



APPOINTED TO OFFICE

"With the Atherton office development being adjacent to several National Monuments, it was imperative for the complex to harmonise with its environment while maintaining a sense of the present. Corobrik offered an excellent selection of face brick together with expert advice from specialised consultants."

Frank Reitz - Stafford Associate Architects

Project: Atherton, Florida Rd, Durban
Developer: Stocks Projects
Architect: Stafford Associate Architects cc
Main Contractor: Stocks Natal Construction
Face Brick: Horizon Satin from Avoca II

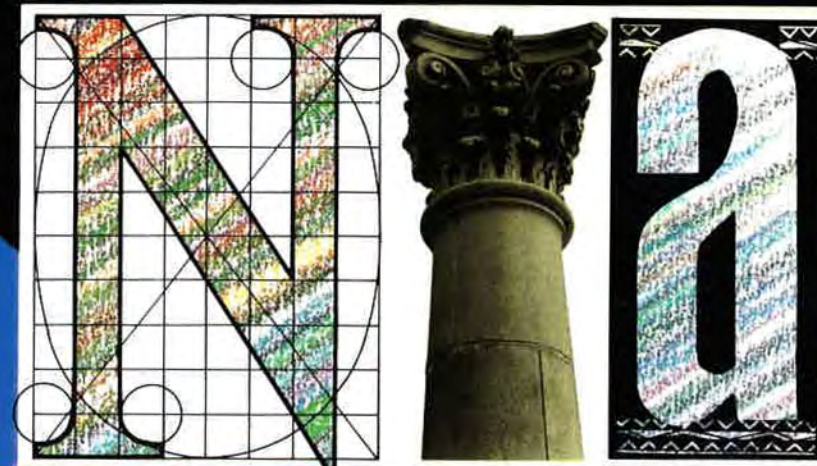


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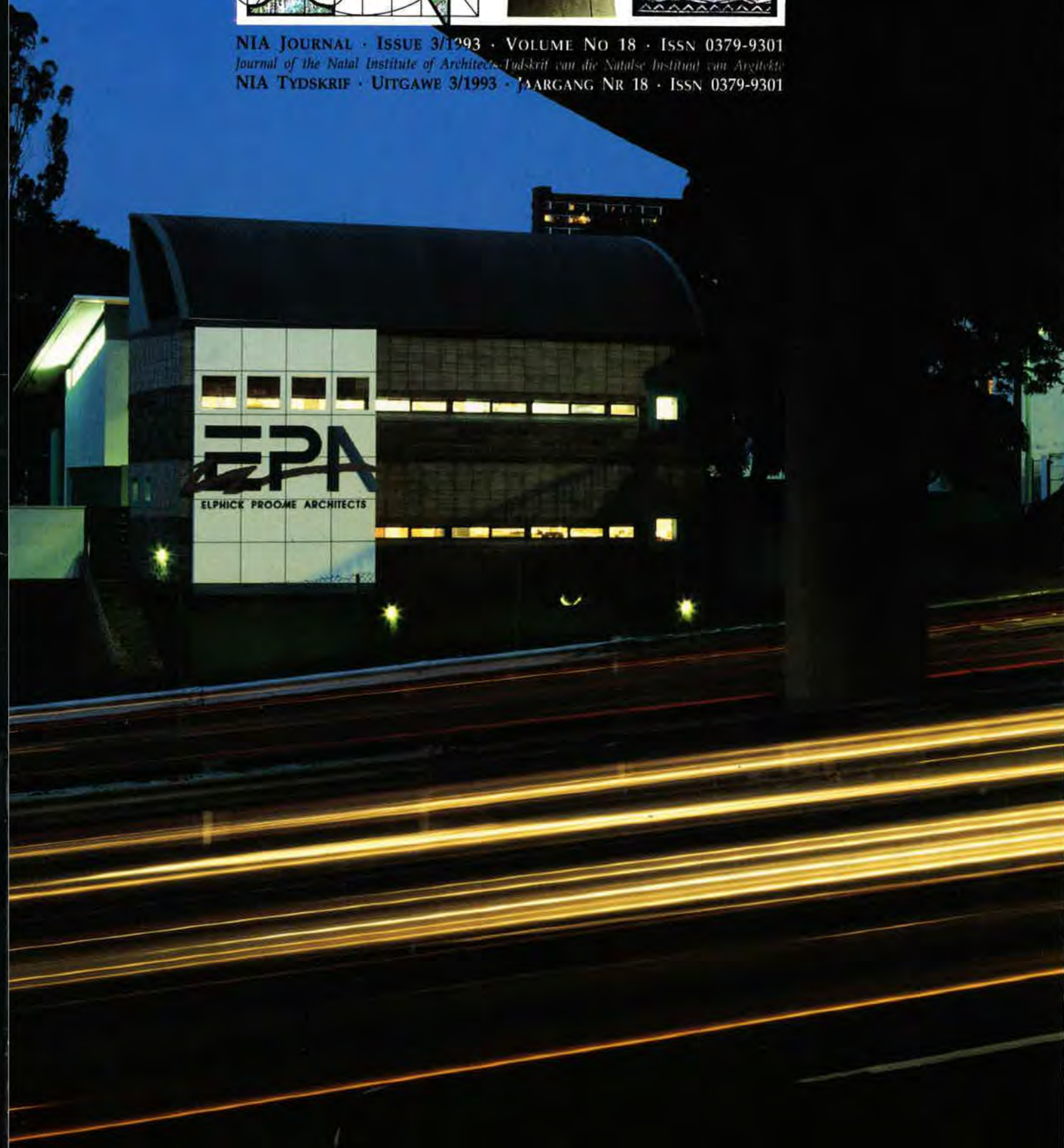
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DALTON MCCORMACK 1995

1993
Awards
of Merit



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1993 ISAA NATAL AWARDS OF MERIT A Juror Comments

This issue features all the submissions of the ninth ISAA Natal Award of Merit programme for buildings completed between 1 January 1991 and 31 December 1992. Of the 11 new buildings considered for Awards of Merit, 3 were successful and one received Special Mention; of the 6 submissions for Conservation Award consideration, 2 received Special Mention. To the recipients I extend my congratulations.

As is usual, the jury was appointed by the NIA Regional Committee. Again convened by Committee member, Sydney Baillon, the jury elected Mr Gordon Small its chairman. Mr David Yuill of Bloemfontein served as an external assessor; attorney Mr Simon Roberts as a lay member; and the writer as an academic architect. Deliberations took two days.

Awards for architecture determine who is known and for what. For Brian Johnson, the two awards vindicate a record of quality domestic houses. His is an architecture based on the anthroposophical teachings of Rudolf Steiner, one that promotes earth-bound buildings in which to mould visions of space and form. As such the landscaping melds house with site and while the dominance of form is asserted, the concept of the "fifth facade" emerges, one to be considered as important as the others.

George Elphick is concerned with an appropriate regional derivation for his architecture and draws on the qualities of the Victorian vernacular. Not in a stylistic way, but by the creation of simple plans and a limitation on materials, constraints which add an overall purity, austerity even, to his work. As is his wont, sheer

walls meet with the weather and roofs, sometimes insouciant but always uncompromisingly bold, dip to exclude the sun. Certainly good architecture should be enduring and weather well.

What is however of concern, and an omission the profession could be derided for, is that this year's submissions give scant regard to any social dimension of architecture, for example, the lack of any public housing project. In this regard, it is rewarding to posit Colin Savage's Jungle Nursery of low-energy structures on leased land and therefore made recyclable. His drawings show that he went about the designs in a way most natural to him and despite the pre-condition of Thai imagery, produced an aesthetic of necessity, the buildings more a part of a process than of a product.

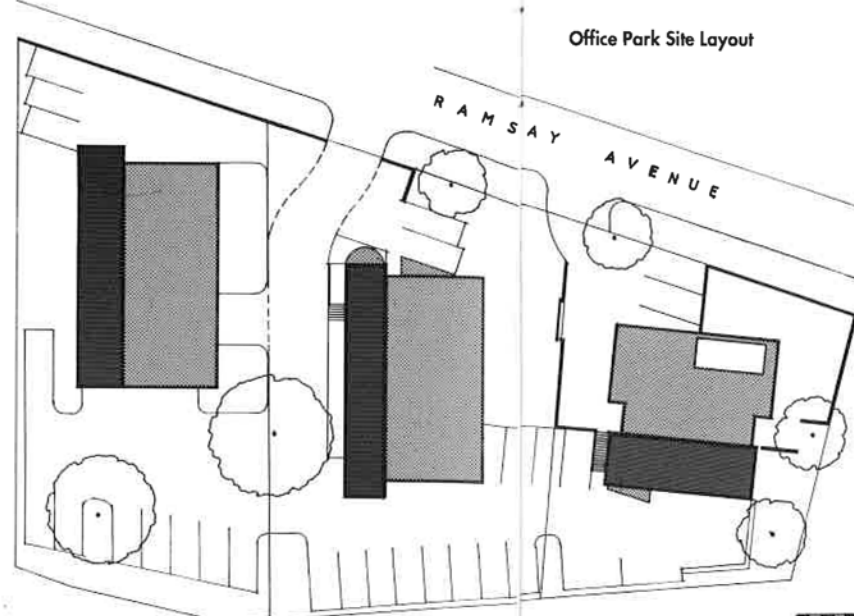
A few years ago a Conservation Award category was created to recognise the special skills required for such projects. Although no Award was made this year, two Special Mentions were made, to Ing, Jackson, de Ravel & Hartley, and Stauch Vorster – practices proving to have the requisite skills for reconciling contemporary uses with historic dignity.

Assessing these two latter submissions re-opened the debate over the design approach to the repair, restoration and extension to historic buildings. And whereas both solutions will be understood both by the profession and the public, detailing is critical for it can devalue history. Indeed the conservation principles of William Morris of 1877 seem timeless!

If this year's premiated projects help to open eyes and elevate standards they will justify themselves – and their jurors.

Walter Peters
Editor

COVER: Tollgate offices of Elphick Proome Architects as seen from across the Western Freeway.
Photographer: Craig Hudson



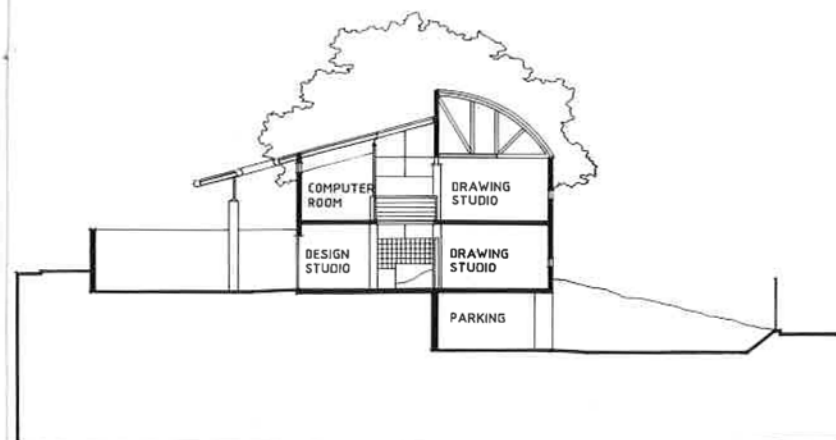
North facing veranda



Reception



View from parking area



Section

citations Awards of Merit

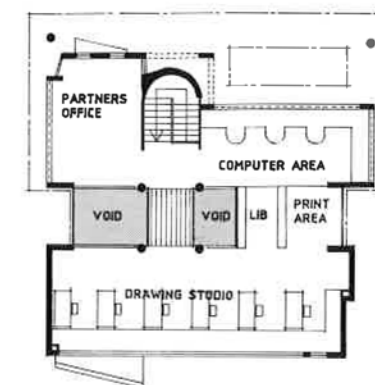
Architect's offices

Tollgate, Durban

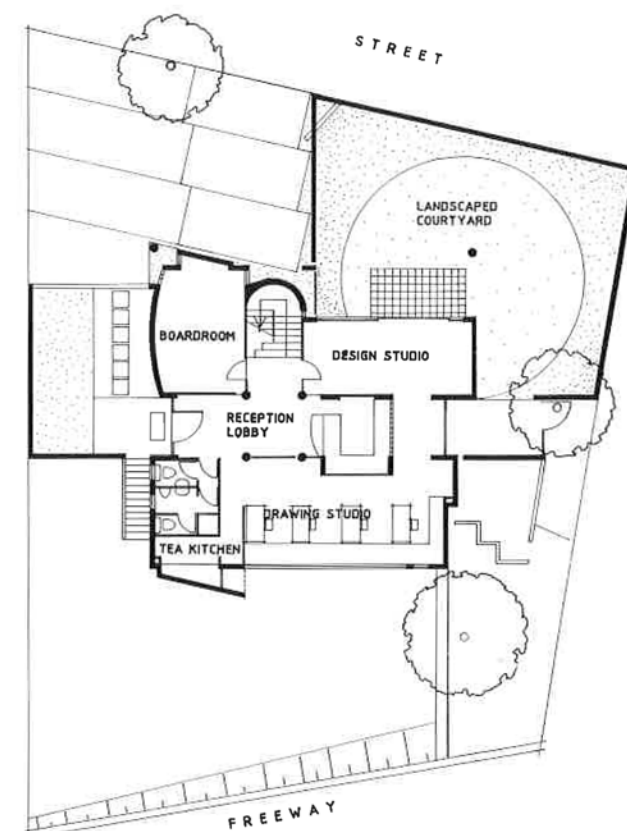
Elphick Proome Architects, Durban

This assured building is the first of a group of three in a small office park development with a freeway on one side and suburbia on the other. The building is generated by these constraints which it brilliantly exploits. The freeway is met with a solid exterior and eye-catching billboard; suburbia is embraced with a north-facing verandah and landscaped courtyard to which the building opens. The building is approached from the side where an indented entrance gives access to a double-height atrium partly bridged with open yet defined spaces on either side, creating a working environment both stimulating and agreeable.

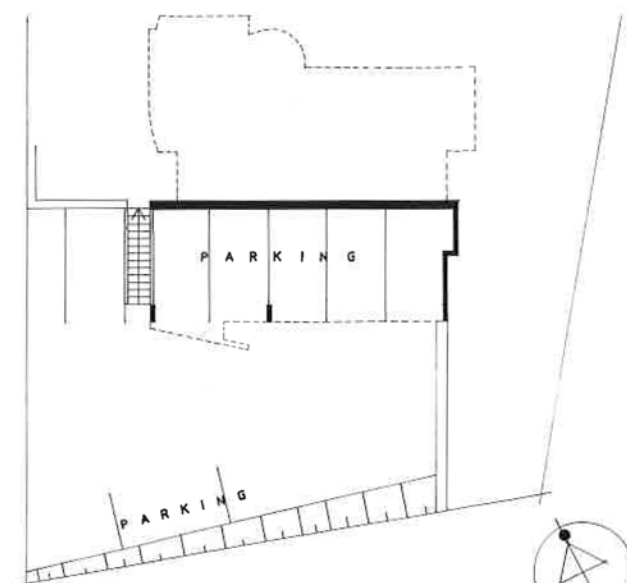
The jury was impressed by the simplicity and clarity of the concept and the masterly handling of space, light, furnishing and colour.



Upper floor



Ground floor



Lower ground floor

citations Awards of Merit

House Thorpe

Morningside, Durban

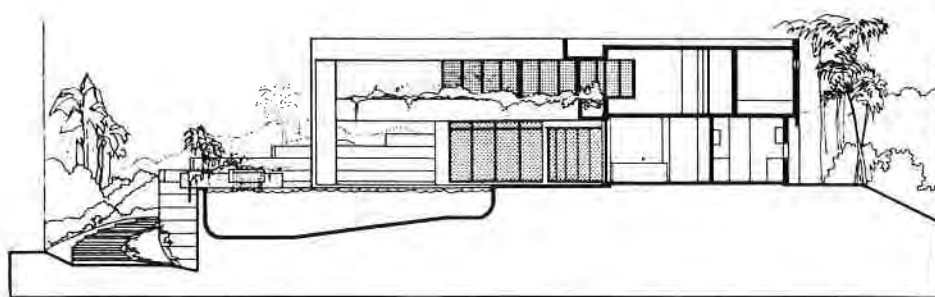
Johnson Murray Architects, Durban

This house was completed in May 1991 but being unavailable for inspection, the jurors of the Awards programme of that year recommended the building be considered for the 1993 programme, a recommendation readily accepted.

Durban's densely built-up Berea offers only small sub-divisions – if any – for development. Within such confines, the architects have created a house that maximises the limited views while, quite remarkably, ensuring privacy. In the process, the back of the house is rendered transparent to allow for north sun penetration.

The jury appreciated the design sophistication employed to achieve the apparent simplicity and transparency of this building, the quality of craftsmanship especially in the staircase, and the manner in which the landscaping reinforces the architectural concept.

Readers are referred to NIA Journal 1/1992 in which this project was featured.



House Pattundeen: Shanti Niketan (House of Peace), Westville

Johnson Murray Architects, Durban

Viewing this architect's work out of the time frame set for submissions allowed the jury a rare opportunity to observe the development of a colleague's design skills: while the entrance concept is similar to that of House Thorpe, the geometric ordering is more covert – the living accommodation radiates from a central atrium, each space given its particular ambience by detailed considerations of aspect, scale and material.

This is an example of organic and caring architecture. As the architects put it, "after our natural skin

and our clothes....architecture... is to form the third layer in which we live and work". And this house embodies values much deeper than functionalism, in fact, implicit in the brief was the instruction "to create an appropriate environment to promote the quality of family life in both the community and spiritual sense..."

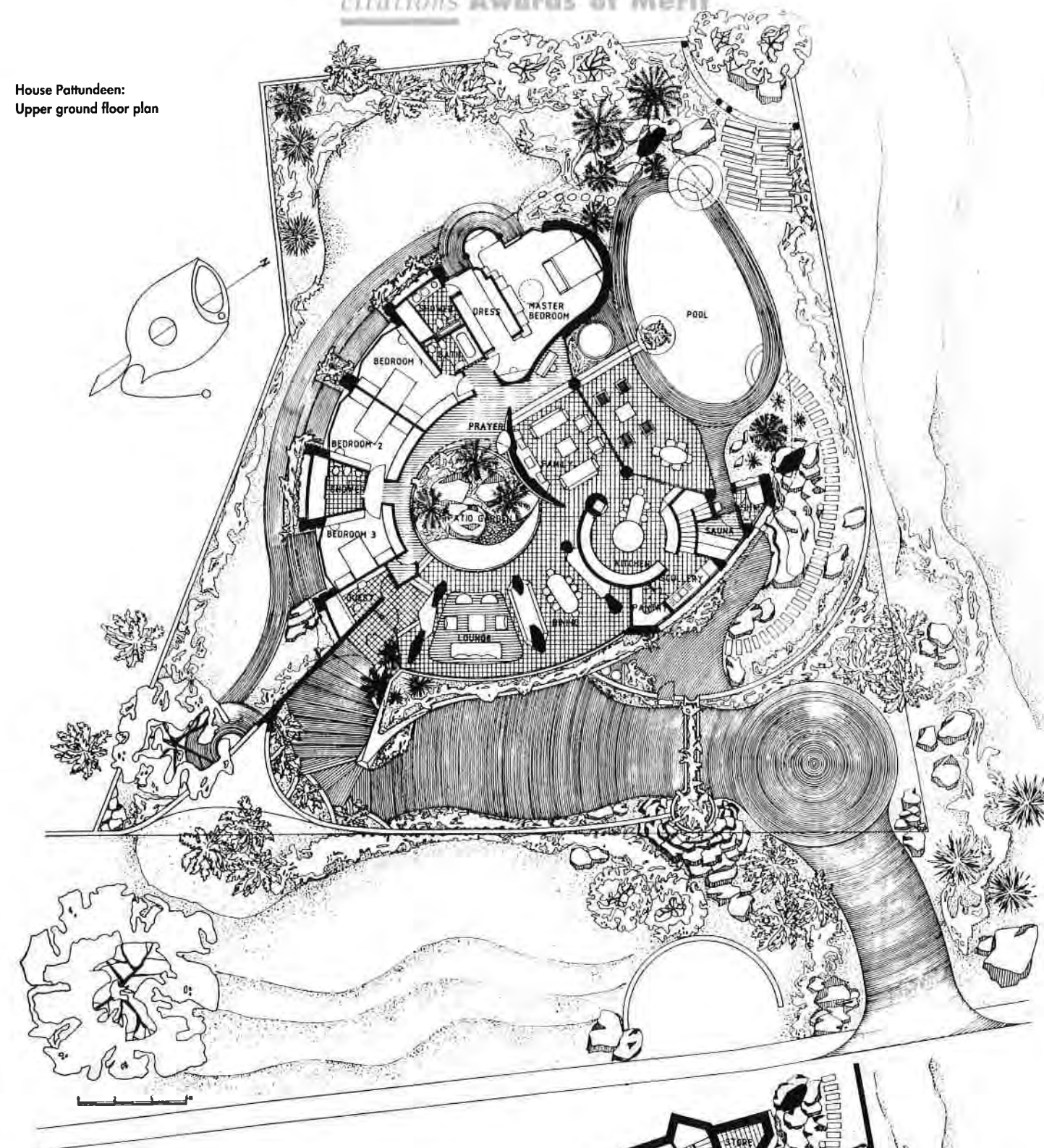
While the jury had reservations about the roofscape and aspects of scale and energy efficiency, it acknowledges this building as an outstanding work of architecture. Every aspect has been thought through and integrated to create an art, and an architectural and landscaped environment exactly suited to its purpose.



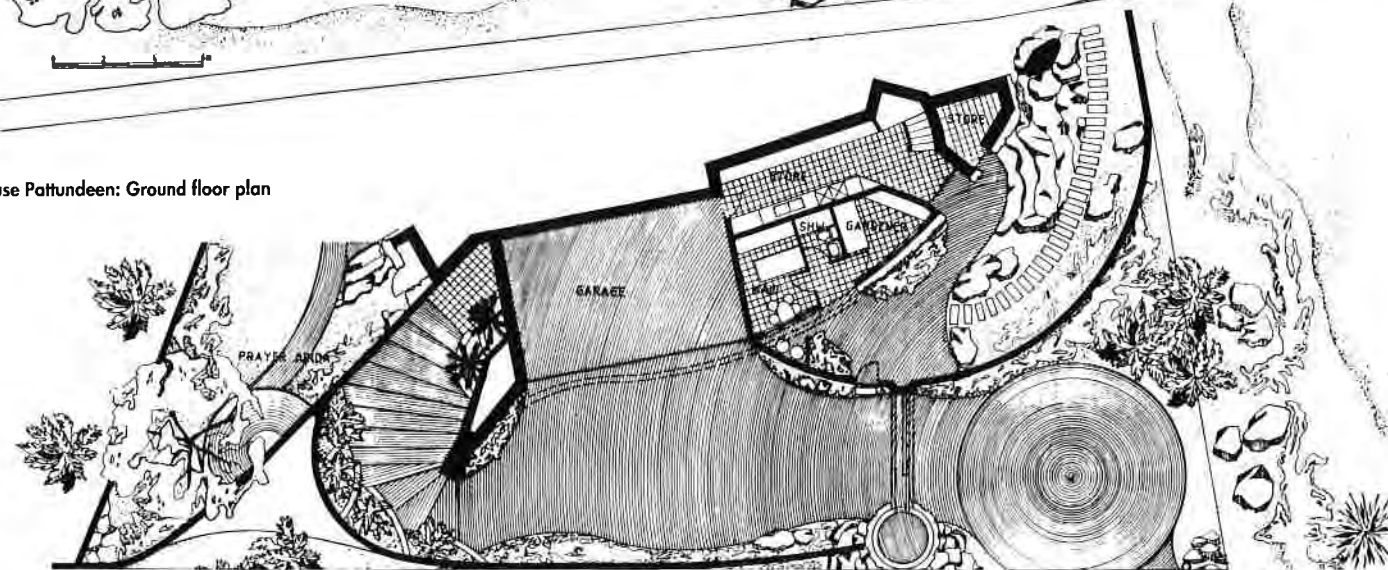
citations Awards of Merit

House Pattundeen:

Upper ground floor plan



House Pattundeen: Ground floor plan



special mention Awards of Merit

Sherwood Jungle Nursery
Glenwood, Durban
Colin Savage Architect, Johannesburg
Architects are not normally associated with the design of nursery gardens. When such expertise is called upon, there is an opportunity to raise the public's standard of design appreciation – as has been achieved here.

Notwithstanding some constructional solecisms and the exotic imagery, the jury believes this project deserves commendation.

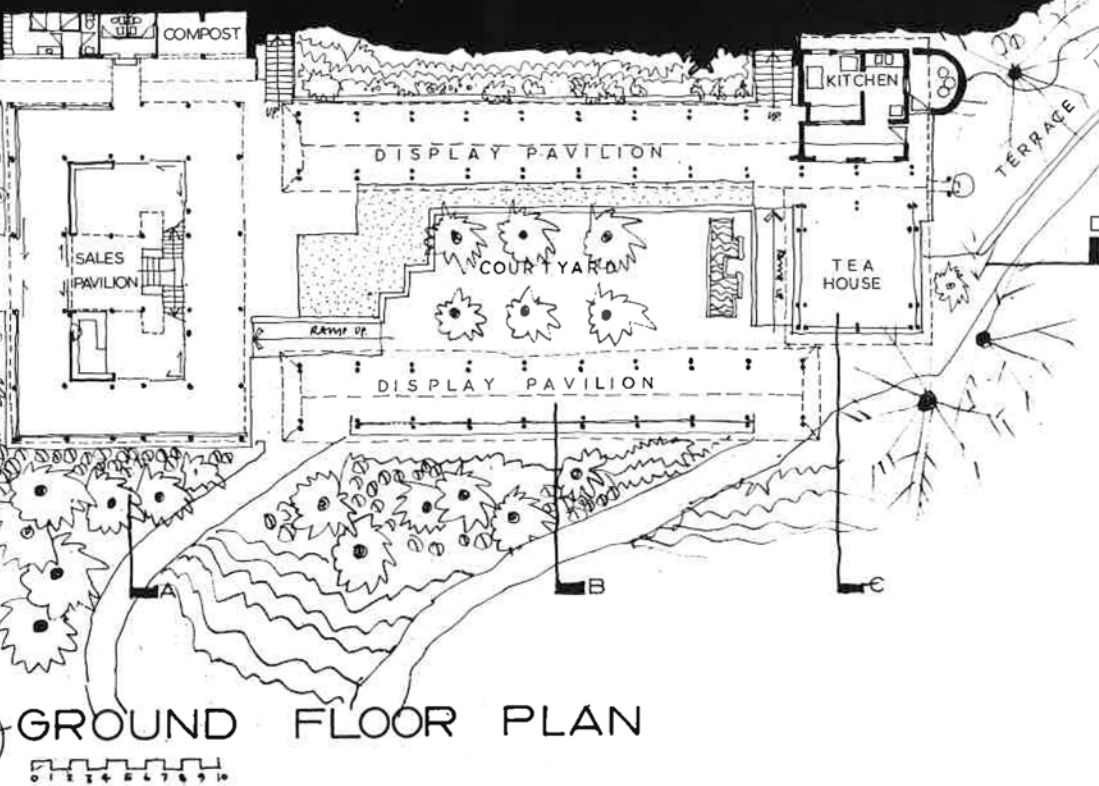


NOTE: Due to circumstances beyond the control of the assessors, this Special Mention has been withdrawn and will not be awarded. *Editor*

LEFT:
Courtyard

ABOVE: Montage - Sale pavilion

SECTION DD



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

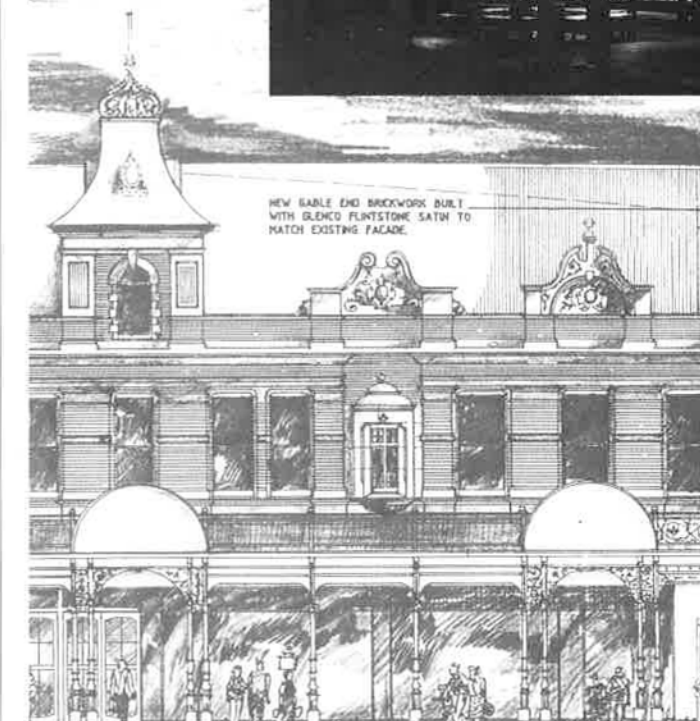
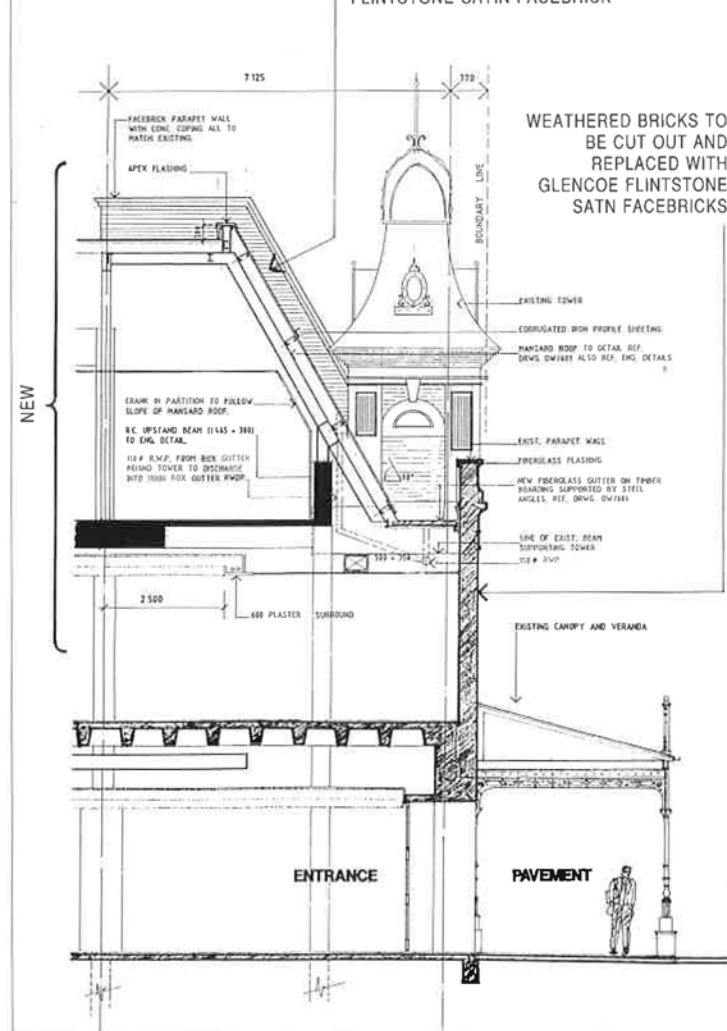
special mention Conservation Awards

Manor House
Morningside, Durban
Stauch Vorster, Durban

This project demonstrates once again the almost limitless potential for recycling apparently redundant buildings to new uses. In restoring this Edwardian landmark, the architects removed the accretions to the verandahs – vestiges of former hostelry use – and prepared the premises for offices. While the jury had reservations about aspects of conservation detail and technology, the project was handled both cautiously and creatively to reinforce the old building's own particular character.



NEW GABLE END BRICKWORK IN GLENCOE FLINTSTONE SATIN FACEBRICK



Edgars Store
Pietermaritzburg
Ing, Jackson de Ravel & Hartley, Durban
Adding two additional shopping floors presented a great challenge to the architects. They have responded with a bold mansard roof backdrop, and have repaired and restored elements of the historical facade in a manner the jury believes enhances the appreciation of this fine piece of Pietermaritzburg Victoriana.

ABOVE: Night-time view and Church Street elevation.
LEFT: Detail Section through the facade.

submissions Awards of Merit

Club House for the Natal Canoe Club, Pietermaritzburg

FGG Architects, Pietermaritzburg

Located at the start of the annual Pietermaritzburg to Durban Dusi Canoe Marathon, this double-storey pavilion has a boat store on the ground floor and a function hall on the upper floor. As the site is susceptible to a 50-year flooding cycle, the building is designed for structural tolerance. The imagery draws on the Victorian character of Pietermaritzburg.

OPPOSITE: Hall interior

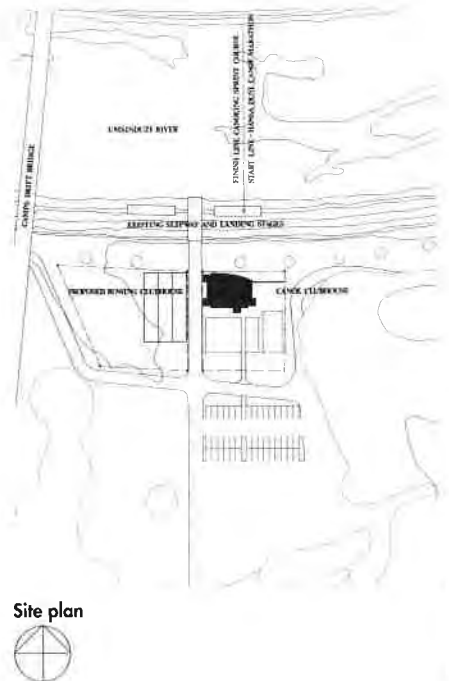
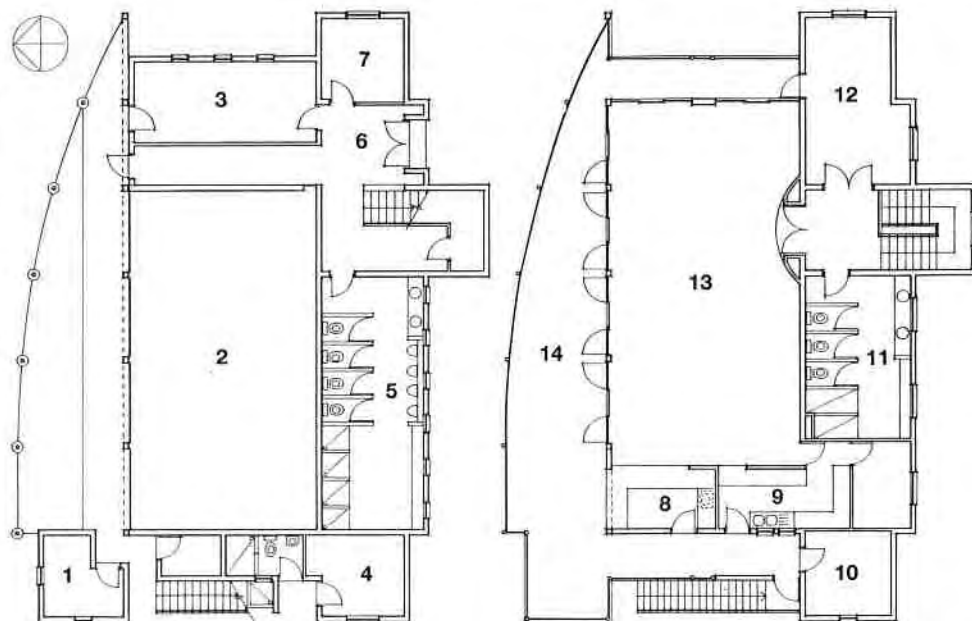
BELOW:

Ground floor plan

BELOW RIGHT:

First floor plan

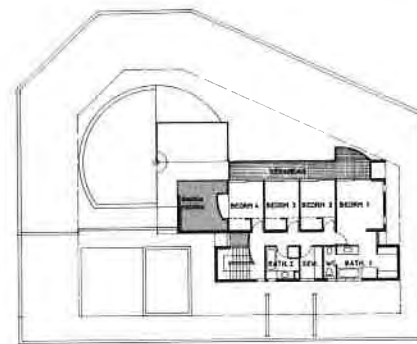
1. Race Admin
2. Boat Store
3. General Store
4. Caretaker's Quarters
5. Male Change Rooms
6. Entrance
7. Dusi Office
8. Bar
9. Kitchen
10. Store
11. Ladies Change Room
12. Committee Room
13. Hall
14. Covered Deck



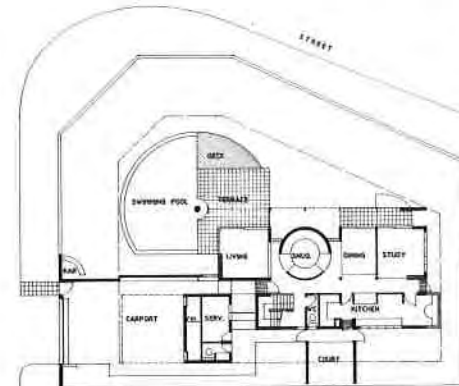
BELOW: View from across the Umsinduzi River



submissions Awards of Merit



UPPER FLOOR PLAN



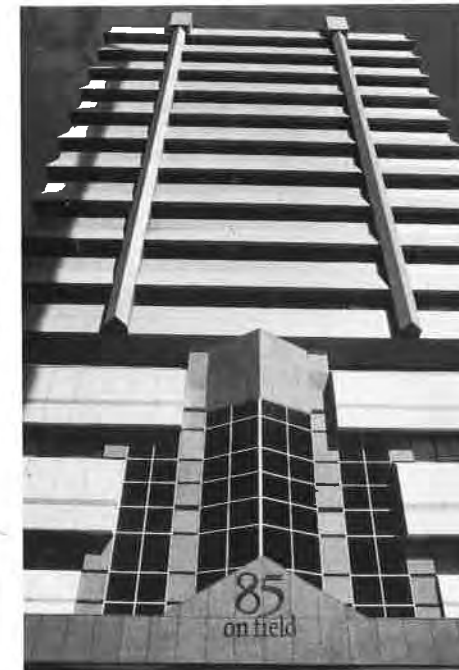
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



House Bellusci, Umhlanga Rocks

Elphick Proome Architects, Durban

Located on a suburban corner site, this house enjoys distant views of rolling sugar cane fields. Conceived as an "object in space", an open front is presented to the north garden area, and a solid back to the south. The line of cleavage, which contains the circulation space, is expressed in the massing. This is a high-tech re-interpretation of Natal's verandah house typology that "realises the lifestyle the Bellusci family dreamed of."



85 on Field, Durban

Stauch Vorster, Durban

Refurbishing existing buildings has gained momentum as costs of new buildings rise and well-positioned land becomes increasingly scarce. In this case, space vacated by newspaper printing production has been given over to parking; the entrance foyer has been re-emphasised; cladding restyled; and the roof termination of exposed suspension cables covered to render the structure "sleek and light."



Sports Hall, St Mary's Kloof

FGG Architects, Durban

The brief called for an economical sports hall with maintenance-free finishes. To scale down the hall and unify the prevailing character of the school, the exterior is composed of banded brickwork.



Victoria Maine, Durban

McCaffery Wilkinson & Little, Durban

Characterised by its boldness of form, this office building acknowledges its prominent position along Durban's Victoria Embankment, while exploiting the views afforded over the Bay of Natal.

Readers are referred to NIA Journal 2/1993 in which the project was featured.



South African Reserve Bank, Durban

Paton Taylor Associates Inc., Durban

The brief called for a dignified building, maintenance-free and high quality finishes and a pleasant working environment for staff. In consequence, the exterior is clad in Paarl grey granite with Mackintosh-like accents while the interiors surround a 4-storey landscaped atrium.

Riverview Medical Centre, Underburg

Richard Hamilton, Architect, Kloof

Implicit in the brief for this regional Medical Centre with consulting rooms and wards, was "the provision of a social focus for the community" which would "act as a visual message for an Underberg vernacular".

submissions Conservation Awards



Goodwin's Clinic, KwaMashu

Barry J Clark, Chartered Architect, Durban

The original structure was built during the 1850s as a farmhouse with stables and then became the first clinic in the township. The architect's brief called for a decision whether to demolish or conserve the now dilapidated building. As the plan was functional and the walls of random rubble could be stabilised, it was decided to recommend conservation. Besides, "the domestic character of the buildings affords a more friendly atmosphere than that of a formalised clinic building".

TOP LEFT: Original Farm House.

CENTRE LEFT: Stabilisation of walls.

BOTTOM LEFT: Conserved clinic.

NBS Lowry's Corner, Musgrave

Paton Taylor Associates Inc., Durban

The original building with shops on the ground floor and flats above, dates from the 1930s. In re-cycling the structure as a building society branch office, the existing reinforced concrete frame had literally to be "stitched" together and glazed ceramic tiles had to be purpose-made to match the original cladding.



Norfolk House, Berea

Paton Taylor Associates Inc., Durban

This turn-of-the-century house was gutted and rebuilt in 1992. While the general layout was retained, modernisation included replacing windows with french doors to create more intimate relationships with the garden.



HOWICK CLINIC

PLAN ▶

1. Waiting Room
2. Activities Room
3. Tea Kitchen
4. Toilets
5. Rear Entrance
6. Examination Room
7. Dispensary
8. Records
9. Main Entrance
10. Existing Covered Verandah
11. Existing Building

HOWICK CLINIC REAR ELEVATION ▶

submissions Conservation Awards

Howick Clinic

FGG Architects, Pietermaritzburg

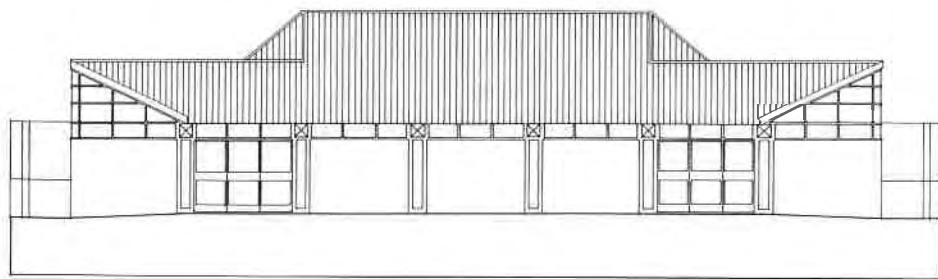
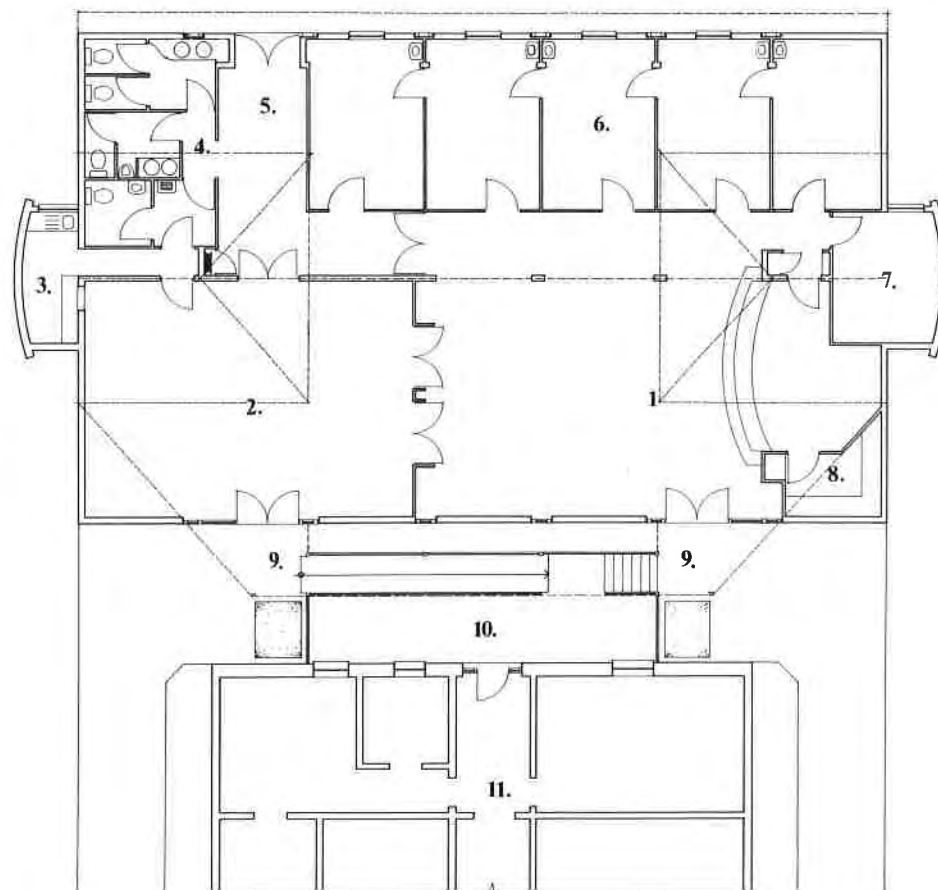
This is a case of gently adding a new building to a declared National Monument. The result is a building which re-interprets the hipped roof

tradition while acknowledging today's demand for higher levels of natural daylighting.

Readers are referred to *NIA Journal* 1/1993 in which this project was featured.



Aerial view with declared National Monument at right and addition at left.



SOUTH ELEVATION

Member honoured

At the Annual General Meeting of the NIA held at 16 Bulwer Road on Thursday, 21 October 1993, Professor Edwin (Ted) Tollman was honoured with an illuminated scroll in recognition of his services to the profession of architecture over many years.

Natal School of Architecture

Professor Peter Stewart has been appointed Acting Head of the School.

Professor Dennis Radford, formerly Head of the Department of Architecture at the University of Witwatersrand, has been appointed to the Chair vacated by Professor Emeritus Brian Kearney. It is hoped that Professor Radford will assume duty in April 1994.

Membership Notes

Changes in Partnerships, Practices, etc.

J W E Bruwer is now practising under the style of Etienne Bruwer and Associates at his former address.

A D Hume is now practising under the style of Alistair Hume Architects at 61 Ramsay Avenue, Berea 4001

Coote & Clarkson is now practising under the style of Coote Clarkson Architects Incorporated

Changes in Addresses

R Beetge (AnT) to P O Box 2097, Empangeni 3008

Ms M J Heyns (AnT) to P O Box 10634, Marine Parade 4056

Ms J M van der Merwe (AnT) to 13 Minerva Drive, Gillitts 3610

Ms J Czernia (AnT) to Godenberg Str 10a, W-2427 Malente, Germany

K G Sutton (AnT) to P O Box 17181, Congella 4913

A M Wibberley (AnT) to 8 Hubert Road, Pietermaritzburg 3201

M G Legg (Michael Legg Associates) to The Manor House, West Wing, 14 Nuttall Gardens, Morningside 4001

R J Platt (Robert J Platt Architect) to P O Box 1947, Hillcrest 3650

M J R Hansen to 27 Uplands Road, Blackridge, Pietermaritzburg 3201

G Le Roux to P O Box 5257, Durban 4000

D C James (DC James Architect) to 602 Permanent Corner, 102 Field Street, Durban 4001

R J Hardie (Roy Hardie Architect) to No 1 Baden Road, Westville 3630

R J W Bruce (Robert J W Bruce Architect) to 47 Corumbene Road, Bellair 4094

M N Wassung (Malcolm N Wassung) to 4 Mayen, 166 Percy Osborne Road, Morningside 4001

New Members

A W Fraser (AnT) 621c Long Beach, Marine Drive, Umhlanga Rocks 4320

Mrs A Lead (AnT) 17 Hermanus, 314 Clark Road, Glenwood 4001

Ms S M Charlton (AnT) 11 Glenroy Road, Manor Gardens 4001

Ms C Dreyer (AnT) PO Box 1018, Scottburgh 4180

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A T de Graaf (AnT) 509 Musgrave Centre, 115 Musgrave Road, Durban 4001

A D Metcalf (AnT) 11 Wembley Terrace, Pietermaritzburg 3201

J W Schoeman (AnT) P O Box 1301, Margate 4275

Deceased

K R Perry · C A Smallwood

Resignations

Ms M C A Giampietri · B Watchorn · B R McLaren

Lapsed Memberships

N K Alexander (AnT) · M Dawson (AnT) · G Foord (AnT)

· K I Gevers (AnT) · R A Hindle (AnT) · P N Lessing (AnT)

· A J Makin (AnT) · F W Reitz (AnT) · Ms S E Rudolph

(AnT) · J E Vogel (AnT) · M A R Wesson (Ordinary) · K A

Pearson (Ordinary) · W M Kerr (Ordinary) · R S Howell

(Ordinary) · T N Baillie (Ordinary) · M J M Walker (Ordinary)

· B J Becker (Ordinary) · Ms C M Mocke (AnT) · Ms M J

Fennell (AnT) · W J Curry (Retired) · K F Moull (Retired)

· Mrs A E Swift (Retired)