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NATAL PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
UNIVERSITY OF NATAL SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
LIAISON COMMITTEE 1969 – 1984



JOURNAL OF THE NATAL
PROVINCIAL INSTITUTE OF
ARCHITECTS
TYDSKRIF VAN DIE NATALSE
PROVINSIALE INSTITUUT VAN
ARGITEKTE

3-1984

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This issue of the *NPIA Journal* celebrates the 15th anniversary of the Natal Provincial Institute of Architects/University of Natal, School of Architecture Liaison Committee.

I have been a regular attender over the years of the Tuesday night functions at SH2 and have also been fortunate enough on occasions to enjoy a glass of dry white from a happy box and biscuits and cheese. I commend the Committee on the standard and quality of programmes they have produced.

Liaison between students, academic staff and members of the profession is of the utmost importance and Natal is unique in that other Provinces do not enjoy the advantages of a similar link between the profession and the University. They would do well to emulate Natal.

Because the question of student/profession relations is so important, the Professional Promotions Directorate has seen fit to bring to this country Mr Robert Fox who is the American Institute of Architects President of Student Chapters. He will be in Durban some time during August to advise on how the ties between town and gown can be encouraged and strengthened.

Congratulations to the Liaison Committee and my best wishes for your activities in future years with growing support of your programme from the practising and salaried members of the Institute. The Liaison Committee's programme must be regarded as an important part of any mid-career education programme.

Derek Sherlock

AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHERS

When a Committee turns 15, a celebration may be deserved. But should the *NPIA* give over an entire issue to the celebration?

The *NPIA*/University of Natal Liaison Committee and its aims and objectives are unique within the ISAA. It facilitates contact between students and the profession by providing on a regular basis a balance of educational, social and sporting events. The speakers cover topical subjects of architectural and environmental interest. Social events include Archilark/Frazzle (the students' concert) and Archiball, and for sporting events the University repertoire of facilities is available. Events take place at times and venues suitable to students, staff and practitioners, not seldom preceded by sundowners as an added incentive.

Based on 15 years of sound experience, a Liaison Committee such as the *NPIA*/University of Natal Committee can only be recommended to other Provincial Committees and Universities. It is therefore as an encouragement to them that the *NPIA* gives over this issue to the Liaison Committee 1969 - 1984.

Walter Peters, Editor.

CURRENT LIAISON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Representing the *NPIA*:
Sonny Tomkin, Maurice Dibb, Lance Smith, Keith Alcock and Gerald Seitter.

Representing the staff of the Natal School of Architecture:
Ted Tollman, Peter Stewart, Finlay Heunis and Walter Peters (Chairman).

Representing the students of Architecture:
Margi Glavovic and Pierre Venter (First Year), Marianne Matherbe and Pieter Zifman (Second Year), Michal Cohen and Cathy Mocke (Third Year), John Smillie and Jerry Young (Fourth Year) and Dudley Yeo and John Ferendinos (Fifth Year).

UNIVERSITY/INSTITUTE LIAISON COMMITTEE

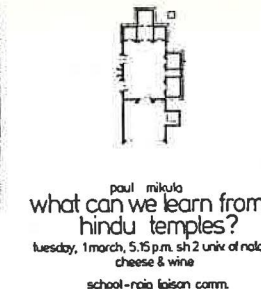
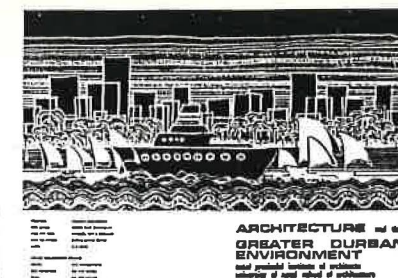
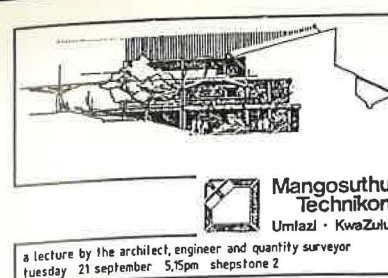
The following events have been planned for the 3rd quarter:

Tuesday, 7 August, 5.15 p.m. in SH2: Denis Shepstone Building: *Durban Expo 1985* by its organisers and architects. Cheese and Wine.

Tuesday, 21 August, 5.15 p.m. in SH2: Bob Fox, President of the Association of Student Chapters of the American Institute of Architects on *The Student-Profession Relationship in the USA*. The Liaison Committee's birthday party is to precede this lecture.

Saturday, 1 September: Archiball. Time and venue to be announced.

Tuesday, 11 September, 5.15 p.m. in SH2: NBS/Norman Hanson Fellow, Professor Geoffrey Broadbent on *Human Needs and Design Ideals*.



THE COMMITTEE IN ITS HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

When writing about the Liaison Committee it seems desirable to place it in its historical context. One is reminded of the varying relationship between the School and the Institute - sometimes negative, sometimes positively good and sometimes bad. One is reminded of the difficulties of establishing the School, the turmoil caused by inadequate facilities and insufficient staff. One is reminded of a family, and the vicissitudes of having a child - the birth, the infant, the teenager reaching his majority. One thinks of the Institute in the role of the parent, of loving but not always liking his child, the School. One thinks of the School having been conceived, growing and developing in its own way in the environment of the University with, or in spite of, advice from the Institute. The Natal Provincial Institute has been involved to a greater or lesser extent with architectural education from the starting of part-time classes for articled pupils in 1933. The extent of its commitment has fluctuated with circumstances.

The 1930's and 1940's was a gestation period with part-time classes meeting a need. The need was to provide some formal architectural education for articled pupils and part-time students. The total student numbers peaked at 30 between 1933 and 1943. With demobilisation after the war the student numbers grew to 100 in three years. The birth of the school was imminent.

In 1949 the Natal University College became the University of Natal, the Department of Architecture and Quantity Surveying (The School of Architecture) was established, Professor P.H. Connell was appointed the first Professor of Architecture and Head of Department and the Degree Course in Architecture was inaugurated.

The child had been born and, like the introduction of the first child into any family, the family was affected. Students who had been draughtsmen in the architects' offices elected to take the full-time degree course leaving the offices short-staffed. A couple of architects led a vendetta against the School and the staff of the School kept aloof from the Natal Provincial Institute. Fortunately there were a few members of the *NPI* who understood that the School was trying to get on its feet in spite of a desperate shortage of staff, accommodation and equipment. Notable among these were Mr S.N. Tomkin and Mr Calvert McDonald. The child was still in nappies and some members of the family did not like it. In these turbulent years the relationship between the School and the *NPI* was at the lowest ebb but even so the school called on and got support from members of the profession as external examiners, for participation in seminars and members of the Committee for Studies in Architecture. In the next five years (1949-1954) the part-time course was phased out but some of the part-time students were still completing courses five or more years later.

The relationship between the School and the *NPI* slowly improved as old wounds healed. When the School got recognition for the students internationally and when its graduates and members of staff began to take a renewed interest in the Institute, closer links were forged. This improving situation continued but the positive attitude of respect of one for the other was noticeable about 1964 - 65.

The teenager was growing up and developing into a acceptable person. In 1964 Professor Connell resigned and in 1965 I was appointed Professor of Architecture and Head of the Department.

Between 1964 and 1970 the student numbers increased from 35 to 145. The teenager was growing too fast - his long pants were at half mast. As the School approached its 21st birthday in 1970 the student body was becoming more adult and was asking for student membership of the Institute. The *NPI* was wanting a closer relationship with the

students and set up its Liaison Committee.

This Committee was not a success largely because continuity was very difficult with students who were moving on either to a period of practical experience or post-graduation employment.

I considered that the time was ripe for the setting up of a formal Liaison Committee of students, staff and the *NPI*. The inclusion of staff was to provide the continuity because they were the most permanent of the three. As a result of my taking this matter to the Committee for Studies in Architecture, a meeting of a sub-committee was held in my office on 6th March 1969. I invited several members of the *NPI*, at least one of whom was an outspoken critic of the School, to attend to discuss the whole question of School-Institute Liaison.

On 1st April 1969 another meeting was held to work out details and the first meeting of the Liaison Committee of the Natal School of Architecture and the Natal Provincial Institute of Architects was held on the 29th April 1969.

I asked Mr E. Tollman to chair the meeting because I did not want the liaison to be a Head of Department - President of the Institute ex-office affair, but rather a meeting of staff, students and architects with a common interest. The child had grown up and rational discussion was possible and even pleasant between parent and child.

From its birth in 1949 until it reached its majority in 1970, the School was fighting for more and better accommodation. The move into Centenary Building in 1959 was a temporary respite and a considerable improvement on the huts and the Memorial Tower Building but it was not until the School moved into Shepstone Building in 1973 that it had adequate accommodation for all its activities.

The Architecture Branch Library was established in 1969 but it was able to grow and be a real force in the School only after the move into Shepstone Building.

After 1973 the School was able to offer good facilities for lectures, exhibitions and seminars. The Liaison Committee used these for their many activities and in recognition of the Institute's financial contribution to the Architecture Branch Library members may use the library. If one is to speculate on the success of this Liaison Committee one must look to the circumstances of its founding, the membership, the common interests and its achievements.

It was started when circumstances were propitious. After the years when the relationship between the School and the *NPI* was poor, old scores were being forgotten and the need for liaison and the advantages of co-operation were obvious.

There was continuity. Some members served for many years. Here I must mention Mr E. Tollman and Mr S.N. Tomkin who were involved in the early discussions and who were still on the Committee in 1982.

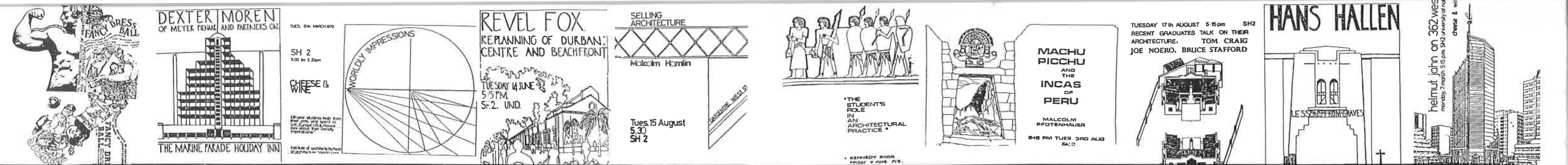
Together the *NPI* and the School organised functions, some serious, some lighthearted and some sporting. In addition to sports meetings there have been not less than three serious functions each year.

It also served as a forum for discussion. When the students wanted to 'blow off steam' about the School, the Institute, or the world in general, or architects wanted to complain about students' behaviour, there was this forum where it could all come out.

The Liaison Committee had a need to meet. Its record shows that it had met this need very successfully. We expect and hope it will continue to do so.

Leslie Croft

Professor Croft is an Emeritus Professor of Architecture at the University of Natal.



FROM THE LONGEST SERVING INSTITUTE MEMBER

Fifteen years is possibly a reasonable time to look back to the time of the establishment of the Liaison Committee of the Students and Staff of the School of Architecture at the University of Natal and members of the Natal Provincial Institute.

The committee was created as a result of discussions which took place at the meetings of the University Committee of Studies in the School of Architecture on which NPIA members were represented, and discussions at the NPIA Executive Committee meetings. It was felt that views and opinions were being expressed at these separate meetings which embodied misunderstandings each of the other. Professor Croft and I created the opportunity for the meeting of students, staff and Institute members in order to establish a form of liaison between them which would provide the opportunity for a free expression of opinion at a meeting where immediate answers could be given and views expressed which would hopefully eliminate those particular opinions being held and expressed that in fact lacked first hand knowledge of the matters involved.

Perhaps the first programmes set down by the first Committee for 28 May 1969 and 18 June 1969 are indicative of the matters requiring mutual exchange of views and opinions.

28 May 1969 Symposium
'What we want the Institute to be'
5.15 - 6.30 p.m.
Sandwiches & Coffee
18 June 1969
'The Holford Plan'
5.15 - 6.30 p.m.
Beer and Sausages available

Is the refreshment programme evidence of early maturity that has since further matured to Cheese and Wine?

At the second meeting on 29 May 1969 the first suggested objectives of the Committee were set down:

The aims and objects of this Liaison Committee shall be to foster understanding and co-operation between students and the profession in matters of common concern and interest; primarily the responsibility for involvement in the design of the

total environment and secondarily in the general welfare of the members of our constituent bodies.

These objectives have been regularly reconfirmed over the years and the programmes have been extremely varied and well conceived. These have included eminent visiting overseas lecturers, practising members talking on 'My Kind of Architecture', symposiums, seminars, debates, mock arbitrations, slide shows, as well as dances, fancy dress balls and sporting events between students, staff and practitioners in the Architectural, Quantity Surveying, and Engineering professions. Many of these functions were absolutely splendid and reflected the organising ability and enthusiasm of the student representatives together with staff and Institute support.

I believe the Committee has fulfilled its purpose to a reasonable extent and its existence has led to the participation of students in many of the functions and committees of the Faculty and Institute who contribute annually to the committee's budget. It has afforded the opportunity for students to form their views of the significance of membership of the Institute.

Possibly one of the most important lessons to be learnt has been that Institutions and organisations with objectives to achieve, can only succeed in relation to the measure of interest and support provided by individuals with those objectives in mind. Further, that if individuals are sometimes not in entire agreement with the manner of achieving those objectives then active participation in the affairs of the Institute and its committees is the most effective avenue through which to influence and realize a change.

I would like to add my congratulations to all those many outstanding students, staff and Institute members together with all the past Chairmen who have done so much to make this Liaison Committee a workable and working success and I believe it has provided in the past an example to the rest of the Universities and Institutes in the Republic.

Sonny Tomkin.

Mr Tomkin is Honorary Professional Adviser to the School of Architecture, an ISAA Gold Medalist and ISAA Medal of Distinction recipient. He has officially represented the NPIA on the Liaison Committee since 1969.

FROM THE LONGEST SERVING STAFF MEMBER

The Liaison Committee of the Natal School of Architecture and the Natal Provincial Institute of Architects, which is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year, had its first meeting in 1969 on a rather inauspicious 1st April. Despite the foolery associated with its inaugural date it has enjoyed unique success as a catalyst for healthy town and gown interrelationships. The involvement of the profession with the staff and students of the School and the reciprocal concern of the School with the profession's programmes has enriched and strengthened both constituents beyond the single capability of either.

The history of this collaboration goes back much further than a mere 15 years. It has its roots in the 1930's with the contribution made by the profession to the teaching of architecture in Natal. Sonny Tomkin and the late Calvert McDonald were the driving force behind the part-time architectural course that was run until 1949 when Paul Connell was appointed the first full-time professor of architecture. These part-time teachers were also front runners in the Natal profession, Calvert attaining the office of President in 1939 and Sonny on no less than four occasions in the 1940's. It is thus no accident that the links between the profession and the University are strong today for they were forged by men of calibre and vision who recognised that the objectives of architectural education and those

of service to the public, espoused by the profession, were largely common. It was not until 1969, however, that Natal's second Professor of Architecture, Leslie Croft, formalized the implicit bond which had always existed, with the inauguration of the School/Institute Liaison Committee. A joint meeting of students, Institute members and staff resolved to form a Liaison Committee that would be independent of both the student association and the Architectural Institute. This committee was intended to serve the mutual interests and the common objectives of what was seen to be one community of involved believers in the profession of architecture. I undertook to chair the committee for the first year and by dint of poor memory, weak resolve, or chronic masochism, remained in office for seven years.

Looking back on the seven years the record of activities appears quite impressive. The committee got off to a controversial start with their first symposium, "What We Think the Institute Should Be". Among a great many viewpoints recorded at that time were (not unexpectedly): "Close links between students and practitioners were necessary and desirable and should be strengthened" and "The Institute is dead and the present generation of architectural students must begin ab initio." Other highlights of that first year were a second

symposium "What we Think the School of Architecture Should Be" (the record of this debate has been expunged) and a third on "The Holford Plan for Durban." The year's programme ended with the traditional frenetic fancy dress ball, with architects and students frolicking into the early hours.

The first year's programme set the pattern of activities that has endured without interruption and with only minor modification over the past fifteen years. These activities in general related to the four academic terms of the year and comprised a balanced combination of educational, sporting and social events. Highlights of these early hours included an annual series of public symposia and related exhibitions, held in the civic centre and attended by representatives of central Provincial and Local Government. Thus a captive audience of senior officials and elected decision makers listened dutifully to what we conceived of 'Architecture and the Environment'; 'Durban 2000'; 'Planning a Better Durban for To-morrow' and 'The Durban Metropolitan Plan'. This was the beginning of a slow process of education which may well have had its long term rewards in the appointment of an independent Beach and Central District Steering Committee with Revel Fox as consultant to the City Council. That same first lively year saw the revival of the Annual Architects' Concert with half the staff suitably aged and confined to wheel chairs reminiscing about the glories of the past and students with merciless preception revealing the obviously ill-concealed idiosyncrasies of the lecturing staff. The mainstay of the annual programmes has always been the series of topical lectures, seminars and symposia for our own members. To mention but a few from those

ASPECTS AND CONSIDERATIONS OF LIAISON

Some of the people who served in 1969, in the early years of the Liaison Committee were: Bill O' Beirne, Barry Clark, Clem Fridjoh, Sonny Tomkin, Tom Bedford, Keith Alcock and France Rougier; Professor Leslie Croft, Barrie Biermann, Ted Tollman, John Templar, Danie Theron and Peter Stewart; Colin Savage, Kevin Macgarry, Robin Jay, Peter Engelbrecht, Tony Mackeson and Robert Brusse. In particular and throughout the lengthy period of this Committee's activities all must be indebted to the staunch support given by Ted Tollman and in particular Sonny Tomkin.

Some of the matters confronting Committee members in these years were not that dissimilar to the issues of today and concerns of the roles of our Institutions and the quality of our environment.

Some of these meetings were successful, and if success is a measure of anger and resentment displayed by several prominent practitioners, caused by some loudly clad sophomore, then subjects such as 'Should Students Practise' were successful and were necessary to shake the complacent and hibernating professionals from the skirts of architectural practice.

Some have participated in the fun on the soccer pitch and the volley-ball courts and this interaction and occasional romp around the squash courts has been healthy. Some have been exposed to very interesting visitors and lectures - all of which are vital ingredients for the architectural adrenalin; and to the learning process and ways of sharing the experiences of colleagues in this isolated part of the world.

I have some difficulty with the objectives of the Liaison Committee for although "understanding and co-operation" is important between professional and student concerning "the responsibility for involvement in the design of the environment", the student has enjoyed a limited role through his vacation employment, practical year and year in training (and private jobs!). Here the stimulation, hopefully a two-way exchange, is important, albeit sometimes a servant/master relationship. Perhaps

early years: Garth Williamson (now Durban's Chief Town Planner) on 'English New Towns'; Barrie, Pancho and Gordon Small arguing the toss about 'Palladio'; Hans 'Reporting back from Madrid'; returning fourth years on 'The Greek Islands'; heated debates on 'The New Architects' Act'; 'Metrication'; 'Model Byelaws' (sic); 'Student Participation in Architectural Practice'; 'Multi-disciplinary Practice'; 'Report back from the Cape Education Conference'; 'Is Architecture Royal Game?' (on the reservation of work issue); and the 'My Kind of Architecture' series with architects from all over Natal and the Republic baring their souls. Annual professional practice seminars were mounted for the benefit of final years and the profession and the hilarious production of the late Peter Leigh-Hunt's 'Mock Arbitration' will long be remembered. On the social side activities were regularly punctuated with cheese and wine (more accurately dubbed 'mousetrap and plonk') get-togethers as a prelude to more serious concerns. Social highlight of the year has invariably been the Annual Architects' Ball, hugely successful but frequently resulting in a deficit! Fortunately the NPI has always provided the committee with a small operating budget and been more than delighted with the value for money received.

From these first beginnings the Committee's activities have become an integral part of both the School and the Institute programmes. Our most recent Chairman, Wally Peters, has raised the contribution of the Committee to new heights as epitomised best perhaps by the publication of this anniversary issue of the *NPIA Journal* and the festivities planned for our anniversary year.

Ted Tollman

Professor Tollman has represented the staff of the School of Architecture on the Liaison Committee since its inception.

thought can be given to ways and means of capturing the enthusiasm and stimulation; thinking and ideas the youthful and unfettered student can offer the profession?

Some would say Durban is rapidly assuming the reluctant mantle of a soulless, slick and jazzy bazaar - a state of being, accelerated by the callous and philistine destruction of many older buildings of taste. What, for example has replaced Castle and Club Arcade; Marine and Twines Hotel; the old passage ways and church adjacent the old Central Hotel; the earlier interior spaces of Greenacres - to mention but a few. Perhaps our students are becoming disillusioned.

Some new yet pretentious structures adorn the city silhouette - each jostling for superiority in the line up of shiny, brassy, tasteless juke box architecture and competing for a place in the technological gimmicks award.

Some worthwhile gems remain, but when viewing Durban's inner reaches it is the apparent free control developers have enjoyed where architecture and places of value have lost out. Perhaps what we need to ask is whether the Profession needs more time to investigate ways and means of improving the environmental quality and performance of its buildings, rather than looking after its Professional Institutions. As individuals educated in the unique and wonderful specialism Design we need to have dialogue, listen to and promote our thoughts and actions with those who have the power to preserve and erect buildings. Architecture needs to benefit, not only from Architects talking to Architects but from others, for if we fail here we will deserve censure for the lesser qualified showing the way. Architects are becoming too egocentric and Architecture is losing out.

Our dictionary defines LIAISON as union, a bond of union: illicit union between the sexes; effective conjunction with another unit or force etc., while Roget's Thesaurus talks of liaison as being synonymous with immodesty, grossness, indelicacy, obscenity, seduction, lechery, lewdness, to name but a few of the kinder but more gentle words.

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STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON THE LIAISON

On approaching first year, some wondered: "What is the Liaison Committee?, what do they do?". Others replied, "I think the presentations could be very professional and interesting".

The Liaison Committee provides events of diversity, "welcome relief" from our everyday courses. Those who attended the lectures, benefited and enjoyed them. First year has very little to give and everything to gain from these events.

Margi Glavovic & Pierre Venter (1st Year)

Once again we are dragged from our T-squares and ordered upstairs. We take our seats at one end of the lecturers' territory while the PROFESSIONALS take to the other. Greetings and apologies for being late are muttered and homage is paid to the Gods in the form of a nod. There is no fade to grey here; there is a definite line between them and us like at the start of a soccer match, grey one side and blue denims the other. The whistle is blown and the head takes over with overwhelming knowledge of the previous meeting as we sit mystified by what actually materialised out of hardly any debate. By half-time we are all exhausted - them and us - with most of the hard slog finished, trying to get people motivated.

The second half lasts only a quarter of the first half's time and the new prospects are laid out. At the end of the game the professionals come out tops... again. And both teams give a sigh of relief, "thank goodness that's over". Now we can get back to a bit of work. We stroll off and get down to the real hard work of brown bottle slaughtering and tongue wagging.

Pieter Zitman (2nd Year)

The Liaison Committee has the healthy position of being one of the less well known committees, whose influence and activities however can be seen and are widely appreciated throughout the architecture faculty. The committee provides an opportunity for architects in practice and architectural students to meet and get to know each other on an informal basis.

The Committee organises lectures, exhibitions and slide shows by people outside the faculty and lecturers and students. These are usually accompanied by equally good cheese and wine (the latter very much appreciated by the students - especially those in halls of residence).

Because these functions take place on a regular basis on fixed days, there is a good attendance and a forum is created for people to share their experiences and ideas with others in the architectural profession. This inter-communication also incorporates students from other faculties.

Plays and sporting events organised by the Liaison Committee are normally highlights on the calendar. The sporty Natal architects provide some stiff competition for the students and student members of the Liaison Committee have been battling to find a sport at which they can beat the Institute. These events are especially beneficial to the students because they meet the people "of the real world out there" and they are able to build up contacts

which come in very handy when they go job hunting. The sporting events (especially the team efforts) build a fine student spirit and feeling of co-operation from first to final year which creates a precedent for later working teams.

The success of the Liaison Committee lies in the fact that it is for the benefit of the students of architecture and provides a bit of inspiration in between all the perspiration of an architect's day.

Marianne Malherbe (2nd Year)

A vital part of the learning process for student architects is a knowledge of what professional architects are doing. We find the Liaison Committee forms this necessary link between students and the profession, socially and academically. By means of committee-organised lectures, we are made aware of modern trends which cannot be found in books and magazines. The social and sporting events maintain a good rapport between students and the profession.

Perhaps to strengthen this relationship that has been built up through the Committee, we should promote visiting architect lecturers to discuss their design processes, office routines, etc. In the same way the profession should be made more aware of what the students are doing.

Cathy Mocke, Michal Cohen (3rd Year)

An icy wind whistles mournfully through the vast concrete concourses of Shepstone castle, its bleak outline visible only by the cold light of a silver moon. As the ref clock strikes six, only one light burns courageously from the upper battlements, a symbol of dogged tenacity and human endurance.

It is here in the King's palace where twenty desperate intellectuals hunch around a conference table, blinking slowly in the harsh glow of a neon light. A faded weather-beaten Adidas shoe bumps self-consciously against the gleaming Gucci of a pinstriped leg. Light gleams on a gold banded finger as it reaches for the Dunhill lighter on the mahogany table and replaces it alongside the crumpled box of Lion matches. The tension is electric as the leader of the gathering leans forward and breaks the silence with his earth-shattering statement: "Hi Guys!"

Yes, this is another meeting of that dreaded gang: the Liaison Committee. These are the hardened individuals who spend hours plotting and planning, inventing brilliant strategies against impossible odds, all in the desperate cause for unity, equality and fraternity. Only the delicate policies of this committee masterminded by the dreaded "Chairman" can succeed in bringing peace and prosperity to the land of Durban, by urging the city moguls to seek favour with Shepstone peasants and even play a bit of tennis with them.

The meeting has ended. As the weary committee drag themselves away and the room is once again plunged into darkness, the echo of the Chairman's voice still haunts the silence: "we need your support or else!"

John Smillie, Jerry Young (4th Year)

1984 student members. From left to right: Pierre Venter (Yr 1), Cathy Mocke (Yr 3), Marianne Malherbe (Yr 2), Jerry Young (Yr 4), John Ferendinos (Yr 5), Dudley Yeo (Yr 5), Michal Cohen (Yr 3), John Smillie (Yr 4), Pieter Zitman (Yr 2), Margi Glavovic (Yr 1)

ASPECTS AND CONSIDERATIONS OF LIAISON
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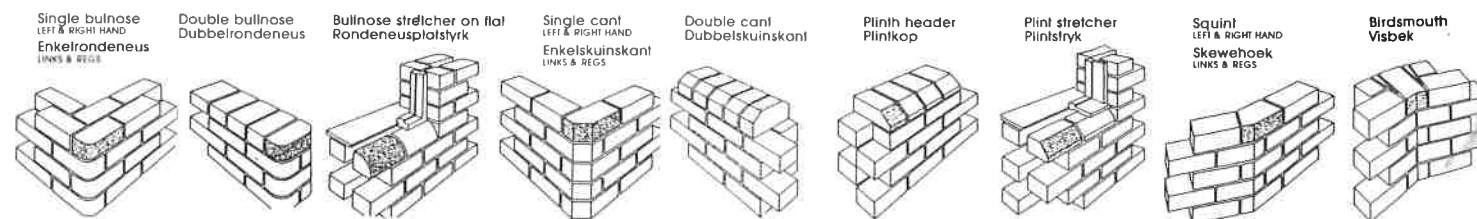
A new name for this non-exclusive group is needed and perhaps the essential aim is to investigate ways and means of promoting Architecture of quality. Primarily, perhaps, it should include people of many callings who are interested in, can contribute towards, and who can influence the spaces and buildings of our environment; a group which promotes Architecture in its widest sense, not

merely Architects.

A separate group could cater for the "general welfare of the members of our constituent bodies". (Perhaps even "liaison" here would be more appropriate!)

Peter Stewart

Peter Stewart was a founder member of the Liaison Committee and has been an active supporter of events ever since.



CHAIRMEN RECALL

My recollections of an Institute/University Liaison Committee go back exactly twenty years to when I was chairman of the "Architectural Students' Society". Functions consisted of forays by hoary men, delegated to the irksome task by the committee in Permanent Buildings. They warned us about the incompetence of students, the shortage of work in the real world, and the glories of professionalism when capitalised by hastily recruiting staff on the stairwell afterwards - R55 per month was the going rate for a senior!

Years later, the committee became formalised. Interaction started - new design ideas, the fruits of overseas experience, buildings by practitioners and sweaty hockey shirts. The only function I wish to recall was the annual Architect's Ball. It was planned months in advance in an hotel and often in association with the Tech Art School in the days when architecture was for men and fine arts for girls. Substantial quantities of champagne were offered for elaborate costumes - I recall masked outfits over two metres high, full of flashing lights, tinsel and bare flesh. Lets make Archiball the social event of the year, once again!

Rodney Harber, July 1976 - June 1977

Reflections on past events - in this case my short chairpersonship of the Liaison Committee some seven years ago - is fraught with the problems of my fading memory. What I do remember is an energetic committee and a programme which included Louis Karol, William Slayton (then Vice-Chairman of the A.I.A.) and a series of 'My Kind of Architecture' from our local heroes. But more than anything else I remember that strong desire for match-making the 'town-and-gown' of Architecture in both serious pursuits and light-hearted exchanges. 'Contact' was then the buzz-word, and probably still is. In this business there was the disappointment that responses were not as one would have hoped. Three things stand out from the subsequent history of the committee - it has survived, it continues to receive support, and whilst Chairpersons and members come and go, there are at least two people who were, had been, and still are active members in this cause for 'contact' - Sonny Tomkin and Ted Tollman.

Errol Haarhoff, July 1977 - March 1978

Announced by bold posters mainly from Mike Jakobi's hand, the repertoire of lectures combining the hilarious and the charming could not but be well attended. Des Watkins on mountaineering and Oliver Tennant on flying made one wonder what other and more daring "Escape Routes" architects could chose. Luiz da Silva and Lance Smith began by screening caricatures of clients and accommodational wishes, then proceeded with their interpretations thereof, all to a spellbound audience.

In March 1983 Helmut Jahn broke the SH2 seating record when talking on his 362 West Street project. Visitors crammed the aisles and front space and some sat on laps. It was almost impossible for the Chicagoan to get to the lectern. A year later, Barrie Biermann, talking on "People in Glass Houses" followed suit, as very nearly did the Natal "People to People" delegation.

During 1983 John Smillie, a student member, put forward an architectonic logo which on all subsequent visual material has readily identified the Committee's events.

Despite the portentous year of 1984, the future looks bright. The programme of quality is to be furthered: wind surfing, greening the city, planning in Durban's harbour, to name a few intentions. Besides these there is of course the birthday party to take place on 21 August, when for once an alternative starter to "mousetrap and plonk" is to be available.

*Walter Peters, March 1978 - June 1979,
January 1982 - September 1984*

SPECIAL SHAPED BRICKS - OPPORTUNITY FOR DESIGN

An architect can be likened to an artist when designing a new building. No material compares with brick for total expression. By expressing the structure on the surface, bricks avoid the repetitious and occasionally boring nature of flat surfaces extended too far across buildings.

There is a long history of success in the decorative use of brickwork. More than 2 000 years ago the Persians and other great Middle Eastern users of early brickwork, displayed animals and decorative forms upon their structures, houses and gate-ways. Today there is a resurgence in the use of face bricks for decorative purposes, giving additional interest to the eye by using brickwork as a means of expression.

In addition to the standard range of face bricks, a wide range of specially shaped bricks is made by *Corobrik Natal*, a company which recognises that architects and designers will use specials to optimise creative opportunities, to give each building a individual and personality profile.

There is a wide choice of options for creating the right finishing touch to the tops of walls and parapets with special shaped bricks like the Plinth Stretcher, Plinth Header, Double Cant or Bullnose Header on Flat.

Designers can convert corners into features by building the corner line in Single Cants, or create unusual angles with the Birdsmouth, available in 120, 135 or 150 degree angles, or the Squint, available in 30, 40 or 60 degree angles.

A perfectly rounded finish to a free standing wall or reveal can be attained with the Double Bullnose.

Architects should notify *Corobrik Natal*, at planning stage of the intention to use special shaped bricks, as they take much longer to produce than standard bricks.

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CHANGES

Changes in Partnerships:

Mr M S Phillips has become a partner in the practice of The Olaf Pretorius, Smith and Poole Partnership as from 1st March 1984. The style of the practice remains unchanged. Mr I Daniel has advised that as from 19th March 1984 Mr V H Polfreman ceased to be an associate of Daniel and Associates.

Mr D C Smith has advised that the name of his practice is Don Smith Architects as from 20th March 1984.

Changes in Addresses:

Dirksen Blumenfeld & Kraus to 58 Field Street, Durban
Mr J F Coote to 103 Old Mutual Buildings, Vryheid (P.O. Box 1056)

Mr P R Moss to P.O. Box 892 Link Hills, 3652

Mr A C McDonald to P.O. Box 233, Kilmore, Vic 3601, Australia.

Mr W J Gunn to 13 Ashbourne, 1 Harwin Road, Scottsville, Pietermaritzburg

Mr K R Breetzke to Temple Chambers, 32 Masonic Grove Durban

Mr I Bell to c/o Selsick, Kinnear Mitchell, 13th Floor, Albany House West, Victoria Embankment, Durban

Mr J Hjorth to c/o Stauch Vorster & Partners, Fassifern, 35 Ridge Road, Durban

New Members:

A K S Oehley - from AnT to Ordinary, 36 Burnham Drive, La Lucia

M J Jakobi - Ordinary, 40 Anerley Road, Morningside, Durban

B C Wotherspoon - Ordinary, 1009 Natal Bank Building, 71 Gardiner Street, Durban

D J Graham - Ordinary, c/o Muir Associates, P.O. Box 3033 Durban