During the Sixties and Seventies

Professor B Bierman (History of Architecture)
M L Bryan (History of Architecture; Dissertations)
S J Buffett (Theory & Practice of Architecture)
C D Burde (Dissertations)
Professor A Burger (Dissertations)
B S Cooke (Architectural Design; Dissertations)
J N Cpwn (Professional Practice)
Professor L Craft (Professional Practice & Procedure; Dissertations)
E M Doll (Electrical & Water Supply of Buildings)
A Dick (Theory of Structures)
E N Finsen (Building Construction)
G J Gallagher (Architectural Design; Dissertations)
Ms F Harmsen (History of Art and Architecture)
R A Heydendrych (Theory of Structures)
A H Lange (History of Architecture; Architectural Design)
R H Leigh (Mechanical Equipment of Buildings)
M D Lennard (Theory & Practice of Architecture)
Dr W G McIntosh (Dissertations; Architectural Design; Building Construction)
W O Meyer (Architectural Design; Dissertations)
Professor I Prinsloo (Dissertations)
S J Richards (Dissertations)
M D Ringrose (Specifications)
J Ritchie (History of Art & Architecture)
G de Vries Robb (Professional Practice & Building Legislation)
Professor L Roadd (Dissertations)
Professor I Schiaparelsky (Theory & Practice of Architecture; Dissertations)
J S B Taylor (Architectural Design)
E Tollman (Dissertations)
J van Straaten (Architectural Technology)
Professor C Ted Welch (Dissertations)

In the field of building and building science

During the Sixties and Seventies

G de C Malherbe (Commercial Procedures including relevant legislation)
Dr T W Miners (Production Planning & Design)
A Moir (Advanced Building Science)
P C T Stirling (Production Planning & Design)
M Vasarhelyi (Industrial Organisation & Management)
L H West (Industrial Organisation & Management)

In the field of quantity surveying

During the Twenties and Thirties

Professor H Bell-John (Specifications, Estimates & Quantities)
T Moore (Professional Practice)
Colonel W E Puntis (Quantity Surveying; Architectural Drawing; Elementary Quantities)

During the Forties and Fifties

E F Allen (Building Finance, Valuations and Estimates)
S C Dowsett (Quantity Surveying)
E B Farrow (Quantity Surveying)
N R Law (Estimates & Quantities)
W A McKechnie (Quantity Surveying)
R J C Prontice (Quantity Surveying)

J O Quill (Field Notes for Working Drawings)
P M Raas (Quantity Surveying)

In the field of town and regional planning

During the Sixties and Seventies

P R Anderson (Town & Regional Planning Theory & Practice; Dissertations)
L A Barac (Town Planning Practice)
K Bevan (Economic Geography & Economics in relation to Planning)
Professor J F Beekman (Professional Practice & Public Administration)
Professor J Beinart (Dissertations)
D C Biggs (Civil Engineering in relation to Planning; Urban Infrastructure)
B L Carlson (Town Planning Theory & Practice)
R Davies (Town & Regional Planning Theory)
W R P de Swardt (Town Planning Practice)
R L Focci (Planning Theory & Techniques; Dissertations)
Professor Z S Gurzański (Civil Engineering in relation to Planning)
E J Hall (Dissertations)
M Kirchofer (Town Planning Theory)
A B Nichol (Town Planning Theory & Practice)
M Lowe (Urban Design Theory & History)
H M Marsh (Town Planning Theory)
W Mason (Social Aspects of Planning)
In view of the fact that there is no provision for the re-marking of examination papers in the Faculty of Architecture or, for that matter, in any other Faculty at Wits and in order to ensure that the required standards of examinations are achieved and maintained and improved wherever feasible and also that the examiners act as fairly as possible, external as well as internal examiners are required under the University’s regulations for all its professional examinations. In this connection it is of special interest to note that in the case of the Faculty of Architecture, it was decided in 1968 that for the examinations in all courses other than the first and second year courses, the external examiners shall be persons not belonging to the academic staff of the University.

Such, then, have been the ways and means whereby the Wits Faculty of Architecture has sought to obtain the best possible results both in its system of examinations and in the examinations themselves. In doing so it has earned for itself and for the University a worldwide reputation and recognition by all the leading academic and professional institutions in the international field.

THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE

If in this review of the development of the Faculty of Architecture and its role in the community the School of Architecture appears to have been the dominant element, this is undoubtedly so. For acting in response to the needs created by new industrial techniques, advances in science and technology and the demand for highly trained brain-

power to cope with the national development requirements, the School was entirely responsible not only for creating the quantity surveying, building science and town and regional planning departments in the University but also for welding them into a unified whole in which the various disciplines, including its own, can be co-ordinated and integrated as far as possible and made to serve one another so that the special needs of each are duly fulfilled and a broader and deeper education is achieved. In recent years attempts have been made in the Faculty to change its name on the grounds that its name does not indicate that it is responsible for instruction, education, training and research in quantity surveying, building science and town and regional planning as well as in architecture. Naturally the Board of the Faculty has been reluctant to accept a change of name, largely on account of the Faculty’s historical connections and associations not only in the University itself where it fostered the Departments of Quantity Surveying, Building Science and Town and Regional Planning but throughout Southern Africa and also on account of the fact that the Faculty under its present name enjoys an international as well as a national reputation which has been built up over the past fifty seven years, that is, ever since the inception of the University of the Witwatersrand and its School of Architecture in 1921. But at its meeting in June this year the Board of the Faculty nevertheless agreed that the name of the Faculty be changed. So in view of the Faculty’s historical significance and, above all, its aims and purposes, which the disciplines of quantity surveying and building science and especially the discipline of town and regional planning have in common and share alike with that of architecture, it is to be hoped that whatever change is made now or in the future, Architecture will not disappear from the name of the Faculty and that from its name it will be clear to everyone what the Faculty consists of, what it is concerned with and what it is responsible for as one of the University’s constituent faculties which today number ten in all.

It is not far cry in time back to the day in 1934 when the late Dr Jan Hendrik Hofmeyr, during whose principaship and owing to whose sympathy and support the School of Architecture was established at Wits in 1921, opened the School’s thirteenth annual exhibition and prize-giving and, as Minister of Education, said “Nature has not stinted herself in showering beauty on this land of ours….but….the hand of man has been singularly unfortunate in trying to improve upon the beauty showered upon us….. Our earlier Dutch settlers showed their sense of beauty…. They produced beautiful things, those old founders of ours. Unhappily, the tradition of beauty failed and South Africa has had to pay a heavy price for the failure of that tradition….. We have made up some of the
leeway but we still have a long way to go before the hand of man proves itself worthy of that beauty showered upon our land by the hand of God. That is some indication of the measure of the task which still awaits this school of architecture in this university. It is a great task. This school can render a great contribution to the enhancement of the whole texture of the life of the youngest generation in South Africa. . . . I wish it success in that task. I hope it will achieve its ambition of producing a great wealth of beauty for the enjoyment not only of us here today, but of those who will come after us.

It is not a far cry in time back to the day in 1938 when Rex Martiensen, writing from Europe about the modern movement in architecture to Roy Kantorovich, one of his most brilliant and creative students in the School of Architecture at Witwatersrand, said “Believe me . . . when I say that I value your steadfastness, that I think the structure upon which we are labouring is a real and lasting one and that I am convinced that ultimately the fortress of achievement will not be occupied alone by such as Mnesicles, as Michelangelo. From the desert freshness of South Africa, from her long days bleaching triviality, from her sweet nights purifying the mind, the idea will come, will impact itself on the weary uncertainty of Europe, and people will wonder.”

Indeed, little more than a generation has passed since one of the most distinguished products of the Witwatersrand School of Architecture, Norman Leonard Hanson, speaking at a symposium on architectural education held under the auspices of the Wits Students’ Architectural Society, pointed out that “the establishment of a School of Architecture at Wits, the first in South Africa, was a turning point in the cultural history of South Africa. For the first time in the modern era the task of extending the admirable work of the architectural pioneers who could in the nature of things, satisfy the needs of only small and privileged groups of the population, could be embarked upon. The results have amply fulfilled early expectations and the School today is a powerful factor in the growth of a worthy national cultural and social environment”.

This statement was more than justified especially at the time it was made, when South Africa was in the throes of the Second World War. But in view of the upheavals that have occurred since that time, in population growth, technology and political transformation particularly in Southern Africa, what is at issue now is the degree to which the Wits Faculty of Architecture, through its work and activities in the four disciplines it comprises, will be effectively committed to exploring and promoting the best possible ways and means of enhancing the quality of life in South Africa for all its people. This is the never-ending task to which this Faculty is and must remain dedicated.

Today this Faculty, together with the institutions it serves, is faced with such fundamental issues as the position and role of the architect, the quantity surveyor, the building technologist and the town and regional planner in society, the raison d’etre and functions of their professions especially in relation to social and technological change and the meaning of architecture, quantity surveying, building science and town and regional planning both to the individual and to society. In grappling with these issues its endeavours must inevitably be directed and made in the light of such basic considerations as the changing structure of society due to the population explosion and other vital factors, changing concepts of environment and standards of living, changing techniques and processes of production, changing materials, the advent of the specialist, the development of consultant groups in special fields, the methods of financing building and construction of the human environment, the social and economic forces affecting the planning, production and use of buildings, towns and regions and, above all, the passionate desire for greater justice and dignity for every human being which will become more insistent as population and pressures increase. This means that both the undergraduate and the graduate students of today for whose courses of study and for whose education and training the Faculty of Architecture is responsible, are expected to learn more and to achieve higher standards of performance and conduct than their predecessors.

And so the Faculty of Architecture of the University of the Witwatersrand, in view of its record and its role in the community over the years and also in view of what it hopes to achieve in the service of the community, faces the future with faith in itself and in the people of Johannesburg and of the Witwatersrand from whom the University sprang and with whom the University’s lot is cast. May the continued support of the University and of all sections of the community which the Faculty serves and seeks to serve, enable it to continue to develop and fulfill its role in the way it has decided for itself throughout the period of its life, work and activities, which in little more than two years’ time will span four decades.
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