

**Precedent Studies:
Red Rock Amphitheatre**

Being carved out of solid rock in a natural amphitheatre, this facility is a dramatic setting for any performance. Its stage is simply a concrete platform on which the necessary props are erected. This makes for a very flexible performance space where a wide variety of different shows can all be hosted. It is situated in a nature reserve.

The flexibility the design of the amphitheatre permits is perfectly suited to the situation in Moretele Park. The entire seating area is open air, circulation is restricted to side aisles and there is a platform provided about 10m from the stage to accommodate the sound control booth. For most of the year, the amphitheatre is no more than a little intrusive landscape feature, but when large shows are staged, the area can easily and successfully be converted to accommodate hundreds of spectators.



Fig52: Red Rock Ridge Amphitheater

Fig53: Seating detail

Fig54: A capacity crowd at a concert

Fig55: Layout of the Amphitheatre

Fig56: Promotional image for the facility

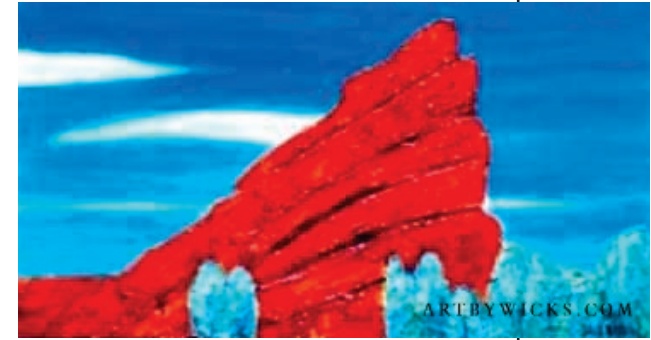
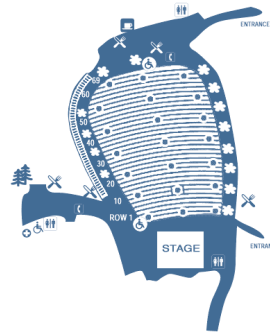


Fig57: Union buildings terraced formal gardens



Fig58: Mixed stairs and landscaping



Fig59: Colonial memorabilia



Fig60: View of the buildings from the gardens



Union Buildings

Herbert Baker's most celebrated building is a major tourist destination, the office of the president and the location of many public gatherings. This building is an applicable precedent because it is an example of how the southern slopes of the local mountains (similar to the Magaliesberg in geology) can be dealt with as an integral part of a public building.

“The terraces and retainer walls in the grounds are built predominantly of mountain stone quarried on site.” This exercise can easily be repeated in Moretele Park and stone quarried on site can be used elsewhere throughout the park as landscaping. Shale quarried on site will be used to build retainer walls to stabilise the slope. These will be provided with gravel drains behind as illustrated in the details in the final drawings.

Fig61: Movement through the gardens allows the experience of various methods of dealing with slope stability



Andersses House by Norman Eaton

Eaton's house in Pretoria demonstrates how local materials can be combined with contemporary technologies to create an architecture that seems to belong. Its linear arrangement also responds elegantly to the requirements passive design and programme. The East West orientation allows all services to be neatly grouped along the southern façade, an elegant solution which allows maximum opening of the other three sides.

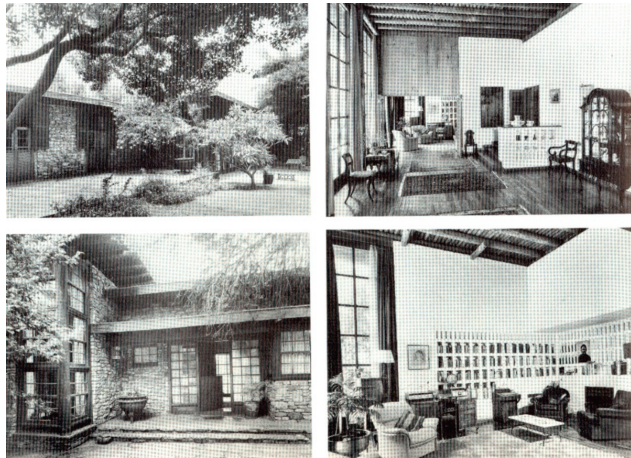
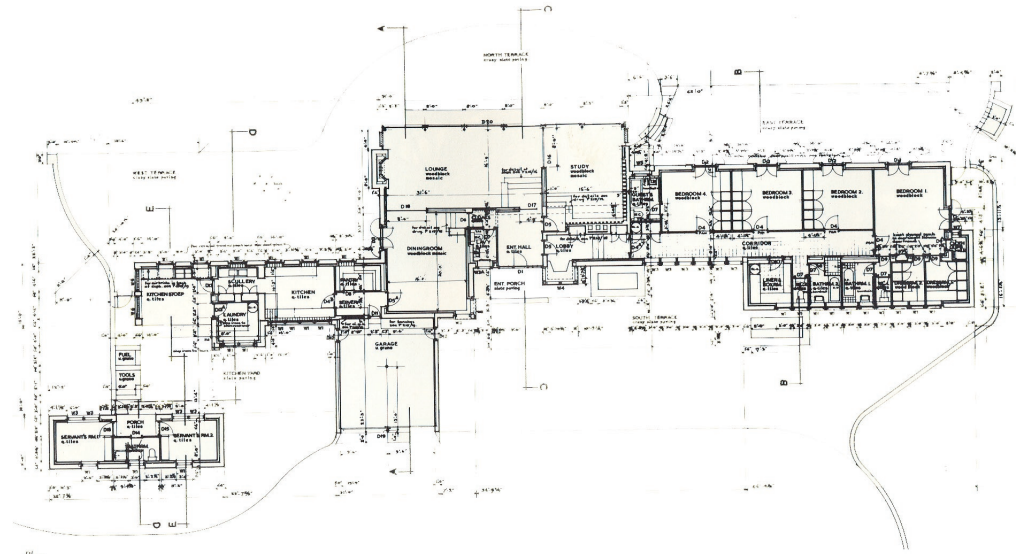
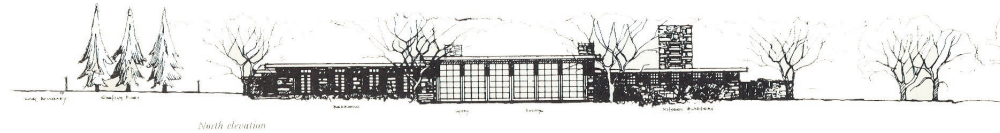


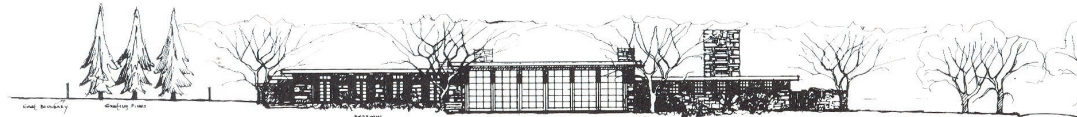
Fig62: Various views of the house



Plan



North elevation



North elevation



South elevation

Fig63: House plans clearly demonstrate the east west linear arrangement, allowing a building that opens to the north and is fully serviced from the south

Fig64: Elevations illustrate the simple geometry of the building

Anderssen House in Pretoria



Fig65: Aerial view over Freedom Park



Fig66: The Freedom Park project under construction



Fig67: Monumental scale casting of concrete



Freedom Park

Nelson Mandela made a speech on Freedom Day in 1999 in which he is quoted as having said: "it is therefore a weakness on our part that we have yet to create a monument to remember them and all South Africans who sacrificed so that we should be free. With a recent cabinet decision on this matter, the day should not be far off, when we shall have a people's shrine, a Freedom Park, where we shall honour with all the dignity they deserve, those who endured pain so we should experience the joy of freedom."

Freedom Park is a monumental undertaking by the presidency currently under construction on a 52 Ha site on Salvokop which will become a symbol of the Freedom of all South Africans.

It is a complex and highly ambitious project whose aim is to celebrate freedom as a right deemed necessary for all South Africans. The main feature of the project is a massive wall upon which the names of fallen heroes will be placed. These heroes will be categorized according to 8 time periods on various portions of the wall.

All the materials used have been selected because of their beauty and durability, all the stone cladding being sourced in Mpumalanga. Construction is largely done in concrete which is then clad with a minimum of 75mm natural stone. Stone cladding is fixed to the structural walls by means of regularly spaced galvanised



Freedom Park

steel plate strips built into the structure. Some structure is clay brick which has been clad in Mpumalanga stone. The design juxtaposes slick modern finishes such as aluminium and glass against raw stone and natural landscaping. As far as possible, plants have been retained on site and all new plants are indigenous. The project is largely an exercise in low impact landscaping, and although unarguably effective, one must question the logic of using materials from another province and some of the construction techniques employed. Other facilities will ultimately include:

- A hospitality suite
- A memorial
- Sculptures

- A museum
- The Pan African Archives part of which is an interactive debate forum
- A body of water
- An administration block

- Commercial facilities
- Miscellaneous infrastructure



Fig68: Cladding is held onto the masonry wall with galvanised steel ties



Fig69: Promotional image for Freedom Park

Fig70: Concrete structure yet to be treated aesthetically with stone cladding

