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THE NEW CONSTRUCTION ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

ARCHITECT **MICHAEL SCHOLES & ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS**

BY **PAUL KOTZE, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND**

MUCH OF THE building activity that is currently occurring at South African universities should be seen in the context of the recent growth in student numbers and a backlog of building stock that has accumulated over a considerable period of time. To address this problem, the Department of Higher Education and Training has made the necessary funding available. The result has been the commissioning of new university buildings countrywide at a tempo and scale not seen for a long time.

When a university is faced with such an undertaking, its institutional vision and capacity are usually put to the test and placed under severe strain. In the case of stable or slow growth in student numbers, university management structures tend to morph into one of modification and maintenance, with the occasional new buildings being built in a mostly ad-hoc and accretive manner. This growth spurt provided the University of the Witwatersrand with an opportunity to

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