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APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECT AND BRIEF

With competent architects available locally, it is indeed puzzling how the building committee came to approach a novice from Cape Town, some 1200km distant. For that the 30-year-old architect Roelof Sarel Uytenbogaardt (1933-1998) has to thank his brother-in-law Dana Minnaar, inaugural *dominee* of the congregation. While three architects were considered , the decision fell on Uytenbogaardt because he offered his services at 6%, the statutory minimum fee, yet half-a-percent below the bids of his two competitors (*Gedenkblad* [ix])

Welkom-Wes was the second project of the practice which styled itself "Uytenbogaardt & Pelser. Architects, City Planners and Colour Consultants". The practice had commenced after Uytenbogaardt returned to South Africa in 1963 to accept the position of Assistant Studio Master at his *alma mater*, University of Cape Town. On being awarded his B.Arch-degree with distinction in 1956, Uytenbogaardt had landed a Rome Scholarship in the Fine Arts at the British School and spent 1957-8 in the eternal city. Thereafter, he entered the master class of Louis Kahn and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in June 1961 with both M.Arch and MCP degrees before gaining experience working with the Boston Redevelopment Authority. It is said that through the religious associations of partner Pieter Pelser the practice became based at 602 Bible House, Greenmarket Square.

The brief was to design a church to seat 450 on the corner site at the intersection of Heide Laan and Fuschia Crescent in the suburb of Jim Fouché Park. Because two nearby school halls would be made available for congregational events, one of which the congregation used until occupying the new church, only a meeting room for 100 with a concomitant tea kitchen was needed, as was a *konsistorie* for 60 and a mothers' room, within the total budget of R50 000 (*Gedenkblad* [ix]).

In his letter a few days before the appointment, Minnaar added a "final hint" for "Liewe Roelfie" (Uytenbogaardt): '…the council is rather conservative, for example, avoid something *soos daar-die dikmuur kerk* (like the thick-walled church) in France you illustrated in your presentation', presumably Le Corbusier's Chapel of Notre-Dame-du-Haut at Ronchamp, 1950-4 (Uytenbogaardt Papers: Letter Minnaar to Uytenbogaardt 29 September, 1963).

2 Cover of Credo, October 1969, No.19.
3 Unity Temple, Oak Park, 1904-6. Clockwise from top left: Perspective (Riley, 1994: 146); Plan at entrance level (Riley, 1994: 146); Plan at nave level (McCarter, 2005: 79); Plan at first gallery level (Riley, 1994: 146); Lamp detail (McCarter, 2005: 79); Section A-A (McCarter, 2005: 82); Exterior corner (McCarter, 2005: 76); Interior (Riley, 1994: 149).

