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BBDO INDUSTRIAL 1589



BBDO

1-1981

newsletter

supplement to Architecture SA

Editorial

In celebrating its fifth year of publication the Natal Provincial Institute's Newsletter is devoting this issue to a listing of Durban buildings of architectural merit. Whilst the listing could by no means be complete, I have no doubt that it would provide a fairly comprehensive overview of what is considered best in the Durban-built environment.

Because of its ethnic and cultural diversity, metropolitan Durban has a rich variety of buildings and places of architectural and historical interest. These could be summarised under the following categories:-

- 1. Dockland architecture: a wide spectrum of interesting buildings and structures: warehouses and harbour administration buildings in the Point area; the harbour terminal (now to a large extent in disuse); the docks (and ships) themselves, from which interesting marine views of the city can be obtained; as well as the various yacht clubs around the bay.
- 2. Corrugated iron architecture: mostly dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These buildings were mostly ordered from catalogues and can still be found in the older suburbs of Seaview, Bellair, Hillary, Malvern and Northdene.
- 3. Victorian architecture: characterised by the 'Natal' house, with its intricate corrugated roofs and verandahs, decorative trelliswork in iron and wood and walls of salmon-coloured brickwork. Examples can be found in many of the older, southern suburbs, as well as in the central part of the Berea. Of note in this category are also the suburban stations on the old main line to Pietermaritzburg-Bellair station, Bothas Hill station, Inchanga station, etc. The old Central Station of Durban, now in danger of being demolished, is a good example of polychromous late Victorian architecture.
- 4. Public buildings: the civic complex of central Durban: the General Post Office (built in 1885 as Durban's first City Hall); the present City Hall (1903); the City Square; the old Railway Station complex (comprising some of the best examples of Victorian industrial architecture in this country in the form of workshops) and the old Durban Fort in Old Fort Road, form the core of what could be termed 'Historical Durban'. Several buildings within the central city, for instance Norman Eaton's Netherlands Bank Building; the General Accident Building by Mallows, Louw, Hoffe and Hamlin; Shell House by Geoffrey le Sueur, Stauch, Vorster & Partners; the Royal Hotel and the Colonial Mutual of Australia Building, are highrise buildings of note.
- 5. Arcades: the central part of the city is characterised by a network of interesting arcades and pedestrian ways. Although many of the most interesting ones have already disappeared under the hammer of demolishers, there are still several older arcades left: for example, Salisbury Arcade between Smith and West Streets. The Madressa Arcade in Grey Street is an outstanding example as a centre of Durban oriental commerce and is well worth a visit.
- 6. Architecture of the thirties and forties: good examples of this style survive on the beachfront, like the Grosvenor Court, Fairhaven and Kangelani apartment blocks; the Natal College Club Building in Smith Street; several residences on the Berea, as well as several Art Deco tower blocks in the Berea Road area. The banking hall of the old Colonial Mutual Building in West Street is a remarkable example of its particular style.
- 7. Utility buildings and structures: several bridges (especially in the Albert Park area); the Reservoir Hills reservoir; and general factories in the Mobeni and Jacobs industrial areas are noteworthy because of innovative construction and design. Pump and sub-stations built by the Durban Corporation represent some of the best and most interesting examples in this category.
- 8. Hindu Temples: a great variety of temples can be found in the low-lying regions of the city, especially along Bellair and Brickfield Roads, reflecting the important contribution of Hindu culture to the city environment. The Naransamy temple in Newlands is a good example of this type of architecture.
- 9. Mosques: a large number of mosques can be found around the city but the most interesting are those in the Grey Street area close to the centre of the city.
- 10. Housing: a large number of housing schemes have recently been built for lower income populations. Chatsworth, for the Indian population group, developed during the past two decades by the Durban Corporation is well worth a visit.
- 11. Apartment and hotel buildings: a large number of apartment buildings, especially those dating from the 1930s and 1940s can be found in the central city, as well as on the Berea. The most interesting buildings of this type, built during the 1950s, are undoubtedly those by Crofton & Benjamin; those of the 1960s by Hallen & Dibb and Biermann & Theron; and those in the seventies by Da Silva & Smith. Hotels like the Maharani and Elangeni, built during the late seventies, have had a decisive impact on the skyline of the Durban beachfront.
- 12. Residential architecture: general noteworthy houses of the late thirties and forties have survived. Notable houses during the 1950s were designed by Crofton & Benjamin; Basil Adkin; Chick Bartholomew & Poole; and Olaf Pretorius. Some notable houses during the sixties were built by Bierman & Theron; Hallen & Dibb; John Frost and others, and during the seventies by Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc., and a generation of younger architects like Ferreira, Da Silva & Smith; Building Design Group and others.

Edited for the natal provincial institute of architects by danie theron

Graphic design and layout: monica göbel. Cover photo: peter newman

FLATS

- 1. Argyle Road Flats: 8 Flats for the Department of Community Development 1965 Argyle Road, Berea Biermann & Theron
- 2. Bartle Road Flats: A complex of flat units for the Department of Community Development 1967 Bartle Road, Umbilo Hallen, Dibb & Partners
- 3. Cabana Beach 1974 Umhlanga Rocks Campbell, Bernstein & Irving
- 4. Clarence Road Flats: 15 Flats for the Department of Community Development 1965 Clarence Road, Berea Biermann & Theron
- 5. Clark Road Maisonettes: 2 Maisonettes for the Department of Community Development 1965 Clark Road, Umbilo Biermann & Theron
- 6. Drostdy 1965 Silverton Road, Berea Hallen, Dibb & Partners
- 7. Duplexes 1976 90 Rapson Road, Durban Ferreira, Da Silva & Smith
- 8. Duplexes 1976-78 371 and 416 Musgrave Road Friebe Construction
- 9. Esplanade Group of Apartments 1956-1970 Central Durban a) West Point b) Haven Court c) Riviera Hotel Crofton & Benjamin
- 10. Flats 1971 Off Longwood Road, Blue Gum Terrace, Kloof Building Design Group
- 11. Flats 1973 Newhaven Road, Durban Interarc
- 12. Flats 1981 101 Victoria Embankment, Durban Monte, Bryer & Rodd
- 13. Flats 1976 Villa Road, Sydenham Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 14. Hurlingham Flats 1960 Currie Road/Marriott Road, Berea Crofton & Benjamin
- 15. Hyde Park Flats 1959 Ridge Road, Berea Crofton & Benjamin
- 16. Lockleigh Park 1981 Oakleigh Drive, Durban Daniel Associates in association with Barry Clark
- 17. Musgrave Mews 1964 Musgrave Road, Berea Hallen, Dibb & Partners
- 18. Riebeeck Flats 1966 208 Cowey Road, Berea Hallen, Dibb & Partners
- 19. Sahara Sands 1965 Somtseu Road, North Beach E Tollman
- 20. Skye 1975 167 Ridge Road, Durban Ferreira, Da Silva & Smith
- 21. South Beach Flats a) Groote Schuur 1963 b) Lancaster Gate 1959 c) Silver Sands 1957 Erskine Terrace, South Beach Crofton & Benjamin
- 22. Umtunzi Flats 1966 Ninth Avenue off Clarence Road, Berea D Smith

HISTORICAL

- 23. Balquhider Circa 1890 Essenwood Road W E Roberts
- 24. British Embassy Circa 1885 Essenwood Road, Berea
- 25. City Hall 1903-1913 West Street, Durban Woolacott & Hudson
- 26. Congregational Church 1903 Alwal Street, Durban Architect unknown
- 27. Doddington Court 1926 Victoria Embankment Ritchie Mackinley
- 28. Durban Central Railway Station 1894-1898 Street Wilson & Fyfe
- 29. Durban Club 1904 Victoria Embankment Wells & Ing
- 30. Durban Town Hall 1909 Church Street Stanley Hudson

- 31. Emmanuel Cathedral 1904 Cathedral Road, Durban Street Wilson & Barr
- 32. General (Central) Post Office 1885 West Street, Durban Philip Dudgeon
- 33. Government Herbarium 1896 Botanic Gardens Road, Durban Architect unknown
- 34. International Style House c.1937 Holstead Gardens Architect unknown
- 35. Muckleneuk 1912 Marriott Road, Durban Herbert Baker & Fleming
- 36. House North Circa 1895-1900 Old Main Road, Northdene (Corr. Iron)
- 37. Penshurst 1905 (Edwardian House) Cnr Essenwood/Springfield Roads, Berea
- 38. House Renaud 1906 Essenwood Road, Durban Architect unknown
- 39. Rosgalan House c.1910 Essenwood Road, Durban Architect unknown
- 40. Students' Club House, Technical College 1938 West Street, Durban Ing, Jackson and Park Ross
- 41. Surrey Mansions 1934 Currie Road, Durban Langton & Barbour
- 42. Trevean 1882 Wakesleigh Drive, Bellair Robert Upton
- 43. Vasco Da Gama Memorial 1897 Victoria Embankment
- 44. Warehouse Circa 1893 Point Road, Durban

RELIGIOUS

- 46. Anglican Church 1977 605 Kingsway, Amanzimtoti Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 46. Convent of St John the Divine 1967 12 Donnelly Road, Wentworth Hallen, Dibb & Partners
- 47. Gereformeerde Kerk Durban-Wes 1972 Dickens Road, Bellair Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 48. Roman Catholic Church 1974 212 Florida Road, Durban ZAI Inc
- 49. Roman Catholic Church 1978 Sormany Road, Bluff Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 50. St Olav's Lutheran Church 1967 St Thomas Road, Berea Hallen, Dibb & Partners

GENERAL

- 51. Beach Offices 1972 Lower Marine Parade, Durban Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 52. Beerhall 1976 Umlazi Glebe Franklin, Garland & Gibson
- 53. BTR Products 1979 Circuit Road, Westmead Daniel Associates
- 54. Daily News Redevelopment 1977 Cnr Field/Pine Streets, Durban Paton, Taylor, Willies & Bennett
- 55. Datcentre 1980 Old Main Road, Pinetown Daniel Associates
- 56. Dennis Shepstone Building 1973 University of Natal, Durban Leslie T Croft
- 57. Dolphinarium 1975 West Street Extension, Durban Chiazzi & Franklin
- 58. Durban Indoor Sports Centre 1979 96-110 Brickfield Road, Durban Brian Johnson
- 59. Elangeni Hotel 1971 Snell Parade, Durban Dirkson, Blumenfeld & Krause Selsick, Wolpe, Levy & Partners
- 60. ERF Trucks 1980 Otto Volek Road, New Germany Daniel Associates
- 61. General Building 1976 Cnr West/Field Streets, Durban Mallows, Louw, Hoffe & Hamlin
- 62. Grey Street Indian Shopping Area Of special note here are Madressa Arcade and Emmanuel Cathedral, Durban
- 63. Huletts Head Office 1976 1001 Umhlanga Rocks Drive, Umhlanga Rocks Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc

- 64. Huntley's Hill Sub-Station 1976 Westville Maurice Dibb
- 65. La Lucia Library 1976 39 Armstrong Avenue, La Lucia Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 66. La Lucia Mall 1975 90 William Campbell Drive, La Lucia Bentei, Abramson & Partners Inc
- 67. Los Angeles Off-Sales Bottle Store 1969 St Thomas Road, Berea Tollman & Smith
- 68. Maharani Hotel 1977 Snell Parade, Durban Selsick, Wolpe, Levy & Partners
- 69. McKintosh Motors 1979 Circuit Road, Westmead Daniel Associates
- 70. Netherlands Bank 1963 Smith Street, Durban Norman Eaton & Partners
- 71. Office Building 1975 245 North Ridge Road, Durban ZAI Inc
- 72. Office Block 1965 Ridge Road, Berea Campbell & Bernstein
- 73. Offices and Shops 1980 South Coast Road, Durban W W Scherer
- 74. Polyfoi Factory 1979 Circuit Road, Westmead Daniel Associates
- 75. Regional Headquarters for SABS 1975 Waterval Park, Durban Franklin, Garland, Gibson & Partners
- 76. Research and Development Laboratory 1976 Sugar Mill, Mount Edgecombe Building Design Group
- 77. Royal Hotel Redevelopment 1978 Smith Street, Durban Paton, Raylor, Willies & Bennett Inc
- 78. Sacca Distribution Centre 1971 Ballantyne Road, Merebank Hallen, Theron & Partners
- 79. SAR&H: Laundry Facilities, Catering Platform, Personnel Building and Admin Facilities 1976 New Durban Station, Durban Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc Main Buildings New Station Complex 1981 New Durban Station, Durban Stauch, Vorster & Partners Inc
- 80. S&CI (Natal) (Pty) Ltd 1963 444 Lansdowne Road, Jacobs Louis van Loon
- 81. Shell House 1976 Smith Street, Durban Geoffrey Le Sueur, Stauch, Vorster & Partners
- 82. Shops and Offices 1976 Cnr Julia/Arcadia Roads, Durban Building Design Group
- 83. Sugar Terminal South Coast Road, Durban
- 84. E A Texal 1976 Marianhill Road, Pinetown W W Scherer
- 85. Treasury Branch Office Chatsworth 1978 Civic Centre Area, Chatsworth Maurice Dibb
- 86. Tropicale Restaurant 1960 Albert Park, Durban Diamond & Hallen

EDUCATIONAL

- 87. Dirkie Uys High School 1962 Bluff Road, Bluff Chick, Bartholomew & Poole
- 88. Golden Hours Centre 1976 Sherwood, Durban Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 89. 'Mpala Hall, University of Natal 1972 719 Umbilo Road, Umbilo Lewcock, Templer & Claude
- 90. Natal Technical College 1938 Club Building, West Street, Durban
- 91. St John's Nursery School 1976 Payne Street, Pinetown Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 92. University Residences 1965-1967 a) Mabel Palmer b) Scully Hall Hallen, Dibb & Partners

PUBLIC

- 93. Durban Harbour Terminal Circa 1960 Durban M S Zakrzewski & Partners
- 94. Little Top 1971 Beach Pavillion, South Beach Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc

- 95. Point Yacht Club Circa 1938 Yacht Mole, Victoria Embankment, Durban Calvert McDonald
- 96. Salisbury Arcade West/Smith Streets, Durban

INDIAN TEMPLES

- 97. Clairwood Draupadi Mirriammen Temple 122 Sirdar Road - Horsham Road, Clairwood
- 98. Clairwood Ledeman Temple 1920 122 Sirdar Road - Horsham Road, Clairwood
- 99. Clairwood Subramaniam Temple 1920 122 Sirdar Road - Horsham Road, Clairwood
- 100. Ganesha Temple 1919 62/66 Richborough Road, Clairwood
- 101. Mayville Subramaniam Temple Brickfield Road, Sydenham
- 102. Narasamy Temple 1906 Newlands
- 103. Seaview Vishnu Temple 1927 Seaview
- 104. Shree Ambalaunar Alayum Umbilo Temple Umbilo River, Rossburgh
- 105. Shree Thakurdwala and Dharamshala Temple 1901 22 Somtseu Road, Durban
- 106. Shree Vaihianatha Easperar Temple 1940 533/562 Umgeni Road, Durban
- 107. Shri Angalammen Temple 1920 86 Dromolare Temple, Mayville
- 108. Shri Muruga Kadavul Temple 1937 Jacobs Road, Jacobs
- 109. Shri Muthilinganatha Easperar Alayam 588 Bellair Road, Bellair

MOSQUES

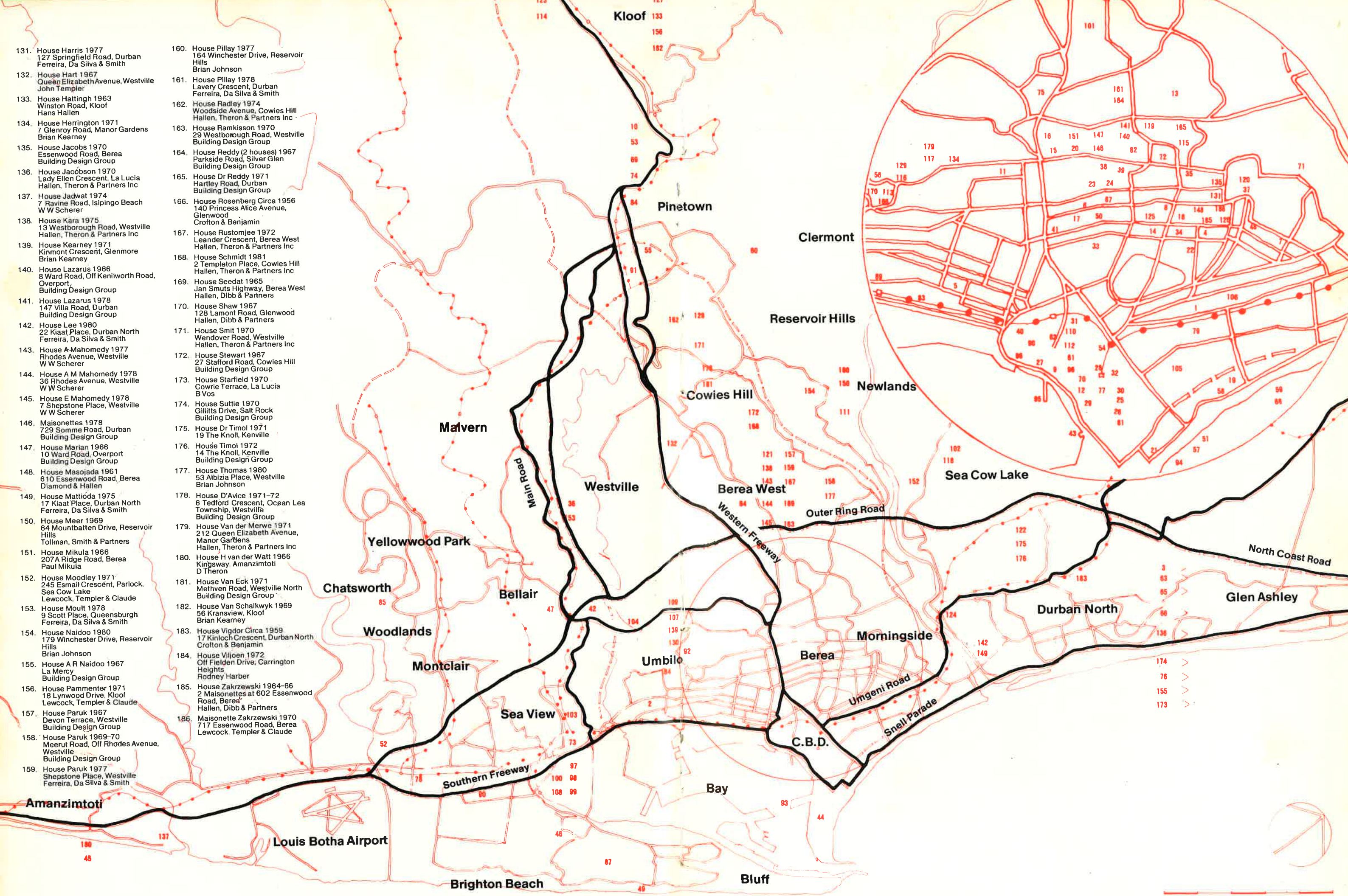
- 110. Grey Street Mosque 1884 Durban
- 111. Reservoir Hills Mosque 1972 Mountbatten Drive, Reservoir Hills Hallen, Theron & Partners Ins
- 112. West Street Mosque Circa 1890 Durban

RESIDENTIAL

- 113. House Azizz 1968 144 Lamont Road, Glenwood Building Design Group
- 114. House Barker 1965 56 Pearson Road, Gillitts Hallen, Dibb & Partners
- 115. House Bassidy 1962 Overport, Durban Diamond & Hallen
- 116. House Beattie 1971 Bank Terrace, Manor Gardens McLaren, Alcock & Bedford
- 117. House Biermann 1962 38 Glenwood Drive, Glenwood Barry Biermann
- 118. Briardale 1981 Newlands West Building Design Group
- 119. House B T Chetty 1971 9 Glenearn Road, Overport Building Design Group
- 120. House Cornford 1967 19 St Audley Gardens, Berea John Frost
- 121. House Dada 1981 1 Meerut Road, Westville Brian Johnson
- 122. House Daya 1974 99 Jain Road, Effingham Heights Brian Johnson
- 123. House D'Eath 1969 3 Spring Close, Hillcrest Lewcock, Templer & Claude
- 124. House de Wilde 1980 36 Hillbrow Road, Durban Ferreira, Da Silva & Smith
- 125. House Didcott 1971 15 Miller Grove, Berea V Polfreman
- 126. House Finkel 1975 645 Musgrave Road Ferreira, Da Silva & Smith
- 127. House Frost 1970 29 Winston Road, Kloof John Frost
- 128. House Griffith 1969 55 Pitlochry Road, Westville Building Design Group
- 129. House Hall 1970 Bank Terrace, Manor Gardens Hallen, Theron & Partners
- 130. House Hallen 1960 48 Nicolai Crescent, Glenmore Hans Hallen

- 131. House Harris 1977
127 Springfield Road, Durban
Ferreira, Da Silva & Smith
- 132. House Hart 1967
Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Westville
John Templer
- 133. House Hattingh 1963
Winston Road, Kloof
Hans Hallen
- 134. House Herrington 1971
7 Glenroy Road, Manor Gardens
Brian Kearney
- 135. House Jacobs 1970
Essenwood Road, Berea
Building Design Group
- 136. House Jacobson 1970
Lady Ellen Crescent, La Lucia
Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 137. House Jadwat 1974
7 Ravine Road, Isipingo Beach
W W Scherer
- 138. House Kara 1975
13 Westborough Road, Westville
Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 139. House Kearney 1971
Kinmont Crescent, Glenmore
Brian Kearney
- 140. House Lazarus 1966
8 Ward Road, Off Kenilworth Road,
Overport,
Building Design Group
- 141. House Lazarus 1978
147 Villa Road, Durban
Building Design Group
- 142. House Lee 1980
22 Kiaat Place, Durban North
Ferreira, Da Silva & Smith
- 143. House A-Mahomedy 1977
Rhodes Avenue, Westville
W W Scherer
- 144. House A M Mahomedy 1978
36 Rhodes Avenue, Westville
W W Scherer
- 145. House E Mahomedy 1978
7 Shepstone Place, Westville
W W Scherer
- 146. Maisonettes 1978
729 Somme Road, Durban
Building Design Group
- 147. House Marian 1966
10 Ward Road, Overport
Building Design Group
- 148. House Masojada 1961
610 Essenwood Road, Berea
Diamond & Hallen
- 149. House Mattiöda 1975
17 Kiaat Place, Durban North
Ferreira, Da Silva & Smith
- 150. House Meer 1969
64 Mountbatten Drive, Reservoir
Hills
Tollman, Smith & Partners
- 151. House Mikula 1966
207 A Ridge Road, Berea
Paul Mikula
- 152. House Moodley 1971
245 Esmail Crescent, Parlock,
Sea Cow Lake
Lewcock, Templer & Claude
- 153. House Moulit 1978
9 Scott Place, Queensburgh
Ferreira, Da Silva & Smith
- 154. House Naidoo 1980
179 Winchester Drive, Reservoir
Hills
Brian Johnson
- 155. House A R Naidoo 1967
La Mercy
Building Design Group
- 156. House Pammenter 1971
18 Lynwood Drive, Kloof
Lewcock, Templer & Claude
- 157. House Paruk 1967
Devon Terrace, Westville
Building Design Group
- 158. House Paruk 1969-70
Meerut Road, Off Rhodes Avenue,
Westville
Building Design Group
- 159. House Paruk 1977
Shepstone Place, Westville
Ferreira, Da Silva & Smith

- 160. House Pillay 1977
164 Winchester Drive, Reservoir
Hills
Brian Johnson
- 161. House Pillay 1978
Lavery Crescent, Durban
Ferreira, Da Silva & Smith
- 162. House Radley 1974
Woodside Avenue, Cowies Hill
Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 163. House Ramkisson 1970
29 Westborough Road, Westville
Building Design Group
- 164. House Reddy (2 houses) 1967
Parkside Road, Silver Glen
Building Design Group
- 165. House Dr Reddy 1971
Hartley Road, Durban
Building Design Group
- 166. House Rosenberg Circa 1956
140 Princess Alice Avenue,
Glenwood
Crofton & Benjamin
- 167. House Rustomjee 1972
Leander Crescent, Berea West
Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 168. House Schmidt 1981
2 Templeton Place, Cowies Hill
Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 169. House Seedat 1965
Jan Smuts Highway, Berea West
Hallen, Dobb & Partners
- 170. House Shaw 1967
128 Lamont Road, Glenwood
Hallen, Dobb & Partners
- 171. House Smit 1970
Wendover Road, Westville
Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 172. House Stewart 1967
27 Stafford Road, Cowies Hill
Building Design Group
- 173. House Starfield 1970
Cowrie Terrace, La Lucia
B Vos
- 174. House Suttie 1970
Gillits Drive, Salt Rock
Building Design Group
- 175. House Dr Timol 1971
19 The Knoll, Kenville
- 176. House Timol 1972
14 The Knoll, Kenville
Building Design Group
- 177. House Thomas 1980
53 Albizia Place, Westville
Brian Johnson
- 178. House D'Avico 1971-72
6 Tedford Crescent, Ocean Lea
Township, Westville
Building Design Group
- 179. House Van der Merwe 1971
212 Queen Elizabeth Avenue,
Manor Gardens
Hallen, Theron & Partners Inc
- 180. House H van der Watt 1966
Kingsway, Amanzimtoti
D Theron
- 181. House Van Eck 1971
Methven Road, Westville North
Building Design Group
- 182. House Van Schalkwyk 1969
56 Kransview, Kloof
Brian Kearney
- 183. House Vigdor Circa 1959
17 Kinloch Crescent, Durban North
Crofton & Benjamin
- 184. House Viljoen 1972
Off Fielden Drive, Carrington
Heights
Rodney Harber
- 185. House Zakrzewski 1964-66
2 Maisonettes at 602 Essenwood
Road, Berea
Hallen, Dobb & Partners
- 186. Maisonette Zakrzewski 1970
717 Essenwood Road, Berea
Lewcock, Templer & Claude



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Guide map to be read in conjunction with detailed street maps of Durban and environment



Resumé of Delegates' Programme

Tuesday 2nd June

Afternoon: Registration
Drinks and Snacks/Finger Supper and Exhibition
Opening by President-in-Chief

Wednesday 3rd June – Theme: The Architectural Profession: International Concerns

Morning:
Official Opening
Address
Registration
Building: The Modern World in South Africa
The International Context: Common Aims and Difficulties to the Proper Performance of Architecture – *Mr Louis de Moll from the USA*
Principles, Preference, Predilections: Images and Ideas: A Self Portrait – *Prof Charles Moore from the USA*

Afternoon:
Simultaneous
Workshop Sessions
Workshop 1 The Architectural Profession in South Africa: What We Are and What We Could Be
Workshop 2 The Third World: The Role of the Architectural Profession
Workshop 3 The City Environment and a Meaningful Role for the Profession
Panel Discussion
Civic Reception

Evening:

Thursday 4th June – Theme: The Architectural Profession, Status and Role

Morning:
Address
Address
Address
Address
The Architectural Profession: Status and Role – *Mr Peter Melvin from the UK*
Architectural Quality and the Client – *Dr Zak de Beer*
Architectural Excellence and the Market Place – *Mr Harry Seidler from Australia*
Building for the State – *Mr N van Niekerk*

Afternoon:
Simultaneous
Workshop Sessions
Workshop 4 Office Practice: Organisation and Management
Workshop 5 Architectural Education and the Profession
Workshop 6 Design and Architecture
Workshop 7 Computer Aids and Architecture
Panel Discussion
Ox Braai – Zulu Song and Dance

Evening:

Friday 5th June – Theme: Shaping the Future

Morning:
Address
Address
Address
Educating the Architect – *Prof Barrie Biermann*
Architecture and Southern Africa: A Framework for the Future – *Mr Hans Hallen*
Congress Resumé and Review
Resolutions
Closure
Congress Banquet

Evening:

Saturday 6th June

ALL DAY: Durban Environment Tour – *Prof Ron Davies*

Some Introductory Remarks

The history of Southern Africa is one of territorial conflict between the various European and Asian settlers, and the indigenous people of the region. Although this legacy now stretches back over several centuries, it still comes as a surprise to discover the extent to which this background continues to influence the essential characteristics of settlement. In Durban, historical circumstances make it possible to view and experience the resulting patterns of settlement encapsulated in a small geographical area.

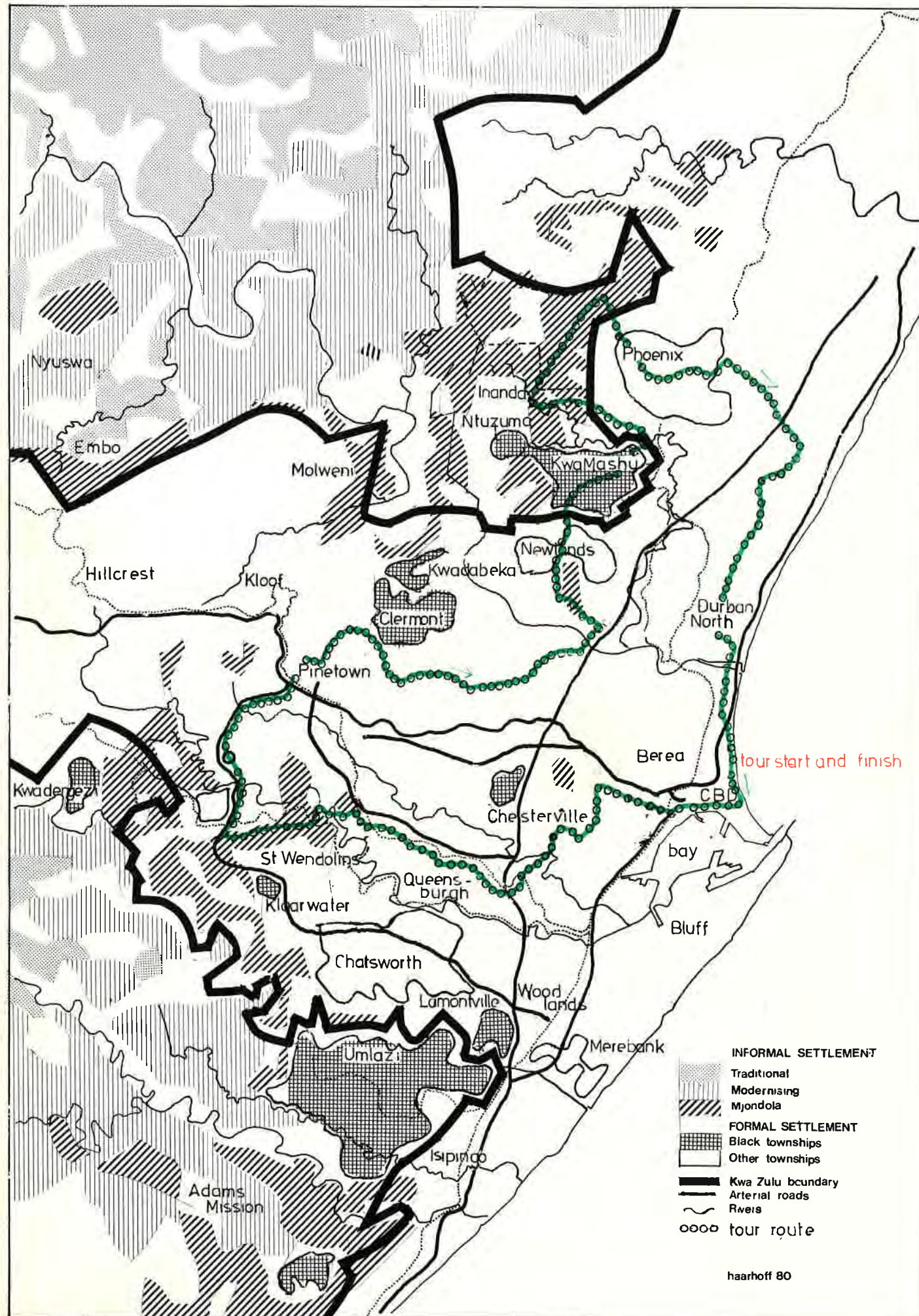
Three major historical forces have shaped settlement in Durban and given it its particular character. These are firstly, the 19th century European colonial settlers dominated by the British Empire, secondly, the exotic influence that came with the settlers from the Indian sub-continent, and thirdly, the already-established culture and traditions of the indigenous people into which the colonisation was thrust. These three forces, with all their ramifications, have given Durban the character it now possesses. A fourth, and perhaps even more powerful force is currently at work – the consequences of rapid growth and urbanisation. This has resulted in extensive informal settlement on the urban fringe at the interface between the urban core and the vast rural hinterland that is now KwaZulu. It is this informal settlement, which houses over a third of the city's population, that makes Durban, above all else, the most 'Third World' of all South Africa's cities.

The purpose of the environmental tour, which is being arranged as part of the National Congress programme, is to reveal this historical legacy and the ongoing settlement process. Delegates on this tour will be the guests of the School of Architecture at the University of Natal where an introductory talk will be given by the tour leader, Prof. Ron Davies, a renowned geographer now at the University of Cape Town. In this talk the relationship between the

physical structure of the land and the pattern of urban settlement that resulted from the establishment of the city on the Bay of Natal will be discussed. This will be related back to the route travelled across the Berea en route to the University. Errol Haarhoff will briefly discuss the process and type of informal settlement that will be seen on the tour.

The route will run from the University through Cato Manor, where good examples of Hindu Temples still remain as a reminder that this area was previously the location for Indian residents. Cato Manor was also where vast squatter settlements were cleared in the 60s, and the Black population rehoused at Kwa Mashu to be seen later in the day. The route runs on through the Old Main Line suburbs, the earliest suburban sprawl that followed the old railway to the interior. Here many houses of 19th century origin are still to be seen. A short detour will take the bus through part of Chatsworth, a large township for Indians established in the late 60s. A picnic lunch will be held at the Marianhill Monastery, itself a collection of historical buildings of great merit. The route then runs through the industrial centre of Pinetown, past the Black township of Clermont and through the middle-class suburban areas of Westville and Reservoir Hills, and then north across the Springfield flats and the Umgeni River to the Inanda area. Here formal and informal settlements stand in sharp contrast, and visits will be made to Kwa Mashu (Black township), Newlands (Coloured township), the Inanda site and service scheme and the vast informal settlement around Shembe's Village, itself a place of interest. The return trip will pass Phoenix (a new Indian township) and follow a route through Durban North back to the hotel. There is no doubt that this tour will prove to be both an informative and enjoyable experience for Congress delegates.

Errol Haarhoff 23.4.81



LOCATION OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENT BY TYPE IN THE DURBAN METROPOLITAN AREA