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New Construction Economics and Management Building, University of the Witwatersrand

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2013-07
PICASSO
http://hdl.handle.net10539/13515
Kotze,Paul. 2013. New Construction Economics and Management Building, University of the Witwatersrand. Architecture SA. 2013 Jul/Aug p26-30

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of the building and strongly connected the building to the exterior. It is by means of the section that the communal, private and social relationships are achieved within the academic unit and the larger academic community.

The triple-volume atrium is also fundamental in achieving the passive ventilation system. The dramatic size of the circulation space facilitates interaction between the users of the building. It creates clearly defined zones where staff and students can work informally together, while also ensuring privacy for academic work by staff. One of the main successes of the building is how it provides visual interaction between the inside, the outside and the more public functions of the building, while providing the choice of privacy, enabling solitary or formal group work.

The didactic quality of the building was well illustrated when the first-year quantity surveying students were given a project to build models of it. They were given copies of an immaculate set of construction plans prepared by Michael Rayne. These plans were to be used by the students to build their models. The results showed how a building itself and its technical drawings can be used as an educational tool.

6 Second floor plan
7 First floor plan
8 Ground floor plan
9 Triple volume south glass façade to atrium
10 Major pedestrian route from the west (Yale road)
11-13 Views of triple volume
14 Large meeting room

The success of a new structure that is introduced into an already developed context needs to be evaluated for its contribution and interaction with the existing fabric. On first impression, this intervention can be seen to be the antithesis of the respected John Moffat building of the 1950s. The John Moffat