

# UNISA REGIONAL OFFICE DURBAN

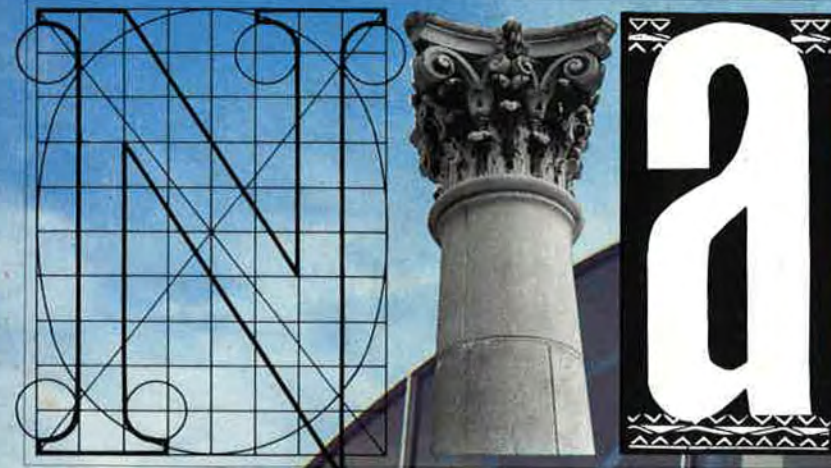
Corobrik Transvaal's Silver Grey Travertine from Driefontein



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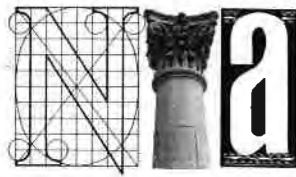
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Industrial Architecture





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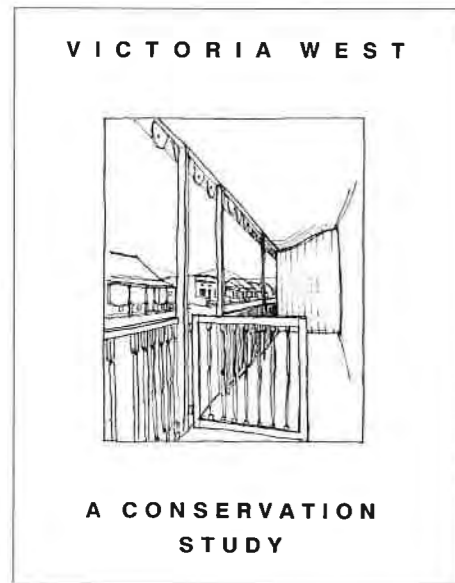
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**Publications by the Natal School of Architecture**

**VICTORIA WEST: A Conservation Study**

**DE BULT: Conserving the Karoo vernacular in Carnarvon**



This publication is the result of a project in architectural and environmental conservation by Fourth Year Students of the School of Architecture at the University of Natal.

The concept of the Afrikaner dorp adjusted to its geography is what sets Victoria West apart from most Karoo towns. Wedged in between two hills and highly legible, this townscape treasure-trove has changed little over its 130 years of existence.

But a slow yet insidious process is at work. Veranda posts are being replaced with brick piers, timber sliding sash windows are being replaced with horizontally proportioned steel casement windows and a facebrick aesthetic is gradually threatening the unity of its plastered and whitewashed walled architecture. Such interventions harm the character, dignity and urban value built up over many decades, and gradually render the townscape anonymous.

The students have proposed that the historic section of town be declared a conservation area, and that a respect for the local architectural idiom be inculcated. Victoria West has an environment to market, environmental conservation needs to be written into law to enhance its attractiveness.

199 pages. Price R45 including VAT and postage.

Alongside the beautiful tree-lined Karoo-houses of Carnarvon's Bo-Dorp lies the settlement of De Bult: rows of humble Karoo-houses on an identifiable knoll devoid of furrows and sparsely treed. Charming yet environmentally disadvantaged, De Bult is no slum. It has an intact if economically deprived community proud of its history and achievements.

The students measured up each house and made proposals for environmental upgrading, new community facilities and building improvements. They grappled with the problems of ownership so that title may be available on a basis conducive to the conservation of the character of De Bult. The problems are put forward primarily as stimulation for the task ahead of improving the environment and with this, the social and economic well-being of De Bult.

143 pages. Price R40 including VAT and postage.

Both projects were funded by the PG Foundation. A limited number of copies is available from the Secretary, School of Architecture, University of Natal, King George V Avenue, 4001 Durban. Telephone 031/8162699.

**Professional News**

**Changes in Addresses**

R Scheepers (Mrs) to P O Box 4003, Durban  
GG Carter-Brown and SDJ Baillon (Carter-Brown and Baillon) to Ebenezer Street, Pietermaritzburg  
Carter-Brown and Baillon have also opened an office at Suite 405, Charter House, Brand Road, Durban (partner in charge: Mr Baillon)  
W Claassen (Wynand Claassen incorporating BAU Architects) to Suite 301, Art Centre, 44 Albany Grove, Durban  
GM Khan to PO Box 19128, Domerton 4015  
DS Hattingh (DHA Architects) to The Stable, 1 Nunhead Road, Manor Gardens, Durban  
JP Castle (Miss) to 44 Somme Road, Durban  
H Fors to P O Box 20770, Durban North  
SR Pratt to 7 Beatrice Lodge, 164 Riley Road, Durban  
RJ Ferguson to School of Architecture, University of Natal, King George V Avenue, Durban  
RS Driman to 125 Rosetta Road, Durban

**Changes in Membership**

K Gavin - NIA to CIA  
CA V Marinier - NIA to TIA  
**Transfers in Class**  
J Weston - Ordinary to Retired  
MA Ramaccio-Calvino - AnT to Ordinary  
RG Stead - Ordinary to Retired  
TJ Raats - AnT to Ordinary  
HD Quelch - Ordinary to Retired  
DB Jay - Retired to Ordinary; Address: 3 Bexmore, 306 Cato Road, Durban  
RE Cooper - Ordinary to Retired  
RAH Gerhardt - Ordinary to Retired  
NR Bennewith - Ordinary to Retired  
**Changes in Partnerships, Practices, etc.**  
PA Custers and JLH Smith are now practising under the style of Hallen Custers Smith  
E Tollman and DG van Zyl have entered into partnership under the style of Ted Tollman & Partners  
B Clark is now practising under the style of Bruce Clark Associate Architects  
MJ Jakobi is now practising under the style of Michael Jakobi Architect

**Change in Name**

TL Cockhead (Miss) to TL Gevers (Mrs)  
SJ Batchelor (Miss) to SJ McDonald (Mrs). Change in address to c/o 165 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg

**New Members**

K Wildner (Ordinary), P O Box 11999, Dorpspruit 3206  
RL Howe (Ordinary), Suite 101, Metropole House, 106 Smith Street, Durban  
KM Houison (AnT), 150 Evans Road, Glenwood, Durban  
ADHume (AnT) 150 Evans Road, Glenwood, Durban  
RV Jhupsee (AnT) P O Box 19383, Domerton 4015

**Resignations**

RR Rutherford Smith  
IJ Walsh  
E du Plessis  
**Deceased**  
WW Scherer  
NR Oldreive  
BC de la Harpe

RR Rutherford Smith  
IJ Walsh  
E du Plessis  
WW Scherer  
NR Oldreive  
BC de la Harpe

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**editorial Industrial Architecture**



The Lion Match Company Ltd, Durban, 1926/7, by Ing & Jackson.



Below: Additional office floor by Chick, Bartholemew & Poole, 1956/57.



Top left and Below: Factory for Commercial Chemicals (Pty) Ltd, Durban, by Louis H van Loon, Consulting Civil and Structural Engineer, 1963.

Top left: Main manufacturing block with triangulated precast wall panels and corrugated perspex between the panels and the hyperbolic roof.

Below: Hyperbolic paraboloid roof with sections suspended from every unit to form a double balanced cantilever.



THE ROLE of the architect in industrial buildings has, at times, been a tenuous one, competing with engineers and turnkey operators offering economical one-stop packages. I believe architects lost their edge in this market for several reasons: our statutory fee scale made for ridiculous fees earned on relatively simple buildings; perceptions that architects should always be principal agents and not work under structural engineers; reluctance on the part of architects to go into turnkey projects; and most importantly client's perceptions that architects were not necessary on industrial buildings. We have only ourselves to blame for our reduced role in this field but I'm glad to say that this position is in the process of redress. Many industrialists now see their factories as a means to project their image or promote their products. Some are proud to show off the technology of their processes. Clearly architectural input is

essential to exploit these concepts. The political changes taking place in this country have introduced more active trade union influence on demands for an environmentally acceptable workplace. Worldwide concerns for the environment and our atmosphere have resulted in cleaner industrial processes and have had an influence on industrial architecture.

All these factors indicate that the opportunities in industrial architecture afforded to architects have become available only in recent times; however, there are two examples from the past which warrant attention: The Lion Match Factory and The Commercial Chemicals factory.

In this issue of *NIA Journal* we attempt to bring you samples of the whole spectrum of industrial architecture in Natal from the high tech, brightly coloured corporate structures in Springfield Park, to the workshops of Mzamba Village Market and back again to Makro at Springfield, arguably, the most high tech industrial structure of all.

Peter McCaffery graduated from the Natal School of Architecture in 1978 and then worked for Brian Johnson Architects and Gourlay Moore Harris Fels before travelling to the USA and working in London during 1981.



Guest editor, Peter McCaffery

Upon returning to South Africa he joined Robin Geraghty and Ian Little to form the Geraghty Little and McCaffery Partnership and was involved in the refurbishment of Salisbury Centre which received an Award of Merit. In 1990 he co-formed McCaffery Wilkinson and Little and has recently been involved in a number of industrial projects mainly in Springfield Park, some of which are featured in this issue.

## Springfield Industrial Architecture

### Springfield Industrial Park: Recent work of Johnson Murray Architects

It is not often that a single firm of architects gets the chance to design a number of buildings in one area, or an entire street for that matter. The development of Springfield Industrial Park in the late '80s created such an opportunity for our practice, resulting in the design of some 30 industrial buildings during that period.

It is interesting to reflect on the difference in the urban context from designing the first building on a barren landscape in 1987 through to the last stages of development 4 years later, designing within the context of a now nearly complete, busy, industrial park.

Industrial buildings are by nature simple structures, generally composed of a combination of large volume lightweight structures together with a small scale office component. The design generators are the movement patterns of product storage or manufacture and the circulation of delivery vehicles.

Simplicity of structure and construction are essential to ensure the necessary speed of erection to meet the economic demands of the commercial developer. Industrial buildings have two primary roles. Firstly their function is the containment of an industrial process and secondly

they act as vehicles for financial investment for institutional as well as private investors. Buildings have become important symbols of corporate identity, power, and ultimately, wealth. The need to articulate these forces by means of the

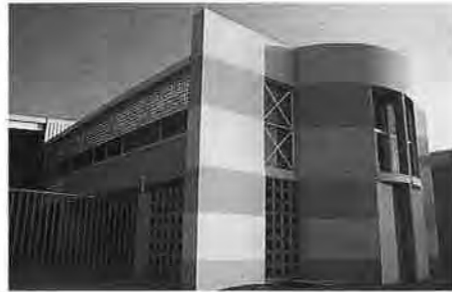
building creates the opportunity to work with architectural ideas and concepts to bring about a rich diversity and individuality of expression with the various buildings.

The development of Beechfield Crescent by a single developer provided the opportunity to work with the notion of creating a sense of urbanity by introducing a few unifying aesthetic controls. We recognised that the large areas of roof would provide a strong unifying element

and as such we adopted the approach of making all the roofs white, similar to the way in which the terracotta-tiled roofs of Durban's Berea create a visual harmony. The office component of the buildings provided the opportunity to make a statement, in architectural terms, of the company's corporate identity. The difficulty of tackling each site with a separate, different design is that the whole could end up looking like an architectural "theme park." Although this is not necessarily a bad concept in itself, one that results in richness through diversity, we have rather tried to introduce elements of design that create a sense of familial similarity to create an impression that there exists a relationship between the buildings, and that they are all of a



2. Hydraline, 1990



10. Time Printers, 1991

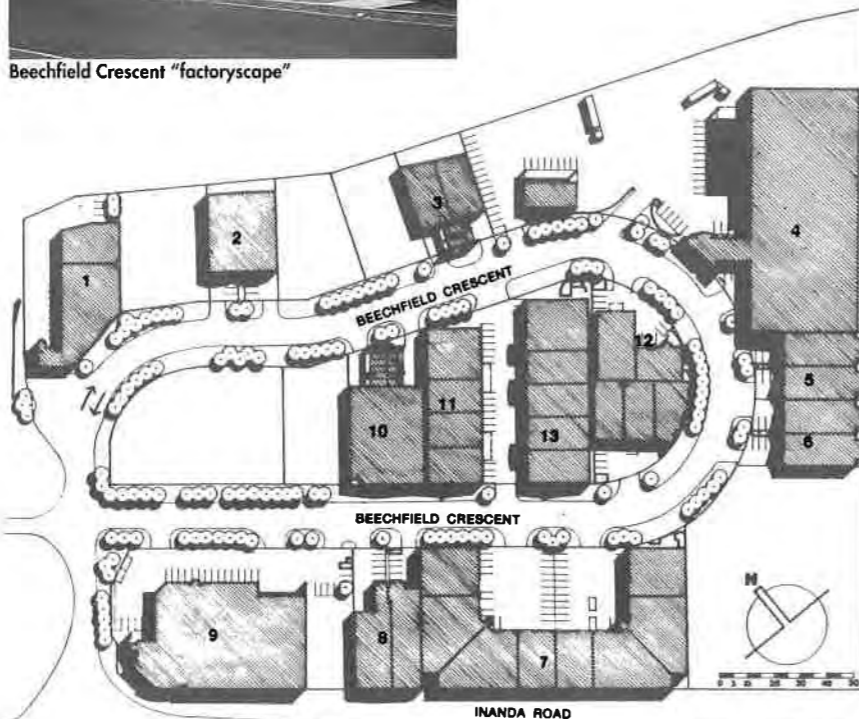


12. John Whitfield, 1990



Beechfield Crescent "factoryscape"

1. Flower wholesale
2. Hydraline
3. Sedgefield Park
4. Elliot International
5. Beech River Park
6. PSSL
7. Hawkins
8. Fasson
9. Refrigeration Services
10. Time Printers
11. Delisle Weare
12. John Whitfield
13. Tricox



## Springfield Industrial Architecture

certain stylistic period.

The high cost of land demanded that every last square metre be used, resulting in large volume areas built up to the boundaries on three sides. Light and ventilation are to an extent compromised and roof lighting and ventilation with the use of large ridge ventilators has had to be adopted together with strategically placed ventilation wells.

Due to the tight restrictions of designing for compact sites, certain models or plan types have evolved for the most effective use of the site, particularly with the design of mini-factories.

External treatment of these similar planning models has been handled with a combination of historical and modernist materials and aesthetic devices. Scale and texture are introduced with the recognition of a solid base to the buildings with rusticated bands of different blockwork creating a further element of scale.

Roof overhangs create shade and weather protection for the office windows.

The rapid growth of Springfield Park has created the impression of almost springing up overnight, not unlike the boom towns of old.

Issues like visual order and harmony are replaced by a more aggressive desire to be recognised and to make a statement about each individual commercial enterprise.

This has resulted in many exciting buildings being erected but conversely many are ill-conceived and poorly designed with a superficial applique of pseudo architectural pastiche. Fortunately, with time, the wide landscaped verges will soften the streetscape and enhance the overall impact. This is perhaps the most important lesson of Springfield Park - that it is impossible to introduce urban design and aesthetic controls within the individual sites, and therefore the design of the public realm in a detailed ur-

ban design and landscaping programme becomes vitally important to maintain the quality of the urban environment and ultimately, to protect real estate values.

Andrew Murray



Above: Bertons' Manufacturing, Springfield Park, 1991

Below left: 3. Sedgefield Park, 1991

Below right: 4. Elliot International, 1991

Cover: Palm Pacific Mini Factories, 1991





decorated shed Industrial Architecture

A Dictionary of the Decorated Shed

It has been said that Springfield Park is a 'veritable dictionary of Industrial Post-Modernism' and whilst it is almost certain that Rob Venturi would wince at this statement, the principle of the decorated shed is prolifically displayed and unquestionably rules the day. Whilst on face value it might appear that a preponderance of similar building forms are simply dressed in fashionable architectural clothing, or that a pastiche facadism is flippantly applied to the conventional portal frame shed, this is certainly not the case.

The nature of the topography, imposition of stringent building regulations and aesthetic controls, and the emergence of the image-conscious industrialist, have set the framework for a positive architectural response. In the main, site proportions and frontage conditions, economy of structural solution and industrial volumetric demands have generated the building forms. Programmatic prescription,

fire protection and health requirements have impacted substantially on planning, structure and detail design. All these factors together have created a palette of opportunities for the architect to explore the building enclosure in a painterly fashion. A number of selected examples highlight these concepts and serve to illustrate A Dictionary of the Decorated Shed.

- 1 Additive form
- 2 Banding and Billboard
- 3 Colour and canopy
- 4 Door
- 5 Envelope
- 6 Facade and frame
- 7 Grid
- 8 Horizontality
- 9 Image and Identity
- 10 Juxtaposition
- 11 Monitor and Modulation
- 12 Pastiche and Plane
- 13 Roof
- 14 Symmetry and Structure
- 15 Texture
- 16 Unique and Uniform
- 17 Window and wall

George Elphick

1. Action Bolt, 1990, Elphick Proome Architects

16. York Mouldings, 1988, Johnson Murray Architects



11. Flower Wholesale, 1990, Johnson Murray Architects



3. Shamesh Investments, 1991, Elphick Proome Architects



10. Trio Design, 1990, Elphick Proome Architects



4. Elmfield, 1990, Johnson Murray Architects



16. Shamesh Investments, 1991, Elphick Proome Architects



7. Unique Panel & Spray, 1990, Elphick Proome Architects



another perspective Industrial Architecture

Another perspective on Industrial Architecture

Architects are attracted to ambitious clients with corporate images, multinational linkages, hard discs, contract cleaners, subsidised cars and high throughputs - as illustrated on the crowded, reclaimed floodplain of the Umgeni River. Coloured sheds of curved, corrugated sheeting and square precast windows vie with neighbouring architectonics.

Industrialists hail from the fortunate side of our skewed economy where twenty percent command seventy five percent of the wealth. New factories cost an average of R32 000 per workplace. In a recent survey in Tongaat the average employment density of developed industrial land was 60 people/ha. In the same town, the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) factory flats accommodated 530 people/ha.

For years Siphon Machi and his colleagues have purchased plastic drums from Durban factories and brought them to their customers, the passengers of homeland buses which congregate in Durban's urban vacuum, Block AK, next to Greyville racecourse. The drums are sparingly rinsed and the concentrate of dye, solvents and other chemicals is tipped into the stormwater system. Unsold drums are too bulky to transport so the sellers group



Street manufacturing in Durban

them into pavement shelters for security. Later homely comforts, like Beauty, moved in with her hand-powered Singer and a steady supply of recently recycled Berea clothing. The service extended to "sponge" (plastic foam) and industrial tape, all sought after commodities for rural areas supplied by this specialised facility. Yuppies have now discovered a source of very cheap swimming pool motor covers. Official notices have sprung up, fences erected and the undertaker across the road is horrified.



An octagonal kiosk in Budapest



The octagonal transformed

There are standard rules for providing opportunities to the group where fifty percent are unemployed and struggle to survive. Location is paramount - Durban could move Siphon by simply providing a bus station! Resources must be used very economically and space must be flexible. Manufacturing must take place at point of sale and ideally back-up should be provided such as security, storage, book-keeping and feasibility studies. A memorable example of economic decentralisation was the heavily padlocked kiosks in the Central Park of Budapest. They unfold ingeniously to reveal a Pandora's box of items ranging from pornographic tit-bits to T-shirts reading, "WANTED: Karl Marx - Dead or Alive!"

The following projects demonstrate how some young architects are responding to this challenge.

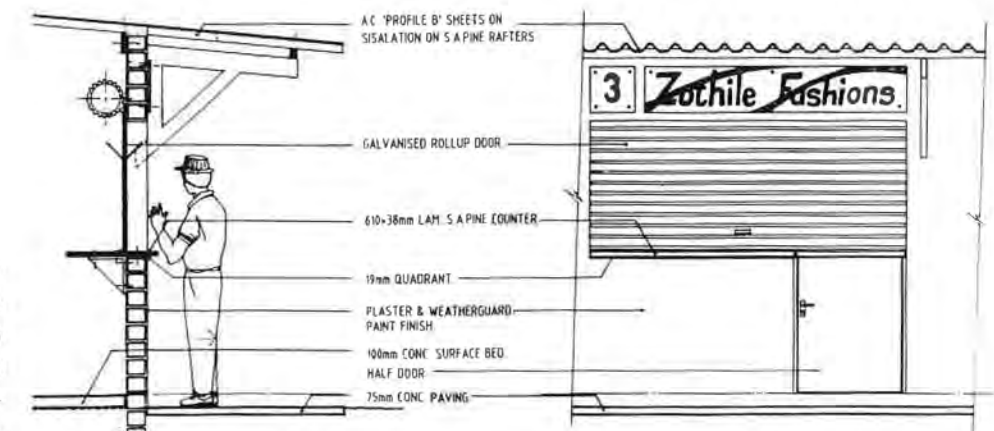
These designs have all adapted to circumstances, particularly their relative urban proximity. Manufacturing and distribution are where the action is; these facilities provide security and help to spread the market economy. Most importantly, architects are responding appropriately to social adjustments.

Rodney Harber

Inanda Mini-factories

Architects: Zietsman Neal  
Client: KFC  
Contractor: Wimpey SA (Pty) Ltd  
Cost: R250/m<sup>2</sup> (1987)

Zietsman Neal Architects designed small factory units at Ndeleni for the SBDC. All dimensions were repeated in concrete block modules to enable a local builder, Mr G.J. Sithole, to build eight units for R195/m<sup>2</sup> (1985). The Inanda Mini-factories are situated within the seething informal areas on the edge of Durban. The KwaZulu Finance and Investment Corporation (KFC) commissioned the architects to build a mix of 8 x 90 m<sup>2</sup>, 4 x 45 m<sup>2</sup> and 8 x 25 m<sup>2</sup> production units on a small site to encourage local entrepreneurs. Economical materials have been detailed to



DETAIL SECTION

DETAIL ELEVATION

provide interest and security. Space is let at R3.44/m<sup>2</sup> per month to several dressmakers, a stove repairman, a battery charger, panel beater, welder, mechanic, baker, dry cleaning depot

and hairdresser, who clearly provide unique services to the crowded community. The complex is run by its own management committee who also provide management and cleaning.



### another perspective Industrial Architecture

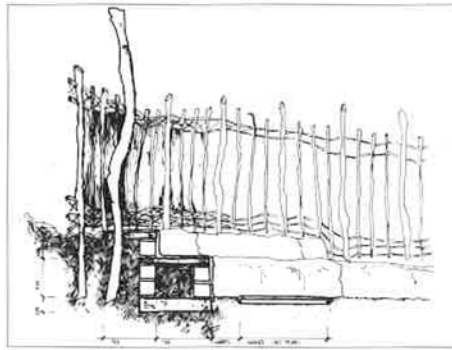
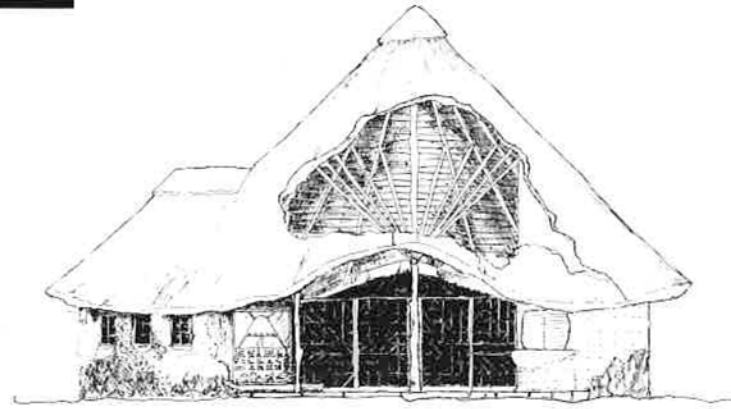
## Mzamba Village Market

Architects: CHT Architects, Durban and Umtata  
Client: TRANSIDO  
Cost: R690/m<sup>2</sup> (1990)

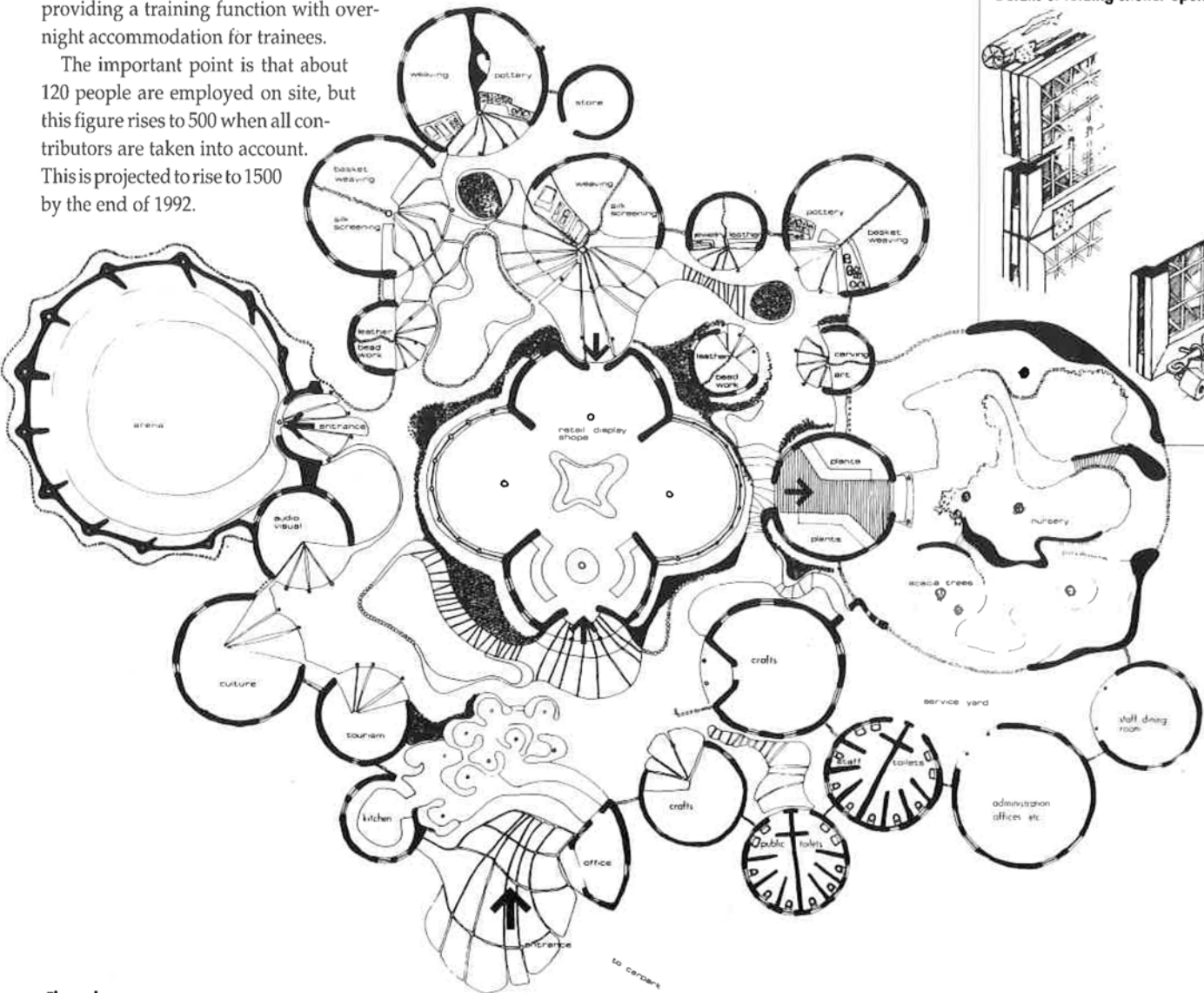
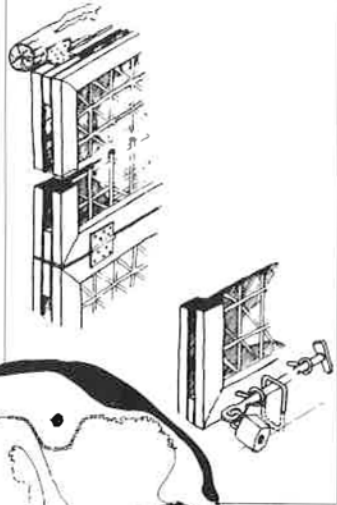
One of the objectives of Transkei Small Industries Development Organisation (TRANSIDO) is to foster craft development throughout urban and rural Transkei. A highly visible outlet was needed to expose dispersed handicrafts to wealthy patrons. The idea of the Mzamba Village Market was conceived, situated opposite the entrance to the casino.

CHT Architects designed the 'village', built of innovatively detailed indigenous materials, to achieve a 300 m<sup>2</sup> central retail outlet surrounded by hutted workshops ranging from 30 to 60 m<sup>2</sup> (600 m<sup>2</sup> total). Visitors are drawn through a fascinating sequence of spaces and textures to watch leatherwork, jewellery, pottery, woodcarving and other crafts being made for sale but also providing a training function with overnight accommodation for trainees.

The important point is that about 120 people are employed on site, but this figure rises to 500 when all contributors are taken into account. This is projected to rise to 1500 by the end of 1992.



Details of folding shutter openings



Floor plan

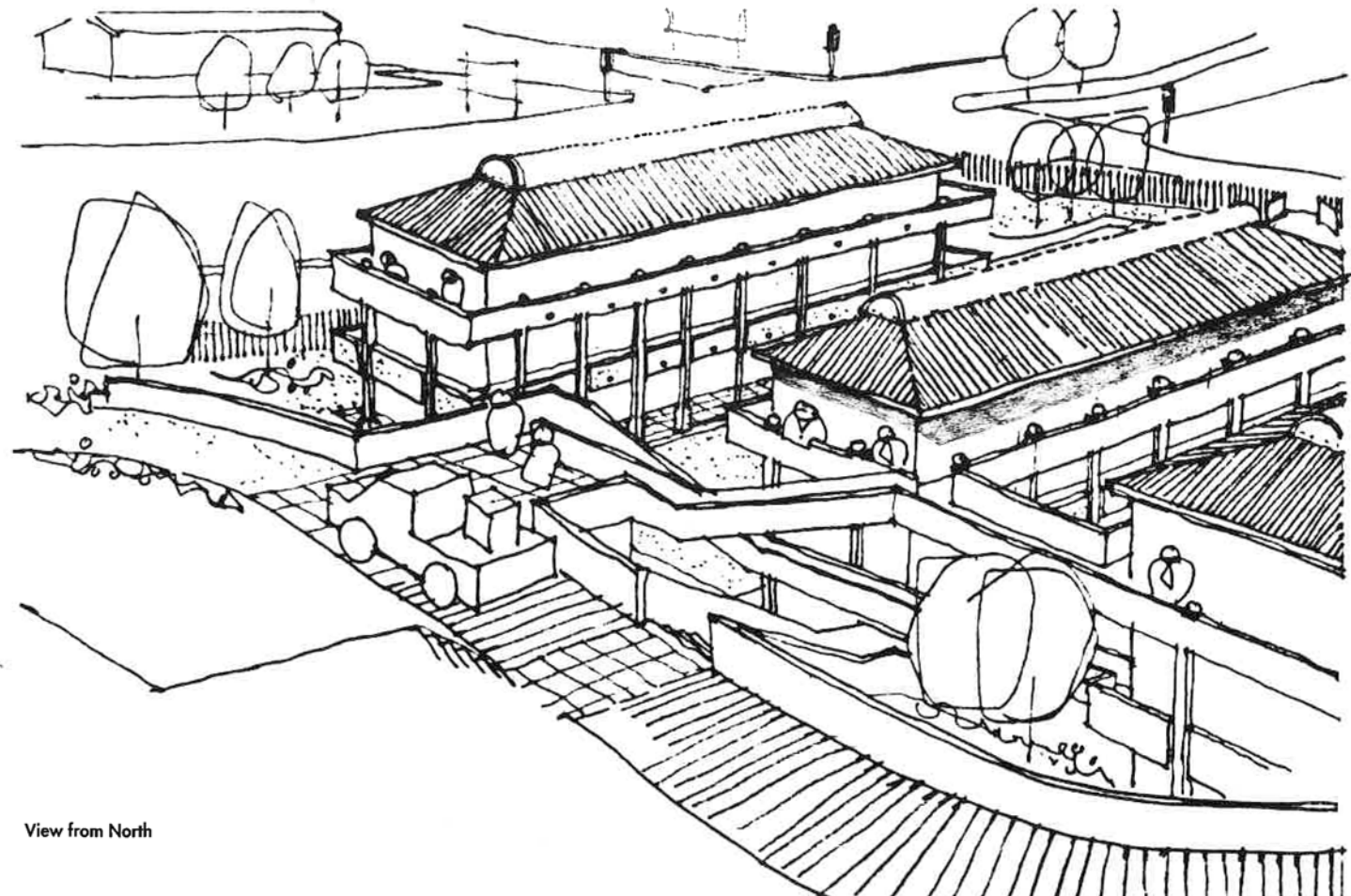
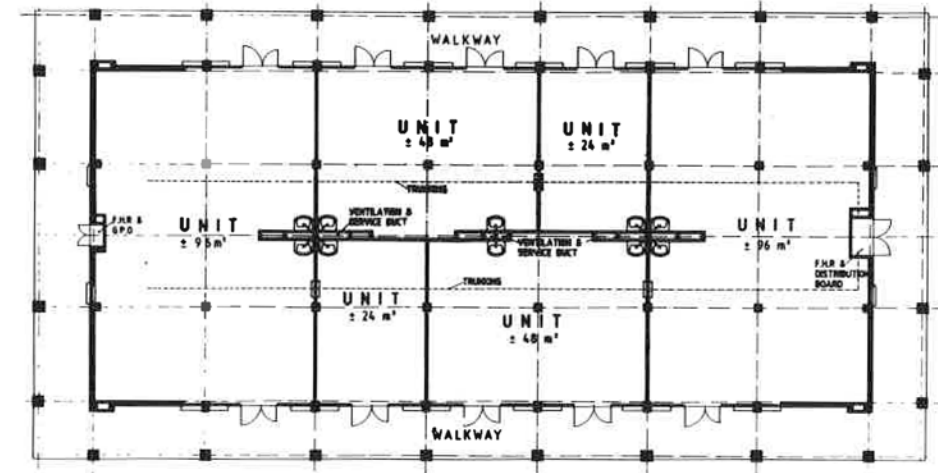
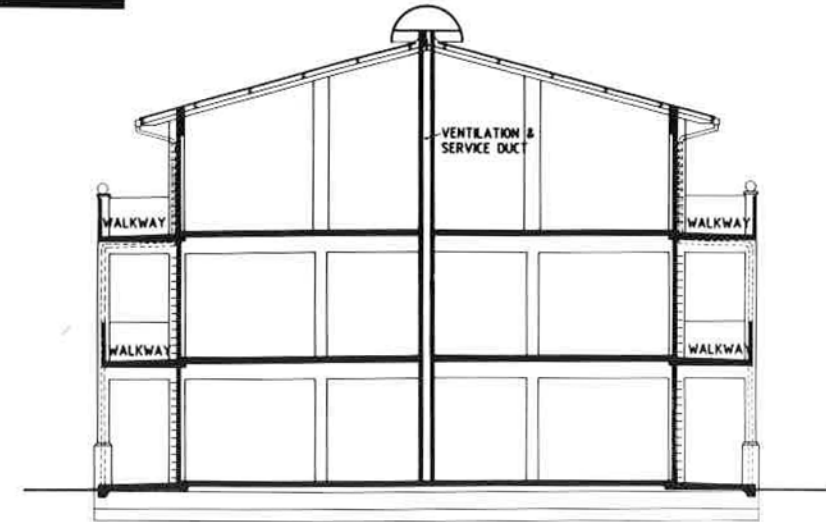
### another perspective Industrial Architecture

## Umlazi Industrial Park

Principal Agent: LSC Brunette  
Architects: Interarc  
Quantity Surveyor: Dewald Botha  
Electrical Engineers: Claassen Auret / Ramble Malone  
Contractor: Shire Building  
Cost: R979/m<sup>2</sup> (1991)

On a very visible site, at the entrance to Umlazi, the KFC have recently completed a dense cluster of mini production units. They are in the formal sector and on valuable land, which is reflected by their three storey concrete configuration. Richard Dobson of Interarc designed pavilions surrounded by walkways with a full complement of ingeniously detailed services for maximum flexibility. The units are fully burglar guarded. These enable people operating from backyards to become small industrialists. The units are filled with an electrician, upholsterers, a tent manufacturer, caterers and carpenters. Signs adjacent to the busy traffic intersection read, 'Afro Queen,' 'Sheila's Scalp Clinic,' 'Shoe Doctor' and 'Ntombi's Dressmaker & Sewing School.'

The density is high at 660 people/ha and the rents are subsidised up to 68%, which will be phased out.



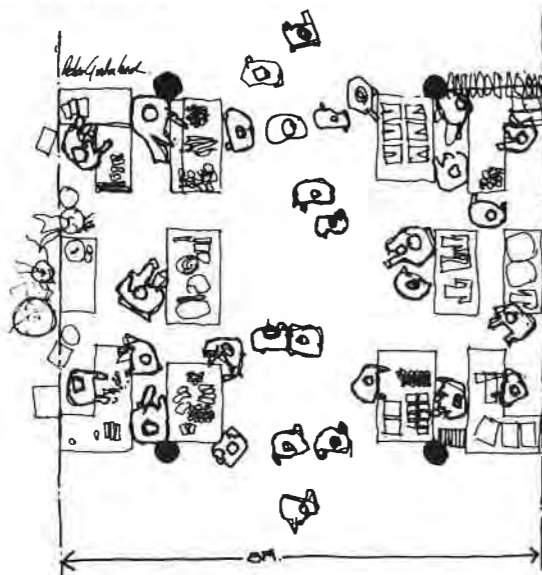
View from North

**Cannongate Informal Traders' Shelters**

Architect: Pieter Gertenbach  
 Structural Engineer:  
 Stephen Nathoo and Associates  
 Contractors: MKB Industries, Environ cc and  
 Carriage Containers cc  
 Client: SBDC  
 Cost: R341/m<sup>2</sup> (1991)

In the heart of Durban the pavements of Warwick Avenue are crammed with informal traders who take advantage of the dense crowds of commuters.

Recently the Urban Design Department of the Municipality approached the SBDC



for assistance to improve the situation.

The open sided shelters, sponsored by Standard Bank, are tucked below the elevated freeway, on the corner of Warwick Avenue and Cannongate Road. Concrete columns define the central walkway and support a vaulted roof – designed to prevent refuse collecting on top! The sides are lined with retailers with space behind sublet to repairmen and small manufacturers. An innovation is that secure storage is available in four containers, situated nearby, at R2.00 per night.

**Springfield Industrial Architecture****Makro, Springfield Durban**

Architects: Douglas Roberts Peter Loebenberg Architects cc

Makro, a trading subsidiary of Wooltru Limited, has seen the opportunity to expand their market base in South Africa by the erection of new Warehouse Club stores, the Makro Springfield Durban being the second of a development programme throughout South Africa.

The selection of the Springfield site answers the criterion established by the company, namely

that it is located in a highly visible position on a major traffic road. This criterion is being applied nationally, and has proven successful as the



company has gained market share through this strategic decision.

The building is primarily a decorated shed with the emphasis being on the public face. This face, constructed of steel and stainless steel, carries the weight of the billboard to hold the Makro signage, the concept being that the advertising gained by the money spent on the selection of materials far outweighed money that could have been spent in mass media advertising. This is a permanent benefit.

Peter Loebenberg

**ISAA Award of Merit and Conservation Awards – Natal 1991**

At the AGM it was announced that the following buildings had received awards:

**Awards of Merit:** Conversion of Pietermaritzburg's old Supreme Court to Tatham Art Gallery (Small Pettit and Associates); Action Bolt (Elphick Proome); House Elphick (Elphick Proome); Northdale Assessment Centre for the Disabled (Kiran Laloo); offices for Costa Maningi (FGG Architects); and **Special Mentions:** residence for Mr G Hesse (Interplan); offices, 135 East Street, Pietermaritzburg (Ismail Cassimjee).

**Conservation Awards:** Kings House (Interarc in Association with Roux Wildenboer), Cottam Grove (Interarc), conversion to offices for Witney Chemicals (Interarc in association with Brian Kearney).

As is customary, issue 1/92 will feature all projects submitted for Award consideration.

**Corobrik Awards**

The *Weekend Mercury/Corobrik* Brick Design Competition has been won by **Tony Keyte** of Paton Taylor Associates Inc for the Arts and Technology complex at Kearsney College, a project which demonstrated a "joyous and skillful use" of clay masonry.

Runners-up were: **Dr Walter Peters** for his own house, "a work rich in delight and domesticity"; **Derek van Heerden** with Johnson Jenkins Architects for Kwamathanda High School, "a well-judged composition and a fine piece of architecture"; and **Andrew Ogilvie** of Ing Jackson de Ravel and Hartley for Edgars, Pietermaritzburg, "a careful and caring re-working and restoration of an important city artefact." Judges were Ray Andrews, Managing Director of Corobrik (Natal) and Prof. Ron Kirby of the University of the Witwatersrand.

The *Corobrik/Garden & Home* House of the Year Award has been won by **Ora Joubert** for the house she designed for her parents in Waterkloof, Pretoria.

**Durban City Council 1991 Conservation Awards**

The following awards were made at a civic reception held on Monday, 11 November 1991: **56 Goble Road** for the restoration and recycling of an Edwardian house in vernacular style with notable timber work veranda.

**Witney Chemicals (Pty) Ltd., 219 Florida Road** for the restoration and recycling of a Victorian double-storeyed residential building with front veranda, notable for its contribution to the streetscape.

**684 Currie Road** for the restoration and maintenance of a significant double-storeyed Victorian villa with verandas and notable fretwork detailing.

**209 Cowey Road** for the continued care and maintenance of an Edwardian single-storeyed house of streetscape significance with two gables and splayed corner veranda.

**Surrey Mansions Shareblock (Pty) Ltd., 323 Currie Road** for the refurbishment of a Union period apartment building and a significant example of the Art Deco style incorporating lion and eagle motifs and linear patterns; a notable contribution to the Berea skyline.

**322 South Ridge Road** for the renovation and extension of a simple gabled veranda cottage in wood and iron construction, notable for its adaptive use of materials in keeping with the original design.

**Lindsay Smithers FCB Bond, 558 Smith Street** for the recycling and restoration of a two- and three-storeyed commercial building of the Edwardian period in Renaissance Revival style, retaining the pavement veranda on its corner

site.

**NBS Bank Limited, 473 Smith Street** for the maintenance and refurbishment of a simple two-storeyed Union style commercial building sympathetically incorporating a modern shop frontage.

**Kings House** for the restoration of the former coastal residence of the Governor of Natal; a significant official residence occupying a prominent position on the Berea. It is built in the Edwardian style with classical portico, colonnades and pavilion verandas.

**NIA Regional Committee 1992/93**

At the Annual General Meeting of members held at the Westville Hotel on Thursday, 24 October 1991, the following were elected to the regional committee for 1992/93: Messrs Sydney Baillon, Frank Emmett, John Frost, Patrick Gibson, Rodney Harber, Brian Johnson, Peter McCaffery, Andrew Ogilvie, Mrs Jean Stewart, Professors Edwin Tollman and Walter Peters and Mr Thomas Leach, the Chairman of the Northern Natal Chapter.

At its first meeting on Friday, 22 November, Mr Patrick Gibson was elected President, Mr Frank Emmett First Vice-President and Mr Rodney Harber Second Vice-President.

The following persons were co-opted to the regional committee: Mr Kevin Bingham (Architect-in-Training), Mr Fred Viljoen (Director of Architectural Services, Durban City Council), a representative from the Natal and ML Sultan Technikons, Mr George Elphick and Mr Carl Mouton.

**Letter to the Editor**

It was with great sadness that I noted the death of Barrie Biermann in the NIA Journal 2/91.

He was a great and good man. I valued his friendship during the years I practised in Durban with Derek Crofton. Many a weekend or part of a weekend he used to spend with me in Isipingo Beach where I lived, and I remember the walks and talks and swims as if it were yesterday.

I thank you for sending me the NIA Journal over the last four years. It is such a link with Durban. I am now no longer with my old firm, and I wonder if you would send any subsequent copies to my home address indicated here.

I have retired from the SA Institute, and consequently I probably am not entitled to further free copies, but would be pleased to pay for them.

Sincerely

Issy Benjamin, London 28/10/91

*Friends of longstanding will not be ignored.*  
 Editor