

embattled embankment

Following proposals by the City Engineer's Department for extension to the vehicular routes on the Victoria Embankment a sub-committee of the Natal Provincial Institute of S.A. Architects under chairmanship of John Frost is working on a counter proposal in order to retain as much of the natural amenity as possible. It is hoped that these proposals could be discussed with the City Engineer's Department before they are finalised.

The Esplanade (Victoria Embankment) has traditionally been one of the city's unique and major attractions. The curvilinear profile of the central business district, edged by lush sub-tropical vegetation, constitutes the only urban bay edge in this country. The close relationship of buildings, trees, gardens, water, yachting and shipping activities offers the potential for unequalled opportunities in urban design to make Durban an even better place for people to live in and for tourists to come to.

The Natal Provincial Institute of Architects believes that any attempt to redevelop this area should adhere to the following objectives:

To enhance the unique character of this area in terms of the special relationships that exist between buildings, vegetation, water and views and the advantages that these hold for Durban in terms of leisure, recreation, tourism as well as for residential purposes.

To preserve and to extend all possible visual and physical links between the city, the residential area along the embankment, and the Bay.

To preserve and to enhance the green character of this area, especially in terms of its sub-tropical nature.

To maximise the amenity of the bay edge for the use of people. Any reclamation of land from the bay should be for the exclusive use of people, and the relationship of land space and water space, and of all facilities associated with these, should respect this. It should also be recognised that the use of such facilities and amenities would depend largely on ease of access.

All vehicular ways act as barriers to easy pedestrian access, as do walls, fences and utility buildings. The design of these should be of a nature to minimise their barrier effect.

Noise and pollution are inevitable by-products of increased traffic of whatever nature. Any redevelopment plan will have to propose solutions to these in order to avoid any further deterioration of what could be one of the finest urban residential and tourist areas in this country.

It is hoped that a Victoria Embankment exhibition can be organised during July to make the public aware of the environmental quality that this part of the city possesses.



Model: G. Butler final year student in architecture, University of Natal.

The N.P.I. Committee has sought, for some time, means of making members more conversant with matters which affect them collectively. After all, no man, particularly an architect, is an island, and we share many interests and problems which require a forum for expression and the exchange of ideas.

Circulars are necessarily brief and to the point, but it is the Committee members' experience that issues raised by individual members, which often appear in isolation, are shared and have precedent. The offer of Coronation Industrials, without strings attached, to assist in the mechanics of publication and dissemination, has made the issuing of a newsletter possible.

It would be preferable, of course, to introduce such a publication at a time more propitious to the profession. The recent newsletter from the I.S.A.A. with the message from the President in Chief expresses the concern of the National Board and the Council for Architects for the economic welfare of the Building Professions and the Industry. Representations, supported by factual statistics obtained by canvassing members, have and are being made at the highest level to alleviate long term harm to the professions' ability to cope with the demands which will accompany the inevitable resurgence of building required. All members will unite in supporting this national effort.

At the same time with relief, albeit unwelcome, from the tremendous pressures of the past decade, perhaps it is opportune to review and improve our own procedures. Efforts could be directed, with benefits to the whole community, to the areas of economic and sub-economic housing, in which we have been unable to contribute fully as a profession.

This newsletter embraces some of the aspects of the Institute's activities, although it cannot reflect them all. The administration of the Institute is an exacting task in itself, but the Committee wishes to involve more members in initiating new projects and activities for the benefit of themselves and the community at large.

M. Jackson, President N.P.I.A.

environmental legislation

Members' attention is drawn to the Physical Plan and Utilisation of Resources Act, 1975 which has far reaching effects.

A summary of the complete legislation is available at the Secretary for inspection but it is worth noting that no industrial land may be zoned or subdivided without the written permission

common cause

Following the election last year of new Natal Provincial Institute Committee the following sub-committees have been appointed:—

Provincial Committee:

Miss J.M. Birss, J.A. Frost, P.L. Gordon (co-opted), H.H. Hallen, R.R. Harber, P.T. Hoal (co-opted), M.A. Jackson (PRESIDENT), G.R. Small (VICE-PRESIDENT), D.C. Smith, D.M. Taylor, J.D. Theron, E. Tollman.

Executive Committee:

M.A. Jackson, G.R. Small, D.M. Taylor. Alternates: E. Tollman, J.A. Frost.

Benevolent Fund Trustees:

R.C.C. Bennett, K.E. Gow, M.A. Jackson (CHAIRMAN), S.N. Tomkin.

NPI Foundation Fund Trustees:

A.B. Adkin, M.A. Jackson (CHAIRMAN), S.N. Tomkin.

Building By-Laws and Regulations Committee:

M. Dyer, W.R. O'Beirne, H. Parker, R. Pugh, D.M. Taylor (CHAIRMAN), L.S. Williams.

Practice Advisory Committee:

K.E. Gow, K. Long, W.R. O'Beirne, D. Sherlock, D.M. Taylor (CHAIRMAN), T. Ward.

Architect's Action Committee:

Mrs. A.M. Atkinson, M. Dyer, P.T. Hoal, J.A. Frost (CHAIRMAN), B.T. Kearney, P. Pretorius.

Co-opted for Victoria Embankment:

A.K. Sutton, G. Seitter, P. Pretorius, R. Gerhardt, R. Ferguson, D. Bates, F.A. Vos.

House and Functions Committee:

P. de Villiers, D.C. Garvie, R. Gerhardt, R. Harber (CHAIRMAN).

Awards Committee:

J.A. Frost, R.P. Hamlin, S.N. Tomkin (CHAIRMAN), W.R. O'Beirne.

the Minister of Planning and Environment. The same applies to the establishment and extension of factories — (an extension of a factory means any increase in the number of black employees employed in such factories). There are further sweeping powers in regard to certain types of factories which may be established. Control areas, restriction of use of land and the

Liaison Committee for the Preservation of Historical Amenities in Durban: Institute representatives: R.C.C. Bennett, J.A. Frost (CHAIRMAN), B.T. Kearney, W. Peters.

Pietermaritzburg and Midlands Sub-Committee: W. Curry, P. Holdcroft, D. Hughes, K. Long, H. Parker, G.R. Small (CHAIRMAN).

Draughtsman's Course Sub-Committee: P. Croxon, E. Gomersall, M.B. Hartley, W.R. O'Beirne (CHAIRMAN), T. Ward.

Committee on Planning:

Miss J.M. Birss, E. Haarhoff, R. Harber, M. Kahn, L. Smith, J.D. Theron, S.N. Tomkin, E. Tollman (CHAIRMAN).

AD-HOC COMMITTEES:

Monopolies Commission: A.B. Adkin, D. Barbour.

Commission of Enquiry into Housing Matters:

P. Gibson, E. Haarhoff, D.C. Smith (CHAIRMAN).

Ad-Hoc Committee re Joint SACA/ISAA Committee on Inflation and the Scale of Fees:

R. Fulford, R. Gerhardt, D.C. Smith (CHAIRMAN), S.N. Tomkin.

REPRESENTATIVES:

South African Council for Architects: H.H. Hallen, M.A. Jackson.

National Board:

H.H. Hallen, M.A. Jackson, G.R. Small (co-opted).

R.D. and S. Committee:

D.M. Taylor

Planning Committee of Durban:

S.N. Tomkin. Alternate E. Tollman.

Public Relations Officer:

J.D. Theron

National Technical College Council:

powers of the departmental offices to inspect premises police this Act. In response to the Niemand Commission Guide Planning committees have been set up, particularly at growth points. These are co-ordinated by the departments in an attempt to rationalise the movement of labour and to maximize resources throughout the country.

H.H. Hallen

Sub-Committee of NBRI:

W.R. O'Beirne

Observer, Durban Chamber of Commerce Town Planning Committee:

D.C. Smith

Durban Chamber of Commerce Council:

M.A. Jackson

City of Durban, Building By-Laws Liaison Committee:

W.R. O'Beirne, D.M. Taylor, L.S. Williams.

University/Institute Liaison Committee:

E. Tollman, S.N. Tomkin, A. Smallwood.

Pietermaritzburg Civic Centre Committee:

G.R. Small.

Elevational Control Representatives:

Durban: D.M. Taylor. Alternate D.J. Claude.

Pietermaritzburg: N. Robson, D. Hughes.

Verulam: P. Gibson.

Queensburgh: E.J. Clemence. Alternate E. van der Walt.

New Germany: A.B. Adkin.

Umzinto: T. Raats.

Westville: L.A. Reeves, A.D. Bell, P. Croxon.

Kloof: L.R. Williams, J.C. Simpson.

Pinetown: F.S.J. Rougier, G.T. Chalmers.

Zinkwazi: P.M. Short.

Isipingo: D. Watkins.

Blythesdale Beach: P.T. Fourie.

Should you have any matters relevant to the work of any of these Committees please contact any of the representatives serving on the relevant Committee.

habitat

Habitat Conference (for which the Institute produced a film to be shown shortly to members) was of considerable interest and will be reported on in detail.

The conference was held in Vancouver, concurrently with the United Nations settlement conference. The whole nature of settlement was considered and it was clear that migration to the cities together with a rapid population growth has placed pressures upon city building affecting the social, political and technical resources of the community in the world.

The role of architects in the making of environment is at present un-coordinated and confused and the image of the profession as a whole as it emerged from the Habitat forum, was, to say the least, unimpressive. It is a pity that we have withdrawn so much from the world of debate and areas of parliament. In retrospect the quality of our housing in South Africa and the quality of the I S A A housing conference held in Johannesburg last year stood out in stark contrast to that at Vancouver. At our conference the main issues in making the environment were identified and clarified especially in regard to the human needs related to security of tenure, choice and freedom to build.

It is essential that the ideas expressed at the I S A A housing conference be understood and speedily accepted within our own profession and our society in order to stem the growth of social decay that are taking root in our cities and townships.

changes

Changes in telephone numbers:

Powers, Powers and Powers: to 326708

Maurice Dibb: to 324711

Morum and van Der Walt: to 327541

F.A. Vos: to 327791/64691

Beaton and Lloyd Spencer: to 329563

Kass and Watkins: to 311276

Mallows, Louw, Hoffe and Hamlin: to 327734

Fridijhon and Fulford: to 322661/2/3

Changes in address:

Roy Cloete Associates Incorporated: to 245 North Ridge Road, Durban. Tel: 334462.

Moxley Associates: to Odell House, Chapel Street, Pietermaritzburg. Tel. 28864.

Gerhardt and Steyn: to 3 Hampden Road, Stamford Hill, Durban. Tel. 391075.

James Whalley: to 8 Stanchar, 136 Gordon Road, Durban.

David M. Hall: to Flat 2202, John Ross House, Victoria Embankment, Durban.

L.R. Stapleton: to 12 Seaglen, 44 Netford Road, Brighton Beach, Durban.

Brian C. Johnson: to Suite 2709, 320 West Street, Durban. Tel. 317636.

Changes in membership:

S.J. Bold (ordinary): from TPI to NPI. Pietermaritzburg branch office of Moolman, van der Walt, Vlok, van der Westhuizen and Segal, 1007 Trust Bank Centre, Church Street, Pietermaritzburg. Tel. 56493.

Miss M.E. Chapman (Mrs. Greening) (retired to ordinary): from TPI to NPI. 26 Palmiet Drive, Westville.

Mrs. D.E. McMorran (retired): from OFS to NPI. P.O. Box 135, Mtunzini.

J.P. Apsey: from CPI to NPI. 7 Hillside Road, Everton.

New members:

C.A.D. Williams (retired) — re-instated: 9 Amaroo Crescent, Mosman, NSW 2088, Australia.

A.S. Rudolph (AnT): c/o Small and Pettit, 501 Walsh's Building, Church Street, Pietermaritzburg.

Resignations:

G.L. Revill (retired).

in search of a past

CONSERVATION ON DISPLAY

Following on from last year's exhibition on conservation of buildings, the 1976 exhibition focuses on the exhibition of areas. The work on exhibition was done by 21 final year students who each selected an area in metropolitan Durban with a special visual character. After demarcating the area, they analysed it in order to determine what should be preserved and then formulated a policy for enhancement and making concrete proposals for the continued existence of the special character of the area.

The work was done over a period of 13 weeks and will be presented in plans, perspective, photographs and models. The areas selected include some of Durban's older suburbs such as the Point, Grey Street, Congella, Greyville, Stamford Hill and Sarnia.

The exhibition will be opened at 8 p.m. on Monday August 16th, 1976 by the Mayor of Durban.

The symposium will then be held under the chairmanship of Mr. Miles Jackson and the guest speaker will be D.L.J. Robins, Professor and Head of Department of Town and Regional Planning. The exhibition will remain on view to the public until Thursday, August 19th, 1976.

Members of the Institute are invited to attend.

about this issue :

This newsletter will be published quarterly and we welcome any short articles on any aspect of architecture or professional matters in Natal as well as personal news about members.

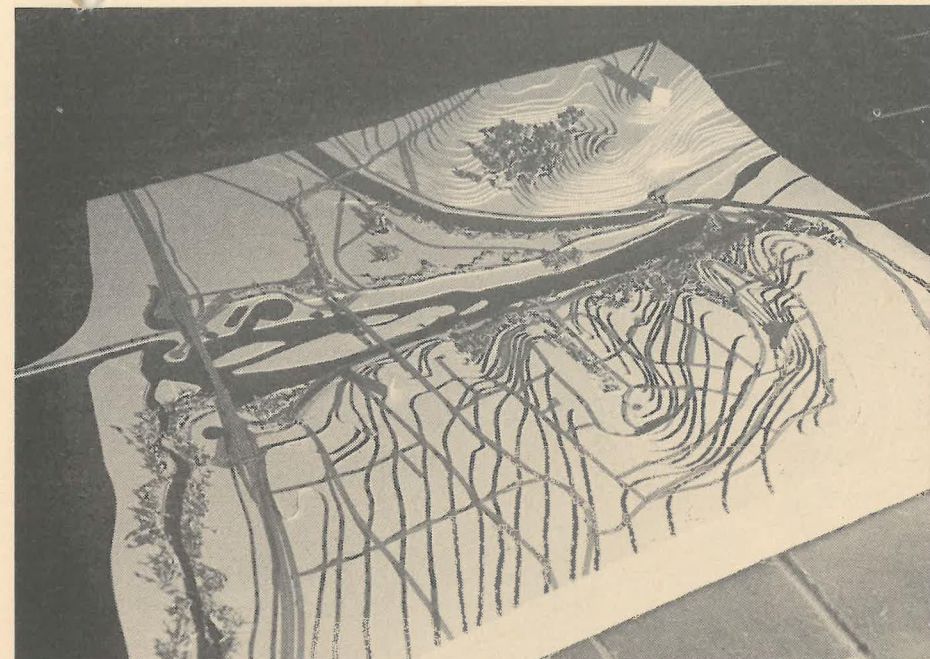
Vacancies and positions wanted may also be published in this newsletter for a small fee. Please contact:

Mrs. S. Grobler tel: 67345

Mr. D. Theron, editor tel: 332151

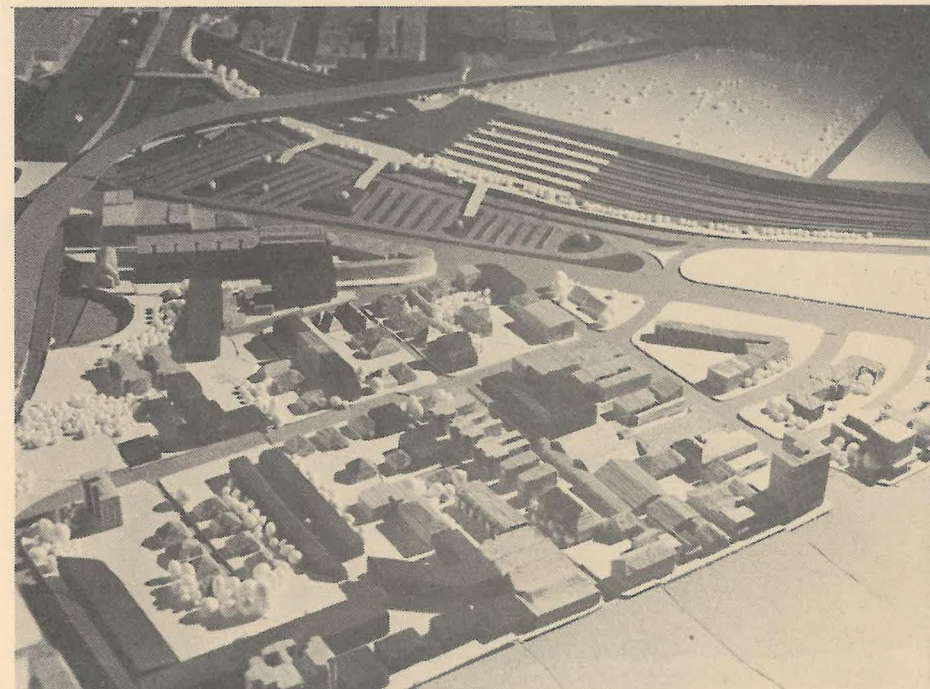
in this regard.

Some of the student work from the University of Natal to be displayed during the exhibition:



Top: Redevelopment, Umgeni River mouth, Durban, by Mrs. P. Emmet.

Bottom: Redevelopment, Greystreet area, Durban by I. Dayabhai.



a new era

Corobrik . . . a new name ushering in a new era in the building industry.

Mr. Dick Kemp, managing director of the Coronation Industrials Limited Group of brickmaking and building materials companies has announced a new phase in the Company's development.

Corogroup will now identify Coronation Industrials Limited and all the Group's national brick manufacturing interests have become the Corobrik team of companies throughout the company.

A national chain of 14 Corobrik sales offices now offers a complete brick and clay products sales service based on more than 70 years' service in the building industry.

Architects can rely on Corobrik on several important points . . . for a choice of more than 80 colours, hues and textures of face bricks . . . for the highest possible standards of quality resulting from continual evaluation and up-dating of production resources . . . for advice on any design problem as, for instance, in load-bearing brickwork and the application of any Corobrik materials.

Specifiers can rely on Corobrik whether they are involved in a small home or a massive Government project, to provide the correct product for the job . . . quickly and with no fuss.

The industry can rely on Corobrik to monitor world-wide trends in the use of clay products. The results of research and experiment programmes

are available to clients either in written form or by consultation with Corobrik's trained personnel.

Implicit in all Corobrik's manufacturing and marketing plans is an earnest desire to create an environment now which will remain aesthetically acceptable with the march of time.

The attacks of modern pollutants on the facades of buildings and the soaring costs of maintenance, materials and labour have made the choice of maintenance-free, durable and colourful claddings of paramount importance.

Corobrik believes that its burnt clay brick holds the answer to this common problem.

The wide range of Corobrik face bricks offer:

Colour and interest

No maintenance

Minimal thermal movement

Termite resistance

High sound insulation . . . the answer to sound intrusion in today's world of sound pollution.

Thermal insulation . . . warmer in winter and cooler in summer.

Fire resistance . . . it's safest between clay brick walls.

Pollution resistance . . . do not fade, strain or streak.

Economy . . . low initial cost and no subsequent maintenance costs.

Flexibility in design . . . allow architects plenty of scope for creative flair.

Durability . . . good burnt clay bricks last forever!

Mr Dick Kemp, managing director of Corogroup . . . helping to create a durable, pleasing environment.



this publication sponsored by

COROBRIK