Ms Joan Biddles of the University's archives for helping me to find elusive information about the Wits Faculty of Architecture. I am also indebted to Elizabeth Schwellnus and Zoe Morkel for typing the manuscript of this monograph which could not have emerged from the present writer's hieroglyphics without their invaluable assistance.

Monte Bryer

Johannesburg, December 1977

To the late Rex Martiensen and David Haddon
and to Gordon McIntosh, Norman Hanson, Erik Todd and Douglas Calderwood
with whom it was my privilege to be intimately associated over many years

Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & QUANTITY SURVEYING	2
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE & QUANTITY SURVEYING FROM 1921 UNTIL THE SECOND WORLD WAR	4
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND ITS DEVELOPMENT TO DATE	12
The Government of the Faculty	27
The Department of Architecture	29
The Department of Quantity Surveying	30
The Department of Building Science	31
The Department of Town and Regional Planning	34
The Composition of the Total Enrolment of Students in the Faculty of Architecture	35
The Appointment of Honorary Professors	36
The Teachers	37
EXTRA-MURAL WORK AND ACTIVITIES	51
War Service	51
The Journal	52
Exhibitions	53
Symposia	54
Congresses, Conferences and Summer Schools	56
Refresher Courses	59
The Urban and Regional Research Unit	59
Public Lectures	60
The Students' Role	62
Links with the Professions	66
Links with Research Bodies	68
The Board of the Faculty	68
Connections with the Schools of Architecture of the Universities of the Orange Free State and Port Elizabeth	68
International Links	70
Scholarships, Bursaries, Medals and Prizes	76
Postgraduate School	79
Achievements of Wits Graduates	81
Scholarship Awards	81
Teachers Produced by the Faculty of Architecture	82
Honorary Degrees	83
Gold Medal Awards and Other Honours	83
Architectural Competitions	84
The University's Building Requirements	84
Economic Surveys	85
The Faculty's External Examiners	86
THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE	92

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this monograph is to record in broad outline the development of the Wits Faculty of Architecture and its role in the community from its early beginnings a few years after the commencement of this century up to the present time. There is a brief account of the establishment and growth of the Faculty which appeared in the 1959 issue No. 3 and in the Golden Jubilee issue in December 1972 of 'Convocation Commentary', the official magazine of the Convocation of the University of the Witwatersrand. There are also historical references to the Faculty's Departments of Architecture and Town and Regional Planning in the brochure 'The Golden Jubilee of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg' produced and published by the University's Jubilee Committee in 1972. Furthermore, there are the yearly reports delivered by Professor G E Pearse and, after his retirement in 1947, by his successor Professor J Fassler, at the Annual Exhibition and Prize-giving of the School and, since 1940, of the Faculty of Architecture, which were published in the South African Architectural Record until 1964, and the admirable Reports of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Dr G R Bozzoli, for the calendar years 1968 to 1974 inclusive, which are invaluable records of the main events and changes in the various Faculties of the University during those years, all of which have been most useful for the purpose of this monograph. But as far as the present writer is aware there is no compendious record as yet of the establishment, development and activities of the Wits Faculty of Architecture and its four constituent departments as a unified whole, or one which can be regarded as being sufficient in dealing with its life and achievements and particularly also with the role it has performed both in the University and in the community which it has served and endeavours to serve.

It is hoped therefore that this monograph will satisfy the need for such a record and that it will be of interest to the Faculty of Architecture and to the University and also to its students, graduates, diplomates and, indeed, all who have derived benefit from Wits educationally and culturally since its inception in 1921. It is hoped, too, that this record will induce others to add to it such information as will enable it to be as complete as possible. But more than that, it is hoped that this record of the best of the Faculty's past will also serve to stimulate the students of today to bold and resolute endeavour so that as alumni of the University of the Witwatersrand and as members of their chosen professions with the education and training of whose entrants the Faculty of Architecture is wholly concerned, they will find in the service of the community their highest life task and in so doing will also gain special distinction for the development of architecture and the human environment as integral parts of our national culture.