YOU CAN CONSTRUCT JUST ANOTHER BLOCK. OR YOU CAN BUILD A REPUTATION.

The choice is yours.

As an architect you have the opportunity, and challenge, to improve and beautify our environment; or leave it cold, impersonal and dreary. It largely depends upon you: your design, and the building materials you use. Consider the building materials available to you. And the people for whom you are designing buildings: such as office blocks, factories, civic centres, hospitals and schools. The places we live and work in from birth onwards.

Then consider the unrivalled qualities of genuine clay face bricks from Corobrik: proven internal strength, timelessness and tremendous cost saving maintenance-free aspects.

And of course, natural beauty. The quality people most appreciate. People respond to the little things in life, and clay face bricks with their appealing warmth and their fascinating nuances of colour and texture, will bring more comfort and pleasure to their lives and so lead to greater happiness – and productivity.

As an architect, this will build you a reputation.

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SOME PROJECTS OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SECTION OF THE NATAL REGION OF THE URBAN FOUNDATION

NPIA

JOURNAL OF THE NATAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

TYDSKRIF VAN DIE NATALSE PROVINSIALE INSTITUUT VAN ARGITEKTE

2-1984

2-1984 NPIA

COMPILED AND EDITED BY DR WALTER PETERS FOR THE NATAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS P O BOX 777 DURBAN 4000 TELEPHONE 67345 SAAMGESTEL DEUR EN ONDER REDAKSIE VAN DR WALTER PETERS VIR DIE NATALSE PROVINSIALE INSTITUUT VAN ARGITEKTE POSBUS 777 DURBAN 4000 TELEFOON 67345
DESIGN AND PRODUCTION: MONICA GÖBEL

COVER: *DEREK VAN HEERDEN, PETER WILKINSON*

Introduction

The Architectural Section of the Urban Foundation, Natal Region, has made marked inroads into the provision of architecture for the low - income groups of Natal. Detailed working drawings often to be executed by unskilled labour are necessary and yet there is little compromise in the bold approach of the designs. ***NPIA Journal*** is therefore pleased to present some of the work of the Section as the theme of this issue in the hope that greater recognition be accorded the efforts of the small but dedicted team.

Special thanks go to Christina Giampetri who helped in the preparation of this issue. ***WP***

Background to the Urban Foundation and its involvement in Project activity.

by Peter Wilkinson and Derek van Heerden

Since the Urban Foundation's inception in 1976 its role has expanded from one of random aid in urban community development to that of more active promotion of change and reform. As a result of this initial responsive project activity it became apparent that the Urban Foundation's aim of improving the quality of life in urban communities could not be realised without fundamental structural change and reform in our society – social, economic and political.

Structural reform has therefore become the primary goal of Urban Foundation activity, and embraces – through a participatory process involving the community and the private sector, with co-operation from the public sector – activity in the fields of housing, education and economic development; this reform being broadly based on the values of a just society, a free economic system, freedom of choice and respect for the individual. Recent developments in the field of housing for Blacks provide an example of such structural reform where, over a five year period, the state housing policy and structures through which housing is provided have been changed in order to introduce security of tenure, participation by the individual, the community, and private enterprise, and self-help concepts with access to both public and private sector financing.

Whilst the reform process will largely have to be led or directed by the State, the private sector also has an integral role to play. Urban Foundation goals and values are formulated independently of the public sector, drawing very specifically on the input of communities and the private business sector. Conversely the implementation of projects and programmes requires (and generally receives) the co-operation and support of the public sector at both central, regional and local levels.

It is against this background that the Urban Foundation – as a development agency representing the often diverging interests, beliefs and cultures of the private sector from which it derives its financial support – plays its role in attempting to foster and direct co-operation for positive change and development.

Nothwithstanding the complexities of varying ideologies, representative feelings and individual opinion, community involvement continues to enjoy the highest priority in Urban Foundation activity. In this regard the Foundation actively pursues both a negotiating and a project role: the negotiating role involving the Urban Foundation in research, advocacy and communication between various parties in the pursuit of structural reform; and the project role referring to community-based development projects and programmes.

Significantly, emphasis is placed on the demonstration of "innovative" approaches which could be repeated by the private or public sectors. Demonstration and subsequent ongoing motivation of alternative approaches to planning, design criteria, standards and procedures have been undertaken in a number of fields. Housing and pre-school education facilities are recent examples.

The Urban Foundation Development Office which includes the Architectural Section has been – now and then (1978 – 1984):

Paul Mikula, Peter Wilkinson, James Rivett-Carnac, Derek van Heerden, Al Stratford, Mario Rodrigues, Colin Campbell, Leonard Rosenberg, Hamish MacLennan, Mark Povall, Wilson Mdletshe, Mark Loudon, Peter Malefane, Lawrence Moodley, Conrad Shires, Simon Vines, John van den Heuvel, Agrippa Nyembe, Pradeep Boodoo, Nobleman, Mothi Balmakan, Moffat Dlamini, Priscilla Dindar, Huey Apollous, Keith Samuels, Siza Mthembu, Stanley Mngadi, Gerry Baker, Karuni Naidoo, Christina Giampetri, Ewald Plekker.

Being : architects, planners, quantity surveyors, engineers, architectural assistants, building managers and supervisors, clerks, liaison officers, project co-ordinators and draftspersons.

The material documented in this journal represents a cross section of development activity which has resulted in physical proposals and buildings. The project activity referred to has generally occurred as a response to expressed community needs. Recent projects tend to be more representative of the demonstration and negotiating role pursued by the Urban Foundation. The resultant provision of technical expertise, financial assistance and guidance in basic management skills might be undertaken entirely by the Urban Foundation or wholly or in part by professionals and organisations outside the Urban Foundation.

The activities of the Urban Foundation development staff are directed at the broadest range of issues within the major areas of housing, education and business development. These range from basic research, investigation and dissemination of information, to the development of appropriate design models or standards; with subsequent demonstration through project activity and ongoing motivation for their acceptance by the relevant authorities (both the public and private sectors).

An individual responsive project such a a community school would generally involve the following action – active community participation; project and background investigation; development of a design brief; defining implications of expressed needs (in cost and physical terms); site survey; design work; planning; feasibility studies; cost estimates; contract documentation; project management and implementation; community liaison; upgrading of localised ongoing management skills; and the ongoing monitoring performance of building and usage.

The majority of projects of this nature are contracted through local builders (identified by the community) with either direct supervision on a lump sum contract basis, or alternatively co-ordinating less formal labour-only builders and subcontractors, with in-house ordering of materials, supervising building work, and so on.

Through the on-site management, supervision and guidance of local builders, some success has been achieved in developing the skills and credibility of local builders both within their community and elsewhere.

The constraints on designing and implementing community-based projects of this nature are, firstly, the limited expertise of local contractors to interpret drawings and to provide and manage the necessary skills to complete the work and, secondly, the financial constraints in a situation where funds are partly provided by direct community contribution and by repayable soft loans from the Urban Foundation. However, such constraints are considered intrinsic to third world development processes, where community assisted "service buildings" are being seen in the first instance as a means to an end, and with priority being given to quantity (provision of space) over quality.

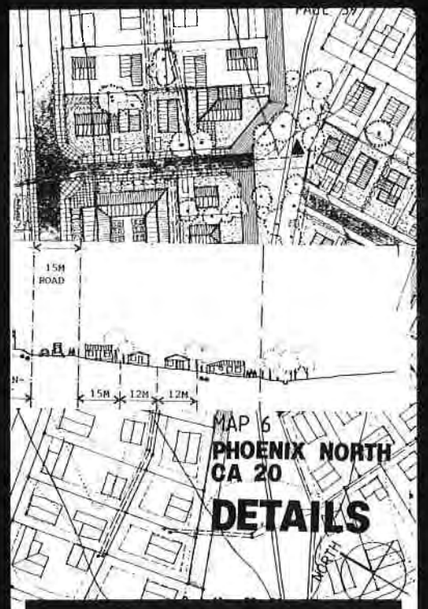
In terms of these constraints, buildings have by and large tended to be de-skilled in terms of their construction and fairly simplified and functional in layout and design with preference being given to the demonstration of the alternative use of stock materials where possible.

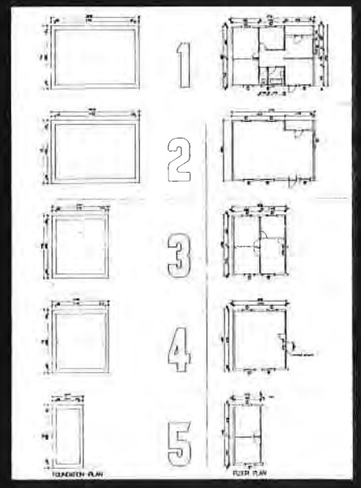
Similarly, involvement in housing projects has concentrated on the implications of alternative design standards and criteria for planning, road layout and specifications, general building restrictions, community facility provision, etc, – and considerable changes have been effected in recent projects in these terms.

However the Urban Foundation does not envisage itself solving the large and intractable problems of housing, education and economic development in this country. But it is placed in a unique position to develop models that may be appropriate options for certain communities in certain areas. The ultimate success of these options will be dependent on their acceptance by the communities concerned and the enthusiasm and sensitivity of the authorities in developing similar concepts on a wider scale.

Peter Wilkinson is the Development Manager of the Urban Foundation, Natal Region; Derek van Heerden heads the Architectural Section.

Site and Service Scheme – KwaMashu 1980
Provision of infrastructural services to undeveloped infill areas in KwaMashu – providing the opportunity for middle income families to owner-build within free enterprise system. ∧

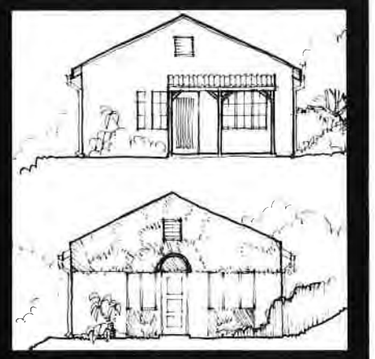


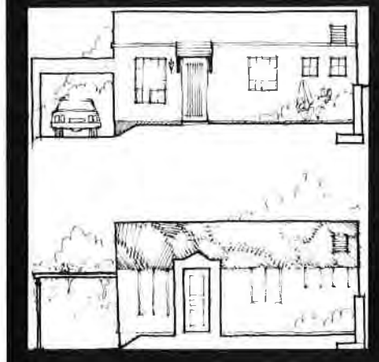


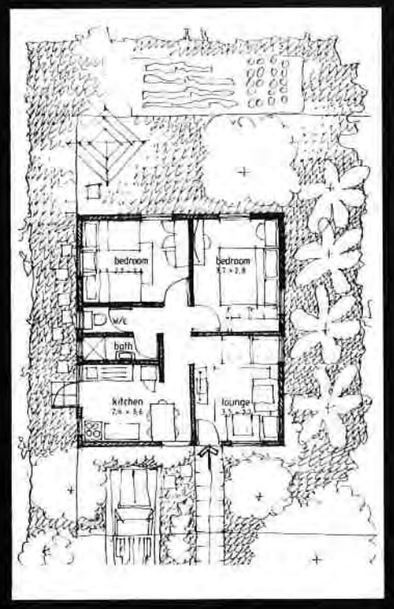
HOUSING

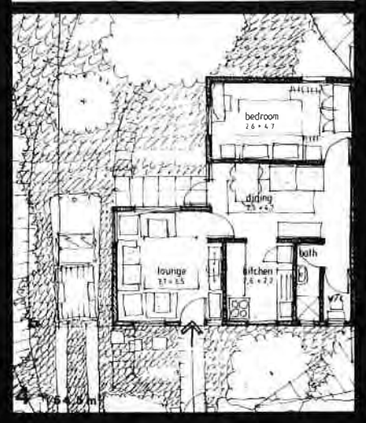
Inanda Newtown 1981
Site and service housing scheme. 3800 sites, minimum infrastructure – pit latrines and stand pipes. Govt. loans available for house building. UF assistance in applying for loans, building advice, technical guidance, environmental upgrading, etc. – for low income group. (UF)

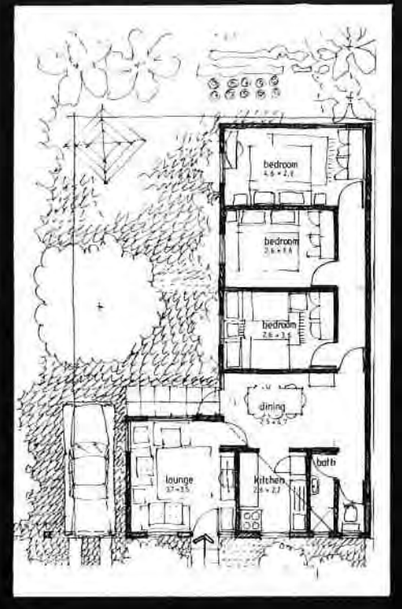
Self – Help Housing, Phoenix
1400 site pilot project for Indian self-help housing development. UF established utility company to implement the project. Modifications to infrastructural and town-planning criteria contributed towards substantial savings in serviced site costs. (UF) V

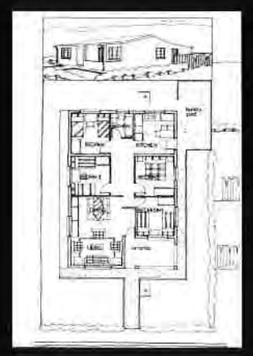


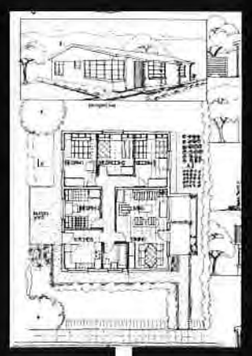


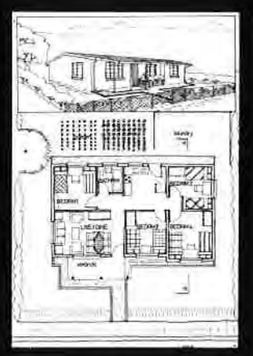








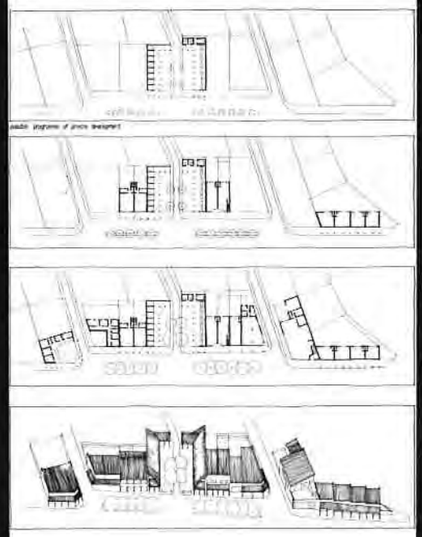




Briardale – Newlands West 1981
120 site Indian Housing development – including townhouses, detached houses, lower shop, nursery school and public park. Represents first housing scheme for Indian community (middle income group) obtaining building society loans. (UF, BDG) V

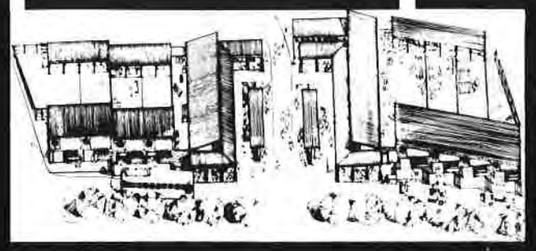
HOUSING

COMMERCIAL



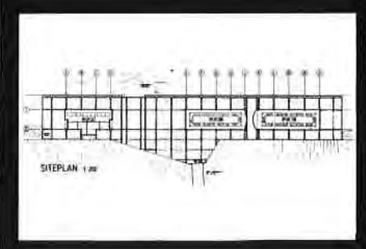
∧ >

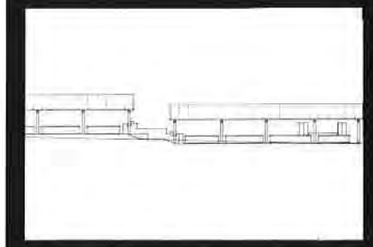
Inanda Newtown Traders Market and Industrial Units (still to be built)
Proposals for 18 covered stalls around a central market square with adjacent industrial units for local manufacturing and marketing of goods such as weaving, burglar guards, joinery, etc.

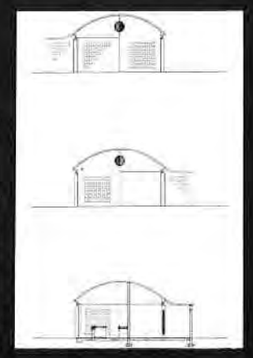


<
Home Improvement
Umlazi 1980
Project provided technical advice and expertise to township residents wishing to expand and upgrade existing houses. (substantial impetus provided as a result of national architectural competition). V

Kwa Mashu Traders Market
Located adjacent to main shopping centre and station – project developed together with KwaMashu Council to provide 50 covered stalls and service facilities for produce and offal traders. Project under construction. 1984 (UF)

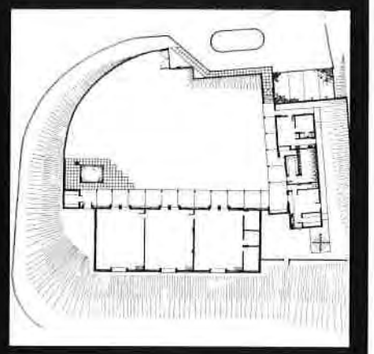




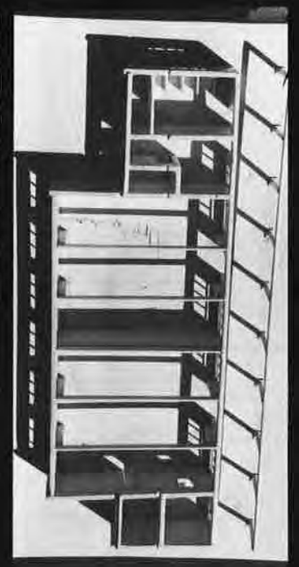


EDUCATION
Pre-schools

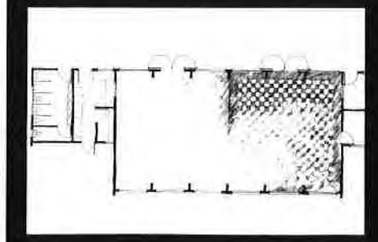
Newlands East Crèche
1984
3 playrooms, offices, kitchen, ablutions, stores, caretaker's flat, verandahs, equipment, fencing & siteworks. Total area 530 m^2; cost o/a R290/m^2. Negotiated lump sum contract. Building funded from Mayor's Fund. Small and steep hilltop site, playrooms orientated north. Buildings protect playing area from wind. (UF) **V**



Umlazi Resources Centre
September 1980
Resources room, stores, playrooms, kitchens, ablutions, caretaker. Lump sum contract. Total area 490 m^2; cost o/a R182/m^2. Small sloping site, facility to be utilised by community after hours with nursery school component visible from the street (through the building). (UF) **V**

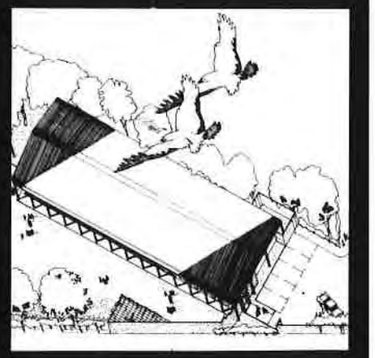


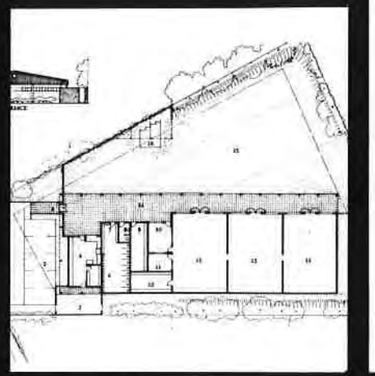
Magabheni Crèche,
Umkomaas – July 1983 ∧
Playrooms, office, kitchen, storerooms, ablutions (water borne), verandah. Labour only contract. Area 193 m^2; cost o/a R106/m^2. One of 3 prototype nursery schools accommodating ± 70–80 children with o/a budget of R20 000. Others built in Fredville and Limehill. The facilities are also used by the community after hours. (UF) **V**

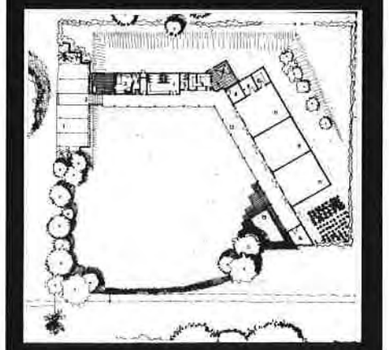


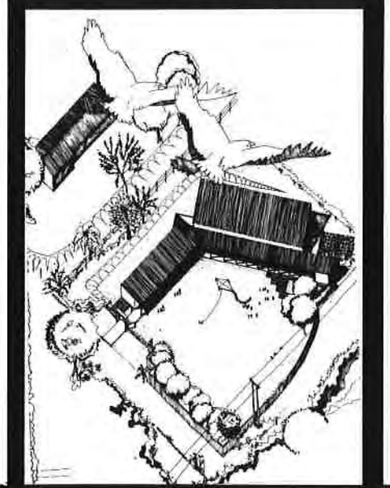
Groutville Nursery School
August 1982
3 playrooms, offices, store rooms, kitchen, ablutions, caretaker's flat, verandahs. Formal lump sum contract. Total area 420 m^2; cost o/a R235/m^2. Funded by Stanger Rotary and others. Developed to maximise orientation and enclose external play space. (UF) **V**

Havenside Crèche,
Chatsworth - 1983
Proposals for fundraising purposes. Panhandle site. 3 playroom school for 90 children – based on National Housing Commission Standards. Building treated as a large shed with full length covered verandah. (UF) **V**

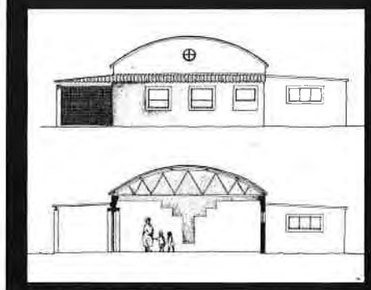








Milkafrika Crèche
Inanda Newtown – April 1982
2 playrooms, kitchen, store rooms, offices, ablutions, verandah. Total area 250 m^2; cost o/a R140/m^2. Local contractor, labour only. Funds from Milk Afrika Music Festival (UF). **V**

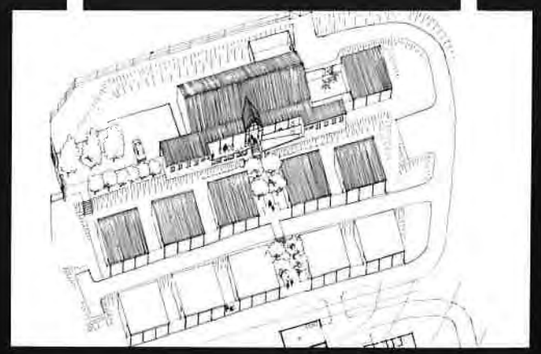


Abadingayo Childrens Home
Edendale, Pietermaritzburg
1981
Home for young orphaned children: dormitory blocks, diningroom, kitchen, matron's flat, ablutions. Area 740 m^2; cost o/a R183/m^2. Negotiated contract.
(M. Dyer) V

Λ

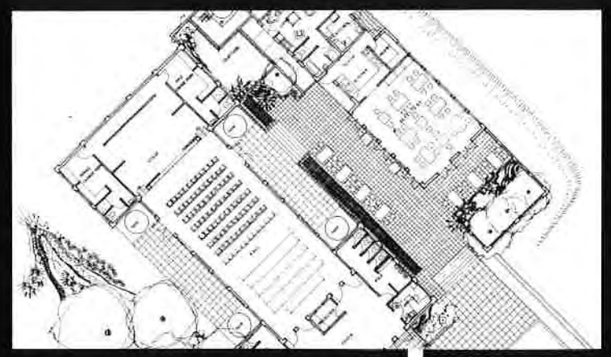
YMCA – KwaMashu
January 1979
24 bedrooms, matron's flat, dining room, lounge, utility rooms, kitchen, foyer. Contract – negotiated lump sum. Area 760 m^2; cost R150/m^2. Has operated at almost full occupancy rate since opening.
(Buiding Design Group)

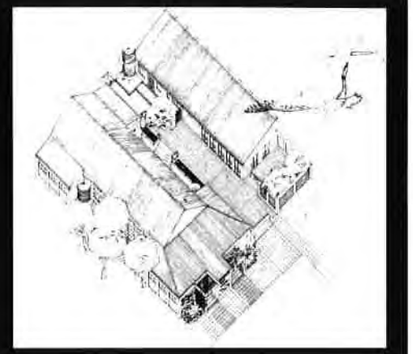
Umlazi Old Age Home
Sketch proposals for old age facility to be built in stages. Central lounge/dining/ kitchen/reception facility with separate cottages. Site slopes moderately to NW. (UF) V



YWCA KwaMashu 1978
24 bedrooms, dining room, lounge, kitchen foyer and ablutions. 760 m^2; cost o/a R189/m^2. Bedrooms open to centralised courtyard over two floors. New management structure, occupancy to full capacity.
(Franklin, Garland & Gibson) V

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

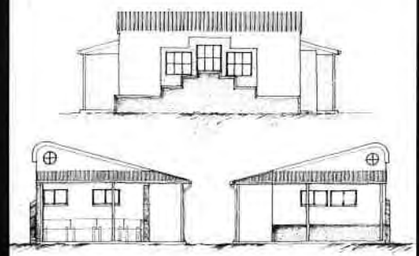




Mqhawe School Hall
Inanda Mission Reserve
July 1980
Open sided hall, stage. 2 change rooms. Portal frame structure – lump sum contract . Infill blockwork by local labour only contract. Total area 350 m^2; cost o/a R70/m^2. Provision of shelter for centenary celebrations – completed in 6 weeks.
(UF)

Adams Hosken Hall
Adams Mission, April 1983
Hall, change rooms, storage/ projection room, foyer, offices, and ablutions. Negotiated labour only contract (local). Total area 300 m^2; cost o/a R250/m^2. Existing structure stripped and renovated for inclusion in final building.
(UF and K MacGarry)

Bantuvukani School Kitchen
Lamontville, May 1982
Kitchen, pantry, scullery, serving hatch, verandah, water and electricity supply and equipment. Area 56 m^2; cost o/a R140/m^2. School population in excess of 1000 with daily feeding scheme.
(UF) V



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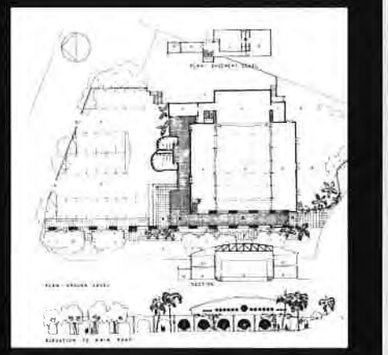
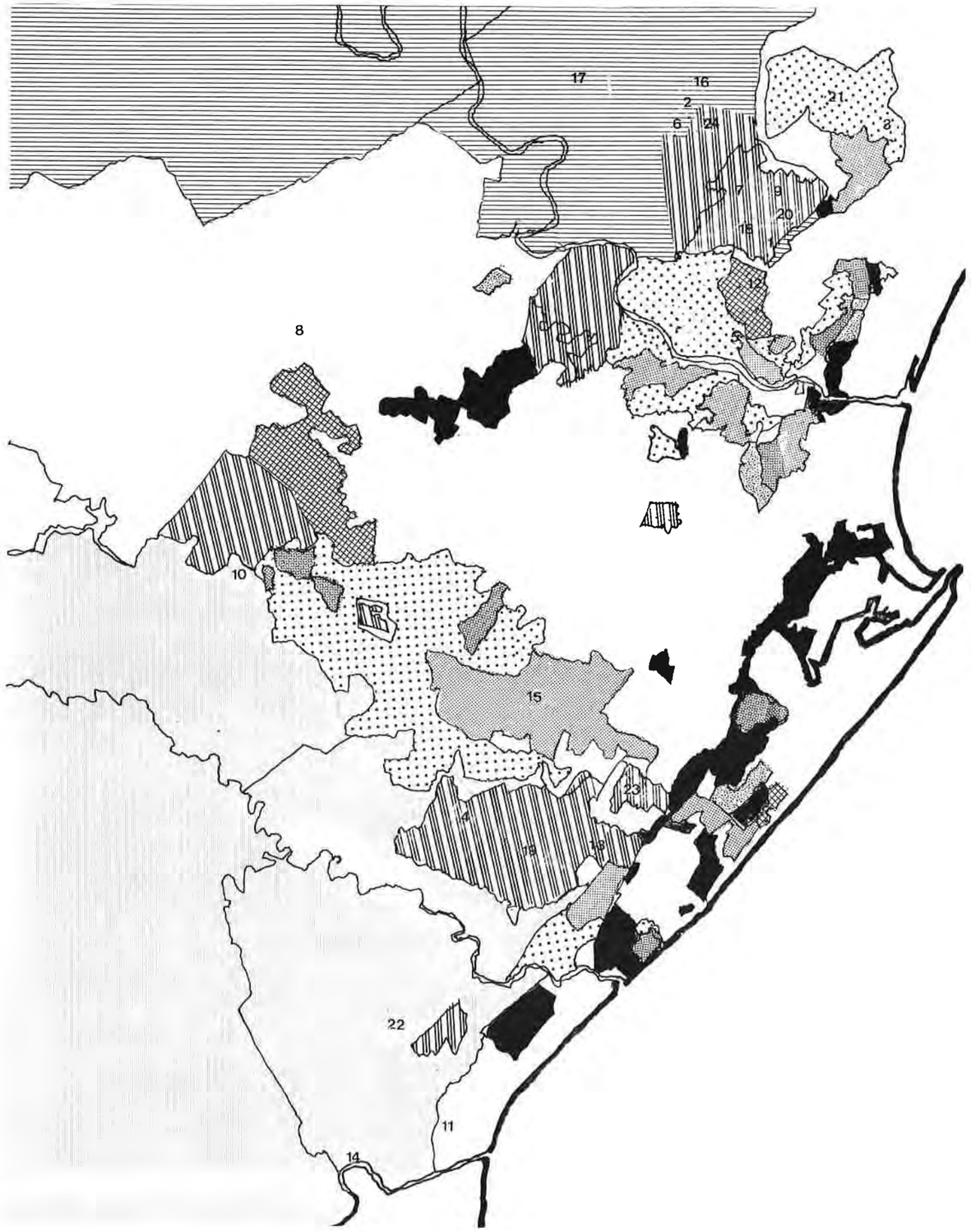
Inanda Newtown Community Hall, 1983
Main hall, stage, caretaker's flat, ablutions, service rooms and offices (occupied by local clinic). Portal frame structure. Total area: 845 m^2; cost o/a R170/m^2. Labour only contracts – local builders.
(Mikula and Johnson)



Λ

Community Hall
Woodview, Phoenix C.A. 22
Sketch proposals for community hall. On same site as pilot Indian Self-Help project. LA requirements include indoor sports activities – high ceiling heights. Function spaces allow various activities to continue at the same time.
(UF)

LOCALITY MAP



COMMENT

Architecture and the Challenge of Development

Development should focus attention on the promotion of the well-being of individuals or communities with the improvement of the quality of life being of paramount interest. The problem of development in the Third World is the disparity which exists between the have's and the have-nots – the challenge of development strategies is the reduction or removal of this inequity.

An important focus in development is the provision of 'basic needs' – those things which are the foundation on which material improvement can be built and promoted. Among the many needs, adequate shelter, residential environments, schools and other social institutions are important elements. The problem of need in this area is not only underscored by the fact that there is a great shortage at present, but also by the fact that rapid city growth through to the year 2000 will generate even greater demand for investment in such things, if present levels of inequality are not to become greater.

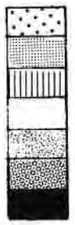
In Durban, for example, there are an estimated 400 000 people living in so-called 'squatter' housing without access to adequate shelter, water and other material facilities that constitute items of 'basic' need. Further, the present metropolitan population of 1,8 million (of whom 1 million are African) will swell to around 4,8 million by the year 2000. By the turn of the century, Africans alone will account for over 70 percent of the population.

Such is the challenge of development in this country, and it is into this arena that non-government development agencies like the Urban Foundation have moved. The many development projects initiated by this organisation since its inception following the Soweto uprisings in 1976, include housing, schools and community facilities of all kinds. In this issue of the *NPIA Journal,* examples of physical development initiated by the Natal Region of the Foundation are illustrated. From the Profession's point of view, what is significant in this work has been the involvement of architects on the Foundation's staff, and of those who have undertaken commissioned work. Given the extraordinary challenges that development in this Region will present, it is not unreasonable to suggest that the demand for architectural skills must increase. However, it is important to recognise that architectural responses to development must be appropriate and well-informed, especially when consideration is given to levels of poverty and income.

In its own response, the Urban Foundation has demonstrated not only that it has recognised these imperatives, but also ways in which architectural skills can make a contribution towards issues of development. What the Profession needs to do is to take stock of the situation, find out what skills and services it can offer, and the role it can have, or wishes to have, in this process. It is possible that we have not been sufficiently aware of the nature of the problem, nor sufficiently flexible in our responses, to meet this challenge.

Errol Haarhoff is a Senior Lecturer in Architecture, at the University of Natal.

PROJECTS IN DURBAN AREA



Indian group areas
Developed Indian
Black group area
Developed Black
Coloured area
Developed Coloured
Industry

1 Site and Service Scheme, KwaMashu
2 Inanda Newtown
3 Self-help Housing, Phoenix
4 Home Improvement, Umlazi
5 Briardale – Newlands West
6 Inanda Newtown Traders Market
7 KwaMashu Traders Market
8 Sankontshe School, Mpumalanga
9 Dube High School, KwaMashu
10 Nqobane School, KwaMashu
11 Mgane Wakhe School, Umgababa
12 Newlands East Crèche
13 Umlazi Resources Centre
14 Magabheni Crèche, Umkomaas
15 Havenside Crèche, Chatsworth
16 Milkafrika Crèche, Inanda Newtown
17 Mqhawe School Hall, Inanda
18 YMCA, KwaMashu
19 Umlazi Old Age Home
20 YWCA, KwaMashu
21 Community Hall, Phoenix
22 Adams Hosken Hall, Adams Mission
23 Bantuvukani School Kitchen, Lamontville
24 Inanda Newtown Community Hall

CHANGES

Changes in Partnership:

SKM Architects have opened a Durban office at 13th Floor, Albany House West, Victoria Embankment, Durban and the partner in charge is Mr. W.J.E. Malfeyt.

With effect from 1 October 1983 Mr. D.N. Gillies and Mr. B.A. Robb have been admitted as directors of Joubert Owens van Niekerk & Partners Durban Inc/& Vennote Ing.

Messrs P. Buccellato and P. Kerwan will practice under the style of "Associated Architects Kerwan & Buccellato" at 6 Colonial Mutual Building, 330 West Street, Durban.

Mr. G.T. Downes is practising under the style of "Graham Downes, Architect" at 162 Ridge Road, Durban.

With effect from 31 January 1984 Messrs K. Breetzke and D. Thomas are no longer associates of Daniel & Associates.

From 1 February 1984 Mr. K.R. Breetzke commenced practice on his own account under the style of "Keith Breetzke – Architect" at Temple Chambers, 32 Masonic Grove, Durban.

Messrs G. Seitter and D. Boyd have taken over the Durban operations of G.R. Klöhn and Partners and are now practising under the style of "Seitter-Boyd Architects" at 245 North Ridge Road, Durban.

Mr. F. J. Beeslaar has resigned from the firm Boshoff, van den Berg, Beeslaar & Vorster and will be practising under the style of "F.J. Beeslaar – Architect" at Suite 1421, 320 West Stret, Durban, as from 1 March 1984.

Messrs R. Geraghty, I. Little and P. McCaffery are practising under the style of "Geraghty, Little & McCaffery Associated Architects" at 4001 Art Centre, 44 Albany Grove, as from 1 January 1984.

From 1 January 1984 Mr. A.L. Barnard commenced practice on his own account under the style of "Alan Barnard" at 27 Cotswold Drive, Westville.

On 1 September 1983 Messrs W.J. Ellens and A.G. Whitfield entered into a partnership under the style of "Ellens & Whitfield" at Suite 403 Salisbury House, 332 Smith Street, Durban.

Mr. B.H. Clark is no longer in partnership with E. Tollman & Partners and now practises on his own account under the style of "Bernard H. Clark – Chartered Architect" at Level 8 Shepstone Building, University of Natal, King George V Avenue, Durban.

Changes in Addresses:

Mr. P.L. Gordon to 32 Fairfield Avenue, Pietermaritzburg.
Mr. N. du Preez to Box 2024, Pietermaritzburg.
Mr. B.G. Smith to c/o Hughes Todd Inc., Box 650, Pietermaritzburg.
Mr. P.C. v. B. Gertenbach to 302 Fassifern, 35 Ridge Road, Durban.
Mr. G.E.B. Salt to "Elangeni", 2a Ridley Road, Warlingham, Surrey GR3 9LR, England.
Magda Cornford to 74 La Rue Place NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30327, USA.
Mr. John Newton to 11 Bartle Mews, Bartle Road, Gillitts.
Mr. W.K. Steele to 27 St. James Avenue, Westville.
Mr. S.J. Petersen to 12 Kildare Road, Hillside, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.
Mr. K. MacGarry to Box 18188, Dalbridge.
Mr. J.D. Burrows to 4 Eastwood Road, Dunkeld, Johannesburg.
Mr. D.W. van Heerden to c/o Box 1608, Durban.
Mr. R.E. Cooper to c/o Building Services, NPA, P/Bag 9041, Pietermaritzburg.
Mr. P.K. Moxley to 4 Heath Row, Berea, Durban.
Mrs. Lone Buccellato change of name to Lone Poulsen, Box 47066, Greyville, Durban.

Changes in Membership:

J.W. Shaw – from TPI to NPI – 284 South Ridge Road, Durban.
A.J.C. Voorvelt from NPI to TPI.
J.A. Todd – from NPI to CPI.
D.A. Fischer – from TPI to NPI – Box 10270, Merensee 3901.
W.J.E. Malfeyt – from TPI to NPI – SKM Architects, 13th Floor Albany House West, Victoria Embankment, Durban.
A.D. Jackson – from TPI to NPI – c/o SKM Architects, 13th Floor, Albany House West, Victoria Embankment, Durban.
J.D. Burrows – from NPI to TPI.
J.T. Hoal – from TPI to NPI – 15 Montcalm Road, Morningside, Durban.
J.B. Gravell – from TPI to NPI – The Portal-Gravell Partnership, Box 499, St Michaels-on-Sea.
Dr. G.F.W. Ockert – from TPI to NPI – Box 538, Ballito.

NEWS

New Members:

Mr. P.A. Thompson (ordinary), 635 Ridge Road, Durban.
Mr. I. Cassimjee (ordinary), 89 Dartnell Road, Mountain Rise, Pietermaritzburg.
Miss A.F. Coventry (AnT), Box 1474, Port Shepstone.
Mr. D.W. van Heerden (ordinary), 158 Seaview Road, Seaview.
Mr. G.R. King (ordinary), Box 1396, Durban.
Mr. P.L.B. Borthwich (ordinary), Box 192, South Broom.
Mr. J.H.M. Winter, 24 Durham Street, Umtata, Transkei.
Miss J. Whitehead (ordinary), Box 47320, Greyville 4023.
Mr. J.E. Emmet (ordinary) 14 Tyrone Road, Pinetown.

Changes in Class:

E.V. Margetts – from Ordinary to Retired.
Mrs. June Leith – from Ordinary to Retired.
I.B. Bell – from AnT to Ordinary.

Resigned:

Mr. P.J.J. Jones

Submission of Building Plans: City Engineer's Department, Durban

An investigation has been carried out by a firm of management consultants to reduce the time taken to approve building plans. As a result, a number of changes to the organisation and systems are to be introduced on **2 April 1984.** These changes will effect the public in the following ways:

1. Applicants will no longer be interviewed by Plans Examiners. Instead all plans must be handed in over the Counter in G15 with the appropriate fees, between 08h00 and 12h00 and 13h15 to 15h15, on weekdays.
2. Applicants will be required to submit a completed checklist with the plans. Copies of the checklist will be obtainable at the counter. Where plans fail to meet the requirements on the checklist at an initial scrutiny, applicants will be informed to have the plans collected, corrected and re-submitted for further examination.
3. Should an applicant require information on bylaws or other regulations he may consult a Senior Plans Examiner, preferably by appointment, between 08h00 and 12h00 on weekdays.

Extensive alterations are to be carried out to the premises to facilitate the operation of the new systems. These are expected to be completed by 30 June 1984. Any inconvenience which may be caused in the interim is regretted.

Voorlegging van Bouplanne: Stadsingenieurs-departement, Durban

'n Firma bestuurskonsultante het ondersoek ingestel na die moontlike verkorting van die tyd wat dit neem om bouplanne goedgekeur te kry, met die gevolg dat 'n aantal veranderings aan die organisasie en stelsels op **2 April** in werking tree. Hierdie veranderings raak die publiek op die volgende wyse:

1. Aansoekers word nie meer deur die Planinspekteur ondervra nie. In plaas daarvan moet alle planne tesame met die vereiste gelde tussen 08h00 en 12h00, 13h15 en 15h15 op weeksdae oor die toonbank in G15 ingelewer word.
2. Van aansoekers word verwag om 'n ingevulde kontrolelys saam met die planne in te dien. Eksemplare van die lyste is by die toonbank beskikbaar. Indien planne tydens 'n aanvanklike inspeksie nie aan die kontrolelys se vereistes voldoen nie, word aansoekers in kennis gestel dat hulle die planne moet kom afhaal, regstel en vir verdere inspeksie inlewer.
3. Indien 'n aansoeker inligting oor verordeninge of ander regulasies verlang, kan hy die Senior Planinspekteur, verkieslik volgens afspraak, tussen 08h00 en 12h00 op weeksdae raadpleeg.

Grootskaalse verbourings word op die perseel uitgevoer om die toepassing van die nuwe stelsels te vergemaklik. Na verwagting sal dit teen 30 Junie 1984 voltooi wees. Ons vra om verskoning vir enige ongerief in die tussentyd.

NEWS

Provincial Committee

After 2 terms in office, Mr. Malcolm Hamlin has resigned his position as a member of the NPIA Provincial Committee due to pressure of work – a decision deeply regretted by the Committee.

Mr. Bill Vos who served on the Provincial Committee during 1981-83, has been appointed by the Committee in the place of Mr. Hamlin.

Geoffrey Le Sueur Scholarship

The coveted Le Sueur Scholarship for 1984/1985 has been awarded to Johann Slee. Mr Slee intends to sturdy the affinities of Cape Dutch and Palladian Architecture of the Veneto and to investigate contemporary Italian methods of recycling those historic buildings for modern use.

Corobrik's unique "All Products Catalogue" system

The national catalogue system developed by Corobrik is believed to be unique and a world first. The catalogue is the result of a search for a system which could accommodate a product mix of over 2000 items, including walling, roofing, ceramic tile and sanitary-ware products, from some 50 Corobrik Factories.

To complete the catalogue 300 building locations were visited for detailed photography and 4 000 colour transparencies were taken. The result has been the production of a series of "All Products Catalogues', covering each of the country's provinces. It is Corobrik's aim to be able to supply every architect, specifier, quantity surveyor and Public Works Engineer with a catalogue.

As can be seen from the Natal catalogue already distributed to many Natal architects, the system embraces a comprehensive collection of individual pages which can be used as separate product leaflets. This format enables updating to be done by the easy insertion of new pages and the removal of old ones, thus obviating enormous reprinting costs and ensuring that the catalogue does not date.

Special presentation folders for tenders and brick specifications are also used in the new system, and the Natal catalogue covers Corobriks's latest range of products including its 'special bricks'.

With regard to face bricks, one of the unique features is that each brick application has been photographed at various times of the day and night under different lighting conditions. This indicates the full range of the colours and moods of the brickwork and thus provides the architect and prospective client with a far better idea of what a building will really look like. This was previously impossible with just one close-up picture of a section of walling.

All pages also indicate the official grade and classification of the brick and all technical data to ensure accurate product specification.

An "All Products Catalogue" has been produced for each of the four provinces.

LETTERS

UNIVERSITY/INSTITUTE LIAISON COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 15 May, 5.15 p.m. Students Union, University of Natal, King George V Avenue, Durban: ***Volleyball and Basketball,*** Students vs the Profession. Institute members wishing to make the two teams should contact Keith Alcock, Tel. 330023
Tuesday, 5 June, 5.15 p.m. in SH2: Hans Hallen, Duncan Ross-Watt and Andrew Verster on ***The Brenthurst Library – From Conception to Completion.*** An exihibition on the Brenthurst project will be on view in the Crit Room 4– 6 June. Cheese and wine.

Best Brick Prize

9th April 1984

Dear Wally
In your news section of the recent journal ***(NPIA-84)*** in relation to the Best Brick Prize you mention that two Natal Architectural firms received prizes, namely Hallen Theron and Partners Inc. and Marinier, Small and Pettit. To put the record straight there is no such firm as Marinier, Small and Pettit. The appointment for the Supreme Court in Pietermaritzburg was a joint one of the two quite separate firms of H.V. Marinier and Small & Pettit working in association.

Yours truly
Gordon Small
Small, Pettit & Robson

The information was supplied by the publicity agency of the prize sponsors. I trust they got your certificate right! WP.

The Awards System

4th April 1984

Mr. Editor,
I refer to your editorial on the NPIA 1983 Award of Merit for the Mangosuthu Technikon by Hallen Theron and Partners in association with Julian Elliott. As the member of the jury of assessors chiefly responsible for the drafting of the citation perhaps I may take it upon myself to respond to some of your comments.

I am sure that the uninitiated, whom we must nevertheless assume to be literate, would not have the kind of negative response that you appear to imagine, to what you call our "verbiage". Our words may indeed assume a somewhat poetical turn at times, and that, I would think, is appropriate to the admirably poetical qualities of the architecture they describe. Even so, the language is unambiguous, and for anyone to believe that the lay public is not able to understand clear English is to assume a mantle of intellectual superiority to which no-one is entitled.

I nevertheless agree with you that it would be a good thing to consider the jury's brief, which at present is perhaps uncomfortably wide, if it can be said to exist at all. To this remark I would add that although not explicitly so briefed we have acted, I believe, spontaneously within terms of reference very similar to those which you quote of the Awards Group of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

A question you do not raise, but one which may be germane to this discussion, is that of censorious comment by a jury. There are very few buildings indeed which are not subject in some degree to negative criticism, no matter how praiseworthy they may be in general. If the jury vents an unfavourable opinion upon some matter of detail is it then to be pursued in the courts with allegations of slander, or will it be invested with some sort of protection?

As to naming the main contractors, as you suggest, perhaps that would be appropriate, but if so, why not the subcontractors and suppliers as well, and also other professional consultants besides the architects?

These are all quibbles, however. What seems to me of prime importance is to remember that of all the criteria which may be adduced in composing a citation for excellence in architecture, the one which should remain central is a concern for architectural ***form.*** With the ever more rapid proliferation of built environments both handsome and ugly, beautiful and appalling, this country – and indeed the world at large – stands more than ever in need of a heightening of visual awareness, and if any educating of the public is to be done, this is the sphere in which the educators most urgently need to concentrate their efforts.

Don Dyke-Wells
Professor and Head of the Natal School of Architecture

provincial design & print