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.
To the late Rex Mortensson 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.
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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 O R Bazzoli, 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, diplomats 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.