



The variegated and muted tones of Briardene Cottage Rustic face bricks create appealing contrasts and pristine elegance.

A BRICK IS NOT A BRICK  
ANYMORE  
NO LONGER A FACE OF  
IMPASSIVE UTILITY  
BUT AGELESS BEAUTY THAT  
TRANSCENDS  
TIME AND CHANGE  
COROBIK CLAY FACE BRICK  
HARMONIZING WITH THE  
ELEMENTS, EMOTIONS  
MOVING WITH AND BEYOND  
PROGRESS  
ALWAYS AT THE HEART OF  
LIVING CREATIONS  
TO ENHANCE  
TO ADD SOUL  
AND VIBRANCY OF COLOUR  
AND TEXTURE  
TO WOOD  
TO GLASS  
TO ALUMINIUM  
TO LIFE.

COROBIK CLAY FACE BRICK  
EVER PRESENT IN STRENGTH  
INFINITE IN BEAUTY  
LIVING IN HARMONY.  
NO LONGER A BRICK  
BUT THE FULFILLMENT OF  
CREATIVE  
EVOLUTION.



**COROBIK**

SURROUND YOURSELF WITH THE STRENGTH OF COROBIK.

# NPIA

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

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## 1985 NPIA NOMINATIONS AND AWARDS OF MERIT







• From left to right: Professor Barrie Biermann (jury member), Maurice Dibb (NPIA President), Hirsh Fish (ISAA President), André Duvenage, Michael Green (Editor, Daily News), Don Smith, Hirsh Fish, Rodwell King.

• From left to right: Bridget Morrison, Sandy Morrison (NPIA Secretary), Bob Powers, Derek Sherlock, Hans Hallen, Bill Vos.



## AWARDS OF MERIT PRESENTATION CEREMONY

For the fifth time in recent years the Natal Provincial Institute of Architects has called for nominations for the Institute of South African Architects biennial Awards of Merit, this time for work executed during the period 1984-85.

A record number of nominations were received, 25 in all, and a record number of 5 awards was made. These awards were grouped into two categories: New Buildings and Recycled Projects, the latter acknowledging the growing involvement of architects in the rehabilitation of older buildings. It is gratifying for professionals to win recognition and the NPIAJ heartily congratulates members so honoured, including those Natal colleagues who received awards from other Provincial Institutes: Ferreira da Silva and Smith for House Philberg by the CPIA, and Hallen Theron and Partners Incorporated for the Library at Brenthurst by the TPIA.

The buildings premiated indicate what the assessors considered to be worthy. In Natal, where the largest number of nominations was for houses and housing, again no award was made in this area – a pity, for this is where the majority of architects are involved and where there is the greatest contact between architects and the public. Perhaps a special award is necessary for small but good work.

As opposed to previous calls, nominations were not required to be put forward by third parties. These could be self-nominated. Judging by some of the work executed during the period in question and conspicuous by its absence among the nominations, it can be argued that some practices perhaps underrate their efforts.

Another thought that may occur to readers is, why projects which they consider to be deserving may have gone unrecognised. Having seen all the submissions, one can only say that some were indeed poorly presented. Entries that look shoddy, have photographs of a poor quality, or are unbound, rarely impress a jury. The documents submitted form the motivation for award consideration and it is worth spending some effort on them.

In this issue, NPIAJ is publishing all nominations received – as it has traditionally done – both as a record and to provide the reader with an indication of current trends. The jury consisted of Mr Les Williams as Convenor, Professor Barrie Biermann, Professor Pancho Guedes, and, as a member of the public, Mr Michael Green, Editor of *The Daily News*. Also included are extracts from the speeches made at the Awards presentation ceremony.

Walter Peters, Editor



• From left to right: Mike Oldfield, Andrew Murray, Brian Johnson, John Frost, Martin Buss, Peter McCaffery, Robin Geraghty, Rod Phillips, Ian Little.

• From left to right: Elizabeth MacLeod (NPIA Secretariat), Maurice Dibb, Sylvia Grobler (NPIA Secretariat), Derek Sherlock, Professor Don Dyke-Wells, Carol Sherlock, Andrew Ogilvie, Hirsh Fish, Gordon Small.



## HELD IN THE JUBILEE HALL ON FRIDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 1985

We are pleased that you have all come to join us this evening while we celebrate and applaud some of our fellow Architects for the effort they have made which has resulted in a collection of more fine buildings for Natal. This is an event which takes place every two years, and in the past we have held a small in-house ceremony to mark the occasion. However, this year we have been prompted to make it a bigger and more public event to associate ourselves, in a way, with the great things we see happening in Durban and to use the opportunity to also congratulate those who are responsible.

The owners of the buildings before us should feel proud of their contribution to the community. They have shown that they are enlightened and sensitive to the requirements of good architecture. It is most difficult for an Architect to build a good building for a bad client.

A significant reason why these five buildings have been adjudged winners is that every aspect of them has been considered and carefully co-ordinated. Somewhere at the helm has been someone who has had the skill and concern that is necessary to ensure the making of a fine building.

We are pleased that in this instance that person has been an Architect. An Architect's training is what makes him most suited to the important role as a creator of the built environment.

Maurice Dibb, NPIA President



• From left to right: Professor Barrie Biermann, Maurice Dibb, John Frost.

This year the task of the Awards Committee was made exceptionally difficult by the greater numbers of submissions and their generally high standard, so that the assessors were hard put to it in selecting the most meritorious from the very meritorious. One expedient adopted was to differentiate between new and recycled buildings, making awards in those two categories, in the firm belief that the rehabilitation and conversion of older buildings will prove to be a growing and important aspect of future architectural practice.

In both categories the assessors gave due weight to the consideration that buildings can at times transcend the requirements of a particular brief to make some contribution to the general amenity.

Barrie Biermann, Jury member

When I was asked to join three architects on a panel of judges for these awards I felt highly flattered. I realised that as a layman I was a kind of leavening of the loaf if not actually the cherry on the top. But I was glad to participate because nearly everybody has some interest in architecture. It is, I suppose, the most visible of all the visual arts. You can easily avoid going into art galleries, theatres and cinemas, but it's difficult to avoid seeing buildings, no matter how hard one might try on some occasions. Anyway I learned a good deal from my fellow judges, the architects. For once I found myself at a loss for words, and I'm happy to say they suffered from no such affliction, so I listened a good deal and learned a good deal. I'm particularly pleased to be presenting the awards for the recycled buildings. I like old buildings, I live in an old house on the Durban Berea, and whilst I recognise that architectural design is a continually progressing art I often think that too few of the older buildings are retained and restored. The two buildings which have won awards are the Salisbury Centre, between West and Smith Streets, architects Geraghty, Little and McCaffery. This is a favourite building of mine, and it does house a coffee bar called the Press Club. And the Musgrave Medical Centre, which used to be the Osborne Hotel, architects Don Smith. So far I've managed to avoid the Musgrave Medical Centre!

Michael Green, Editor, The Daily News



## OLD MUTUAL CENTRE PROSPECTON

INTERARC ARCHITECTS

### CITATION

Factory complexes can seldom be judged by the criteria usually applied to civic buildings, but the Old Mutual Industrial Centre provides a striking example of such wise investment in superior finish that the merits of the scheme go beyond high returns even in a depressed economic climate. Skilfully planned to redeem the indifferent orientation on the site and provide maximum accommodation, the complex furthermore presents a commanding image which enhances the environment of the adjoining residential area.

### ARCHITECTS' REPORT

#### General description

The 34 000 m<sup>2</sup> site is situated in the eastern corner of Prospecton, close to the sea, and is surrounded on two sides by residential development. Because of this, it was considered necessary to ensure that the perimeter of the buildings facing onto the residential area should be reduced in scale in order not to dominate the adjacent housing. This was achieved by landscaping the perimeter of the building and stepping the plan around the outer edge of the building to form a series of open courts.

#### Orientation

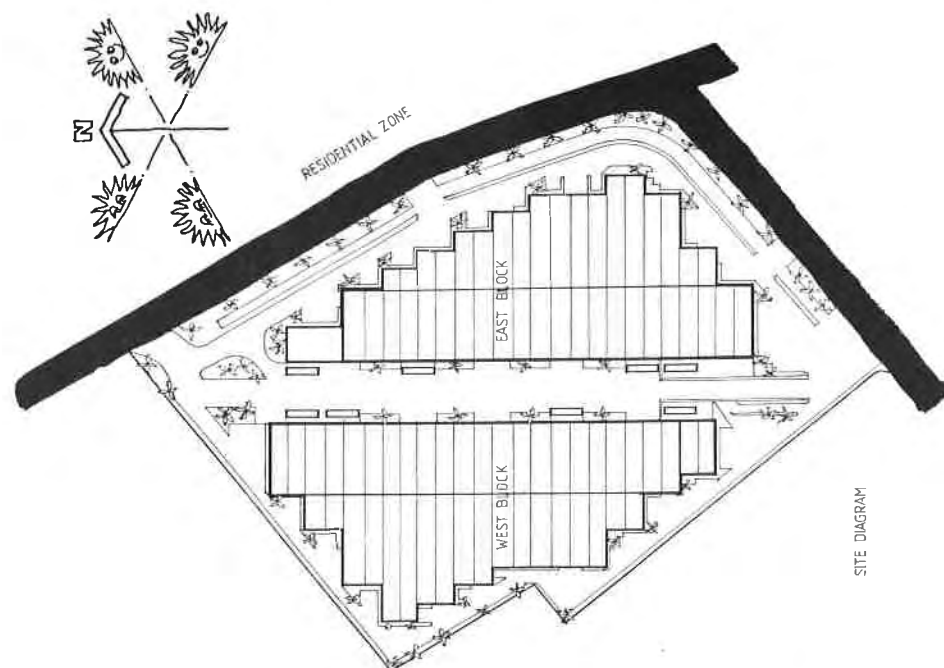
Advantage was taken of the corner site, by moving traffic diagonally through the property. After entering the development at the Southern corner, cars and trucks are split into three circulation patterns. One-way traffic flow moves at ground level in two directions around the perimeter of the site, exiting at the Northern corner. The upper left factories are served by a one-way ramp traffic system which runs diagonally from South to North across the site, exiting at the same Northern points as the perimeter traffic. Below the elevated road is a service area with ablutions, electrical sub-stations and storage yard.

#### Facilities

Development is divided into eight potential tenancies each of which is provided with an office block consisting of entrance and reception, private and general office area, tea kitchen and toilet. All office facilities are located at visually prominent areas on the perimeter and have their own landscaped entrances and parking facilities. Each lettable area has ablution facilities and storage yards at ground level. The building as a whole has been designed to allow for maximum flexibility and physical connection between the upper and lower levels.

After examining several alternatives for the first floor construction, a mushroom flat slab was found to be most economical. Warehouse slabs were designed for an imposed load of 10 KPa and the access ramps and slabs for heavy vehicle traffic.

Roland Muller



• Site plan.



• Aerial view.

• Perspective views.



## GOLDEN HOURS TRAINING CENTRE, DURBAN NORTH

HALLEN THERON & PARTNERS INC

### CITATION

Projects which turn out to be the most economical of their kind and still in large measure conform to official planning standards are rare, and rarer still when they provide humanised surroundings for users who are particularly vulnerable to their environment. In every respect, in design, contract management, civic amenity and user response, the Golden Hours School for Mentally Handicapped Children deserves the recognition of an award of merit.

### ARCHITECTS' REPORT

#### The Site

The building is situated in Durban North on a 2.7 hectare site which falls approximately 6 metres from west to east. Where possible, existing trees have been retained and incorporated into the design.

#### The Brief

A standard Department of National Education Schedule of Accommodation with customary financial and space constraints formed the basis of the brief. Whilst these set tight planning and cost restraints, this was seen as a challenge and served to strengthen the desire to design a building which would be pleasant and not institutional in character.

#### Design Concept

The primary concern was to create a building with a strong sense of security and enclosure which together with appropriate scale and geometry would form a pleasant environment.

The resulting layout is introverted, with the building placed toward the perimeter of the site on three sides, forming a large 'U' shaped courtyard.

The classrooms and hostel which form the large legs of the 'U' are in turn grouped around smaller courtyards of varying sizes and character to create a variety of teaching and play spaces to satisfy the different needs of small and large children.

All the smaller courtyards can be seen from the large central court making orientation easy and heightening the sense of security and enclosure.

Each classroom also opens out onto its own small garden making informal teaching possible.

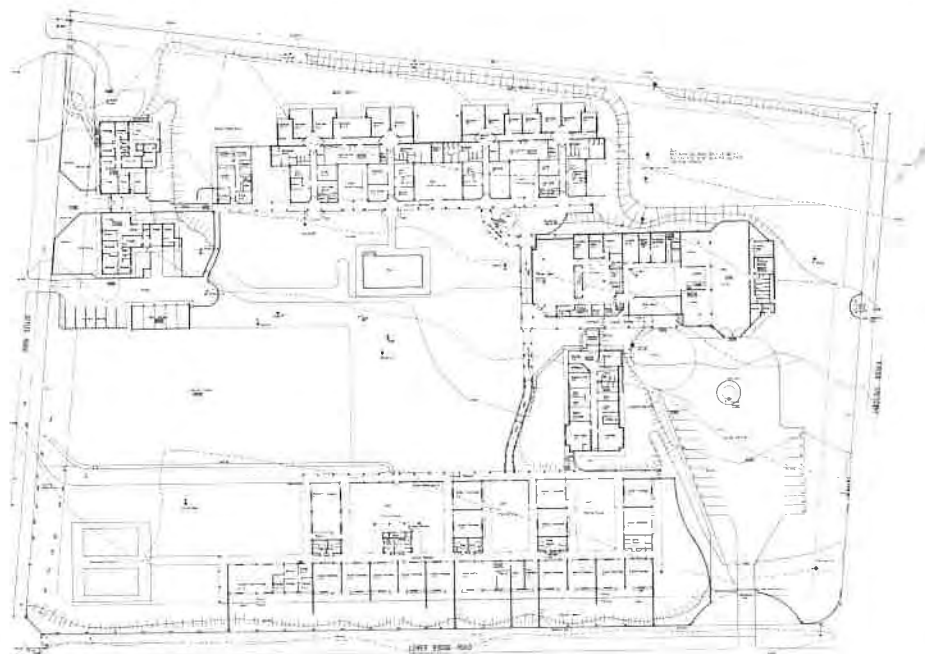
Familiar traditional double pitch roofs, with their potential for providing scale, articulation, a strong sense of place and sympathetic relationship to their surroundings, were used to complement the plan form and to further enhance a sense of security and belonging.

The main circulation routes are all on the exterior of the buildings and are protected from the elements by deep roof overhangs and light doubled pitched covered walkways, which link the free-standing larger roofs.

#### Landscaping

The sense of enclosure has been enhanced with appropriate planting.

André Duvenage



• Plan.



• Courtyard.

• Roofscape.



# MUSGRAVE MEDICAL CENTRE BEREA

DON SMITH  
ARCHITECTS

## CITATION

What had been a heterogeneous aggregation of buildings comprising a residential hotel and its annexes, incrementally built without regard for related floor levels or elevational coherence, has been converted into a complex of professional suites in which the very difficulty of relating disparate levels has been turned to good account in creating an interior of distinction and stylistic unity, and an exterior which retains a comforting familiarity within its original context, while proclaiming the more orderly character appropriate to the centre's new function.

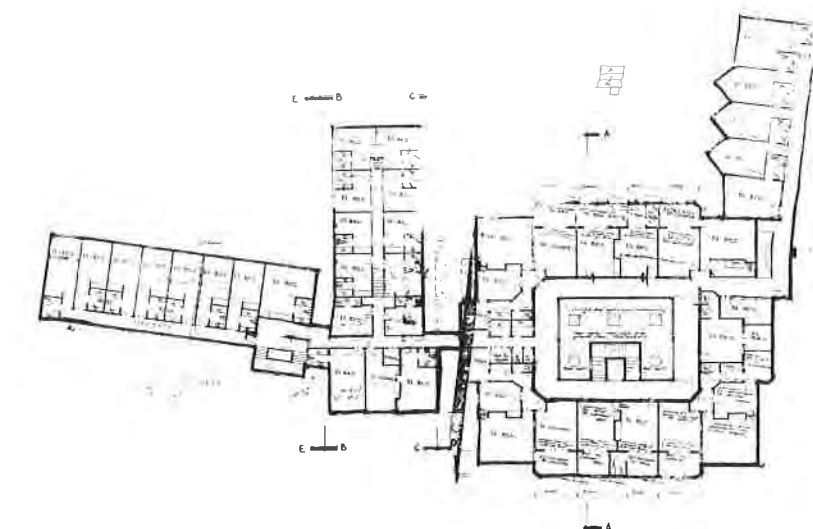
## ARCHITECTS' REPORT

Our brief was to remodel and renovate the previous Osborne Hotel to convert it into a medical centre which would house a cross-section of dental and medical practitioners. The Special Consent of the city council was sought and obtained for this purpose as was authority for a chemist shop accessible only from within the building.

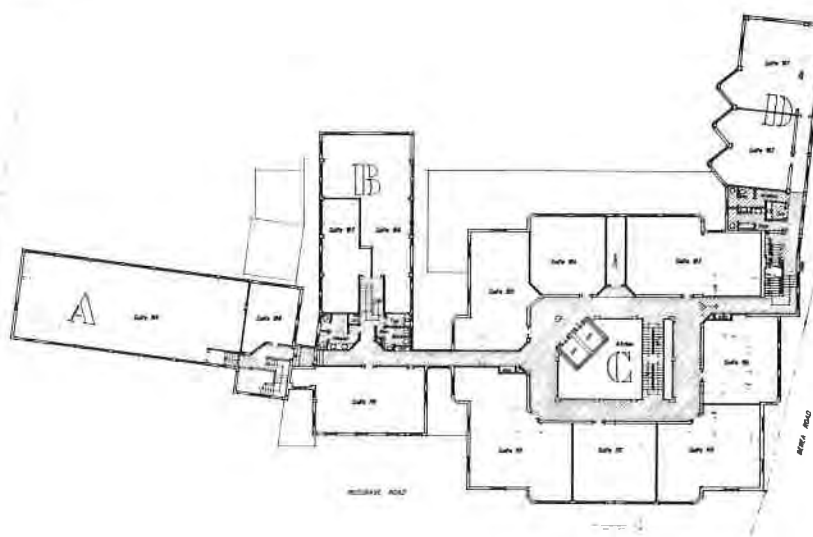
The original three-storey hotel - Block "C" on the drawings - had been planned with open corridors surrounding an unroofed court over which a slab had later been inserted at first floor level to roof a restaurant and bar on the ground floor, and the upper level corridors were glazed. Over the years, three annexes were built - first Block "A", then Block "D" and finally, Block "B" - and were subsequently linked together in a rather ad-hoc and unplanned manner resulting in unattractive, narrow, labyrinthine passages with awkward changes in floor levels between the various structures. From the main entrance in Block "C" for example, Block "A" could be reached only by ascending to the first floor, then through Block "B" to a stair in Block "A" which led either down again to ground floor level or up to a second floor level to which there was no other access.

Our concept for the remodelling and connection of the four structures is analogous to the human vascular system. The various Blocks - and provision for an extension - are connected in a simple and direct way like arteries to the heart. The arteries are wider, straighter and simpler and every level in each block is directly accessible from the heart. The heart of the medical centre is the remodelled court from which the first floor slab and the upper floor fenestration and balustrade walls have been removed. It is now a three-storey high, glass roofed, atrium-like entrance foyer, flooded with natural light and richly planted. The original lift/stair element which obstructed the hotel entrance is replaced by a new shaft housing two hydraulic lifts and is placed diagonally in one corner of the space; a glass-balustraded scissor stair, at the opposite end of the atrium, rises through the space as both functional stair and interesting sculpture.

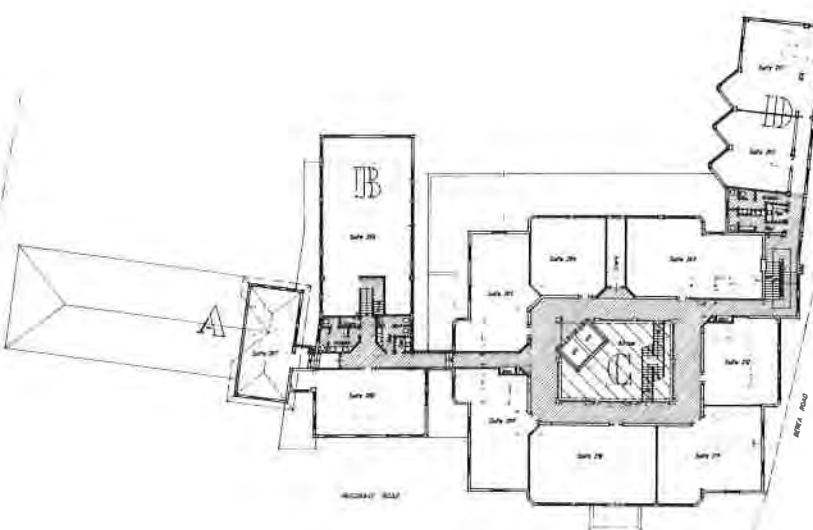
● First Floor Plan before Renovations.



● First Floor Plan after Renovations.



● Second Floor Plan after Renovations.



# SALISBURY CENTRE DURBAN GERAGHTY LITTLE & McCAFFERY ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS

## CITATION

Exploiting the tradition of shopping arcades which makes the Durban central business district both more pleasant for the shopper and more profitable for the proprietor, four buildings in the central business district have been unified internally to provide continuous public spaces of a character at once monumental and accommodatingly intimate.

The shopping centre of Durban has thereby at once been functionally supplemented with heightened amenity, and the everyday environment of the citizens, visually enhanced.

## ARCHITECTS' REPORT

The architectural treatment of the arcade presented an interesting challenge in that we had undertaken to unify an arcade involving a Neo-Classical building on Smith Street and 3 Modern Movement buildings on West Street. The blending was achieved by taking the Neo-Classical style and gradually stylising it into its more modern form as one progresses through the arcade, thus, a rather ornate ionic capital in the Smith Street entrance of the arcade was gradually blended down to a simple band capital on West Street. Similarly, the elements of wrought iron balustrade on Smith Street were taken, simplified and reproduced in other parts of the arcade. Plasterboard colonnades and arches were introduced around the courtyards to blend with the neo-classical part of the arcade.

● This project was featured in NPIAJ 2-1985.

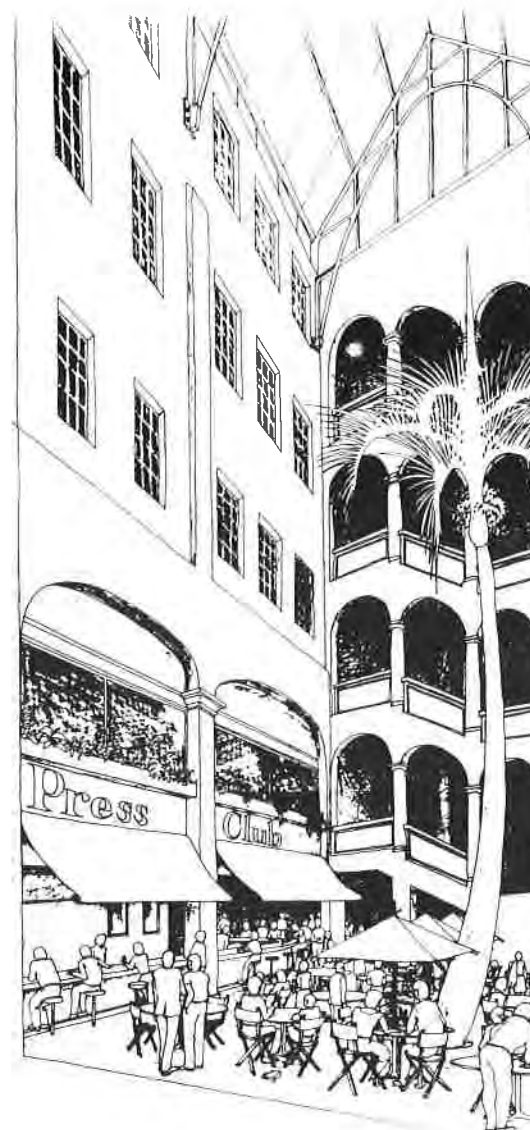
# ARCADIA PARK OFFICE OVERPORT

JOHNSON MURRAY  
ARCHITECTS

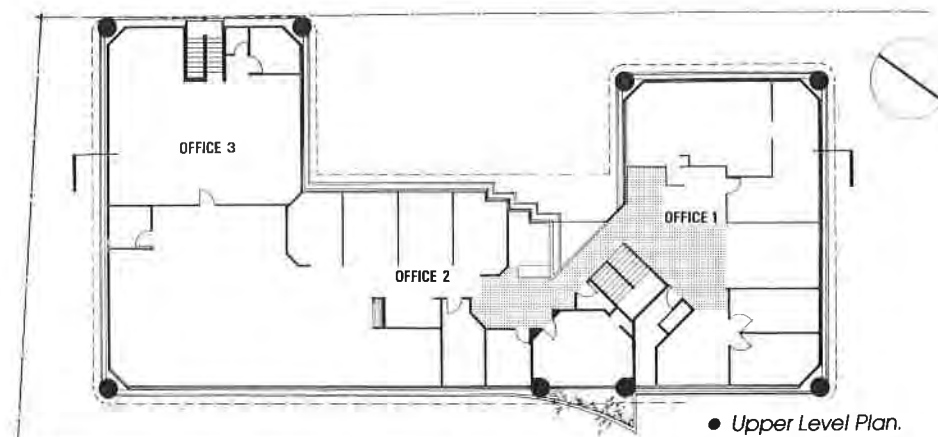
## CITATION

With the increasing tendency to locate office buildings in surroundings formerly zoned exclusively for residential use, the design problem arises of devising an appropriate character for the new buildings which will complement rather than conflict with the existing. This office block succeeds in presenting facades to public view which set off the natural surrounding of the adjoining park, establishing a presence on the entrance elevation to the street, and striking a nice balance between maintaining privacy and security for the office while enhancing the street scene with a generous entrance court.

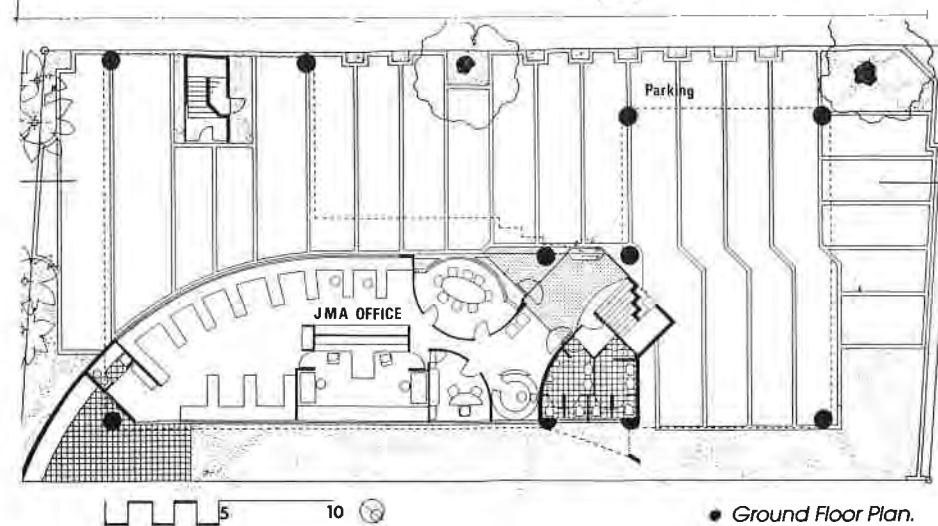
● This project was featured in NPIAJ 2-1985.



● Courtyard view.



● Upper Level Plan.



● Ground Floor Plan.



# **A.C. BRABY (PTY) LTD HEAD OFFICE & FACTORY PINETOWN**

**MAURICE DIBB  
& ASSOCIATES**

The poor condition of the soil led to the necessity of designing a low-rise development over as much of the site as possible. The siting of the offices at the river end of the property, nearest to the domestic dwellings, was both for the benefit of the users of the building as well as their neighbours. The factory which is planned to occupy the balance of the space to the north-east of the office block, provides good access to it from the various departments.

With the initial decisions taken, the orientation necessitated the forming of courtyards. These were developed to provide the many workers with as much contact as possible with the landscaping.



# **OLD MUTUAL INDUSTRIAL PARK NEW GERMANY**

**INTERARC  
ARCHITECTS**

The industrial park development at New Germany is sited amongst existing light industrial and warehouse buildings. The scheme is designed as an industrial park where an emphasis is placed on the quality of the buildings and the surrounding landscaping, including the adjacent verges.

The development is divided into 11 potential tenancies with lettable areas ranging from 789 m<sup>2</sup> to the largest at 3 675 m<sup>2</sup>.

Each unit has separate office and ablution facilities designed to meet general requirements but able to be adapted or extended for any specific tenant requirement.



# **WATTLE INDUSTRY CENTRE PIETERMARITZBURG**

**CARTER-BROWN &  
BAILLON**

Having acquired an industrial site which, apart from being in a hot and arid location, was sloping directly to the West, the clients approached us to design new offices and laboratory facilities to rehouse staff currently working in University campus buildings.

Due to the extremely hot site and the lack of funds initially for air-conditioning, it was decided to extend the eaves to protect the windows, at the same time forming external access corridors to the various rooms and blocks. The spaces between blocks are landscaped to create a cooler visual aspect.



# **PFIZER PERSONNEL BUILDING PIETERMARITZBURG**

**CARTER-BROWN  
& BAILLON**

To design a new personnel building to house staff recreation, catering and ablution facilities which, in accordance with the Company's policy, would eliminate all potential avenues of racial discrimination both physically and psychologically.

As the building was to be constructed on a large vacant portion of the factory site, it was considered important to site and design the building to enable future expansion across the site via the new personnel building.



# **C. & J. CLARK PERSONNEL FACILITY PIETERMARITZBURG**

**CARTER-BROWN  
& BAILLON**

The architect's proposal was to erect a steel lightweight structure over the existing toilet facilities which had been otherwise built on the site's 'waste land', to contain new change/dining rooms, and under this new structure at ground floor level additional toilets, a new kitchen and landscaped outdoor recreation areas would be provided.

• This project was featured in NPIAJ 4-1983.



# **HENDERSONS HEAVY DUTY VEHICLE CENTRE**

**CARTER-BROWN  
& BAILLON**

A study of the site in relation to heavy vehicle circulation and the conviction that allowance should be made for at least 100% expansion of the parts and workshop zones led to the basic concept. A central reinforced concrete framed zone, housing the offices at first floor and parts and other utilities below, became the 'fix' from which the metal clad structural steel modules of the parts store and workshop attached themselves and allowed for outward extension.

• This project was featured in NPIAJ 4-1983.



## HOUSE MODI WESTVILLE

**FERREIRA DA SILVA  
AND STAFFORD**

A single family dwelling, situated in Westville, Durban. The three storey house, designed on the upper contours of a steep site, consists of a delicately proportioned cube which has been carefully articulated and textured.

• This project was featured in *Architecture SA Sep./Oct. 1985*.



## HOUSE ENGELBRECHT UMDLOTI

**FERREIRA DA SILVA  
AND STAFFORD**

House Engelbrecht, located at the edge of a prominent ridge in Umdloti, with breathtaking views, utilises a typical U shaped plan around an open court to maximise the need for privacy as well as the transparencies of the accommodation to capture the views.

• This project was featured in *Architecture SA Sep./Oct. 1985*.



## MALLORCA FLATS UMDLOTI

**FERREIRA DA SILVA  
AND STAFFORD**

Mallorca, a complex of forty-two duplex units, situated in Umdloti on Natal's north coast, was commissioned by a local company as a speculative scheme for a growing localized market.

The central space has been formalized in plan via three concrete screens which sit in front of the three blocks of accommodation. The sculptured scheme has been punctured with openings of different shapes and sizes allowing the repetitive nature of the 'typical' duplex units behind to assume the own individual identity and quality of space.



## HOUSE SINGH WESTVILLE

**HALLEN THERON  
& PARTNERS INC.**

• Coverage of this project in *UIA INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECT*, Issue 8, formed the basis for the architects' submission. Readers are referred to that article.



## HOUSE BURNES UMGENI HEIGHTS

**ING JACKSON  
DE RAVEL & HARTLEY**

This house is situated on a narrow, steep site with a magnificent view of Durban. Situated between two sites with their respective houses right on the building lines, the principle design objectives were to capitalise on the view and to utilise as much of the awkward site as possible, avoiding the conventional unusable side spaces and 'back-garden' approach.



## SAN LAMEER SOUTH COAST

**E.I. GRAFF KRUGER  
& ASSOCIATES**

San Lameer is a vacation village situated on a 140 hectare site richly vegetated with indigenous trees and shrubs.

An architectural "language" was devised at the inception of the scheme and adhered to. Factors taken into account in the formulation of ideas in this regard include an appropriate response to the local climatic conditions, the tropical vegetation, the existing architectural style in the area and the recognition of the need for a relaxed holiday atmosphere rather than a forceful architectural statement.





## ARCHITECTS OFFICES RECYCLED HOUSES DURBAN

**MAURICE DIBB  
& ASSOCIATES**

The conversion involved very little structural work. Three internal walls in the main part of the house were removed as well as a re-design of the rear section by removing the kitchens and the enclosed verandahs to create a studio. Care was taken to ensure that the development was not limited in its future possible use.

• This project was featured in NPIAJ 1-1985.



## BARCLAYS BANK PINETOWN

**MYLES PUGH  
SHERLOCK  
SEIRLIS JARVIS**

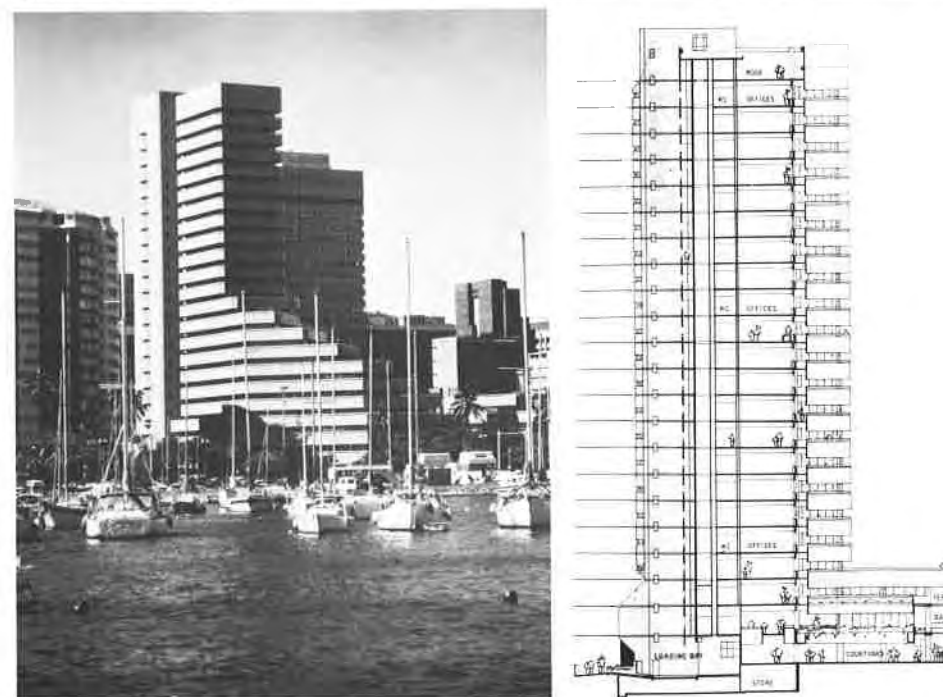
Client's brief was to provide maximum on-site parking coupled with the largest possible area for banking hall facilities at one level. The Administrative office requirements for the bank were to combine those of two existing branches into one, and to provide for future expansion. Clients would not permit a mezzanine level in the banking hall. The site has been developed to maximum bulk, existing ground contours permitting a semi basement for parking, strongroom and security loading, with the extent of the plan configuration being limited simply by the by-law setbacks required on the two side boundaries.



## THE MARINE DURBAN

**STAUCH  
VORSTER**

The intention was to design a building that would be sculptured in form and at the same time be seen to be part of the total building complex of the Royal Hotel, the parking garage and the Marine Office Building. The office tower was designed to start at the 3rd floor level on the Victoria Embankment and step up as it turned the corner into Gardiner Street, creating usable terraces facing the harbour and at the same time providing floor areas of varying sizes having an average use factor of 88%. The design easily caters for single tenants of varying size.



## M.L. SULTAN TECHNIKON LIBRARY DURBAN

**SEITTER-BOYD  
ARCHITECTS**

The library has now been in use for more than a year. On page 21 of the M.L. Sultan Technikon's Annual Report 1984, the Rector reports as follows:-

"... 4 401 visits from both students and staff in the first week of opening. This was not merely the novelty of the curious onlooker but a more permanent attraction. In the last five months library visits from staff and students came to 48 000."

We are satisfied.



## LECTURE THEATRES, UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN-WESTVILLE

**ING JACKSON DE  
RAVEL & HARTLEY**

The complex was conceived as a result of phenomenal growth in student numbers that put great pressure on the University's Lecture Room accommodation, especially in terms of rooms capable of serving the large numbers of students at first year level in the popular courses. The Communications Media Centre - the campus' educational television centre - was also included in the brief.



## SANDPUMPING STATIONS, NORTH & SOUTH BEACHES

**ARCHITECTS DEPT.  
CITY OF DURBAN**

The buildings necessary to protect the pumps from the sea, external seasand, and wilful damage must be located on the beach. Furthermore, the pumps generate heat and are noisy, necessitating substantial air extraction combined with sound attenuation. Protection of the buildings by security fences was a further requirement.

Because the buildings were prominently situated on Durban's main beaches it was decided to design the buildings as an amenity to which the public would have access; to keep the design and colours in a low key; and to resolve the problems of security, noise and air movement by unobtrusive technology.





## CHURCH LAMONTVILLE

### SEITTER-BOYD ARCHITECTS

In accordance with our discussion with the Archdiocese, the Parish Priest and the Parish Council, we designed the Church complex to be as economical and simple as possible while still retaining the characteristics of the traditional church style. The latter was achieved by the use of simple brick colonnaded aisles, proportions of the roof space and circular rose windows over the altar and choir loft. The semi-circular profile of the North and South gable walls is a symbolic interpretation of the traditional African grass hut.

Dennis Boyd



## KWAZULU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, ULUNDI

### MOOLMAN, VAN DER WALT, VLOK & VAN DER WESTHUIZEN

A new parliament by its very nature must be a building of some historic significance. The KwaZulu Legislative Assembly at Ulundi is a new parliament in a new city – the new city is still in its infancy.

The site is situated next to the main highway passing through Ulundi from Melmoth to Nongoma and is opposite the town centre on the other side of the highway.

Cardinal to the concept was the specific history of the area including aspects of folk law and traditional beliefs together with the location of several historic grave sites. Arising from this and the nature of the buildings a processional route was conceived of, traversing the site from M'Panda's grave, crossing the site to the future 'National Plaza', and eventually this will lead to a National Monument which is to be built on a prominent hill to the west of the site.

It was decided that the Legislative Complex should be zoned as part of the town and not as an isolated element. The complex was therefore located within walking distance of the business centre, the intention being to link the complex to the town centre with a pedestrian bridge across the highway.

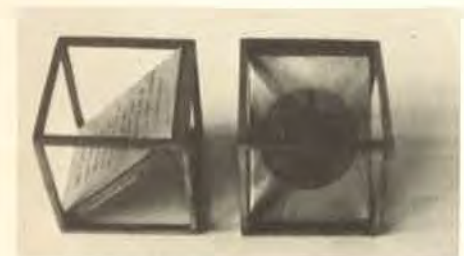
The Legislative Assembly Building is placed so that the processional route divides the complex into two blocks – this emphasises the buildings strong geometric shape. The external wall line remains clean without protrusions and windows are recessed. The Legislative Assembly Chamber is central and circular on plan. The public gallery is concentric to the chamber.



## NPIA NEWS

### Three NPIA members honoured

At the end of 1985, the NPIA presented three of its senior members, namely Mike Taylor, Gordon Small and Hans Hallen, with a sculpture and a scroll "with affection and respect in recognition of their services to the profession of architecture over many years." The presentation to Messrs Taylor and Small took place in the Nedbank board room on Friday, 30 August 1985. Due to the unavailability of Mr Hallen, the presentation to him was made at the Awards of Merit presentation ceremony held in the Jubilee Hall on Friday, 8 November 1985.



Two of the sculptures containing a plaque and the NPIA emblem designed by Monica Göbel.

## PRACTICE NOTICES

### Changes in Partnership, Practices, etc

From 1st December 1985, the Partnership Mikula and Johnson Architects was dissolved. Messrs R Johnson and B Jenkins have formed a partnership under the style of Johnson Jenkins Architects at Crown Buildings, 95 Umbilo Road, Durban and Mr P Mikula will practice on his own account under the style of Paul Mikula Associates at 41 Cedar Road, Corner Cedar and Frere Roads, Glenwood, Durban.

The practice known as Bonieux, Rougier and Croxon has changed the style of its practice to Rougier, Croxon and Swiatek. The partners in the practice remain unchanged.

Ms P Jansen Van Rensburg from 1/12/85 has opened her own practice under the style of P Jansen Van Rensburg : Architect at 23 Penzance Road, Glenwood, Durban.

Messrs H J Nel and H A Thomson have entered into partnership under the style of H J Nel : Architects. Mr H J Nel will be the partner in charge of the office at 13 Kinsey Avenue, Oslo Beach, Port Shepstone, 4240 and Mr H A Thompson will be in charge of the office at 140 Umbilo Road, Durban.

Mr G Daneel has ceased to practice under the style of Garth Daneel and will in future be the architect in charge of Margo and Margo, postal address P O Box 11, Van Reenen, 3372.

### Changes in Class

Mr H N F Rodda (Ordinary to Retired).  
Mr J H Hesketh (Ordinary to Retired).  
Mr G A Campbell (Ordinary to Retired).

### Changes in Addresses

Mr W M Kerr to 91 — 9th Street, Morningside, Durban, 4001.  
Mr S B Neal to 21 Aliwal Street, Durban, 4001.  
Mr P N Culligan to 53 Marble Arch, 87 Ridge Road, Musgrave, Durban, 4001.  
Mr R G Curtis to 2 Furlough Place, Pietermaritzburg, 3201.  
Mr Gelphick to Johnson Murray, Architects, Suite 1, Arcadia Park, 23 Arcadia Road, Overport, Durban, 4001.  
Mr W Long to 307-312 Poynton House, 85 Gardiner Street, Durban, 4001.  
Mr C A H Kadwa to 153 Berea Road, Durban, 4001.  
Mr P V Holdcroft to Zakrzewski Associates (Natal) Incorporated, 245 North Ridge Road, Durban, 4001.  
Mr R A Gerhardt to 39 McKenzie Road, Morningside, Durban, 4001.

### Changes in Membership

Mr P J Henry from TPI to NPI.  
Mr A F Williams from TPI to NPI.

### New Members

Mr D O Gray (Formerly AnT now Ordinary).  
3 Topaz, 49 Bohmer Road, New Germany, 3600.  
Mr G D J Wessels (Ordinary). "Rolling Stone Plaas", Kwambonambi, Lower Umfolozi.

### Deceased

Mr T N van der Walt (Snr)  
Mr E V Hulse

## PRODUCT NEWS

### Building Centre — A Year Old

The prestige Natal Building Centre which houses a permanent up-to-the-minute display of building products, celebrates the first anniversary of its completion this month (February).

Equalling the world's best building exhibitions, the centre has seen as many as 14 000 people a month pass through its display stands over the past six months.

A distinctive landmark in Westville, the building was designed by Durban architect Mr H J Nel and features a facade of blue shatterproof glass, contrasted with the roughness of steel grey Calsi face bricks.

The bricks — a specially blended colour — were made in Durban by Corobrik and to accommodate the curved lines of parapets and cantilevers, matching faggots were manufactured and cast into concrete.

The centre has two podiums of exhibition space and the upper floors of offices accommodate the head office of the Natal Master Builders' Association and other building and property-related concerns.

Ms Jenny Toms, executive manager, said that the exhibition space in the centre was enjoying a 90 percent occupancy rate, most creditable considering the troubled times the building industry had been experiencing over the past year.

"We believe we are providing a valuable service and a majority of our visitors are genuinely in the market for building or decorating products," Ms Toms said.

Because the exhibition is open at weekends, most homeowners or householders tend to visit then and commercial and industrial people call in during weekdays.

Ms Toms said that a lot of work had been put into the establishment of a computerised builder's information service, and she would like to see more use being made of this in the coming year.

"We are steadily building up a vast bank of information on building products and services, now it is up to Natal people to make use of it," she said.

### Five Star Paving Project at Umlazi

One of the most prestigious paving contracts ever undertaken in Natal is taking shape at Umlazi.

The project involves innovative new star-shaped paving stones set out in exceptionally striking ethnic pattern, reminiscent of the intricate designs of Zulu basket-weaving.

It is expected to become a showpiece for paving in terms of precision, design and workmanship.

More than 650 000 pavers will be laid by the time the 13 000 square metre project is completed next year.

The paving is part of an overall landscaping plan for new KwaZulu Government offices being built at a cost of R13.5-million in the heart of the Umlazi business area.

Project architect Dave Gillies of Joubert, Owens, van Niekerk and Partners, said that the bold design of the building warranted the inclusion of an ethnic pattern in the paving.

"We wanted to create a type of oasis in the centre of Umlazi, where the overall vista is relatively stark and treeless.

"We earmarked quite a large budget for the landscaping of the area to develop an interesting and lively focal point."

Mr Gillies specified the new Corostar paver, recently developed by Corocrete, to reproduce the intricate triangular motifs on the basketweave pattern.

"The star shape lent itself particularly well to the angular pattern, and at the same time ties in with the shape of the new buildings."

Four different colours have been used to obtain the required effect — grey, red, charcoal and apricot.

Contractor Ivan Deverill, of Industrial Paving, said that the project had reached the half-way stage with the completion of the main parking area. The remaining 7 000 square metres would be completed in 1987 once the government offices were completed.

Mr Dave Vincent, manager of Corocrete in Durban said that the selection of the Corostar paver for the project had been the "cherry on the top" of an enormously successful launch for the product.

"It only went on to the market in November and it is doing exceptionally well, in spite of doldrums in the building industry," he said.

"What is also pleasing is the fact that Corostar has proved popular in both domestic and commercial situations."

