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A CASE STUDY ON THE WINDOWS OF THE WITBANK DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH - WHAT THEY CONVEY ABOUT THE CHANGING RELIGIO-POLITICAL CONTEXT OF THIS AFRIKAANS PROTESTANT CHURCH

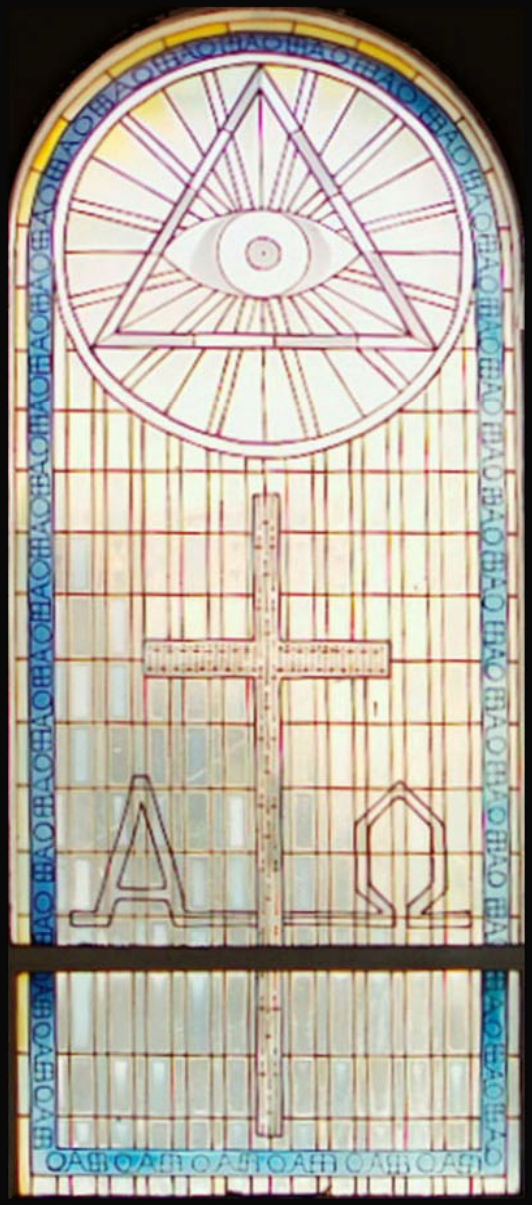
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A dissertation submitted to the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of the Witwatersrand, in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master in Architecture (by Research).

Johannesburg 2009



1920-1923



1961-1963



2004-2006

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DECLARATION

I declare that this dissertation is my own unaided work. It is being submitted to the Degree of Master of Architecture by Research to the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination to any other University.

Ariane Janse van Rensburg

16th day of October 2009

ABSTRACT

The Witbank Dutch Reformed Church commissioned the author to remake some church windows, requesting changes in symbolism. This descriptive, explorative, qualitative case study retrospectively examines the formal, tectonic and symbolic meaning of the church windows when built (1920-1923, architect W.B. Anderson), altered (1961-1963, architect D.P. Kesting), and restored (2004-2006, glass artist: A. Janse van Rensburg), as an expression of this Afrikaans Protestant church community's identity in the changing religio-political context. The method was to establish a context through a literature study, to collect data and then to describe the church history, the window designers and their approaches, and the windows in their architectural context, at each historic point. The meaning of the windows was explored. As the church's identity changed in the religio-political context, the windows were changed to match new perceptions of meaning. By 2004, church laity had become significantly engaged in the meaning expressed in their windows, driving the change.

[stained glass windows, symbolic meaning, Afrikaans Protestant church, church architecture, religio-political context]

DEDICATION

From a personal belief construct:

“Lord, You have given us the capacity to be creative
and analytical and to enjoy it;
Bernard, you share this with me,
and helped me discover who I am.
Thank you.”





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