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# South African Architectural Record: Journal of the Cape, Natal, Orange Free State and Transvaal Provincial Institutes of South African Architects and the Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors

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# SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTS, INCLUDING THE CAPE, NATAL, ORANGE FREE STATE AND TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTES AND THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS

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E D I T O R
W. DUNCAN HOWIE

ASSISTANT EDITORS
UGO TOMASELLI
GILBERT HERBERT

VOLUME 38

5

A LAWRENCE H. TEARLE PUBLICATION

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# THE NEW S.W. AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Early in 1949 Architects in South West Africa were beginning to feel the need of an Institute, and after discussions held amongst themselves, a letter was sent to the President of the Transvaal Provincial Institute, pointing out that there was no Institute in South West Africa, and that the title " Architect " was not protected. This letter was handed to the Central Council for their consideration.

The Registrar of the South African Institute wrote on the 30th November, 1949, to the Secretary of the Executive Council of the Administration of South West Africa, suggesting that the time had arrived when it would be in the public interest to make the provisions of the Union Act No. 18 of 1927 statutorily applicable to the Territory of South West Africa, and explaining in detail the qualification necessary for Registration as an Architect in the Union.

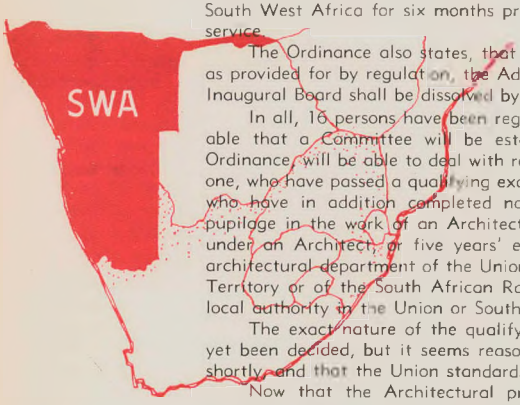
Considerable correspondence took place between the Registrar of the Institute of South African Architects and the South West African Administration, and Mr. Naude visited Windhoek on the 2nd June, 1950, but found the territory in the throes of an election campaign, and the Secretary for South West Africa unable to devote much of his time to him.

Shortly after this, the Secretary for South West Africa wrote stating that they were experiencing some difficulty in framing their Ordinance, as the major portion of Act No. 18 of 1927 could not be applied owing to the different conditions obtaining in South West Africa, and inviting the Institute to assist by sending representatives to discuss the matter in Windhoek.

This invitation was accepted and Mr. C. Erik Todd, who was then Vice-President-in-Chief of the Institute, and Mr. D. F. H. Naude, of Cape Town, Member of the Central Council, attended as the South African Institute's representatives. The Conference was held on Thursday, 3rd August, 1950, and the main outlines of the Ordinance were drawn up.

On Friday, 2nd March, 1951, a Draft Ordinance was published. After slight amendments this eventually led to the publication on the 30th July of Ordinance No. 38 of 1952, " to provide for the qualification of architects ; for the establishment of the Institute of South West African Architects ; and for the rights, powers and duties of the Institute and the members thereof."

This Ordinance set up an Inaugural Board, with various duties, the chief of which was to open a Register of persons entitled to be registered as Architects, either because they were performing the work of an Architect in South West Africa prior to the 1st July, 1951, or were employed as an assistant to an Architect in South West Africa for six months prior to that date and with at least five years' service.




The Ordinance also states, that as soon as a Committee has been established, as provided for by regulation, the Administrator shall be advised in writing and the Inaugural Board shall be dissolved by publication of a notice in the Gazette.

In all, 16 persons have been registered by the Inaugural Board, and it is probable that a Committee will be established in the near future, which, under the Ordinance, will be able to deal with registrations of persons over the age of twenty-one, who have passed a qualifying examination approved by the Administrator, and who have in addition completed not less than four years' training or articled pupilage in the work of an Architect in addition to one year's practical experience under an Architect, or five years' experience in the work of an Architect in an architectural department of the Union Government, or of the Administration of the Territory or of the South African Railways and Harbours Administration or of a local authority in the Union or South West Africa.

The exact nature of the qualifying examination has, as far as is known, not yet been decided, but it seems reasonable to expect that it must be dealt with very shortly, and that the Union standards will be demanded.

Now that the Architectural profession in South West Africa has, in the interests of the public, been placed on a sound basis, it is more than likely that a close liaison will be established between the South West African Institute and the South African Institutes, more particularly if South West Africa accepts the principles of the South African Institute's rules and regulations, and its qualifying examinations. It seems almost certain that South West Africa will have to look to the Union for its Architectural education.

South West Africa is to be congratulated on this progressive step, which it has taken to protect its building public.



# HOUSE ON LONE HILL - WITKOPPEN

MONTY SACK B.Arch. M.I.A.
A R C H I T E C T
FEO SACHS & MAURICE
MEYERSOHN - COLLABORATORS

Accommodation for a small family was called for, with emphasis on an informal layout closely related to garden and views. Within a maximum budget of five thousand pounds an attempt was to be made to include a guest wing and barbecue, the former being discarded early in the scheme in favour of a mezzanine over the dining room and inglenook.

A portion of the site, twenty-one acres in extent, was actually developed before construction of the house was started, so that its position and orientation was to a large extent predetermined.

While taking into account fine views of garden and the long views of valleys and hills beyond, the necessity was felt to create a series of enclosures to counteract the general feeling of exposure to the landscape and weather; hence the entrance patio, barbecue courtyard and semi-enclosure before the bedroom wing. Indoors, an attempt to achieve this was made by including in the living zone a somewhat cave-like inglenook, whose quality is emphasised by its spatial relationship to the double volume living room.

Construction and finishes were both naturally affected by the budget limit. Roof trusses were eliminated by introducing a 12in. by 3in. timber beam spanning from gable to gable to support 1½in. by 4½in. rafters at 30in. centres. A boarded roof covered with a patented malthoid finish was expressed on the inside, eliminating ceilings. All gutters and downpipes were also eliminated.

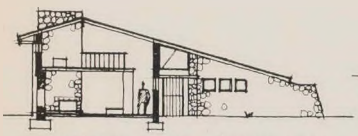
The shell walls, built in silicate bricks, were bagged and limewashed both internally and externally, cutting down on plastering costs. Much of the flooring was carried out in brick, which also substituted for timber skirtings. Stone, a large proportion of which was quarried on the site, was used for walling.

Although all windows and doors were purpose-made, and in many instances incorporated fixed louvres with hinged flaps behind, cost when compared with that of standard steel domestic windows, proved to be competitive.

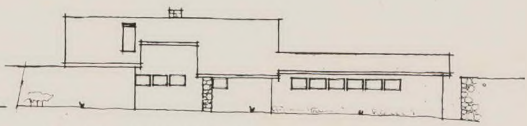
All exposed woodwork and fascias are finished in a dark plum colour. The eaves soffit at the living room wing is painted turquoise. A pink colour wash was applied to all outer walls except the floating panel to the double volume wing, which is finished white.



NORTH ELEVATION



SECTION THRO LIVING ROOM



SOUTH ELEVATION



*At right: View of the living room, as seen from the mezzanine, showing the open roof construction and also clearly indicating the spaciousness resulting from the inclusion of the roof space in the living volume.*

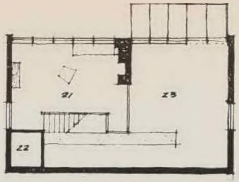
*Below: The view from the south, showing the approach and the entrance courtyard, formed by the enclosing richly-textured brick and stone walls.*



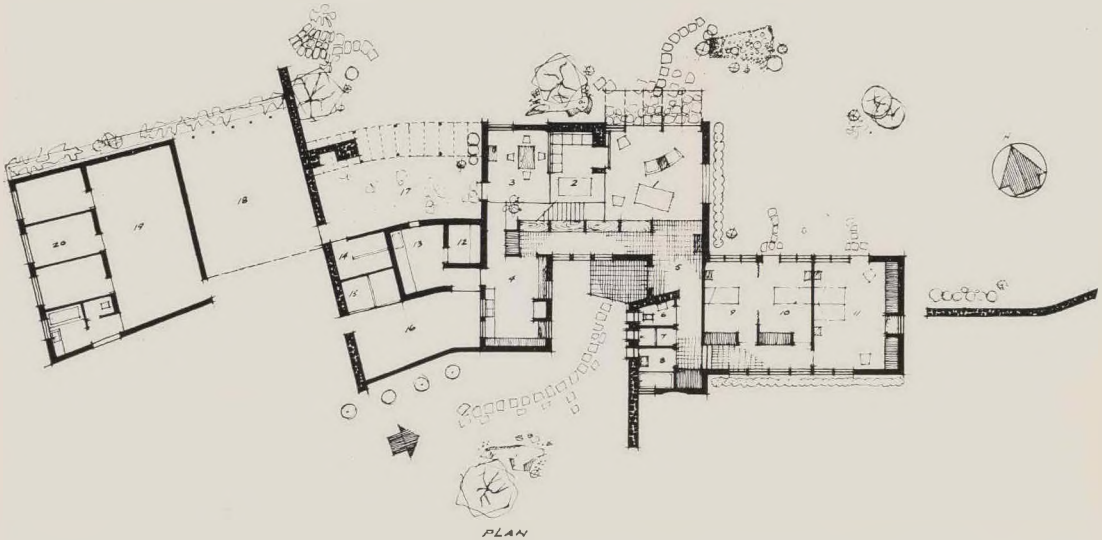
# HOUSE ON LONE HILL

LEGEND :

1. LIVING ROOM
2. INGLENOOK
3. DINING ROOM
4. KITCHEN
5. ENTRANCE HALL
6. W.C.
7. SHOWER
8. BATHROOM
9. BEDROOM
10. BEDROOM
11. BEDROOM
12. COOL ROOM
13. LAUNDRY
14. CHANGE ROOMS
15. WOOD AND COAL
16. YARD
17. BARBECUE
18. GARAGE
19. SERVANTS' YARD
20. SERVANTS
21. MEZZANINE
22. HOT WATER CISTERN
23. UPPER PORTION OF LIVING ROOM




PLAN · MEZZANINE



PLAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY B.R.S. PHOTOGRAPHERS (Pty.) LTD.



*View of the house from the northwest, showing the barbecue court.*

*The two-way fireplace facing both living room and inglenook. Also shown is the companionway type stair leading up to the mezzanine, and rising up past a comprehensive storage wall.*





# APPRENTICES HOSTEL

## VANDERBIJL PARK

### FLEMING & COOKE - ARCHITECTS

In 1948 the Vanderbijl Park Hostels' Association commissioned the Architects to design a hostel to accommodate about three hundred apprentices. These artisan trainees are employed mainly in the steel works and in various engineering organisations. It was necessary that the apprentices should have to pay the least possible amount for their living at the hostel, in order that, in view of their low earnings, it should be less of a burden to them than any other form of living nearby.

It was also very important that the general environment and amenity provided by the hostel should be as pleasant as possible and provide many forms of recreation, so that the apprentices would be encouraged to develop a full and rich life within the hostel and discouraged from seeking amusement at random elsewhere.

This was a definite sociological aim of the scheme ; for these young men, mostly aged from seventeen to twenty-five and coming from varied homes, to be fitted for worthy citizenship.

It was thus a very ambitious project, with a strictly limited budget.

The clients intended that the apprentices should be housed in single rooms, and in order that control and discipline be maintained, requested that accommodation be arranged in three groups of a hundred, each group controlled by a superintendent. Some discipline would be maintained by the residents themselves in a manner somewhat similar to a prefect system. Each group would have its own identity rather like a school " house."

A twenty-acre site was allocated in a residential area, conveniently placed in relation to places of work, the technical college and the future centre of the town and situated at the junction of two important roads.

A fundamental problem to be solved was the manner in which the large number of small rooms were to be disposed on the site. The alternatives to be considered appeared to be : a series of low small buildings spreading over the site in close contact with grounds and gardens, a single close-knit multi-storey building, or a group of separate buildings loosely connected with covered ways.



The third alternative was chosen for the following reasons : The low-lying scheme would cover a very large area of the site, buildings would face into each other or have only the limited view obtainable at a low level, planning would tend to straggle with excessive corridor length. A single building would be excessively large and tend to be institutional in character.

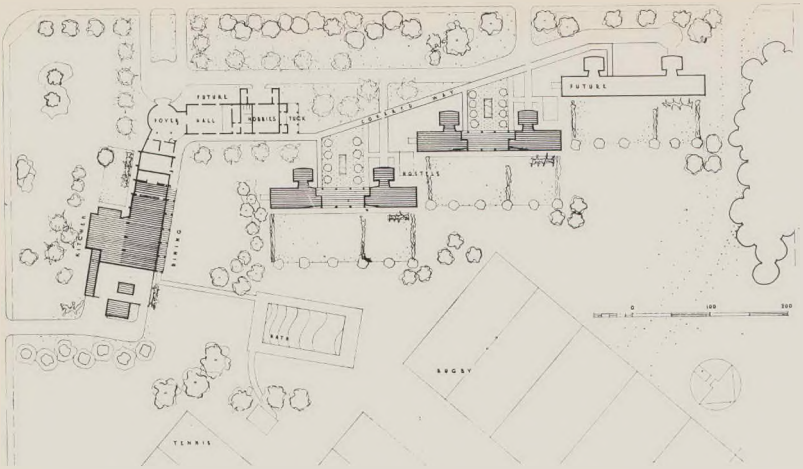
As designed the scheme comprises three dormitory blocks linked with covered ways, but of separate identity, each housing a hundred residents. These blocks stand freely disposed in a landscape that will be developed into parkland.

They are arranged in echelon so that no block overlooks another, but every room enjoys views which are indeed exhilarating, over the vast expanse of high veld rolling to distant horizons, shadowed here and there by the enormous cloud banks which pass over it. The blocks are orientated North-East and South-West so that every room has some sunshine either in the morning or afternoon. It was necessary to plan on both sides or a corridor for economic reasons. Had the blocks been placed due North and South rooms on one side would have had sunshine all day and on the other they would have been sunless and cold in winter. With this orientation they also lie along the line of the prevailing wind. The echelon formation is such that it prevents any block from casting its shadow on another at any time.

The Dining Hall Block is sited near a road for easy access of service lorries and to the side of the dormitory blocks so that the kitchen yard and outbuildings are not overlooked from bedrooms and all service activities are kept well away from them.

The Dining Hall Wing, together with recreation rooms, is joined with a circular entrance hall to another wing containing other recreation and hobby rooms. These two wings, together with the one dormitory block, form a free shaped and partially enclosed court. This will be further enclosed with tree planting to form an outdoor recreation area.

Similarly partially enclosed courts will be formed by tree planting on the south-west of each dormitory block. The immediate surroundings of the




ABOVE · SITE PLAN

BELOW : VIEW FROM THE NORTH-WEST



buildings will be informally landscaped and will have extensive lawns in front of each dormitory block. Further to the north, areas are allocated for sports fields, tennis and squash courts and a swimming bath.

The ground floor of each dormitory block comprises a superintendent's flat, matron's room, and office at one end; and at the other, a visitor's room, first-aid room, and residents' lounge. This is a "noisy" lounge, intended for games and conversation. At the opposite end on the first floor is a "quiet" lounge for study and reading. The large loggia under each block gives additional open air recreational area. Entrance halls are arranged flanking the loggia on either side.

As mentioned previously, single bedrooms were required and these were planned throughout the upper floors. After designing was complete, however, it was decided for economy to omit the third dormitory block.

Alternate intermediate partition walls were then omitted from between most of the rooms, retaining a few single rooms only, and the space of two single rooms was made to take three beds, thus each building now accommodates about 150 residents. No other change was made to the planning, so that these rooms may be sub-divided into single rooms later when the third block is built, or at any other time.

A standard wardrobe was designed to suit single rooms, room for three or any other arrangement. Ablution rooms are planned as separate blocks, having complete cross ventilation and isolating them from the bedrooms to avoid noise. Between these and the main block, pipe ducts are concealed and screened with grilles so pipes are nowhere visible.

The Dining Hall seats 300 when full and has cafeteria service, including a shop counter for minor requisites. Portion of the Hall forms a general lounge area.

The Kitchen is planned to give a direct flow of foodstuffs, from stores and refrigerators through preparation bays, on to the cookers and then to their respective places in the cafeteria counter. An office, glazed on the kitchen side, gives a clear view of working areas for supervision purposes. The yard is planned with in and out circulation for delivery of stores and rubbish removal. The kitchen is lit with clerestory windows on all sides and has an extract ventilation system.

Adjoining the Dining Hall are offices temporarily, but in future this area will become a reading room, with a billiard room next to it and offices



*Above: View of the south-east facade showing the free-standing ablution wings.*

*Below: The fire escape provides an accent of strong pattern at the end of each block, and is a tour-de-force of cantilever construction.*



beyond. The circular entrance hall will form, in future, the main approach to the whole group, as well as a foyer for the main hall, which will serve as gymnasium, general assembly, theatre for cinema and amateur dramatics or dance hall. Next to it is planned a hobbies workshop for carpentry and metal work and similar activities ; and on the upper floor is a special hobbies room. A tuck shop completes this wing. A small self-contained infirmary was originally planned to the north-east of the dining hall.

As will be seen from the photographs and drawings much of this planning remains to be built in the future and at present only the essential accommodation in two blocks, with the dining facilities, have been provided.

Construction of the dormitory blocks consists, on the ground floor, of reinforced concrete portal frames regularly spaced 16ft. 9in. apart ; these give unrestricted floor space in the lounge and loggia and allow the staff quarters to be freely planned independently of the portals. Column spacing was determined by the 8ft. width of the single rooms, columns being placed at alternate partitions regularly throughout the building. Floors are of hollow slab construction, formed with cellocrete wood wool slabs 4ft. x 2ft. in size, used in the manner of hollow tiles. These largely eliminate the need for shuttering and give flush ceilings.

The fire escape stairs are completely cantilivered from each floor at the end of the buildings.

The Dining Hall is constructed of reinforced concrete arches, spaced 18ft. apart, supporting the shell concrete roof slab which is 4in. thick. The span of the arches is 40 feet and the height 25 feet. The slab is insulated above with Vermiculite and rendered inside with Vermiculite plaster for acoustic treatment. The reinforced concrete structure was designed by Baumann and Partners.

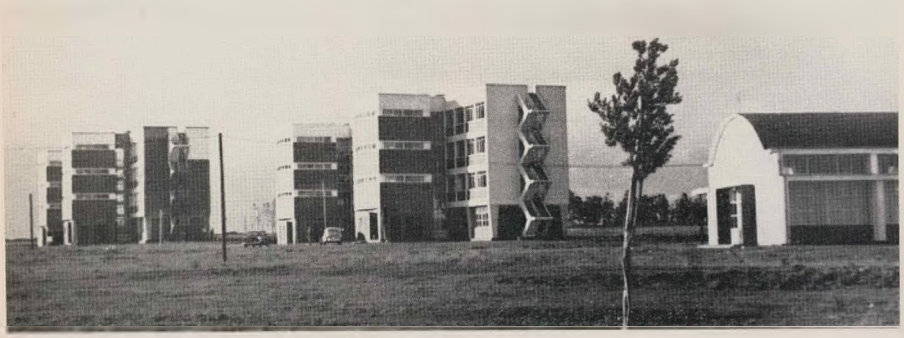
Generally the framework of the buildings is expressed in the exteriors. This is rendered and painted ivory and has an infilling of a light red facing brick. With the exception of a slight use of colour in one or two portions, these two are the only exterior colours.

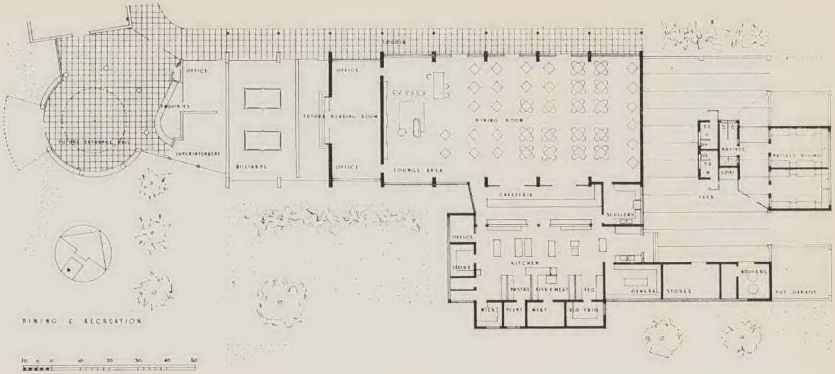
In the interior, however, full use has been made of colour. Each bedroom is of a slightly different colour in a range of four pale shades : biscuit, daffodil, pale blue and blue green, which run in series throughout the building. In this way an attempt is made to give a sense of identity to each room and avoid an institutional character. Similarly, there are slight changes of colour on each floor level. Entrance halls to the dormitory blocks have free standing stairs finished in buff terrazzo, with the walls in textured plaster.

In a building group of such large dimensions which is for domestic use, it would seem to be important to avoid too large a scale, both of the building itself and of its parts. Otherwise excessive size may cause a loss of domestic character. This has to be reconciled with the danger of an arbitrary breaking-up of building masses.

The request for a grouping into three units avoided an excessively extended block, building height being limited. In the treatment of the blocks, the 8ft. wide unit of single rooms is felt to be of reasonable scale. The open loggia beneath the buildings and the columns tapering downwards act in some measure to lighten and give buoyancy to the 185ft. long block.

At the present time the group should be considered as a part only of a larger scheme. The completion of it will involve linking up the dining hall with the other buildings and joining all of them with covered ways. These are very important factors, together with landscaping, for the full effect of the composition.

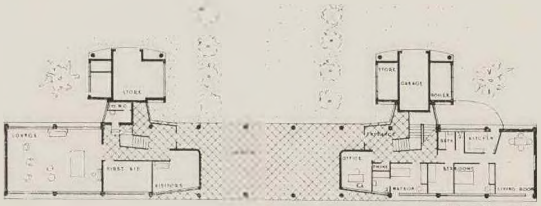








TYPICAL FLOOR




SUPERINTENDENT'S FLAT

*At right : View of the dining block from the North.*

*Below : Interior of the Dining Room looking towards the cafeteria counter. The arched and shell-vaulted construction is clearly expressed in the interior. The curved soffit of the vault acts as a reflector to the light entering through the clerestorey, and the room is flooded with evenly diffused light.*





Photography by B.R.S. Photographers (Pty.) Ltd. and by Bernard Cooke.

## APPRENTICES' HOSTEL, VANDERBIJL PARK.

| | |
|---|---|
| General Contractors | J. L. Jordaan and Rokebrand (Pty.) Ltd., Box 250, Benoni. |
| **SUB-CONTRACTORS :** | |
| Reinforcing Steel | Werda Reinforced Concrete and Engineers (Pty.) Ltd., Vanderbijl Park. |
| Steel Windows and Doors | Pretoria Metal Industries (Pty.) Ltd., Box 1396, Pretoria. |
| Small Portion by | Wire Industries, Steel Products and Engineering (Pty.) Ltd., Box 8799, Johannesburg. |
| Electricians | Barnes and Healey, Box 297, Brakpan. |
| Wrought Iron Railings | Jacks Fencing, Box 8654, Johannesburg. |
| Fibrous Hollow Blocks | Cellocrete, Vanderbijl Park. |
| Geysers | C. J. Fuchs Ltd., Box 75, Alberton. |
| Air Extraction | Atovent Patent Air Extractor Company, 33, Central Avenue, Mayfair, Johannesburg. |
| Leidek Roofing | Mazista Slate Quarries, Sprinz Avenue, Johannesburg. |
| Ironmongery | Clyde Trading Company, 137, Jeppe Street, Johannesburg. |
| Asphaltic Roofing | Asphalte Manufacturing Company, Box 4522, Johannesburg. |
| Electric Light Fittings | Dominec (Pty.) Ltd., Box 3269, Johannesburg. |
| Terrazzo | Premier Concrete, Maritzburg Street, Johannesburg. |
| Hollow Block Walling | Mazista Slate, Sprinz Avenue, Johannesburg. |
| Painting | Herbert Evans and Company, Box 1231, Johannesburg. |
| Wrought Iron Grilles | J. G. Lord, 18, Sprinz Avenue, Johannesburg. |
| Heatflow Cookers | W. R. Boustreds Ltd., Box 1525, Johannesburg. |
| Kitchen Equipment | Benham-Booth (Pty.) Ltd., Box 8343 ; W. R. Boustreds Ltd., Box 1525 ; Charles Westwood (Pty.) Ltd., 15, City and Suburban Road ; S.A. General Electric Company Ltd., P.O. Box 1905 ; all of Johannesburg. |
| Refrigeration | Victor Kent Ltd., Box 1564, Johannesburg. |

# RAND SHOW NOTEBOOK - 1953

If one can go on a quiet day, an afternoon at the Rand Easter Show is always rewarding. The standard of display to be seen in the various halls of industry, and the variety and quality of the products exhibited seems to improve annually. An architects' interests cover an extensive range—he finds a township layout as absorbing as a new type of door lock or a method of sewage disposal—and his catholicism is well catered for by the diversity of the Show's exhibits.

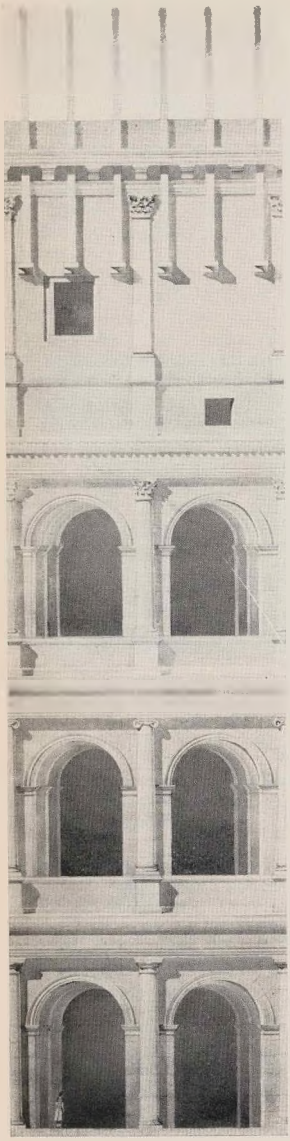
The technique of building is not particularly well covered by the show, and apart from various brick-making machines, some artificial thatch (vermiculite), and an African bricklayer in the Native Affairs Department, the actual shell of the building receives little attention. Equipment for the home, however, is a major aspect of the show's attraction. Contemporary furniture is well in evidence this year. I noticed some well-designed furniture produced in timber by Kally Products, housed in an attractive stall embodying colour, texture and decorative lettering. Contemporary Design (Pty.) Ltd., displayed some fascinating furniture in various combinations of metal, rope, painted and polished timber and coloured linoleum, all providing a touch of gaiety in the constructionist idiom to the equipment of the contemporary home. Especially pleasing were the accessories—candle lamps, flower-pot holders, coat racks—which all show the mark of the creative designer. Another item of furniture which caught my attention was the free-form chair by Vorster, which formed part of the Dunlopillo display.

Standardised kitchen equipment by many different manufacturers is well displayed, and the work of Kitchencraft, to name just one of the many excellent producers in this field, shows ingenuity of design and quality of finish. Architects are encouraged by the many items of equipment for the home which are available : such equipment as Venetian blinds, Modernfold doors, and adjustable louvres help to extend the range of modern design. Of the latter, I was impressed by the Airlite louvres, which provide an attractive and simply operated system of ventilation control. The Rand Show is yet to give us a display of light fittings of good contemporary design, for which the architect has been long awaiting, but a suggestion of what might be achieved in this line was offered by the light fittings (by Progress Electric) in the Nova Estates Exhibit. This exhibit, incidentally, was very well housed. The firm sells stands at one of the Natal South Coast resorts, and the display catches the holiday atmosphere of the sea-side admirably by the skilful use of canvas canopies, stylized palm trees and draped fishing nets.

Well-designed displays, meeting even the severe standards of the architect, are more frequently met with this year. The "home-made" stall of bad design and crude execution is now fortunately a rarity, and displays generally are marked by a professional polish, and—what is even more gratifying—often by a fresh, contemporary approach. The standard of lettering has improved tremendously, and lettering is employed, not only for identification and information, but for its decorative value as well. Giant lettering, suspended on coloured cubes as in the Klipfontein Organic Products display, can be most striking. In this display we find colour and texture also carefully considered. It is interesting to see that even the traditionally minded banking houses have exhibited in stalls which combine the best features of contemporary exhibition design technique with a dignity which their function implies. Both Barclays and Standard Banks are highly successful in this respect. It is encouraging to see public bodies showing an appreciation of modern design, and I hope to see this frankly contemporary treatment in their more permanent structures as well. An incidental in the Standard Bank display is a relief map (3-D) in painted plywood, one of the most attractive items of mural design I have yet seen

The high point of stall design, for me at any rate, was the Forsyth-Udwin display. A design of great purity and clarity, its separates a framed structure from a series of coloured planes which are the products of the firm. The sense of form and colour displayed is of the highest order, and its ordered discipline is given point and piquancy by a clever three-dimensional space-model judiciously placed by its architect-designer. In all, the design is as exciting and as chaste as a Mies v. d. Rohe house.

I was disturbed by a display of house perspectives by an organisation offering plans and specifications incorporating "artistic expression blended with careful consideration of your own requirements" for £15 15s. This publicity for the non-architect designed house—which attracted considerable public interest—must inevitably cause injury both to the architectural profession and to architecture itself. It seems that some pertinent reply by the architect is called for, and I would like, in my Show Notebook of 1954, to be able to describe the re-established Stall of the Institute of Architects. Such a public statement is necessary, if architecture is to prosper. **G. H.**



# THE HERBERT BAKER SCHOLARSHIP - 1953

The Trustees have pleasure in announcing a Competitive Examination, open to British subjects not more than thirty-three years of age, who have completed six years or more in the study and/or practice of Architecture of which period not less than four years have been spent in South Africa.

The Competitive Examination will be held on five successive days, from July 6th/10th inclusive, simultaneously at the Universities of the Witwatersrand, Pretoria, Cape Town, Durban (and, if considered necessary, at other centres).

The amount to be awarded to the 1953 Baker Scholar is the sum of four hundred pounds, which sum may be augmented by a grant of one hundred pounds by the Central Council of the Institute of South African Architects.

The 1953 Baker Scholar will be required :

(a) To spend a period of approximately ten months, as determined by the Trustees, substantially in Italy but also on the Continent of Europe and in Great Britain ;

(b) While overseas, to be under the direction of the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and to exhibit, in London, the results of his studies in such manner as may be prescribed ;

(c) On his return to South Africa to arrange, with the Trustees, for the holding of a similar exhibition.

(d) On the completion of his Scholarship period, to submit to the Trustees a Thesis on a subject chosen by them.

The Trustees are Mr. W. G. Payne (Durban), Mr. D. S. Haddon and Mr. N. L. Hanson (both of Johannesburg). The Honorary Assessors are Professor J. Fassler (Johannesburg), Mr. W. Gordon McIntosh (Pretoria) and Mr. O. Pryce Lewis (Cape Town).

Intending competitors should obtain the Form of Application without delay from the Registrar, the Institute of South African Architects, P.O. Box 7322, Johannesburg. Applications should be received on or before May 30th, 1953.





*The delightful drawings which we present on these pages are by JACK BARNETT, B. Arch., M.I.A., Herbert Baker Scholar, and are reproduced from his 1951 Scholarship thesis, "From the Renaissance to the Baroque".*



# THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Each year at the Annual General Meeting it is customary for the retiring President to give an address. No restrictions are placed on the subject matter, but it is obvious that after 25 years these addresses have covered a very wide field. I have been assisted, however, in my own choice of subject by two facts. Firstly, that during my year of office our Chapter has passed its twenty-fifth birthday, and secondly, that I am the first President during that period from outside the Transvaal. The first of these gives me an excuse to look back over the past and perhaps also to indulge in that very risky hobby of peeping into the future, and the other will permit me to review the workings of the Chapter from outside its centre of gravity here in Johannesburg.

Time is a comparative thing, and by most standards a quarter of a century is not long. But we must remember that our country is a young one and that our profession is also quite young. Twenty-five years is thus long enough to enable us to assess our progress. But let us go back further than that.

It is not possible to pin-point the beginning of quantity surveying in Britain as its evolution was a gradual process, having developed from the builder's estimator. But we do know that at the end of last century it was firmly established and the Quantity Surveyor's Association was a strong body with a growing membership. We can, however, see our beginnings in South Africa with a degree of certainty. Diamonds had brought our country a certain measure of prosperity and the discovery of gold focussed many more eyes in this direction. Trade and commerce were beginning to flow freely and these demanded buildings, and at the very close of the century the quantity surveyor had joined the vanguard.

In 1892 a young architect by the name of Mr. Herbert Baker came to Cape Town, and was was followed shortly afterwards by a Mr. Fricker, who did a certain amount of quantity surveying work for Baker. Fricker, however, came here more for his health than to start a quantity surveying practice, but his primary object was not achieved and he died in 1897. Baker's quantity surveying work was then done by a firm of fellow-architects, Messrs. Tully and Waters, and by Mr. T. Hitchin, another architect, pending the arrival in the country in 1898 of Mr. A. T. Babbs, who was the first trained and experienced quantity surveyor in Cape Town. Babbs immediately settled down and started a practice, and today, 55 years later, he is still on our roll of practising members. Johannesburg was not to be outdone, however, and at about the same time Mr. Tommy Moore arrived in the Transvaal. His work for the advancement of our profession is well known to most of you, and much spade-work was done by these two men. Others soon came and together they quickly settled down to hard work, and when conditions became normal after the disruption at the turn of the century work came steadily and their numbers increased. About 1905 the Transvaal Public Works Department started a quantity surveying branch and so at this early stage we find that official quarters were realising the importance of our profession. The first association of quantity surveyors was formed in 1905, being known as the Transvaal Society of Quantity Surveyors. Our profession is well known for thinking today what the rest of the world thinks tomorrow, and it is, therefore, not surprising to find that we anticipated the Act of Union by forming the South African Institute of Quantity Surveyors in 1908.

Naturally, the quantity surveyor cannot progress alone, and during all this time architecture was also making strides. The progress of our two professions continued to such good purpose that in 1922 or 1923 there began to be talk of registration. At first the architects spoke of going ahead by themselves, but after approaches from the leaders of our own profession it was agreed that we should join forces in a unified march towards this objective.

A Bill was drafted in considerable detail in an effort to cover all eventualities, but was subsequently withdrawn and redrafted in short form leaving the details to be covered later by regulations. The wisdom of this move is now obvious when we think of the snags which even the regulations are sometimes found to contain. In 1927 the measure became law in what is known as the Architects' and Quantity Surveyors' (Private) Act No. 18 of 1927, and I feel it is only fit and proper to record here the names of three people who helped in the passing of this Act. Dr. Malan, the present Prime Minister, was then Minister of the Interior, and gave great assistance to us. Mr. Centlivres, the present Chief Justice of the Union, was then the Parliamentary draughtsman and it was on his advice that the original draft was withdrawn and with his assistance it was redrafted. Thirdly, the late Dr. Hjalmar Reitz, who piloted the Bill through the House and became chairman of the Inaugural Board.

It would be rash, if not improper, for me to pursue our history from that time onwards in view of the fact that Mr. J. Lewis has just prepared a history of the first 25 years of the Institute and Chapter. As Mr. Lewis has been registrar of the Institute since its formation he is obviously in a better position than anyone else to write such a history, although I would have liked him to have made somewhat more reference to the Chapter.

During the past year the Institute held an official banquet to celebrate our silver jubilee, and we, as a part of the Institute, naturally took part. I think, however, that the Chapter stole a lead in this respect in that on the actual birthday (June 18th) your Board held a special meeting and lunched together in order to celebrate the occasion.

And so we have reached the present. Looking ahead is dangerous for we cannot completely control the future which is so often swayed by extraneous forces. But we can at least try to brace ourselves against these forces. How far ahead can we see?

There can be little doubt that quantity surveying has come to stay, and the position of the Chapter would appear to be

quite secure. We must, however, make sure that the boom periods we have passed through and are still passing through do not have a detrimental effect. Work of any description is inclined to suffer a falling-off in quality during times of plenty, and this applies to quantity surveying no less than to trades and handicrafts. This is the first warning note I would sound. Are we quite sure that our work is of the same standard that it was twenty-five years ago? I know quite well that every generation tells succeeding ones that "things aren't what they were" and I do not want to be dubbed an old fogey who does not move with the times, but I am often not a little worried when I see the light-hearted way in which many facets of our work are treated.

I admit that students today have a difficult task in keeping pace with the almost bewildering changes in materials and methods of construction, and I am thankful that my own training was in more stable times, but it must be remembered that it is still essential to understand thoroughly the basic principles on which all construction rests. Our profession is one which calls for clear thinking and an ability to see a problem from all points of view, and I feel that logical expression is much more important than advanced mathematics and the finer points of the theory of structures. I regret very much that report writing is not a separate subject in our syllabus. Let us also try to remember that examinations and a degree or diploma are not the end of learning, but from a practical point of view they are merely the beginning. Sound practical experience gained over many years is essential to the first-class quantity surveyor, and I view with concern the feeling among so many that there is no intermediate stage between examinations and private practice.

We are all not a little worried at the high level of building costs, but I am convinced that we cannot expect any return to lower general levels. There are, however, two people who can contribute towards a measure of reduction, and one of them is the person who shouts most at their present high level—I refer to the building owner. His primary interest today appears to get started at all costs, and what costs they often are! Preplanning has been thrown to the winds and the quantity surveyor is asked to measure from drawings which are all too often half finished and even half thought out. I am not blaming the individual architect for this, for if he is not prepared to fall in with the wishes of his client he knows that there is probably someone else who will. The quantity surveyor is in turn pushed to the extreme, and the resulting bill of quantities is not what it ought to be. Let us be frank. How many of us, in the past few years, have produced a bill which could not have been improved had we been able to take it home with us and spend a few days editing it? We are also landed with huge variation accounts which ought never to occur, and which often clog up the office to such an extent that the preparations of bills for new work frequently suffers. The contractor is in turn also affected, for instead of being able to order his materials at the proper times, he often has to go on almost from day to day. I feel, therefore, that the building owner himself is the person who can do more than anyone else to reduce building costs. He should make up his mind what he wants and not change it, and then give his team of experts time to work properly—the architect to preplan fully, the quantity surveyor to measure properly, and the contractor to co-ordinate his job efficiently. I beg our architect friends to do their utmost to bring this home to their clients.

The other person who can contribute towards a reduction in costs is the workman. I am not convinced by the statements of workers' organisations that the men are doing their best. The speed-up which results when incentives are introduced tells its own tale.

One of my greatest worries, however, is that this era of haste and yet more haste may have a detrimental effect on the work of all connected with building, for make-shifts, short cuts and carelessness which are once accepted soon tend to become standard practice.

Ours is a most unusual profession for we have to think not only of the interests of our client but of the interests of all, and we must show an impartiality on the highest level. On second thoughts, however, who really is our client? Might we not regard the building itself as our client, so that all our efforts should be directed towards seeing that the eventual structure is the best it can be within the ambit of our jurisdiction, and surely "the ambit of our jurisdiction" is primarily the cost aspect. Cannot we as a profession do anything to reduce this ever-rising cost spiral? I am sure we can if only we are given the time and opportunity. I do hope the future will see a return to normal times and a saner tempo, though I doubt it. It is most unfortunate that so many of our younger members are obtaining their training and experience in times such as these.

I would have liked these silver jubilee celebrations to have come at a time of normality rather than in a boom period, for we have no time at the moment for contemplation. I feel that every so often we should sit down and think back to basic principles. Are we not in danger of driving on at breakneck speed without ever thinking of where we are going or of whether our car needs tuning up. Are we quite sure that our primary endeavour is to provide the best service we can for the good of the building industry? I would ask you to think over these points.

One very good sign for the future is that the business world in general is slowly beginning to realise that the quantity surveyor is the first person who should be consulted on all matters relating to building costs. I feel we should lose no opportunity of pressing this point, for after all it is our whole training. The moment building costs are mentioned, it should be automatic for people to think immediately of the quantity surveyor. I think it will not be long before this will be general practice, but we must ensure that we encourage this desirable end by creating in the minds of the public a confidence in our integrity.

I would now like to deal with my own year of office and with the recent innovation which has helped members from outlying centres to become members of the Board. Let us remember that no new principle has been introduced. From the very first days of the Chapter it has been theoretically possible for any member living anywhere to be elected to the Board. But travelling time and expense made it unpracticable, and so for 22 years the Chapter was governed by what was virtually a Johannesburg and Pretoria Committee. There was a local committee in Cape Town for many years and later others were formed in Durban and Port Elizabeth, but these had little direct contact with the Board, and so virtually we all worked in water-tight compartments. It is natural that each understood only a little of the problems of the others, and suspicions and frictions were not unknown. Three years ago the Board decided to include in its nominations a member of each of the then local committees and to arrange, with the help of Central Council, for his expenses to be paid to attend three or four meetings a year. The result has far exceeded all expectations for it has knitted us together in a way never before possible. We from the outside areas now know for the first time of the amazing amount of work which is done by the Board and the amount of time given up by its members for the benefit of our profession. The Board is also for the first time in real contact with the problems and conditions in other centres. I would sum up the effect of these last three years by saying that we are now for the first time a Chapter of **South African** Quantity Surveyors, a unified body instead of a collection of individual parts.

This year the experiment was carried further by the election for the first time of a president from outside the Transvaal. It is perhaps fitting that this first outside president should come from Cape Town owing to its having been the cradle of our profession in South Africa and also to the fact that it has had a local committee for so many years. But I would like to make it clear that I have regarded the honour which has fallen to me quite impersonally, and I look on myself as being a part of Natal, Port Elizabeth and the Free State as much as of Cape Town.

It is not for me to assess the success or otherwise of this innovation of an extra-Transvaal president. Undoubtedly it has a number of severe drawbacks for the president is normally called upon to do a great deal of work which cannot be done from a distance, and so my election has thrown a heavy burden on others. I have, however, tried to be of help in other directions. Regarding myself as representing all the outside areas I have tried to find out something about them, and so during my year of office I have visited, without cost to the Chapter, all the regional committees of Natal, Port Elizabeth and the Free State, and also the committee at Pretoria. Everywhere I have found a most keen body of men, and I have had discussions and exchanged views on many topics. As a result, I feel we all know each other's viewpoints a great deal better, and I am confident that over the past three years there has been a great drawing together of our members—a greater feeling of oneness.

There are many other things to which you will probably expect me to refer. Qualification of tenders, the revision of the Standard system of measurement, revision of the form of contract, standard specifications and fees for provisional bills are perhaps just a few. Perhaps I **ought** to speak on these subjects, but in an address of this kind it is obviously impossible to include everything and I would suggest that if there are any queries on these matters which you would like answered they can be raised under "General."

I would also like to speak at some length about the newly-formed Joint Council for the Building Industry, but I really haven't the time. Suffice it for me to say that it is doing grand work, and all the members who give up so much of their time, not forgetting the honorary secretary, are to be congratulated and thanked.

I do feel, however, that my address to you would be incomplete without a reference to the National Building Research Institute, whose director we are delighted to have with us this afternoon. I have been privileged to obtain a few glimpses of portions of the Institute's work and I have been amazed. It deserves all our support and I am most gratified at the co-operation between the Institute and the Chapter which is being built up. I would advise you all to watch the Institute's work carefully for it can help us a great deal in our profession. Whenever we are able in any way to help the Institute we shall be most happy.

There is one other item to which I would draw your attention. If you have examined the financial accounts with more than a cursory look you will find that one sheet is devoted to the Chapter's Benevolent Fund. The present total of this fund is less than one thousand pounds and I feel we should be just a little ashamed. I know that at the moment this fund is little used, but that is only to be expected of a young profession passing through good times, but may I remind you that in years to come there will doubtless be many calls on this fund. When that time arrives it will be too late to try to build up the capital. May I beg of you seriously to consider this fund now, and to give to it generously. The future will thank you.

I conclude on a few personal notes. Firstly, my thanks to my fellow members of the Board who have supported me so well during this past year. I do so much appreciate all you have done, especially those of you whose experience goes back for so many years. It is usually invidious to refer to individuals, but I should be failing in my duty if I did not mention Mr. Castleton, our senior vice-president, who has had to do so much of the work which should have fallen to my lot. Thank you so very much for all you have done.

I would also like to refer to Mr. Venn, who during the past year resigned from the Board after many years of service which included much work on a number of sub-committees. As Mr. Venn's resignation was necessitated owing to a prolonged absence overseas, it is to be hoped that it will merely be temporary, for we can ill afford to lose his experience and sound judgment. His place has been taken by Mr. Allen, whom we welcome.

Finally, I come to the secretarial services so efficiently provided by the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of South Africa. The personal secretary who had looked after us for the past few years, Mr. J. McLaren, unfortunately resigned last year owing to his return overseas. The Chapter is the worse for his departure, for it is impossible to speak too highly of him. His efficiency and courtesy were of an order one seldom meets, and he will long be remembered by all who had any contact with him. His place has been taken by Mr. J. R. Glynn, assisted by Mr. B. J. Smith. It is difficult quickly to pick up the threads of a statutory body having all the ramifications of our Chapter,, but they are succeeding admirably and I would like to express to them the thanks of the Board in general and of myself in particular.

**FRED. C. HARRIS.**

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## BOARD'S REPORT FOR 1952-1953.

**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CHAPTER :**

The following is your Board's Report covering the 1952-1953 Session, during which period the Board comprised the undermentioned members :—

**Practising Members :**

Messrs. L. C. Austin, R. F. Bell, A. A. Bjorkman, J. W. S. Castleton, Fred C. Harris, T. H. Louw, P. S. McDonald, G. P. Quail, A. O. Simpson and O. C. Venn (retired from the Board and succeeded by Mr. E. F. Allen, who was appointed on 28/10/1952).

**Salaried Members :**

Mr. W. J. Clyde, Mr. J. B. Sutherland.

**Office Bearers for the Year :**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| President | .... | Mr. Fred C. Harris. |
| Senior Vice-President | .... | Mr. J. W. S. Castleton. |
| Junior Vice-President | .... | Mr. G. P. Quail. |

**BOARD'S COMMITTEES:**

The following Sub-Committees of the Board operated during the year :

General Practice, Education, Education Endowment Fund, Finance, Medal, Public Relations (Main Standing Committee), Johannesburg Standing Committee, Pretoria Standing Committee. (Note : The Regional Committees served their respective areas.) Revision of Standard System, Examination of Membership Applications Sub-Committee.

**THE CENTRAL COUNCIL :**

**Board's Delegates :**

Mr. Fred C. Harris, alternate Mr. J. W. S. Castleton.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. L. C. Austin | ,, | Mr. A. A. Bjorkman. |
| Mr. T. H. Louw | ,, | Mr. G. P. Quail. |

**The Board of Education :**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. J. W. S. Castleton, alternate | | Mr. R. B. Milford. |
| Mr. J. O. Quail | ,, | Mr. O. C. Venn (subsequently Mr. R. F. Bell). |
| Mr. A. O. Simpson | ,, | Mr. T. H Louw. |

**Joint Fees Committee :**

No representatives were appointed and it was agreed that nominations would be made if specifically desired by the Central Council.

**CHAPTER'S REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES :**

**Joint Practice Committee of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects, Master Builders' and Allied Trades' Associations (Witwatersrand and Pretoria) and Chapter of South African Quantity Surveyors :**

Mr. R. F. Bell (Pretoria)
alternate Mr. S. F. S. Cosser (Pretoria),
Mr. A. A. Bjorkman (Johannesburg)
alternate Mr. I. E. Hope-Jones (Johannesburg),
Mr. T. H. Louw (Pretoria),
alternate Mr. J. W. S. Castleton (Johannesburg),
Mr. R. J. C. Prentice (Pretoria) (subsequently Mr. E. F. Allen, Johannesburg),
alternate Mr. W. J. Clyde (Pretoria),
Mr. O. C. Venn (Johannesburg) (subsequently Mr. G. P. Quail, Johannesburg),
alternate Mr. G. P. Quail (Johannesburg) (subsequently Mr. R. B. Milford, Johannesburg).

**National Building Research Institute—South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research :**
Mr. T. H. Louw, alternate Mr. A. A. Bjorkman.

**Delegate to the Faculty of Architecture—University of the Witwatersrand :**
Mr. J. O. Quail.

**Delegates to the Controlling Executive of the Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of South Africa :**
Mr. A. A. Bjorkman, alternate Mr. O. C. Venn (subsequently Mr. I. E. Hope-Janes)
Mr. G. P. Quail ,, Mr. J. B. Sutherland.

**Liaison Officer—South African Architectural Record :**
Mr. O. C. Venn (subsequently Mr. J. W. S. Castleton).

**Liaison Officer—Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors :**
Mr. Fred C. Harris.

**BOARD MEETINGS :**
Twelve meetings of the Board were held during the period under review, in respect of which the following is the attendance record :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Mr. L. C. Austin | 9 |
| Mr. R. F. Bell | 9 |
| Mr. A. A. Bjorkman | 10 |
| Mr. J. W. S. Castleton | 11 |
| Mr. W. J. Clyde | 10 |
| Mr. Fred C. Harris | 6 |
| Mr. T. H. Louw | 12 |
| Mr. P. S. McDonald | 5 |
| Mr. G. P. Quail | 12 |
| Mr. A. O. Simpson | 4 |
| Mr. J. B. Sutherland | 11 |
| Mr. O. C. Venn | 8 |
| Mr. E. F. Allen | 3 |

Five meetings of the Board were convened as full meetings at which coastal representatives were present.

Mention is again made of the benefit to the Board that coastal representation has proved to be, in that the Board has had more direct contact with centres distant from Johannesburg through personal communication with those areas.

**MEMBERSHIP :**

**Statutory Roll**

The total membership of the Chapter, as at 30th January, 1953, is 355, classed as under :—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Practising solely as Quantity Surveyors | 187 | (164) |
| Practising in dual capacity | 11 | (14) |
| Salaried | 130 | (120) |
| Retired | 25 | (28) |
| Honorary | 2 | (3) |
| | 355 | (329) |

(Figures in brackets are those for February, 1952.)

The total membership of the Chapter, as reflected in the Statutory Roll, is 358, but attention must be drawn to the fact that three of these members come under the provisions of Regulation No. 74.

**Enrolments :—**

Since the publication of the previous Report of the Board, 27 new members have been enrolled.

**As Practising Members—5 :**
Messrs. C. L. Rogers, P. E. Middleton, W. H. V. Pridgeon, R. H. Gibson, M. L. Wright.

**As Salaried Members—22 :**
Messrs. B. B. Shagam, T. L. Perkins, R. A. H. Brown, R. A. Hindes, N. D. Nelson, P. J. Pasegrouw, R. F. Horn, S. Nell, P. C. H. Frylinck, M. H. Galgut, T. H. Hope, D. J. Rouse, E. A. Walker, R. F. Stedman, H. S. Phinn, J. G. Hartmann, F. P. Skead, G. A. S. Scott, J. R. McKechnie, H. F. Ross, A. W. Wille, G. R. G. Whiteing.

**Resumption of Membership (from resignation)—4 :**
Messrs. H. J. Kraayenbrink (to Salaried), J. H. Cohen (to Salaried), H. B. Kelfkens (to Salaried, subsequently to Practising), G. Kemmis-Betty (to Salaried).

**Transfers :**
The following intergrade transfers took place during the year (in order of transfer) :—

**From Salaried to Practising :**
Messrs. E. F. Allen, A. J. Lee, J. J. Pansegrouw, L. A. N. Down, T. W. Miners, R. H. G. Dunlop, F. G. Moore, C. W. Elgin, A. Coetzee, K. A. Morren, R. E. Schoombie, A. V. Meaker, J. E. Hammerton, E. A. Walker, H. B. Kelfkens, B. D. Shelver.

**OBITUARY :**
It is with regret that the Board records the deaths during the year of the members named below :—
Mr. J. W. H. Farrow, Mr. C. W. B. Stocks.

**CHAPTER'S FINANCES :**
The audited accounts for the calendar year 1952, a copy of which has been sent to each member, shows an excess of revenue of expenditure amounting to £351 8s. 4d., this despite ever-increasing costs of administration.

The amount received by way of subscriptions charged to members has increased by approximately £210 and the amount of rebates received from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors has increased by approximately £23. Certain payments made during 1951 as grants to Public Authorities were not repeated this year.

The capital of the Education Endowment Fund stands at £249 2s. 9d., a grant of £10 10s. having been made during the year. The Universities have been notified of the existence of this fund, and the Board would also remind members that this fund is available for the benefit of students who require financial assistance.

The Benevolent Fund has benefited to the extent of £191 8s. 8d. during the year, £107 1s. 6d. being donations from members, and a further £84 7s. 2d. being a share of the proceeds of the Dance held jointly by the Transvaal Provincial Institute and the Chapter in 1951. Benefits to the extent of £7 10s. have been paid during the year, and the capital now stands at £965 15s. 2d.

The position in respect of the payment of subscriptions is satisfactory. Whilst expressing its appreciation of the very large number of members who pay during January, the Board would, however, remind all members that the collecting of overdue subscriptions causes the Secretaries and the Finance Sub- Committee a great deal of extra work. This reminder is particularly addressed to those members who, temporarily or permanently, cease to practise as Quantity Surveyors and who could, therefore, avail themselves of the "retired class" of membership.

**REGIONAL COMMITTEES :**
The Regional Committees functioned during the Session 1952-1953 under the direction of the following members :—

| | |
|---|---|
| **Cape Town** | Mr. Fred C. Harris (Chairman) |
| | Mr. A. Wood (Vice-Chairman) |
| | Mr. G. E. M. Anderson (Hon. Secretary) |
| | Mr. R. H. Aitchison |
| | Mr. W. J. Y. Dickson |
| | Mr. W. B. James |
| | Mr. C. A. Smith |
| **Natal** | Mr. A. O. Simpson (Chairman) |
| | Mr. C. J. Leigh-Hunt (Vice-Chairman) |
| | Mr. H. R. Rorvik (Hon. Secretary) |
| | Mr. E. L. Sanders |
| | Mr. N. H. Wiseman |
| **Orange Free State** | Mr. W. H. Malan (Chairman) |
| | Mr. P. J. Muller (Hon. Secretary) |
| | Mr. R. M. Kennedy |
| | Mr. W. Rhodes-Harrison |
| | Mr. A. Sacks |
| | Mr. R. E. Schoombie |
| **Port Elizabeth** | Mr. R. J. Law (Chairman) |
| | Mr. A. V. Meaker (Hon. Secretary) |
| | Mr. P. S. McDonald |
| | Mr. C. G. Rowse |
| | Mr. S. C. Warren |

The Board desires to record its appreciation of the valuable services carried out by these Committees and its thanks for their co-operation with the Board in its work during the year.

**QUANTITY SURVEYING EDUCATION :**
A satisfactory number of students continue to register at the various Universities. Details of numbers for the year 1952 shown in each year of study are given below :—

| | I. | II. | III. | IV. | V. | Sub-Total | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cape Town :** | | | | | | | |
| Degree | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | |
| Diploma | 9 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 34 | 35 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Natal :** | | | | | | | |
| Degree | 9 | 2 | 3 | — | — | 14 | |
| Certificate | — | — | 1 | 9 | — | 10 | 24 |
| **Pretoria :** | | | | | | | |
| Degree | 8 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 20 | |
| Diploma | 15 | 16 | 7 | 7 | — | 45 | |
| Certificate | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 66 |
| **Witwatersrand :** | | | | | | | |
| Degree | 4 | — | — | 3 | 1 | 8 | |
| Diploma | 17 | 9 | 9 | 5 | — | 40 | |
| Certificate | — | — | — | — | — | — | 48 |
| | | | | | | | 173 |

In February, 1952, the University of the Witwatersrand was obliged to refuse admission to a number of prospective and eligible students, the University having previously decided on a limitation of twenty places for first-year students owing to shortage of accommodation and other difficulties. Representations were made by the Chapter to Central Council, but as a University Finances Commission of Inquiry was later appointed, Central Council decided that the case would be met by authorising its Board of Education to give evidence before the Commission. The results of the Commission of Inquiry are not yet to hand, but in the meantime the University of the Witwatersrand has increased its limitation to twenty-five first-year students and no eligible students have had to be refused admission this year.

In March, 1952, the University of Natal, by arrangement with Central Council, instituted a new type of certificate course (for students non-resident in University centres), which includes postal instruction and guidance.

**THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS :**

During the year the large total of twenty-three members applied through the Chapter for membership of the R.I.C.S.

Recognition (retrospectively) of the final certificate examinations of the Universities of Pretoria and the Witwatersrand was granted by the R.I.C.S., a further group of Chapter members thereby becoming eligible for R.I.C.S. membership. The position at present regarding R.I.C.S. recognition is as follows :—

| University | Degree | Diploma | Certificate |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cape Town | *Recognised | Recognised | None |
| Natal | Not yet recognised | None | Not yet recognised |
| Pretoria | Recognised | Recognised | Recognised |
| Witwatersrand | Recognised | Recognised | *Recognised |

(* Course now discontinued)

**REVISED STANDARD FORM OF BUILDING CONTRACT :**

The revised Standard Form of Building Contract was published during the year.

The Joint Council for the Building Industry is examining further proposed revisions to the Form of Contract and investigations are proceeding.

**REVISION OF STANDARD SYSTEM OF MEASURING BUILDERS' WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA :**

The responsible Sub-Committee has held several meetings during the course of the year and progress is being made. The work of revision entails the sacrifice of innumerable hours of Sub-Committee's members' time and quick results must not be expected unless the profession happens to find itself less busy than at present.

**QUALIFICATION OF TENDERS :**

In November, 1952, the Chapter concurred with the decision of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers to suspend temporarily the qualification of materials in respect of works (with certain exceptions) under £50,000 in value. The anomaly previously existing between the qualifications for public and private works now therefore falls away.

**FEES FOR PROVISIONAL BILLS OF QUANTITIES :**

The proposal made at the Annual General Meeting held in March, 1952, that the fee of 3% for provisional Bills of Quantities should be reviewed by the Board was duly considered by the Board who thought it advisable to obtain the views of members in all parts of the country. This was done and, in addition, a scientific analysis of the fee was made. The Board is now in a position to consider the advisability of raising the fee and their decision will be reflected in Board Minutes in due course.

**STANDARD PRELIMINARY AND GENERAL BILL AND STANDARD PREAMBLES :**

The suggestion of a Chapter member (at the Annual General Meeting held in March, 1952) that a standard preliminary and general bill and standard preambles should be officially published was considered by the Board. The suggestion was referred to Central Council, who now have the matter in hand and are considering the preparation of a Standard Specification as a first step.

**INTERPRETATION OF REGULATION 87(a) OF THE ACT :**

At a meeting held in September, 1952 (see Board minutes) the Board decided that :—

(a) Salaried members who were engaged in any of the Building trades at the time the amendment to Regulation 87(a) prohibiting such engagement was promulgated (viz., 30th September, 1948) could remain so engaged while retaining their salaried membership of the Chapter, this right expiring upon the cessation of such engagement.

(b) Salaried members who, being engaged in the Building trades at the time of the amendment to Regulation 87(a), resigned their membership of the Chapter in order to remain in such employment, be given the opportunity of having their resignations annulled within three months of notification to that effect.

Several persons have taken advantage of the latter ruling and have resumed membership of the Chapter.

**PERSONAL :**

Mr. O. C. Venn retired from the Board in August last, having decided to proceed overseas for an extended period. Mr. E. F. Allen was appointed (in terms of Regulation 26 of the Act) to fill the consequent vacancy on the Board. The Board wishes to place on record its appreciation of the many years of service given by Mr. Venn to the Chapter and of his invaluable work on numerous sub-committees.

Mr. T. H. Louw, one of the Chapter's representatives on Central Council, was elected Vice-President-in-Chief of the Institute of South African Architects for the session 1952-1953. The Board congratulates Mr. Louw on having this honour conferred on him, which honour the Chapter duly shares.

It was with great regret that the Board was notified in August, 1952, of the resignation of Mr. J. McLaren from the Associated Societies, and consequently from his position as Secretary to the Chapter, after many years of loyal service. Mr. J. R. Glynn was appointed to succeed Mr. McLaren and is rapidly becoming conversant with the Chapter's affairs. The Board records its appreciation of Mr. Glynn's work since his assumption of duties.

**GENERAL :**

Over the year covered by this report many other matters have been dealt with by the Board which it is not possible to include in detail in this report.

Copies of minutes, recording the proceedings of the Board at their meetings, have been sent to all members and from these minutes will be realised the numerous subjects and matters to which the Board has given attention and consideration.

**THE ASSOCIATED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SOCIETIES OF SOUTH AFRICA :**

The Chapter has continued its membership of the Associated Societies and the Board has pleasure in recording its thanks to that body for the satisfactory and efficient manner in which the Chapter's secretarial work has been carried out.

**APPRECIATION :**

The Board desires to express its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Office Bearers, Members and Co-opted Members on Sub-Committees who have given their time unsparingly to the affairs and interests of the Profession.

Special thanks are due to the Board's three coastal members who have sacrificed their time and comfort in travelling considerable distances to attend meetings.

**CONCLUSION :**

The retiring Board desires to convey to all Members of the Chapter good wishes for a successful Annual General Meeting and prosperity in their various activities throughout the coming year.

Johannesburg,
2nd March, 1953.

# NOTES AND NEWS

## CHAPTER OF S.A. QUANTITY SURVEYORS

ENROLMENTS

Mr. R. H. Gibson has been enrolled as a practising member, resident in Fish Hoek, Cape.

Messrs. J. G. Hartmann, Johannesburg ; H. S. Phinn, Pinelands, Cape ; G. A. S. Scott, Durban ; and F. P. Skead, Port Elizabeth, have been enrolled as salaried members.

The resignations of Mr. J. H. Cohen and H. B. Kelfkens have been cancelled, their period of membership (salaried) being regarded as unbroken.

INTER-GRADE TRANSFER

Mr. H. B. Kelfkens has transferred from Salaried to Practising.

PARTNERSHIPS

Mr. R. H. Gibson and Mr. E. A. Walker have entered into partnership and are practising under the title of Gibson and Walker, P.O. Box 4700, Cape Town.

The name of the firm in the partnership between Mr. J. G. Hudson and Mr. F. P. Caietta is now Hudson and Caietta, practising at the same address.

Mr. J. Momberg and Mr. I. Kurland have dissolved partnership ; the firm will continue as J. F. Momberg, at the same address.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The address of the Cape Town branch of Messrs. Austin, Stewart and Ellis is now Fourth Floor, Deciduous Fruit Board Building, 16 Mill Street, Gardens, Cape Town ; Phone 4-7896.

Messrs. E. H. Stock and Jones have changed their address to Suite 1050, Mansion House, Field Street, Durban ; Phone 25786.

RESIGNATIONS

Mr. M. H. Galgut and Mr. L. A. Robinson have resigned from the Chapter.

## INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR "INTERNSHIP IN ARCHITECTURE" ANNOUNCED BY THE UNITED STATE INSTITUTE

Architectural students from all parts of the world will be given on-the-job training in American architectural offices under a programme announced by Mr. Ralph Parker, of the American Institute of Architects, an affiliate of the International Union of Architects which has consultative status with Unesco.

The announcement was greeted in Paris by M Pierre Vago, Secretary-General of the International Union, as " an effort of major importance in providing technical assistance to the countries concerned."

The names and addresses of nearly a hundred architectural offices which are ready to place foreign architectural graduates on the staff have already been mailed to architectural societies in 35 countries, so that they may notify architectural students of their opportunity. The directory also lists an equal number of offices which are ready to sponsor and advise foreign students planning to study and travel in the United States.

The architects' programme will provide advanced professional training by allowing foreign students to serve practical interneships in leading architectural offices. It was announced that 40 architectural offices in the United States are already training foreign graduate students.

The American architects participating in the programme are prepared to accept candidates speaking any of a wide variety of languages.

## ARTISTS' INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Arranged by Unesco the Artists' International Conference has just finished its work at Isola S. Giorgio, near Venice.

Hundreds of artists—architects, painters, sculptors, musicians and playwrites, for the cinema as well as for the theatre, all chosen either by their international orginisations or by their countries—have recently discussed the numerous problems which often they have in common.

Under the presidency of the brilliant Italian composer Ildebrando Pizetti the conference has chosen six Vice-Presidents—including the architects Le Corbusier and Hakon Ahlberg. The American author Thornton Wilder was elected general rapporteur.

The Conference was divided into five Committees. The chairman of the Committee for the plastic arts was the architect Paul Vischer.

This Committee has chiefly examined the problems of collaboration between architects, painters and sculptors. Two working groups, whose rapporteurs were respectively Messrs. Alfred Roth (Switzerland) and William Holford (United Kingdom), both members of the U.I.A. delegation, have studied the more practical ways to facilitate this " synthesis of the plastic arts " that all architects, painters and sculptors wish for.

A Resolution, asking the General Director of Unesco to take steps towards the conclusion of a Convention between Governments ruling international competitions of architecture and town-planning based on the recommendation of U.I.A., was unanimously adopted.

## TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE : PROVINCIAL WORK

LIST OF ACCEPTED TENDERS FOR MAJOR PROVINCIAL BUILDING SERVICES FOR QUARTER ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1952

| SERVICE | ARCHITECTS | QUANTITY SURVEYORS | CONTRACTORS | AMOUNT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Roosevelt E.M. High School, Johannesburg : Erection | Departmental | Departmental | Mr. L. Elsas | £95,972 0 0 |
| Sanddrift Primary School : Pta. District : Erection | Messrs. Margo and Margo | Departmental | Messrs. Atomic Construction Co. (Pty.) Ltd. | £15,555 0 0 |
| Zeerust Hospital : Erection | Mr. J. A. Hofman | Messrs. Austin, Stewart and Ellis | Messrs. A. Slingerland (Pty.) | £70,571 4 0 |
| Meerhof Hospital : Additions and Alterations | Departmental | Departmental | Messrs. T. Huiskamp | £9,496 0 0 |
| Meyerville School : Standerton School Board : Erection | Departmental | Departmental | Messrs. A. S. McKenzie (Pty.) Ltd. | £25,980 0 0 |
| Erection of new Stores Block at Hercules Prov. Stores, Pretoria | Mr. J. Masureik | Departmental | Messrs. Stocks and Stocks (Pty.) Ltd. | £125,890 0 0 |
| Krugersdorp E.M. High School : Additions and Alterations | Mr. G. S. Barnett | Messrs. Millard and Tennant | Messrs. Mooiman and Sons | £42,747 0 0 |
| Christiana High School : Erection of New Hostel | Mr. P. R. Nel | Departmental | Mr. W. H. Gresty | £46,449 0 0 |
| Erection of New Men's Hostel at Potchefstroom Normal College | Messrs. Gordon Leith and Partners | Departmental | Messrs. Atomic Construction Co. (Pty.) Ltd. | £69,743 0 0 |
| Malvern East A.M. School : Erection | Mr. J. Kokke | Messrs. Clark and de la Cour | Mr. W. H. Gresty | £29,889 0 0 |
| Erection of Nurses' Quarters, etc., at Southern Suburbs Hospital, Johannesburg (Contract No. 2) | Mr. D. S. Haddon | Messrs. Austin, Stewart and Ellis | Messrs. K. H. Schutte and Co. (Pty.) Ltd. | £243,717 0 0 |
| Erection of New Girls' Hostel at Hoogenhout High School, Bethal | Messrs. Stucke, Harrison and Smail | Mr. L. Novis | Mr. N. J. Hangelbroek | £50,700 0 0 |
| Erection of New School at Piet Retief | Departmental | Departmental | Messrs. R. Kirkpatrick and Son | £53,275 0 0 |
| Pretoria Girls' High School : Additions and Alterations | Mr. A. V. Nunn | Messrs. J. W. Cowling and Son | Messrs. Bevilacqua and Romani | £53,951 0 0 |

### UNIVERSITY EXHIBITION

The University of the Witwatersrand, in conjunction with its Appeal for Funds, is holding a series of exhibitions from 11th to 16th May, 1953, to explain to the general public the detailed workings of its various departments. These exhibitions will be held in the various departmental laboratories and lecture theatres, and include an exhibit of the past and present work of Students of Architecture and Fine Arts. In addition to these departmental displays there will be a large centralised exhibit demonstrating the function of the University in relation to Society.

### ITALIAN GOVERNMENT BURSARY

A Bursary of £26 per month (45,000 liras) is available to lecturers, artists, technicians, University graduates and students for the year 1st July, 1953—30th June, 1954, for study, research or specialisation at any Italian University. Travelling expenses from the Italian border to the University and exemption from tuition fees are included, but successful applicant must pay passage to and from Italy (at reduced rates). Particulars from the Italian Consulate, 106, Pritchard Street, P.O. Box 9196, Johannesburg. Applications in writing, giving particulars of past studies, titles, details of proposed studies in Italy and references must be submitted to the Consulate before **25th May, 1953.**

### VACANCY FOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT

Experienced architectural assistant required for Nairobi firm of architects. Applicant, if possible unattached, should have contemporary outlook and be capable of taking charge of branch in Uganda or Kenya. Apply in own handwriting with references and recent photograph to the Advertiser, P.O. Box 4562, Cape Town.

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