

SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD  
MAY 1940

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## THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

The 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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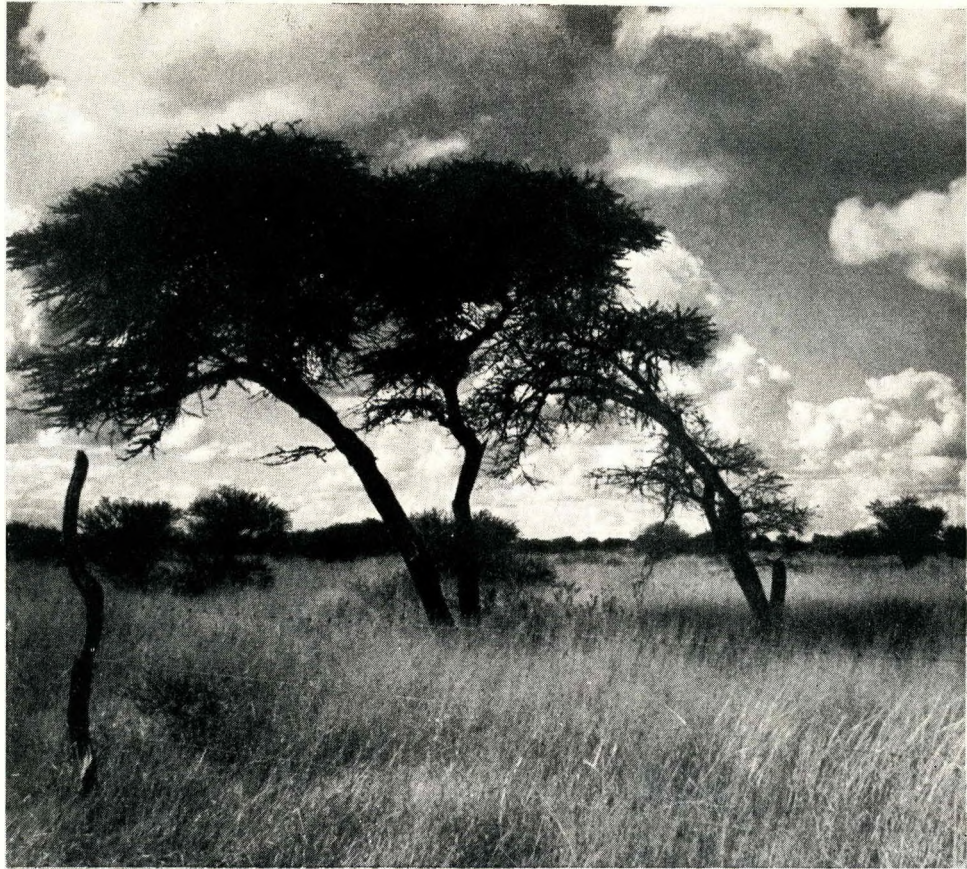
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HON. EDITORS: G. E. PEARSE, REX MARTIENSSEN. SECRETARY: A. S. PEARSE

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## THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND PRIZE-GIVING SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND

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The Annual Exhibition was held on Friday, April 26th, and was attended by a large and representative gathering of architects and quantity surveyors from the different centres of activity in the Union. Professor Pearse, in welcoming the guests, made the following remarks concerning the School :

It is my pleasant duty, on behalf of the staff and students of the Department of Architecture, to welcome you this afternoon to our Sixteenth Annual Exhibition and Prize-giving.

Our exhibition this year coincides with the Annual Meeting of the Central Central of the Institute of South African Architects and the Standing Committee on Architectural Education and Examinations, and we are glad to have with us the President-in-Chief and representatives of the Provincial Institutes and Professor Thornton White, of the University of Cape Town School of Architecture.

I should like to take the opportunity of congratulating Mr. D. S. Haddon, a past student of this University, on his election to-day as President-in-Chief of the Institute.

The School this year numbers 156 students taking Architecture and quantity surveying and 70 taking Fine Arts, making a total of 226. I wish to thank all members of the staff, full-time and part-time, and specialist lecturers for the assistance they have rendered during the past year.

Architectural students at Pretoria number 36, and I am grateful to Professor Bell-John and his staff for their assistance. In this connection I must thank Messrs. Fassler and Howie, who are assisting with the lectures at Pretoria and co-ordinating the work of the two schools. There are over 30 students at the Durban School, and members of their staff have visited us recently to discuss closer co-operation, particularly the design subjects.

During the past year 8 degrees, 3 with distinction, were conferred, and 11 diplomas were awarded. The first degree of Master of Architecture of this University was conferred on Mr. Martienssen. The Baker Scholarship, for which a competition was held recently, was won by Mr. D. L. Watson, one of our past students,

We are glad to welcome back to Johannesburg Mr. Monte Bryer, our first architect Rhodes Scholar, who, after distinguishing himself at Oxford, was awarded a Commonwealth Fellowship which took him to Columbia University, New York. Whilst in America he was able to travel and study housing conditions and methods of practice, which he outlined to us in a recent paper. Mr. Roy Kantorowich, who was awarded a University post-graduate scholarship, is now in America working under Professor Burchard at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as research assistant on a new regional survey of the City of Cambridge.

This work embodies both regional survey and positive town planning, and will be followed by work in various offices and on public works.

The war has had a serious effect upon the building industry of South Africa, and incidentally on the profession, and several of our past and present students have joined the forces. One can only express the hope that this will not be a long drawn out conflict, but that common sense will prevail in the end.

The Architectural Society continues to flourish, and I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating the Chairman and Committee on the excellent work they have done during the past year. Not only did they arrange a series of monthly lectures, but they held a dinner which was attended by the Minister of Public Works.

An interesting debate was also arranged at Escom House, on "Houses versus Flats," in which the City Engineer and two City Councillors took part.

The exhibition this year represents only about three months' work owing to the fact that our last exhibition was held in September. Consequently few term subjects are on exhibition. The research carried out by the fifth year students last year on regional and town planning in the Transvaal was a valuable piece of work, as will be seen from some of the drawings and reports in the exhibition. This year research is being carried out by a group of fourth year students on the climatic requirements of Johannesburg, whilst the fifth year are investigating the hotel problem in the Union as a piece of research for their thesis.

Another group of students is doing research on the subject of European housing in the Transvaal.

In addition to this work a comprehensive survey of regional planning in the Union is being undertaken

by past students.

Before asking the President to present the prizes, I should like to thank the following donors: The Transvaal Provincial Institute for its annual donation for class prizes; Messrs. D. M. Burton, Gordon Leith, A. S. Furner and Farrow and Laing.

Mr. Burton, who one might call the "father" of our School, in that it was due to his enthusiasm and energy that the School came into being, has left Johannesburg. He will be very much missed by those of us who have endeavoured to foster architectural education in the Transvaal, but he assures me that he will always have the interest of our School at heart.

It is hardly necessary for me to introduce to you Mr. Robert Howden, who is President of the Transvaal Provincial Institute this year. Mr. Howden has practised in Johannesburg for the past 38 years. He is a Past President of the Association of Transvaal Architects, Past President-in-Chief of the Central Council, and has been Chairman of the Standing Committee on Education since its inception.

I have much pleasure in asking him to present the prizes and say a few words.

The following prizes were awarded:

First Year: First prize, Miss M. F. Bothwell; second prize, R. L. Niebuhr.

Second Year: First prize, O. Hurwitz; second prize, G. E. Londt and R. A. Todd.

Third Year: First prize, T. van Niekerk; second prize, D. Pinshow.

Fifth Year: First prize, Miss W. J. Munks and Mrs. R. Martienssen; second prize, U. R. Tomaselli.

Burton Prize: T. van Niekerk.

Gordon Leith Prize: Miss W. J. Munks and Mrs. R. Martienssen.

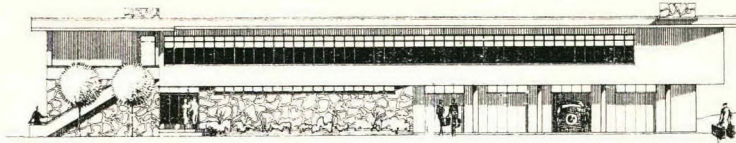
L. R. F. Bustin Prize: A. B. Owens.

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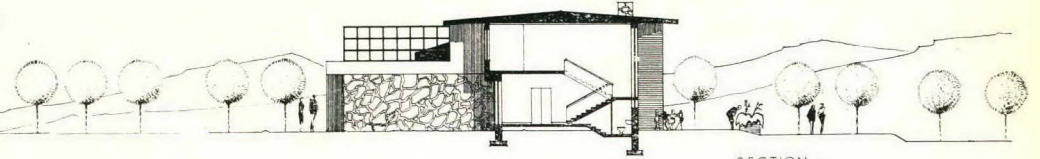
On the following pages a selection of work done by the students of the School of Architecture is reproduced. On page 176: Fifth Year Models for the Working Drawing Subject, 1940: An Art Shop

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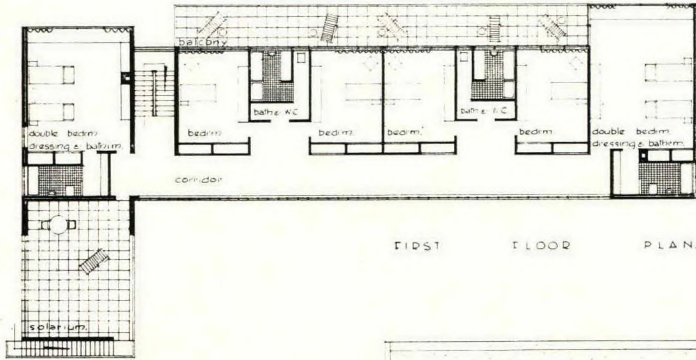
WEST HOUSE



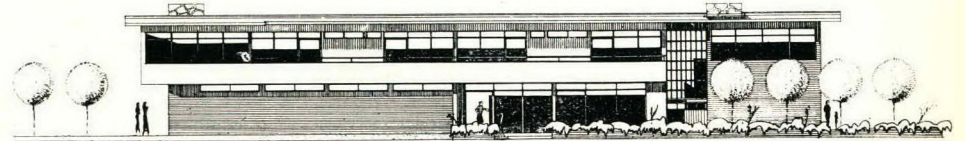
FRONT ELEVATION.



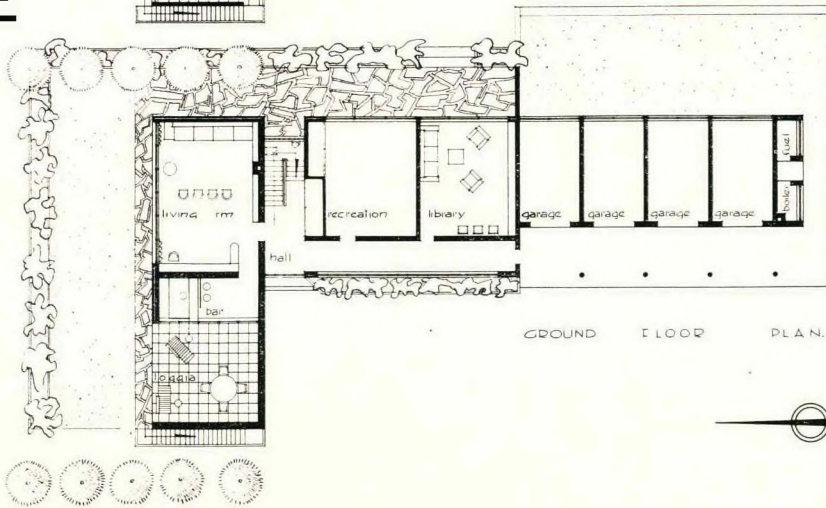
SECTION I.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN.

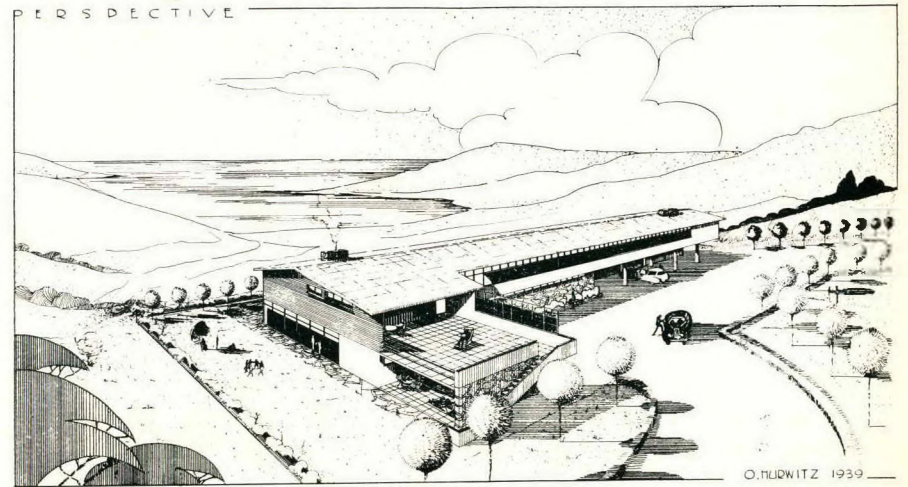


BACK ELEVATION



GROUND FLOOR PLAN.

SCALE 1/8"

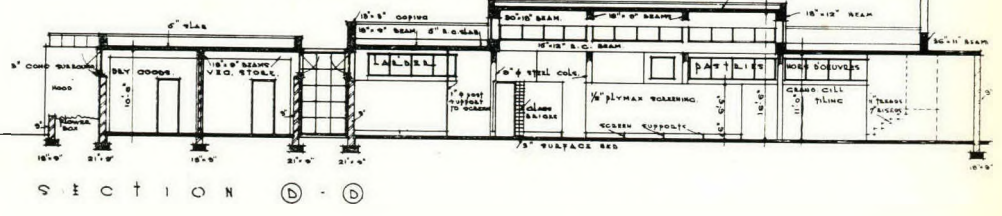
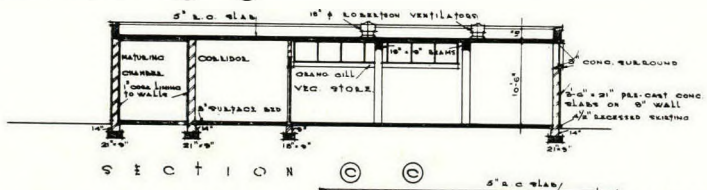
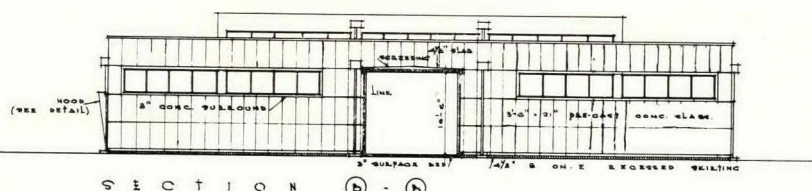
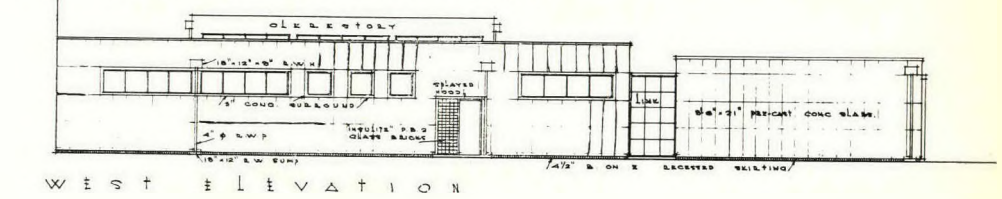
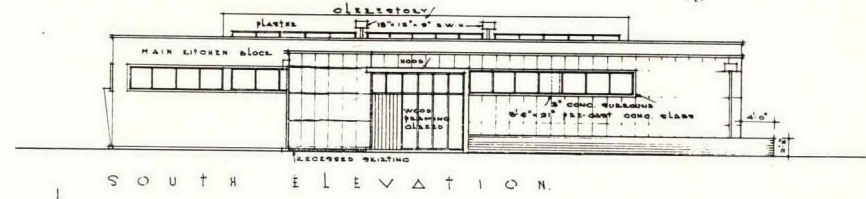
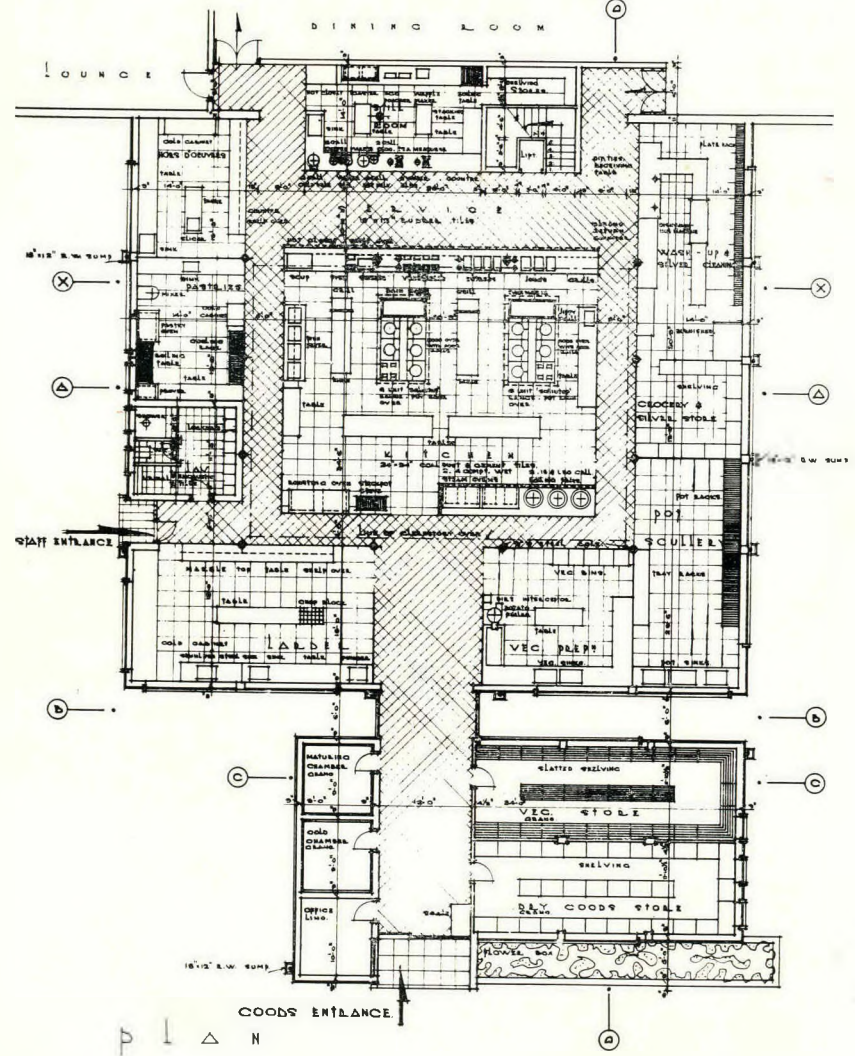
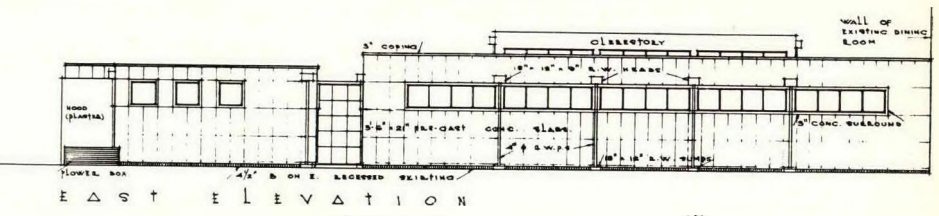
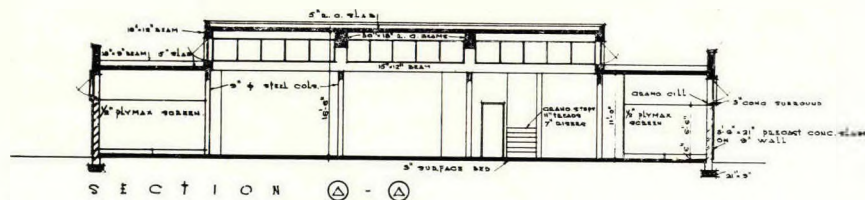


PERSPECTIVE

O. HURWITZ 1939

SECOND YEAR

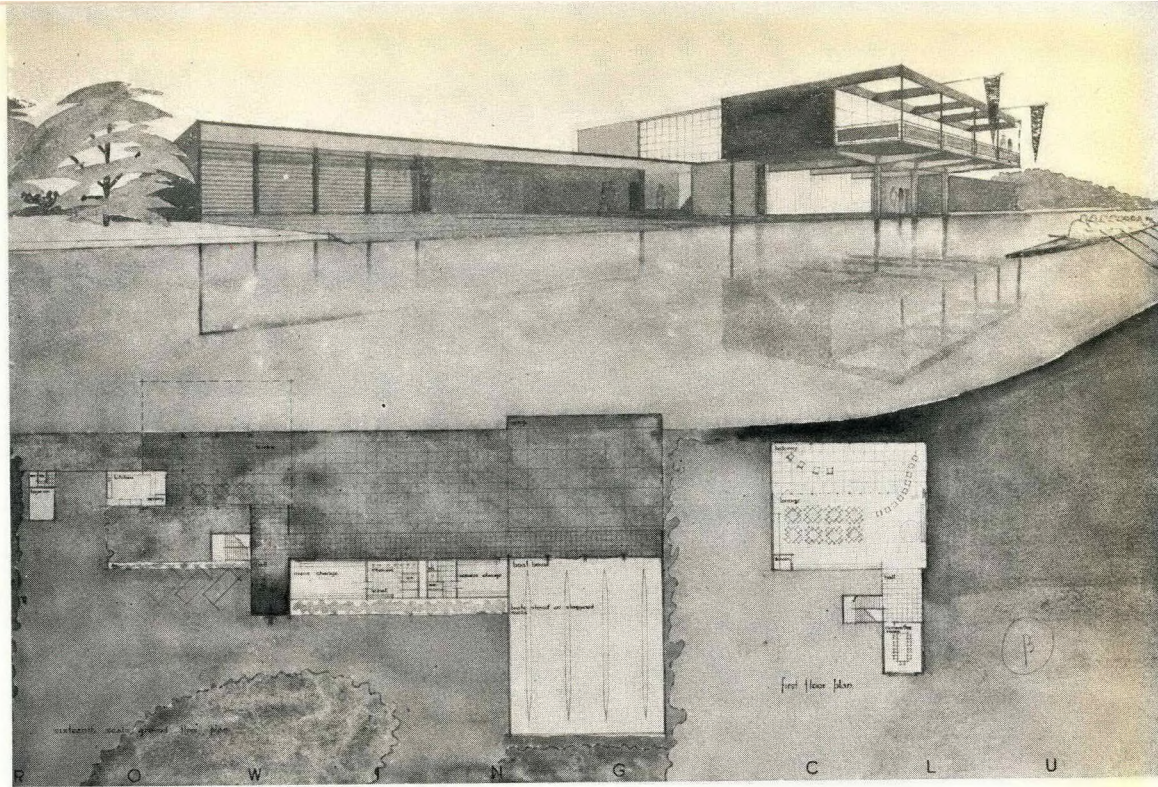
O. HURWITZ



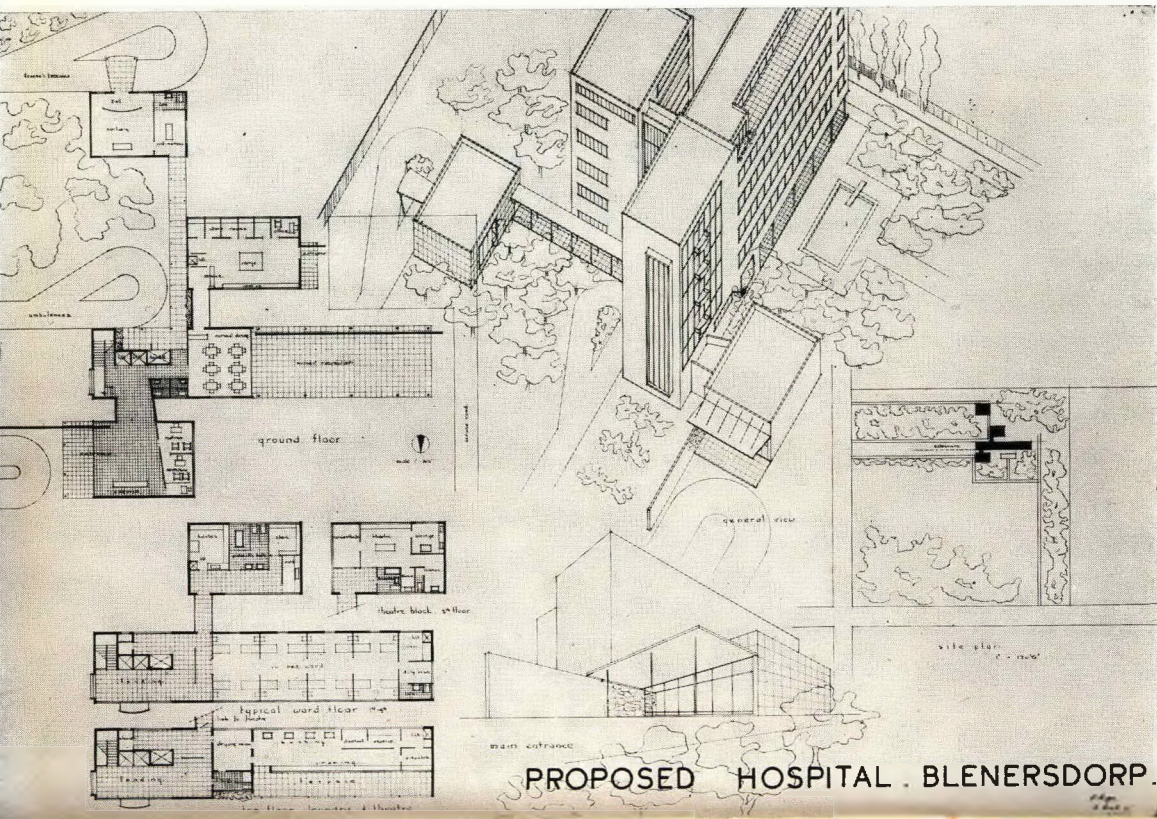
FOURTH YEAR DESIGN FOR A HOTEL KITCHEN

A. B. OWENS

THIRD YEAR R. HOPE



FOURTH YEAR A. B. OWENS

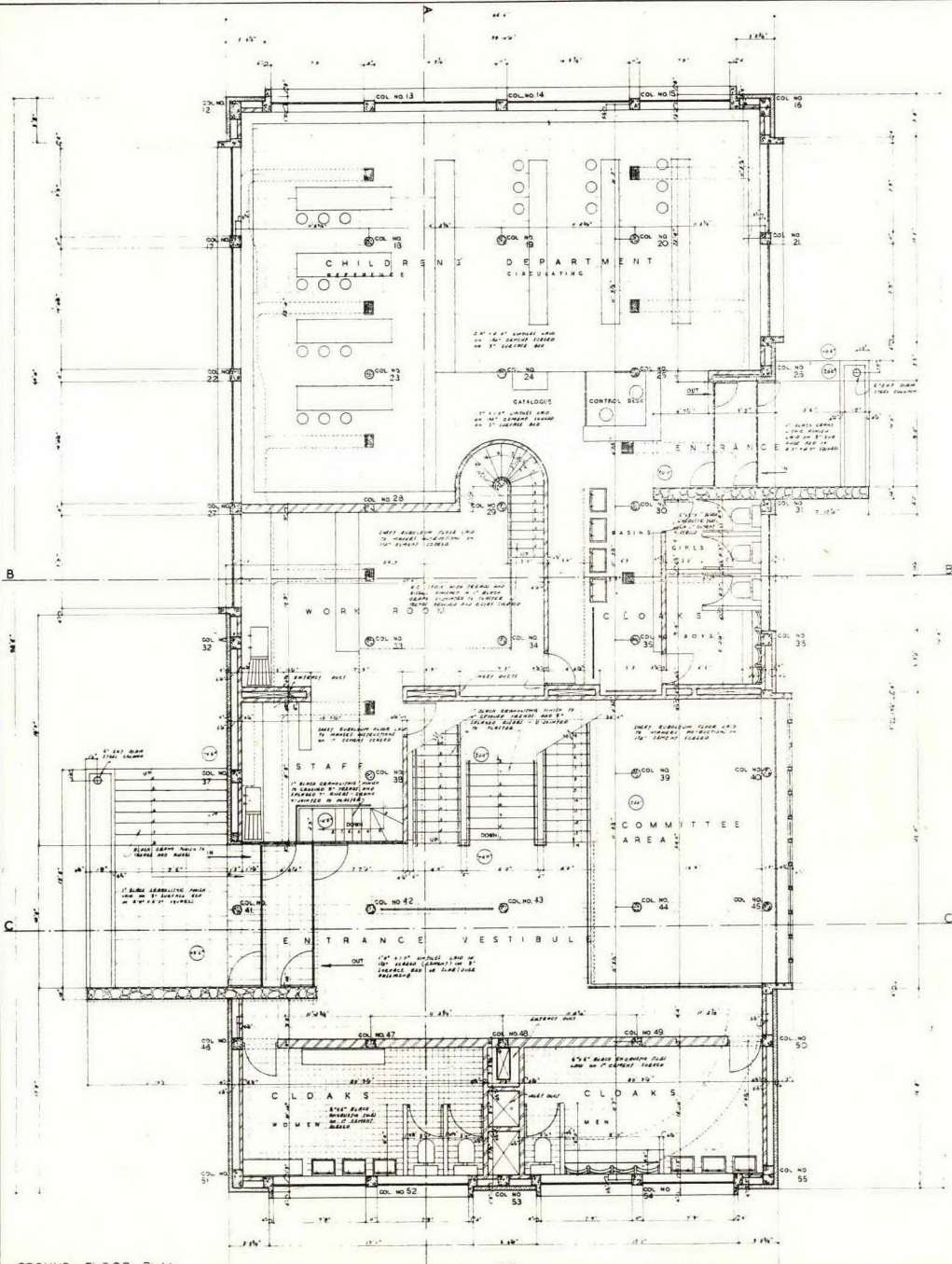


PROPOSED HOSPITAL . BLENERSDORP.

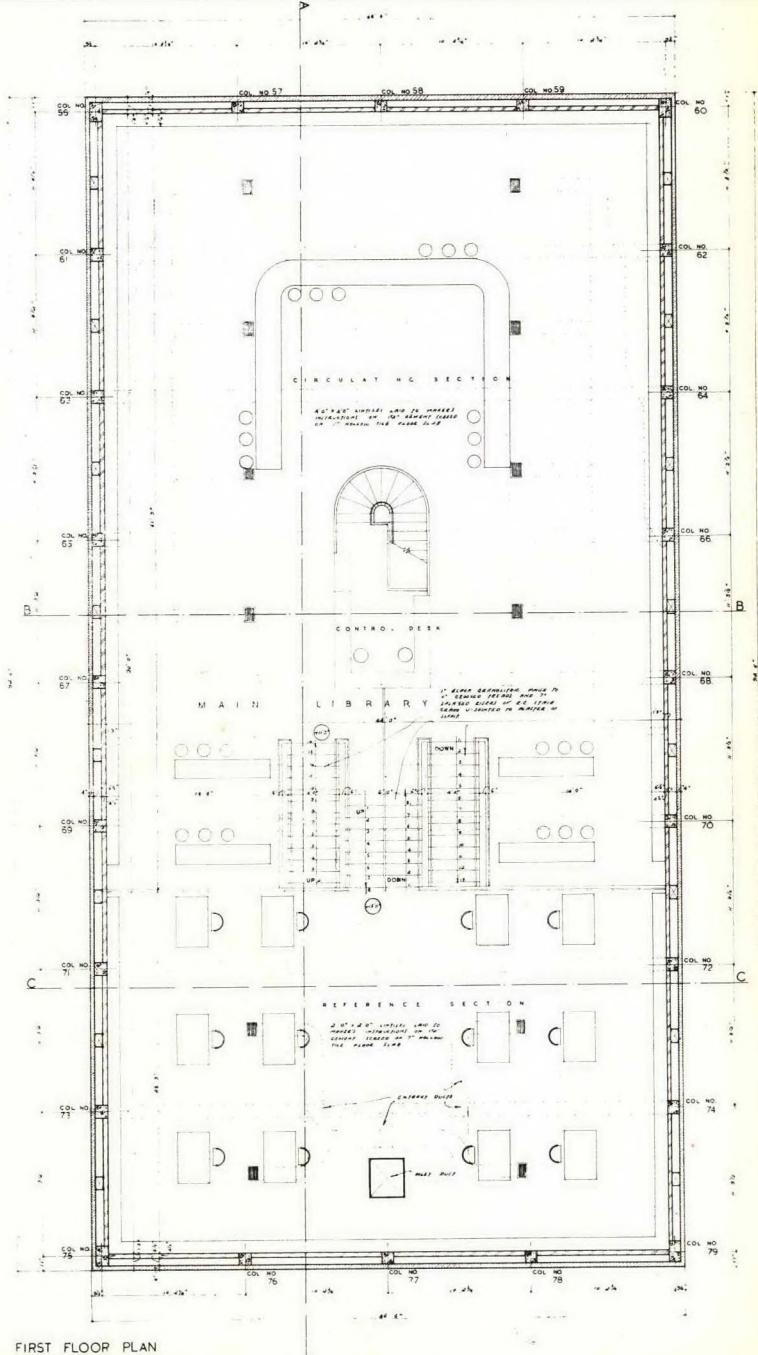
WORKING DRAWINGS  
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PROPOSED NEW LIBRARY.  
NELSPRUIT REPLANNED.

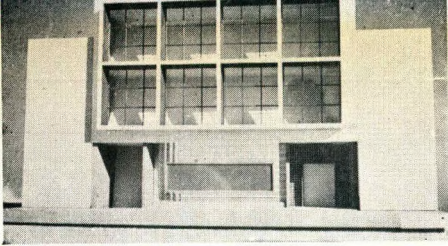
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TRACED BY *John H. H. H.*  
CHECKED BY  
DECEMBER 13th 1939



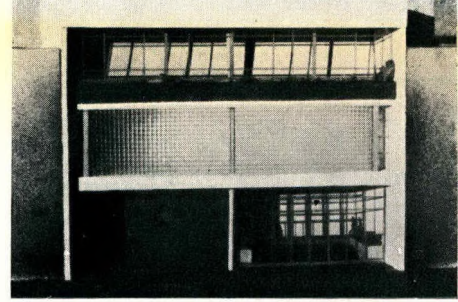
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



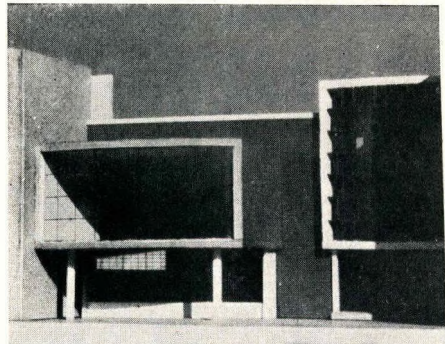
LEVY



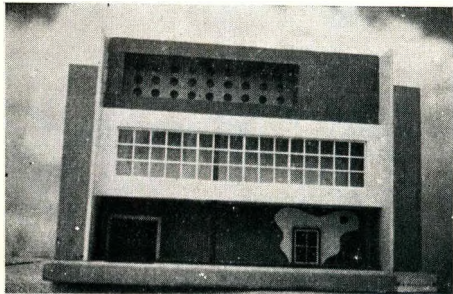
YOULDON



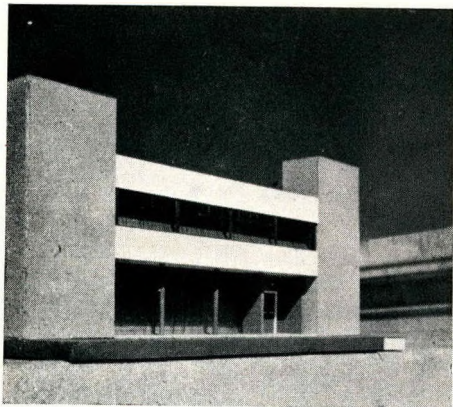
ARONOWITZ



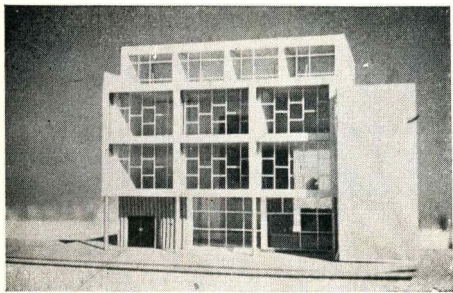
AXELROD



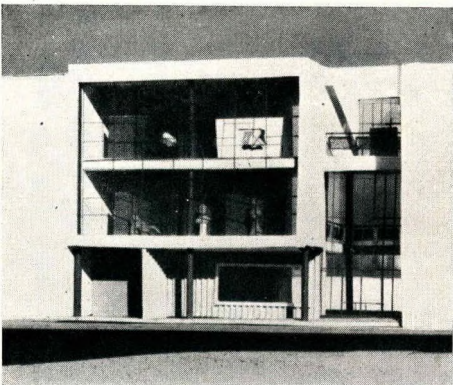
BOHLANDER



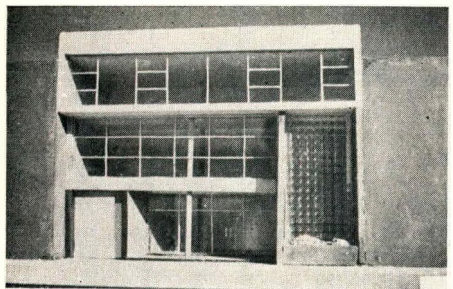
IVO



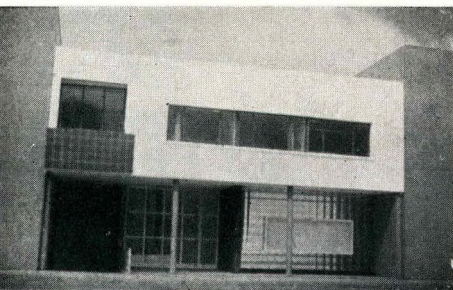
SPENCE



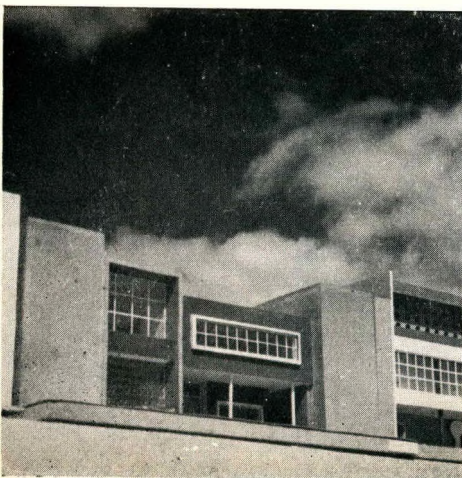
SIEMELINK



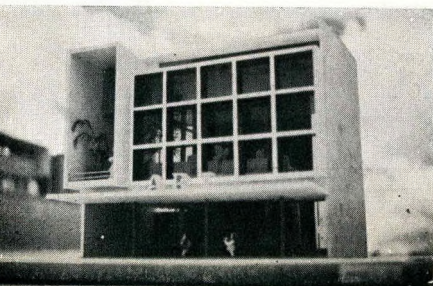
TROPE



CHRISTOS



JENKS



BOCK

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

FIFTH YEAR TERM SUBJECT, 1939

What factors govern the nature and elements of the small towns in the Transvaal? Analyse statistically, topographically and economically at least four rural centres of the Transvaal, and combine in a report your findings under these and any additional headings which you consider relevant to your research. Your report is to include, where possible, photographs, diagrams, etc., showing regional characteristics and the nature of essential agricultural activities adjacent.

Select one existing town for consideration and treatment on rational lines.

Embodying the data which you have established :—

1. Prepare a scheme to replace the existing town which will satisfy the requirements implicit in its situation and purpose.
2. Develop in detail the civic centre, the elements of which are to be determined by your researches.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE

- a. Familiarise yourself with every aspect of life in the Transvaal. Study its geography, communications, climatic variations, geology, agricultural pursuits, etc. Obtain or prepare a large-scale map clearly showing these features.
- b. Collect photographs of typical landscapes and towns as a background to your work.
- c. Obtain all statistics, etc., from government departments (or other authorities) and maps and surveys of towns selected.
- d. Collate all data and prepare all the necessary diagrams and sheets of drawings, notes, etc.
- e. Prepare sketch schemes and detailed analyses of your single selected town.
- f. Prepare drawings for final scheme, and for civic centre.

Note : Items a to c, inclusive, may be undertaken jointly.

Items d to f, inclusive, must be undertaken individually and without collaboration.

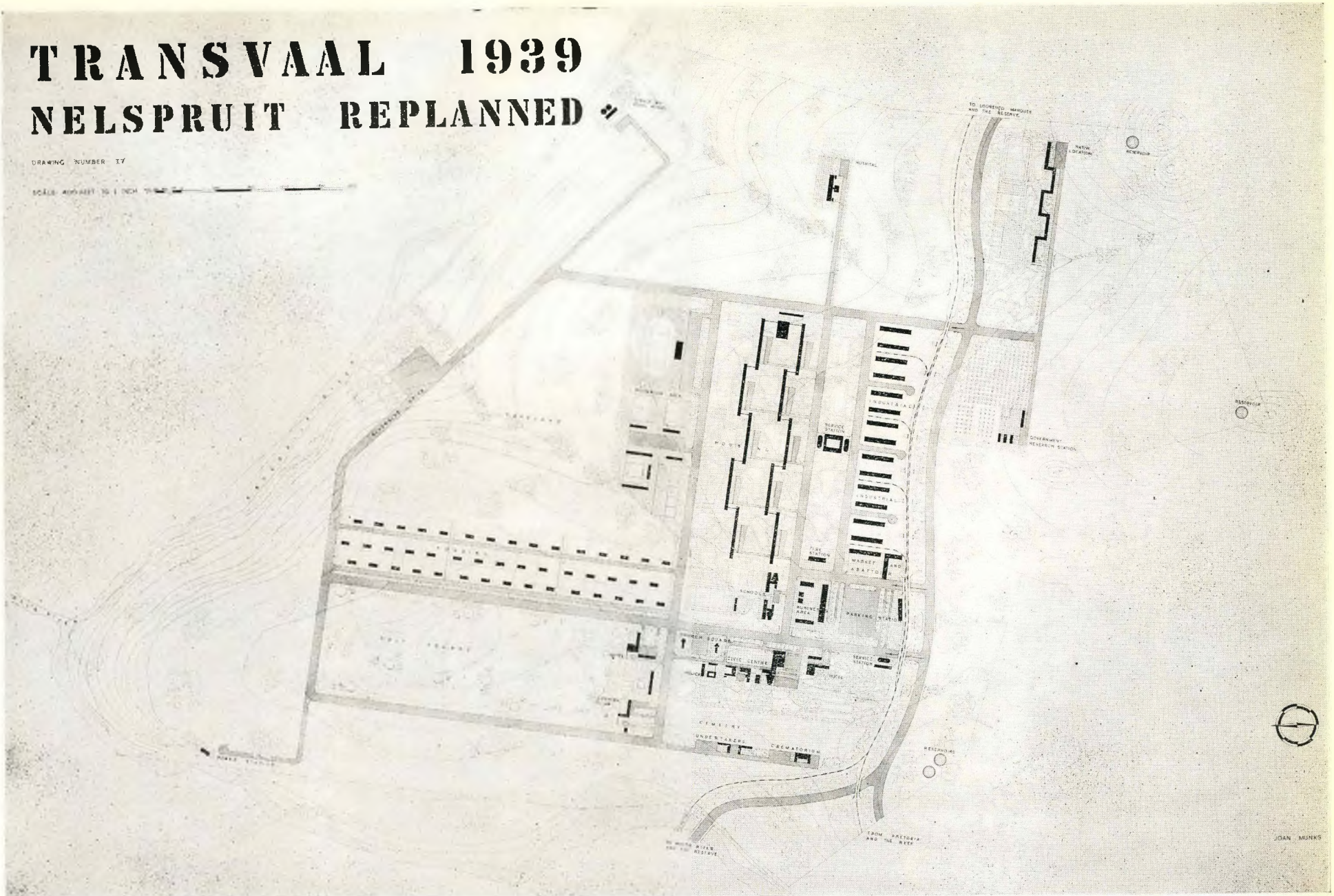
The subject will extend until October 1st, 1939, and restrictions as to the times of handing in the various portions will be posted later.

( See overleaf and following pages )

# TRANSVAAL 1939 NELSPRUIT REPLANNED

DRAWING NUMBER 17

SCALE: 40 FEET TO 1 INCH

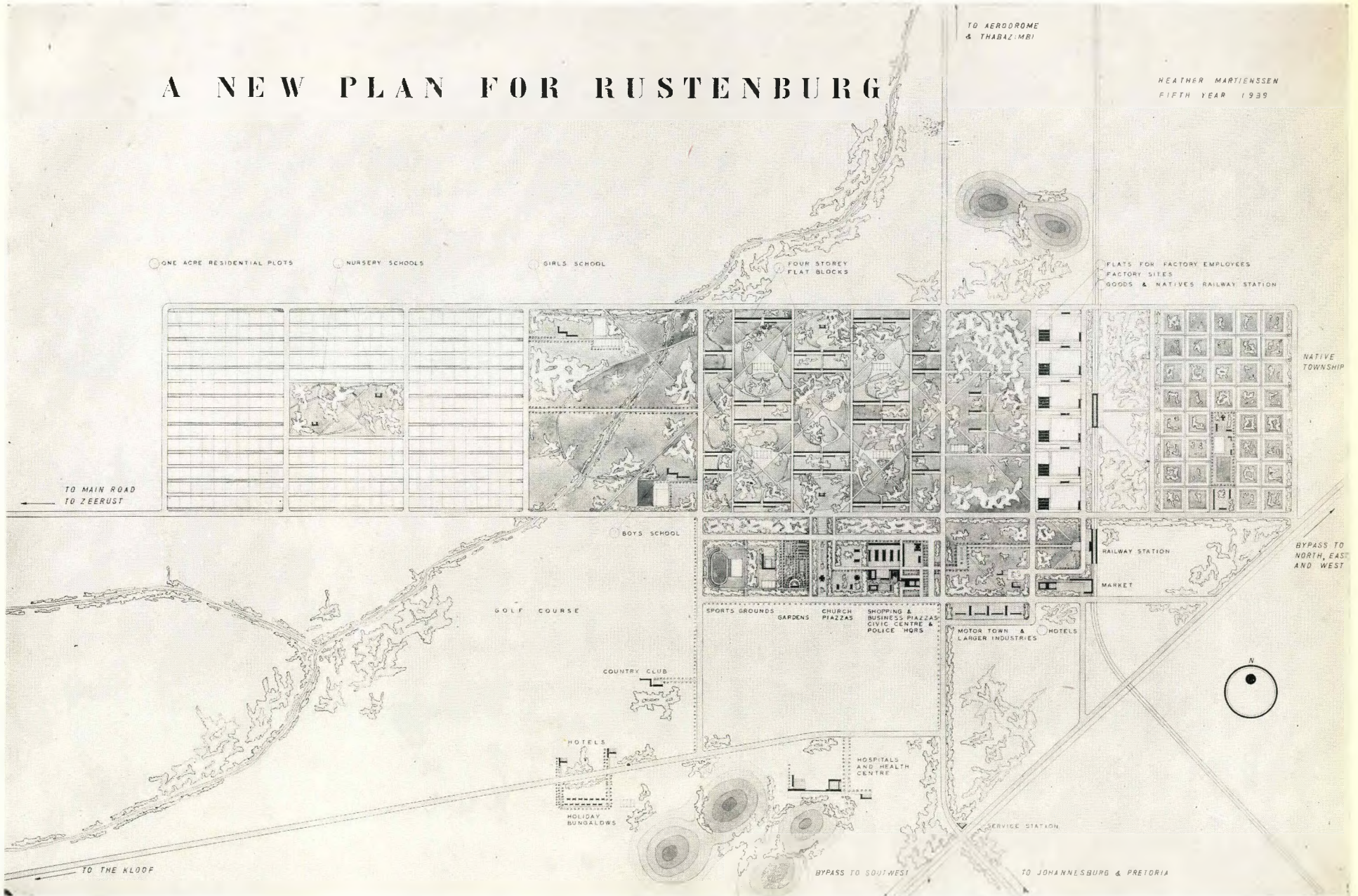


FIFTH YEAR

JOAN MUNKS

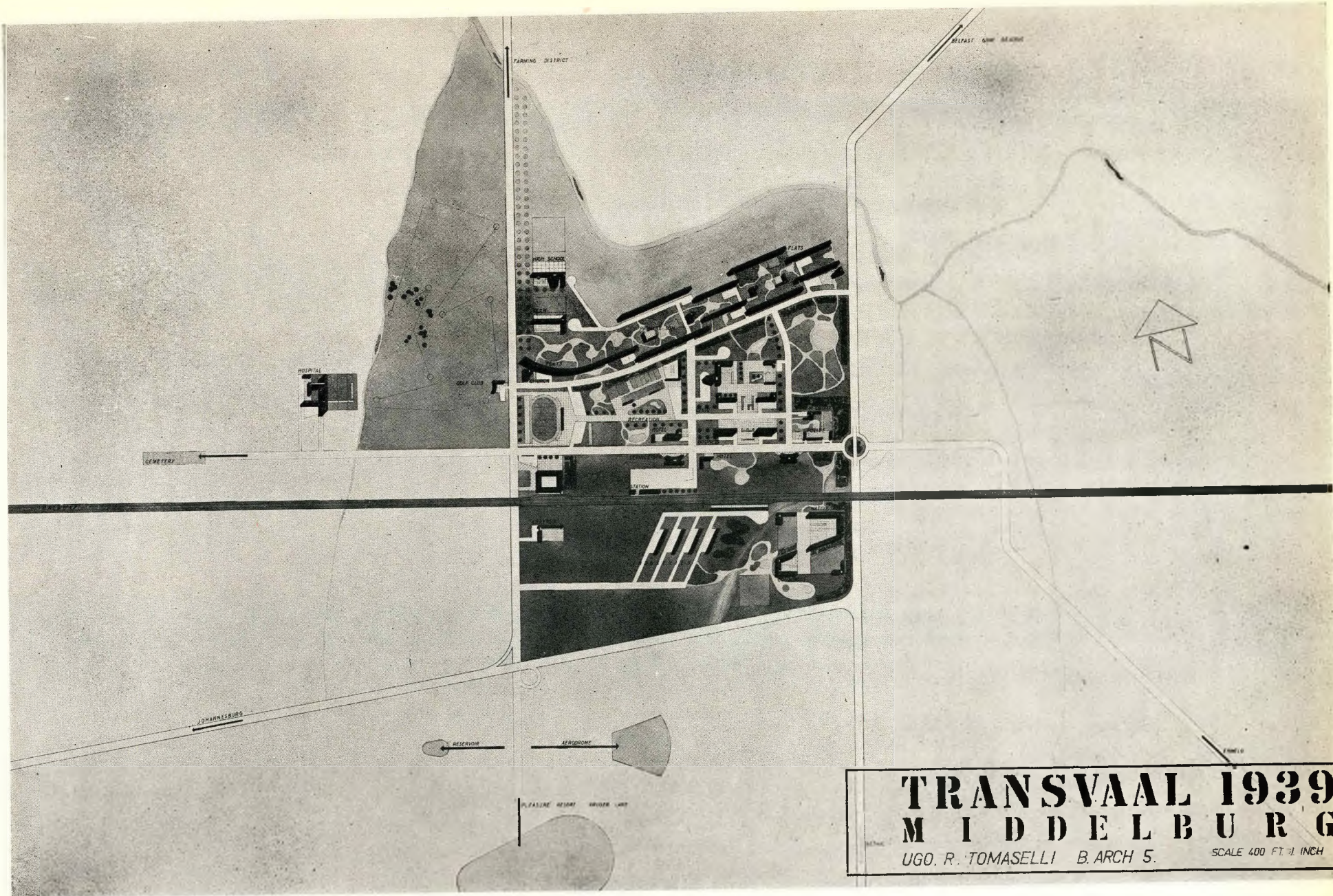
# A NEW PLAN FOR RUSTENBURG

HEATHER MARTIENSSEN  
FIFTH YEAR 1939



FIFTH YEAR

HEATHER MARTIENSSEN



**TRANSVAAL 1939**  
**M I D D E L B U R G**  
UGO. R. TOMASELLI B. ARCH 5. SCALE 400 FT. = 1 INCH

FIFTH YEAR

UGO TOMASELLI

# A LETTER CONCERNING THE EXHIBITION

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The Editors,

The South African Architectural Record,

Sirs,

Annually I visit the exhibition of students' work held by the Department of Architecture of the University of the Witwatersrand, and I shall, circumstances permitting, continue to do so. Invariably I find much that provokes thought, and this year, having received a stimulus sufficient to shake off my lethargy, I am setting my thoughts on paper.

Without doubt, I think that the graph of the School's development is upwards; but, like all human institutions, it is not a straight line. There are several indications of its advance, which I do not propose to mention. Of most interest to some might be the many models which are excellent aids to the visualisation of architecture as three dimensional—the small scale must to some extent destroy the fourth dimension. Of more significance to me were the regional surveys. Significant because they are a demonstration of the students' wish to place their skill and trained imaginations at the service of the community—the community may yet become conscious of this desire. It is with this factor in mind that I wish to comment on the regional surveys and the emergent "town plans." My reason for placing the term in inverted commas should become clear as I jot down the random thoughts that passed through my mind during a two hour perusal of two of the theses on regional surveys.

Both theses dealt firstly with the Transvaal, and while one, if I remember correctly, considered in more detail the districts of Nylstroom, Warmbaths, Nelspruit and Standerton, with a scheme for the re-planning of Nelspruit, the other was concerned with Pietersburg, Bethal, Rustenburg and Barberton, and embodied a scheme for the re-planning of Rustenburg. While a glance at the other theses on exhibition made me realise that a group of students had worked on the Transvaal, I wondered at the apparently capricious selection of the districts. I conclude that each student, in order to have some knowledge of the Transvaal as a whole, had to study districts of comparatively different climatic conditions. If my supposition is correct, one would still expect to find some indication in the texts of the proposed regional complexes

—if not, then why the full surveys? Although the candidates show that they are not unmindful of the fact that the Transvaal is a part of South Africa, there is no indication of a division into regions based on the natural resources and other factors which are too numerous to mention here. In order to make my point clear, I cite Mr. Bryer's statement made in his lecture on America. He stated that a proposed scheme for the regionalisation of America\* was based on the six great river basins. While river basins are probably not a suitable basis for a national plan of South Africa, I did expect to find some determining principle suggested in the dissertations.

This lack of a broad approach is difficult to understand, in view of the great amount of research that has been done. There is much collected information, but apart from my assumption that it has been used in the re-planning of the two towns, it seems to have been ignored.

Now it is doubtful if the gathering of statistical information is the proper work of an architect—but things being as they are, I suppose it must be done. Of more importance, to my mind, is the evidence in the second thesis which I have mentioned, of a feeling for the land and its peoples. The criticisms of existing towns contained something more than mere axiomatic statements gleaned from a study of town planning. The candidate is obviously sensible of the slow tempo and breadth of South Africa. Sensibility, combined with an ability to organise diverse requirements into a harmonious whole, must surely be the architect's contribution to regional planning.

Which brings me to a consideration of the schemes for the re-planning of Nelspruit and Rustenburg. I do not propose to compare them; I am not interested in which is the better: my interest is in planning based on the proper organisation of the individual dwelling unit and its integration in the region and the country. There would be no purpose in comparing the two plans—in essentials they are similar. Both seem to have accepted existing conditions, with all the implications, up to a certain point, and then to have baulked at the prospect of continuing to do so. In each scheme the boundary of the township is accepted as fixed, whereas the boundaries of the sites within the townships are scrapped. There appears to be no reason why the one boundary should be sacrosanct and not the others. If the decision was that complete demolition and rebuilding was the only solution, it is pertinent to suggest that a government which would grant permission for the obliteration of one set of boundaries would demand the erasure of the other boundary. It would also insist on some radical re-organisation before committing itself to, or

granting the loans for, the expenditure that would be required to rebuild the towns.

In this unreal quality so evident in the two designs—and for that matter all the town plans emerging from the regional surveys—lies the pith of my criticism. To build such towns, and they are still towns, would demand some alteration in social conditions. There is little indication of this fact either in the texts or the plans of the two schemes. Most of the housing is done in flats. I have no statistical information, but I have an impression that the plot of ground in the village is used somewhat differently from that in the suburb of a city. It is an essential part of the rural economy. My friends in the dorps plant a few vegetables, have an orchard, run a few hens, and, more often than not, keep a cow. My statement is not necessarily an argument against flats, but it is an argument against them without some rationalisation. No indication of any rationalisation is contained in the two schemes. The critical evaluation on which plans are based seems to be circumscribed. In one case from differing suppositions, both candidates arrive at the same solution. The housing in both cases is effected by means of flats and dwellings on separate plots. The flats in the "Rustenburg" scheme accommodate the local population, and the dwellings the tourists or holiday-makers. In view of one of the candidate's conclusions as expressed in her last chapter, "The Future of the Transvaal," that an urgent need is to break down the isolation of the country towns, one wonders if the separation of urban sheep from rural goats in different types of kraals does not complete the isolation by destroying essential contacts. In the "Nelspruit" scheme the division is based roughly on high and low income groups. Accepting for the moment that a division of housing is necessary, I suggest at the risk of being called impractical, that another basis might be on emotional and temperamental differences—there are those who like to look at a park and those who like to work in a garden.

If the general solution for the bulk of the European population is similar in both schemes, disparate solutions are offered for the native. In "Rustenburg Re-planned" the Bantu is housed in "rondavel-units" grouped together in small squares, which are divided by narrow streets, to be used by pedestrians and cyclists. I confess that the candidate's conviction that this is the only background for the Bantu strikes a sympathetic chord in me; but I admit that, from my own observation, the Bantu appears to be able to adapt himself to more European surroundings—provided that he can afford it. I refer to a Bantu couple, both teachers, whose house I have seen. I also submit that the

ubiquitous native taxi would not long allow the streets to remain the preserve of pedestrians and cyclists. In Orlando Native Township, despite an exceptionally cheap bus service, the native taxi thrives marvellously. Yet this method of housing does not cut the Bantu from his cultural and tribal roots, as the more abrupt transference to flats. I only wish that the candidate had further developed her argument—I am sceptical of a conviction; it may be an inexpressible intuition or an irrational prejudice. In the "Nelspruit" scheme, on the other hand, the natives are housed in flats. One of the reasons for doing this is given in the last paragraph of the thesis, which deals with sewage disposal. It is stated that flats allow of cheaper sewerage installations than separate houses, or words to that effect. Flats may be obviously cheaper, and therefore allow of the provision of more amenities for the residents. No figures are given, and in the absence of a bibliography I assume that the conclusion is based on the determinations contained in a thesis on "Native Housing" which was submitted by a group of students in 1938. I only regret that the plots for cultivation, so essential a part of that scheme and stressed in the group's conclusions, appeared to have been omitted in the "Nelspruit Native Location."

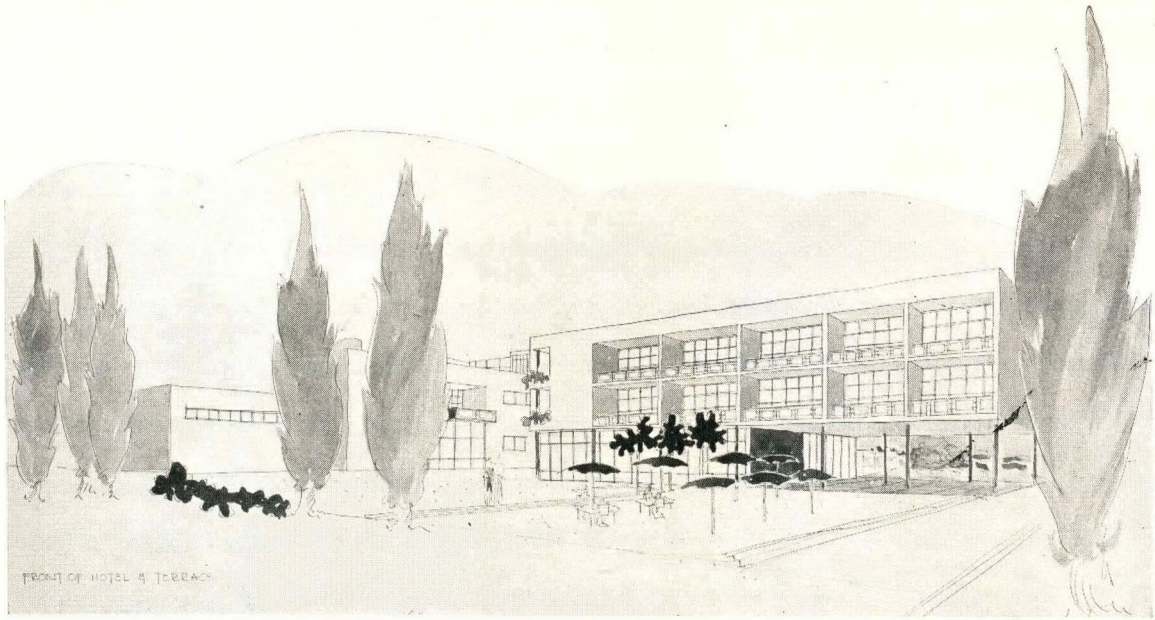
Before leaving the subject of native housing, I wish to compare the thesis on "Native Housing" with the theses on regional surveys. The former deals with but a few acres to the south of a large city, such as Johannesburg, in contrast to the latter which are concerned with the square miles of the Transvaal—the former covers less ground than the latter, but it covers it. The research is thorough, the conclusions are based on closely reasoned arguments, and the solution is thoroughly worked out. Yet I am doubtful of some of the premises and some of the conclusions contained in the thesis on "Native Housing." But should I wish to controvert its conclusions, I should have to commit myself to further research and to a disquisition. I cannot say that of the regional surveys.

But I am pleased that the Transvaal has been tackled; that I disagree with much that has been done does not reflect on the immense amount of work which the surveys must have entailed. It would be remarkable if I, or any other person, were in complete agreement with the subject matter of schemes that, completed in the short space of a University term, cover so great a field as the subject of regional planning. There is much that is good and much that is of great positive value in the two schemes. In the "Nelspruit" scheme the organisation of the town plan is good; and more, movement within it would be effective, a delightful experience of framed and closed vistas, a sensory stimulation induced by plastic

forms seen against the sky and the sun from the cool shadows of trees and buildings. One feels of a candidate who has conceived of something as delightful as the relation existing between river, parkland, dwelling and flat, that her talent is for architecture. I would far rather be unstinting, but I must qualify my reference to "flat" to mean the front row of flats. One is glad after reading through three volumes whose pages are spotted with a recurrent reference to the "focal point," that she has largely ignored it and given her imagination free play.

Of "Rustenburg Re-planned," much of what I have said before is again applicable. Of its organisation, one is pleased to see the "Native Town" treated as an integral part of the complex and not as an appendage to it. If my memory projects its plan correctly, from the air or the outside as it were, one would see squat huts disposed in a verdant grid, but the eye would be drawn still closer to the earth by a glistening railway line running past high industrial sheds. A transition of greenness before one was attracted by the tall accent of a range of four storey blocks, to then become aware of a drop to two storey blocks, spaced out in parkland. Finally to have one's approach recalled by bungalows placed close to the reticulated earth. The whole being flanked in part by the town and sports centre, and bounded by a line of rolling hills. From the inside a resident would be grateful for the cross views to the open veld that are afforded by the spatial arrangement of flat blocks—here are no seemingly endless wall faces of cliffs on stilts. I do not propose looking at her plan in more detail, and if I examine premises that, to me, seem implicit in her well-written text, I shall do so by exposing myself to attack.

It is incumbent on a critic to make some constructive suggestion—only thus will he realise his own incompetence. Therefore, if I were a member of an organised group, formed to undertake work that was concerned with regional and national planning, we should, I think, tackle it something on the following lines. Firstly: We should try to establish some principles—to decide on whom, or what, we hope to benefit. Secondly: We should do the fullest possible survey. Thirdly: We should analyse our research—perhaps we might have to look to our basic assumptions. Fourthly: We should prepare a plan—realising that it was not final. Fifthly: We should submit this plan to the various authorities and, more particularly, to the people whose lives it would affect. Sixthly: We should adapt relevant suggestions and re-plan accordingly—bearing in mind that it was not a plan of a building and must allow of great



PORTION OF A SKETCH DESIGN

HOPE—HONNET



TRANSVAAL ROAD

Photo: H.M.  
(From a Survey of Transvaal Rural Centres)

flexibility. Finally: I baulk at the word seventhly; therefore, knowing that the enumeration could well continue, I say finally, we should suggest ways and means of putting the plan into effect.

Before continuing, I wish to state that most of the above scheme is not original. Much of it I read last year in "Culture of Cities," by Lewis Mumford. However, I shall consider the proposals as I have outlined them. To some my first point may seem irrelevant: to me it appears possible to plan for an improvement in living conditions for all, or for an advance on present conditions for some and a retention of existing conditions for others. The first alternative is foredoomed to many disappointments. The second is not possible; the rise in standards of one group must have either a favourable or adverse affect on the other.

On the face of it the choice seems easily taken, but, given the relations of races and classes within races and cutting across races, extant in South Africa, the decision may become difficult. It does not concern those bound by the tenets of a political credo—their decision has been taken. They may or may not be interested in regional planning; they may plump for the second alternative or maintain that they stand for the first. Assuming that you are interested in regional planning, the initial choice is not difficult—because it is no choice. The living standards of those below the bread-line must be raised. Piecemeal slum clearance has been one of the features of the last few years: but it is merely a palliative unless it forms part of a larger plan. It is on the principles that are to underlie this larger plan that dissension will arise. Here each man will be guided by his innermost beliefs. That the plan may ultimately be forced to take up a form not visualised by any of the dissentients does not belie the need of a basis from which to start. The candidates do not appear to have considered the matter. I offer the individual as my yardstick, and leave him undefended because I cannot pursue this point. I am not writing a dissertation but merely trying to bring up some points which ought to be considered.

Passing on to the second point, I shall not cavil at the amount of the research done by the candidates. That would be ungenerous. I note in the text of the second thesis that some information was unobtainable, and I realise the limited time in which the research was done. Yet I doubt if it was necessary for two different people to survey Barberton—a fact which I noticed when glancing through another thesis.

It is on my third point that I quarrel most with the candidates. To me such analysis as exists seems to lack penetration. There is little examination of the basis of the existing rural economy, no suggestions

for improving the productivity of any of the rural areas. Perhaps these considerations do not lie within the students' field. Even so, I did expect to find an investigation into the rural town as a nucleus for our rural population. Is it the only nucleus? Would a smaller nucleus be desirable? Would it, together with smaller nuclei, be most satisfactory? It is impossible to decide without some knowledge of the psychology of the rural population and the economy of the country. I offer no opinion here, but ask one more question. Must the rural districts always remain in their present condition? Here I am at one with the writer of the second thesis. No, we both answer. What remedy does she suggest in her chapter on the "Future of the Transvaal"? Education and the National Road. Now education may be almost considered as a generic term. It can mean so much and so little. You can teach people to read in order that they may absorb political propaganda. With the coming of the radio this need is not so urgent. They can be taught to read in order that they may buy pulp magazines. We have our censorship, although the banning of reading matter is a somewhat negative way of instilling something positive. Here I must state that the candidate's interpretation of education is admirable; briefly it has to do with culture. I shall not list the headings, which are very full. But, unless the base of rural life can be broadened, seeds that do sprout will soon wither. I detected in her writing, possibly incorrectly, a tendency to assume that enlivening and vitalising influences will always come from the towns. This may be so now; it has not always been so and will not always be so, because there will be no rural culture to inspire it. If it does not spring from itself, it will die out. There can be cross currents flowing between town and country, but there can be no one-way stream. Education alone is not sufficient; the living standards of the rural population must be raised. Which brings us to the "National Road." Little purpose is served by trying to make people "car-conscious" unless they can afford to run a car. Therefore, although I agree with this candidate that the isolation of the rural areas must be broken down, I think that the solution must be based on far wider considerations than she has suggested. Not that I think that the economic factor alone is the answer. Man has an ingenious brain and strange emotions—he is supremely capable of creating a maze of woe on any material base. He also has it in him to find the path out. I am no materialist; if you like, that is the limitation of my criticism. None the less it will continue.

Of the plans which fall under my fourth heading I have little left to say. Aesthetically they would

have an incalculable effect on the population—an effect that would be to the good. The plans are stimulating; they would evoke an enlivening response from those who lived in them. That I do not think that they are based on sound analyses does not detract from them as aesthetic units. They have, in fact, the faults of their own perfection. Until each was complete each could be likened to a chipped crystal rather than to a growing shrub. Particularly is this so when two rows of flats, each hundreds of feet long, house a large proportion of the population. I am all for the smaller unit. It has the merit of allowing flexible development. I also think that the native might have been allowed some access to the river in the "Nelspruit" scheme. I should at this stage put forth my constructive proposals. Naturally, I have no intention of doing so. I have no desire to lessen the joys of criticism.

We come, then, to my last three points. These, quite obviously, do not concern the plans under consideration, unless I be considered a prospective dweller to whom the plans have been submitted. I have had my say and pass on to a conclusion.

My inference is that to do a thorough survey of South Africa—and the Transvaal cannot be considered apart from the whole—would have made it impossible for the candidates to have prepared planned solutions. To me it appears desirable that a thesis submitted for the degree of Bachelor of Architecture should contain a plastic synthesis. But, as I have tried to show, no such syntheses were really possible in the time at their disposal. The scope of regional and national planning—or planning, if you are a purist—is great, almost too vast to be treated as an incident—a long and sustained incident—in a five year course on architecture. Yet the lack of regional planning is evident. The country has need of it. I leave the conundrum to the University and the Department of Architecture. For myself, I am glad that these theses and that on "Native Housing" have been done. I am pleased that students are at present doing more research into housing. I hope that further studies will be undertaken, so that all may be collated. In this way there will come into being a library of information on this most interesting of subjects—planning.

Finally I state that: if the texts of other candidates controvert any of my strictures on the theses which I have read—it was not evident in their plans, if I have at all broadened my views since writing an article on regional planning last year—I acknowledge my indebtedness to those members of a group, formed tentatively, to start an Institute of Planning: if I have voiced some idiosyncratic views which

others find irritating—I claim them for myself: and if I have in some way shown the interest that is to be found in these annual exhibitions—then this letter will have served its purpose.

I am,

Yours truly,

ANGUS STEWART.

86, Alliance Buildings,  
Cor Rissik and New Street North,  
Johannesburg,  
6th May, 1940.

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NOTE:

In connection with Mr. Stewart's comments on the work of senior students shown at the annual exhibition, we would draw his attention to the fact that:

First: Though he refers to "Regional Surveys," and though this term might have been used by some students to describe their work, the programme reprinted in this issue indicates the scope of the researches and planning required, and is the only basis for criticism so far as the students' work is concerned.

Second: In the same manner, while Mr. Stewart's praise of the students for undertaking this type of work may be gratifying, it is mis-directed, since the students had no option in following the prescribed course. For the same reason all criticism of the detailed work undertaken must be taken as criticism of the programme set, and should therefore not be confused with that directed purely as the individual students whose schemes are here discussed. No doubt those students who have since graduated will have a reply to that portion of Mr. Stewart's letter.

# HOUSE FOR MRS. S. SIVE, PARKTOWN

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Architect: H. H. LE ROITH, B.Arch.(Rand)

Built on the Parktown ridge, with lovely views stretching northwards and westwards as far as the Magaliesberg. The entrance is on the south, with the main view to the north.

The house is designed with a view to easy entertainment. The entrance hall, study, living room, dining room and winter garden can be thrown into one large suite. Glass bricks to winter garden closes off vista looking from living room to west. The living room is 40ft. long and suitable as a music room.

The main entrance is on the east, where one enters the main hall with a view of the staircase hall. The cloakroom is on the left of the entrance. The service staircase from sub-basement to top floor gives easy access to hall, living room and dining room.

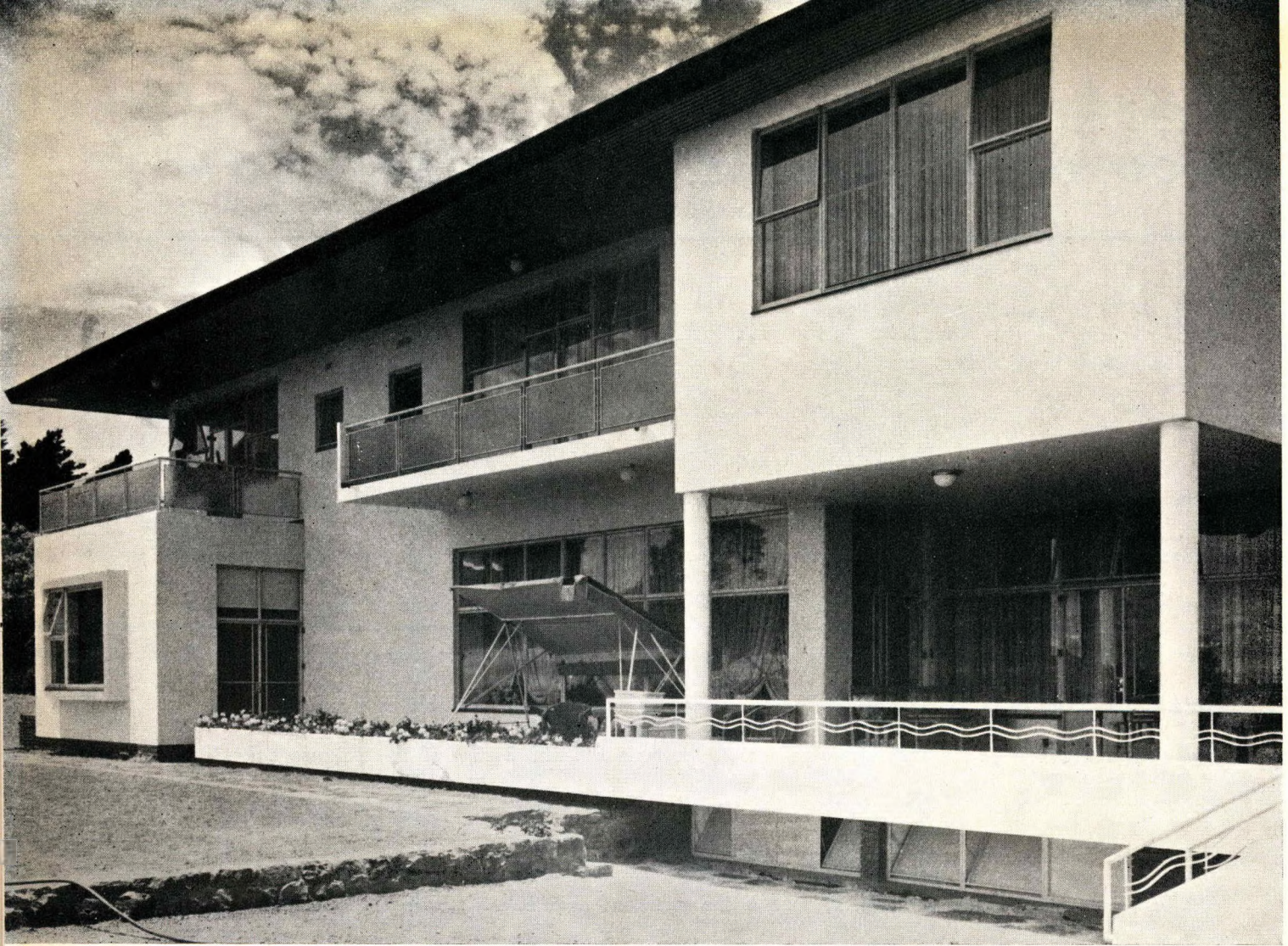
The first floor has the main bedroom situated in the north and east, with a morning room adjoining with an east terrace. The guest room and son's bedroom have a common bathroom, and the son's bedroom opens out to a large north-west terrace. The service stair on the left leads to a servery with workroom and maids' bedroom and bath leading off therefrom. The staircase window extends through both floors, giving ample light to the upper hall.

Service basement. Here is situated the kitchen servery and pantry, with servants' quarters adjoining.

Finish. The walls are finished in plaster with light cream Nurodamp paint. Floors are generally in strip South African woods, except the main and staircase hall, which is in checkerpattern oak and kejaat parquet. The main bedroom has a rubber floor, and walls in pale green vitrolite.

Balustrading to terraces, etc., generally in steel with cast wired glass insets. Terrace floors in non-skid plain black tiles. Roof, in one simple stretch, is in dark brown cedarwood shingles, and the soffit in narrow slats, painted white.

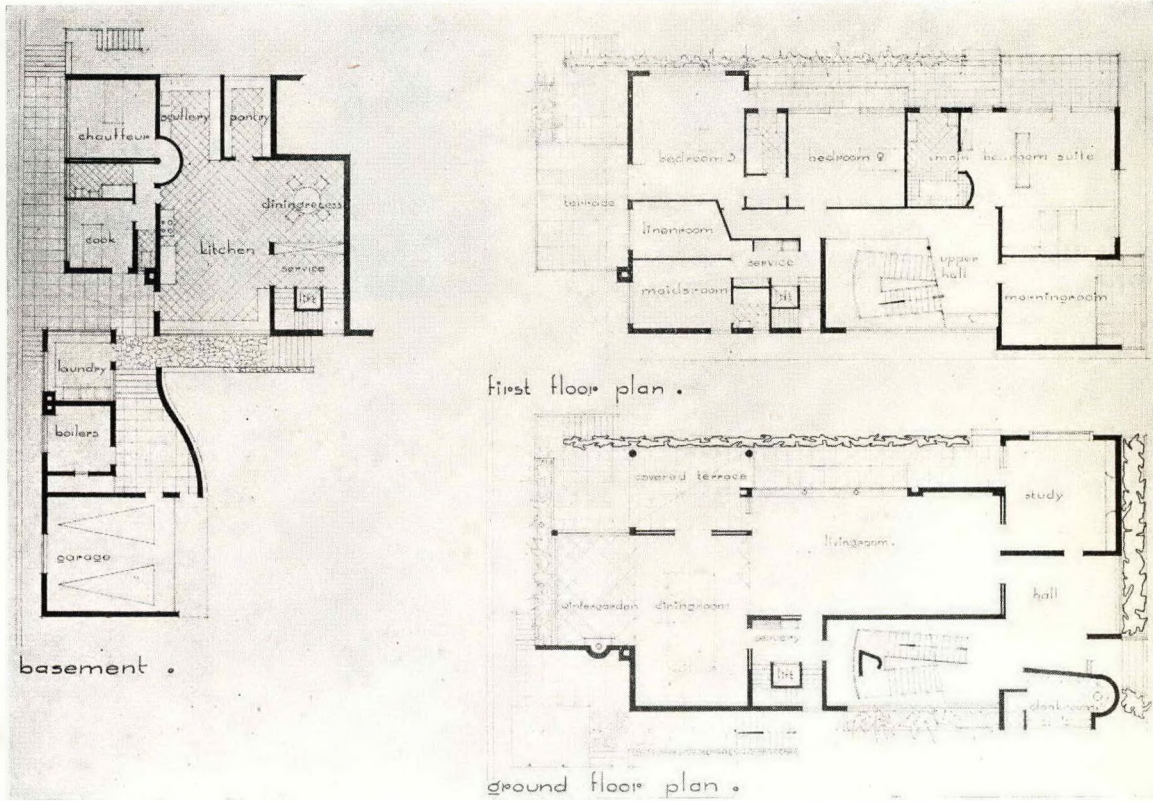
An inter-communication telephone system is incorporated throughout.



NORTH ELEVATION

Overhang of roof 7ft. 0in. Roof of shingles. Terrace runs almost the complete length. Portion covered. All bedrooms have north aspect.

STUDY INTERIOR  
 Showing the walnut fittings  
 reaching from floor to ceiling.



THE PLANS

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