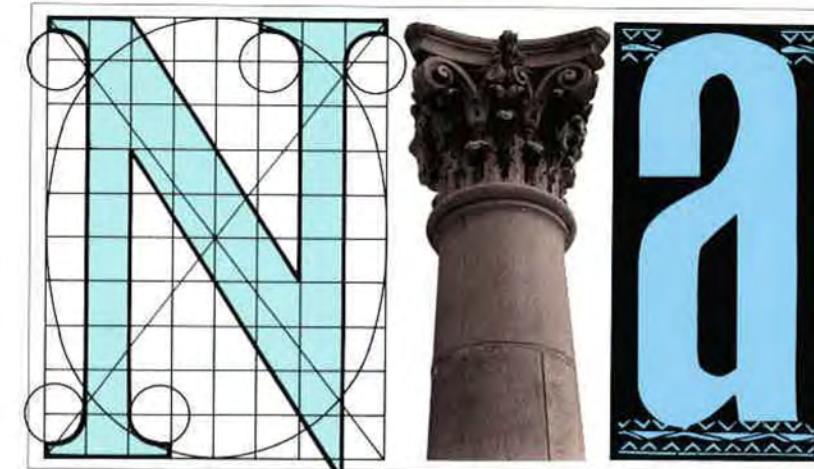


1991
Awards
of Merit



NIA JOURNAL • ISSUE 1/1992 • VOLUME NO 17 • ISSN 0379-9301
Journal of the Natal Institute of Architects Tydskrif van die Natalse Instituut van Argitekte
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A WINNER BY MYLES

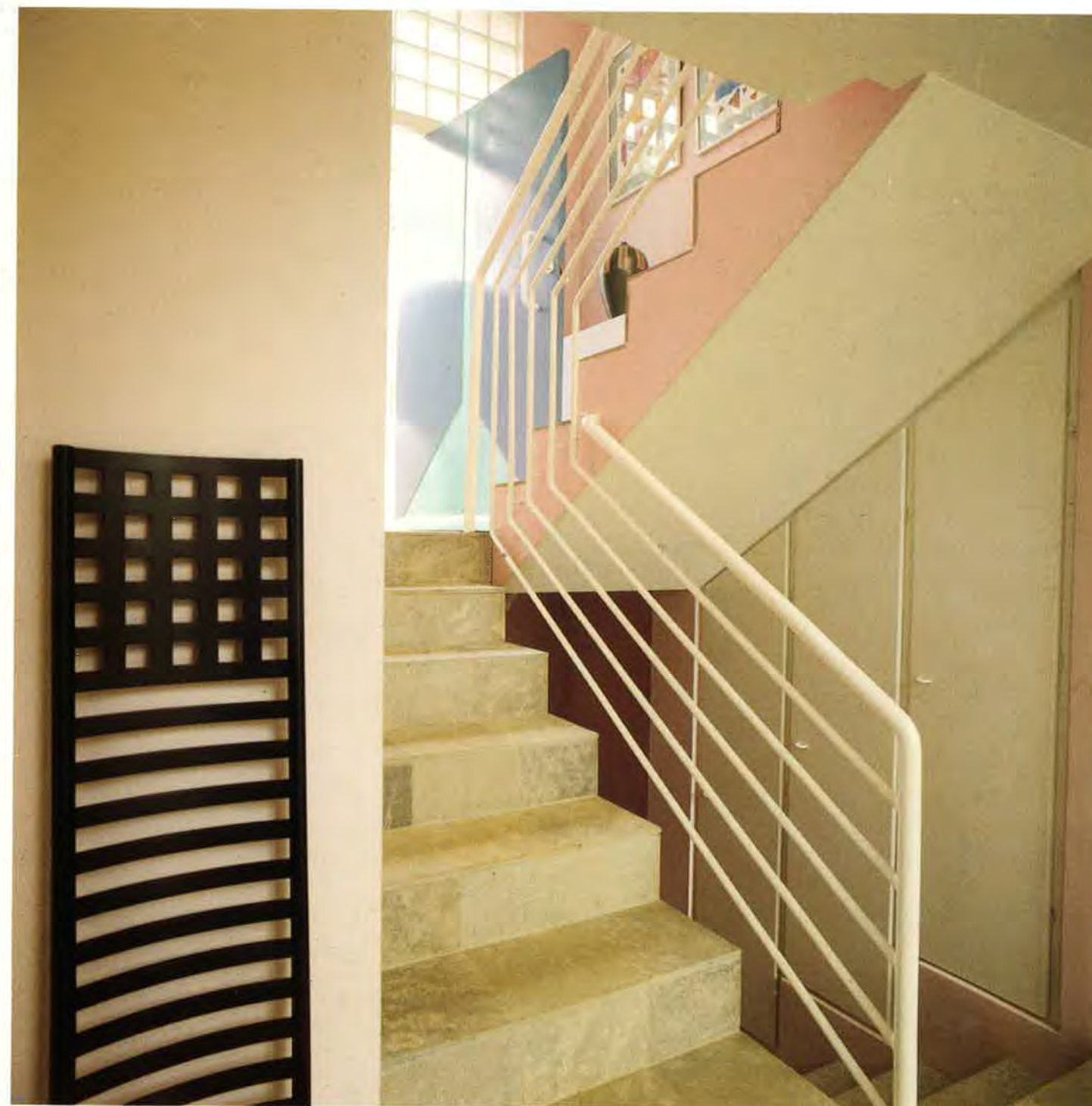
"This Corobrik/Natal Mercury Brick Design Award Winner embodies an attractive low maintenance finish with the use of different shades of Calsi SB face brick, which was specified as a variation from the palette of local clay products."
Myles Pugh Sherlock Murray

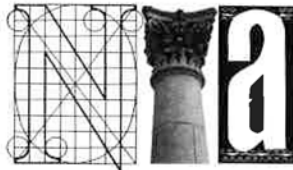
Developer: Futura Footwear Ltd
Architect: Myles Pugh Sherlock Murray
Main Contractor: Trescon (Natal)
Face Brick: Calsi SB Mercury Rockface and
Platinum Smooth from Corobrik Natal



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1991 ISAA NATAL AWARDS OF MERIT: The best programme the Institute has to offer

AN AWARDS OF MERIT and Conservation Awards programme is staged biennially by the Institute of SA Architects. This issue of the *NIA Journal* presents all submissions received for the eighth ISAA Natal regional programme which covered buildings completed between January 1989 and December 1990. The journal does so, as it has traditionally done, to present an overview and a benchmark of contemporary architecture in Natal.

A record of 29 entries was received encompassing the full gamut of building types, making the adjudication procedure both exhausting and detailed. The jury of architects and lay members spent two full days scrutinising the submissions and shortlisting some which were then visited on-site. The NIA is greatly indebted to the assessors who so freely gave of their time and enthusiasm. A record number of Awards were made: five Merit Awards, three Conservation Awards and two Special Mentions.

This arguably is the best programme the ISAA has to offer its members. It engages members' interest for it is a case of peer and societal evaluation. The jury is given only one instruction, to identify merit, the *modus operandi* is its own.

The jury is appointed by the NIA Regional Committee. This time it was co-ordinated by Mr Sydney Baillon, committee member. Two academic architects were appointed: Professor Ron Kirby, Head of the School of Architecture at the University of the Witwatersrand and Professor Brian Kearney, Head of the Natal School, whom the jury elected as Chairman. Lay members were Mr Michael Green,

Editor-in-Chief of *The Sunday Tribune* and *The Daily News*, and Mr Simon Roberts of the Natal Law Society and veteran of all eight programmes. (Only the lay members had formerly served on a Natal jury).

A few aspects distinguish the composition of Natal juries, the most important one being the inclusion of lay members. Another is that jurors have no involvement with the projects submitted. Furthermore, at least a short list of projects is visited. Such conditions maintain high adjudicatory standards. But, in addition, a report-back to members should be a requirement. Recusings and the list of buildings inspected should also be made known.

As to the premiated submissions, history was made. For the first time a private house has been honoured and George Elphick is to be heartily congratulated for this and for his Action Bolt Factory. A hat-trick has been recorded, in that Small Pettit and Associates and FGG have each earned their third award, all honours received in the same Awards programmes. Novice Kiran Laloo has received the honour for a community building which is a worthy winner. As far as Conservation Awards are concerned, Interarc obviously have the perfect recipe. The Natal Institute is also unusual with its category of Special Mention, awarded to both Ismail Cassimjee and Interplan.

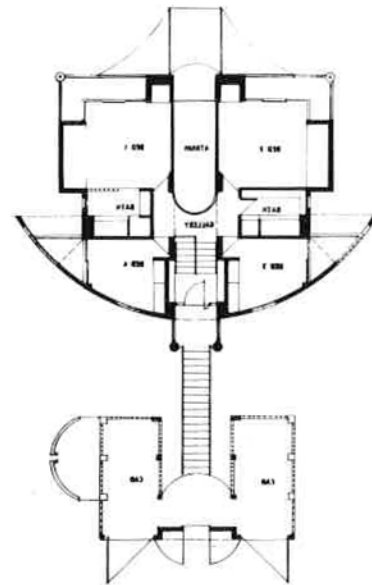
I hope readers will find this issue of *NIA Journal* interesting and that it will add to their understanding of the current approaches of architects in Natal.

Walter Peters

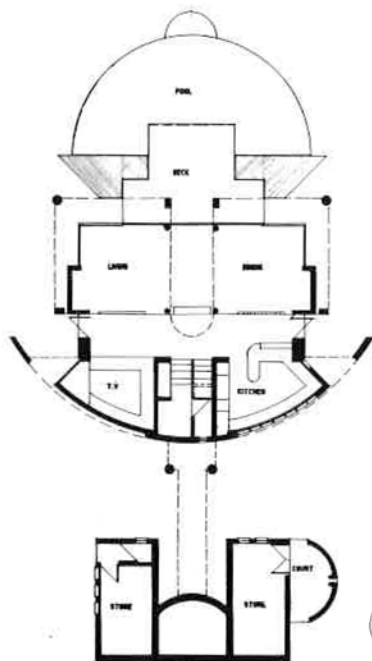
Editor

House Elphick, Westville Elphick Proome, Durban

This exciting private home represents the continuation of a long legacy of the geometrical structuring of domestic space in the semi-rural environment – a geomantic searching for mathematical relationships to wider arrangements of life on earth. The geometrical patterns of axis, arrival, separation and integration are ingeniously developed within the constraints of sloping Natal site and climate, so that these become possibilities for movement systems, views and sculptural form. And these are carried through into eminently practical detailing, imaginative choice of materials, fittings and furniture which marry the stylish curves and cruciforms with the exigencies of private and family life.



First floor



Ground floor

COVER PHOTOGRAPH Staircase, House Elphick.
Photographer: Paul Gordon

citations Awards of Merit



Northdale Assessment Centre for the Disabled, Pietermaritzburg

Kiran Laloo, Pietermaritzburg

A sensitively designed centre for the disabled which, through its non-institutional and quite cheerful approach, symbolises an empathetic philosophy towards those who use its facilities. Such a complex commission could easily have turned out to be rather grim and forbidding, but externally and internally, the considered planning; use of levels; natural lighting; choice of materials; and the quality of the special

function spaces, provide a controlled aesthetic of optimism. It is unfortunate that public-sector clients do not recognise the importance of an appropriate landscaping budget for buildings like this, which use natural light, ventilation and view and subscribe to a traditional court plan and surrounding open spaces for filtering functions. Gardens would enhance the conceptual sense of place inherent in the design and take the optimism of enabling the human condition to a higher level.

This project was published in *NIA Journal* 2/1991.



citations Awards of Merit

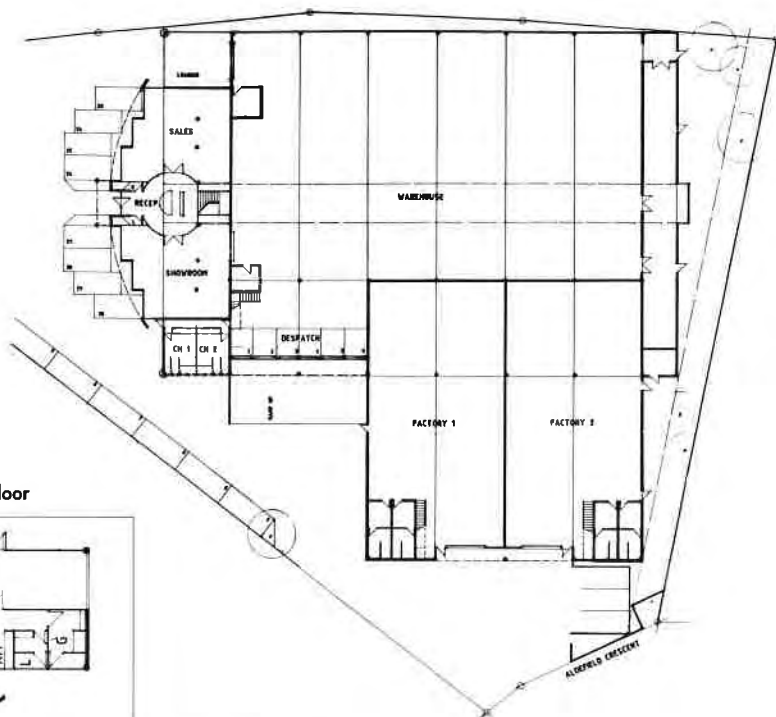
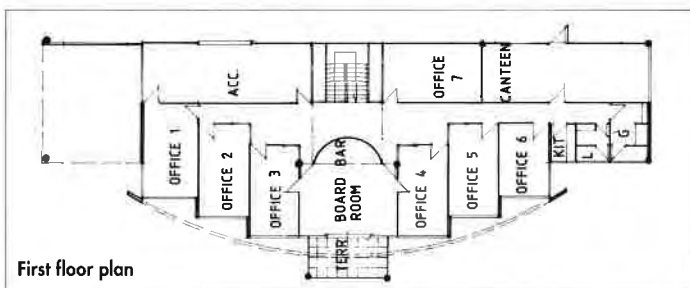
Factory and Offices for Action Bolt

Springfield Park, Durban

Elphick Proome, Durban

Springfield Park has recently become a sort of suburb of workshops (but not a euphemistic park) – a kind of catalogue of factory designs. The catalogue includes a wide spectrum of structural solutions, materials usage and design idioms which range from neo-traditional through post-modern to a few carefully and well-judged designs. Action Bolt leads in the latter category with its combination of direct and explicit order; crisp and sensitive detailing; the provision of comfortable and workable environments and in a subtle way extends the particular Durban excitement of decorative ebullience into the realm of the worker.

Ground floor



Conversion of Old Supreme Court to Tatham Art Gallery

Commercial Road, Pietermaritzburg

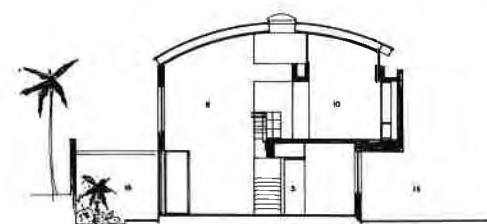
Small, Pettit and Associates, Pietermaritzburg

Our age witnesses the apparent absences of many fine public buildings handed down to us from the Victoria era. When an early colonial courthouse from the hand of the first colonial engineer, Peter Paterson, became outmoded in terms of its original judicial purposes, it provided a splendid opportunity for an exceptional conversion into an airy, light and elegant art gallery. Most recent conservation projects have been primarily focussed on exteriors, but this is an excellent example of an interior conversion, with fine lighting; the integration of new services; varied and relaxed spaces; and very careful attention to detailing and colour. Notwithstanding the horizontal bisection of the original courtroom into two distinct volumes, this conversion provides an exciting and appropriate new setting for a fine art collection in a valuable historic structure.

This project was published in *Planning* 110, July 1990.



citations Awards of Merit



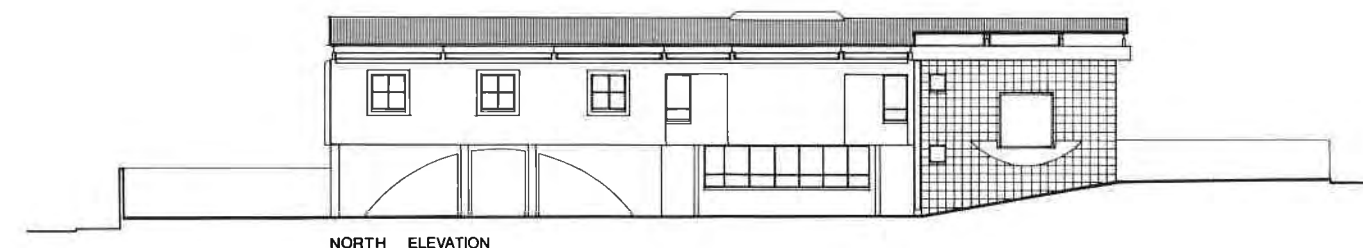
Office for Costa Maningi

Devonshire Place, Glenwood, Durban

FGG Architects, Durban

An historic suburban streetscape provides the context for this creative intervention: maximum use of a very small site within a modest budget; a proud (and probably controversial) intervention which expresses its use and owners in a warm, friendly and business-like manner. An engineering practice is provided with intimate and caring scaled interiors, all structured in a robustly simple plan, but with memorable and subtle relationships to the traditional Glenwood surroundings (like the palm framed in the south window).

This project was published in *Planning*, November 1991.



NORTH ELEVATION

special mentions Awards of Merit

City Building, East Street, Pietermaritzburg

Ismail Cassimjee, Pietermaritzburg

A medical centre which contributes to an eclectic streetscape: a conscious attempt to paraphrase the Victorian gabled architecture of Pietermaritzburg and provide a sense of identity and place; and not only gables, but a varied invention of modulated openings firmly held in red brick walls.

This project was featured in *NIA Journal* 2, 1991.



Residence for G Hesse, Pietermaritzburg

Interplan Architects

Pty (Ltd), Pietermaritzburg

A large programme of domestic accommodation; a classical-contemporary plan which separates public entrance and car court from private domain. And a flowing set of volumes in a dramatic section against a Midlands hillside – all in cool colours against verdant views.



citations Conservation Awards

Cottam Grove, 303-309 Florida Road, Durban
Interarc, Durban

Together with their neighbour, Atherton, these constitute a group of surviving Edwardian villas which are probably unrivalled in the country. Set superbly in an neighbourly set-back, they constitute an elegant essay in Edwardian architecture and suburban planning. These characteristics have been enhanced in their restoration. The careful attention to detailing; new and traditional colours; intelligent recycling of materials and elements and the integration of new ones; appropriate sub-tropical planting and fine interiors, altogether constitute an appropriate blend of new wine in old casks.



219 Florida Road, Durban

Conversion to Offices for Witney Chemicals (Pty) Ltd.

Interarc in association with Brian Kearney, Durban

Florida Road has again developed a special reputation as a fine streetscape with extraordinary buildings. Recycled residential structures for commercial purposes (though controversial in the minds of neighbours and planners) have contributed to this reputation. This example from the colonial past now lives on to demonstrate its carefully restored timberwork verandas, pedimented portico, encaustic-tiled floors, fresh colours; entrance hall and grand stair. Axial palms and their inherent spatial celebration announce a joyous directness of planning which follows.



submissions Conservation Awards

Kings House, Morningside, Durban

Interarc in association with Roux Wildenboer, Durban

This is probably the single most significant conservation exercise in Natal in recent years. The fine Edwardian structure has been grandly though sensitively restored to its former state. Considerable attention has been given, not only to the restoration of the fabric and the elements, but to the insertion of new requirements; new spatial subdivisions, services and fittings; and all this in a way which clearly demarcates between new and traditional. Perhaps of special importance is the return to the house of much of the original furniture.



Town Hill Hospital (Main and North Park Buildings), Pietermaritzburg

Interplan Architects (Pty) Ltd, Pietermaritzburg
Built 1889-1891, the roof especially of the main building was in a bad state of repair. The exterior was restored; the interior repaired, renovated and altered to suit the changing needs of the institution. The building has since restoration been declared a National Monument.

Drawings for North Park building are dated 1910.



Tinsley House, Durban

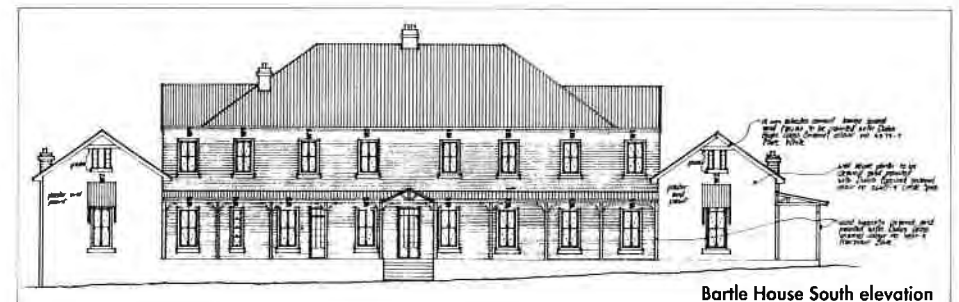
Pellegrini Associate Architects, Umhlanga

Tinsley House was designed in 1924 by the architect HE Chick as a block of residential flats on the corner of Musgrave and St Thomas Roads. After the war it was converted to a residential hotel, a use it served until 1988 when failing viability gave rise to its restoration and rebirth as office accommodation.



Voortrekker Cottage, Pietermaritzburg

Interplan Architects (Pty) Ltd, Pietermaritzburg
The site measuring 1 acre 3 roods and 1 perch was granted to Mr WA Geer by the Volksraad in 1839. The original cottage of two rooms separated by a passage was built of sun-dried mud bricks and shale. Authentic portions of walling have been left exposed to view, protected behind glass frames. The original roofing timbers, yellowwood ceiling and beams have been preserved as have the stoep terminating walls with built-in seats. The work was carried out for the owners, Umgeni Water Board.



Bartle House, St Gregory College, Frere

Trevor Lloyd Evans Architects, Pretoria

Named after Sir Bartle Frere, this dilapidated school building just off the Estcourt-Colenso main road was erected in 1886 and occupied by British forces during the SA War. It lay abandoned for 59 years until in 1987 Fr Robert Clucas purchased the property and established St Gregory College, a multi-racial and inter-denominational school.

This project was featured in Planning 116, July 1991

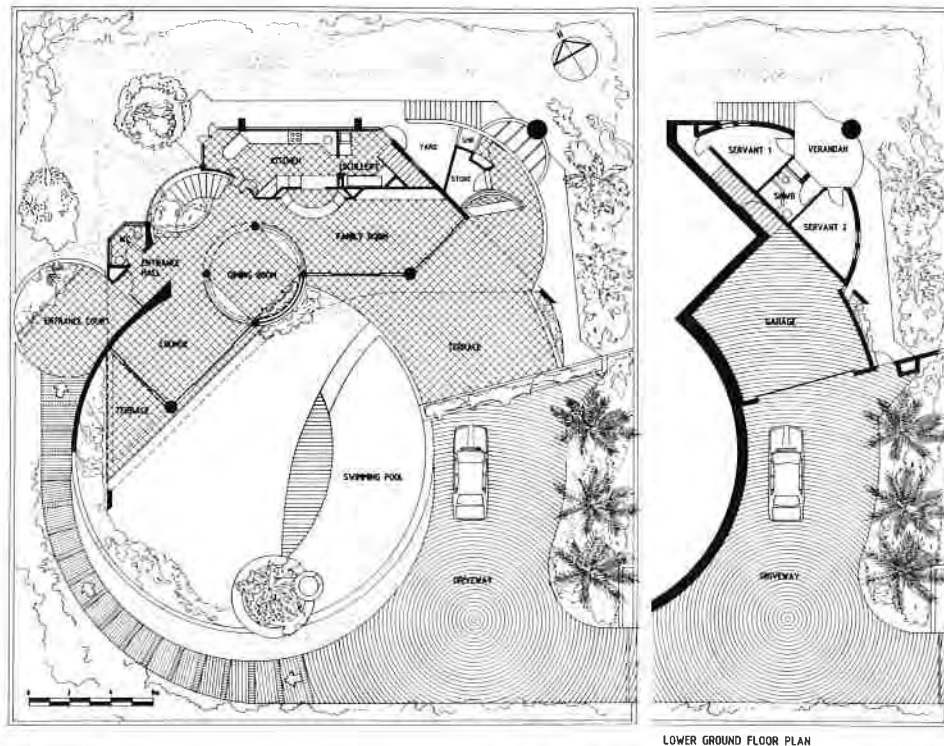
submissions Awards of Merit

House Thorpe, Morningside, Durban
Johnson Murray Architects, Durban



The cul-de-sac location and the restricted yet superb views dictated the positioning of the house and the access path rising up from the entrance level. This permitted the creation of a circular garden podium edged with a swimming pool, maximising the cone of view while maintaining privacy. As the views are toward the south, the back of the house had to be rendered transparent to allow for north sun penetration. The flat roof resulted from a height restriction, a condition of sale.

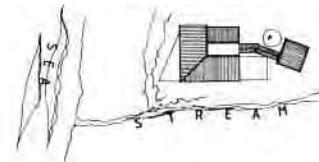
The jurors have recommended that this house, unavailable for inspection at the time, be submitted for consideration in the next Awards programme.
Editor



Beach Cottage, Sheffield Beach

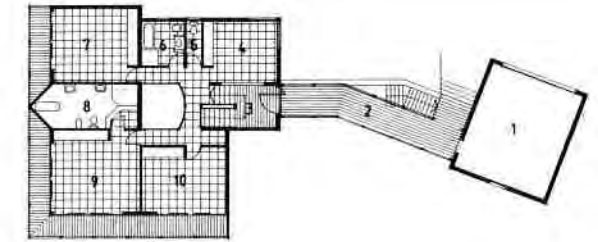
Stafford Associate Architects cc, Durban

The site covered with luxuriant sub-tropical vegetation, slopes steeply towards the beach. Any restructuring of the groundscape was avoided: the back edge of the house is firmly set into the ground, the front suspended on widely spaced columns. A continuous veranda runs along the north and east faces of the house where large overhangs, shutters and openings naturally condition the building in its humid coastal climate.



submissions Awards of Merit

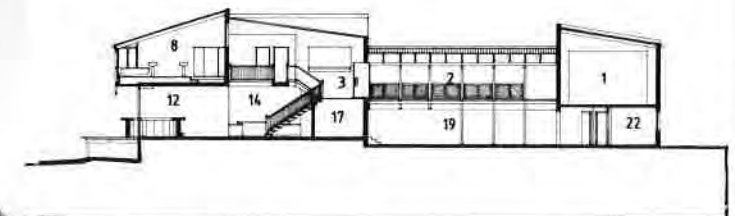
1. Double Garage
2. Covered Access Walkway
3. Entrance Hall
4. Games Room
5. WC
6. Bathroom 2
7. Bedroom 3
8. Bathroom en suite
9. Bedroom 1
10. Bedroom 3
11. Timber Deck
12. Bar
13. Store
14. Kitchen
15. Scullery
16. Lounge
17. Guest WC
18. Pool
19. Covered Walkway
20. Laundry
21. Servant 1
22. Servant 2
23. Bathroom



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



LONGITUDINAL SECTION



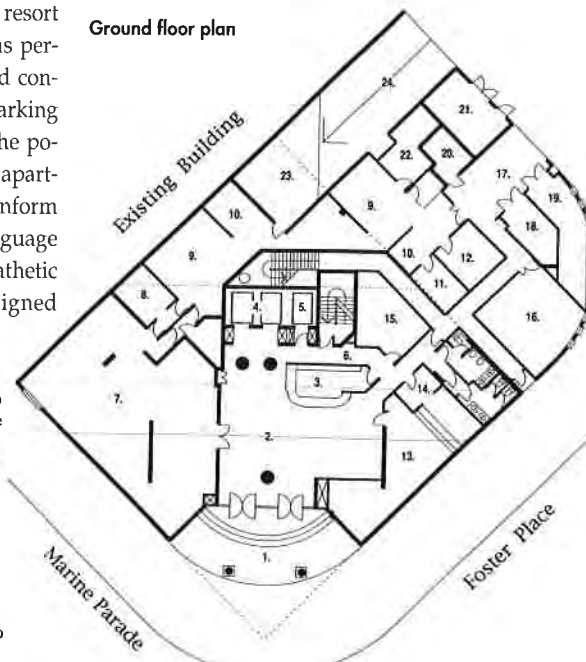
The Palace, Marine Parade, Durban

Seitter Boyd Architects, Durban

The brief called for a hotel/timeshare resort with as many self-catering apartments as permissible, each with one parking bay, and concomitant entertainment facilities. Four parking levels provide a base for the building; the podium serves as a pool deck. The shaft of apartment units is terminated in steps to conform with the 59° height restriction line. The language of the building was designed to be sympathetic to the "image" of the recently redesigned beachfront.

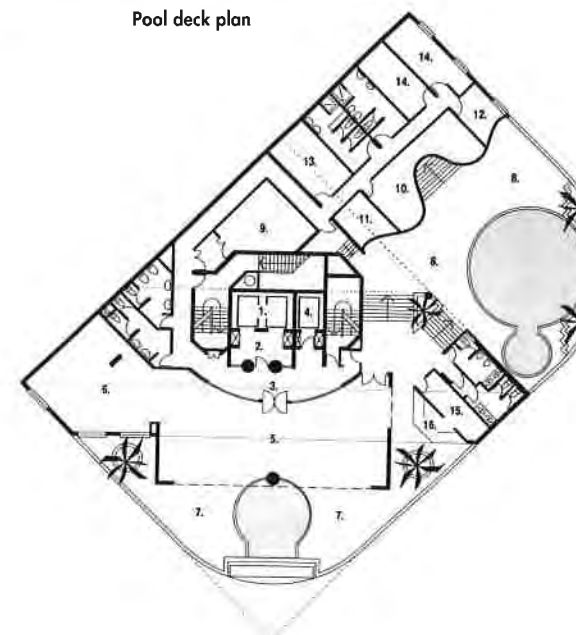
- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| GROUND FLOOR | 13. Ladies Bar |
| 1. Entrance | 14. Bar Wash-up |
| 2. Entrance foyer | 15. Admin Office |
| 3. Reception | 16. Staff Dining |
| 4. Lifts | 17. Loading Bay |
| 5. Fireman's Lift | 18. Generator |
| 6. Corridor | 19. Refuse Room |
| 7. Restaurant | 20. Meter Room |
| 8. Service Bar | 21. Transformer Room |
| 9. Kitchen | 22. Dry Store |
| 10. Wash-up | 23. Pump Room |
| 11. Cold Room | 24. Vehicle Ramp |
| 12. Liquor Store | |

Ground floor plan



- POOL DECK**
1. Lifts
 2. Lift Lobby
 3. Corridor
 4. Fireman's Lift
 5. Public Lounge
 6. Function Room
 7. North Pool Deck
 8. South Pool Deck
 9. Laundry
 10. Linen Store
 11. Pool Store
 12. Pool Plant Room
 13. Housekeeper's Office
 14. Staff
 15. Kitchen
 16. Servery

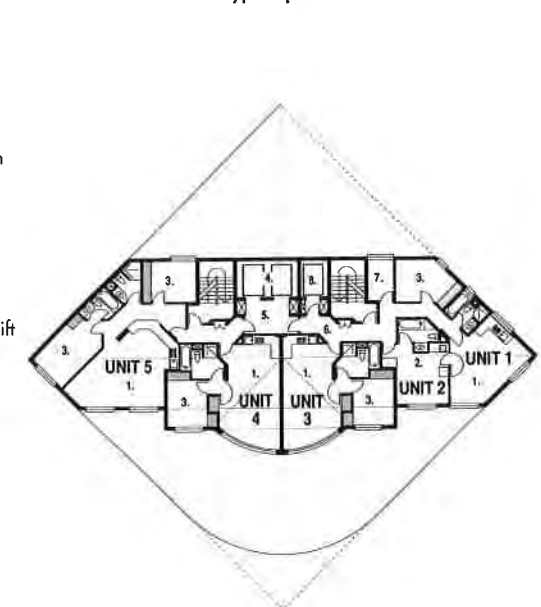
Pool deck plan



TYPICAL PLAN

- Unit 5**
6 sleeper
Units 1, 4 & 3
4 sleeper
Unit 2
2 sleeper
1. Living room
 2. Living / bedroom
 3. Bedroom
 4. Lifts
 5. Lift Lobby
 6. Corridor
 7. Plan Room
 8. Fireman's Lift

Typical plan



submissions Awards of Merit



House Coetzee, La Lucia

Pieter Coetzee Architects, Durban

A triangular design was prompted by the northern orientation and the sea views. Internal planning was required to display works of art to best advantage. The living areas open up to a wooden deck surrounding a circular pool.

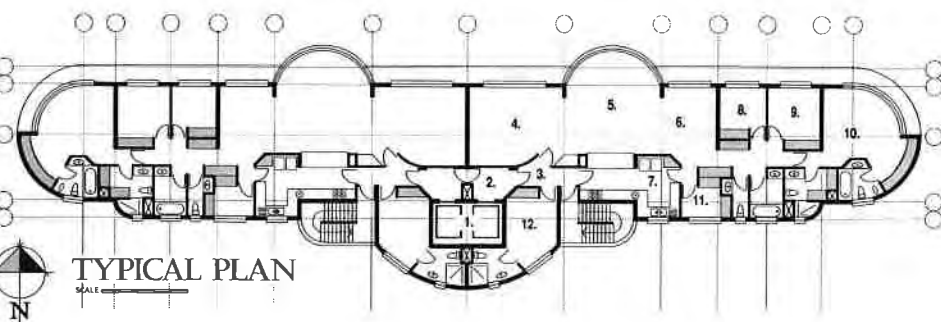


Silvergrove, Musgrave Road, Durban

Seitter Boyd Architects, Durban

This development comprising 19 luxury apartments is located on a narrow site on Durban's Berea. A solid back is presented to the inclement weather, an open front faces north while affording outstanding views.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Lifts | 7. Kitchen / Laundry |
| 2. Lift lobby | 8. Bedroom 3 |
| 3. Entrance lobby | 9. Bedroom 2 |
| 4. Lounge | 10. Bedroom 1 |
| 5. Solarium | 11. Study |
| 6. Dining room | 12. Staff / Guest |



Victoria Street Market, Durban

JD Maresh in association with Cassim AH Kadwa Project Architects: McLaren Alcock Bedford & Partners, Durban

This complex replaces Durban's Indian Market burnt down in 1973. The larger of the two buildings accommodates the general market, the smaller the fish and offal market. Basement parking for 180 cars and a first floor designed for stalls in 15 sq m multiples completes the development. The fact that the complex is overlooked from the elevated motorway prompted the enriched roofline of towers, domes and turrets - eastern in conception.

This project was featured in *Architect and Builder*, May 1990.



Service Station, Pietermaritzburg

Rougier, Croxon & Swiatek, Pinetown

The challenge of balancing the client's requirements of high visibility with an acknowledgement of townscape context became the architect's challenge on this prominent corner site of the capital city.

This building received the City of Pietermaritzburg's Award for Environmental Excellence in 1990 and that of the Pietermaritzburg Society in 1991.



Forsdicks BMW, Pinetown

McLaren Alcock Bedford & Partners, Durban

The site being bounded by three streets, the architects opted for a highly visible and carefully landscaped complex conditioned by the specific requirements of BMW that all facilities including the service centre be exposed to view. A space-frame roof covers the whole of the building; the topography has allowed for a semi-basement of lettable space.



Office Building, Montrose, Pietermaritzburg

Hughes Todd Bryan Inc, Pietermaritzburg

This building was tailor-made for a firm of consulting engineers, Jeffars and Green Inc. Exploiting the topography, internal spaces have become "filled with interest", especially at the interchange which occurs in the foyer.

This project was featured in *NIA Journal* 2/1991



Spring River Park Mini Factories, Durban

McLaren Alcock Bedford & Partners, Durban

This complex of 21 units was constructed in three phases necessitated by special consent and plan approval procedures. Simple building forms and methods of construction and the careful use of colour contributed to the success of this development, fully subscribed shortly after completion.

submissions Awards of Merit



Newspaper House, Durban

Vanderverre Apsey Robinson & Associates, Durban

The home of four newspapers, this building was completed within the 22-month contract. A deeply oversailing roof is its dominant characteristic, the entrance is marked by a curved canopy on two giant order columns. In typical factory tradition, the administrative and editorial functions screen the printing works behind - a proximity that necessitated special engineering considerations.

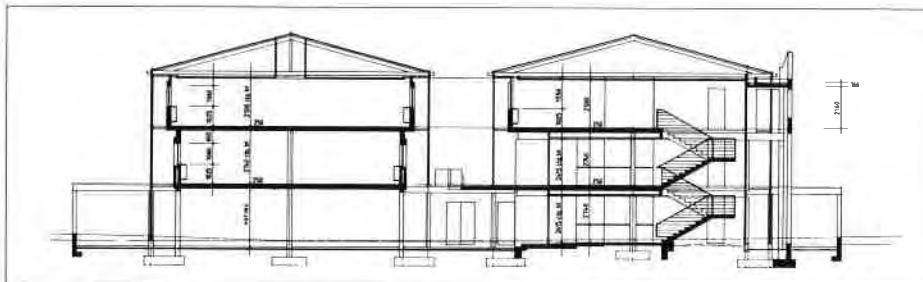
This project was featured in *Architect and Builder*, September 1990.



Albert Luthuli Residences, Durban

Vanderverre Apsey Robinson & Associates, Durban

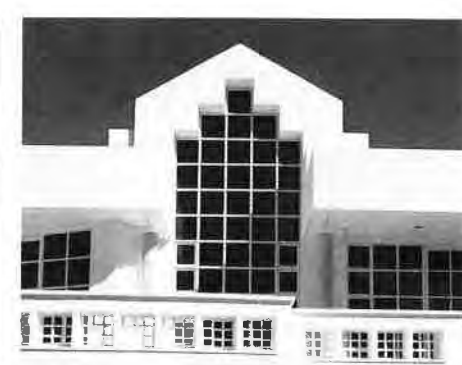
This residence complex to accommodate 450 students was originally designed for another site. Crescent shaped, it provides five houses each six storeys in height, accessible at mid-level by way of a linking bridge. A 'group' of 16 students occupies each floor. Solar energy is exploited for water heating purposes.



Deloitte House, Pietermaritzburg

Interplan Architects (Pty) Ltd, Pietermaritzburg

Two-storey sectional title office accommodation, reserved and visitor parking and a fixed budget with beneficial occupation given within nine months was the contractual base for this commission. The steel "exoskeleton" and brick panelling were considered modern interpretations of the Victorian character of Pietermaritzburg.



Pharmaceutical Society, Durban

Michael Grant & Associates, Durban

This headquarters building for the Natal Coastal Branch of the Pharmaceutical Society of SA also accommodates a central processing unit for the payment of medical prescriptions and the Society's in-house pharmaceutical outlet.

Most of the ground floor is taken up by parking. The offices on the upper floor are arranged around a series of courtyards.



510/511 Windermere Road, Durban

Pieter Coetzee Architects, Durban

The brief called for maximum lettable office space within a minimum building height, and the architects, through careful design, also achieved 270° uninterrupted sea and city views. Additionally, they had to meet with the dictates of the domestic character of the surroundings.