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SHOWROOM AND OFFICE FOR THE SKF BALL-BEARING COMPANY

SHOWROOM AND OFFICES IN JOHANNESBURG FOR THE SKF BALL-BEARING COMPANY

R. CHRIS NIELL, M.I.A., ARCHITECT

THE SITE

The site is corner of Rissik & Albert Streets with frontages of 75ft. and 51ft. 8in. respectively. In addition, there is an internal portion approximately 51ft. by 38ft., forming an L-shaped site.

THE PROGRAMME

The promoters required a building that would provide Showroom, Retail Sales space, Office and Storage accommodation for the SKF Ball-Bearing Company, together with floors of office accommodation for letting purposes. These two sections were to be kept entirely separate and the building was required to have an atmosphere of "quiet dignity."

THE PLAN

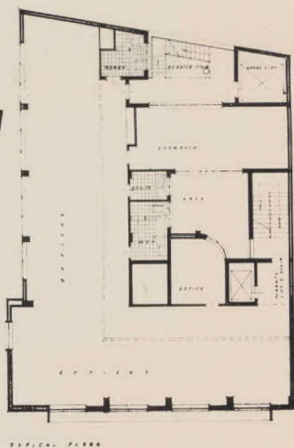
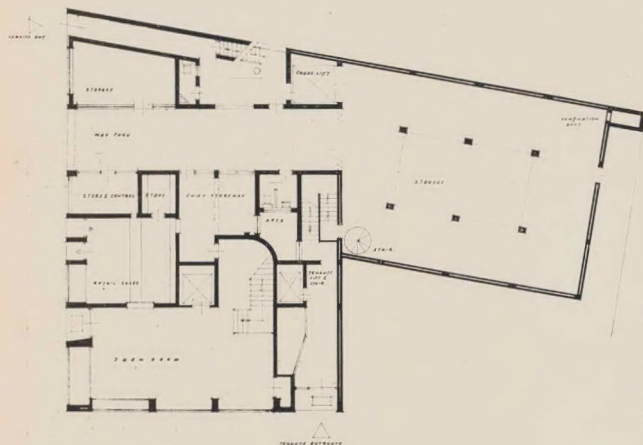
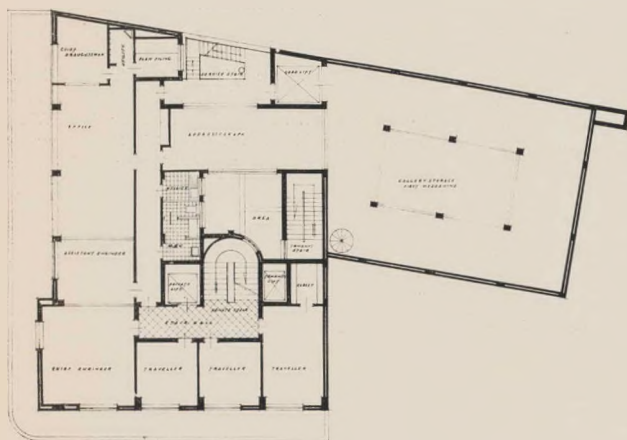
The entire basement and the back portion of the site is used for storage purposes.

On the ground floor, the main entrance to the SKF offices is through the showroom approached from Rissik Street. The tenants' entrance, at the extreme west of the site, is off Albert Street. On the ground floor is the Retail Sales Shop, convenient to the storage areas, which are related to the street by means of a way-through. At the entrance to this way-through, the stores staff control deliveries and despatches from their office. The service entrance to the building adjoins the goods lift serving all floors. From the SKF showroom a lift and stair takes one to the offices on the first and second floors. The tenants' accommodation, approached by a separate lift and stair, is on the third, fourth, fifth and sixth floors. Provision has also been made, however, for the occupation by the SKF Ball-Bearing Company of the third floor at a later date.

Full advantage has been taken of the fairly small street frontage for office accommodation, the stairs, lift-shafts, and utility rooms facing the areas.



SHOWROOM AND RETAIL SALES
SECTION ON GROUND FLOOR





The storage area, with its two gallery levels, is lit from a central "Glass-crete" lay light, giving well illuminated and generous accommodation.



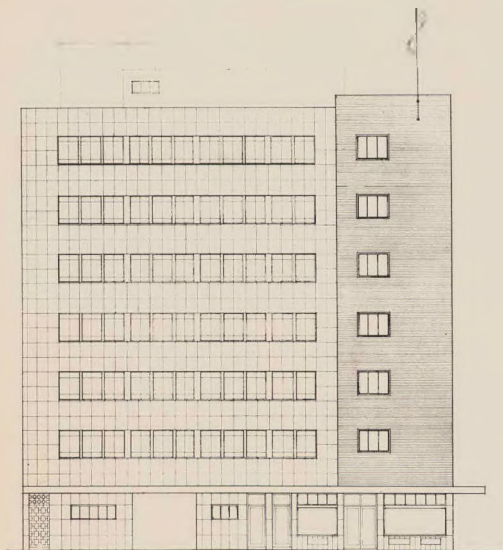
The general office suite faces east. Windows are provided with Venetian blinds. Sliding glazed panels permit control and inter-communication.



The Managing Director's Office (not shown on plans) is well furnished and appointed. It is provided with private cloakroom and fittings include bookcases and cocktail cabinet.



The office of the Chief Engineer on First Floor is generous and well finished.



EAST ELEVATION

CONSTRUCTION

Hallow tile construction to the office portion, together with the unit windows, facilitated the sub-division of the floor areas in accordance with tenants' requirements. Corridor lighting is also made possible by means of a continuous course of glass blocks immediately below the slab soffit.

The storage area in the back wing consists of two mezzanine galleries designed to accommodate the heavy floor loading of 800 lbs./sq. ft. Top lighting in the form of "Glass-crete" permits storage to full height against surrounding walls.

FINISHES

Internal :

In the showroom, Australian stripey Walnut, formed into vertical panels with golden Birch beading and Napoleon marble combine harmoniously as wall finishes. The 3in. grooved bronze ledges to the shop fronts are repeated internally. The top lights are in eau-de-nil lacquer to tone with the green terrazzo floor laid in strips approximately 2ft. 6in. in width. The ceiling, which is divided into narrow strips by small plaster mouldings, is painted blue-grey. The treads and risers of the main stair leading from the showroom are green terrazzo with brown mosaic non-slip insets, the standards are buff, the handrail bronze, and "chocolate" brown metal frames hold the golden

Birch plywood panels forming the balustrading. The plastered soffits are blue-grey. Thus the stair carries the colour scheme and materials of the showroom to the upper floors.

The corridors above have floors of green asphalt tiles, Kioat skirting and doors, light brown door-linings are beige, painted walls to door-head height. The frieze and ceiling are blue-grey.

In the offices with wood-block flooring, the walls are "sea-Kioat" skirting and doors, light brown door-linings and beige, the doors are painted "chocolate" brown and the ceilings a warm grey.

External :

Finishes used on the East facade (to Rissik Street) include 2in. plum facings, precast terrazzo facing tinted pink with brown terrazzo facing to columns between windows. Windows and plaster surrounds are off-white. On the North facade (to Albert Street), the plastered feature as protection against the sun is white on the edges with grey blue soffits. Textured beams over windows are terra cotta and the windows pale blue.

To the shopfronts, Napoleon marble is used as facing to the columns and panels between. Grooved bronze ledges determine the plate glass windows, with stainless steel glazing beads. Top lights over windows are cream lacquer. The treatment to the shop fronts, whether enclosed displays or viewing windows into the showroom, remains the same.

HOW OUR URBAN NATIVES LIVE

BY BETTY SPENCE (M.I.A.)

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Urban Natives in Orlando East have attained to a fairly high standard of living in the European sense and all houses are furnished at least in part. Women, however, still prefer to relax on the floor and the children, and often the women, still rest apart from the men. Owing to the crowded conditions most of the rooms are used for sleeping and people sleep in groups of 2-4, either on beds or on the floor. A large number of possessions, including clothing, accumulate for which there is no storage space.

Personal relationships are difficult under these conditions where man and wife are both working and the children become members of marauding gangs.

The large number of hire-purchase transactions in Orlando East gives an idea of the number of articles purchased new from European shops. Articles most frequently bought are dining table and chairs, and beds.

A number of simple articles such as kitchen tables and dressers are made by Native craftsmen working in the location.

PART I. THE SURVEY.

(1) INTRODUCTION.

Purpose of the Survey.

Before an effective plan can be made it is essential to know a subject in detail, yet for many years we have been designing houses for urban Natives on approximate guesses as to their way of life—guesses which range the full gamut from those which assume that the Native is completely Europeanised to those which consider that locations should be built up in tribal tradition.

The survey described in this report was therefore undertaken with the idea of getting a clearer picture of urban Native life. Basically it was a furniture survey, intended to find out to what extent the houses are furnished, what type of furniture is used and the types of storage required, but, at the same time, material was collected on other facts which influence house design, such as the sleeping and eating arrangements, the number of children doing homework, and so forth.

A brief description of Orlando East by the Social Worker concerned, notes on the European trade in so far as it concerns Natives, and on the Native furniture makers in the location, are added as supplements.

Area Selected.

Orlando East was selected for the area of the survey since it represents a fairly well established community of poorer urbanized Native families. The township was first established in 1932, and the householders visited in the survey had been in Johannesburg for an average of 14.6 years. Also, a social survey of this area has recently been carried out, which further pointed to its suitability. It is possible to correlate facts from the two surveys and so get a clearer picture.

Previous Survey.

In 1948-49 a survey of the whole of Orlando was carried out by Jacqueline L. Eberhardt, and the findings written up as an M.A. Thesis entitled "Survey of Housing and Family Conditions, Orlando Township (with special reference to housing needs)". This was a 2% survey comprising Orlando East,

Orlando West 1, Orlando West 2 and the Shelters. This thesis covers thoroughly the sociological structure of the township. It deals with such aspects of housing as overcrowding and estimated housing needs, room uses, and tenant's opinion. It is conceived on broad lines, and, in relation to the furniture survey, acts as a framework against which the more detailed picture can be read.

Method of Sampling.

Orlando East contains 5,891 houses. All stand sizes are the same, and house plans vary only slightly. On the whole the population is homogeneous, though there is a richer section and a poorer section. Under these circumstances, and since the Eberhardt survey gives the broader view, it was thought justified to do only a 1% survey, which would permit of time to collect the detailed information required.

The houses are numbered consecutively, and, in order to get a representative section of the population, a two-figure number was selected and each house with that number in the hundred was visited. In a few cases where this was not possible, due to the absence of the inhabitants or other causes, a house to one side or the other was taken. The survey covered 63 houses in all. This is slightly over 1%, due to a number of stands being used for non-residential purposes or unoccupied. Of these, 43 were two-roomed, 19 three-roomed and 1 four-roomed.

Income Groups.

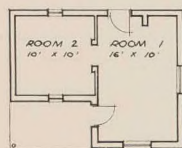
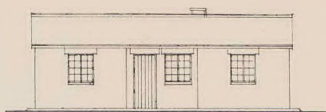
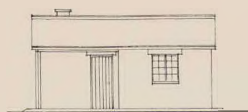
In Miss Eberhardt's² survey it was found that, taking household income as distinct from family incomes, 70% of the households have total earnings of from £10 to £29 per month, 11% earn less than this, and 20% earn more. It was at first intended to select cases for study only from the main group, but in practice this proved too difficult, and an ordinary survey of one house in a hundred was carried out. Of these 84% fell within the required range.

The Social Worker.

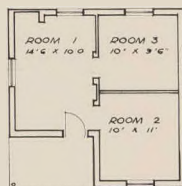
The material was collected by a Native woman, married and with three children, who had recently completed the course

¹ Copies are available from the Gubbins collection at the Witwatersrand University Library.

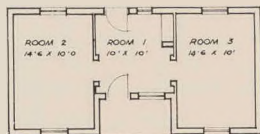
² Eberhardt, p. 62.



TWO ROOMED HOUSE



THREE ROOMED HOUSE PLAN B



THREE ROOMED HOUSE PLAN A

in Social Studies given at the Jan Hofmeyr School of Social Work. Although no selection was made either as to age or sex, it was probably an advantage to have a woman to discuss the domestic problems concerned, and one not so young or sophisticated as to appear precocious to the inhabitants. From the pleasure which she obviously found in the work, it seems probable that her relationship with the people was good. Only one incident marred an otherwise peaceful two months. One householder accused her of collecting information for a gang of thieves, quoting a recent theft with firearms as evidence, and threatened death as retribution. An agitated Saturday morning was spent chasing the rumour, which, however, vanished into thin air at our approach!

House Plans.

All of the two-roomed houses have the same plan. There is a small front stoep, 10'6" x 6', from which a door leads into the main room, 16' x 10'. This contains a recess to take a stove. There is a back door and an opening which leads into the second 10' x 10' room.

There are two three-roomed house plans. The most usual one, appearing in the survey and referred to as Plan A, occurs in 16 out of the 19 cases. It has a central front stoep leading directly into a small room, 10' x 10', containing the stove recess, from which there are doors to the back and to the rooms on each side, both of which are 14'6" x 10'. The plan of the three-roomed house, Plan B, is similar to the two-roomed plan, having a small stoep on one side leading into a main room of 14'6" x 10'3" which contains the stove recess. From here two openings lead into the bedrooms, both on the same side, 10' x 11' and 10' x 9'6" respectively. There is no back door.

The walls of all the houses are 11" brick, the roofs corrugated iron, unceiled, and the floors are roughly filled in to be finished by the tenants.

(2) THE PEOPLE AND THEIR HABITS.

Occupancy.

Table 1 gives the number of inhabitants by age and sex. In all groups the numbers of each sex are very close, there being a slight preponderance of men over women. In Miss Eberhardt's figures this difference is more marked—52% men to 47% women.³

The number of adults is greater than the number of children. Miss Eberhardt points out that there are proportionately less young children and more adults in Orlando than in the entire Native population. She found that 31% of dependent children under 20 were living away from home.⁴

Table 1. Inhabitants by age and sex.

SEX.	AGE IN YEARS.						Total	%
	0—1	2—10	11—18	19—50	Over 50			
M.	10	49	31	78	18	186	51	
F.	9	42	31	83	11	176	49	
M. and F.	Children — 172		Adults — 190			362	100	

Most of the houses are overcrowded.⁵ The numbers of people per house are given in Table 2, the averages being 6 for the two-roomed houses and 5.5 for the three-roomed houses. The detailed family structure has not been analysed, but in the main it is the natural family, sometimes with lodging relatives, and in a few cases two families share a house.

³ Eberhardt, p. 21.

⁴ Eberhardt, p. 44.

⁵ Eberhardt, p. 145 et seq.

Table 2. Occupancy of dwellings.

Number of occupants	2-roomed houses		3-roomed houses		4-roomed houses	
	Number of houses	Number of occupants	Number of houses	Number of occupants	Number of houses	Number of occupants
2	3	6	2	4		
3	1	3	3	9		
4	10	40	2	8		
5	6	30	2	10		
6	9	54	4	24		
7	3	21	2	14		
8	8	64	3	24	1	8
9	1	9				
10						
11	2	22				
12			1	12		
	43	249	19	105	1	8

Work.

Principal breadwinners work as follows:—

In town	43
Municipality	4
Railway	2
Washerwoman	4
Chemist in Pinville	1
In location	10
Not working	1

Due to the distance of Orlando from Johannesburg, the working day tends to be long. In 49% of the households, workers are away from home for more than 11 hours a day. Most people leave for work between 6 and 7 a.m. and return between 6 and 7 p.m.

Table 3. Details of the working day.

Time away from home in hours	No. of people	Percentage of total
8—9	3	5
9—10	7	11
10—11	11	17.5
11—12	12	19
12—13	17	27
Over 13	2	3
Irregular hours	11	17.5
Departure for work:		
Leave before 6	8	12.5
Between 6—7	25	40
Between 7—8	14	22
Between 8—9	5	8
Irregular hours	11	17.5
Return from work:		
Between 4—5	8	13
Between 5—6	14	22
Between 6—7	24	38
Between 7—8	6	9.5
Irregular hours	11	17.5

The 10 working in the location at their own businesses were occupied as follows:—

1 laundry; 1 shop; 1 selling milk; 2 plumbers; 1 selling bottles; 1 private tearoom; 1 grocery in house; 2 sell coal

Eating Habits.

It is the custom in the township to eat three times a day, but the evening meal, eaten when the men come home from work, is the most important. In the morning most workers take a packet of food with them for breakfast and lunch is usually bought in town

It is a tribal custom for the men to eat separately from the women and, though this is disappearing, it is still not common practice for all members of the family to eat together. The following table shows where the food is eaten by the various members of the family.

Table 4. Where food is eaten.

	MEN		WOMEN		CHILDREN	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
At table:						
Living room	29	46	20	32	3	5
Living kitchen	18	28	12	19	4	6
Kitchen	10	16	6	9	2	3
Total eating at table	57	90	38	60	9	14
On floor:						
Living room			2	3	2	3
Living kitchen			6	9	12	19
Kitchen	1	2	14	23	25	40
Total eating on floor	1	2	22	35	39	62
Other	5	8	3	5	15	24
Total	63	100	63	100	63	100

With the exception, the men sit at table, usually in the living room. In 60% of the houses the women also sit at table and in 35% they sit on the floor, often in the kitchen. The most usual arrangement is for the men and women to eat together at table while the children eat on the floor, but it is followed closely by that of man at table, women and children on the floor. Only 58% of the two-roomed houses possess a dining table, and, except in one case, this table is used for eating. In the three- and four-roomed houses, however, most people own a table, but in 30% of these cases it is not used. It appears that, where space is available, the front room is kept as a "parlour" for special occasions.

Table 5. Use of the dining table for eating.

USE	2-roomed house		3- 4-roomed house	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Bath adults	19	44	9	45
Man alone	5	12	3	15
Not used	1	2	6	30
No table	18	42	2	10
Total	43	100	20	100

People were asked where they would prefer to eat if the house were so planned that they could choose: 83% said the kitchen. If this answer is compared to the eating place of the women, who answered the question, it is seen that 38, that is, only 60% eat in the kitchen or kitchen-living room. This difference between desire and practice must be attributed to the small size of the kitchens in 3-roomed houses and partitioned 2-roomed houses.

Table 6. Women's preference in regard to place of meals.

PLACE	Number	Per cent.
Living room	7	11
Kitchen	52	83
No reply	4	6

Children Doing Homework.

There are children in practically all the houses though many others are sent away to the reserves. In almost 50% of the houses these children have to do homework. As a rule there is only one child in each house but in some cases there are as many as 4.

Table 7.
Number of houses in which children do homework.

Children's activities	2-roomed	3-roomed	Total	Per cent.
Doing homework	20	10	30	48
Not doing homework	19	6	25	39
No children	4	4	8	13
Total	43	20	63	100

In 12 out of the 30 cases where children do homework, it is done in the afternoon after school, before the workers come home. In the remaining 18 cases work is done after 6 when the children are more liable to be disturbed.

Table 8. Time at which homework is done.

TIME	2-roomed	3-, 4-roomed	Total
Afternoon	7	5	12
Evening (after 6)	12	5	17
Not given	1		1

In all the houses the most used room is the kitchen, where the women work. In the two-roomed houses, children's homework, in all but one case, is done in the kitchen-living room, presumably in the presence of other members of the family. In the three-roomed houses, there is better chance of finding a private spot. Here it is usually done in the living room, but in two cases use is made of a bedroom and in one of the verandah. The social worker reports that in some cases children wait until the streets are quiet so that they can work under the street lights.

Table 9. Place in which homework is done.

PLACE	2-roomed	3-, 4-roomed	Total
Living room		7	7
Living room-kitchen	19		19
Bedroom		2	2
Verandah		1	1
Outside	1		1

Tenant's Opinion.⁶

Since two improvements which would save a considerable amount of time and space in small houses are the introduction of built-in cupboards and bunk-beds for children, tenants were asked what they thought of these. It was explained to them that their inclusion in the house would entail a slight increase in the rent. It is not possible to place a great deal of value on their answers, since bunk-beds are almost unknown in this country [except in unpleasant associations such as cramped railway carriages and mine compounds] and built-in cupboards are still, even in European houses, rare. However, they are included for what they are worth.

36% stated bunks would be appreciated. In the two cases

where there were no children in the house they were required for visitors.

Table 10. Houses where bunks are wanted.

	Families with children		Families without children		Total requiring bunks	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Bunks wanted	21	33	2	3	23	36
Bunks not wanted	34	54	5	8	39	62
No reply			1	2	1	2
Total number of families	55	87	8	13	63	100

Table 11. Houses where built-in cupboards are wanted.

Wanted	51	81%
Not wanted	12	19%

The variation between these figures and Miss Eberhardt's go to prove the difficulty of getting an accurate answer to this type of question. She found that no single article of built-in storage is required by more than 30% and clothes cupboards are only desired by 1%.

People were also asked where they liked to relax: 89% replied they preferred the floor. It must be remembered the question was addressed to the women. Men are more likely to sit on chairs.

Table 12. Place preferred by the women for relaxing.

PREFERRED	Number	Per cent.
On the floor	56	89
On a bed	2	3
On a chair	1	2
No reply	4	6

(3) ROOM USES.⁷

The house plans have already been described. In all of them the room containing the front door is also the kitchen, so that it appears to be intended as a living-kitchen. The other rooms, whether in the two- or three-roomed houses, are presumably intended as bedrooms.

There is in fact a great deal of prejudice today against the combined living-kitchen. Native people like to have a separate living room which can be properly furnished in European style. The room with a coal stove in it, where food is prepared, and where the family live and eat, is difficult to keep clean, and does not present a pleasing aspect to a visitor.

Miss Eberhardt⁸ gives figures for expressed desires regarding the living room, which illustrate this point.

Table 13.
Wishes of persons regarding kitchen-living-rooms.

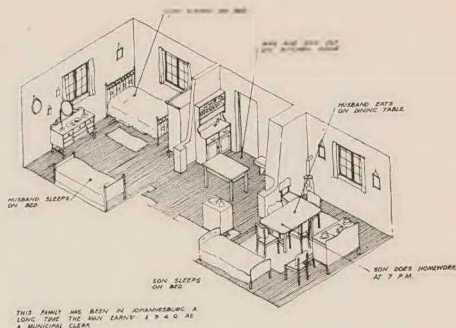
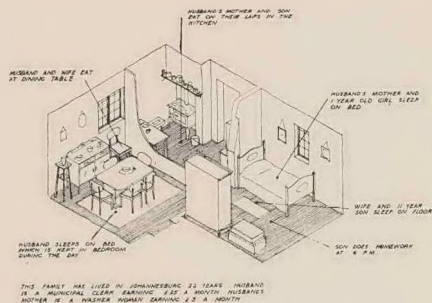
DESIRE	Per cent.
Living room as at present	7
Living room with stove screened off	4
Large living-dining-kitchen with small front sitting room	26
Small kitchen with large living room	63

Because of this, a partition separates the cooking area from the rest of the living room in many of the two-roomed houses, and in the three-roomed houses one of the other rooms

⁶ Eberhardt, p. 138 et seq. Gives wishes of Orlando inhabitants concerning stoves, kitchen, living rooms, washing and storage facilities, etc.

⁷ Eberhardt, p. 130 et seq.

⁸ Eberhardt, Table III (17) p. 141.



is generally furnished as a sitting room. In most cases these rooms are also of necessity used for sleeping.

Table 14. Use of the living-room as a sleeping area.

USE	2-roomed houses		3-roomed houses	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Sleeping on floor . . .	23	54	5	26
Sleeping in beds . . .	12	28	—	—
Living area only . . .	8	18	14	74
Total . . .	43	100	19	100

Two-roomed Houses.

Full details of room uses are given in Table 15.

The zoning of the 2-roomed houses is straightforward, the small room being used exclusively as a sleeping area, while the main function of the large room is as a living-area, but in 35 of the 43 examples it is used for sleeping. In most cases it is the children who sleep on the floor in this room, but in 10 cases there are beds, which give it the indecisive appearance of a half-bed half-living room. Bed-sets and

divans are used occasionally.

There are partitions in 21 of the 43 two-roomed houses. These are very ramshackle wood frame structures, covered with wall boarding, sacking, or even paper.

Three-roomed Houses.

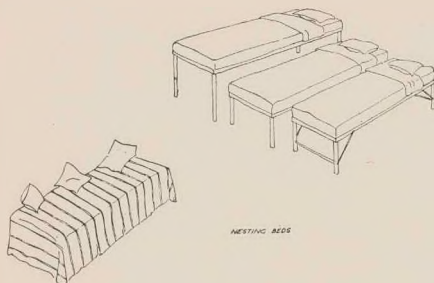
In the three-roomed house, the room usage is not so clear. In the 16 houses of plan A, the prevalent arrangement, dictated by the small kitchen, is to use one of the large rooms as a living room and the other as a bedroom. In two special cases where two families share the house both large rooms are used as bed-living rooms. In three cases people sleep on the floor in the kitchen.

Only three examples of plan B fell within the survey, but two others available have been included. In this plan, the room containing the stove is large enough to be used as the main living-room. It is interesting to see, however, that this only happens in one case, where the family is particularly large.

Table 15. Room uses.

USE OF THE ROOM	TWO-ROOMED HOUSES			THREE-ROOMED HOUSES			THREE-ROOMED HOUSES		
	Room 1 un-partitioned	Room 1 partitioned Front	Room 2 Back	Room 1 PLAN A	Room 2 PLAN A	Room 3 PLAN A	Room 1 PLAN B	Room 2 PLAN B	Room 3 PLAN B
Kitchen	1	—	17	13	—	—	3 (1)	—	—
Kitchen with people sleeping on floor at night	4	—	4	3	—	—	1 (1)	—	—
Kitchen-living room	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kitchen-living room with people sleeping on the floor at night	10	—	—	—	—	—	1 (1)	—	—
Kitchen-living bedroom (with beds)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kitchen-bedroom (with beds)	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Living room	—	5	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Living room with people sleeping on floor at night	—	11	—	—	2	—	—	1 (1)	—
Living-bedroom (with beds)	—	5	—	—	13	2	—	2 (1)	—
Bedroom	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	1 (1)	5 (3)
Total	22	21	21	43	16	16	5	5	5

In the three-roomed houses plan B, 2 extra questionnaires were included to give a clearer picture. Numbers in brackets indicate uses of the rooms in the three houses in the survey.



USEFUL TYPES OF BEDS IN VIEW OF THE OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS.

Verandahs Built Up.

Twelve of the two-roomed houses (28%) have enclosed the verandahs. This is generally used as a store, though in five cases it is used as a bedroom and in one case as a shop.

Two of the three-roomed houses (10%) have built-in verandahs, both of these being used as storerooms.

Table 16. Use of verandahs.

USE	2-roomed houses		3-roomed houses		4-roomed houses		TOTAL	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Store	6	14	2	10			8	13
Bedroom	5	12					5	8
Shop	1	2					1	1
Total enclosed	12	28	2	10			14	22
Total not enclosed	31	72	17	90	1		49	78
Total	43	100	19	100	1		63	100

Change in Room Use.

There are one or two attempts to change room use from living rooms in the daytime to bedrooms at night by movement of furniture. In one of two cases the beds or mattresses used for sleeping in the living room are stored in the bedroom during the day. There are four bed-settees which are used as beds and there is one convertible studio couch, which, however, was not in use at the time of the survey.

(4) FURNITURE.

The general impression given by an average Native house is crowded and dark, rather like a poor imitation of a Victorian interior. The walls are covered with pictures, mostly family portraits, wedding groups, etc., or portraits of well-known personalities. Windows are curtained, floors often covered with linoleum or bits of carpet and sundry flower vases and other ornaments stand on table tops, which are protected by cloths and doilies.

Extent of Furnishing.

All the houses covered in the survey were furnished to some extent. The one with the least furniture had six pieces, while the average number was 12 for the two-roomed and 18 for the three-roomed house. 40% of all the houses had 16—20 articles of furniture and 25% had 11—12. Every house

had a certain amount of kitchen furniture, while 16 (25%) of the houses had no living room furniture and 7 (11%) had no bedroom furniture. In seven cases braziers were still used for cooking. The following tables give the total number of articles and where they occur in the house.

Table 17. Number of articles of furniture in each house.

Number of articles	2-roomed houses		3-roomed houses		TOTAL	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
0—5	2	5			2	3
6—10	12	28			12	19
11—15	13	30	3	15	16	25
16—20	13	30	12	60	25	40
21—25	3	7	5	25	8	13
Total	43	100	20	100	63	100

Table 18.

Articles of furniture and where they appear in the house.

ARTICLE	Living room	Kitchen	Bed-room	Verandah	Total	Index ¹
Chairs	245	28	17	6	296	.22
Beds	24	4	80	3	111	.57
Benches	2	87			89	.71
Cupboards	10	44	7	2	63	1.0
Stoves	1	57			58	1.1
Kitchen tables		56			56	1.13
Dining tables	55				55	1.15
Dressers	1	39		1	41	1.5
Occ. tables	26		8	4	38	1.66
Wardrobes	3		25	1	29	2.17
Sideboards	28				28	2.25
Other tables			15	6	21	3
Sofas	11		5	2	18	3.5
Chests of drawers			15	2	17	3.7
Armchairs	13		1	1	15	4.2
Braziers		7			7	9
Cots			2		2	31
Studio couches				1	1	62
Total	419	322	175	29	945	

Chairs, beds and benches are naturally the most frequent. The average is about 4—5 chairs to a house and two beds. Cupboards are also high on the list. Indeed this survey brought out markedly the need for storage in these small houses. In many cases cupboards take the place of dressers, which are not found as frequently as one would expect.

¹ Number of houses surveyed (63) divided by the number of articles. It gives the incidence, e.g. 1 sideboard to every 2.25 houses.

Most houses have a dining and kitchen table, and there are a number of other smaller tables used in the bedrooms and elsewhere. Occasional tables are popular, considering their uselessness. They occur one in every two houses.

Wardrobes, sideboards, and chests of drawers occur in about one to every three houses, though wardrobes are found more frequently than the other two articles. Sofas or bed-ettes also occur in every third house, and are often used for sleeping purposes. The number of armchairs is low, and many of those listed are not of the easy type, but small bridge chairs or basket chairs. There are two cats only, one of which is in use at the moment, and one studio couch which is not being used. Although there are some houses without living room furniture, the total number of articles of furniture of this type is the greatest. The next greatest is the number of kitchen articles, while the number of bedroom articles is the smallest, beds comprising 45% of this amount.

The questionnaire did not show whether furniture was bought in suites or not but where the normal components of a suite have been found grouped together they are assumed as such.

Table 19. Groups forming suites.

SUITE	Number	Index
Dining room suites	24 ¹⁰	2.6
Bedroom suites	12	5.1
Chesterfield suites	3	20.5

Often the furnishing is rather erratic as, for instance, in the least furnished house, where a chesterfield suite made up 3 of the 6 pieces in the house, or as in another case, where there was a dining table and sideboard but no chairs.

Furniture Grading.

In order to bring out clearly the extent to which rooms are furnished, each set of room furniture—living room, kitchen and bedroom—has been graded. The grading covers only articles generally accepted as essential.

In the case of the living room the most frequent furnishing (in 32% of the cases) is dining table, chairs, and either sideboard or armchair, and 72% of the houses have at least dining table and chairs. Other furniture consists of occasional tables, an armchair, or an excess number of dining chairs. Only 25% possess no living room furniture at all.

Table 20. Grading of living room furniture.

FURNITURE	2-roomed		3-roomed		4-roomed		TOTAL	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Table, 4 chairs, sideboard and sofa	3	7	5	26.5	—	—	8	13
Table, 4 chairs, sideboard or sofa	11 ¹¹	25.5	8	42	1	—	20	32
Table, 4 chairs	13 ¹¹	30	4	21	—	—	17	27
Furnished, but no complete dining suites	2 ¹²	5	—	—	—	—	2	3
Unfurnished	14	35.5	2	10.5	—	—	16	25
Total	43	100	19	100	1	—	63	100

Table 21. Grading of kitchen furniture.

FURNITURE	2-roomed		3-roomed		4-roomed		TOTAL	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Table, chairs or benches, dresser and stove ¹³	9 ¹³	21	2 ¹³	10.5	1	—	12	19
Table, dresser and stove	8	18.5	2	10.5	—	—	10	16
Table or dresser, chairs or benches, stove or brazier	12 ¹¹	28	12	63.2	—	—	24	38
Table and stove	8	18.5	2	10.5	—	—	10	16
Other	6	14	1	5.3	—	—	7	11
Total	43	100	19	100	1	—	63	100

Table 22. Grading of bedroom furniture.

FURNITURE	2-roomed		3-roomed B1		3-roomed B2		4-roomed B1		4-roomed B2		TOTAL	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Two 2'6 beds or one 3'6 bed, wardrobe, chest of drawers	8	18.5	3	16	—	—	1	—	—	—	12	19
Two 2'6 beds or one 3'6 bed, wardrobe, or chest of drawers	7	16.3	7	37	4	21	—	—	—	—	18	21
Two 2'6 bed or one 3'6 bed	23	53.5	7	37	10	53	—	—	—	—	40	48
Unfurnished	5	11.7	2	10	5	26	—	—	1	—	13	16
Total	43	100	19	100	19	100	1	—	1	—	83	100

10 All but five of these have 6 chairs.

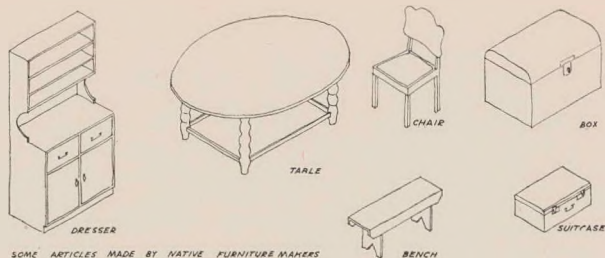
11 One of each has only 3 chairs.

12 Chesterfield suite in one, sideboard and table only in the other.

13 Braziers instead of a stove.

14 One room has dresser, benches and stove.

15 Coal and wood burning stove purchased by tenant.



In most (38%) of the kitchen the furniture consists of a table, either chairs or benches, and a stove, or, in a few cases only, a brazier. No kitchens are quite unfurnished.

In the bedrooms, the most usual furnishing is one three-quarter bed or 2 single beds, without other articles of furniture: 12 of the bedrooms (15%) are what might be considered fully furnished with bed, or beds, chest of drawers and wardrobe, and 21% have either one or other of these storage articles. Only 16% have no bedroom furniture at all.

The Source of Supply of the Articles.

Table 23 gives the origin of the various articles. Although it is incomplete, the trends which it indicates are sufficiently clear to be of interest.

Roughly, the furniture falls into two groups; the first group comprises the living room and bedroom furniture, which is European-made. A certain amount of this is bought new from the shops, but most of it—probably much more than is shown by the figures—is bought second-hand.

The other group consists of Native-made articles used in the kitchen. Simple pieces, such as benches and cupboards, are made at home from old boxes and pieces of wood. More complicated articles, such as dresser and kitchen tables, are made by Native carpenters. A number of dining room chairs are also made by Native carpenters.

Table 23. The source of supply of the articles.

ARTICLES	Bought new European made or appearing so	Second hand European made	Made by Native carpenters	Made at home	Not specified	TOTAL
Dining chairs	50	68	30		102	251
Other chairs	2	1	4	3	35	45
Beds	11	41		61	58	111
Benches				28	49	
Cupboards	1	2	4	14	42	63
Kitchen tables		1	13	9	33	56
Dining tables	11	19	4	1	20	55
Dressers		9	18	3	10	41
Acc. tables	4	4	4	2	24	38
Wardrobes	8	11	2		8	29
Sideboards	7	8	2		11	28
Other tables		3	2		17	21
Sofas	2	3			11	16
Chest of drawers	4	7			6	17
Armchairs		10			5	15
Cats		1	1			2
Studio couch	1					1
Total	102	190	84	93	480	954
Percentages	12	20	8	10	51	100

The acquisition of furniture is gradual. First, benches are made, or bought from local carpenters, and beds are made of packing cases lined up in a row, covered so that they cannot be seen. Next is a kitchen table, also often homemade. After a time, when money has accumulated, dining-table and chairs and beds are bought. Other articles are added as funds allow.

It must be noted that this analysis is related only to the size of the house and not to the number of occupants. The following section on 'sleeping' deals with this aspect in so far as beds are concerned.

(5) SLEEPING.

The Crowded Conditions.

Sleeping conditions are very crowded. Of the 147 rooms in all the houses, only 24 (16%) are not used at night.

Table 24. Number of people sleeping in each room.

NUMBER IN ROOM	No. ROOMS	Per cent.	No. of people	Per cent.
6	5 (2)	3.5	30	9
5	11 (4)	7	55	15
4	23 (6)	16	92	25
3	29 (3)	20	87	24
2	38	26	76	21
1	22	15	22	6
0	24	16	0	0
	152	103.5	362	100
Verandahs	5	3.5		
Total of rooms	147	100		

Note: Numbers in brackets indicate the number of rooms in which a child of one or under is one of the sleepers.

In the two-roomed houses, 81% of the living rooms, as well as all the bedrooms, are used for sleeping, and in five cases the verandah has been turned into a bedroom. On the average, 3 people sleep in each room, and in many cases there are four or even six sleeping together. In the three-roomed houses conditions are not quite so bad. The average per bedroom is 2.3, and only 5 of the 19 living rooms, that is, 25%, are used for sleeping.

The usual arrangement is for the parents to occupy the bedroom, often with their youngest children, while the rest of the family sleeps in the living room. If there are other adults living in the house, they do not sleep in the same

bedroom. According to the social worker, it is recognised that in towns children will sleep with their parents until they are 7. In the country the child starts sleeping with the other children at the age of 4 years.

Table 25. Rooms used for sleeping.

	2-roomed houses		3-, 4-roomed houses		TOTALS	
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
Room 1	35	81	5	25	40	75
Room 2	43	100	19	95	62	98
Room 3			20	100	20	100
Room 4			1		1	
Verandah	5					

Sleeping Groups.

People sleep in groups to make full use of the limited supply of beds and bedding. Table 26 gives the composition of these groups and their sleeping accommodation.

Table 26.—Composition and accommodation of sleeping groups.

Number in group	Composition of group	ON BEDS				ON FLOOR				TOTAL	
		4'0	3'6	2'6	Groups	People	Groups	People	Groups	People	
1	1 adult	1	14	6	21	21	13	13	34	34	
	1 child ¹⁶		1	12 ¹⁷	13 ¹⁷	13 ¹⁷	15	15	28 ¹⁷	28 ¹⁷	
2	2 adults ¹⁸	2	15	5	22	44	8	16	30	60	
	1 adult and child		12	6	18	36	6	12	24	48	
	2 children		5	4	9	18	21	42	30	60	
3	2 adults and child	1	14	1	16	48	2	6	18	54	
	1 adult and 2 children	1	2		3	9	3	9	6	18	
	3 children		1		1	3	11	33	12	36	
4	1 adult and 3 children		1		1	4	2	8	3	12	
	4 children						3	12	3	12	
		5	65	34	104 ¹⁷	196 ¹⁷	84	166	188	362	

The most frequent groups are man and wife, man, wife and child, or one or other parent and child. Only 62 people, which is 17% of the total, sleep alone.

Under these conditions it is virtually impossible to separate the sexes, and in a number of cases individuals over 10 years old share beds or the same bit of floor space.

Woman and boy	1
Boy and girl	2
Man and woman and girl	2
Boy and two girls	1
Girl, boy and child	1
Girl, boy and two children	1
Total	8

There are also 10 cases in which a child between 1—10 years sleeps with the parents.

The Use of Beds.

Just over half the people covered in the survey sleep on beds. Most of these are adults.

Beds are rarely used by one person only. This is of course largely due to overcrowding, but also partly to the fact that

Table 27. Number of people sleeping on beds.

	ON BEDS		ON FLOOR		TOTAL
	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	
Adults	119	73	44	27	163
Children ¹⁹	77	39	122	61	199
Total	196	55	166	45	362

the Native people disapprove of the modern European habit or married couples sleeping in two beds. It is so, they say, that you lose your husband. Man and wife sleep together, except when the woman is pregnant.

Only 55 or 15% of the people sleep in a conventionally recognised European manner on beds, either alone or as a married couple.

The three-quarter bed is preferred to the single bed because it will accommodate more people. There were 5 double beds also covered in the survey; 8 beds were unused.

The remaining 45% of the inhabitants, mostly children, sleep on the floor. Often they sleep on mattresses turned round cross ways so that three or four can get on together, otherwise they use sacking as a meagre protection between themselves and the ground.

(6) STORAGE.

There is no provision for storage in these houses, and things are kept in boxes and suitcases, tumbled into corners, or on top of wardrobes. Bicycles are kept in the kitchen and coal and wood heaped in the backyard.

The people are poor, and nothing is flung away, since the most decrepit article may sometime come in useful. Old clothes, boxes, bottles, broken and apparently useless bicycles and articles of furniture are all kept. Where there is a dog, things are often piled in the backyard for they will not be stolen. People are afraid of dogs.

In a number of cases the tenants have made their own provision for storage. In five cases outside stores have been built, and, as has already been mentioned, eight verandahs are enclosed and used as stores. In 30 cases a shelf for cooking utensils has been fixed over the stove. In addition

¹⁶ For the purposes of this table and table 27, unmarried adults are included as children.

¹⁷ One child in cot included in these numbers.

¹⁸ Man and woman except in one case where two women sleep together.

¹⁹ See note 16, Table 26.

are the usual cupboards, dressers, wardrobes, etc. which form part of the furniture of the house.

General Storage.

Table 28. Articles requiring storage.

Drums	121	Boxes	45 ⁽²⁾
Baths	113	Bicycles	21
Buckets	95	Wheelbarrow	1
Suitcases	79 ⁽²⁾	Pram	1

As will be seen from Table 28 the list of general storage articles is headed by drums, baths and buckets. In any area where water is not laid on, receptacles for water-carrying and storage must be kept. In Orlando, the water is stored in paraffin drums cut in half or with the top taken off, and these are filled from the stand tap by buckets and petrol tins. These articles take up a lot of room in the already overcrowded houses.

The numbers of suitcases and boxes are incomplete. There are many of them, and they are used for storage of clothes in the absence of more suitable receptacles.

Of the 21 bicycles:

- 3 are owned by 1 house.
- 2 are owned by 1 house.
- 13 are owned by individual houses.
- 3 are old and unused.

Table 29. Number of houses possessing the various articles.

ARTICLE	Number of houses	Percentage of total	Average number per house
Drums	48	78	2.5
Buckets	50	80	1.9
Baths	49	79	2.05
Suitcases	35	56.5	2.25
Boxes	28	45	1.6
Bicycles	15	24	1.2

Since articles of furniture are large, and bulky, they present a considerable storage problem. In most cases they necessitate the building of the special storage areas already mentioned. Table 30 gives a list of furniture stored at the time of the survey. These figures are also included in tables of furniture in section (4).

Table 30. Articles of furniture which were stored at the time of the survey.

Tables	19	Stoves	2
Chairs	11	Wardrobes	1
Mattresses	7	Occ. table	1
Cupboards	5	Studio couch	1
Safes	4	Dresser	1
Beds	3	Chesterfield suite	1

Linen Storage.

A small amount of bed linen was found in the houses, though in most cases so little that special storage space would not be required.

The most usual articles were blankets at 1½ per head. There was practically a sheet a person, and a towel and a

table cloth to every third person. A fair number of pillows were listed. These were usually home made.

Table 31. Average number of articles of household linen per person.

ARTICLE	Per person
Blankets	1.5
Sheets	.85
Pillows	.75
Towels	.375
Table cloths	.315

These articles were distributed fairly evenly throughout the houses.

Kitchen and Dining Utensils.

Kitchen and dining utensils are much more erratically distributed, particularly where glasses and silverware are concerned. One household has over 5 dozen, another over 6 dozen, cups, mugs and glasses. Eight houses have over 4 dozen knives, forks and spoons, one has 8 dozen. On the other hand 23 houses have less than 10 cups, mugs and glasses and 10 have less than 10 knives, forks and spoons.

Table 32. Average number of kitchen and dining utensils per person.

ARTICLE	Per person
Cooking utensils	1.18
Bowls	.426
Plates	1.73
Cups, mugs and glasses	2.8
Knives, forks and spoons	4.34

Fuel Storage.²¹

Most people burn coal in their stoves. Usually 1 or 2 bags are bought at a time and stored in the yard.

Table 33. Number of bags of coal bought at one time.

No. of bags	No. of houses
1	32
2	16
3	5
4	3
5	1
7	1
10	2 (dealer)
50	1 (dealer)
2 give no reply	

Wood is used to a very much less extent.

Table 34. Number of bags of wood bought at one time.

No. of bags	No. of houses
1	9
2	1
6	1 (dealer)

Clothing.

One of the most pressing storage needs in these houses is for clothes. Table 35 shows the average number of articles possessed. It is not compiled from the complete survey but the first man, woman, boy and girl in each house was taken as the example in each case.

²⁰ Incomplete.

²¹ Eberhardt, expenditure on fuel, p. 87.

Table 35.

Average number of articles of clothing kept per person.

ARTICLES	Men (160)	Women (163)	Boy (139)	Girl (142)
Coats16	1.2		.6
Trousers . . .	3.9		3.2	
Jackets . . .	2.9			
Shirts . . .	4.15		3.5	
Jerseys08		.3	.7
Dresses . . .		6.0		5.5
Skirts . . .		2.8		
Blouses . . .		2.4		
Underwear . . .	2.3	4.2	1.1	3.0
Stockings (prs.) . . .		2.2		.7
Socks (prs.) . . .	2.9		.9	
Shoes (prs.) . . .	2.8	.8	1.4	1.8

NOTE: The number in brackets indicates the number from which the average was taken.

The averages for outer clothing are 4 pairs of trousers, 3 jackets and 4 shirts per man; 6 dresses and a coat per woman, numbers probably not much below the wardrobe of the average European. It is true that underclothes are somewhat less numerous, 2.3 articles per man and 4.2 per woman, but these in any case require little storage.

The averages are somewhat misleading since there is very considerable variation—in two cases woman have 15 dresses each—but it does show the large number of articles of clothing kept.

Clothes are kept in wardrobes and chests of drawers if these exist, in suitcases or cardboard boxes which stand round the rooms or are pushed under beds; they are hung on the back of doors, on pegs in the wall or sometimes thrown over strings stretched across the room at ceiling height.

PART II. SUPPLEMENTS.

Supplementary Sections.

The first of these is a short description of life in Orlando, covering aspects which did not occur in the survey. It is written by the social worker.

The other three deal, somewhat cursorily, with the furniture trade in its relation to the Natives. Figures available for the number of hire purchase sales in Orlando East between 1940/49 are complete, though unfortunately prices were not included. But, for both the furniture trade and the Native furniture makers, conclusions have necessarily been drawn from limited data. Both of these are fields which are in themselves wide subjects of study, and all that is necessary here is to give colour to points already mentioned in the survey.

(1) A DESCRIPTION OF LIFE IN ORLANDO EAST,

by A. Makhelle.

Comparison of the life led by Municipal tenants in Orlando and private tenants in Sophiatown shows striking points of difference. Orlando tenants have bigger houses and additional space for gardening; and although they would like their houses to be more roomy and spacious, they pay less rent. Most Sophiatown families occupy one room each, and this has to

be used for all members of the family. This type of living does not allow privacy, and in most cases lowers the moral standard of the household.

Orlando residents complain of the lack of proper flooring, the lack of a ceiling, the fact that one water tap has to be shared by twenty houses, and that no compensation for improvements (e.g. partitions, enclosed verandahs) is given when they move from the houses. The house plan also calls for criticism: the kitchen is not liked in its position as front room, and the fact that there is no back door leading from the bedroom is disliked, this is required to enable the women of the house to take the chamber out without passing through the living area. People are afraid to use the outside lavatory at night.

In addition the houses are all of the same plan, so that the whole township looks monotonous.

In the morning everything is done in a hurry—the preparing of beds, washing up, etc. Houses are often left unswept. Usually breakfast is composed of tea and bread with jam or butter. Children are hurried to school, and the houses remain locked up throughout the day. People like to have bedroom doors so that just these can be locked, and the children can make use of the rest of the house before their parents come home.

Some women do washing, while others work in factories and such-like places, so as to earn enough money to support their families. They rush for trains for which they pay 11/2 for a monthly ticket.

Naturally Bantu women have a special pleasure in looking after their houses and children, but in town locations this is marred by several factors: Firstly, there is the lack of income. Parents cannot cope with the ever-rising cost of living in towns. Secondly, there is the problem of bringing up the children according to socially desirable standards. Thirdly, friction arises in some families, possibly because both husband and wife have to work to earn a living. They are all the time conscious of the inferiority of their position and the insecurity of their jobs.

In cases where both the man and the woman work daily, there is nobody to take care of the running of the home. Small children are often sent to creches and nursery schools. Children come back from school after 2 p.m., and, on sports days, after 5 p.m. When they arrive home they usually eat what has been left overnight, i.e. porridge and meat, or tea and bread. Since this is all they get to eat this diet leads to malnutrition. In cases where women do not work, it is found that better care is taken of the house and better meals are served to the children. Such women have time to do their housework during the day. They clean their houses, do their house washing and mending, and a bit of gardening.

There are some men who leave very early for work and have no tea. These men on their way to work buy a 3d. mug of tea and 1d. slice of bread from the coffee carts.

When evening comes, the workers rush back home. A fire is made, rooms are swept and supper prepared. This meal

generally consists of mealie-meal porridge and steak. Vegetables are usually added to the weekend meals.

When families have visitors, children go out to play in the streets. They group together (particularly boys), learn street language, robbery, and throwing stones at cars, which they take as fun. This practice is, however, dangerous, since certain passers-by are armed with knives and children are sometimes found dead in the streets as a result.

Some schoolboys play truant, hide books under trees or lavatories, and rush for trains on which they pay no fare. They trade in the trains, selling sweets and fruits or shoe laces, attracted by an easy way of making money. The parents are quite ignorant of the fact that their children are not attending school. Sometimes it is discovered by neighbours, relatives or teachers who report it to the homes of the children.

Because of insufficient rooms, children are forced to sleep with their parents in the bedrooms. Boys and girls sleep together in the living-room-kitchen with the result that these children see things they should not know. In cases of children who like to study and do their homework (secondary school children especially) they have to wait for streets to be quiet and then study under street lights because there is no space at home.

The survey at Orlando showed that only a small percentage of children do their homework, usually immediately after school, or in the bedroom at night. Otherwise most of their homework is not done at home.

(2) HIRE PURCHASE SALES TO DWELLERS IN ORLANDO EAST BETWEEN 1940-49.

Material is available to show the number of hire purchase deliveries in Orlando East between 1940/49. Goods are sometimes bought on the "lay-by" system or with cash, but it is probable that the large majority of people make use of hire purchase agreements. These figures then give a fair approximation of the number of new articles of furniture acquired by Orlando East inhabitants over this period. They are given below in Table 36 and at the same time the numbers of each article are compared with those found in the survey.

The articles are arranged in decreasing numbers of sales. This order corresponds very closely with the frequency of the articles occurring in the survey as shown in Table 18, particularly when kitchen articles are omitted. If dining chairs are considered in their suites of 4 or 6, the demand is seen to be first for beds, then dining table and chairs, wardrobes, stoves, sideboards, chests of drawers, etc. It is interesting to note that, in both lists, wardrobes are in more demand than sideboards, due presumably to their function of clothes storage.

Other articles such as bookcases, settees, radios and tailboys occurred one in every 150 to 400 houses, and a number of single items also appeared on the list. The figures giving the percentage of the various articles bought new are necessarily very approximate. The average of 19% calculated from

Table 36 is considerably higher than the 12% found to be new in the survey (Table 23), which probably gives the more accurate figure. The tables correspond in showing that bedroom and dining room furniture is bought to some extent from Europeans.

Table 36. Number of articles bought by hire purchase between 1940/49 compared with the number found in the survey.

ARTICLE	Hire purchase No.	Index No. ²²	Survey Index No. ²³	Percentage bought new
Chairs	4,523	1.3	22	16
Beds	930	6.3	57	9
Tables (dining)	834	7	1.15	15
Wardrobes	610	9.6	2.17	21
Stoves	546	11	1.1	10
Sideboards	488	12	2.25	17
Chests of drawers	253	23	3.7	15
Dressers	177	34	1.5	4
Studia couches	75	80	63	80
Dining room suites	223 ²³	26	2.6	9
Bedroom suites:				
Double	81			
Single	9			
Unspecified	5	95 ²³	62	5.1
Chesterfield suites	68 ²³	87	20.1	22
Kitchen suites	36	165		
			Average	19%

The Firms Concerned.

Most of the hire purchase furniture trade to Native clientele was in the hands of two firms, one of which had carried out 572 transactions, the other 428. Eight others had carried out from 50 to 70 and some 2 dozen from 15 to 35. A number of other firms had carried out one or two transactions.

Table 37. Number of hire purchase transactions carried out by various firms.

Number of firms	Number of sales (approximately)
11	15
12	35
3	50
5	70
1	85
1	428
1	572

(3) THE EUROPEAN FURNITURE TRADE AND ITS NATIVE CLIENTELE.

General.

South Africa now manufactures adequate furniture to satisfy the present demand, though most of the wood is imported. Kiaat and Imbia are the most commonly used timbers for the less expensive pieces. Local Kiaat, invariably stained to resemble some other timber, is used with ply in the lowest priced articles. Furniture in a wide range of timber or veneer finish can, of course, be had at higher prices.

22 Number of houses concerned (5,891 in the case of the hire purchase sales and 63 in the case of the survey) divided by the number of articles. It gives the incidence e.g. 1 dresser to every 34 houses in the case of hire purchase sales.

23 Articles comprising all the chesterfield suites, 5 bedroom suites and 5 dining-room suites are omitted from the list of single articles. All others are included.

Until very recently, no furniture which could be classed as modern²⁴ was made in the country. Imported Swedish articles were to be seen here and there, but they were bought by only a very few. The rest of the furniture on the market was of conventional type. A year or so ago, however, an existing factory started a line of modern furniture. This is now appearing in many shop windows in Johannesburg, and seems to be popular. The price is not within the means of lower income groups.

Control of the Trade.

The furniture trade has been controlled since 1948. Retail prices are fixed at a profit of 37½% over wholesale prices.²⁵ Prices for any given article may vary slightly as a result of variations in manufacturers' prices or due to the method in which the transaction between wholesaler and retailer takes place. Cash prices must be fixed on hire purchase articles and the profit on this is 10% per annum.²⁶

Special Aspect of the Native Trade.

Dealing with Native clients in the furniture trade tends to be a specialised business. As a rule, such firms are situated in the outlying shopping centres, and Native salesmen who canvass in Native areas are employed.

The relationship between client and salesman is more important here than with Europeans for, if the Native feels he can trust the firm, he will not only return again and again but bring his friends, whereas if he considers he has been tricked the reverse takes place, and the clientele decreases accordingly.

One firm visited gave a particularly pleasant impression on this score. It has been run by father and son for the last 25 years, and the man was obviously proud of his business. Articles in this shop were slightly cheaper than in the centre of town.

The salesman in another shop with a considerable Native trade said that the Native was a very careful buyer. As a rule he did not buy the cheapest articles but preferred good quality. He pointed out a highly polished imitation walnut

veneer dining room suite as the most popular. The price was £60. The favourite bedroom suite was a five piece (twin beds, two wardrobes and dressing chest) costing £100. He sold about 30 of the dining suite and 10 of the bedroom suite a month.

From all sides come reports that the Native is an excellent customer. The number of repossessions from hire purchase transactions in the furniture trade occurring in the case of Natives, in the law courts at Johannesburg, average no more than 20 a month. The second firm quoted above told me that most of their Native customers preferred to buy on the "lay by" system, in which the goods are paid off in instalments before they are delivered. In this way the heavy interest on hire purchase is avoided.

Dining Room Suites.

Salesmen state that the Natives are most interested in dining room suites and, running a poor second, bedroom and chesterfield suites. No mention was made of the sale of beds in the large numbers which appeared in hire purchase sales.

Table 38 gives the prices of some less expensive dining and bedroom suites on the market.

For more expensive types, prices range up to £100 and over. The figure of £60 then, which is the price of the suite favoured by Native buyers, is well above the least expensive and into a good average price. This suite is highly polished and fairly elaborate. It appears that once a man has decided to buy a dining suite he insists on having an expensive one. It is, in fact, more an article of investment and prestige than of use.

There was nothing the matter with the cheaper types, they were of simple design and less highly polished. Many of them were well made and efficient jobs.

There is, however, one criticism which can be made of practically all the suites, whatever price, and that is the bad design of the chairs. Almost without exception the backs are too upright, and the seats too tightly padded and very uncomfortable to sit on.

Table 38. Prices of dining and bedroom suites on the Johannesburg Market, March, 1950.

	Imbula	Klaar	Walnut	Wood to be finished as desired	Unspecified
Dining room suite, 4 chairs	£49 10 0	£39 3 9	—	£31 19 10	—
	48 0 0	£32 2 6	—	—	—
Dining room suite, 6 chairs	£30 0 0	£40 0 0	£60 0 0 ²⁷	—	£51 6 0
Double bedroom suite, 2 beds, 2 wardrobes, dressing table	—	—	—	—	£121 0 0
					100 0 0 ²⁷
					95 0 0
					75 0 0
Double bed, 2 wardrobes and dressing table	£80 0 0	£65 0 0	—	—	£90 0 0
					59 0 0
4-piece single suites, 2 wardrobes	—	£43 4 6	—	—	£46 0 0

24 Modern furniture is that which, with an economic use of materials, has been designed with function as the first consideration and good appearance, not second in importance but second in sequence.

25 Government Gazette No. 4429, Notice 1680, p. 162.

26 Hire Purchase Act, 1942.

27 Preferred by Natives.

Bedroom Suites.

Double bedroom suites run at higher prices than dining room suites. They range from about £50 for the least expensive up to £100 for the middle priced types. The more expensive mount easily up to £300. Table 38 shows the prices of some of the cheaper examples.

Salesmen were reluctant to indicate the suite most frequently bought by the Natives, since they felt that the number sold was not high enough to give an average of preference. One, however, as already mentioned, did point to a 5-piece suite priced at £100 as most purchased.

Other Articles.

Table 39 lists various other articles which appear on the market.

Table 39. Prices of some patent beds, ordinary beds, kitchen suites and other articles for sale in Johannesburg furniture shops in March, 1950.

PATENT BEDS—		
Put-you-up settee	£40 0 0	
Studio couch	24 0 0	£31 0 0
High rise divan	20 10 0	
BEDS—		
3'0 wooden ply-panel bed with inner-spring mattress	£13 0 0	
3'6 as above wit coir mattress	8 10 0	
Folding bed with coir mattress	5 7 6	
Divan and coir mattress	4 8 0	
MATTRESSES—		
4'6 spring mattress	£9 10 0	
4'6 coir mattress	3 15 0	
KITCHEN SUITES—		
With 4'6 dresser, 1 table, 4 chairs	£44 0 0	
With 3'0 dresser, 1 table, 4 chairs	38 0 0	
OTHER ARTICLES—		
Ladies' wardrobe	£21 6 6	
Gents' wardrobe	16 1 6	
Dressing table	15 0 0	
Kiaat gate-legged table	8 10 0	
4'0 Kiaat dining table	7 10 0	

In view of the overcrowded conditions revealed in the survey, it appears that one of the most useful articles of furniture would be convertible beds which can either be folded away or turned into a couch in the daytime. All types of such patent twin and double beds on sale are £20 or over.

Individual beds are also fairly expensive. The most reasonably priced articles are the folding bed and the divan with a coir mattress. Coir mattresses, however, are found to be of poor quality and do not last more than a few years. A surprising number of Natives purchase inner-spring mattresses.

An increasing, if small, number of kitchen suites are sold. The two listed were enamelled white and very trim. Both have been sold to Natives.

The above prices are of articles appearing in shops where Natives are known to trade. Since it was felt that they were very high, one firm with a considerable Native trade was asked to give a list of the average cost of various low-priced articles. This is given in Table 44. These prices are considerably

lower than the above. It has not been possible to establish the proportion of Natives which buy each type.

(4) NATIVE FURNITURE MAKERS.

There are a number of small workshops in the location where furniture is made. Seventeen of them were visited to get an idea of the type of business being conducted.

Accommodation.

These small workshops are not legal, although their existence is overlooked by the authorities. As a result, no proper accommodation is provided, and the tenant's plot is used for the purpose. In most cases, a corrugated iron shelter has been constructed at the back of the house.

Table 40. Accommodation used by Native furniture makers.

Working in corrugated iron shelters	12
Outside	3
On verandah	1
Unspecified	1

Staff.

In most cases one man works alone but in some cases there are employees.

Table 41. Staff of Native furniture makers.

Man alone	13
1 employee	1
2 employees	1
7 employees	1
2 partners working together but earning separately	1

Wages paid vary from £1 15s. to £2 15s. a week.

Incomes.

The men were asked the price of the various articles they made and the number they produced a month. The latter figure was an approximate guess which in one case shows one worker as making 72 articles a month including 8 wardrobes and 12 dining room tables, and earning a gross income of £256. Others were almost equally optimistic.

More probable gross incomes are as follows:—

Table 42. Monthly earnings of Native carpenters.

Between £300 — £400	1 (7 employees)
£100 — £200	3 (1 with 1 employee)
£ 50 — £100	3
Below £ 50	6

These figures do not reflect the total earnings, since a number of the men make other articles, such as wooden suitcases and boxes. One makes wagons at £75 a piece, and 7 of the 17 do repair work as well as making furniture. This repair work consists of putting in ceilings and closing up verandahs, erecting inside partitions and so forth.

Articles Made.

If, however, the actual numbers of articles made are not correct, probably the relative quantities are. The following table lists the different type of article and the number produced, in relation to 100 of the commonest, the kitchen chair.

Table 43. The number of articles produced per 100 kitchen chairs.

Kitchen chairs . . .	100	Beds	10
Kitchen tables . . .	61	Bed-seetees . . .	9
Dresser	27	Cabinets	9
Dining room chairs .	23	Cupboards	9
Benches	23	Occasional tables .	8
Wardrobes	18	Chest of drawers .	1
Dining room tables .	13		

Kitchen articles—chairs, tables—followed rather far behind by dressers, are the ones most made. Relatively few dining room suites are made and, in the face of the demand, very few beds. This is certainly due to the complications of making the metal parts.

Prices of Articles.

The price of any particular article varies considerably with the capacities of the different craftsmen. As a standard of comparison, a list of the average cost of various low-priced articles was asked for from a European retailer. The averages of the Native furniture makers are only very slightly lower.

Table 44. Comparison of prices charged by Native furniture makers and a low-priced European retailer.

ARTICLE	NATIVE RANGE		FURNITURE MAKERS		Average prices		Average low price —European retailers			
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
Kitchen tables	0 17	6	—	3 0	0	1 15	0	2 0	0	
Kitchen chairs	0 10	0	—	1 14	0	0 17	6	1 5	0	
Dresser	2 5	0	—	14 10	0	7 0	0	10 10	0	
Dining table	1 10	0	—	8 10	0	5 0	0	5 10	0	
Dining chairs	1 0	0	—	2 15	0	1 15	0	2 10	0	
Sideboard	5 0	0	—	16 10	0	11 0	0	12 10	0	
Wardrobes	7 10	0	—	15 10	0	10 0	0	10 10	0	
Cabinets	4 0	0	—	9 0	0	6 0	0			
Occasional tables	0 7	6	—	1 5	0	1 0	0			
Chest of drawers	3 0	0	—	7 10	0	5 0	0	7 10	0	
Benches	0 2	6	—	0 10	0	0 7	6			
Bed-settees	2 5	0	—	12 10	0	3 0	0	10 10	0	
Beds	5 10	0	—	10 10	0	8 10	0	8 10	0	
Dining room suites: table, 6 chairs	16	10	0					17	10	0
Kitchen suite	18	10	0							
	6	10	0							

PART III. CONCLUSIONS.

It is evident from the material collected that the Native people are well on the way to adopting a European mode of living in their houses though certain tribal habits, such as the women's preference for sitting on the floor, and the separation of men and women at meals are still retained to some extent. Sleeping on the floor appears to be due only to the short supply of beds and is not done from choice.

Rooms are furnished as dining room, bedroom and kitchen. There is seldom any living area and easy chairs are almost non-existent. The dining room is the main room and is normally kept tidy and used as little as possible. In it is most of the household furniture. In contrast, bedroom furniture is in short supply and overworked. Beds are commonly used by as many as two or three people at a time, and storage space is sadly lacking, both for general articles and for clothes.

There is a surprisingly large amount of furniture in these houses. In the main it is second-hand or Native-made, though

In some cases, articles made by a competent craftsman are priced higher. A wardrobe, for instance is sold at £15 10s. whereas one can be bought from the European trade for £10 10s.

Standard of Workmanship.

It appears that on the whole the work is of a fairly efficient standard. The comments of the social worker were as follows:—

Excellent 2; very good 5; good 5; poor 3; no comment 2.

Training.

Most men received their training in factories, that is, they worked in factories before setting up on their own in the location. Two of them were trained in trade schools. There does not seem to be much difference in the quality of the work of these two forms of training. Of two others self-taught, one is poor and the other good. The comments were as follows:—

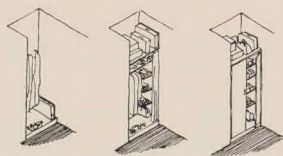
Factory trained 12; in training school 2; self-taught 2; unspecified 1.

a number of people are so anxious to furnish in a presentable manner that they save money from their small earnings to buy articles from European shops at not inconsiderable prices.

Utility in Furniture.

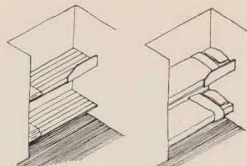
There is evidently a very considerable demand here for furniture, which the European furniture trade is unable to satisfy at a price which the Natives can pay. Individual Native enterprise has attempted to ease the shortage, and has been successful to some extent in regard to kitchen articles, but the more finished types have proved little less expensive than the European factory article and are generally not so well made.

It might be possible to solve the problem by introducing a line of utility furniture. Costs could be kept down, firstly by careful design and mass production on an efficient up-to-date basis, and secondly by distributing the articles without profit through local authorities or other similar bodies.



WITH DOOR: SHELVES & CURTAIN: SHELVES & DOOR

BUILT-IN CLOTHES STORAGE



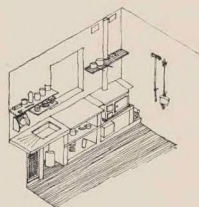
BUNK BEDS

BUNK BEDS

BUILT IN BUNKS



STORE FITTED OUT



FITTED KITCHEN

This furniture would be specially designed to serve the needs of urban Natives. It appears that, omitting the kitchen furniture, the demand for the various articles is in the following order:—

Bed; dining table and chairs; wardrobes; sideboards; chests of drawers.

Special attention should be given to the design of beds which are either space-saving such as nesting beds, or dual purpose such as bed-settees. Various types of convertible or folding beds have been used overseas in lower class housing for many years, but in this country such articles are very expensive.

The articles would have to be strong and economical in the use of space but, most important, they would have to be attractive in appearance. It is quite clear that nothing resembling kitchen type furniture would be acceptable.

Modification of the House Plan

One very clear point in regard to house plans brought out by this survey and substantiated by Miss Eberhardt is the objection to a combined living-kitchen. According to Miss Eberhardt the majority of people desired a small kitchen and a living-dining room, while the survey showed a tendency to eat in the separate kitchen where there was space. In any case, it seems essential to separate the front room from the food preparation area. Another need indicated by this survey

is for general and fuel storage areas in order to avoid the untidy and demoralising heaps of possessions which collect in houses in back yards.

Some of the furniture problems in these houses are better solved by modifications in the house plan than by the use of independent articles. Already a stove, a concrete work surface, and a fly-proof food cupboard, have been included in the kitchens of some Native houses. There should also be built-in cupboards in the bedrooms and shelves and pegs in the storeroom, where this exists. Bunk beds might well be provided for the children, since this would permit of reduction in room size and a consequent saving in house cost. From a purely practical point of view, it is possible for a room containing a pair of bunks, a built-in cupboard and a small table to be reduced to 50 sq. ft. This area is below that allowed by existing regulations, but it provides better accommodation than the present conditions where children sleep in groups on the floor.

Many of these fittings can be included very inexpensively—shelves and pegs built into the wall, a recess to be curtained for clothes, the cost of bunks compensated by the reduced floor area. Their inclusion saves the tenant capital outlay on furniture and improves the convenience of the house, but if as a result the house becomes more expensive, the monthly rental is permanently increased. Built-in fittings would therefore be most valuable in schemes which are built for sale.

INCIDENTALLY . . .

A COLUMN BY GILBERT HERBERT.

SACRED SOIL

The Pennsylvania Railroad's "Representative" races its smooth, air-conditioned way from New York to Washington and effects the first stage of a transition from tumultuous present to historic past.

From Washington D.C., a giant blue and silver Greyhound bus takes up the journey. Tilt back the seat, adjust the foot-rest, settle down comfortably as the bus speeds south, from Washington to Fredericksburg, from Fredericksburg to Richmond, from Richmond to Williamsburg, Virginia; Williamsburg, the "apex of a unique geographical triangle embracing the most historical points of early American times and termed by many historians the Cradle of the Nation."

It is a quiet, enchanted night on the shores of Lake Matooka, as the audience takes its seats under the stars in the tree-encircled amphitheatre. The voices of the choir die down, and the spotlight finds centre-stage, where the narrator stands, to speak Paul Green's Prologue to the symphonic drama, "The Common Glory." His voice, charged deep with emotion, rings out across the amphitheatre. "Friends," he says, embracing us all with a sweep of his hand, "we are gathered here this evening to do honour to our forefathers—the men who laid the mighty foundations of this government under which we live to-day. And it is fitting that we have chosen this place for our celebration. This nook of Virginia, lying between the York and James Rivers, is indeed the birthplace of the Republic, and likewise the cradle of its liberty." He pauses, as a thrill of national pride sweeps the audience. Then, dramatically, pointing, he declaims: "There, just over the hill at Jamestown, occurred the immortal tragedy of suffering and death—the birth pangs of a nation's creation—nearly three hundred and fifty years ago. And here at Williamsburg, in the eighteenth century, were rivet out and developed the matchless documents and statements of liberty upon which our self-government has been builded. And just over there, at Yorktown, in 1781, the victory was finally gained which made us an independent people. This," he cries in ringing tones, "this is indeed sacred soil on which we are gathered here to-night."

The audience sits awed, almost stunned, by the flow of oratory. They have been put into a suitable frame of mind for their visit to Williamsburg, the Cradle of the Nation.

METAMORPHOSIS

Eighteenth-century Williamsburg, as capital of the most prosperous British colony in America, was a town of some importance, and had been honoured with a royal name. It was a learned town, for it housed the College of William and Mary: it was a pious town, and the Church of Bruton Parish was one of the oldest in America; and it was a busy town,

especially in Publick times, when the burgesses would gather for meetings of the Legislative Assembly. It was an important town, and an attractive one to look at, with wide streets, fine public buildings, grass-planted squares, and picturesque houses painted white.

But time passed, and with it much of Williamsburg's former glory. Time, and two wars, dealt, if not harshly, at least unsympathetically, with Williamsburg. During the Revolution the capital was moved to Richmond, and Williamsburg gradually became a small, out-of-the-way provincial town, much like many another American country town, not much to look at, except for the remnants of its old colonial architecture, sadly neglected and overbuilt; a one-horse college town going its quiet, unspectacular way.

Then, the Renaissance!

EVERY DREAM HAS A SILVER LINING

The moral of the rebirth of Williamsburg may be that if you dream long enough, your dream will come true—provided, that is, that you have the forethought to back your dream with good silver dollars.

The Rev. W. A. R. Goodwin, rector of Bruton Parish, had long cherished a dream wherein he saw a restored parish church taking its place in a street of beautiful 18th century buildings. He dreamed of his church standing in Williamsburg as it used to be. In his dream he saw the town transformed once more into the old, handsome, pleasant Williamsburg of the spacious Colonial days. It was not, however, until 1926, when he interested John D. Rockefeller Jr. in this dream, that it stood any chance of materializing. But once the power of Rockefeller was thrown into the battle, things began to move. An imaginative, if extravagant, project was conceived: Williamsburg would be completely restored as a colonial city.

An initial survey showed that several of the original buildings, in various stages of repair, still stood: many, however, stood no longer. The project called for activity in three main fields. Firstly, the repair and restoration of existing structures; secondly, the re-erection of all important colonial buildings no longer standing; and thirdly, the removal of all modern structures. My information is that "since the work of restoring the colonial area was begun, more than 230 colonial buildings have been reconstructed, most of them on original foundations; and upwards of 90 colonial buildings have been restored or extensively repaired." Another source gives this side of the picture: "In all," it says, "upwards of 600 modern buildings were torn down, and 19 others moved outside the restored area."

This re-creation programme necessitated an enormous amount of research, and old plans, household accounts, and other records of the times were gone through with a fine tooth

comb. Archaeological excavations were made to uncover the old foundations, and to discover fragments of materials used. Prodigious labours have been undertaken since 1927, and it is estimated that there is still ten years' work to do.

WILLIAMSBURG TO-DAY

Williamsburg to-day, the result of these mighty efforts, is a beacon luring tourists from all corners of the globe, but especially from all corners of the United States, for its chief charm is seen by those unfamiliar with the "olden days," unfamiliar with anything but the modern scene.

It is a delightful town to look at, and to explore. Its main street, Duke of Gloucester Street, runs from the William and Mary College to the rebuilt Capitol building. Lined with shops, taverns and white-painted clap-boarded houses, it is picturesque stuff. The Governor's Palace stands on Palace Green, a brick-built plantation mansion, of fine proportion and ample dignity. The Gaol is interesting, and the Stocks and Pillory inspire visitors to the heights of witicism and buffoonery. The Raleigh Tavern recalls the stormy days when it served as meeting place for Jefferson, Patrick Henry and the Virginia Patriots. The Magazine and Guard House is watched over by a sentry in ancient uniform, a long musket to hand. There are the houses of the townfolk, and there, the craft shops where potter and weaver and smith still ply their ancient trades. There are languorous Southern Belles in flouncing colonial costumes to show the visitor over the more important buildings: and carriages may be hired for a drive through the streets, with a liveried negro coachman at the reins.

Williamsburg is a very attractive little town. It is delightful, it is charming.

But I am afraid it is not convincing.

A STILL, SMALL VOICE

It is unconvincing because, although it looks like an 18th century town, it has been built in the twentieth century.

It is unconvincing because it is not original, but a facsimile, albeit a near perfect one, a copy, a reproduction.

It is unconvincing because the people who live in it are twentieth century people, trying to live twentieth century lives, and demanding twentieth century amenities.

It may be that I have a broad streak of perversity, but I have looked at Williamsburg for two days, and have savoured its charm, taken delight in its atmosphere: yet the still small voice within me rises up and says: "No, do not be taken in by all this." Something within me, more, I think, than just a desire to carp and criticize, says that all this unselfish and tireless effort has not really been directed towards a worthwhile goal. And, to see if my ideas were rational, I put to myself another, hypothetical case: I wished to examine my attitude to the matter in general. This is the problem I posed myself: We know, and it has been adequately demonstrated by the now notorious Vermeer forgeries case, that it is possible for a talented artist to reproduce the style of the old masters in a

manner so accurate as to defy detection by the foremost authorities.

Now, instead of branding such an artist "forger," and throwing him into gaol, should we not commission him to take a painting such as Da Vinci's "Last Supper," when it is in the stage of disappearing, and to repaint (not, please note, touch up, but repaint) it, so reproducing that which was lost for the benefit of future generations.

It is not easy to answer this: but after some thought I decided, that the value of the Last Supper lies, not only in the picture itself, but in its associations, in that it was painted by a certain artist at a certain time in history under certain social conditions, and so on; that it is part of a pattern of life, and is valuable as such. To reproduce it under artificial circumstances would be to divorce it from, abstract it from, life.

Now, however, justified these arguments are when applied to a work of art, how much greater is their potency when applied to a city, an organism designed as an environment for life! No pains have been spared in the attempt to resuscitate dead Williamsburg, buried this three hundred years: and in the process the danger is that live Williamsburg will be killed stone dead. For the one thing that has been forgotten by Rockefeller's team of architects and archaeologists and historians is that the people of the town are not 18th century Virginians, but 20th century Americans.

A charming set piece has been created, with costumed puppets on the stage: but life cannot be lived in the theatre. A full-sized museum model has been created, but museums deal with the past, and life is concerned with the present. The present contains all there is," says Whitehead. "It is holy ground, for it is the past, and it is the future." In the conflict between Whitehead's "holy ground," and Paul Green's "sacred soil," I must range myself at Whitehead's side.

On the bus going to Williamsburg, I spoke to someone who had spent a great part of her life there. She talked at length of its charm, its interest. "How is it," I asked her, "that you no longer live there?" "That is impossible," she replied, "one cannot live in history."

One cannot live in history when history is dead. History has meaning when it demonstrates a process of growth, of sequence and consequence. Past associations have value when they add up to form a cumulative picture of development, when they are absorbed into a larger picture of a city's present totality. In Europe, where the past has successfully been integrated into the present, history is regarded, certainly not with unconcern, but with a lack of self-consciousness. I would say that Americans, on the other hand, have almost an inferiority complex over the newness of their culture, their civilization, and have developed an interesting dual attitude. On the one hand, history and tradition is debunked: but on the other, a deep, almost pathetic, desire exists to create in America just that depth and background, the lack of which is so keenly felt. It is from

this second attitude that such actions as the rebuilding of Williamsburg arise.

If I were to give to America a piece of gratuitous and entirely unasked for piece of advice, I would say: "Stop fretting about the past: your contribution to world civilization lies in the present."

PRESENT INDICATIVE

My travels took me from Williamsburg, Virginia, to Knoxville, Tennessee. Examining the massive works of T.V.A., I re-

captured the exhilaration that even second-hand contact had always given me. With the concept, and with the achievement, of T.V.A., a gust of fresh air has blown across America. Here are none of the vague feelings of spuriousness, of insincerity, of futility, that one felt in Williamsburg. Here there are no 5 and 10 cent stores masquerading as colonial shops, no cinemas hiding behind ancient facades. Here is the integrity and honesty of true achievement. Here is the present that shall be carried on into the future, and shall become the past.

BOOK REVIEWS

PLAYING FIELDS

The Planning, Construction and Maintenance of Playing Fields, by Percy White Smith, Technical Adviser to the National Playing Fields Association, published by Geoffrey Cumberlege, Oxford University Press, 1950

Only recently it was stated in the Press that there is a danger of the people becoming Spectators and no longer Players. The National Playing Fields Association in England and its counterparts in the various parts of the Union are endeavouring not only to obtain the necessary sites, but at the same time advising upon the best use and development. To those who are concerned with layouts of playing fields, whether for schools or other public bodies this subject has consisted usually of a few odd diagrams thrown in at odd points in various publications.

It is therefore all the more pleasing that at last one has a book completely devoted to this particular part of planning and written by such an eminent authority. The book is fully illustrated throughout with excellent photographs and extremely clear line drawings, there being no less than 42 plates and 61 diagrams. The chapters themselves deal with the choosing of the site, space requirements for games and athletics, and the planning of the playing field, all of which are absolutely essential to the architect and the actual planner, and which for the first time gives one definite details and plans for fields anything from three acres up to eighteen acres, and also various types of children's playgrounds. The latter chapters deal with the management and maintenance of playing fields, floodlighting for playing facilities and specification for playing facilities. These are of interest naturally to those who have to maintain the playing field, but it is difficult to plan if one does not know the operations and the difficulties of maintenance. There is a fine bibliography included at the end of the book.

This volume (which is not actually a landscape design book but essentially one dealing with the main principles in connection with playing fields) is one which should be included in every architect's, planner's or public official office, not only just as a reference book but for study. The text itself is couched in simple and clearly understandable

English and contains little of the padding, verbosity and ambiguity which are only too often prevalent these days in books written on architectural or planning subjects. It is naturally written for English conditions but it would not be difficult to convert the orientation charts for use in the Union of South Africa. A very wide subject has been covered in the 220 well printed pages, and it therefore must stand to reason that certain details such as actual construction of open-air swimming baths cannot be fully dealt with. It, however, forms an excellent guide and should be come, when once known, a standard book of reference. M.F.S.

STANDARD SPECIFICATION FOR WATER TAPS

Purchasers of screw-down water taps made to the Standard Specification for Water Taps (S.A.B.S. 226-1950) just published by the Standards Council on behalf of the South African Standards Institution will be assured of obtaining quality water taps thoroughly suitable for use in South Africa and that correctly fitting renewable parts will be obtainable.

Drawn up by a South African Standards Institution committee representative of manufacturers and users of screw-down water taps, the specification is based largely on the latest British specification for water taps with minor modifications to suit conditions in this country, and also includes quality requirements that will ensure that the taps will give satisfactory service. The number of tabulated sizes and dimensions has been kept to a minimum and these prescribed only to ensure maximum uniformity and interchangeability of renewal parts, a factor of great importance to both producers and users.

The specification covers non-ferrous screw-down water taps of sizes 3/8in. to 2in. and includes sections dealing with definitions, chemical composition, physical properties of the material to be used and such aspects of manufacturing as processing, dimensions and tolerances, assembly of components and finish. Other important sections of the specification cover marking, sampling and rejection and test for pressure, thickness and adhesions of chromium coating where this property is applicable. The twelve figures and fourteen tables provide detailed information and it should be particularly noted that the illustrations are fully proportioned to facilitate full reproduction if so desired and that the waterway of the body shows a recommended design to give efficient flow.

Manufacturers producing water taps to standard specification

S.A.B.S. 226-1950 may by arrangement with the Standards Council apply the Council's standardisation mark for standard commodities to their product, as evidence to the purchaser that the product is made in accordance with the standard specification and that compliance therewith is ensured by

frequent tests and inspections carried out by the South African Bureau of Standards.

Copies of the specification priced at 5/- per copy post free are obtainable from the South African Bureau of Standards, Private Bag 191, Pretoria

NOTES AND NEWS

THE BUILDING EXHIBITION, OLYMPIA, 1951

The Building Exhibition will be held again at Olympia, London, from November 14th to 28th, 1951. Any members who will be in London at that time should contact the Organisers, 4 Vernon Place, London, W.C.1, who will be pleased to forward any further information and offer assistance.

IMPORT CONTROL—LIFT ADVISORY PANEL

The following letter together with a specimen of the type of information required by the Lift Advisory Panel of the Directorate is published for the information and guidance of members:

Department of Commerce and Industries,
Directorate of Imports and Exports,
Empire Building, Johannesburg.

5th August, 1950.

The Registrar,
The Institute of South African Architects,
84, Walter Wise Building, Johannesburg.

IMPORT CONTROL—LIFT ADVISORY PANEL.

Dear Sir,

In enclose a specimen copy of the type of information required by the Lift Advisory Panel of this Directorate when considering applications for lift installations and suggest that it would be of interest and assistance to circulate this information to your members.

- (a) Lifts are not normally granted for a building of four floors or less, except where an installation is vital. In the case of hospitals and in some special types of industrial usages, however, such applications will receive special consideration.
- (b) Locally manufactured components such as lift cars, doors and mechanisms, steel wire ropes, counter balance weights, etc. should be used and foreign currency conserved thereby.
- (c) Applications for lift installations should be made as early as possible. It is not necessary that the initial application be made by the Lift Contractor. The owner, architect, his electrical or mechanical consultant, or quantity surveyor, or any person authorised by the building owner may make such application. These preliminary applications will be considered by the Advisory Panel and the applicant will be advised whether or not the

final application which is to be submitted by the successful tenderer, is likely to be approved. At the same time an indication may be given of the amount of the permit and/or the extent of the permit (i.e. number of lifts, etc.). "Question 5 in such cases need not be answered and questions (12), (21), (22) should be qualified as estimates only." Permits are normally valid for periods January to June and July to December. The appropriate period and year should be stated in answer to question (24).

- (d) Where any major change in the building project is envisaged or takes place after an application has been submitted this Directorate should be notified immediately and a new application submitted. Components or lifts may not be used for any other purpose than that specifically referred to when the permit is issued and may not be used for other lift installations.

AIR CONDITIONING AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT IN BUILDINGS:

In cases of very large buildings and where such installations require imported components on such a large scale, that these materials cannot be drawn from stocks in South Africa or ordered against permits already granted to existing importers, it is advisable to make application in the early stages of design, particularly if any of these components are from "hard currency" areas.

Permits for imported materials and/or components will not be granted where, in the opinion of this Directorate, such materials and components can be imported by merchants and other importers who have been given currency allocations specifically for such types of materials and components, or where such materials and components are available in South Africa.

In most installations it is possible to use mainly South African components and materials and the balance of the components which are not able to be manufactured in South Africa are obtainable from "soft currency" areas. Specifications should, therefore, exclude foreign proprietary components, especially from "hard currency" sources, as no guarantee can be given by this Directorate that permits will be issued for any imported components or raw materials.

It should be noted that permits will be granted to recognised importers and not to individuals or firms who do not normally import.

Yours faithfully,

F. D. B. WILSON,

For: Director of Imports and Exports.
(Building and Allied Industries).

SPECIMEN FORM

APPLICATION FOR LIFT INSTALLATION (In Duplicate)

Name and Address of Applicant..... Escan No.....

Name and Address of Bankers.....

(1) Name and Address of owner of building.....

(2) Stand No. and Address of building.....

(3) Name and Address of Architect.....

(4) Name and Address of Quantity Surveyor.....

(5) Name and Address of Main Contractor.....

(6) Whether building is new or existing.....

(7) Give full description of present lift installation.....

(8) Type of building, i.e. Flats, Offices, Warehouse, etc.....

(9) Have building plans been submitted to the local Authority?

(10) Description of occupancy of each floor.....

(11) Total area in sq. ft. of all floors, including walls.....

(12) Total contract price of building and date of contract.....

(13) Cost per sq. ft. of all floors, including walls.....

(14) Estimated date of commencement of building.....

(15) Estimated date of completion of building.....

(16) Approximate total number of occupants of upper floors.....

(17) Number of floors in building served by lift.....

(18) Number of lifts applied for.....

(19) Type and speed of each.....

(20) Total height of travel of each lift.....

(21) Contract or price of complete lift installation £.....

(22) F.O.B. cost of all components to be imported from hard currency countries £..... from soft currency countries £.....

(23) Reason for essentiality of the installation.....

(24) Period for which permit is required.....

I hereby solemnly declare that I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the applicant firm mentioned herein and that the information given in this declaration is to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and correct.

Date.....

SWORN TO BEFORE ME AT..... ON.....
 Stamp of Office or address
 of attesting officer

COMMISSIONER OF OATHS.

NATIVE BUILDING WORKERS BILL

Following an interview which a deputation from Central Council had with the Under-secretary for Labour on the 1st March last in connection with the Native Building Workers Bill, the Institute has been informed that the Honourable Minister does not intend to specify thatching as a class of skilled work in terms of Clause 15 of the Bill. With the exception of garden walling in undressed stone which is not normally regarded as falling within the Building Industry, undressed stonework on buildings will, however, be regarded as skilled work for the purposes of Clause 15.

SITUATION VACANT

Experienced Architectural assistant, capable of preparing Working Drawings and Details, required for a Port Elizabeth Office. Replies stating age, experience and salary required, to be sent to P.O. Box 107, Port Elizabeth.

TRANSVAAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE

REGISTRATIONS

Messrs. G. H. Andrews, H. S. Hartwell and W. P. J. Maartens have registered as Salaried members

TRANSFERS

Messrs. G. F. de Gucky and E. I. Zikman have transferred from the Salaried to Practising class

PARTNERSHIPS

The partnership existing between Messrs. Gibbs and Dixon of Windhoek has been dissolved

Mr. Dixon and Mr. Twemlow have entered into partnership and are practising under the style of Dixon and Twemlow, P.O. Box 980, Windhoek, S.W.A., and Twemlow and Dixon at 407, Trevor Buildings, Vereeniging.

The partnership known as Hanson, Tomkin, Finkelstein was dissolved on 30th June. Messrs. Hanson and Tomkin are continuing their practice at 20th Century Buildings, President St., Johannesburg, and Mr. N. I. Finkelstein continued to practise on his own account at the same address.

On 1st October Mr. N. I. Finkelstein, now N. I. Fink entered into partnership with H. Morass, practising under the style Fink and Morass at 20th Century Buildings and at 206, Manlin House, cr. Marshall and Harrison Sts., Johannesburg

Mr. J. Wepener has entered into partnership with H. W. E. Stauch, practising under the style H. W. E. Stauch and Partners at 39, Hochstetter House, Andries St., Pretoria.

The partnership between Hillebrands and van Dreven has been dissolved. Mr. Hillebrands is practising on his own account at 2-3, Astoria Buildings, Ockerse St., Krugersdorp.

The partnership existing between Messrs. Gordon Leith & Partner and D. S. Haddon has been dissolved. Messrs. Gordon Leith and Partners continue to practise at Barclay's Bank Buildings, Commissioner St., Johannesburg. Mr. D. S. Haddon is practising on his own account at 49, Central House, Simmonds St., Johannesburg

VAN RIEBEECK CELEBRATION (1952)

The Central Committee for the Van Riebeeck Celebration in 1952, offers a prize of £100 for an appropriate design symbolic of the Van Riebeeck Celebration in 1952. Designs must reach the Hon. Secretary, Van Riebeeck Celebration (1952), P.O. Box 8711, Johannesburg, not later than 5 p.m. on 31st December, 1950. Conditions attaching to the submission of designs, and further information, may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

BRONZE WORK



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for Rand Provident Building Society,
Johannesburg.

Fabricated and installed by the
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JOHANNESBURG

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