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1946
South African Architectural Institute
http://hdl.handle.net/10539/22926
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. 1946. vol 31:1-12; p1-294

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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.
PHONE 34-2921 VOLUME THIRTY-ONE NUMBER FIVE
611, KELVIN HOUSE, 75, MARSHALL STREET, JOHANNESBURG.
JOINT EDITORS: PROFESSOR G. E. PEARSE, W. D. HOWIE.

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND 8 AUG 1946

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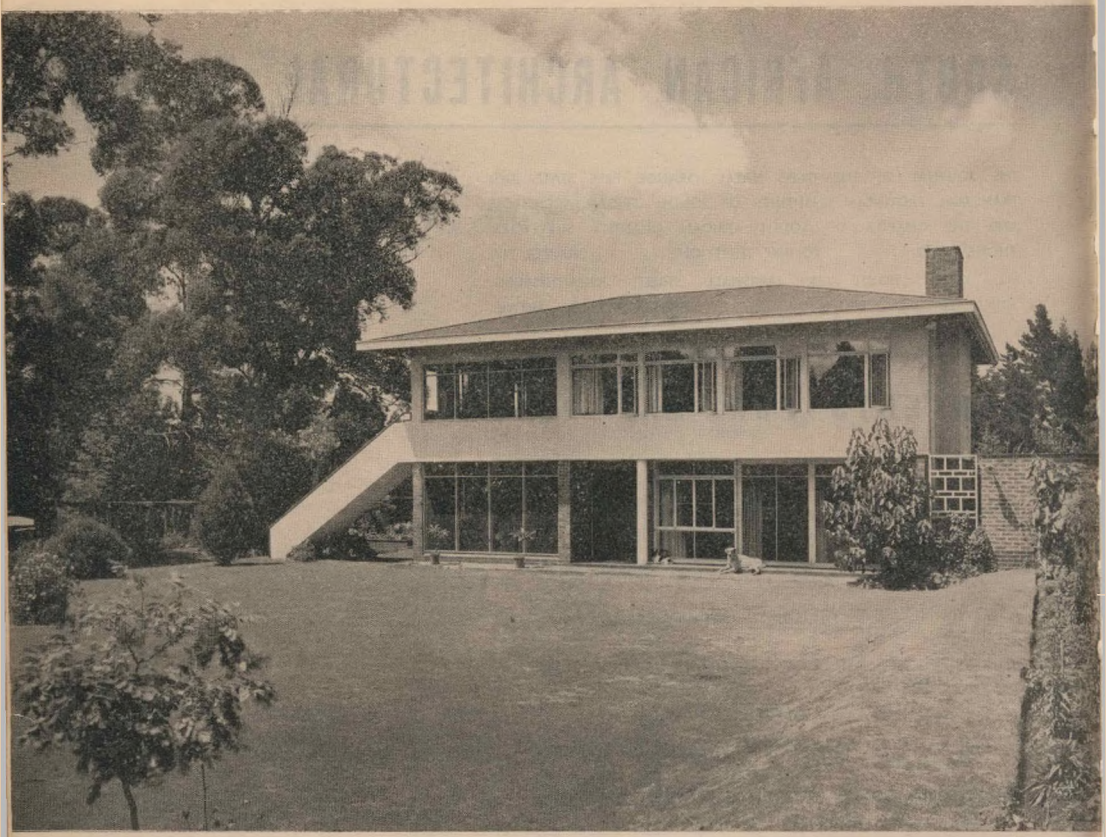
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THE GARDEN FRONT

Facing due north the house overlooks the garden. Cill heights are low at first floor level to give an unimpeded view. The living room opens directly onto the lawn through a sliding door of plate glass in timber frame, suspended from a recessed steel sliding track. The sliding door opening may be covered by a flyscreen which moves forward to seal the doorway when the door is drawn back. This flyscreen is in position in the photograph. A panel of steel windows with two central units side-hung provides ventilation when the sliding door is closed. External finishes comprise corrugated galvanised iron roof painted a mulberry colour, pale pink roughcast plaster walls over a band of rich brown facebrick, with a low blue facebrick plinth. Steel window frames and woodwork are painted cream. The swimming pool terrace lies to the right at a higher level. A curved blue stock brick screen wall in natural colour connects with the main house by means of a timber trellis which provides the first glimpse of the garden from the approach door. The low swimming pool terrace wall shown on plan was not built and a sloping bank accommodates the difference in level at present.

The wide spreading eaves and recessed window to the living room give the facade a shadowful quality during summer months. In winter the sun penetrates into the rooms behind the north facade.

HOUSE AT OAKLANDS, JOHANNESBURG

for Dr. Alexander Frew

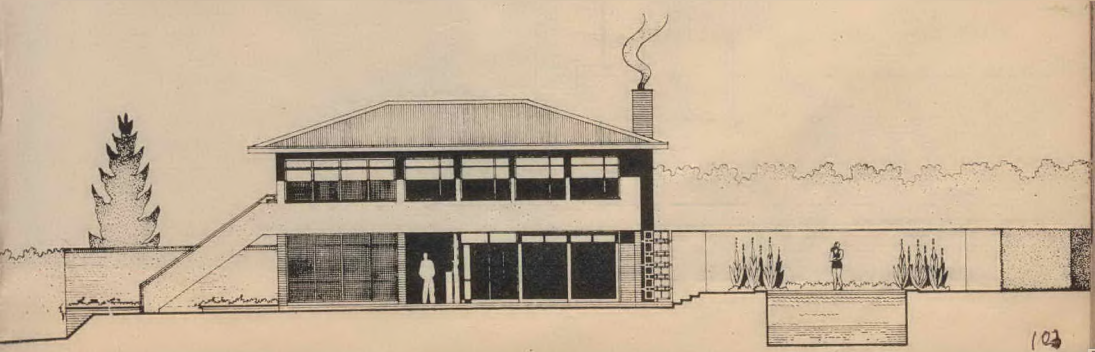
JOHN FASSLER, A.R.I.B.A., M.I.A., ARCHITECT

The design and execution of the house at Oaklands developed as a result of a close collaboration between architect and client. It commenced with a request for a Cape Dutch treatment, and ended, after considerable preliminary discussion, with the construction of the building illustrated. Planned and detailed to exploit the natural maturity of the setting, an effort was made to create a neutral and restful background for the life of a professional man and his wife.

The site some five acres in extent had been utilised for some years previously as a nurseryman's establishment, and was well planted with many varieties of trees and shrubs. The location of the house and outbuildings was determined in a convenient clearing which involved the removal of as few trees as possible to preserve the informal landscape character. The ground sloped fairly steeply to the east, necessitating some terracing to adjust house and outbuildings to the varying levels. No views of any importance needed to be considered due to the tall trees which excluded almost every trace of the surrounding suburbs. The ultimate objective was thus suggested by the nature of the site itself at an early stage. This objective was to develop a scheme which would exploit the excellent existing vegetation, to create an atmosphere in house and garden which would engender a sense of seclusion, repose and the richness deriving from the lights and shades of well disposed groups of trees and spreading lawn. The atmosphere of house and garden, now that five years have elapsed since building operations were completed, noticeably encourages that sense of relaxation from the stress of daily life which is the natural outcome of the realisation, to some extent, of the objective mentioned previously.

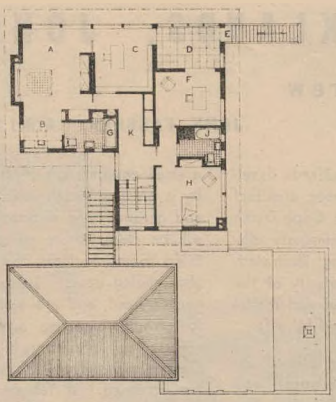
Service and main approaches were arranged from the West, the garden to the North being completely isolated by the curved wall to the swimming pool terrace. A glimpse, however, of what lies beyond was provided through the timber trellis linking house and screen wall. A turning circle adjoins a small entrance court planted formally, which is terminated by a covered porch and pergola, connecting main entrance and garage. The disposition of the living and service rooms will be clear from a perusal of the ground floor plan. The living room overlooks the main garden, and is fronted with glass sliding doors. These appear in the photograph of the garden front, and are well recessed behind the building face to exclude excessive sunlight during the summer months, nevertheless admitting it extensively during winter. Since flies were prevalent in the area the whole of the house was screened. A telephone recess and wine cellar occupy the space beneath the staircase. At first floor level were arranged two separate suites of bedrooms and studies together with bathrooms. The eastern suite may be cut off from the upper hall by a sliding door if so desired. The arrangement of the principal bedroom and study "en suite" was an unusual requirement of the client who requested a close relationship between these two elements. The bedroom and study are freely planned, the former space being capable of subdivision from the bedroom by means of the large sliding door shown. Since the study is used principally for research, it required no contact with the entrance hall below, and, in the position indicated, overlooks the garden to the north through low-cilled windows. Both studies open onto the upper loggia which connects with ground level by means of an external stair. The principal suite facing north includes a dressing space adjoining the bedroom. Native quarters were located well away to the south-east to obviate noise, and the enclosed yard gives access to the laundry, fuel store, fuel bins, kitchen and pump chamber.

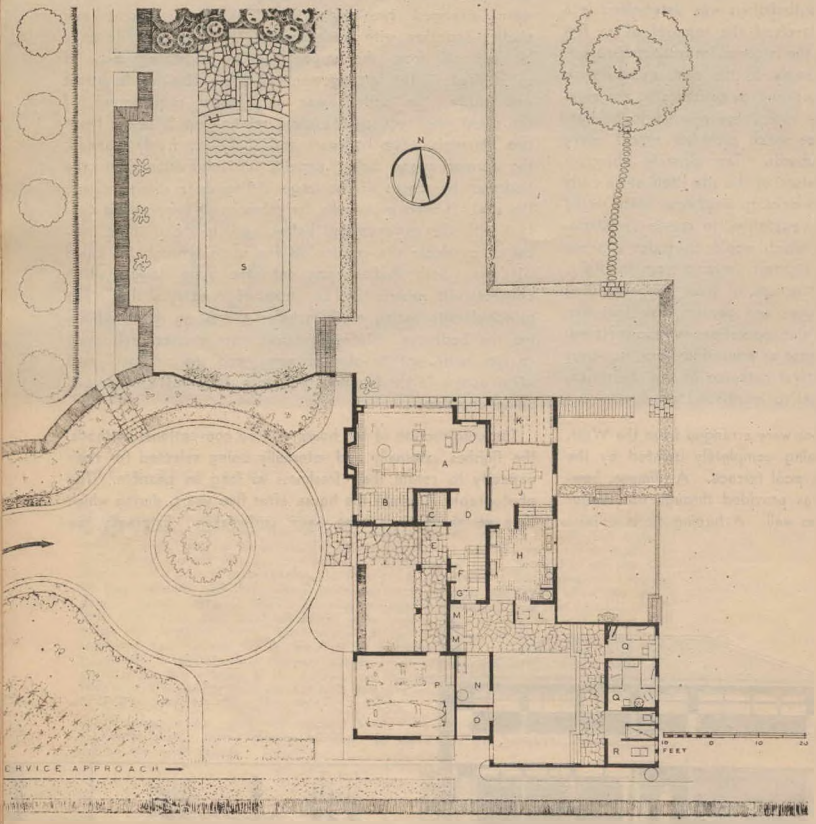
The construction of the house utilised conventional methods, the finishes externally and internally being selected for their capacity to retain their freshness as long as possible. The photographs illustrate the house after five years, during which time no renovations have been undertaken. Externally the



HOUSE AT OAKLANDS JOHANNESBURG

JOHN FASSLER, ARCHITECT





LEGEND TO PLANS

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

A. Main Bedroom.
B. Dressing Space.
C. Study.
D. Upper Loggia.
E. Stair to Garden.
F. Guest's Study.
G. Bathroom.
H. Guest's Bedroom.
J. Bathroom.
K. Upper Hall.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

A. Living Room.
B. Panelled Recess.
C. Cloaks.
D. Entrance Hall.
E. Entrance Porch.
F. Telephone recess under stair.
G. Wine cellar under stair.
H. Kitchen.
J. Dining Room.
K. Screened Loggia
L. Kitchen Porch.
M. Fuel Bins.
N. Laundry.
O. Tool Store.
P. Garage.
Q. Servants' Rooms.
R. Pump Chamber.
S. Swimming Pool.

lck





THE LIVING ROOM

The living room opens onto the garden through sliding doors to the right, and into a panelled recess on the left. The fireplace is of light brown klompje bricks with marble mantle shelf. Artificial lighting is indirect, the brackets being of softwood turned and ducoed, with loose galvanised sheet iron reflectors internally. The floor is of Kiaat wood block.

PANELLED RECESS OFF LIVING ROOM

The panelled recess serves for those occasions when an intimate setting is more desirable than that provided by the spaciousness of the living room. The panelling comprises Australian Walnut veneered on laminated board secured to rough grounds with Oak cover strips, capping and skirting. The book recess in the back wall is lined with Oak. The trim to settee and the bookcase in foreground are of similar material. The fitting on the left comprises general storage cupboards, built-in "Scott" radio chassis, fronted with plate glass panel — the chassis and panel are secured to a tray which may be slid out when required for cleaning and service — built-in gramophone turntable and loudspeaker, record storage and electric heater. The floor is patterned in Partridge wood and Oak to differentiate the space from the main living room.

Photography : Alan Yates



DINING ROOM

The dining room connects with the kitchen by means of a door to the right and also through a hatch embodied in the built-in sideboard. The panelling is in Kiaat with Beech cover strips, capping and skirting. The sideboard fitting includes an upper glass cabinet, illuminated from the top, lined with Citron veneer, cutlery storage in small cupboards at sides, and general storage below. A concealed strip light illuminates the working top and may be used when carving. The furniture comprises Kiaat table and Beech chairs with red hide upholstery.



MAIN BEDROOM AND DRESSING SPACE

The double bed is built in. It is constructed of Citron with cupboards on either side. The switch panel above the pillow operates a tubular heater in the bathroom attached to this suite, the room lights, concealed reading lights above the recess and an electric blanket. A phone plug is provided above the shelf. The built in dressing table and wardrobes are also of Citron. An ironing board is housed in a small cupboard at the side of the dressing recess, where shown on plan. A portion of one of the wardrobes appears on the left. All of the fittings shown in this and other illustrations were manufactured by a cabinet maker and fitted into the structure at an appropriate stage during construction.



THE APPROACH FROM THE WEST

The curved brick wall screening the swimming pool appears to the left of the turning circle. The main entrance door beneath a porch with pergola linking garage and main building lies immediately ahead. The site, originally utilised as a nursery, was well endowed with luxuriant vegetation. Well established trees and shrubs gave the setting a sense of maturity which is normally only achieved after a long lapse of time.

treatment comprises a deep facebrick band at ground floor level, with rough cast plaster above, the colours being described elsewhere. The roof over the main house and garage wing is of galvanised corrugated iron pitched at 18°, with gutter only at the perimeter of eaves boxed in, leaving the remainder of the eaves exposed underneath. The first floor level is insulated from the roof space by filling the depth of the brandering supporting ceiling boarding with a mixture of sawdust and lime. Joints between ceiling boards are covered with scrim and distempered to give a plain surface. The extensive provision made with regard to built-in fittings may be seen by reference to the plan. These were principally manufactured by a cabinet maker and fitted into recesses formed by the general contractor. The clients were anxious to embody timber of varying types in the house and several were utilised in various parts, some of which are illustrated. and described.

A swimming pool occupies a terrace at a slightly higher level than the main house, and is secluded from the west by a thick hedge. A small filtration plant ensures the freshness of the water. Advantage has been taken of a magnificent Oak tree located a short distance to the north of the house, as shown on plan; and the space beneath its low spreading branches was developed as an external living terrace. The ground is paved with slate and planting arranged around the perimeter of the canopy to reach almost to the branches.

★ ★ ★

In conclusion it may be fairly stated that the variety of scene presented by the interiors of the house itself, as well as by the garden, provide a setting that will accommodate every mood.



View from North-East from viewpoint 1 on the site plan opposite.

A COUNTRY HOUSE NEAR PRETORIA

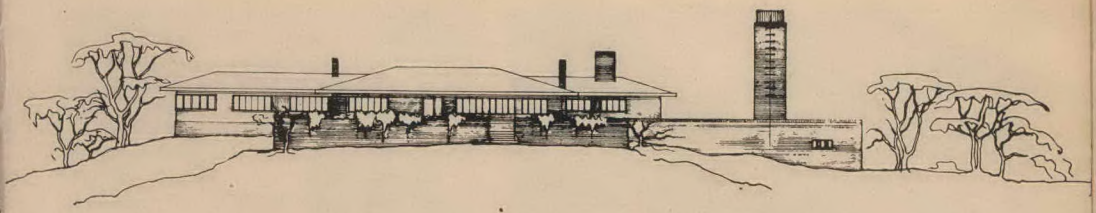
NORMAN EATON, A.R.I.B.A., M.I.A.. ARCHITECT

The site is a kopje on the farm Kameeldrift just north of the Derdepoort gap in the Magaliesberg range about 11½ miles north-east of Pretoria.

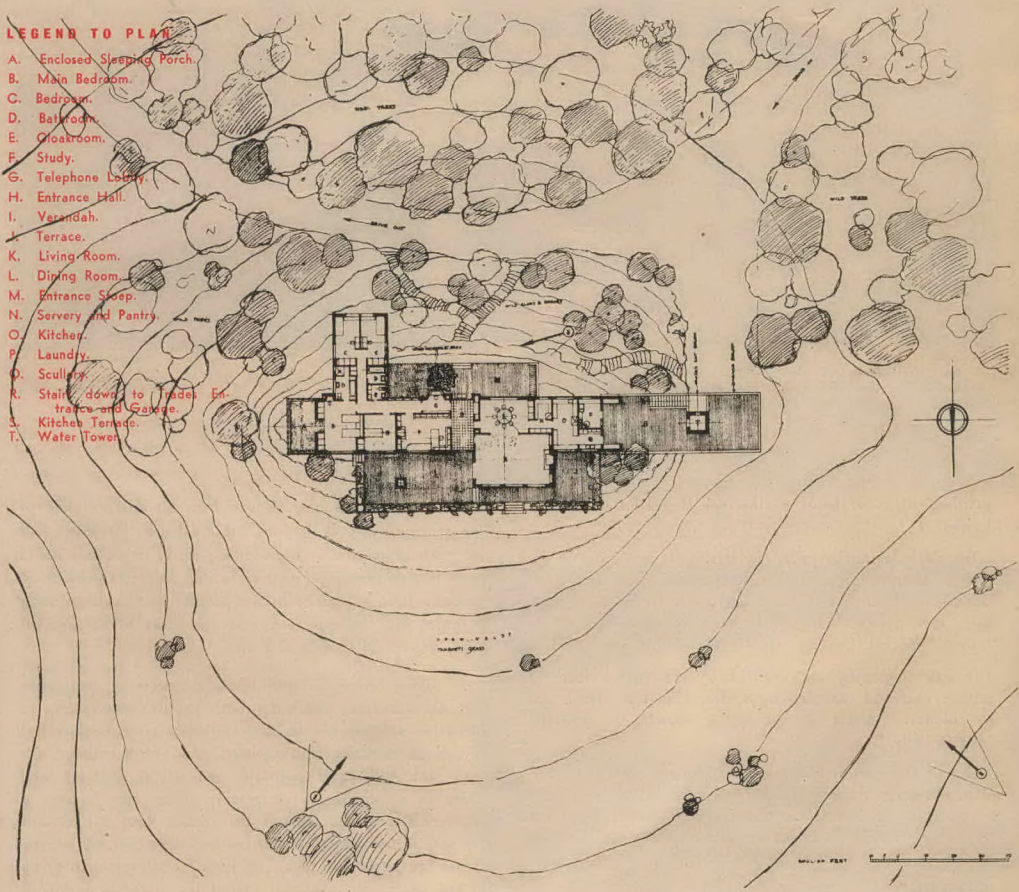
Indigenous trees, bush and aloes cluster rather thickly about all but the northern slopes. Here the kopje falls more gently away to a broad, grassy valley studded with thorntrees in clusters, sharply etched against the softer texture of the open veld.

The main axis of the elongated kopje runs east to west. Its crest is just big enough to contain the thin, long body of the house, whose extremities and appendages at all points had therefore, to be raised off the lower slopes on heightened foundations.

Fine views are to be had in every direction. Southwards is the more intimate one. It looks over the verdurous course of Hartebeestspruit towards the nearby northern face of the Magaliesberg. To the east and west there is no limit to the view. Ones eyes travel endlessly up the valleys and sight becomes lost in misty infinity. Northwards the distant outlook is first interrupted by a parallel range of hills along which one's curiosity is, somehow, enticed westwards again to the triple cones of the "Pyramids" — those distinctive kopjes



NORTH ELEVATION





View from North-West from viewpoint 2 on the site plan, which gives a fine impression of the broad horizontal sweep of the house.

Photography : Alan Yates.

guarding the west banks of the Bon Accord Dam on the horizon.

The deep impression given by this lonely kopje site in the autumn afternoon it was first visited was that of a small rugged island set in a frozen sea, the serenity of whose vast, flat, open spaces was ruffled only by low-lying parallel " waves " of hills beating interminably northwards.

It was a glowing sea overlaid by the golden foam of autumn veld and canopied by a clear blue sky. There was a " bigness " about the scene; a warmth; a powerful " horizontality."

Out of these surroundings had to grow the plan, the architectural shapes, the man-made forms and textures that were to become the house. It was for a professional man; a consulting physician, who preferred the quality of this scene to the chaotic congestion of the suburbs nearer the city.

TREATMENT

It is not proposed to give lengthy explanations about things which any architect may deduce from his interpretation of the accompanying illustrations. In the belief, therefore, that the plans explain themselves, nothing more will be said about them beyond drawing attention to the generous provision of windows, terraces, verandahs and porches that has been made in order that full advantage may be taken at all times of every aspect of climate and view.

A golden brown, ironspot brick, unbroken by contrasting material was used, plastically, both to give homogenity to the external forms and to blend with the general colour and texture of the kopje and adjoining veld. Stretcherbond was used with suppressed perpends and deeply recessed bed joints to emphasize a horizontality which also became a characteristic of the general plan masses flung out towards the sun, air and views. A soft brown shingle roof was chosen. It was low pitched to give " lightness " and projected widely at the eaves for protection against the more unruly moods of the elements.

Most character-ful of the wild trees on the kopje was a "klopper" (kaffir orange)—a gnarled old veteran—whose careful preservation at the south entrance had its influence on the plan.

The natural trees and veld were preserved without damage throughout building operations, it being an intended feature of the completed scheme that the sea of wild grasslands on the north, always alive and rippling in some passing breeze, should forever be preserved to wash perpetually, and without formal interuption, against the high terrace walls fronting it.

Elevated exuberantly above this wilderness—like a throng of civilised midgets at a vast zoo—are the cultivated flowers, safe in their wall pockets.

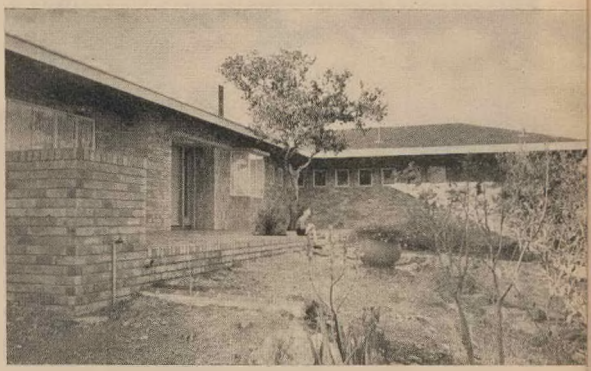
A little brick patterning has been used, bearing in mind the simple effects inherent in indigenous Bantu bead and basketwork. It serves a weepholing to the western terrace and to enhance the verticality of the tower.

A light metal balustrade confines an "outlook" at the top of the tower. From here an intrepid "climber of rungs" is rewarded with stupendous views. His senses satisfied, he may then, also, inspect the reservoir beneath his feet!

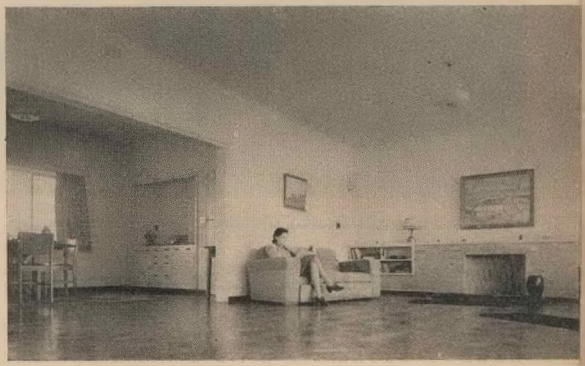
The tower contains four compartments. These provide fuel storage at the lowest level next to the Trades entrance and garage; general storage at terrace level; a "biltong" drying room above this reached by a removable ladder; and, on top, a square brick reservoir holding 4,000 gallons of water pumped to it by a windmill from a borehole about 100 yards away to the south. The slightly pervious walls of the reservoir keep this water cool and fresh. A gravity line from it feeds the hot water supply cistern housed on the thickened stack over the laundry.

The absence of Natives' quarters is explained by the fact that the African servants have their own little group of stone and thatch huts on a northern slope some way away to the west.

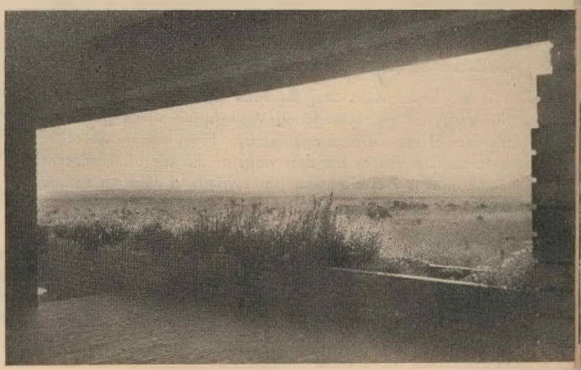
The house was completed in 1941 for Dr. C. F. van der Merwe at a cost of £5,100.



The Approach, view 3 on site plan, showing the old "Klopper" tree marking the entrance
BELOW: The Living Room: simple finishes and quiet colours characterise the interiors



BELOW: The view from the verandah looking towards the "Pyramids" to the North West. The boxed beam and exposed woodwork is in Kiaat toning with the brickwor





General view from the North-West, at viewpoint A on the site plan, showing the house set on the rocky ledge overlooking the broad sweep of Pretoria.

A TOWN HOUSE IN PRETORIA

NORMAN EATON, A.R.I.B.A., M.I.A., ARCHITECT

THE SITE

This is little more than a steep, rocky slope on the north face of the extreme eastern end of the Muckleneuk Hill, south-east of the centre of the city.

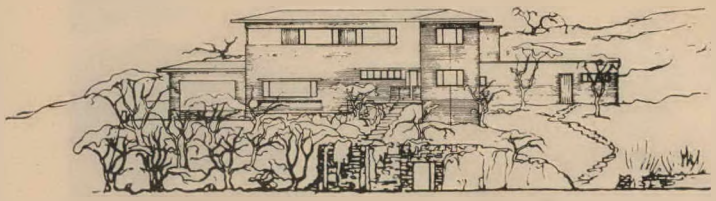
It has broad views over the town and central suburbs and the Valley of the meandering Walkerspruit which passes at the foot of the eastern slope nearby. From here, in October, is to be had one of the best views of the sea of translucent mauve that is Pretoria—when the myriads of Jacaranda trees are in full bloom.

The site is covered by all manner of indigenous growth, from the "Katjepiering" (wild gardenia) — standing up to 10 ft. high—to the shrub-like "stamvrugte" with its stiff, grey-green oleander-like leaves and astringent plum-like fruit clinging inconspicuously to the stem. There are also numerous wild aloes, grasses and, in the more shady fissures of the outcrop, ferns.

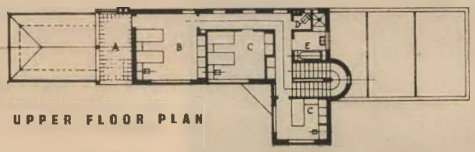
The south boundary is below the crest of the hill and at the foot of a rocky bank just high enough to protect the house from the sharp south winds. Along it is a narrow shelf sloping towards the east. The approach is from the west along a narrow banked-up "right-of-way" which enters the lowest part of the site about 20 ft. below the rocky shelf.

TREATMENT

To take advantage of the views and aspect the house had to be fitted on to the narrow east-west shelf of rock. Its long, thin plan—which had to be two-storied to provide the required accommodation—gave a northern outlook to all the rooms. All, that is, but the Dining Room and Kitchen,



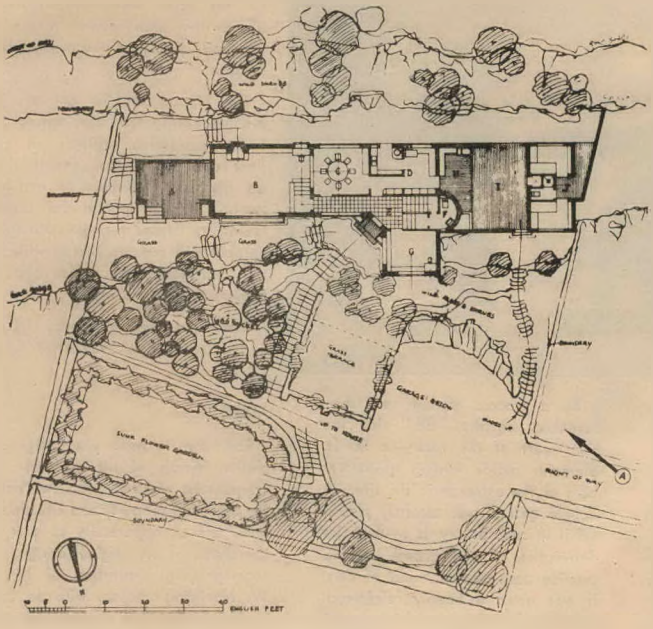
NORTH ELEVATION



UPPER FLOOR PLAN

LEGEND FOR PLANS

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
A. Sleeping Porch.
B. Main Bedroom.
C. Bedroom.
D. W.C.
E. Bathroom.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN
A. Loggia.
B. Living Room.
C. Dining Room.
D. Kitchen, Scullery and Servery.
E. Entrance Hall.
F. Cloakroom.
G. Study.
H. Kitchen Porch.
I. Kitchen Court.
J. Servants' Quarters.

GROUND FLOOR AND SITE PLAN

RIGHT: View showing the Neethling house with the de Loor house beyond. BELOW: The Neethling house seen over the garage from the approach.





faced with rough kopje stone from the site to blend inconspicuously with the hillside.

The house itself was homogenously faced with a rough-textured, handmade, clamp-burnt, darkish-brown brick whose uneven colour was a very near match for the kopje stone and assisted in giving the architectural masses the intended quality of "growing out of the site."

The hipped roof is of very flat-pitched corrugated iron, whose 3 ft. 6 ins. projection protects all upper floor openings. Thin concrete hoods do the same to those of the lower levels. Kitchen porch and servants' rooms are behind a single rectangle of parapet wall and are roofed with lean-to" corrugated iron. Plan and illustrations explain the rest.

The house was completed for Mr. H. A. de Loor in 1939 at a cost of £2,700.

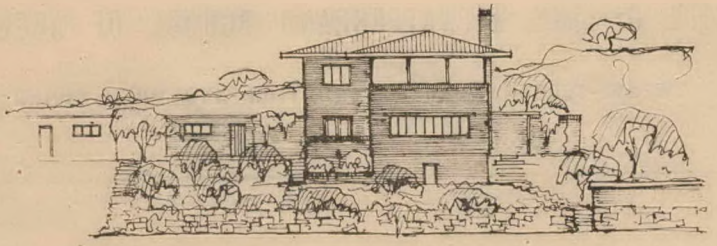
whose windows frame alternative and more intimate animated pictures of the natural rocky bank behind.

A lowered floor level in the Lounge and raised foundations to its Porch took care of the eastward slope of the shelf. Into this thus lofty ceil-inged Lounge the Dining Room opens as a small parapeted gallery from which music, too, can be played.

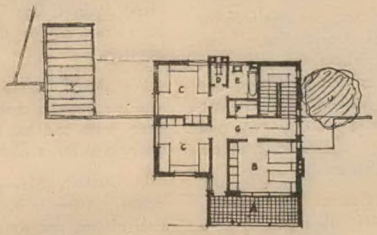
By a process of cut and fill — revealing, on the "hill" side the rich heart of the rock — a 50 ft. diameter motor turning space was built at the entrance to the site. A double garage was carefully placed off it in such a way as to minimise destruction of wild growth and to provide easy manoeuvering of cars. It was given a heavily reinforced, waterproof, concrete roof to support a grass terrace and garden and was

ADDENDUM

Some two or three years after completion friends of Mr. de Loor with sympathetic architectural views bought the adjoining property and afforded the architects an opportunity to carry on the theme of the original design. The accompanying illustration of Mr. C. W. Neethling's house, with de Loor's in the background, shows with what success continuity was achieved.



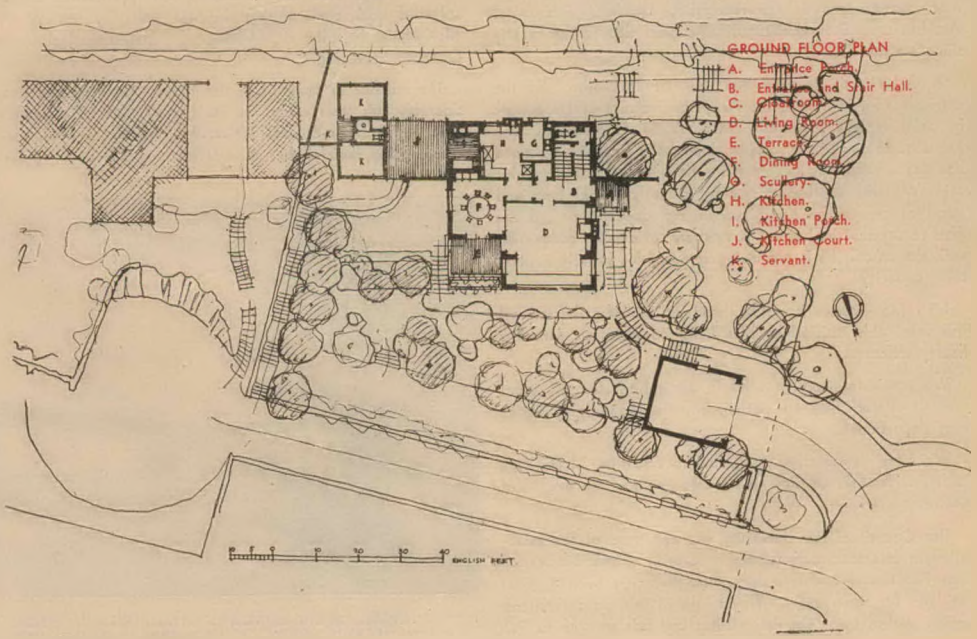
NORTH ELEVATION



LEGEND FOR PLANS

UPPER FLOOR PLAN

A. Sleeping Porch.
B. Main Bedroom.
C. Bedroom.
D. W.C.
E. Bathroom.
F. Linen Closet.
G. Corridor.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

A. Entrance Porch.
B. Entrance and Stair Hall.
C. Cloakroom.
D. Living Room.
E. Terrace.
F. Dining Room.
G. Scullery.
H. Kitchen.
I. Kitchen Porch.
J. Kitchen Court.
K. Servant.

UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBITION AND PRIZE-GIVING

Professor Pearse, in addressing those present, said :

It is my pleasant duty to welcome you, on behalf of the Staff and Students of the School of Architecture, to our twenty-second Annual Exhibition and Prize-giving. We are particularly pleased to have with us this afternoon the President of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects, Mr. John Fassler, who is well known to most of you, and requires no introduction, and Professor A. L. Meiring, of the University of Pretoria School of Architecture.

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the School of Architecture—our silver jubilee. We started in a small way in a tin shanty in the town and have now become one of the recognised Dominion Schools of Architecture. Several changes have taken place in the Faculty since we met last year.

A department of Fine Arts has been created and the curriculum for the B.A. (Fine Arts) now includes practical work in painting and sculpture. Mr. W. de S. Hendrikz, who has done so much to build up the courses in Fine Arts, resigned last year in order to devote more time to the practice of his art. We wish to thank him most sincerely for the long and excellent service he has given to the department and are glad to say that he has not completely severed his connection with the school; he is continuing some of his work in a part-time capacity.

Mrs. Martienssen is acting head of the new department this year, ably assisted by Mrs. Long, to whom we extend a hearty welcome.

We are exteremely grateful to them both for the great amount of work they are putting into the organisation of the new department.

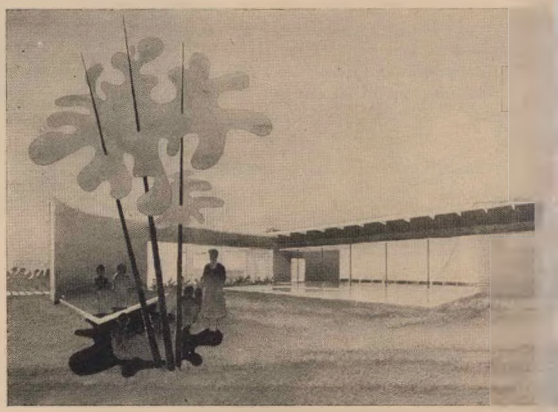
We offer our heartiest congratulations to Mrs. Martienssen and Mr. Hendrikz on their recent attainment of the degree of Master of Arts.

The Council of the University has approved of the establishment of a four years full time course in Interior Decoration and Furniture — a course for which there has been a great demand for some years. The details of this course are now being worked out. On the architectural side we wish to welcome Mr. J. M. Shunn as a full time lecturer and Messrs. Henri Joubert, Ugo Tomaselli and G. M. Hussey, all of whom have seen service during the war, as temporary full-time lecturers.

We should like to pay a tribute to Miss Betty Spence, who has been in charge of the first year work for the past three years and has now resigned to continue her research in England for a higher degree.

In Quantity Surveying we now have a full-time senior lecturer on the staff, Mr. J. Castleton, who is well known to most of you, and we are grateful to him for undertaking this arduous work. We wish to record our appreciation of the splendid work done, during the war years by Mr. W. A. McKechnie, in spite of ill-health, as a part time lecturer in Quantity Surveying.

The number of students in the Faculty has increased considerably this year owing to the great influx of ex-service men and women to the University. Many of these are commencing their studies in Architecture and Quantity Sur-



Perspective of a Group Study for a Nursery School by F. Fisher, Miss B. Rissik, and O. J. G. Wills, drawn by O. J. G. Wills.

veying and quite a large number are ex-students who are resuming their studies.

To all of them we should like to express our gratitude for the loyal service they have rendered to South Africa during the war and to congratulate them on their safe return. We all appreciate their difficulties in settling down after having been away for so long and can assure them that the University intends to do all it possibly can to assist them to complete their courses as speedily as possible and to grant them every possible concession.

The total numbers are as follows :—

	Ex-V.	Non-Ser.	
ARCHITECTURE			
1st Year	80	44	124
2nd Year	40	23	63
3rd Year	11	26	37
4th Year	4	4	8
5th Year	12	18	30
Total			262
QUANTITY SURVEYING			
1st Year	25	17	42
2nd Year	23	4	27
3rd Year	10	4	14
4th Year	4	—	4
5th Year	—	1	1
Total			88
FINE ARTS			
1st Year			181
2nd Year			10
3rd Year			8
4th Year			1
Total			200
DIPLOMA IN TOWN PLANNING			
1st Year			14
2nd Year			8
Total			22
Making a grand total on the Faculty of			572

The following students who distinguished themselves during the year have been elected scholars of the University for 1945, and their names will appear in due course in the University Calendar. W. A. Swaan, A. F. van Noort, D. E. Connell, J. Morgenstern, G. A. Campbell, R. Levinsohn, M. E. Sheridan.

The class prizes this year have again been generously donated by the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects, the endowed prizes remaining the same. I should like to mention that we now have a suitably inscribed book plate printed for these prizes and these can be obtained either from members of the Staff or myself.



Sketch Design for an Information Bureau, by E. M. Meyersohn, First Year.

I shall now call upon the President of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects to present the prizes and then address you.

First Year	1. A. F. van Noort.
	2. W. A. Swaan.
Second Year	1. D. E. Connell.
	2. J. Morgenstern.
Third Year	1. M. E. Sheridan.
	2. G. A. Campbell.
Fifth Year	1. C. Segal.
	2. S. Price.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE, MR. J. FASSLER

Mr. Principal, Prof. Pearse, Prof. Meiring, Ladies and Gentlemen. I find myself this evening in very much the same situation as the Hon. J. H. Hofmeyr when he addresses a congregation of this University in his capacity as Chancellor. As he is also Minister of Finance and of Education, he usually causes considerable amusement, when as Chancellor on the one hand, he approaches the Minister of Education on the other, to gain his support for some extension to the University, and then as Minister of Education he next approaches the Minister of Finance for the necessary funds.

Now although this unique combination of offices has great potential advantages, for theoretically if it worked according to plan, the University should have everything it requires, there must be a hitch somewhere, as this institution is usually financially embarassed and in the throes of accommodational difficulties.

As President of the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects I am not as well placed strategically as Mr. Hofmeyr, but the intimate connection with the profession which I enjoy, does give me an external glimpse of the University which is most helpful when viewing it in perspective. I would thus like, as my first task, on behalf of the Institute I represent, to congratulate Prof. Pearse on his fine record of service to the cause of architectural education in South Africa during the past twenty-five years.

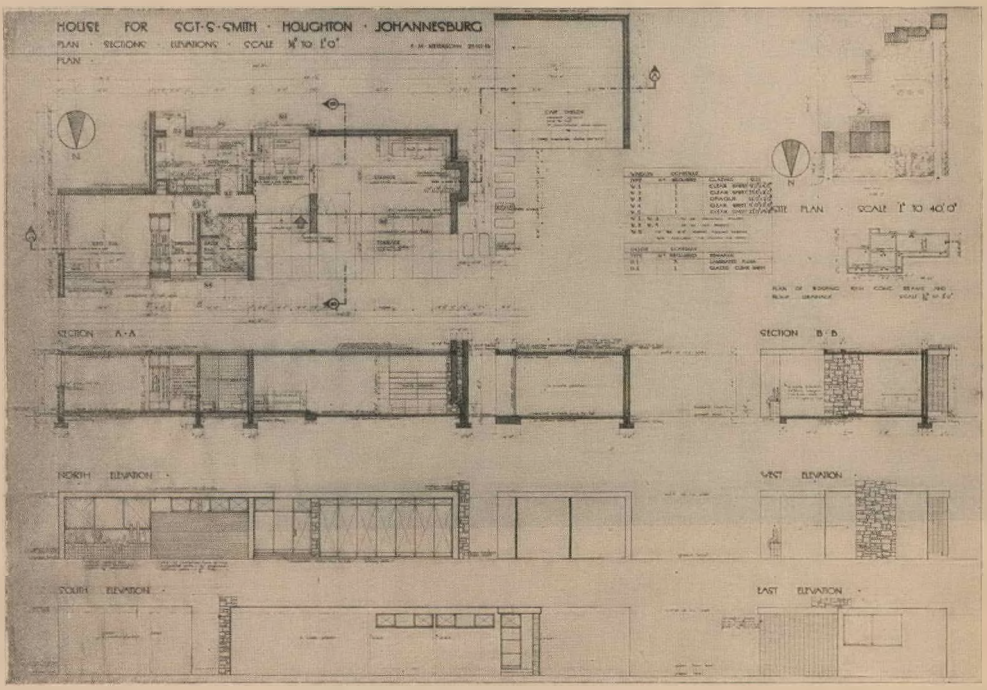
During a quarter of a century the Department which he enjoyed the distinction of founding and directing, has developed from small beginnings, and it gives me pleasure to state, that the reputation of its students generally, ranks high in the profession to-day. The scope of the professional training offered has expanded during this time, and so has the influence of the school on the architectural development of South Africa. Prof. Pearse in surveying the history of his school may now derive considerable satisfaction noting the many important executive and administrative positions filled in architectural and townplanning spheres, by graduates of this University. I need hardly remind you of the contribution which students and graduates made during the early thirties in establishing contemporary architecture on a firm basis here. There cannot be any doubt that this Faculty has fully justified itself, and is performing an important role in providing the community with enthusiastic well trained men and women, in the spheres of Architecture, Quantity Surveying and recently, Town Planning.

Now although the range of architectural education offered by this school has been widened recently by the addition of a Town Planning Diploma, the complexity of the Architectural Course itself has grown during the past twenty-five years.

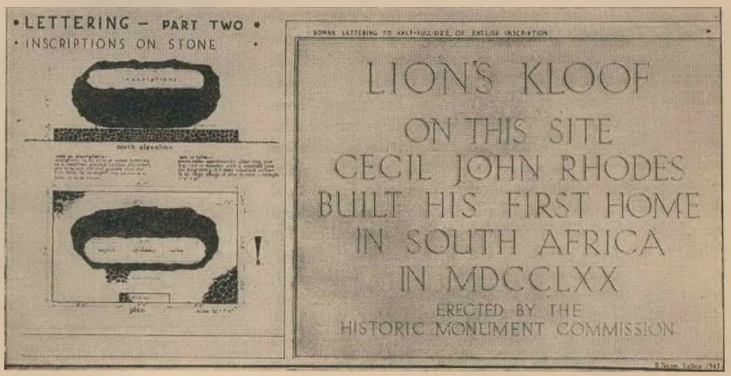
It is with some concern, therefore, that I survey the various spheres of building science in which architectural students must become proficient to hold their own in the world to-day, considered in the light of the time available for training; four years at University, and one spent in the office of an Architect gaining practical experience. I would thus urge upon students to make the most of the opportunities for their development that are present here, before pressure of work in later practice tends to limit further study.

The University provides the basic training, and it is for students themselves to build the superstructure on the foundations that have been laid here. I would suggest that the measure of freedom, small though it may be, which attendance here provides, be exploited, so that in addition to mastering your chosen profession, you will, by study in other fields, learn to know yourselves, and gain a deeper understanding of humanity whose environment will be shaped in later years by the work which passes through your hands. I am making these comments which you must not regard as platitudes, because I am so frequently asked by parents and architects alike, "What is the advantage of a Degree Course in architecture requiring full time attendance, over the Diploma, which is part time?" Quite apart from a few additional subjects and thesis, which the Degree includes, it is in my view the full time attendance at University which is so important, in providing opportunities for cultural development. To become thoroughly steeped in the University atmosphere will encourage the development of that fearless spirit of enquiry, will foster that desire to search for the essential truth of things, thus inculcating a broad outlook that will be invaluable in later professional years. The application of such an attitude to the problems of architecture will ensure its continued advancement. Full-time students must, however, make an effort to avail themselves of every opportunity to come into contact with the practical problems of building, by studying buildings under construction, better still, by actually working on the buildings themselves when vacations permit.

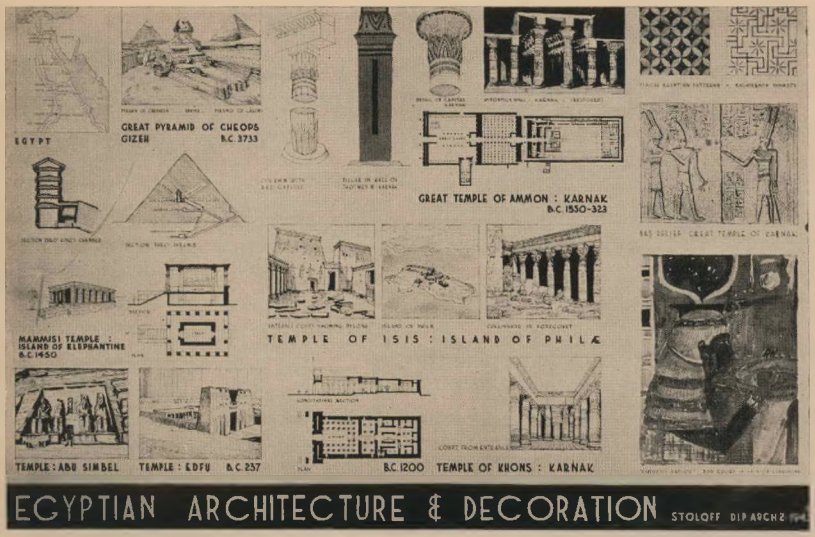
It seems to me in the light of my previous comments regarding the present day complexity of architecture, that the time is imminent when this Faculty will have to provide post graduate courses for the profession, as a regular part of its curriculum, so that aspects of a highly technical nature can be dealt with at leisure by the best authorities that we can prevail upon to undertake this specialised work. Illumination, Heating and Ventilation, the Mechanical Equipment of Buildings, and Advanced Structural Design are all subjects about which architects thirst for more knowledge when faced with these problems in practice. It must also be borne in mind that the beginning which has been made in town planning education should now be en-



FIRST YEAR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN: WORKING DRAWINGS FOR A SMALL HOUSE — BY E. M. MEYERSOHN



FIRST YEAR LETTERING STUDY, BY D. THERON

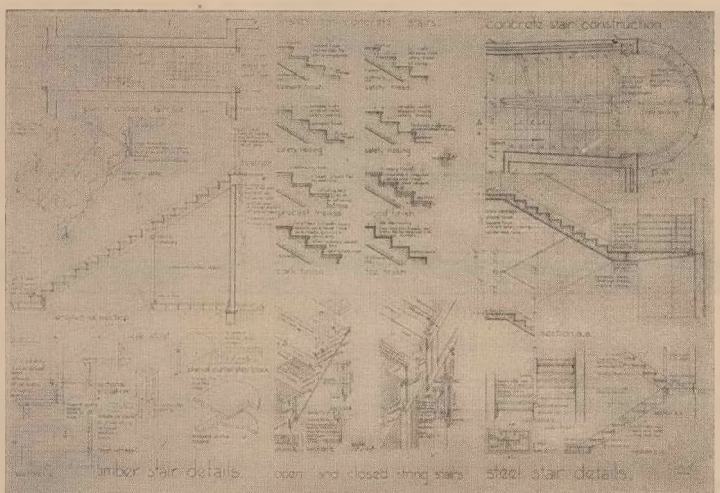


STUDY SHEET ON EGYPTIAN ARCHITECTURE, BY C. STOLOFF, SECOND YEAR

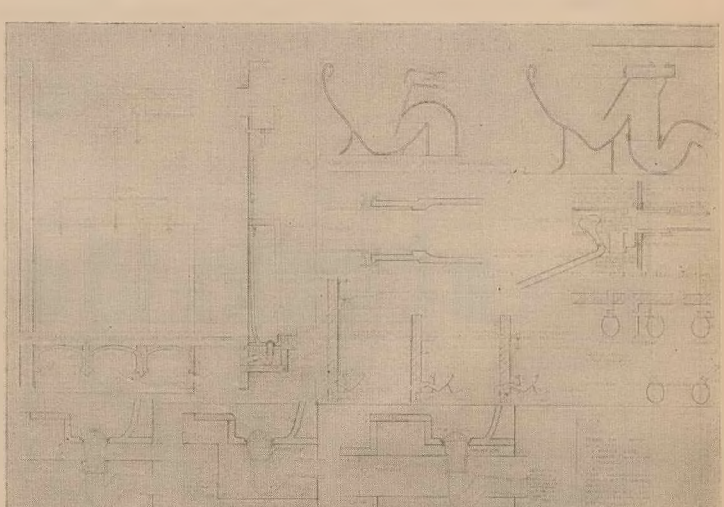
couraged to evolve in the National interest just as the School of Architecture evolved, so that the ramifications of planning the environment from the National scale downwards, will be dealt with comprehensively and authoritatively. You will appreciate that there is scope here for a Department of Physical Planning. This is a development which should not be lost sight of, nor should it be unnecessarily curtailed. Architecture touches on so many phases of human life, that in widening the scope of this Faculty, as has already been done, it is possible that further subjects will require to be covered. Landscape Architecture and Interior Decoration and Furniture come to mind, and could take their place most comfortably within the precincts of this Faculty. I understand that a course of Interior Decoration and Furniture is now being arranged, in response to many applications for training in this field. There is also the Department of Fine Arts, which although moving towards autonomy, will, I trust, always retain close relations with Architecture. As you see, Professor Pearse, the pieces of the mosaic which you have been fitting together for the past twenty-five years in developing this school, are now falling into place as parts of a



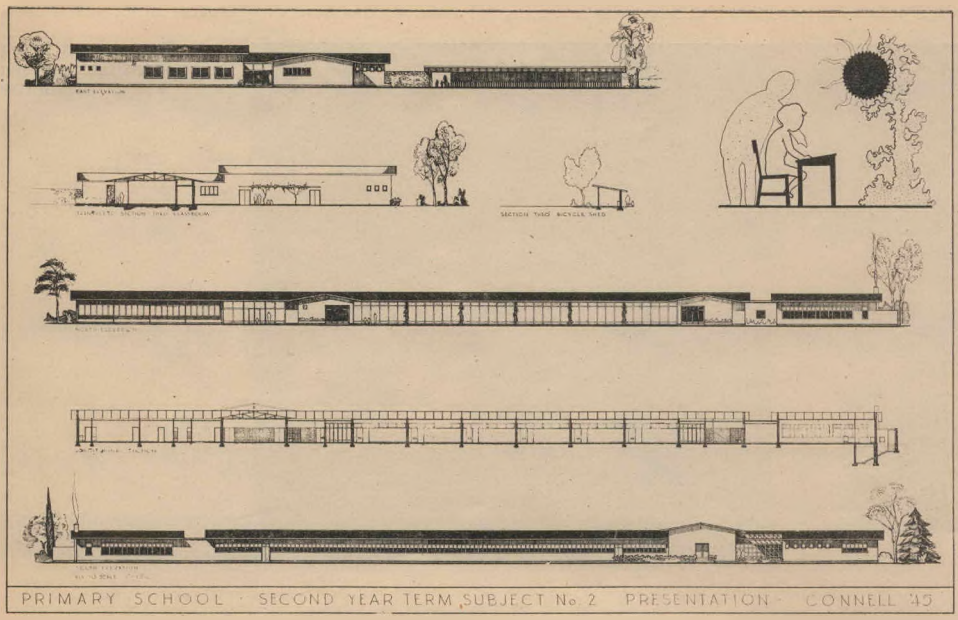
STUDY SHEET ON RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE, BY G. A. CAMPBELL, THIRD YEAR



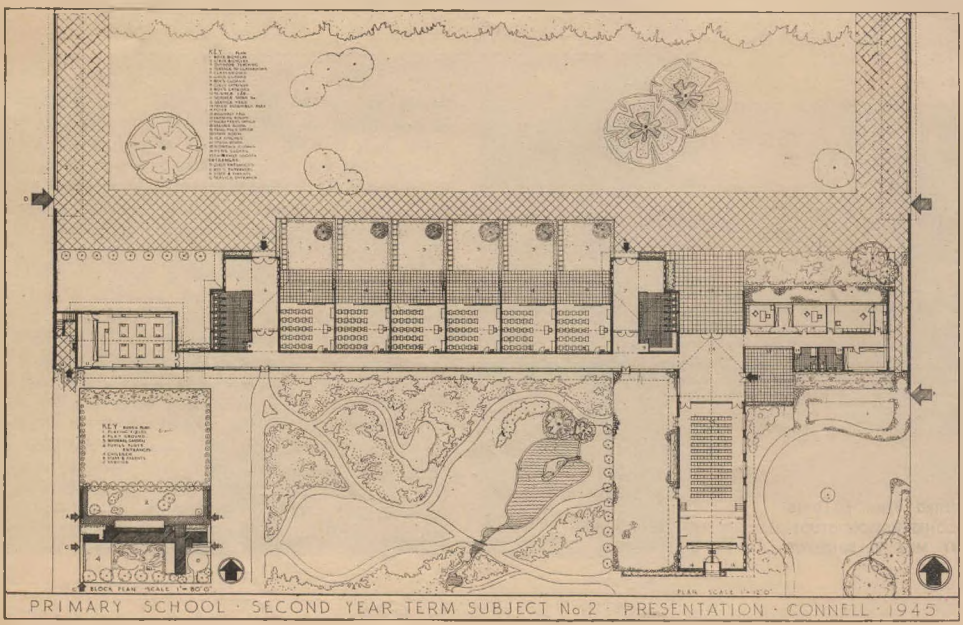
SECOND YEAR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION STUDY, BY J. MORGENSTERN



THIRD YEAR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION STUDY, BY MISS R. BORKOWF



SECOND YEAR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN: PRESENTATION DRAWINGS OF A PRIMARY SCHOOL, BY D. E. CONNELL





SKETCH DESIGN FOR A MUNICIPAL MARKET, BY F. H. VERMEULEN. FIFTH YEAR.

comprehensive picture which embraces the whole life of the community.

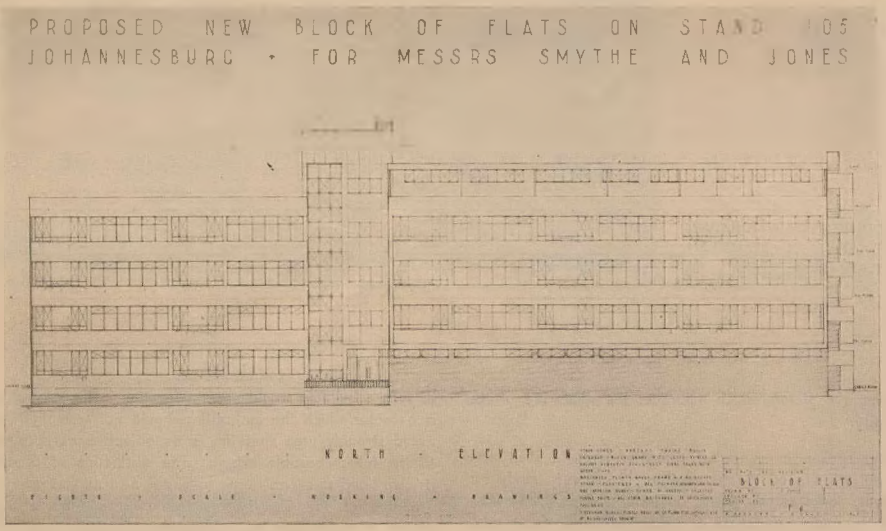
Having spoken in somewhat romantic terms, I shall now adopt an attitude of greater realism, in order to study for a moment, some of the severe limitations which in my view hamper the work of this Faculty. I do not think, having regard to the nature of the subjects taught, that the accommodation and facilities with which the school is now provided, can be regarded as anything but far from satisfactory. This statement has no reference to the present and passing abnormality.

One by one, as pressure of space through growing numbers has increased, facilities have disappeared. There is now no architectural library forming the heart of the school, no place even where the latest journals can be displayed. I must hasten to add, that even if there was space, the department could not run a library unless staff was available for it. Denial of the provision of such staff, led to the library once attached to the department, being absorbed in the main University collections. There are no facilities for a museum, which could be of great value in exhibiting materials and their methods of application, records of local building failures and their histories, and the more commonplace stock units of every description that are used widely in building. There are no facilities for photographic work. Interest in photography has been dormant of necessity during the war years, but when it is resuscitated photography can again become a part of every student's recording equipment. There is no workshop for the construction of models, etc. These are, I appreciate, conditions which are endemic throughout the University, but I think the time has come for the authorities to consider seriously the erection of an independent building to house, I would suggest, the Faculty of Architecture, the Department of Physical Planning, the Department of Fine Arts, and if Prof. Kirby would be willing to join, the Department of Music. What an exciting prospect! That the construction of such a building would ease congestion in the central block is a factor which the authorities should not lose sight of. I would strongly urge that this is an objective worth pursuing to the fullest possible extent. The distinction of occupying its own building seems to me to be the next natural step in the evolution of this Faculty. In conjuring up this attractive picture of what might be, I do not want students to despair of the lack of facilities which they now suffer, for it is salutary to remember that some of the most significant advances in science came from dingy laboratories equipped with plasticine and sealing wax. It is the enthusiasm which directs your efforts that is important. It can, and in the present difficult circumstances, must, override present shortcomings.

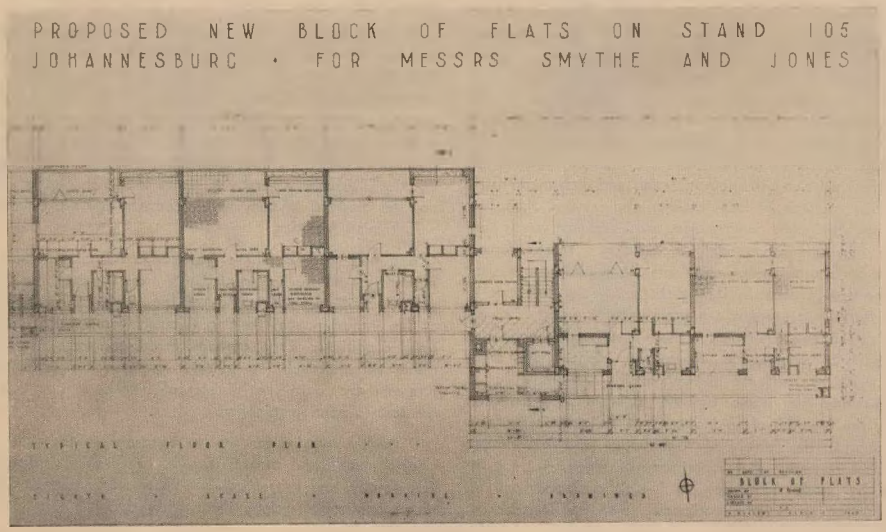
To crystallize my views; it seems to me that the short period during which the Faculty has functioned has more than justified its establishment. The scope of training offered now covers practically all aspects of planning the environment of society. At this particular moment of its history it is poorly accommodated and badly equipped. This condition has arisen because its activities have expanded, whilst its facilities have remained virtually at rest. It seems to me that efforts must now be directed to gain more adequate housing, equipment and training facilities.

And now, I feel, I have travelled a full circle which has brought me to my beginning. We must convince the Principal, Council, and Chancellor of the validity of this cause, of the importance of training planners and architects under good conditions. Then, perhaps, Professor Pearse, the Chancellor will approach the Minister of Education, and he in turn will appeal to the Minister of Finance . . . I leave the rest to your imagination.

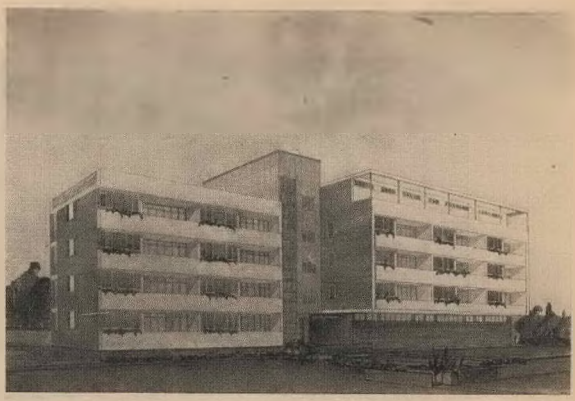
It merely remains for me to congratulate the staff (excluding myself) and students for the excellent work displayed here to-day, and to congratulate those students in particular whose application gained them prizes during 1945.

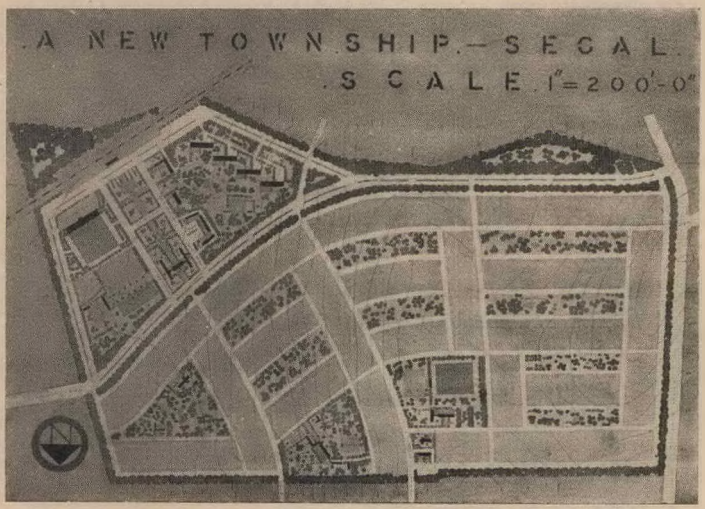


THIRD YEAR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, WORKING DRAWINGS FOR A BLOCK OF FLATS, BY MISS R. BORKOWF



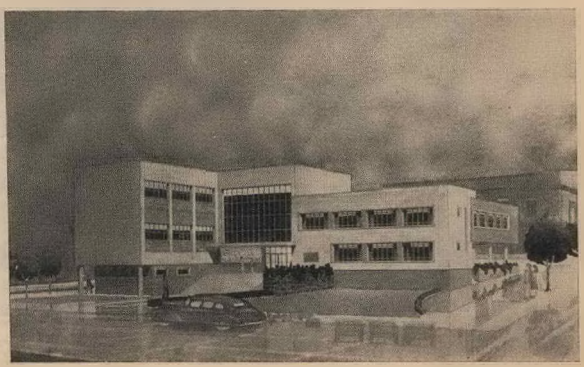
PERSPECTIVE FOR A BLOCK OF FLATS SHOWN ON FACING PAGE, BY MISS R. BORKOWF

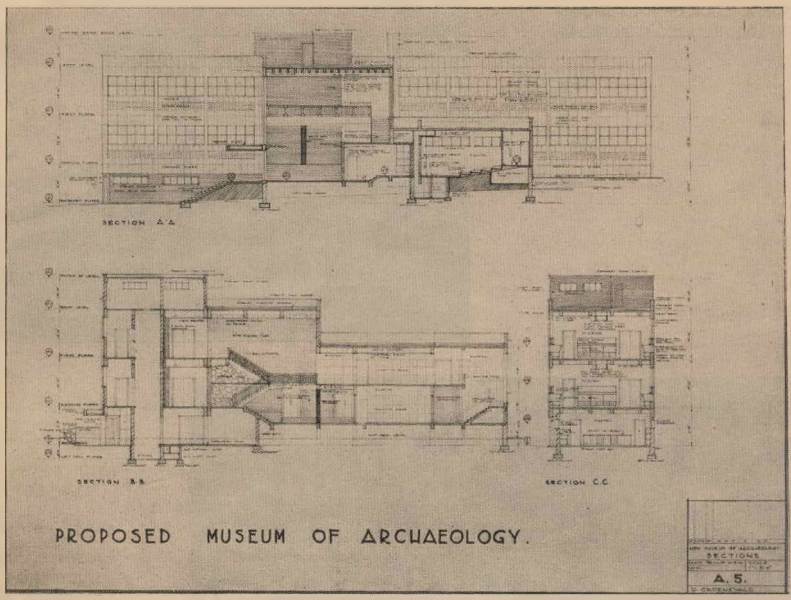




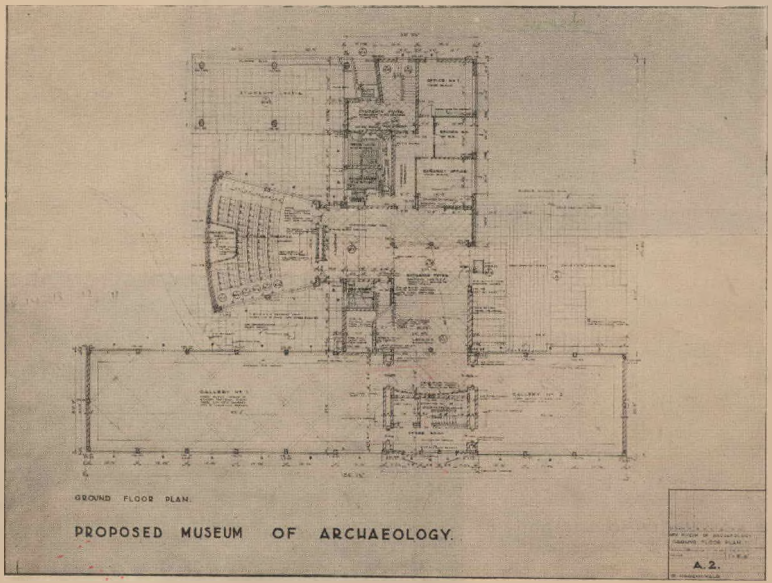
TOWN PLANNING LAYOUT STUDY FOR A SMALL TOWNSHIP, BY C. SEGAL

PERSPECTIVE FOR A MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY, SHOWN OVERLEAF, BY D. GROENEWALD





FIFTH YEAR DESIGN: WORKING DRAWINGS FOR A MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY, BY D. GROENEWALD



THE CHAPTER OF SOUTH AFRICAN QUANTITY SURVEYORS

ANNUAL REPORT 1945-1946

To the Members of the Chapter :

Your Board records its gratification, on the termination of World War II, on the return to South Africa of those Members who had proceeded on Active Service, several of whom had been prisoners of war. Tribute was paid last year to the memory of those Members who made the supreme sacrifice.

The following is your Board's Report covering the session 1945-1946, during which period the Board consisted of :

As Practising Members : Messrs Axel A. Bjorkman, C. L. F. Borckenhagen, S. H. Bowyer, J. S. Hodge, D. J. Laing, J. O. Quail, P. M. Roos, A. W. Springthorpe, R. I. M. Stewart;

As Salaried Members : Messrs. Leo. C. Austin, R. P. Keeling, R. J. C. Prentice and K. Robertson.

The Chapter's Office-bearers for the year were : President, Mr. R. J. C. Prentice; Senior Vice-President, D. J. Laing; and Junior Vice-President, Leo. C. Austin.

During the year Mr. Bowyer resigned his membership of the Board, having proceeded to Southern Rhodesia. The Board filled the vacancy created, by appointing Mr. Hodge.

BOARD MEETINGS

Eleven meetings of the Board were held during the year, in respect of which the following is the attendance record : A. A. Bjorkman, 11; J. O. Quail, 11; K. Robertson, 11; R. I. M. Stewart, 11; L. C. Austin, 10; R. P. Keeling, 9; R. J. C. Prentice, 9; P. M. Roos, 9; A. W. Springthorpe, 9; D. J. Laing, 8; J. S. Hodge, 5; S. H. Bowyer, 4; C. L. F. Borckenhagen, 2.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

The following Members represented the Chapter on the Central Council of the Institute-and-Chapter during the year :

C. L. F. Borckenhagen (Alternate : A. A. Bjorkman);
J. O. Quail (Alternate : S. H. Bowyer/P. M. Roos).

Mr. Prentice, in his capacity as Union Government Quantity Surveyor Nominee, has a permanent seat on the Central Council.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Chapter has three representatives on the Institute's Board of Education, elected in rotation for a period of three years : Dr. E. J. Hamlin (Alternate, J. O. Quail); L. C. Austin (Alternate, Dudley S. Mann); G. P. Quail (Alternate, S. H. Bowyer/R. I. M. Stewart).

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee during the year consisted of Messrs. P. M. Roos (Chairman), L. C. Austin, A. A. Bjorkman and D. J. Laing.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

The Board is indebted to the following Members who served on the Education Committee during the year, who, by their self-sacrificing work on one of the most important of the Chapter's activities, have done so much to further the interests of the Profession : Messrs. L. C. Austin (Chairman), J. Castleton, R. P. Keeling, T. H. Louw, W. A. McKechnie, G. P. Quail, J. O. Quail and R. I. M. Stewart.

CHAPTER'S MEMBERSHIP

The total membership of the Chapter, compiled as at March, 14th, 1946, is 224, classified as follows :

Practising solely as Quantity Surveyors	83
Dual Practising Members	24
Salaried Members	87
Retired Members	28
Honorary Members	2

The total membership of the Chapter, as shown in the Statutory Roll, is 224, but attention must be drawn to Regulation 74. Twelve Members fall under the provisions of this Regulation.

OBITUARY

The Board regrets to record the death during the year of Dr. Hjalmar Reitz, Mr. J. E. Harrison, Mr. F. Williamson, Mr. M. E. Cornelius and Mr. W. G. Thompson.

RESIGNATION

Mr. J. W. Page resigned during the year, having decided to leave South Africa for New Zealand.

NEW MEMBERS

Since the publication of the last Board's Report, 24 new Members have been enrolled :

As Practising Members (9) : Messrs. F. W. Botha, R. K. K. Bowie, R. W. S. Close, P. G. Culligan, R. D. Fair, J. G. Hudson, A. Stamelman, E. H. Stock and W. Keith Thompson.

As Salaried Members (15): Messrs. G. W. Doig, H. M. Goodwin, F. Hester, H. B. Kelfkens, J. P. Lowe, G. L. Meyers, J. de Leeuw Malan, R. J. Marlborough, P. J. Muller, H. C. Sheppard, A. O. Simpson, C. A. Smith, G. C. Smith, A. C. M. Tyrrell and W. E. Winstanley.

QUANTITY SURVEYING EDUCATION

In 1945, 31 Quantity Surveying Students enrolled with the University of Pretoria (Degree, 6; Diploma, 25); and 28 with the University of the Witwatersrand (Degree, 5; Diploma, 21; Certificate, 2).

This year, 1946, the number of students enrolled at the Universities has increased very considerably. 60 Quantity Surveying Students have enrolled with the University of Pretoria: 18 for the Degree; 40 for the Diploma; and 2 for the Certificate. Of these 60, 24 are returned soldiers. 91 Quantity Surveying Students have enrolled with the University of the Witwatersrand: 16 for the Degree; 74 for the Diploma; and 1 for the Certificate. Of these 91, 64 are returned soldiers.

The following students qualified for the Diploma in Quantity Surveying of the University of Pretoria, in December, 1945: F. Hester and P. J. Muller. For the Degree in Quantity Surveying of the University of the Witwatersrand: R. C. Rautenbach; for the Diploma, E. C. de Smidt.

The Board records its appreciation of the step taken by the University of the Witwatersrand, to appoint a full-time Lecturer in Quantity Surveying. Mr. J. Castleton, M.C.Q.S., P.A.S.I., of Johannesburg, has received the appointment. In congratulating Mr. Castleton, the Board extends to him its very good wishes in the important work he has undertaken.

BELL-JOHN PRIZE FUND

The capital of this Fund now stands at £217. The Board gratefully acknowledges the receipt during the year of donations from Members, totalling £38 6s. 6d. The Education Committee will, during the course of the present year, submit proposals to the Board for the continuous award of the Bell-John Prize.

HON. LIAISON OFFICER

The Board is indebted to Mr. P. M. Roos, who continues to function as Hon. Quantity Surveyor Liaison Officer between the Department of Defence and the Chapter.

CHAPTER'S FINANCES

The audited accounts for the calendar year 1945 (a copy of which has been sent to every Member) show a surplus of £64 1s. 9d. This surplus has been made possible by a careful husbanding of the Chapter's revenue and by the generous donations, totalling £56 14s. 0d., received from Members.

With effect from January 1st, 1946, the subscription of Practising Members has been increased from five to ten guineas; and one of the first duties of the new Board will be the utilisation of the additional revenue thus derived to serve the best interests of the Profession.

The capital of the Benevolent Fund has now reached the total of £585, and appreciation is recorded of the donations during the year totalling £13 2s. 6d.

During the year the very generous donation of £233 was made by Messrs. Roos and Roos and Sinclair and Bowyer, as the nucleus of an Endowment to assist in making Quantity Surveying Education available in deserving cases. Details will be published in the Board's Minutes, but it is desired to utilise this opportunity to invite Members of the Chapter to contribute to the capital of this Endowment so that an annual grant may prove possible.

NATIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME

The Board gladly records its appreciation, firstly of the fact that the National Housing Commission decided to engage the services of Quantity Surveyors for its National Housing Programme, and secondly of the way in which Quantity Surveyors in various parts of South Africa performed the work that was so urgently required of them.

CONDITIONS OF ENGAGEMENT

Under this heading the Board records with pleasure that its negotiations re Conditions of Engagement with the South African Railways and Harbours have been satisfactorily concluded; and that new Conditions of Engagement, embodying various improvements, have been adopted by the Cape Provincial Administration.

LOCAL COMMITTEES OF THE CHAPTER

The Board is particularly gratified to state that a Local Committee of the Chapter was established during the year at Port Elizabeth, and that the Durban Local Committee has been resuscitated. There are now three Local Committees: at Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth; and with a view to establishing a helpful liaison between them and the Board, the Board has agreed in principle to a representative of each of these Local Committees being invited simultaneously to attend one Board Meeting each year, at the expense of the Board; in each case the representative to be nominated by his Local Committee.

CONGRESS OF S.A. ARCHITECTS AND QUANTITY SURVEYORS

The Board has cordially adopted the suggestion of the Executive Committee of the Central Council, that a Congress of South African Architects and Quantity Surveyors should be held, and has suggested that such Congress take place towards the end of 1946.

MISCELLANEA

Among the various matters dealt with by the Board during the year, not yet brought to finality, are: Application to the Chartered Surveyors' Institution for a conditional recognition of the former Three-year Diploma in Quantity Surveying; Specified Bills of Quantities — with especial reference to preparing Standard Specifications and Standard Codes of Practice; the establishment of a Joint Council for the Building Industry; the provision of a special Scale of Fees for Local Authorities' Housing Schemes; the "Practical Experience" required of an Architect who is academically qualified to join the Chapter; and the request of the Quartermaster-General for professional assistance in embarking upon a Quantity Surveying Check re Defence Building Services.

APPRECIATION

The Board records its grateful appreciation to the Chapter's Office-bearers for the untiring way in which they have worked during the year in the interests of the Profession.

On behalf of the Board,
J. S. LEWIS,
Secretary.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, MR. R. J. C. PRENTICE

Gentlemen,

In presenting this report at the conclusion of my fifth term of office as your president, I record with heartfelt thankfulness the successful end of the greatest war in history. On behalf of the profession I express our gratitude to all who did their duty during that period of anxiety, and to the relatives and friends of our colleagues, who unfortunately have not returned, our deep sympathy and sincere wish that those lives have not been given in vain.

The Board's Report will cover the more important work carried out during the year, but I desire to stress the great progress made in our relationship with the Government and Provincial authorities throughout the Union. Satisfactory agreements have been entered into; there is close liaison with these all-important bodies, and there can be no doubt but that the position reached will be of immense value both to the bodies concerned and to the profession, in the future. It seems natural that I should draw attention to the very excellent work performed by the professions in connection with the launching of National Housing, and I express the hope that we shall continue to give of our best not only in the form of professional services but also in advice and guidance to the authorities wherever and whenever possible.

I need not dwell on specific matters directly affecting you as Quantity Surveyors, but I boldly ask the question, What of the future? So far as we are concerned in our own profession I see ahead a period of work in plenty, but even if this position is fairly assured, is that to be the end of our aims? I sincerely trust that the reply will be an emphatic No. We with our friends the Architects, the Builders and the Trades Unions form the backbone of the Building Industry, and I unhestitatingly say that this great industry is setting out on a task involving national problems with machinery which is worn and obsolete. I do not speak of machinery in the form of plant as it is principally the oil to the wheels that is lacking, and lacking because of the complete loss of co-operation, understanding and trust. Overall production is falling; costs are rising to phenomenal heights, and what is being done in an attempt to remedy the position? Nothing, or next to nothing. We continue to muddle along. Opinions are constantly appearing in the press as to the reasons for the defects. Some may be right, some may be wrong, but at this stage I am not interested in the rights or the wrongs but I AM interested in the fact that no concrete action has been taken by the authorities to bring together the various sections concerned with the industry in a spirit of co-operation and understanding, with the object of investigating and producing real facts on the many difficulties existing, and arising from which, methods may be found which will lead to an all-round improvement of the industry with beneficial results to the employer, the employed and the clients. I hear the pessimistic replies ringing in my ears, but let the Government set up a joint council to the industry and if, within twelve months, the results do not justify its existence, I will be very disappointed. On housing alone our industry might easily have set an example of which we might have been proud, and, given the necessary assistance, perhaps it is not yet too late. This is no new subject, gentlemen, and for my present purpose I have not attempted to go into detail, but what I plead for is action. At the moment it is a case of nothing attempted nothing done.

I have not overlooked the fact that we are living in difficult times, but with our limited population we have, in many things, greater opportunities for speedy progress than exist in some of the great countries of the world, and I say that in many things we have made greater progress.

I conclude with a very sincere vote of thanks to my colleagues on the Board for their help to me personally and for their unstinting work in the interests of the profession.

To our harassed secretary and staff I convey my congratulations for overcoming difficulties during a trying period.

THE STUDENTS' FORUM

EDITORIAL

In the past the Students' Forum has had as its subject matter an occasional article incorporated in the main body of the South African Architectural Record. Appeals to various Universities for further matter have proved of no avail and it seemed that this fine opportunity for students to express themselves would fall away because of what is, apparently, an apathetic body of Architectural Students in the Union.

Believing as we do that the Students' Forum is the nucleus of what can become a fully integrated section of the parent journal catering for students' opinion and needs, another attempt to infuse some spirit into the students is being made. We hope monthly to produce reports of the activities of the various architectural faculties in addition to topics of general and specialised interest.

If boredom or inertia prevents anyone from taking an interest in the functions and productivity of the Students' Forum then the fault lies, we feel, primarily with him, and we would urge that such a state of affairs be remedied at once.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

The Witwatersrand Architectural Students' Society is to be congratulated on the effort they are making to establish a real contact with other universities.

Delegates have recently visited Cape Town to meet and discuss the related problems with Cape Town Students' Architectural Society.

STUDENT EDITOR.

INTERVIEW WITH MAXWELL FRY

As given to Gilbert Hubert and Sydney Abramovitch on behalf of the Witwatersrand Students' Architectural Society, 29th November, 1945.

We saw Maxwell Fry on the last day of his brief visit to the Union, from West Africa, where he has been engaged in Government work, after having served in the British Army. In a wide survey of current architectural affairs, Mr. Fry dealt with several problems and matters of especial interest.

Of architectural education, Mr. Fry felt that it was most important to create an atmosphere in which to work. The personality of the teacher was of the utmost importance, and frequent use of an architectural library was a prerequisite, as were all forms of visual education—looking at buildings and journals, and the measuring up of ancient works, the lack of which must be appreciable in South Africa.

Mr. Fry then commented on the modern tendency for group work. He himself had been intimately connected with the Mars group, and felt that, not only had it done exceptionally good work as an educative venture—he doubted whether the modern architectural movement in England could have so progressed without it—but also its greatest value was to the architects (and engineers) who took part in its activities. He was convinced, however, that to do work of consequence, a group must have a leader, and that inevitably such a dominating personality would arise; or else the group would tend to become amorphous and produce no architecture of significance. As an example of this dominating personality, he quoted the case of Tecton, where Lubetkin emerged as the driving power behind their activities.

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Talking of South African architecture, Mr. Fry explained that he had spent most of his visit in Pretoria and Johannesburg, and so restricted his comments to the work in those two cities. He was particularly thrilled by Aubrey Nunn's latest school building in Pretoria, and also by a school by Norman Eaton. He had not been so impressed since seeing Lurcat's school at Villejuif. In Johannesburg the houses of Douglass Cowin drew special praise from Mr. Fry. On being asked what impression South African architecture had caused overseas, Mr. Fry said that a feeling was engendered similar to that on first seeing Brazilian architecture, namely, one of satisfaction that modern architecture should flower in so distant a spot. He said that the original impetus to South African architecture, the " Corbusian " influence, was essential in that it enabled a clean break to be made, but that it was cold and inhuman, and he was glad to see an architecture evolving that was more suited to South Africa. Architects

had gradually come to appreciate local conditions, and Mr. Fry saw in the work of Cowin and others a warmer, more human architecture. "It is important," said Mr. Fry, "to develop an architecture which ordinary people can handle" — and he saw signs of this being achieved in South Africa. He commended the use of the pitched roof for domestic work, which he felt was the correct solution to the South African problem.

He spoke next of the considerable interest which the recent publications of Brazilian architecture had aroused. He deprecated this, as he felt that Brazilian architecture epitomised that inhumanity which South African architecture was leaving behind. He was confident, however, that Brazil would grow out of this stage. His comment on the Education and Health Ministry's building was brief and pithy. "I get as much pleasure in looking at a honeycomb."

Of architecture in general Mr. Fry did not have much to say. He had been out of England for 6 years and had lost contact with the most recent work done there. Speaking broadly, he said that European architecture, though founded on an international basis, had developed into national schools, each coping with a different set of problems. In America, no such strong national architecture had evolved, but rather a series of groups collected about the prominent figures such as Neutra and Gropius. These groups were isolated by the large distances involved, and thus mitigated against a coherent national growth. Gropius, he felt, was in spiritual isolation in America.

Mr. Fry spoke at some length of the position of the architect, his responsibilities and ideals. He deprecated the view, held by both laymen and architects, that the architect's function is to interpret his client's desires. "The architect is there to elaborate and add depth, to amplify and enrich his client's wishes." He must be firm and uncompromising in his principles, and must be prepared to forfeit work rather than violate these principles. "I myself," he said, gave up a £40,000 commission at a time when my practice was not too large, because I could not see my way clear to doing a classical building. I remember," he went on, "when Gropius came to join me in England and we shared my small practice. At one time when things were a bit pinched I grumbled, and he said to me, 'Do you love architecture, Max?' I said 'Yes.' 'Then you must pay for it.'" Mr. Fry stressed how it built up an architect morally if he stood by his principles. It was the only way for an architect to be happy. "It is surprising," he said, "how strong you get."

Mr. Fry was expressing in practical terms what many students feel, and discard as idealism. It is inspiring to see, in such an eminent figure, an idealism carried out into the world, and to realize that here is an architect who has put into practice the dictum, "Principle before profits," in order that real architecture may be created.

The Old Order Changeth.

Said Christopher Wren to Inigo Jones,
With sorrowful mien and mournful tones,
As they sat in their club in Paradise,
And talked of the world with its woes and vice,
That men were not what they used to be.
"For where," he asked, "can a person see
A filial, crockett, a delicate spire" —
And here he fumed with nostalgic ire —
"A barrel vault, a mighty dome,
A church that's a church, a house that's a home,
A pediment noble, a column Ionic.
And this," he said, "is the most ironic:
To see instead V-poles and such.
Really," said Christopher, "it is too much!"

Said Inigo Jones to Christopher Wren:
"Alas, I mourn for the kind of men,
Who used to build upon the earth,
And to noble works gave birth.
Alberti, Bernini, Bramante, Le Vau —
They're all up here; there're none below
To carry on in the grand old way,
As you did, or I, in our heyday.
There's no one to build as the masters do,
As Bramante, Sangallo, and John Vanbrugh.
I think of the solid old building stones,
The old oak beams, and then," cried Jones,
"I think of their plastics, and concrete, and steel,
And if this wasn't Heaven like Hades I'd feel."

But as they continued to talk and to grumble,
With holy flame and sweet soft rumble,
A courier posthaste from Peter came,
To give them a morsel of news hot as flame.
Straight from Heaven's reception office,
He came to tell of one, a novice
To Heaven's ways and saintly pleasure —
But before they could guess the newcomer's measure,
Who should appear, in a flash of light,
Unannounced by the butler, but Frank Lloyd Wright!
"Greetings, Sir Christopher, hullo, there, Jones.
Just stay in your chairs, don't disturb your old bones.
I heard what you said, but please do not panic,
For I guess that up here, why, we're ALL inorganic."

G. Herbert

CONTEMPORARY JOURNALS

"THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW," February, 1946.

Robin Feddon contributes an article on the ancient city of Jerash in Transjordan, a caravan city which flourished under control of the Roman Empire. Under the title "Parks and Pelargoniums," H. F. Clark discusses English garden design in the nineteenth century, and, while pointing to the immense advance made in plant discovery, scientific botany and hybridisation, he shows how the "dehydrated variation of the Picturesque" developed and where it influenced the layout and planning of public parks.

The small 32-bed Oxted and Limpsfield Hospital designed by H. Edmund Mathews and E. D. Jefferiss Mathews, to serve a mixed agricultural and residential area, is well presented and described. This hospital has many attractive features, not the least being a clean well-orientated plan and a simple structural system.

In publishing the Theatre at Utrecht, Holland's well-known exponent of the picturesque contemporary idiom, W. M. Dudor is again introduced to the "Review's" pages. This is an interesting theatre in that a straightforward planning solution results in arrangement and massing well suited to the parkland setting. The structure is a steel skeleton with reinforced concrete substructure, and the facade is covered with glazed tiles about the size and imparting the impression of bricks.

"ARCHITECTURAL RECORD," February, 1946.

Two good articles dealing with school-room planning are featured in this issue. The first, by Phillips Will, Jr., A.I.A., of Perkins and Will, Architects and Engineers, entitled "Audio-Visual Classroom Planning" seeks to find planning methods which could make audio-visual education practical in every classroom. The author presents the results of his research in simple diagrammatic form. The second, "Light on Growing Children," by Dr. Darell B. Harmon, Director of Educational Services of the Texas Department of Health, discusses classroom daylighting from a new viewpoint and shows the serious effects of faulty lighting on growing children and describes the improvements achieved at a demonstration centre set up in an elementary school.

Building Types Study 110 is on Stores. The point is well made that the mass-selling type of store demands the services of capable designers and that "fancy" neo-Baroque decorations are popular.

"PENCIL POINTS," February, 1946.

In this issue the architect, Lester C. Tichy, contributes two buildings of a type unfamiliar in this country. These are overnight dormitories for railway men who find themselves miles from home at the end of a run. They each include cubicle sleeping accommodation, toilet facilities and a recreation room. They are designed for hard wear and are of a character which, though comfortable if austere, should induce the users to respect the property and keep it orderly. The buildings are simple but well detailed.

The other interesting feature is the review of a development in Little Switzerland, Knoxville, Tennessee, restricted to ten houses of contemporary design, all of which were designed by Alfred and Jane West Clauss.

Under "Materials and Methods," James A. Murray's proposals for a lightweight building technique using steel and porcelain—enamelled steel pans backed with mesh-reinforced concrete are reported; and the second part of Isadore Rosenfield's "Daylighting for Hospitals" is published.

"THE ARCHITECTURAL FORUM," February, 1946.

In "Landscape Gardening I: The Small Plot," Garrett Eckbo, one of America's most gifted and competent landscape architects, discusses the problem and illustrates four representative examples.

The Utility Unit gets a well-deserved boost. This one comprises the complete mechanical core of the house with all the fixtures which normally appear in a well-equipped kitchen, laundry and bathroom. It is produced by the Borg-Warner Corporation, who have commissioned twelve test houses to be erected, five of which are fully illustrated.

Design Analysis 4, on the basis of research by C. L. V. Meeks, shows that 19th century train sheds were the testing grounds for to-days use of metal, glass and unencumbered space.

A broadcasting studio, building previews — including a redevelopment of part of New York City—five store designs and a scheme for stop-gap housing in Britain using converted military encampments for civilian use complete this issue.

PROFESSIONAL NOTES AND NEWS

BUILDING PERMIT CRITICISM

As a result of an unsatisfactory interview with the Minister by representatives of the Transvaal Provincial Institute and the Pretoria M.B.A. the following statement representing the views of the Institute was issued to the Press.

In connection with the building permit which was issued to Mr. Ivan Walker, and which the Minister of Public Works defended in the Press, the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects wishes to make the following statement :

The issue of a building permit during March, 1946, to Mr. Ivan Walker for a house 2,800 square feet in area, at a time when regulations limited the maximum area of houses to 2,000 square feet, has been a source of grave concern to the Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects.

A combined deputation, representative of the Pretoria Master Builders and the Transvaal Provincial Institute, interviewed the Minister of Public Works and Building Controller, Mr. Mushet, in Johannesburg recently with regard to the issue of this permit. Since the interview was unsatisfactory, the Institute feels that it must reply to the statements made by the Minister, which were published in the Press recently, giving his reasons for the authorisation of this permit. These reasons coincide with those which were officially given to the Institute, and will thus be referred to in this statement.

Before dealing with them in detail, however, it is necessary to indicate briefly the normal procedure which is followed in applying for a permit to build.

Applications, prepared in accordance with current regulations, are submitted to local advisory building committees, representative of members of the Architectural profession, Quantity Surveyors and the Building Industry, in each important centre. Here they are carefully scrutinised, classified, given the appropriate priority and sent forward to Building Control itself. In this instance, the applicant short-circuited the local advisory building committee and applied direct to the Deputy Building Controller himself.

That such a procedure, not permitted members of the public, was allowed in the first instance, was unfortunate in the extreme. In the face of the Pretoria Building Advisory Committee's known attitude that in the present difficult circumstances no permit for a house in excess of 2,000 square feet should be allowed, a permit was issued by Building Control exceeding this maximum figure by 800 square feet.

Summarised, the Minister's explanation rests on the following points : Mr. Ivan Walker's house will be built with a new type of simplified construction, which the Minister considers as an experiment in the larger house field, there being a demand for houses over 2,000 square feet. It would not be economic for the Government to try out every form of experimental building. Mr. Walker was prepared to erect his house using this system at his own expense. The results of the experiment will be made available to the Government departments concerned.

The Institute must point out that the method of construction which Mr. Walker is employing has already been used successfully in many houses recently, and provided that adjustments are made the method can be applied successfully in large houses of the type contemplated under this permit.

In the Institute's view, therefore, the reason given by the Minister cannot be accepted. That the Government requires information on this type of construction is difficult to understand, since the National Housing and Planning Commission have already used this method in erecting national houses in Pretoria. That it is uneconomic for the Government to try out every form of experimental building is a statement that can only reflect adversely on the scope and range of experimental work planned by the newly formed National Building Research Institute.

The Transvaal Provincial Institute of Architects is well aware of the seriousness of the views which it is expressing here, but as an integral part of the building industry, the activities of which have of necessity been circumscribed in these critical times, it feels that the issue of this permit, which has caused widespread resentment and dissatisfaction amongst architects and builders alike, cannot be allowed to pass without comment.

Building control has been, and still is the focus of much criticism. Such actions merely assist critics to undermine confidence in its administration.

WANTED

Two ex-servicemen who intend to commence their academic training in Architecture at the beginning of the year are anxious to gain some practical experience in the interim. Any openings for these persons should be notified to the Secretary, T.P.I.

Accent On Housing

THE over-riding preoccupation of the architectural and building world will for some time rightly be the provision of housing.

While, however, the national shortage of domestic building receives immediate priority, there are also to be met the huge accumulated demands for commercial and institutional construction, for which plans must be prepared to be put into operation as soon as the limited factors of labour and materials are available.

Here the need will once more be felt for expert design and craftsmanship in the provision of those features for which in the past the House of Sage has set a standard and established a tradition. With resources renewed and experience enhanced by the exceptional services to which it was called during the war years, it is to-day ready to play its expected and important part in the appropriate spheres of the wider field of Post-war Reconstruction.

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Journal of the SA Architectural Institute

PUBLISHER:

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

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