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Institute for Architecture
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**



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This journal, now in its
23rd year of publication,
has since its inception been
sponsored by Corobrik.



NEWS

KZ-NIA Committee

At the Annual General Meeting of the KZ-NIA held on 19 November, the committee for the period 1999/2000 was announced: Ian Bell, Bruce Clark, Patricia Emmett, John Ferendinos, Mohideen Abdul Gafoor, Rodney Harber, Nina Saunders, Themba Mtetwa and Colin Glasspool, chairman of the Northern KZ-N Chapter. Brian Johnson and Walter Peters were co-opted as was Ismail Cassimjee who will represent the Pietermaritzburg membership.

At a subsequent committee meeting, Patricia Emmett was elected President, first female President in the history of KZ-NIA, and Themba Mtetwa Vice-President.



KZ-NIA President Patricia (Trish) Emmett studied Architecture at the University of Natal to qualify in 1977. After working in the offices of Hallen Theron & Partners, she began practice with her husband, Frank, under the style of Emmett:Emmett Architects. The practice has carved itself a conservation niche as is vouched by numerous Durban Conservation Awards and an ISAA Conservation Award in 1997.

1998 Durban Conservation Awards

At civic reception held at the City Hall on 4th December, Conservation Awards were made to the owners of the following properties by the North Central and South Central Local Councils:



5/7 Escombe Terrace, Point; the Shiva and Vishnu temple compound at 535 Umgeni Road; Westwood House at 194 Windermere Road; 142 and 148 Montpelier Road; 245 Florida Road; 2, 6 and 10 Hopedene Grove; 241 Cowey Road; 56 Clark Road; and Rosehill at 15 Clematis Grove (pictured here), an historic farmhouse of 1863 with encircling veranda, detached kitchen and surviving details.

UNIVERSITY OF NATAL 1998 Corobrik Regional Student of the Year



Winner of the 1998 Corobrik KwaZulu-Natal Student of the Year Award is Craig Baudin. The award was made at a function held at the University of Natal on Wednesday, 2nd December and was based on Craig's Design Thesis entitled "A Memorial Archive for the Truth & Reconciliation Commission".

Students Paul Nel and Stuart Young were placed 2nd and 3rd respectively, and Greg Bellars received a special prize for the use of clay masonry products in his Thesis.

Honorary Professional Advisers to the Faculty of Architecture

Following on from the retirement of Bill O'Beirne, John Frost was elected Honorary Professional Adviser to the Department of Architecture.

With the expiry of the term of Peter Louis, Ian Cardwell was appointed Honorary Professional Adviser for the Quantity Surveying discipline within the combined Department of Property Development & Construction Economics for the period 1999–2000.

School of Architecture, Planning & Housing

Prof Dennis Radford has been appointed founder-Head of the above School for a 3-year period, beginning on 1st January 1999. With the dis-establishment of the Faculty of Architecture, this School will be incorporated into the new Faculty of Community and Development Disciplines. The other Schools to the Faculty are Development Studies, Psychology & Social Anthropology, Nursing, Education, and Social Work.

MEMBERSHIP

Sonny Tomkin 90!

On 28 August, ISAA Gold Medallist, Sonny Tomkin, celebrated his 90th birthday. All members of the KZ-NIA wish their former President and President-in-Chief, who emigrated to Toronto in 1990, good health and happiness.

SAIA PATRON OF ARCHITECTURE: Corobrik



Outgoing SAIA President Bryan Prisgrove (left) and Peter du Treu, Managing Director of Corobrik (right), at the Award Ceremony held at Durban's ICC on Wednesday, 21st October 1998.

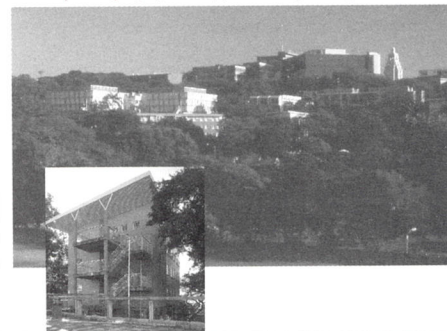
During the week-long Festival of Architecture co-incident with the ArchAfrica Conference, Corobrik was presented with the Patron of Architecture Award of the South African Institute of Architects. This well deserved national honour follows that made by the KZ-NIA in 1996.

COVER

View of the Eastern Campus of the University of Natal, Durban. From left: Mabel Palmer, Scully and John Bews Halls by Hallen & Dibb, 1966–68.

"Mkhulu" Residence by McCaffery, Wilkinson & Little, 1998, is nestled beneath; a "sky" unit is inset.

Cover photography and pp 2–4 by Craig Hudson.



Environmental Impact

University of Natal, Durban

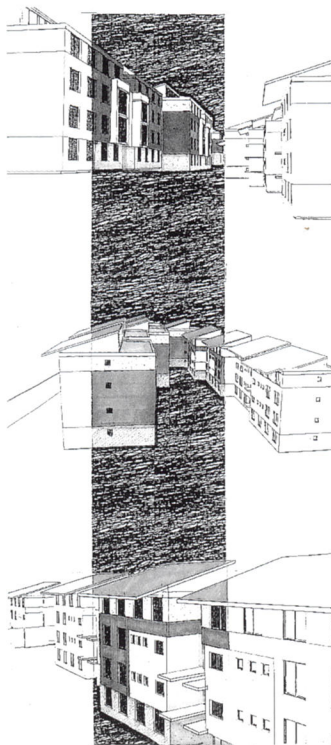


Aerial photograph of 1931 with Howard College in the foreground.

"MKHUHLU" RESIDENCE (Forest Mahogany)

In accordance with the recommendations of the 1991 Howard College Guide Plan, a crescent-shaped piece of residual land on the Eastern Campus below the line of the existing residences and above the staff cottages lining Princess Alice Avenue was reserved for additional student accommodation. This Plan acknowledged the importance of conserving land for wildlife habitats and as ecological links with other areas yet, to maximise development, the project was to have commenced at Zone "A", below Ansell May Hall, at the head of the crescent. Budgetary constraints prompted a reduction of building area, largely due to the acceptance by the University and the student bodies of smaller bedrooms and centralised common rooms, and a requirement of the brief was that work commence early in 1997 for occupation in January 1998.

To achieve a viable high-density development, a cluster of three and four storey buildings was proposed using the 13m cross-fall to facilitate access (Proposal 1). A revision attempted to address environmental matters by retaining the majority of trees, by creating planted courtyards and maintaining a visual and landscaped flow through the site eg by lifting buildings on the western edge on to *pilotis*. As opposed to the on-grade "earth buildings", the latter were labelled "sky buildings" by the architects (Proposal 2).



However, when in October of 1996, the Durban Campus Environmental Committee (DCEC) learned of the development proposals, it expressed concern about the fate of the indigenous trees on the site and concern generally that developments were occurring on campus with little regard for the value of the environment. After persuading the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, a consultant was appointed to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment "to identify natural features and to recommend actions which would ameliorate impacts of the development" which was carried out in December 1996.

The Assessment alleged that "Evidence both on the ground and from aerial photographs confirms the importance of the route along Princess Alice Ave as an environmental link between Pigeon Valley and the western Campus. The site also represents, in its own right, a significant habitat in the urban context". It identified Zone A as an "irreplaceable area of self-generating forest" and remarked that "Saving certain trees is commendable but it is essentially the habitat and most of its biota which will be lost". The Impact Assessment concluded that the proposed residences should take place without the use of Zone "A" and that the required modifications to the programme be addressed with extreme urgency". Either an alternative site needed be found, or the proposals had to be amended taking into account the environmentally sensitive areas.

"Ultimately it can be said that the process

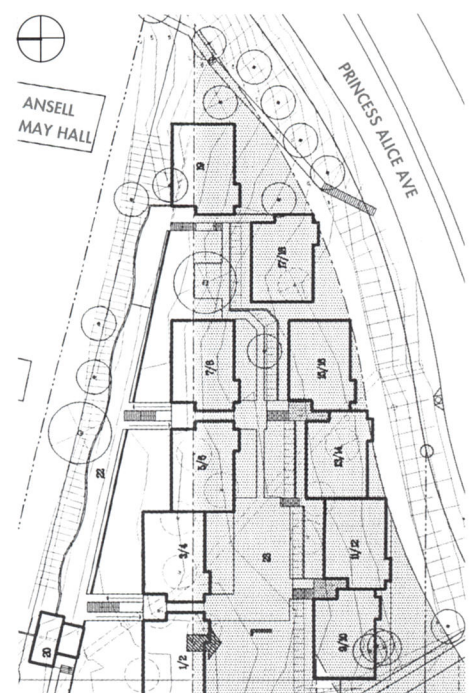
was a positive one, resulting in a win-win situation for both the University and the environmental lobby."

- Peter Wilkinson

Prof Julia Botha, chairlady of the DCEC then wrote to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor stating that the "matter is far too important to be influenced more by expedient business considerations than by what is important for the future of the environ-

ment, the University and the community which it serves" and concluded with a reproach "that the final solution be that which future generations will judge to have been correct".

In consequence, an alternative zone for development was identified within the crescent shaped site, at the existing and now under-used residence students' parking lot. With the assistance of the Environmental Consultant a detailed map was prepared which identified all trees and plotted their canopies. The actual area for building was carefully



Proposal 1, Zone "A" — The units were to be bridged from the existing retaining wall below Ansell May Hall.

defined, and in June of 1997 the architects presented plans for the parking lot Zone which left all the environmentally sensitive areas intact, integrated the development into the indigenous open space system, and preserved a habitat corridor across

the Zone. Once approval had been obtained, the Client's Representative drafted a **Construction Protocol** and the Environmental Consultant was engaged to monitor the environmental aspects during the realisation of the project.

Planning

The site is fenced off with both controlled access points located at the northern end where existing paths connect with the campus. Here an existing cottage was gutted and recycled and as "Leisure House" now provides the common facilities for the complex. The new residences, clustered into 7 three-storey buildings, lie astride a promenade that follows the contours and widens at its end to provide a meeting and recreation area. The 4 "earth" units are entered on grade while bridges link the 3 "sky" units on *pilotis* on the lower side.

Each building is served by covered staircases which give access to the

"social units", a grouping of 12 single bedrooms, mixed-sex ablutions, sluice area, and communal kitchen/dining area with bay window and built-in seats.

In the bedrooms, beds, work-tops and cupboards are built-in as are clothes drying racks. Kitchens are fitted with hobs and refrigerators, and lockable storage facilities are provided for each student. Much use was made internally of pre-cast concrete tabletops with a terrazzo-like finish, both robust and inexpensive.

The buildings are constructed of load-bearing brickwork and *in situ* concrete slabs. Mono-pitch roofs were opted for as these impact least on the view over the site from the existing residences. External finishes are of facebrick and tinted plaster. The 4 "earth" buildings were given over for occupation in July 1998; the 3 "sky" buildings will be occupied in February 1999.

Edited from a text by Peter Wilkinson, the Impact Assessment, and Minutes of Meetings of the Durban Campus Environmental Committee.

CONSULTANTS

Client's Representative:

Facilities Management Group (Pty) Ltd

Architects: McCaffery Wilkinson & Little

(Peter Wilkinson, Brendan Geraghty)

Environmental Consultant: Richard Boon

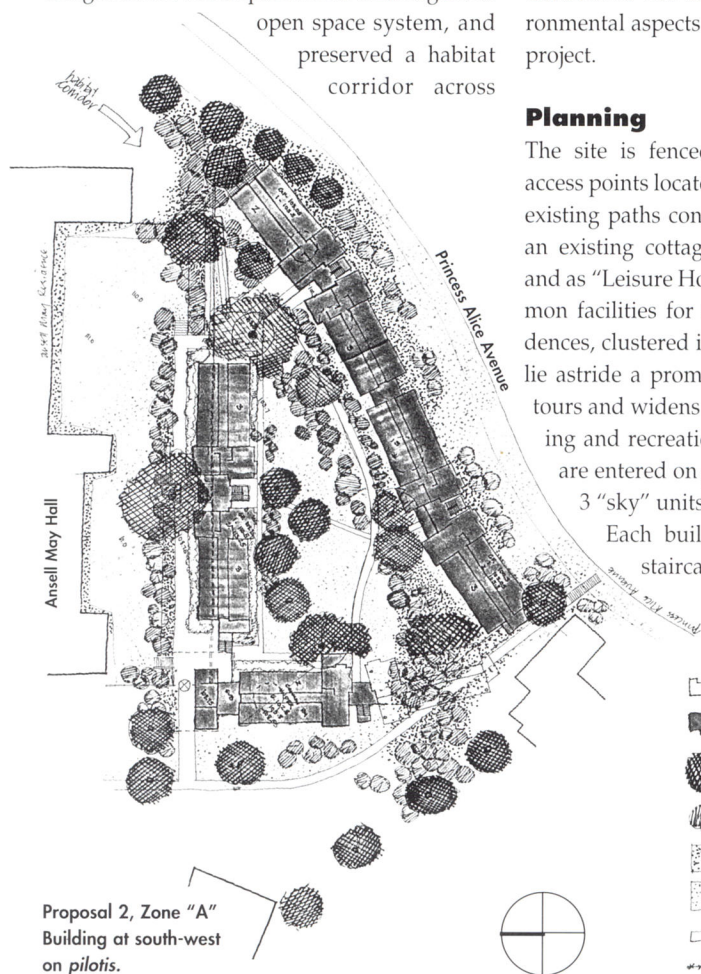
University Horticulturist: Kevin Crampton

Structural Engineers: LSC Brunette & Partners

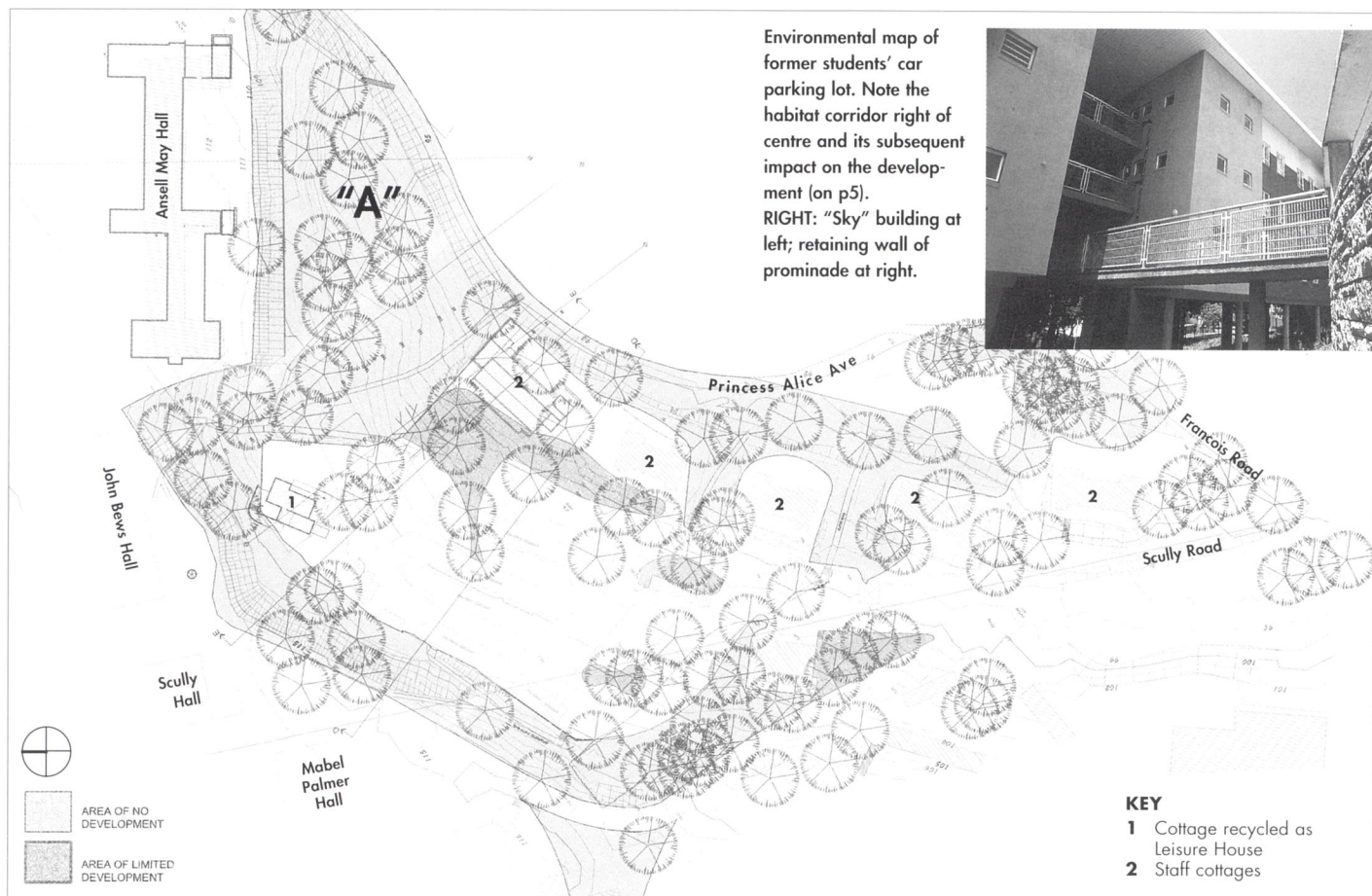
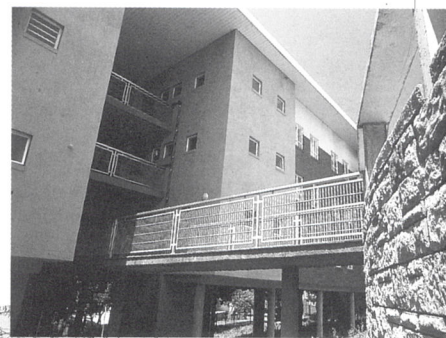
Quantity Surveyors: ZAI Inc

Electrical Engineers: ZAI Inc

Main Contractors: Stocks Housing (Ntl) (Pty) Ltd



Environmental map of former students' car parking lot. Note the habitat corridor right of centre and its subsequent impact on the development (on p5).
RIGHT: "Sky" building at left; retaining wall of promenade at right.



CONSTRUCTION PROTOCOL

Prepared by Facilities Management Group

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROTOCOL IS TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS WHICH OCCUR WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF NATAL AND TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES OF THE UNIVERSITY.

THE MANNER IN WHICH A SITE IS PREPARED BEFORE BUILDING WORK STARTS HAS A GREATER IMPACT THAN AT ANY OTHER STAGE DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS.

1 Identification of and Initial Access to Site

Where the access to the site crosses environmentally sensitive areas, the centreline of this access is to be pegged out. The University Horticulturist will indicate any plant material that needs to be considered in creating the access proper. Once the access is established this will be the only access allowed onto site.

2 Marking Out

For the portion of the buildings occurring within environmentally sensitive areas the location of the footprint of the buildings is to be set out. A line 2m beyond the face of the buildings is to be set out. This setting out is to be done with a minimum of interference to the plant material. The University horticulturist is to be notified once this has been completed to afford him an opportunity to remove such plant material as he may require and to give advice on the precise line of the demarcated building area. Any pruning to be done to existing trees or shrubs will be indicated by means of writing or photographs by the horticulturist. Any trees or shrubs which are to be removed will be marked by the horticulturalist.

3 Demarcating Building Area

The perimeter of the demarcated building area and the edge of environmentally sensitive areas where these fall within the construction site as shown on the site plan are to be demarcated by means of a shade cloth fence min 1,8m high. This fence is to be maintained by the contractor for the duration of the contract and any encroachment into the vegetation beyond the fence line is to be repaired at the contractor's expense. Any resultant damage will be dealt with in terms of the contract.

4 Location of Contractor's Site Establishment

The contractor's site establishment and storage areas will be as indicated on the site plan and will be subject to the same constraints as the building itself. The contractor may not extend beyond these areas without the written approval of the Facilities Managers.

5 Storage of Materials

The contractor is to exercise special care with the storage, handling and transport of materials which could adversely affect the environment. These include chemicals, cement, lime, oil and fuel.

6 Regular Inspections

The Project Professionals and the Facilities Managers are to conduct regular inspections to ensure that the provisions of this protocol are being adhered to.

7 Care of Existing Planting

- No trees or shrubs may be pruned or disturbed without the written permission of the Facilities Managers.
- No plant matter of any description may be pruned, removed or disturbed outside the demarked area.
- Any breach is considered a serious light and the contractor will be subject to a penalty of R1 000 per tree, shrub or incident.
- No natural flora may be harvested. This includes the use of dead wood for fires.

8 Housekeeping

- Contractors must take great care to avoid the introduction of any alien species to the site. Natural packing materials and food need to be monitored carefully.
- The contractor must take the necessary precautions to prevent pollution or contamination of the site or adjoining areas.
- Storage and removal of rubbish must be controlled and on a cycle approved by the Facilities Managers which will prevent the accumulation of rubbish greater than one truckload.
- Rubbish pits or burying of rubbish or rubble is not permitted. No rubble is to be dumped on the site other than as shown on the drawings.
- Parking of contract vehicles to be as agreed. It may not be possible to park all vehicles on site.
- The contractor is to make adequate provision for temporary chemical toilets for all the staff employed on the contract. No pit latrines will be permitted.
- Hygiene and the control of flies and litter must be controlled and monitored.
- At the end of the contract the contractor will be required to leave the site in the condition in which it was handed over to him. All temporary roads, buildings, etc. must be removed and the site made good.



"Earth" building, at meeting and reception area at head of promenade.



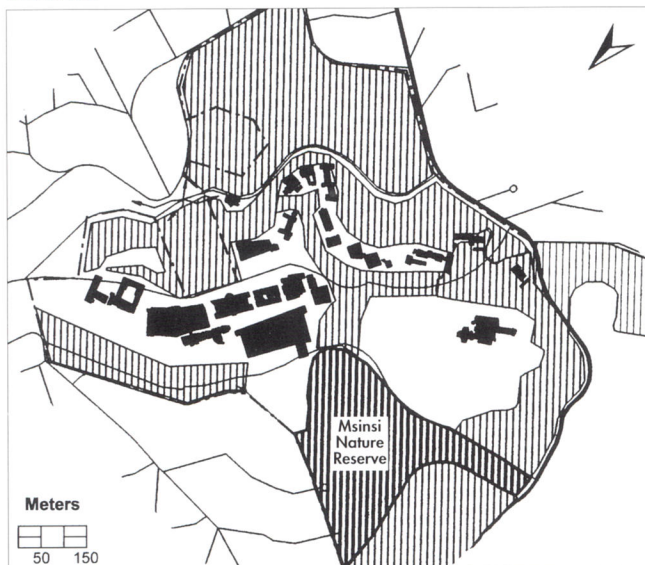
"Sky" building on pilotis.

University land has a vital role to play in providing a corridor of Coastal Forest habitat for the movement of species between the Pigeon Valley Park along Princess Alice Ave and inland, the value of which becomes more obvious when viewed on the accompanying 1994 aerial photograph. "It is likely that a building will impact severely on all current land uses. Most of the mature trees will have to be removed if the project goes ahead. This will have the effect of reducing the effectiveness of the area as a wildlife habitat and corridor. Most of the biota would be intolerant of such changes". *Impact Assessment, 1996*



University of Natal Open Space System

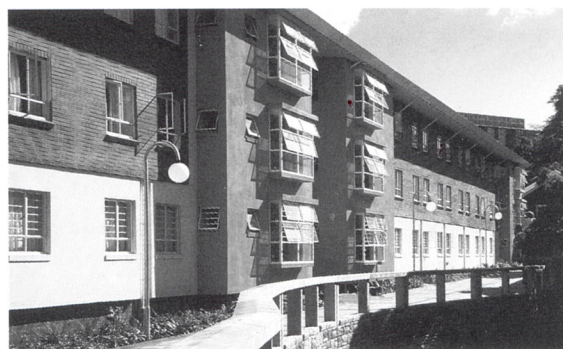
Environmental map of the Durban Campus prepared by Dr Fred Ellery and students of School of Environmental Science for DCEC. The map identifies Msinsi Nature Reserve and all environmentally sensitive areas



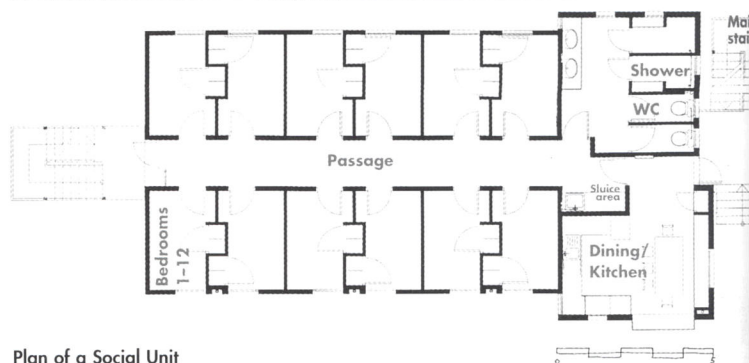
Durban Campus Environmental Committee

The Environmental Committee of the Durban campus of the University of Natal was founded in 1981 and tasked with assessing the environmental consequences of developments; to make recommendations concerning environmental development; and to propose conservation measures for undeveloped areas.

Shepstone Reserve, now known as Msinsi Nature Reserve, is an officially designated Reserve; an Environmental Policy is in place; and in June 1997 the whole of the campus including the Medical School and Muckleneuk, was registered with the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Services as an Urban Conservancy, managed to conserve indigenous plants and animals (wildlife) occurring thereon. Besides, research at the University was pivotal to the establishment of the Durban Metropolitan Open Space System (D'MOSS).



"Earth" units along the promenade.



Plan of a Social Unit

Extracts from the Environment

Prepared by Consultant Richard Boon

"Superb species of climax forest trees such as *Cryptocarya woodii* (Cape Quince), *Margaritaria discoidea* (Egossa Red Pear), *Strychnos gerrardii* (Gulagula) and *Chaetacme aristata* (Thorny Elm) characterise the area, while many other more common species also reach sizable proportions. These large trees are, in many cases, likely to be remnants of the original Stella Bush which extended from Burman Bush near the Umgeni River in the north to the Umbilo River in the south (see aerial photograph of 1931). The presence of *Trimeria Grandifolia* (Wild Mulberry) is

important as this species can be considered locally extinct at Pigeon Valley Park. In total 41 indigenous tree species were identified. 7 thereof are likely to have been introduced and grow mainly around the existing buildings. The remaining semi-natural habitat is described as a regenerating Coastal Forest".

"The area supports its own resident fauna, most obvious of which is the avifauna. 34 species of birds were recorded in 4 hours of fieldwork. Very significant was the discovery of about 15 Black Widowfinches roosting, along with other species, in the big specimens of

University of Natal - Environmental Policy

The University of Natal,

1. conscious of the necessity for the protection of the integrity of the environment and the conservation of natural resources at local, regional and international levels,
2. desirous of establishing and maintaining on its campuses an environment conducive to excellence in all its activities, and
3. committing itself to a programme of sustainable development which takes into account the needs and aspirations of its own user communities in association with considerations of equity, environment and future generations, proclaims that:

Principle 1 University teaching, research, management and community interaction shall embody an understanding of the intrinsic value of Nature, an awareness of possible consequences to the environment of any actions and a consciousness of the environmental needs and concerns of present and future generations of the community which the university serves.

Principle 2 The University, valuing both the built and non-built areas on its various campuses, shall strive towards the establishment and maintenance of an environment which is attractive, attracting and conducive to sustained excellence in teaching, research, management and community interaction.

Principle 3 The University shall take all reasonable steps towards the protection and conservation of the indigenous fauna and flora on its campuses and the removal of invasive alien vegetation. The University shall recognise also that its properties may form important conservation links in greater metropolitan zones.

Principle 4 The University shall encourage full use of its campuses as sites for all aspects of environmental education and for conducting environmental research of benefit community it serves. Such education and research may be conventional or interdisciplinary, at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, or may involve community-based partnerships.

Principle 5 The University shall recognise and encourage creativity within the student body which may be directed towards conservation initiatives or sustainable development programmes. Student participation in environmentally appropriate activities at the informal level shall also be promoted.

Principle 6 The University, recognising the direct and indirect costs of land, water, energy and materials, shall take appropriate steps to minimise wasteful utilisation of such resources.

Principle 7 The University shall enact effective control over any activities on its campuses which may generate harmful waste substances, cause environmental damage or be harmful to health, and shall undertake environmental audits of any such activities occurring on its campuses. Waste management and pollution control on the university campuses should emphasise accountability, prevention, treatment and reuse.

Principle 8 Environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the planning and management of future developments on the University campuses. Environmental impact assessments shall, where appropriate, be undertaken for any proposed activities which may have an environmental consequence.

Principle 9 The University shall apply a precautionary approach in order to protect the environment. Where there is a threat of environmental damage arising from a University activity, the lack of scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for failing to prevent environmental degradation.

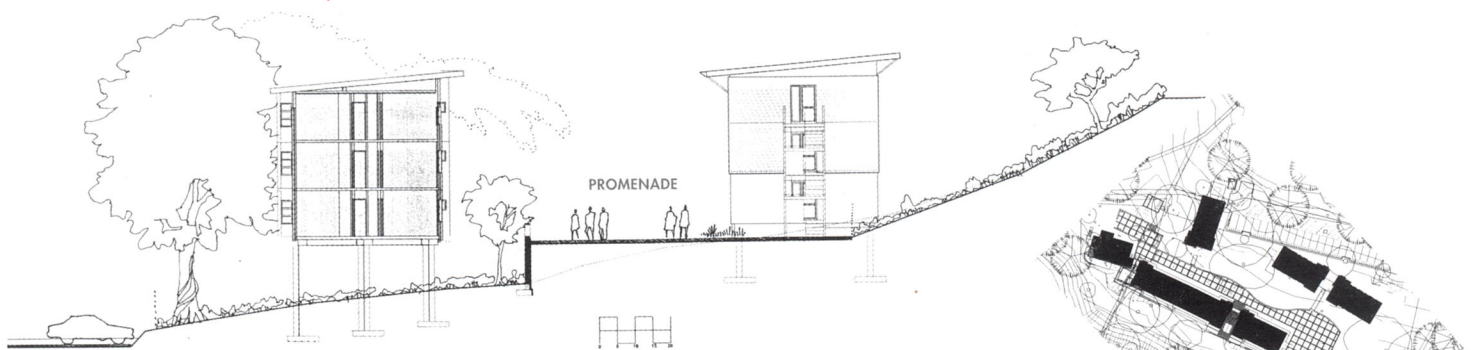
Principle 10 The University shall co-operate in a spirit of partnership with the community it serves in order to conserve, protect and, where necessary, assist in restoring the integrity of regional ecosystems.

Principle 11 The University shall promote the principles of preservation and conservation in South Africa while recognising the need for sustained utilisation of natural resources. The University shall encourage access to relevant information and the transfer of appropriate technology by means of outreach programmes, consultation and extension services.

Principle 12 All members of the university community shall have access to, and be able to participate through representation in, decisions concerning the development of environmental policy and the environmental planning and management of the University.

Principle 13 In all its dealings with regard to environmental matters, the university shall in the first instance seek the advice of persons with the appropriate expertise, both within and without the University.

Principle 14 All members of the University shall co-operate in good faith and in a spirit of partnership in the fulfilment of the principles embodied in this Proclamation.



Environmental Impact Assessment

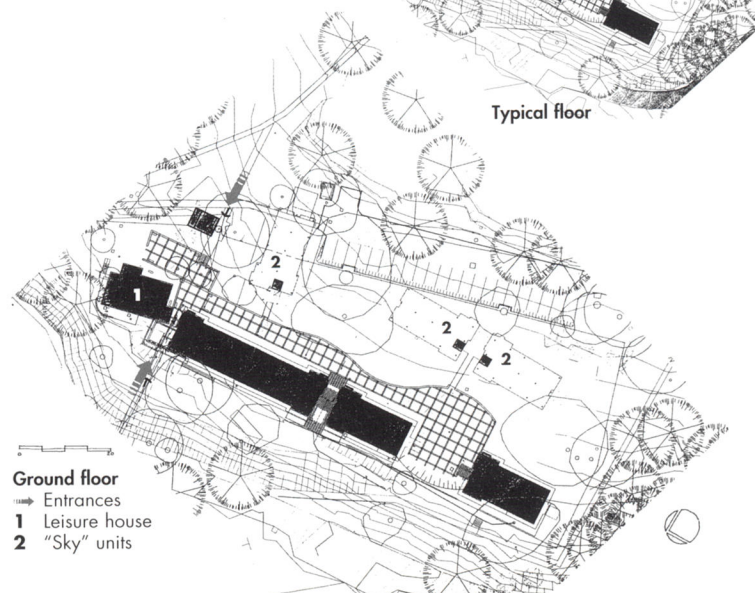
Chaetacme aristata (Thorny Elm) in the existing carpark. This species is most uncommon in the Durban area and has as yet not been recorded at Pigeon Valley Park or the Msinsi Nature Reserve. Also notable were the large number of hole-nesting species (due to the presence of many mature trees), and in particular the Plumcoloured Starling (breeding) which has also never been recorded at Pigeon Valley Park.

"In addition to its value as a wildlife habitat, the area also has great amenity value. Although difficult to measure, there is no underestimating the psychological

benefits which parkland such as this may have on our rushed and stressed lives".

"The landscaping of the site should, in order of preference, firstly use endemic indigenous species (ie occur on site), secondly species occurring presently on campus, and thirdly species occurring naturally nearby."

"The bark of the trees use for traditional medicine (eg *Albizia adianthifolia* and *Harpephyllum caffrum*) should be painted with brown PVA prior to any construction work commencing. This is to stop workers from collecting and thus damaging trees while on site."



Ground floor

Entrances

1 Leisure house

2 "Sky" units



Environmental Impact

Didima Camp, Cathedral Peak

The KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Services invited architects practising in the Province to submit designs for a proposed new camp within the Cathedral Peak Conservation Area at Didima Valley, one of the richest rock art sites in the world. The assessors were Mr Justice John Broome, Professors Rodney Harber and Ted Tollman.

The competition which attracted 32 entries was won by **Clark & Thomas Architects** while the entries by **MAB Architects** and **Theunissen Jankowitz SA Inc. Architects (Durban)** were placed 2nd and 3rd respectively. In this article the winning scheme is featured.

Brief

The design brief called for the provision of an administrative building with reception, shop, functions room and restaurant, 94 semi-detached units, 5 two-bedroom units and one 3-bedroom chalet. It was a requirement that elements of rock art and mountain characteristics be incorporated in the design as it is the intention of KZ-NCS "to use a San rock art theme for the camp", and later to build "an interpretation centre of

world standards in order to emphasise the value and richness of the San culture". Furthermore, the buildings were to respect the natural slope of the ground, be in harmony with the surroundings of sandstone and earth colours used in San rock art, and cater for the disabled.

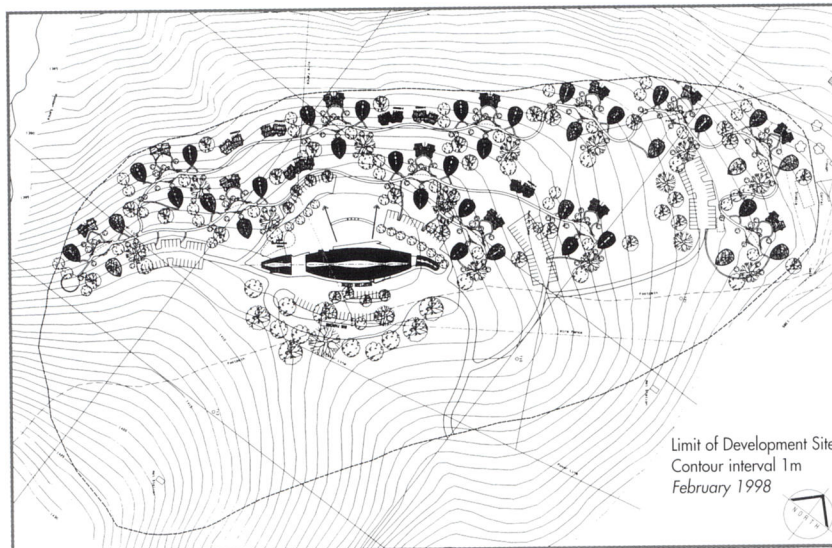
Assessors' Report

"The challenge was threefold. Apart from the extensive accommodation programme; there was the nature of the site, relatively featureless but commanding an awesome northern view of the Drakensberg range; and the instruction "to create a unique Drakensberg destination to act as a window to the fascinat-

ing rock-art heritage left to South Africa by the San peoples".

The winning design lay in the resolution to the site planning, especially the congenial central location of the main reception building on the site's plateau. Due to the lack of a San architectural heritage, the assessors were presented with a variety of interpretations, including taking the cardinal points of the sundial as a point of departure. The winning design derived its vocabulary by metamorphosing mythological and traditional elements, especially the imagery of the rain snake, a creature which appears extensively in San rock-art. The sinuous form of the rain snake is laid across the

landscape and forms the pedestrian route that links the 'soul places' of each cluster of 8 family huts. These are conceived as a series of places of contemplation, knowledge and reflection, to provide a visual journey through the history of San art. But, "ultimately it was the quality of the creative thought and the accomplished basic design that yielded the unanimous decision to premiate the submission of Clark & Thomas Architects first".

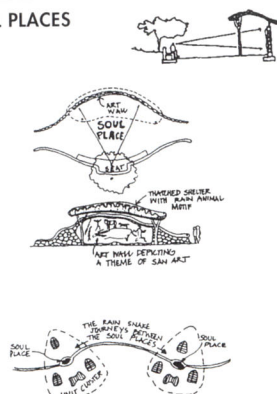


RAIN SNAKE

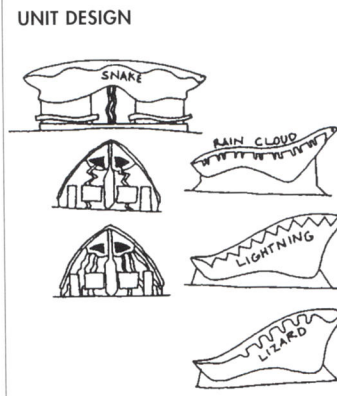
An offering to the rain snake. This is about many things. It is about the San people who once were, but no longer are. It is about their beliefs, particularly the spirits from the sky. It is about the animals they cherished and lovingly recorded. It is about the rain and her creatures.



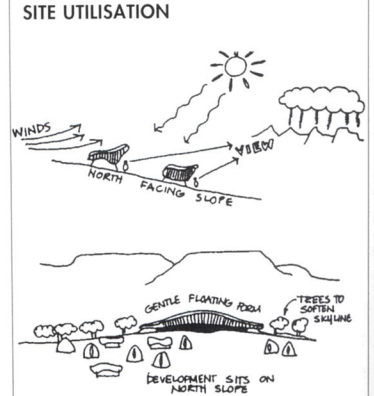
SOUL PLACES



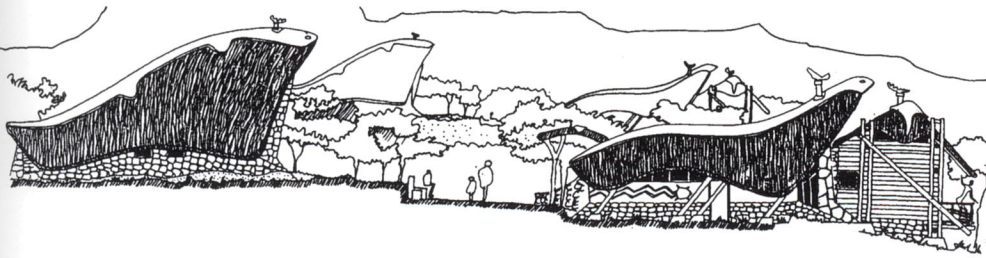
UNIT DESIGN



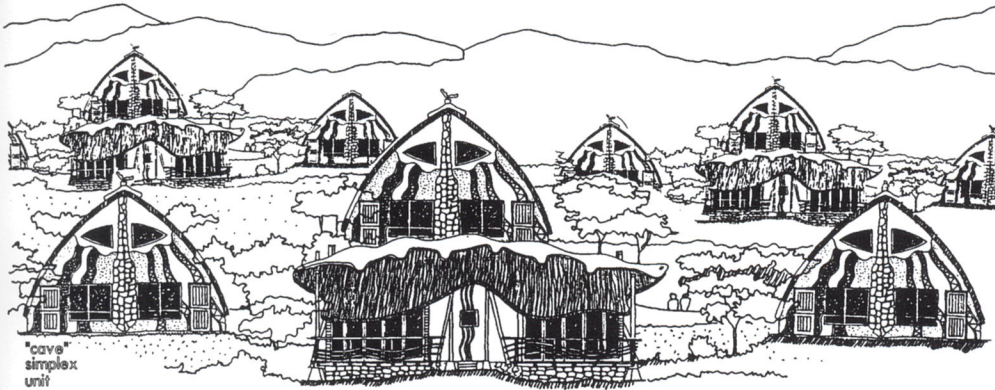
SITE UTILISATION



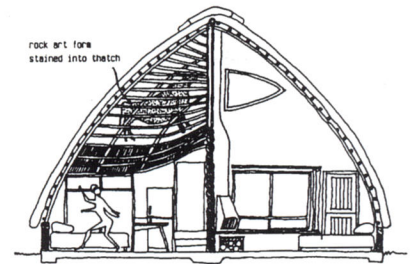
DIDIMA HUTTED CAMP - CATHEDRAL PEAK



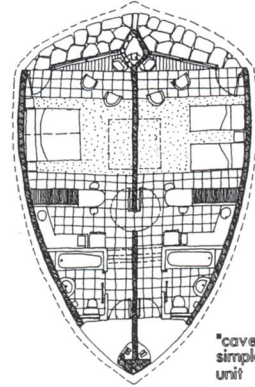
typical form generation



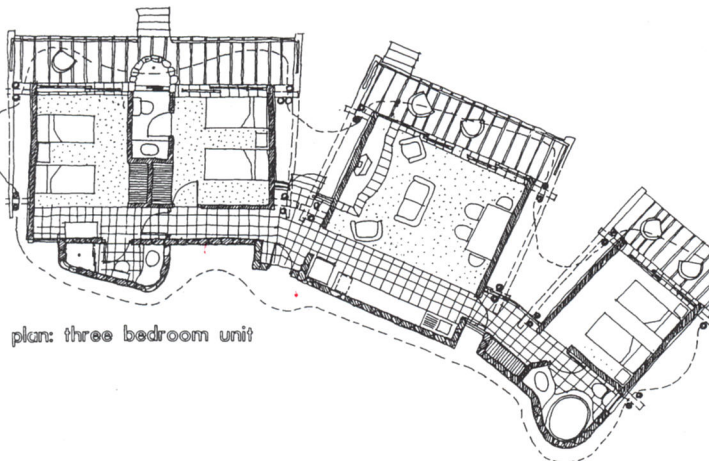
front elevation: "cabin" simplex unit



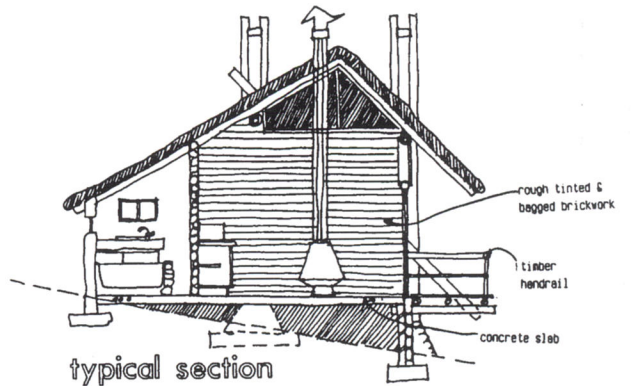
section facing back section facing forward



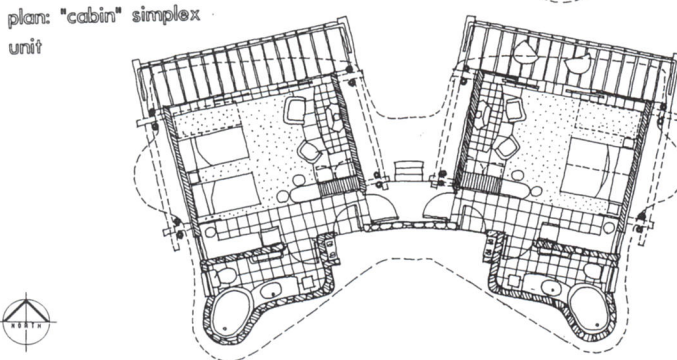
"cave" simplex unit



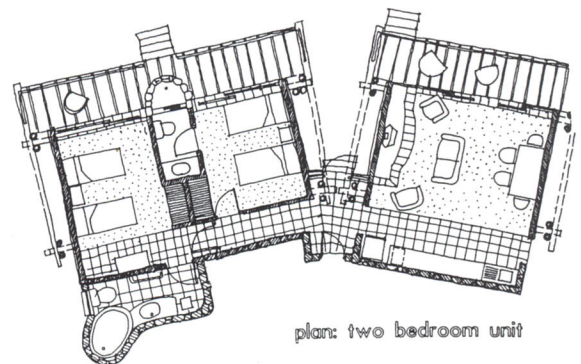
plan: three bedroom unit



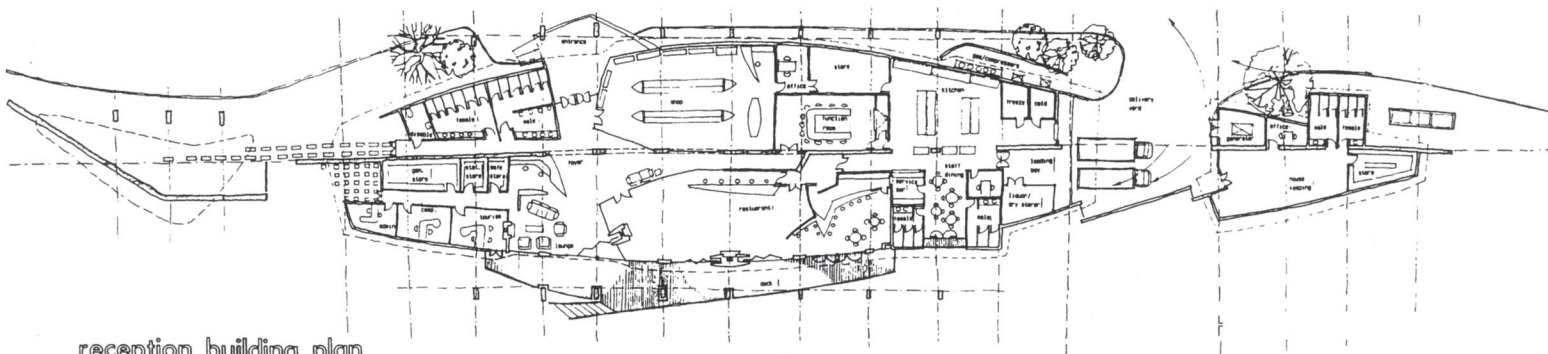
typical section



plan: "cabin" simplex unit



plan: two bedroom unit



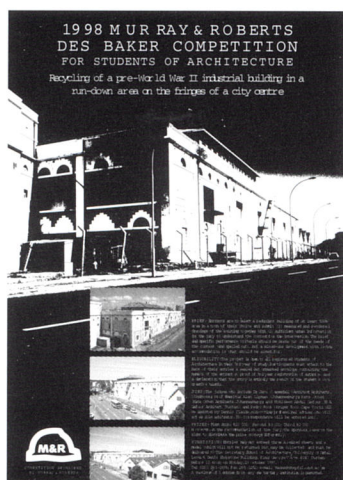
reception building plan

Environmental Impact

1998 Murray & Roberts — Des Baker Competition for Students of Architecture

This was the 16th annual competition convened this year by the University of Natal. The host institution chose as its theme the "recycling of a pre-World War II industrial building" of at least 500 sq m in a run-down area on the fringes of a city centre. The brief and specific performance criteria were to be borne out of the needs of the context, but a mixed-use development with living accommodation was what should be aimed for. The project was open to all registered students of Architecture in their 3rd year of study.

The prize-giving ceremony was held on Thursday, 22nd October, an event incorporated in the week-long Festival of Architecture prompted by the *ArchAfrica* and Architectural Students congresses.



The jury surrounding the winning submission (from left) Dr Jaco Wasserfall, Dennis Claude who acted as professional adviser, Kate Otten, Pedro Roos, Mohideen Abdul Gafoor and Prof Emeritus Alan Lipman.



Winners Irina Tegen and Saskia Frankenberger of the University of the Witwatersrand with Tim Ivins, Chairman of Murray & Roberts Construction.

perceptive bunch of jurors who melded happily, not a dissenting voice.

As we learnt, there were competitors

from, abroad—Italy, New Zealand and Nigeria—as well as from University and Technikon Schools of Architecture here at home.

Our criteria centred on two related issues: did a scheme confront South African transformation as a purposeful design goal and was the proposal informed by the necessary tensions between existing and new building elements? The seven which we selected for 'mention' met each

providing an environment for working, living, entertainment and leisure. Due to the criminality prevalent, this intervention placed a high priority on security and surveillance of both private and public spaces.

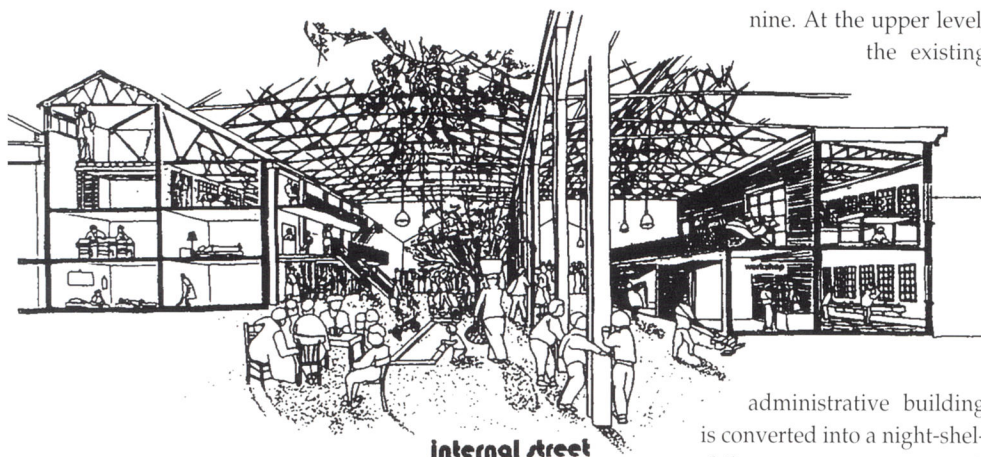
The scheme proposed two pedestrian streets across the site with shops on the ground floor and residential accommodation on the mezzanine. At the upper level, the existing

of these exacting requirements. With inventive variety, they all made new out of older buildings; all were marked by imaginative interplay between past and present. All were what, in somewhat effete circles, is dismissed as 'socially conscious' design. We were not dismissive.

The two winning projects were splendid; third-year work that could, and should, readily qualify as promising conceptual designs for final-year theses. The first, from Wits, dealt ingeniously with the tough realities of homelessness in Johannesburg—providing shelter for living and working in the now abandoned tram sheds of Newtown. The second was at once playful and socially focussed—a stimulating setting, in an old Cape Town railway station, for the forthcoming millennium celebrations that could, afterwards, also make homes for people in desperate need.

Would that officialdom take note of these inspirational young people."

Results: First Prize of R10 000: Irina Tegen, Magdalena Ziemski and Saskia Frankenberger, University of the Witwatersrand. Second Prize of R5 000: to Sanderine Bierman, Martin Commerford, Nico Swart and James Perry, University of Cape Town. The following were "selected for mention": William Celliers, University of Natal; Alan Wong and Winston Cam, University of Auckland; Brett Staples, University of the Witwatersrand; Rene Grubert, Stephan Hartwanger and Albert Scheuble, University of Port Elizabeth; and Nadia Stipinovich, Nicholas Carrier, Clive Hilderling and Michelle Warren, University of Cape Town.



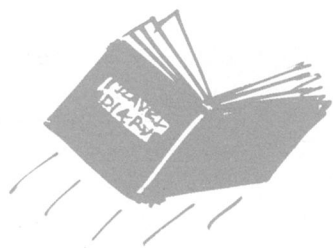
Winning Scheme— Catering for the Homeless and their Empowerment

The redundant building chosen was the tram shed of 1910 of which only the steel trussed structure remains. Prompted by the sizeable homeless population of the area, the project seeks to acknowledge and incorporate the reality of the context and address both the issues of accommodation and empowerment while

administrative building is converted into a night-shelter while more permanent residents are accommodated opposite the pedestrian street around two courts created within the shed. North orientation was an overt factor in the design.

Jurors Prof Alan Lipman and Kate Otten commented as follows:

"1998 was a vintage Des Baker year. Twenty-six intriguing entries, seven of which were outstanding, two remarkably mature; a cheerfully



A Travel Diary – Zimbabwe

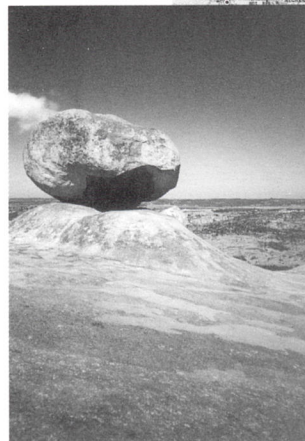
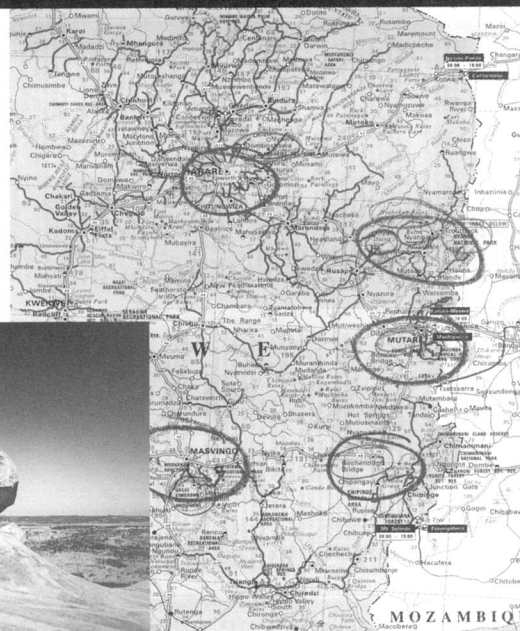
Eastern Iron Age Pathways

The accessibility and the rapidly falling Rand make the prospect of a visit to eastern Zimbabwe an enticing one – I had not visited the country since 1985, and then it was with a different slant. This time the flying visit was to inspect the Iron Age sites, and to examine the traditional approaches to architecture that the area encompasses.

We drove up, passed through Customs with little problem, and proceeded along good roads towards the ruins of Great Zimbabwe, near Masvingo. There was a significant change since our last visit. Care is taken with the interpretation of the ruins, repair to the original according to photographs of the western entrance (whether it would be condoned by the conservation fraternity is a point to ponder) and careful treatment of recent excavations which have again been interpreted very sensitively. The beautifully crafted stonework is still an enigma and well worthy of its African ancestry, similar constructions are to be found at Thulamela and Mapungubwe across the border in South Africa. Turning east, we headed through the darkening evening towards the highlands, through rural countryside with stoic adherence to cultural building methods. We crossed the Birchenough Bridge sadly when it was very dark; in all it does appear as a rather spectacular if rickety form of engineer-

ing. Mutare has all the feel of its colonial past, although building usage has changed drastically with the character of the town. We spent the night in a backpackers lodge for the equivalent of R20. Travelling up to Nyanga in the Eastern Highlands, embraces spectacular countryside, sheer cliffs and precipitous valleys. The hamlet of Nyanga is strongly connected to the National Park of the same name, and is quaint with a village green and a tiny church in the spirit of an English village. There is an information centre here, which leads on to the Ziwa terraces, and the Nyahokwe ruins on the way.

The Nyahokwe ruins, as all the others, are administered by the Museums and Monuments Council, and have a full-time field officer who is descended from the people who moved here from Mozambique in the seventeenth century and specialised as iron workers. They were restricted in the numbers of cattle that they were allowed to keep – five cattle and five goats. This was determined by the sustainability of the environment and certainly stands as an example to us today. The enigmatic nature of these ruins involves a central pit, at one time thought to contain slaves, but since proven to be the central cattle byre, in which the livestock spent the night. There is a splendid recon-



struction in Nyanga Park (expensive to enter with SA number plates) of such a homestead.

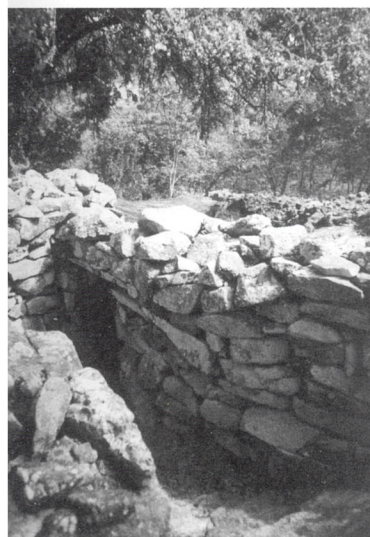
Ziwa ruins were further away, on a potentially hazardous road – the site has a worthy interpretive centre, dealing with San art as well as the iron age. This site is noted for its stone terraces, which go on for miles and define spaces and hierarchies, and, it is thought, uses. There is certainly a lot to see, though much if it is repetitive, and some does demand imagination.

Harare has certainly changed character to something more chaotic and fast paced. We were staying in the city for a few days with relatives and visited Domboshawa to the north of the city, a huge solid rock that takes some climbing but has a spiritual quality that hangs about it. There are San paintings to one of the faces that are in fairly good state of preservation but the most striking quality is the ambience of legend and tradition that surrounds the site.

A few things struck me on this revisit to the country – the architecture is African, and to the east has a very strong Tsonga influence, with more messy thatching techniques than the southern neighbours. The building type interested me – forms that were described by Gardiner and Isaacs and even Grout in *Nineteenth Century Zululand* are found here. Granaries as parts of the homestead and shelters in distant fields described by the early east coast settlers and missionaries, forgotten in Zululand, are immediately discernable here.

Debbie Whelan

Ms Whelan is an architect in the employ of Amafa aKwaZulu-Natali



Pit entrance at Nyahokwe Ruins.
TOP: Balancing Rock at
Domboshawa.



ABOVE; LEFT & RIGHT:
Reconstruction of pit homestead at Nyanga
National Park





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