



building has a strong presence. Its tectonic expression has an exemplary clear layout. To introduce a new structure next to this iconic building is indeed a challenge. Scholes and Rayne have addressed this challenge by honouring the essential principles of the John Moffat building and have used contrast as a means of relating one structure to the other.

The new building mimics the internal/external interaction of the John Moffat foyer space, as well as its robustness and simplicity of detail. The John Moffat building is dignified with strong references to a classical past which has been interpreted in a modernist way. By contrast, the building for Construction Economics and Management has an 'engineering' robustness to it. It is industrial in its spirit, symbolised by its heat-extraction chimneys. The inspiration for its design is not from the classical past, but rather from the industrial culture of Johannesburg. The approach to its design is not dissimilar to the new Undergraduate Science Centre on the West Campus, but more importantly it reminds one of the city's well-loved and admired Gas Works in Cottesloe, built in the late 1920s.

The entrance to the new building is logically placed in the south-eastern corner at the crossing of two pedestrian routes.

The double-volume entrance is crowned with the staff boardroom. The boardroom overlooks the pedestrian intersection and unobtrusively adds to the surveillance of the outside public space. The coloured glass used on the façade of the boardroom has references to the coloured glass on the fire escape in the old John Moffat Building.

These elements are within sight of each other and attest to the architectural firm's respect for its context and neighbours. The new Construction Economics and Management building furthers the discourse between the surrounding buildings on campus in the way it communicates its function and inner workings to the general campus community. These principles are exemplified in the new Wits Art Gallery, the Oppenheimer Life Sciences Building, the Bozzoli Sports Building and the Undergraduate Science Centre.

The new building highlights a long-established design strategy in which vertical circulation is celebrated and placed adjacent to outside public movement to create interaction between the private and public realms. The design of the new Construction Economics and Management building is consistent with the philosophy of the firm, which is 'a belief that architecture should answer the inner needs

15 View of building from south east
16 North-east view of across courtyard between the building for construction management and John Moffat Annex
17 View from south-west corner (Yale Road)
18 Façade to tutorial rooms

of the user, both functional and symbolic. Buildings that are rooted in their context and respond to the climate and have technological integrity will transcend the ordinary and hence the ideologies which often drive them.'

The building is the first stage of the rejuvenation of what is now known as the John Moffat Built Environment Precinct. Michael Scholes & Associate Architects have been appointed to prepare a design for the physical and functional integration of all the buildings that comprise the precinct.

Time will be the ultimate arbiter of whether the bold and innovative ideas that underpin this modest building have achieved a favourable outcome. It would seem that its planning has fostered a high level of interaction between its users, an interaction that was not present in their previous premises. The success of the building's concept is supported by the many compliments it has received from both users and the public alike.