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THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

THE JOURNAL OF THE TRANSVAAL, NATAL AND ORANGE FREE STATE PROVINCIAL INSTITUTES OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS AND THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS.

Vol. XV. No. 60. DECEMBER, 1930.

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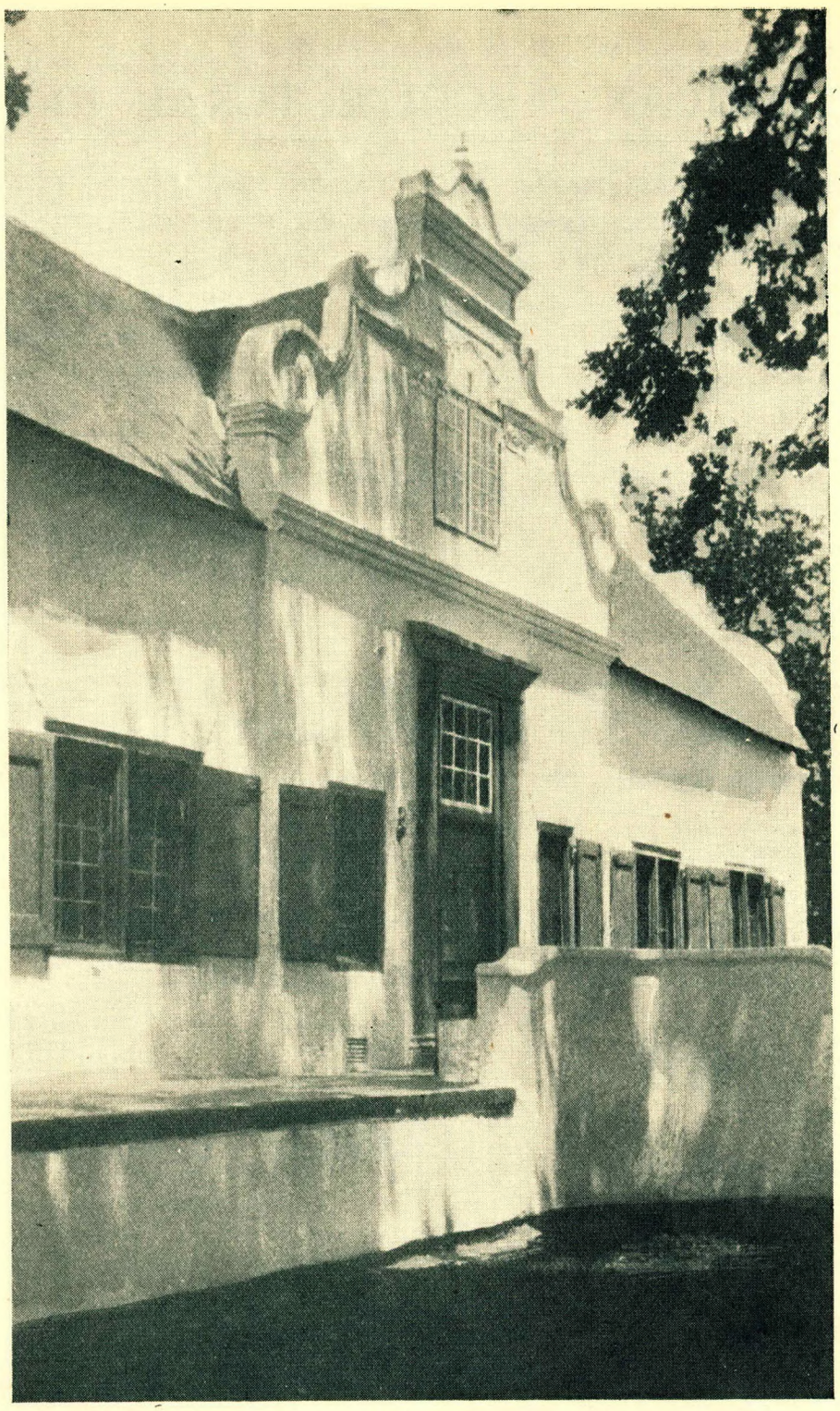


Photo by N. Hanson.

Nederburg, Paarl.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

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TAKING STOCK.

In attempting to review the development of Architecture during the past year, the thoughts uppermost in one's mind are:—Have we made any progress? Do our towns show any marked improvements in their street Architecture or in that of their Suburban residences?

One constantly hears of magnificent new buildings being erected and the remarkable beauty of our suburban architecture, but on analysis we find that the vast majority of our new buildings are the work of the pseudo architect and the jerry builder.

Why is this and whose is the blame—the general public, the architectural profession or the building trade? We are still passing through a difficult stage, a transitional stage one might almost call it, in which the majority of the members of our profession appear to care little or nothing about the art of architecture and are entirely unappreciative or ignorant of the difference between good and bad planning and design or between good and bad craftsmanship, with the result that the general public can hardly be blamed for not appreciating the value of an architect's services. How we are going to remedy this state of affairs it is difficult to say. There is not yet sufficient unity and co-operation in the Architectural profession but signs are not lacking that a steady improvement is taking place and with the development of architectural and art education generally this improvement is likely to continue.

In the meantime much might be done to encourage and stimulate a wider public interest in architecture.

On every hand one hears complaints of this architect or that producing shoddy work and not giving full value for services rendered.

On the other hand we have the builder who, to a large extent, is equally to blame for the poor quality of the work. It certainly requires more than ordinary vision, enthusiasm and determination to enable the architects and builders leaders to initiate a comprehensive plan of education among the rank and file.

Many might say that improvement in design should be reached through the public demanding something better, rather than through efforts on the part of architects and builders to lead the public. This to architects seems to be carrying the political principle of never acting ahead of public opinion too far. After all every great calling or business must owe a moral duty to the community it serves.

Even in its purely commercial aspect it cannot in the long run pay for speculative builders to ignore the demands of aesthetics which are every day being voiced by responsible people.

The day when builders, as a body, begin to take stock of their architectural shortcomings will mark an important step forward in our civilisation.

In dealing with this question in England in a recent issue of *The Architects' Journal,* it is stated *inter alia* "Surely there is something radically wrong in a system of education that is encumbered by an overloaded curriculum in which civics, amenity, architecture and the allied arts of life are absent. The first thing that should be taught to every child is that since he has to live in the world he must learn to make the best of it—to make it comfortable and beautiful. We are, of course, handicapped at the moment in such a programme because neither parents nor teachers have, as a rule, the slightest conception of how to do either.

In this connection we may quote Professor Ostberg: "Nothing could be more desirable—and happily there seems to be a tendency in this direction—than to bring education into closer contact with handiwork, and that this form of life's work could be brought to include among its exercisers a greater number of trained intelligencies." Such a training should not, moreover, be limited to technical schools; it should rather in deference to its importance, be an integral part of every school curriculum for it is doubtful whether a true appreciation of the beauty and proportion of materials can be imparted except through the hand.

Science has with difficulty forced its way into our schools, hence the crowded curriculum. Art has arrived still later but she cannot, in a civilised country, be allowed to remain outside. To those who argue that education should be practical, we would say that more practical results would accrue from ten scholars who knew and cared about art principles than from a thousand who were well equipped with historical dates and Latin grammar. To those who contend that the training of the mind is the all in all of education, we would say that we have no reason to believe, nor evidence to show, that a classical training is the best means of producing useful citizens. Judged by the present day condition of our country—presumably the fruits of classical study—its meanness and vulgarity, we might be led to suspect that it is the worst. In

architecture we find all the visual arts assembled, and properly presented, it should constitute the readiest approach to a genuine culture in secondary education." One cannot entirely agree, however, with the views expressed in the latter part of this article.

In this country a move has been made to introduce art into the curriculum of secondary schools, but until our directors of education and principals of normal colleges know something of the subject and can appreciate its value in any ordinary cultural scheme of education little can be done.

The enthusiasm for the subject indicated by many teachers in training is damped by the lack of enthusiasm shown by those who are responsible for directing their education. Where the subject of art is taught as part of a teachers curriculum the methods are in nearly every case entirely out of date and based on the old Board of Education syllabus.

The question of the jerry builder still looms largely in our horizon and it is encouraging to see a recent article in *The South African Builder*, an article dealing with the Jerry Builder, the Building Societies and House Agents.

As the writer aptly states: "This class of builder is one that is most frequently employed in the erection of homes, for those of moderate incomes, and who have had no previous experience of building and such builders are engaged by them, solely because they have the reputation of being cheap, and possess a knowledge of the arrangements to be made with a Building Society for the purpose of a loan.

Usually no architect is employed and there is no real practical supervision of the builders work and the result is, that shoddy material and inferior workmanship produce a badly constructed dwelling which becomes increasingly expensive to maintain.

It is also this class of builder who erects cottages for sale and in such cases he is less hampered by any restrictions, being both employer and contractor.

The layman who can only judge by appearances, having no practical knowledge of the quality of materials or workmanship, therefore frequently finds that his life savings have gone into a property which, in the course of a very short space of time, depreciates the real value of his holding from thirty-three and a third per cent. to fifty per cent., and further involves him in continued expenses for renovations and repairs.

These speculating "Jerry" Builders can only exist because of the facilities offered by Building Societies for loans.

There is a very real need for some protection of these purchasers of small homes."

It is hardly necessary to say that the efforts of the Builders Federation to prevent abuse of this sort will have the whole-hearted support of the Architectural profession.

Another matter of considerable importance to architects is the practice by reputable builders of employing pseudo architects and draughtsmen in their offices to prepare schemes for building instead of employing reputable architects. This question has been raised by the Royal Institute of Architects of Canada and a suggestion has been put forward that a round table conference of Architects and Master Builders might be arranged at which this and many other similar problems might be discussed. This is a matter the Central Council might take up without delay.

During the year the question of public officials undertaking private work has been discussed by the Transvaal Provincial Institute and the Administrator of the Transvaal, and we are glad to know that the Provincial Executive has decided to put a stop to this practice.

It has further been decided, as was reported in a previous issue of this journal, to appoint a Provincial Architect to advise the Administrator and to establish a panel of architects to whom Provincial Architectural work will be given. This has now been done and should be the beginning of a policy which will have far reaching results in the Architectural profession. We sincerely trust that it will not be long before the Union Government follows suit. We have a large number of thoroughly well trained and qualified young South African architects and some encouragement from Government, Provincial and Municipal authorities should be forthcoming as is done with other professions.

Our architectural schools at Capetown and Johannesburg are now fully recognised by the Royal Institute of British Architects which body has decided to no longer hold their examinations in this country, but leave it to the local Boards of Examiners to make recommendations for exemption from the Royal Institute's examinations. This step is indicative of the confidence the Royal Institute has in the South African Institute and is very encouraging to the two schools which are now established on a satisfactory basis. All that is required is the fullest support from the profession to stimulate a greater interest in education amongst students and pupils in offices.

During the year two important architectural competitions were held both of which were won by Johannesburg Architects. The New Fire Station for Johannesburg was won by Mr. C. Small and the Bloemfontein Town Hall by Mr. Gordon Leith. To these gentlemen we tender our heartiest congratulations.

Two distinguished architects from overseas visited Johannesburg during 1930. Mr. Vincent Harris, who was invited by the City Council of Johannesburg to advise and assess the designs submitted for the new Public Library and Mr. S. H. Adshead, who was invited by the Government of Northern Rhodesia to advise on the site for a new Capital. We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Harris, but unfortunately Mr. Adshead's visit of one day did not make it possible to arrange a meeting with the local Provincial Institute.

The competition for the Johannesburg Public Library, which unfortunately raised a considerable controversy, now fortunately amicably settled, has created a great amount of interest amongst members of the

profession. The designs for this competition have to be submitted this month and the award should be made early next year.

An important conference took place in Johannesburg between representatives of the Municipality, Architects and Builders in connection with alterations and amendments to the Building By-Laws with the result that in future a standing committee is likely to be established to deal with this matter.

In this respect we would urge the profession to make strong representations to the Government to bring into force a uniform system of by-laws for the Union, otherwise, with the rapid development of our towns, we may have the chaotic state of affairs at present prevailing in England where owing to the variations in each city an Architect is faced with innumerable difficulties each time he carries out work in another centre.

The proposed new Conditions of Contract drawn up by the representatives of the Architects, Quantity Surveyors and Builders have raised considerable controversy in the Transvaal as reported in this issue and it is to be hoped that in the near future an amicable settlement will be arrived at and a document produced which will be satisfactory to all parties concerned.

In spite of the present trade depression many important buildings have been erected during the year and many more are projected for the coming year.

The cry of economy is being heard on all sides, but so much rebuilding is required in our towns that the building trade is hardly likely to be very seriously affected.

In Pretoria the appearance of Church Square is rapidly changing. The S.A. Mutual Life Assurance building is completed and the Reserve Bank is nearing completion. The site has been cleared for the new Standard Bank which is commencing shortly.

Two new theatres are well under way, the Plaza Kinema, a particularly interesting building in planning and design, being nearly completed.

In Church Street many changes are to be seen and the new Technical College building is a fine addition to the architecture of Pretoria.

The Town Hall controversy has not yet been satisfactorily settled consequently the northern capital is still lacking a building expressive of its civic dignity. In Johannesburg great changes have taken place in its street architecture and many new commercial buildings are to be seen springing up on every side, though not altogether satisfactory from an architectural point of view.

The Cathedral is now completed for use and it is hoped will be finally completed in the near future. Additions to the Art Gallery are contemplated and, in view of the many recent acquisitions, are sadly needed. It is sincerely to be hoped that Sir Edwin Lutyens' scholarly design will be carried out and not marred in any way.

The new Railway Station is making rapid progress and should be a great architectural acquisition to the City. With the new Public Library our central square will achieve additional dignity, but we hope every effort will be made in the near future to improve the present chaotic state of affairs round the War Memorial where tram lines, public lavatories and very badly imitated granite walls are not conducive to the respect one would expect to find given to a Memorial commemorating the greatest war in history.

In Bloemfontein the new Appeal Court and the projected Town Hall should add considerably to the existing group of public buildings already erected.

In Capetown the new South African Art Gallery has recently been opened and South Africa has been thrilled by the thought that we are soon to have a magnificant loan collection of works of Art, the Robinson collection, housed therein. Capetown is perhaps the most fortunately favoured town in the Union. Not only does she possess a number of historic buildings, but she is fortunate in having a number of wealthy patrons of art who are helping to make her the greatest art centre of the Union.

With the wealth of Johannesburg one wonders why more has not been done in this respect, in our City. Interest in art does not appear to be lacking amongst our citizens, but with the large population and the well established schools and University how much more could be done.

The Provincial Institutes of Architects in South Africa and the Central Council has done much during the year towards the improvement of our profession, but we still feel the lack of the whole hearted support and co-operation of individual members.

In conclusion we should like to take this opportunity of appealing to members to play the game. The constant complaints of unprofessional practice that are coming forward, the unfair competition that appears to exist, the touting and the commercialising of our art are all deterrents to progress and it cannot be expected that we shall ever obtain that respect from the general public both for our professional status and our art until these practices cease.

We take this opportunity of wishing our members and subscribers a prosperous New Year.

BLOEMFONTEIN TOWN HALL COMPETITION.

Fifty-four designs were submitted for this competition which was assessed by Mr. Hawke, F.R.I.B.A., of Capetown.

The awards were as follows:

First: Mr. C. Gordon Leith, M.C., A.R.I.B.A., Johannesburg.
Second: Messrs. Cook and Cowen, Johannesburg.
Third: Mr. Percy Eagle, Johannesburg.
Fourth: Mr. H. G. Ward, Pretoria.

In his report the assessor states:

I have now completed my examination of the designs submitted in the Bloemfontein Town Hall Architectural Competition, and beg to report as follows:—

I place design No. 1, first; design No. 26, second; design No. 36, third; design No. 39, fourth.

Design No. 1 has adhered to the conditions of competition and to the schedules of accommodation, and can be carried out within your stipulated limit of cost. Cubing costs and dimensions have been checked by your City Engineer's Department.

The plan is an excellent one in every respect and meets all your requirements in a most efficient and economical manner. The elevation drawings and sections suffer somewhat from hasty execution, but I have no doubt whatever that the ultimate result will be entirely satisfactory.

The Council are to be congratulated upon the response received from the profession to their invitation. Fifty-four sets of plans were submitted and the standard of merit attained was uniformly good. A few designs are outstanding, see Nos 3, 51, 43 and 16.

It is to be regretted that most competitors should have entirely ignored the Council's limit of cost, the rates per cube foot quoted being in almost every instance quite absurd.

Out of the 54 designs submitted, seven contravened the conditions and were disqualified. One arrived too late.

4th September, 1930.

NOTE.—The following are the authors of designs referred to in the Assessor's report:—

No. 1. Mr. Gordon Leith, Johannesburg.
No. 26. Messrs. J. C. Cook & Cowen, Johannesburg.
No. 36. Mr. P. Eagle, Johannesburg.
No. 39. Mr. Leonard McConnell, Cape Town.
No. 3. Messrs. Stonehouse, Payne & Gardiner, Johannesburg.
No. 51. Messrs. K. R. Mackenzie & D. L. Newcombe, Johannesburg.
No. 43. Mr. J. Willoughby-Williams, Bloemfontein.
No. 16. Mr. H. A. McQueen, Capetown.

EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS.

An exhibition of the drawings submitted by members of the Institute in the Transvaal was held at the School of Architecture, University of the Witwatersrand during November. The consensus of opinion was that the competition conditions were very satisfactory and that the first premium was well merited.

There was unfortunately a certain amount of feeling created owing to the fact that several competitors were disqualified on what appeared to be somewhat slender grounds.

It seems a pity that such things should occur to mar an important competition such as this, more especially as whilst one design at least was disqualified for indicating the north point in perhaps an unusual manner others which had indicated shadows, more elaborate north points and even backgrounds were accepted.

It should hardly be necessary for the Institute to still further elaborate its Conditions of Competition to overcome any such difficulties in the future, when a little discrimination on the part of the Assessor is all that is required. Surely it is possible for any assessor to judge a design on its merits and not waste time "splitting hairs," unless he is consistent in every instance.

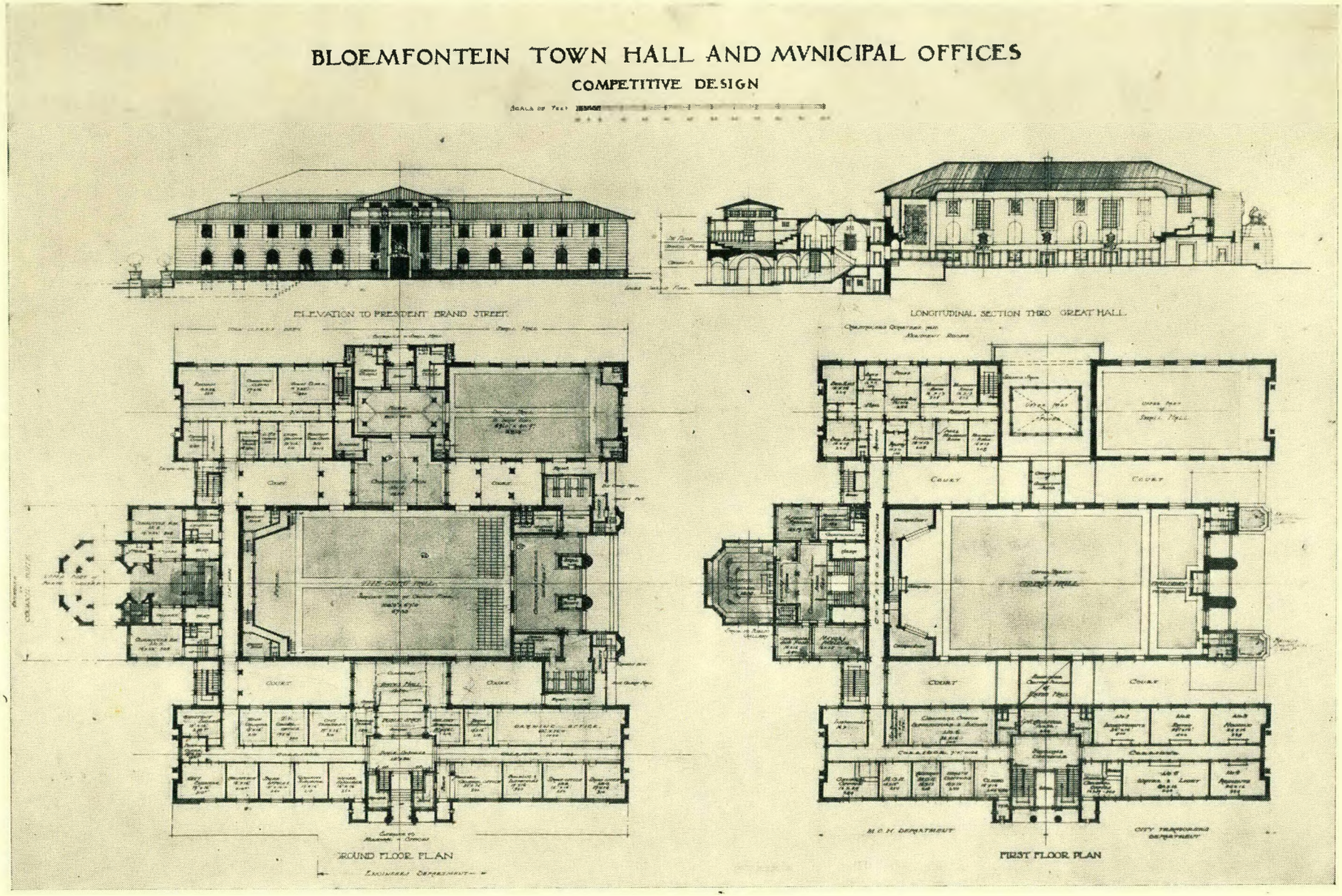
An examination of the drawings exhibited in Johannesburg revealed the fact that the problem was not at all an easy one.

The conditions laid down that the main approach was from Henry Street and the vista from that street should be definitely terminated. This meant that a symmetrical scheme could not be centralised on the site. Further it was laid down that the entrance to the offices should be from President Brand Street and that the smaller hall should serve the main hall as a supper room and also that the main Committee room should act as a supper room for the smaller hall.

Thus, including the Council suite, the scheme consisted of five elements, three of which had to be linked together.

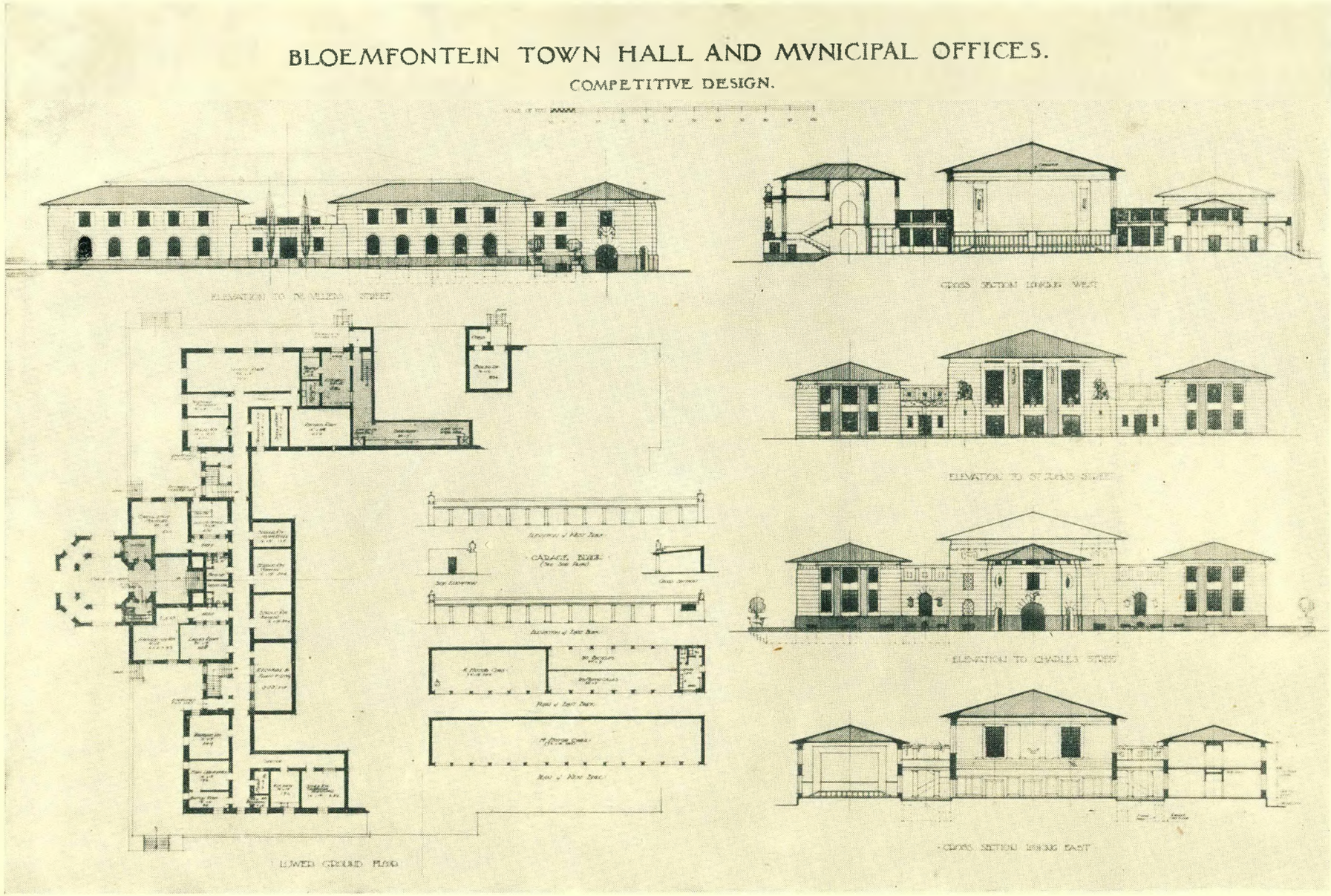
On analysis it was quite obvious that the Rates Hall, so largely used by the general public should be conveniently and centrally placed, and that the Town Engineer's department, the Health department and the Treasurer's department should be conveniently arranged for access to the public.

The problem with most of the competitors was whether to link up the Town Clerks department, which had to be convenient to the Council's suite, with the other departments or detach it altogether.



First Premiated Design.

Mr. Gordon Leith, Architect.



First Premiated Design.

Mr. Gordon Leith, Architect.

There is a considerable difference of opinion on this point even amongst Town Clerks, as some consider that they should not be easily accessible to the general public, whilst others disagree with this opinion. It seems reasonable to assume that the Town Clerks department should be conveniently connected to the other departments, but disconnected from the entrance and corridors used by the general public.

Another important question in a building of this sort is whether the Council suite should be easily accessible to the platform of the Main Hall.

It appears that this should be so, as distinguished visitors can be received at an important entrance and taken to a reception room, where they can be introduced to Councillors and thence direct to the platform.

Again the question of the position of the Committee rooms presented some difficulties as the Main Committee room was evidently to be used for conferences whilst the smaller committee rooms were to be conveniently accessible for both delegates to Conferences and Town Councillors.

The Main Hall being the principal mass in the plan should undoubtedly dominate the composition and be clearly expressed in elevation. There was a tendency on the part of many competitor's, however, to place it on one side and camouflage it in elevation in order to obtain symmetry.

With these considerations in mind a brief criticism of the drawings exhibited is given.

The winning design by Mr. Gordon Leith is an extraordinarily simple and straightforward scheme. The main hall is centrally placed in the plan with its entrance from St. John Street. It thus forms the dominating mass in every elevation. The arrangement of the offices is excellent with their main entrance axially placed on Henry Street.

The approach to the Council suite and Town Clerk's department is well arranged from Charles Street—the Town Clerk's department being so arranged as to be easily accessible to the other departments, but not to the general public. The entrance to the small halls and Committee rooms is from De Villiers Street.

The chief criticism of the plan is perhaps the position of the main Committee room which serves as an ante room between the large and small halls. In practice this would probably create considerable difficulty as conferences often last for some days and nights and might clash with an important function. Another criticism is the position of the four small courts on either side of the large hall. If those had been connected in some way the main hall especially for large public functions would have been considerably improved. The elevations are quiet and dignified, perhaps too quiet and thus lacking in the monumental character expected from an important civic building. It is a scheme, however, which can be considerably improved in execution without materially altering the general arrangement of the plan.

The second premiated design by Messrs. Cook and Cowen is straightforward and economical compared with many others. The main entrance from Henry Street serves both the offices and Council suite, a questionable arrangement, and there is no direct communication between the Council suite and the main hall.

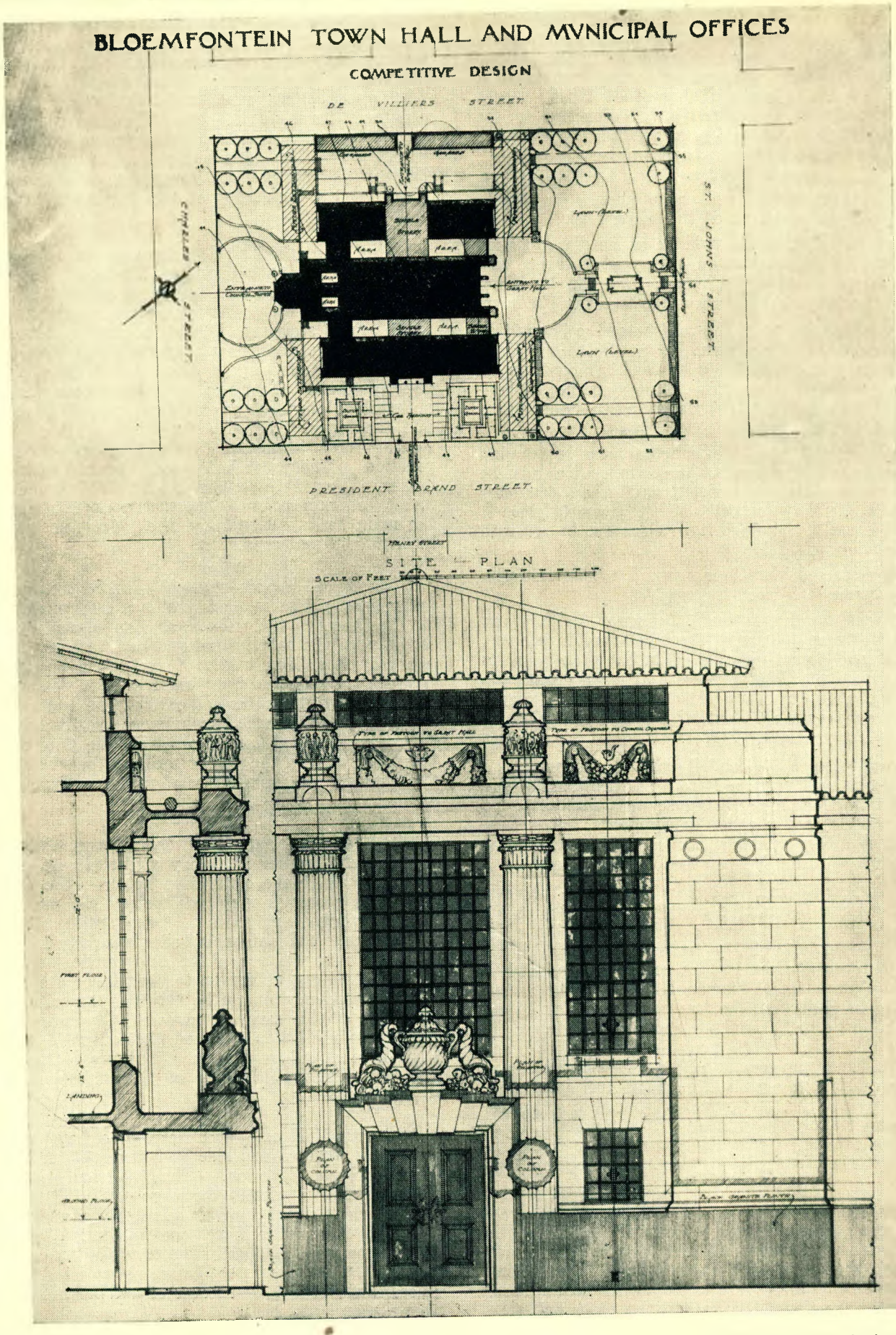
The two halls are placed back to back with entrances from De Villiers Street and Charles Street respectively. The corridors flanking the halls are thus continuous from street to street which is also a somewhat questionable arrangement and would prove very uninteresting if carried out. The arrangement of the Committee rooms with entrance from de Villiers Street, is not altogether satisfactory as the placing of the Caretaker's quarters and garages on this front rather gives one the impression of a back yard of little or no importance.

In the third premiated design by Mr. P. Eagle, the main entrance from President Brand Street leads to the Committee rooms on the ground floor and Council suite on first floor. The former are somewhat masked by the main staircase. The relationship between the Town Clerk's department and Council suite is not altogether satisfactory. The small hall is placed at right angles to the large hall and both halls are approached laterally, the smaller from de Villiers Street, and the larger from Charles Street. It is doubtful whether this arangement would work very well in practice. The rates hall is conveniently placed with entrance from President Brand Street, but there is no direct communication between the Council suite and the main hall. Generally the plan is somewhat indirect and scattered.

Mr. H. G. Wards scheme (fourth premium) has many good points in plan and is a well presented set of drawings. The offices are on President Brand Street with the halls behind and back to back. Advantage has thus been taken of the levels and the link between the halls and the Council suite is well arranged. The position of the rates hall on first floor is questionable and the Town Clerk's department might have been better arranged in connection with the Council suite. The approach to the public gallery of the Council Chamber up the main staircase is not a good arrangement.

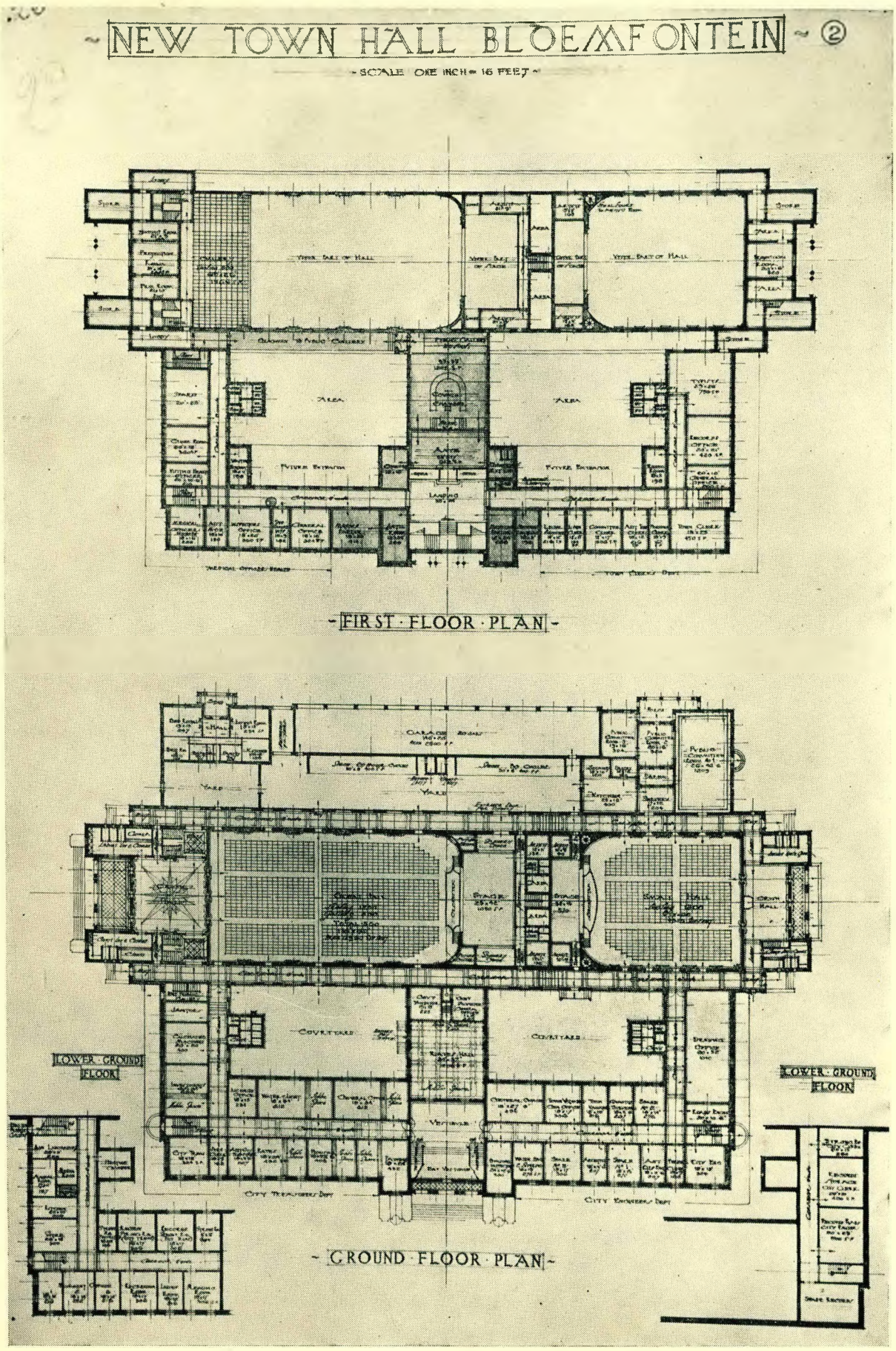
The scheme submitted by Messrs. Stonehouse, Payne and Gardiner is a very attractive set of drawings and whilst the connection between the halls and committee rooms is very satisfactory the plan suffers in many ways owing to its not being sufficiently direct. The monumental entrance hall gives access to Committee rooms, Council suite and public gallery and whilst subsidiary entrances to the offices are provided for, the tendency might be for the general public to make use of this main entrance. Again there is no direct communication between Council suite and platform of main hall. The elevations are attractive but the architectural character of the main entrance is questionable.

Messrs. McKenzie and Newcombe have arranged their main hall on one side and have not expressed it very clearly in elevation. The small hall is centrally placed at right angles to the large hall. The arrangement of the Council suite is questionable and extravagant and there is no direct communication between it and the main hall. The entrance to the public gallery through the main entrance hall is not satisfactory. The offices, however, are well arranged and balance the main hall in plan.

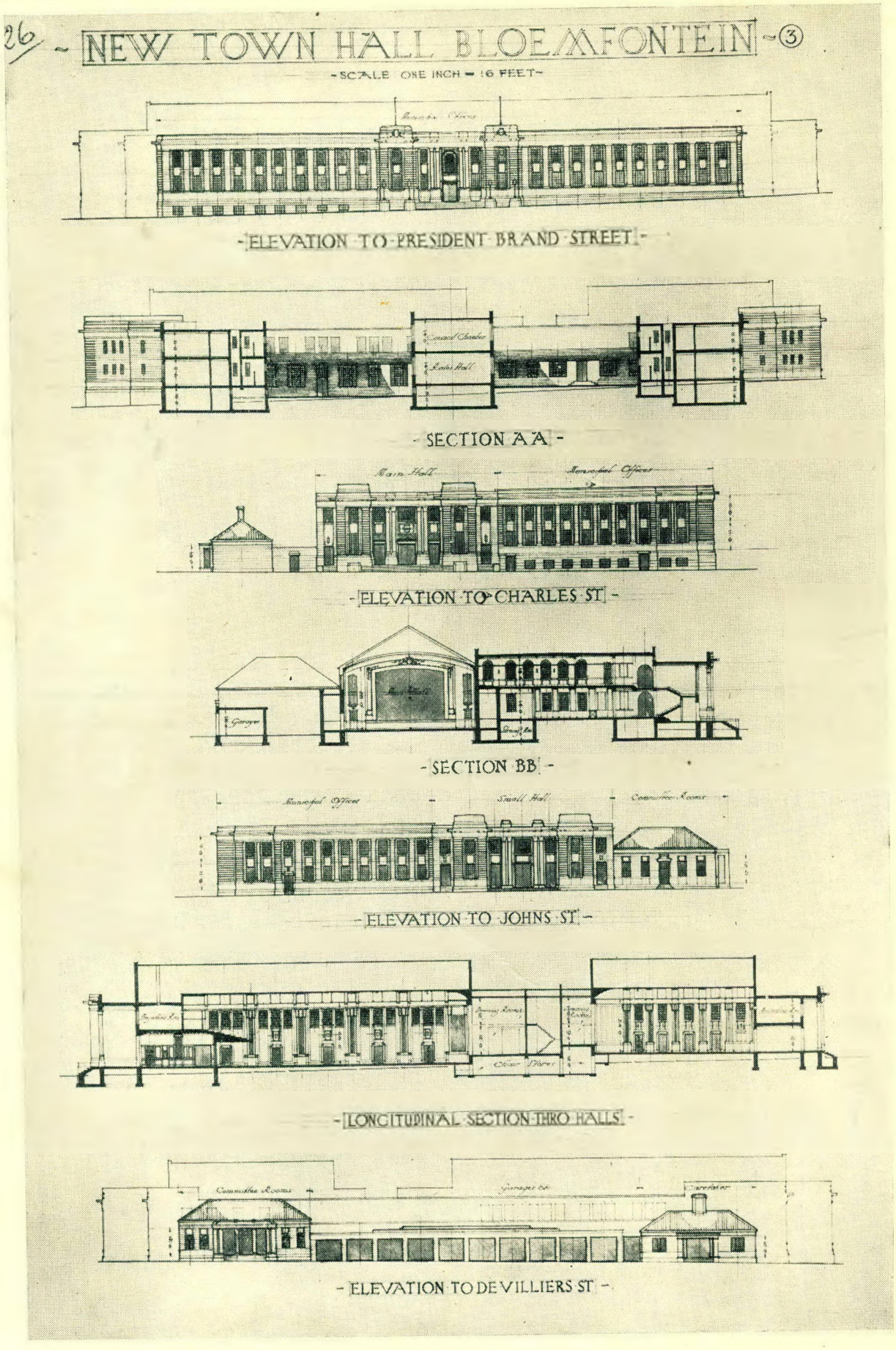


First Premiated Design.

Mr. Gordon Leith, Architect.



Second Premiated Design. *Messrs. Cook & Cowen, Architects.*



Second Premiated Design. *Messrs. Cook & Cowen, Architects.*

The design submitted by Mr. Lockwood Hall, has the smaller hall centrally placed flanked by the large hall and the Municipal offices. The main Committee room does not appear to be sufficiently disconnected from the smaller hall and the approach to it is not altogether satisfactory. The connecting atrium between the large and small halls appears to be somewhat conjested with its columnar arrangement in plan. The tower is awkwardly placed as it rises at some distance from the main facade in elevation. The elevations do not clearly express the plan.

Mr. C. Small's scheme is somewhat similar in plan but again the elevations do not clearly express the plan.

Mr. R. Howden's scheme is simple and straightforward. The main hall is centrally placed with the smaller hall at right angles to it and approached from St. John Street. The Committee rooms are arranged on either side of the entrance to the smaller hall. The approach to the Council suite from Charles Street is somewhat cramped and the position of the rates hall not altogether satisfactory. Again there is no direct communication between the Council suite and the platform of the main hall. The elevations are simple and dignified and clearly express the plan.

The design submitted by Messrs. Kallenbach, Kennedy and Furner, is asymmetrical and interesting. The connection between the large and small halls is cramped and it is doubtful whether the arrangement would work satisfactorily in practice.

With the Committee rooms behind they form an interesting group in plan. The offices and Council suite are well arranged but there is no direct communication between the latter and the main hall.

Mr. F. Williamson's plan is somewhat unusual. The main hall is centrally placed and set well back from the main facade. On either side of the entrance court thus formed are the offices on the right and the small hall surrounded by the Town Clerk's department, Council suite and committee rooms on the left. The link between the two halls is somewhat cramped.

The plan submitted by Mr. G. Moerdijk is very open with large cortiles separating the main hall, which is centrally placed from the small hall and offices flanking it.

The arrangement of the plans submitted by Messrs. Cowin, Powers and Ellis and H. Porter, are somewhat similar although the position of the rates hall at the back in Mr. Porter's scheme is somewhat questionable.

A fine set of drawings was submitted by Mr. R. E. Cole Bowen. The plan has many good points in its general arrangement, but is somewhat complicated in detail. Time and space do not permit of a detailed criticism of the other designs submitted each of which indicates a considerable amount of care and thought. The same general criticisms would apply in each case.

One still wonders whether the present system of architectural competitions is altogether a wise one entailing as it does an enormous amount of work which might well be saved if a preliminary eliminating competition were held in the first instance.

PICTURE SALES AND PICTURE GALLERIES.

OVERSEAS AND SOUTH AFRICAN ARTISTS.

by DENYS LEFEBVRE.

The controversy between the South African Society of Artists and the *Cape Times* as to the propriety or otherwise of hanging Mr. Fuller's pictures in the new Capetown Art Gallery is interesting, if only for its bearing on the attitude to be adopted by S.A. Artists and the lay public with regard to pictures imported for sale from overseas. South Africa has already suffered on more than one occasion by the importation of second-class stuff bearing the names of well-known artists. Let us be frank about it. The dealer, whether British or South African, especially in these hard times, has to find new markets for pictures. Prices have been obtained for pictures here from time to time far in excess of their European value, and such sales have naturally been boosted overseas. What more natural than for the enterprising European dealer to try to introduce into the Dominions the European-made picture by well-known artists of adequate technique and very moderate accomplishment ?

This has already been done and I understand that other exhibitions, some sponsored by one or more of the English Art Societies are contemplated. Let us think of the question for the moment from the standpoint of the South African artist.

There is the parochial view, regrettable perhaps, but one that has to be reckoned with. The South African artist of this type objects to the intrusion of direct overseas competition. In his opinion, it helps to spoil a market that, at least, is limited. He himself has to, or thinks he has to, earn a living at painting pictures. Who are these impudent strangers who come in to take away his livelihood ?

Of course, the odds are in his favour. At present, to a large extent, the local picture-buying public prefers South African scenery. All the world over the Public, with a big "p", prefers the scenes it knows to those it does not. Obviously, if the subject strongly appeals and the technique is not a matter of any

interest, this must be the case. The South African painter, being on the spot, is able to satisfy this demand, in itself a very great advantage.

But there are people with a good knowledge of pictures who point out that even in art, South Africa is not and cannot be self-sufficing. The great masters of the past had access to the works of their predecessors and contemporaries. To some extent, our three main galleries at Capetown, Johannesburg and Durban meet this need, but only to some extent. Apart from actually seeing the pictures, there is, in really artistic centres in the old world, a something, a *"je ne sais quoi"* as the French put it, an atmosphere, that has an enormous influence on the young painter who really wishes to learn. The other who is self-sufficient does not count. Failing a trip overseas, it is conceivable that occasional exhibitions of modern pictures, representing not only the latest "isms", but the average work of the best painters, whether of English, Dutch, French or German origin, the interchange of artistic work from the other Dominions, the United States or indeed, any other country, will no doubt have an effect in breaking down the narrow outlook from which the South African painter as well as those of other countries, too often suffers.

But here the question of money obtrudes itself. Exhibitions for educational purposes only are usually welcomed. When pictures included in exhibitions from overseas are frankly for sale, there is at once an uproar. Is it justified?

I think the Cape Art Society has good reason to object to a collection of pictures intended for sale being hung in the Public Art Gallery. Whether Mr. Fuller was invited to bring his pictures, as his friends say, or whether his exhibition just happened to arrive as some critics allege, is rather beside the point. The fact is that the pictures are for sale, for private gain and are hung in a public gallery.

The obvious remedy is to hang them in a private gallery. It is true that the "atmosphere" might be different, but on the other hand, they would be more in place. Here in Johannesburg we have no exhibition hall for private exhibition, a point on which I hope to touch on a future occasion. In the case of an overseas exhibition which it was proposed to hold in Johannesburg some time ago, the Municipal Committee responsible definitely refused to lend a hall for an exhibition, if the pictures were to be openly offered for sale to the public.

Here I think the Municipal authorities were standing on firm ground. The moment an exhibition is merely a commercial enterprise, it should be run accordingly. Public buildings are obviously not intended for private gain. The fact that this particular exhibition was not of outstanding merit helped to soften the blow at least for many people in Johannesburg, but the incident showed what the city needs—a hall under artistic control, that is of persons interested in and knowing something of art, preferably a committee and not merely one or two individuals with private prejudices. In such a hall, artists—South African and others—could show their pictures and sell them to advantage.

I see that a writer in the *Cape Times* who evidently knows something about pictures, finds that the Fuller "collection" is not sufficiently representative. It will always be a debateable point in any such exhibition whether certain names should be included or left out. At the same time, while cordially in agreement with most of what the writer says about minor men, I must emphatically dispute his remarks about the Rembrandt etchings. Rembrandt's etchings and the "Messiness" which the writer finds in them, have nothing in common. Like the work of all great artists, they vary, but, as a whole, I doubt whether any etcher has attained to the height of the great Dutchman in the most inspired of his prints.

But that is by the way. In the course of his interesting and provocative article, the writer points out that the preponderance of European work in the Capetown Art Gallery is explained because of its superiority to the average South African picture. He quotes Wenning, to whose painting he gives high praise for feeling and sincerity. "But" (still referring to the same artist), "as seen in bulk in the gallery, a disconcerting looseness of design, defection of purpose into obvious prettiness and hollowness of colour is very striking."

Now much as I admired Wenning, as a friend and an artist this is a true criticism. Those of us who saw his work from small beginnings, who appreciated his sincerity, enthusiasm and ultimate very considerable success, must admit that, despite the tremendous advance he made in technique, some of his later efforts, especially those more or less intended for sale (for Wenning never actually attempted the potboiler), were full of crudities, with chalk, crayon and blacks and whites laid on almost indiscriminately sometimes, on tinted or coloured paper. But in spite of these things, the spirit of the man, his intense and genuine love of art as such shine out between the jarring media he, admittedly, utilised so rashly.

It is rather hard, perhaps, on this gifted Hollander to compare him, a practically self-taught artist, with an accomplished master like Augustus John as does the Capetown critic. "It is," he says, "a disconcerting revelation of the truth that sincerity is no substitute for talent to compare John's slick accomplishment with Wenning's sprawling sincerity."

His other comments on Irma Stern and Neville Lewis, are also interesting, but I pass on to his closing paragraph:—

"It is to be hoped that the Directors of the Cape Gallery will not be too eager to fill the gallery at once. Art for the native artists' sake is all right within limitations, but if it is secured at the expense of shirking comparison and competition with the best art of other nations it obviously can benefit neither art nor the native."

The remark about filling the gallery too quickly applies to other South African galleries. Some of the friends of local artists would like to have the S.A. Art Galleries full of examples of their works, quite forgetting that a picture that may adorn a suburban lounge will be entirely out of place in a public gallery. That is where technique comes in, allied, of course, to sincerity and feeling.

Assuredly, the test of a picture is to be able to live with it. No doubt failure to come up to that test is the reason why many buyers of second-rate pictures experience every now and then a consuming desire to change them! True art has something immutable about it and I believe even the veriest tyro in pictures must sometimes feel a thrill before a real masterpiece.

The fact that I have never felt a thrill before many thousand South African pictures such as I have experienced before one or two Rembrandt's, a Holbein, a Franz Hals, and a Velasquez may or may not be significant.

I do not want to be misunderstood. I think each of our galleries should have a South African room, but the selection should be discriminating and based solely on artistic merit. At present, there is a tendency to regard the best seller as the immortal. But that applies in all the arts. I admit that selling is often necessary but I still maintain that art is even more so. Holland, a little country, produced immortal painters. South Africa, a little nation, may do the same one day. But not, I think by overrating her artists or by putting up dykes to shut out all outside competition. Comparison and criticism should rather be freely invited. When a Rembrandt comes to light in South Africa, there should, in these days, be little chance of such outstanding genius being overlooked.

Meanwhile let us hasten slowly.

TOWN PLANNING.

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Eleventh Annual General Meeting of Members of the Association was held in the Office, 67, Exploration Buildings, Johannesburg, on Thursday, the 25th September, 1930.

Minutes.—The Minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting, held on the 19th September, 1929, which had been circulated to members, were taken as read and confirmed.

Council's Annual Report.—The Eleventh Annual Report of the Council for the year with statement of account of Receipts and Expenditure, which had been circulated to members, was adopted.

Election of Council.—The Chairman declared the following, who had been duly nominated, as members of the Council for the ensuing year:

Messrs. Andrew Allen, B. W. Brayshaw, T. S. Fitzsimons, A. S. Furner, W. E. S. Lewis, A. J. Marshall, G. E. Pearse, Harold Porter, W. E. Russel, H. Sharp, C. P. Tompkins, F. K. Webber, J. Wertheim, Allen Wilson and the Mayor of Vereeniging.

In addition to the above it was agreed to ask the following to act as co-opted members of the Council:—

Dr. Charles Porter, Professor W. G. Sutton and Messrs. W. H. Visser and E. H. Waugh.

Valedictory Address.—The Retiring President, Mr. T. S. Fitzsimons, delivered the following address:

"Before discussing some of the problems which arise in connection with Townships and Townships extensions, I would like to take this opportunity of calling attention to a pressing need. This Association depends on subscriptions of ordinary and institutional members for support, but the amount forthcoming from this source is all too small; hence all the Town Councils of the Transvaal are respectfully urged to follow the lead given by the City Council of Johannesburg in making a grant-in-aid to the funds of the Association, the services rendered being of great value to the Municipalities. During the past year, fifteen plans of proposed Townships have been submitted by the Townships Board, and many of the suggestions made have been adopted.

"To my mind the great problem in many cases where a proposal is made to establish a new Township, particularly within a Municipal area, is whether there is any *need*. I am of opinion that the economic problem presented should be fully investigated along the following lines:—

"(a) Present population.
(b) Estimated increase of population.
(c) Number of vacant stands in existing Township.
(d) Permissible size of proposed Township in order to accommodate increased population.

"(a) The position of the present population should be given careful consideration. They have borne the 'heats and burdens' of the day, and have paid for streets, light and water supply, drainage, Municipal buildings, Fire Stations, Market buildings, Abattoirs, plant and equipment, and all the one hundred and one items necessary for needs of an established Township.

"(b) At the present time our rate of increase of population is small, and the logical result of the uncontrolled increase of new Townships must be the depopulation and impoverishment of existing Townships; therefore, new Townships should provide for the natural increase of population only.

"(c) The number of vacant stands is a sure indication of the prosperity or lack of prosperity of the community and if these sites are situated in the central or business portion of a town, you will generally find that this anaemic condition has been brought about by the scattering of the population,

"(d) As far as I am aware, no attention has been given to the permissible size of a new Township having regard to the probable increase of population, but the size and number of building lots provided is controlled by the area of land available.

"It is evident that a careful actuarial investigation of the whole question is necessary, taking into consideration :

"(1) The amount of capital invested by the present population.
(2) The total capital required to develop the proposed Township.
(3) The probable revenue to be derived.
(4) The amount in endowment required to enable the Municipality to give essential services and construct streets without loss, or in other words, without inflicting a heavy burden on the present population.

"In the event of the decision being arrived at to allow the proposed application to proceed, there are many more problems that affect the prosperity of the community as a whole :—

"(1) Business Stands.
(2) Bus Services.
(3) Excision problems.
(4) Increased cost of essential services.
(5) The enforcement of Urban Areas Act.

"(1) The Township's Board has a rule of thumb method of allowing a certain number of business stands to every residential area, thereby decentralising, which detracts from the prosperity of the whole community. I have heard of a case where the Township's Board actually decided without application being made, to establish a bottle store in a new Township, as they considered the application lacking in this respect.

"(2) Since the advent of Motor Buses there has been an insistent demand for Motor Bus Services to outside areas, in the first place for school children at very low monthly fares, and forms quite a formidable item in Municipal losses, and must be given consideration when totalling up the cost of providing essential services.

"(3) It may be argued that no Municipality can be forced to throw money away on unpayable projects, but it is done nevertheless in the usual way by bringing pressure to bear, and as a last resource, by petitioning the Provincial Administration for excision from the Municipality, and unfortunately these petitions are sympathetically received. This form of propaganda applies particularly to small holdings situated within Municipal Areas. The powers-that-be are willing and anxious to protect the agriculturist, who is often referred to as the 'back-bone' of the country, and the small-holder being by similitude one of the smaller joints on the nethermost portion of the back-bone, corresponding to the tail is able from time to time to cause the extraordinary phenomena of the tail wagging the dog. I am not going to refer specially to the small-holding problem, as it is merely an aggravated form of the superfluous township complaint.

"(4) Every Township addition or extension means an increase of cost of essential services to the present population, no matter how desirable this extension may be, but on the other hand, an additional township situated in a distant locality may mean an unjustifiable and intolerable burden to the existing population. It is therefore of the greatest importance that the economic problems should be fully and accurately investigated by an expert in Municipal Finance, before an application for a new township is granted.

"(5) The problem of natives living in places in contravention of the Urban Areas Act, is intensified by the scattering of the white population, if the Residential area of a Municipality is compact and well defined, with native townships conveniently situated the problem is localised and to a large extent solved.

"I am inclined to lay down the following principles as axiomatic when a new Township is under consideration :—

"(a) There should be no Township additions unless there is *need*, or better still an insistent demand, from the residents in the locality.

(b) Every new Township should form an extension or addition to the original Township.

(c) One of the principal objects to be aimed at by the Town Planner is the harmonious combination of the new addition with the original Township into a symetric whole, without upsetting the centre of gravity or existing business centre.

(d) Townships are meant for Town Dwellers and Town Dwellers only. Farms and Agricultural Holdings should be kept at a distance.

"In conclusion, Gentlemen, I beg to recommend to the Town Planning Association that the question of a 'Greater Johannesburg' should be placed before the public. There is nothing revolutionary in the idea. Greater Cape Town controls a larger area than the total area of the Townships from Randfontein to Springs.

"The advantages from a Town Planning point of view are obvious. The problems of all the Municipalities are practically identical, they all form part of a great mining centre. Many of the Municipal difficulties are bound up with the mining industry, and above all the prosperity of Johannesburg is absolutely bound up with the Mines, and as the great producing mines are being opened up further and further afield it should be in the best interests of Johannesburg to develop points of contact, by advocating a Municipal area embracing the Gold Mining Industry."

Mr. Harold Porter, in moving a hearty vote of thanks to the President, said that some very interesting points had been raised and suggested that these be fully discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

Mr. Furner, in seconding the vote of thanks, said the last paragraph of the President's address on "Greater Johannesburg" opened up a wide field for discussion and referred to the question of Regional and Civic Surveys.

Mr. Wertheim associated himself with the vote of thanks to the President and Dr. Porter also expressed the appreciation and thanks of members present.

The vote of thanks was carried with acclamation and the meeting then terminated.

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1929 - 30.

Presented by the Retiring Council at the Annual Meeting on the 25th September, 1930.

To the Members of the Association,

Your Council has pleasure in submitting this, the Eleventh Annual Report of the Association's proceedings for the past year, together with the Annual Accounts.

Council Personnel.—At the Meeting of the Council held on 3rd October, 1929, following the Annual Meeting, Mr. T. S. Fitzsimons was unanimously elected President for the year and Mr. W. E. S. Lewis was elected Vice-President.

Election of Members of Council.—In terms of the constitition, nominations for membership of the Council for the ensuing year have been invited and as the total number of members nominated does not exceed the quota, no election will be necessary.

New Townships.—The Townships Board submitted for consideration of your Council during the past year fifteen plans of proposed layouts of new townships. These have been given careful consideration and reports of the criticisms and observations of the Council were sent to the Board. Many of the suggestions put forward have been adopted by the Townships Board and the promoters, with advantage to the final layouts of these townships. It is pleasing to report that your Council has received further expressions of appreciation of its work from the Chairman of the Townships Board.

Town Planning Legislation.—The Report of the Transvaal Town Planning Commission referred to at the last Annual Meeting, was issued in February last. This report was considered in detail by Sub-Committees representing Architect Members, Surveyor Members and Township Members of your Council and various amendments were proposed.

In April the draft Ordinance was published in the Provincial Gazette and your Council immediately convened a General Meeting of representatives of Constituent Members of the Association. This Meeting was held on the 15th May, and the draft Ordinance was considered clause by clause. As a result a Memorandum was drawn up and submitted to the Administrator. Subsequently a Select Committee was appointed by the Provincial Council and evidence was given by your representatives in June.

As a result a redraft of the proposed Townships and Town Planning Ordinance has been prepared which is considered by your Council to be a great step forward in Town Planning Legislation and which it is hoped will be promulgated by the Provincial Council and become law in the near future.

Lectures.—A series of lectures on Town Planning in its various aspects was inaugurated and the first of these, entitled "The Need for Town Planning," was given by Mr. A. Stanley Furner at the University of the Witwatersrand on the 6th May.

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor D. Anderson presided, and the attendance numbered about 130. The thanks of members of the Association are due to Mr. Furner for his very instructive and interesting lecture.

A second lectue on "Town Planning in Relation to Municipal Engineering" was given by Mr. E. H. Waugh, City Engineer, on the 12th June.

Mr. W. Bawden, M.P.C., Chairman of the Works Committee of the City Council, presided over a very representative gathering.

A most interesting lecture was heard and your thanks are due to Mr. Waugh for the time and trouble devoted to the subject.

A report of the first lecture appeared in the June issue of the S.A. Architectural Record and the second lecture was reported in the September issue of that Journal.

The next lecture on "Civic Design in Town Planning" by Mr. Harold Porter, will be given in the course of the next few weeks.

Conference on Johannesburg Building and Drainage By-laws.—Several meetings of this Conference were held in July and August. Your Council was represented thereat by Mr. Harold Porter and a large number of alterations and amendments to the By-laws were discussed at these meetings.

These amendments and alterations are now being considered by the Works Committee of the City Council and when finally drafted will be submitted to this Council for consideration.

Gaol Site.—After further representations had been made to the City Council, your Council received a letter from the Town Clerk, advising that the City Council had asked the Government, in view of the fact that the freehold of the ground belongs to the City and may in future be required for use by the citizens :—

1. Not to erect any further expensive buildings on the site ;
2. Whether it sees its way now to make arrangements to vacate the site in order that the ground may revert to the Council at some future date when required.

Treeplanting.—As an outcome of an interview which representatives of this Association had with the Parks and Estates Committee on Tree Planting, the idea emanated of planting trees along the Main Reef Road and your Council strongly support this proposal.

Antwerp International Colonial Exhibition.—At the request of the Secretary to the Board of Trade, a representative collection of Town Planning and Architectural designs was obtained by Professor Pearse and forwarded to this Exhibition which opened in April last for a period of six months.

Several other matters were dealt with by your Council, such as *Zoning and defining of trading areas, Aerial Surveys, Layout of Twist Street Terminus, Outlets to the North and Tree Planting in the streets of Johannesburg.*

Town Planning in O.F.S. and Rhodesia.—It is pleasing to note that a Town Planning Association has been formed in the O.F.S. and that a movement is on foot to introduce Town Planning Legislation in Rhodesia.

Your Council has offered its assistance to these movements.

Meetings of the Council are held on the first Tuesday in each month and all members of the Association are invited to attend these meetings.

CIVIC ART IN TOWN PLANNING.

by HAROLD PORTER, L.R.I.B.A.

(A resume of a lecture given by Mr. Harold Porter at the University of the Witwatersrand on October 23rd 1930.)

Some of the ways in which, by judicious planning, Johannesburg could be made a more beautiful city were indicated by Mr. Harold Porter, L.R.I.B.A., in a lecture, the third of the series, on "Civic Art in Town Planning," which he delivered at the Witwatersrand University, on Thursday evening, October 23rd, under the auspices of the Transvaal Town Planning Association.

Councillor E. S. L. Taaffe, chairman of the Parks and Estates Committee of the City Council, who presided, referred to the Town Planning Association as "a body of men who have the welfare of our city and of the whole country deeply at heart."

It was said that beauty was in the eye of the beholder, but there were many things in which it was difficult to see any beauty. However, with proper planning, the most unlovely places could be made attractive. The ideal of town planning, was, in the words of Mr. Harold Cox, a recent writer on the subject, "to give residents the pleasures of rural life together with the amenities of urban residence." Such places created a higher social conscience and helped to preserve the countryside. It was to be hoped that the time would come when certain areas of Johannesburg would be used for industrial purposes only.

"Civic art," said Mr. Porter at the beginning of his lecture, "must be the expression of the life of the community. The public must be alive to town planning schemes and must back them up if they are to be successful. This lecture is a means of showing what other countries are doing in town planning, what our needs are, and how they can be met."

The first views thrown on the screen by the lecturer were of gateways and stations. These, he said, were of particular importance since they are among the first impressions of a city that a traveller gets. To illustrate this point, views were shown of a gateway leading into Rome, the impressive Brandenburg Gate, Berlin, the gate at Nancy, in France, leading to the famous Place de la Carrière. Examples of fine stations were the magnificent pile of the Union Station, at Washington, and the station at Hanover with a large open space in front. "We must see what can be done to have a fine open space in front of our new station," said Mr. Porter.

The need for every city to have a civic centre—a fine open space surrounded by beautiful buildings—was Mr. Porter's next point. This he illustrated by views of Washington, Bath and Birmingham where there had been a competition for the best design for a civic centre. "We want buildings properly placed with room to view them. Thus we get full value for our expenditure and something to be proud of," said Mr. Porter.

"The time will come when we shall have to widen our streets as other cities have already done," he continued. Such widening would be necessary to any plan for a civic centre to which there must be a suitable approach. Many American cities, notably Kansas City—a City of many parks—had made such improvements. Several other places in the United States had circular or ring parks which were both popular and inexpensive to provide.

Church Square, Pretoria, a view of which was thrown on the screen, was the best example in South Africa of a civic centre, said Mr. Porter. It gave great dignity to the City, and the trees of the Square added charm and comfort. It was regrettable that Johannesburg had no open space to compare with it.

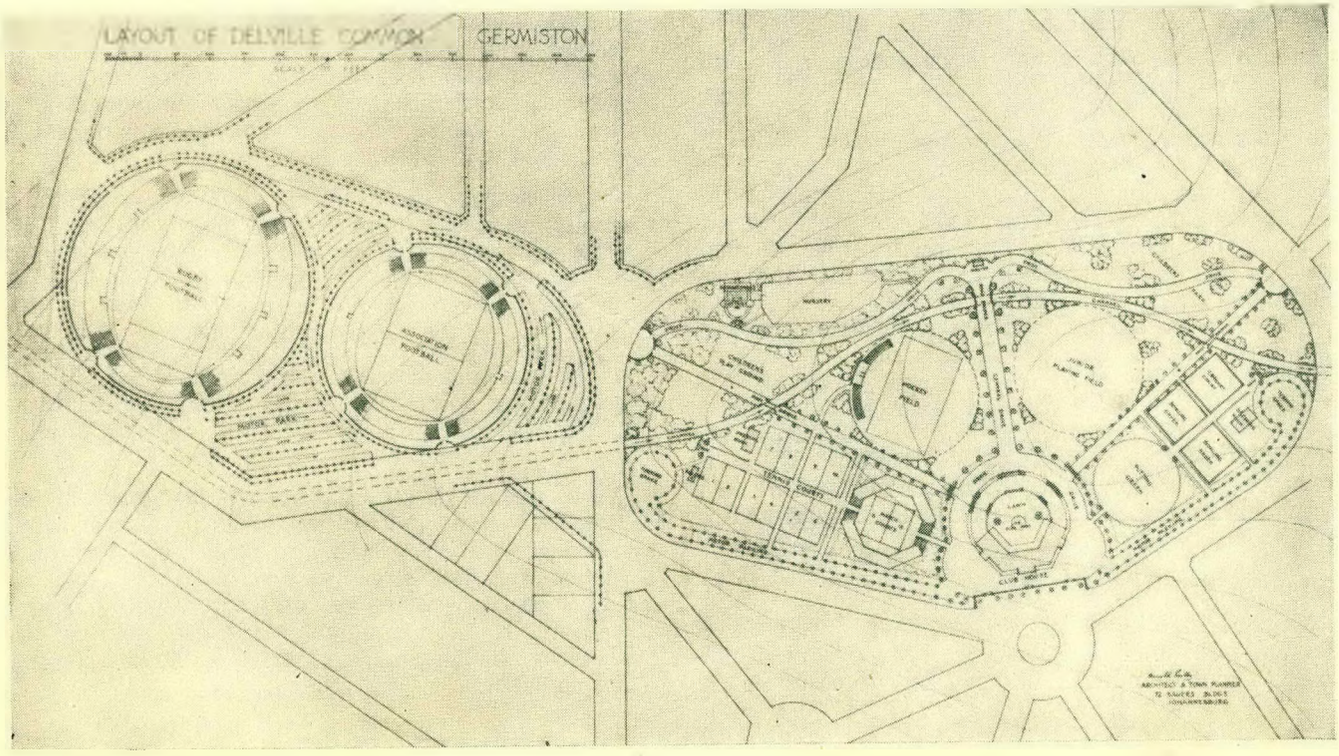
The part trees can play in beautifying a City was next shown in a series of views of Paris, which, said the lecturer, stands alone in the number of trees in its streets and the way they are cared for. The best examples were the Boulevard des Italiens, and the Champs Elysees, leading from the Place de la Concorde to the Arc de Triomphe. A view of Letchworth showed how roads can be planned so as to retain trees already there and thus add to the charm of a place.

"If these people can do it, why can't we do it?" asked Mr. Porter, after showing views and plans of parks in American and English cities. Central Park, New York, was a fine area in the heart of the City surrounded by tall buildings. The roads through were skilfully hidden and the bridges and subways camouflaged. Here and there were lakes. Liverpool had its Walton Park expertly planned like many other parks overseas, as a result of competitions for designs. Our Joubert Park, though it had a fine avenue on one side, lacked an imposing entrance.

By contrast to what other cities had done to banish ugliness there was the unsightly dock area at Capetown, the main entrance to South Africa, which was nothing but a conglomeration of railway goods yards, electric light works, cold storage plants, and other unattractive views. "What an entrance we present to our visitors," said Mr. Porter. "We treat them as if they were coming through a back gate." And then they got in a train to come to Johannesburg, and their first impression of our City was from the railway embankments at Doornfontein, a repellant vista of



Church Square, Pretoria. *Photo: S.A. Railways & Harbours.*



Layout of Delville Common, Germiston. *Mr. Harold Porter, Architect.*

washing, garages, tin hovels and thousands of braziers befouling the atmosphere. "It is a festering sore in Johannesburg, and we keep it," exclaimed the lecturer. "This slum should be tackled in earnest."

From Krugersdorp the approach to Johannesburg was not much better. Valuable space was taken up by Kazerne. The heavy goods depot should be put on the south side of the town, where most of the warehouses were situated. This would obviate the need for goods to be taken across the City and so relieve traffic congestion.

"Then there was the approach to Brixton Cemetery. We should respect our dead. A double row of pines should line a fifty feet wide road leading up to the cemetery. These are civic matters and should be put right."

Johannesburg had no ring park and no big park anywhere except at the Zoo. We badly needed more park areas and open spaces. The ground for many of these improvements was available once, but the opportunity to acquire it had been lost. A survey of Johannesburg's parks needs should be made showing particularly where deproclaimed land would become available for industrial or residential purposes. If plans of such areas were prepared long before the land became available, it would be possible to take steps to acquire them for parks and open spaces and not run the risk of losing them as had happened in the past.

Tree-planting, by which the most unsightly streets could be improved had not been varied enough in Johannesburg and Pretoria, said Mr. Porter. Johannesburg seemed to be all plane trees, and Pretoria all Jacarandas. There were many other varieties of trees suitable and available for planting in these cities.

If all the improvements he had suggested were made, said Mr. Porter in conclusion, they would help to create that civic pride that Johannesburg so badly needed.

Councillor Taaffe, opening the discussion, pointed to what had already been done to improve Johannesburg. Not many years ago it had been a windswept, rocky place whereas to-day it was a really beautiful city. The difficulty was to get money for improvement schemes. He would do whatever he could to further such schemes.

Mr. Furner, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Porter, said many mistakes in the layout of Johannesburg had been made in the past. Some of those mistakes were irremediable, but similar errors could be avoided in future.

Seconding the vote of thanks, Mr. Stewart said Johannesburg had made great strides in the last twenty years and its citizens ought to be proud of what had been done, though it was regrettable that certain city squares suitable for "lungs" should have been spoiled.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Mr. Taaffe.

CONDITIONS OF CONTRACT.

The proposed new Conditions of Contract have caused a considerable amount of controversy amongst members of the Architectural profession in the Transvaal. These conditions, which were drawn up by a committee of representatives of the Institute of South African Architects, the Chapter of Quantity Surveyors and the National Federation of Building Trade Employers, were based largely on the proposed R.I.B.A., conditions of contract which were not agreed to by members of the Royal Institute. A special meeting of the Transvaal Provincial Committee was held and the document was referred to a general meeting of members at which it was agreed to recommend that the existing document be adhered to and that it should be used as a basis for discussion with the representatives of the Master Builders Associations.

It was felt by many that the changes suggested in the majority of the clauses vary so little from the existing document that it would be much wiser to retain the latter and merely alter such clauses as have caused any friction between Architects, Employers and Contractors in the past.

The introduction of the Quantity Surveyor as an independent individual into the document was perhaps the greatest bone of contention as it was felt that considerable trouble and difficulty is likely to occur in the future when a client has two professional men to deal with instead of one.

There is no gainsaying the fact that the main responsibility in a building contract lies with the Architect who is not only responsible for the design of the building but also for the preparation of drawings not only for the Quantity Surveyor but also for many other specialists and local authorities.

In addition the Architect has the sole responsibility in supplying the necessary detail drawings and supervising the erection of the work during progress with all the innumerable administrative and technical details involved.

The fact that the Quantity Surveyors are embodied in the Institute of S.A. Architects does not affect their position as specialists under a building contract in exactly the same way as structural, heating, mechanical and electrical engineers are employed.

The work of the Quantity Surveyor is infinitesimal when compared with that of the Architect and the fact that there are so many unqualified architects in this country who are prepared to produce one of two drawings for any work of whatever magnitude and leave the rest to the Quantity Surveyor does not justify his being included as a separate individual in a building contract.

The feeling amongst members of the architectural profession is so strong in this matter that it is felt that the sooner the question is settled the better and that the exact relationship between the architect and quantity surveyor should be cleared up without delay.

No one appreciates the fully qualified quantity surveyor and his work more than the fully qualified architect, but in practice there is a great difference between the two professions.

Quantity Surveyors may and are engaged by clients direct, or by the client through the architect or by the architect direct and also by the contractor and cases have been cited in which the Quantity Surveyor has prepared the quantities for a building being carried out by a contractor who is also the employer of the Quantity Surveyor under another contract.

The vexed questions of variations, omissions and additions, and payment therefor has also to be thoroughly thrashed out and it is felt by many Architects that the Quantity Surveyors' position in this respect is a very peculiar one when compared with that of the Architect. There is no reason why the whole question should not be thoroughly discussed from every angle at the next congress and the sooner the better, otherwise a serious breach between the two professions is likely to occur.

DURBAN NOTES.

THEO. SCHLOSS' BUILDING.

MONUMENT TO DURBAN'S PROGRESS.

The Theo. Schloss' building, towering one hundred and thirty-five feet above the pavement, in Field Street, Durban, heralds a new phase in the development of Durban central property buildings, and is a fine monument to the industry and progress of the town. The building, which is of cage-framed reinforced concrete construction, is unique in many respects. The foundations, which are of the framed rafted type, extend to a depth of twenty-two feet below the kerb of the Parry Road frontage. It will not be surprising to old Colonists who remember Durban in the old days when a small spruit flanked with clumps of mangroves ran through the property to hear that the bones of hippopotami and other interesting relics have been dug up from the site.

We are informed that the ground floor is arranged to suit the requirements of firms desiring counting house or showroom accommodation. The first floor is suitable for club, office and sample room accommodation. The two next floors contain specialised accommodation for the housing of professional men, particularly members of the medical, legal and dental callings.

New Refinements.—The six uppermost floors have been equipped as residential one-room suites with luxuriously equipped and heated bathrooms, fitted wardrobes, a safe deposit for each tenant, intercommunicating telephones and a hundred and one refinements not previously introduced in Durban.

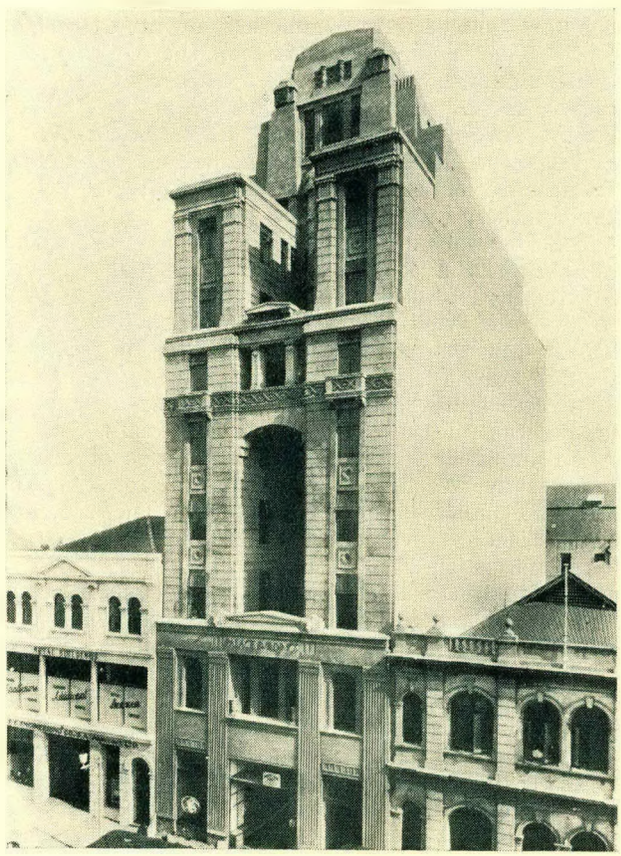
There has already been a considerable demand for accommodation.

The lift installations are by Waygood Otis and represent this universally established company's last thought in lift design and equipment and is far in advance of anything yet installed in South Africa, in point of speed and comfort. The lift cages, which are all metal, carry twelve passengers in comfort.

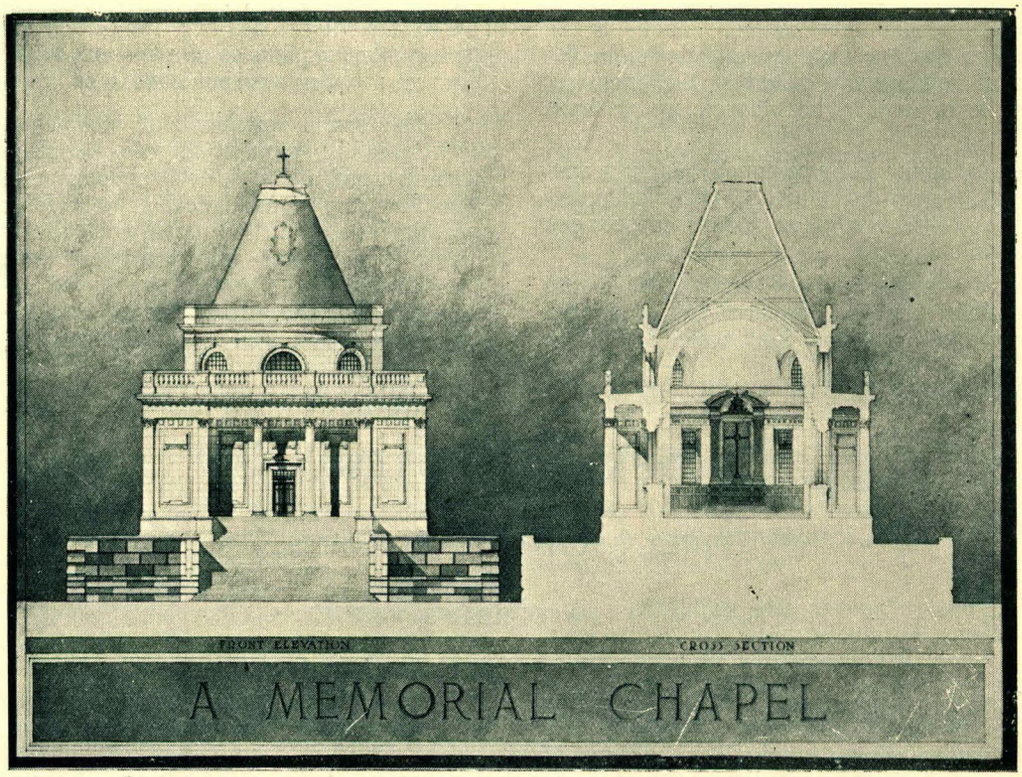
The office entrance hallways and stairs are framed and panelled in marble. The shopfronts are in bronze. The windows throughout are the product of Crittalls and are purpose made. The joinery generally is in teak, while the doors and floors are American products.

A very fine impression of the magnificence of the structure can be gained from the accompanying photograph which is reminiscent of London's newest building, the underground railway offices.

The general contractors for the building are Messrs. W. Cornelius (Pty.), Ltd., whilst the building is the design of Mr. A. A. Ritchie McKinlay.



Theo. Schloss' Building. Field Street. Durban. *Mr. A. A. Ritchie McKinlay, Architect.*



An Exhibition of the years work by the Architectural Students was held in the Art Room Natal Technical College on Wednesday evening, November 26th. The exhibition marked the closing of the Session and was attended by members of the College Council, several practising Architects and the Students. A very severe thunderstorm, which broke over the town early in the evening was no doubt responsible for the absence of several Durban Architects who had signified their intention to be present.

The friendly criticism of the work by Mr. Wallace Paton, F.R.I.B.A., in making an individual scrutiny of the drawings proved very encouraging and helpful to the students, who followed his remarks with great interest, and one could not help being impressed with the high standard of work and the steady progress in Architectural design that has been maintained since the inauguration of the classes some five years ago.

In the Fourth Year work the series of drawings prepared by Mr. Owen Pryce Lewis, for the Emma Smith Scholarship were exhibited. The scholarship value £500 for overseas study is awarded every two years, and is open to students in any branch of Art who have studied at the Technical College for a period of two years and in this instance has been won for the second time by an Architectural student.

Mr. W. Hirst was the first Architectural Student to win this Scholarship in 1926, and after studying at the Architectural Asscciation School, London, and qualifying for the Associateship, R.I.B.A., was commissioned by Mr. T. B. Davis to design the Howard Memorial Hall. This building which is nearing completion will shortly be presented to the University Council in memory of Mr. Davis's son Howard, who fell in the Great War. The new building which occupies a dominating position on the ridge above Stellawood, is a familiar land mark among the new buildings in Durban.

Among the Fourth Year work is a very excellent design of buildings and layout for a South African Dairy Farm, by J. Simpson, this student has selected the Spanish style for his buildings, which is admirably suited to the somewhat irregular wings and heights of portion of the scheme. In addition to the geometrical drawings a number of pen and ink perspective sketches illustrating special features in working up the design are very interesting.

In the Second and First year's work very commendable designs for a South African Railway Station and Town Church, by Ivor Willies and F. M. Powers are worthy of mention, both students having absorbed the South African atmosphere in their conception of design, and in each case the drawings show careful and accurate draughtsmanship.

Among the other drawings of interest are six-hour studies for a loading jetty and protection for pleasure craft in a larger harbour, and a two-hour study for a Lych Gate to a churchyard, this latter was set as an examination test; the subject being communicated to the students on the examination evening.

The number of Architectural students at present on the roll is six. This is the average number in the Durban Classes at one time, and in addition to those previously mentioned several students after their second and third year have gone overseas. Mr. Calvert McDonald, who proceeded to London last year to study for the final R.I.B.A., has qualified as an Associate and also been awarded the Henry Jarvis travelling studentship for constructional drawings. He returns to Durban early next year.

ERNEST M. POWERS.

PRETORIA NOTES AND NEWS.

Although "the depression" has, undoubtedly, influenced the building trade in Pretoria, yet the Administrative Capital has been able to take a little nourishment during the past year and signs are not wanting of a restoration to vigorous health in the near future.

The Municipality has its hands full with various undertakings such as additions to the Power Station, the prospective New Town Hall (which doubtless will now be built at an early date) and contemplates another bridge or two over the Aapies as well as a new Isolation Hospital.. The latter are being designed in the City Engineers Department, the Town Hall, as is well known, being the work of Mr. Lockwood Hall, and a pleasing little building at the Power Station has been designed by Mr. Rees Poole, erected at a cost of £900.

Some other of Mr. Rees Poole's work is a cottage at Hillcrest, for Mrs. M. D. Brown, costing £1,500, Col. de Villiers' house, at Waterkloof, £5,000, not to mention the recently completed Diocesan School for girls, costing £35,000.

The business streets of Pretoria are being constantly improved by the rebuilding of premises or the remodelling of shop fronts, etc., and the past year has been a busy one in these respects. Messrs. Cowin, Powers and Ellis have remodelled the premises now occupied by Mackay Bros, near Hamilton's Corner, Mr. Burg has rebuilt Lewis' Outfitting establishment in the same street, and next door and around the corner in St. Andries Street, Messrs. Stucke and Harrison, of Johannesburg, have designed an up-to-date establishment for the O.K. Bazaars. It is understood that the corner site between the two frontages of the O.K. Bazaars is to be occupied by a building for Cuthberts, Ltd., to be designed by the same architects.

Church Square is being rebuilt out of recognition. The Reserve Bank has made good progress and we are glad to hear that Sir Herbert Baker has received instructions to design another storey for this building, for which Mr. F. L. H. Fleming is the South African Architect. It is a worthy building on a fine site. It is flanked by the now completed offices, etc., of the S.A. Mutual Insurance Society, a building in a different style, for which Messrs. Glennie and McQueen were the Architects.

On the other side of Church Square, on the site of the old Grand Hotel, the foundations for the new Standard Bank (Stucke and Harrison) are now being laid, and tenders for the superstructure are being called for. Cowin, Powers and Ellis have just completed a pleasant little red brick building for the "First Workmens Bank," in Mutual Lane, and the same Architects are responsible for a very satisfactory Club House for the Pretoria City Bowling Club.

Flats are still very popular and boarding houses appear to flourish greatly. Amongst the latter Windsor House is one of the most popular. A fine new dining room was recently added to this establishment designed by Cowin, Powers and Ellis, and now almost opposite a block of residential rooms costing about £12,000 is being erected for Mr. H. M. Slade to the design of Mr. Lockwood Hall. The same Architect has a scheme in hand for Mrs. E. Linklater, for the erection of a Boarding Establishment on the corner of Nel and Church Streets, Arcadia, at a cost of about £13,000, and this building should add considerably to the architectural amenities of that part of Arcadia. Mr. Lockwood Hall has also been responsible for the remodelling of several shop premises in Church Street and elsewhere; for a new dining room to the Princess Christian Home, Monkey and Carnivora Houses at the Zoo, the Hatfield Presbyterian Manse, a house in Arcadia for Dr. Heming costing about £4,000 and other works.

A block of rooms for Lockley's Boarding House, designed by Mr. Kraan, is about completed and the same Architect has in hand a house for Mr. Grobler, Minister of Lands, to cost about £5,000.

A notable architectural achievement has been recently completed in the new Technical College, in Church Street, and Mr. Gordon Leith is to be congratulated on the fine line and detail of his largest work in the Capital. He is also responsible for the Voortrekker's Memorial Hall and additions to the Women's Hostel, of the University of Pretoria.

Mr. Gerard Moerdijk has probably more than any other Pretoria architect expressed his soul in Church Architecture, his Pretoria East edifice, occupying a conspicuous position, flanked by numerous educational buildings in wide open spaces. His latest church is that recently erected at Morgenzon, in the Eastern Transvaal.

He has also been commissioned by the Transvaal Administration to design a hostel for women at the Johannesburg Training College (now almost completed) occupying a fine site on the Braamfontein Ridge, and High School Hostels at Middelburg, Transvaal. This latter he has designed in a somewhat unique way for this part of the world. Instead of the stereotyped boarding house "block," he has designed a series of cottages, each for fifteen boy students, laid out relative to the central dining room and school and half of the series has just been completed at a cost of £15,000, shown in the perspective to the right of the centre road. The privilege of living in these separate houses is, we believe, not to be extended to the girl students.

The Public Works Department has not been very active in Pretoria recently, but substantial additions to the architecture of the Capital are in progress, notably the new Government Offices, in Vermuelen St., and additions to the Printing Works, in Koch Street. The former is a steel frame building of seven storeys clothed in concrete and stone to cost about £250,000, and the latter is to cost about £50,000.

A local committee of Architects is being formed and great hopes are held that this move may help to increase the interest of local members in the doings of the Institute.

Journal of the SA Architectural Institute

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