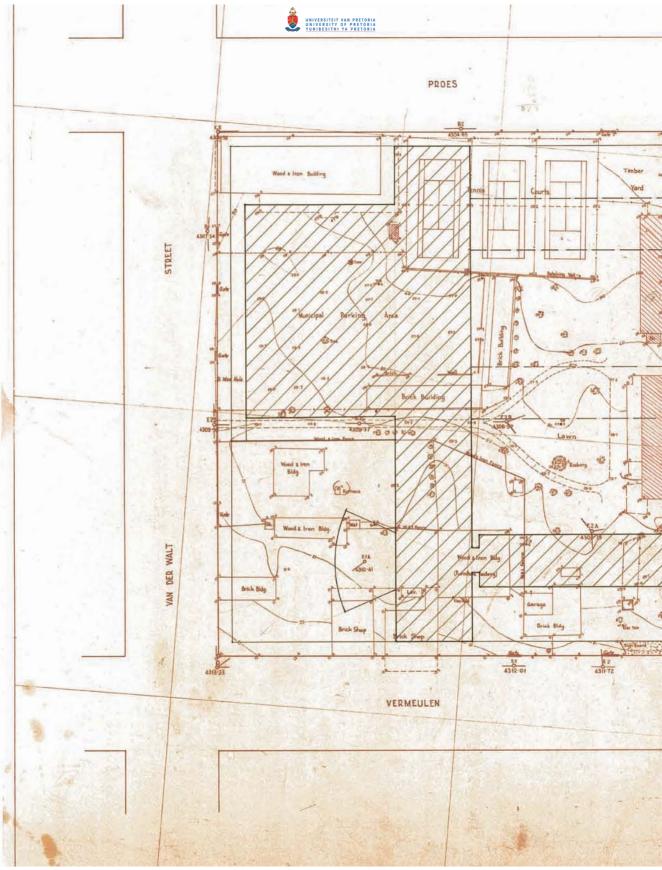


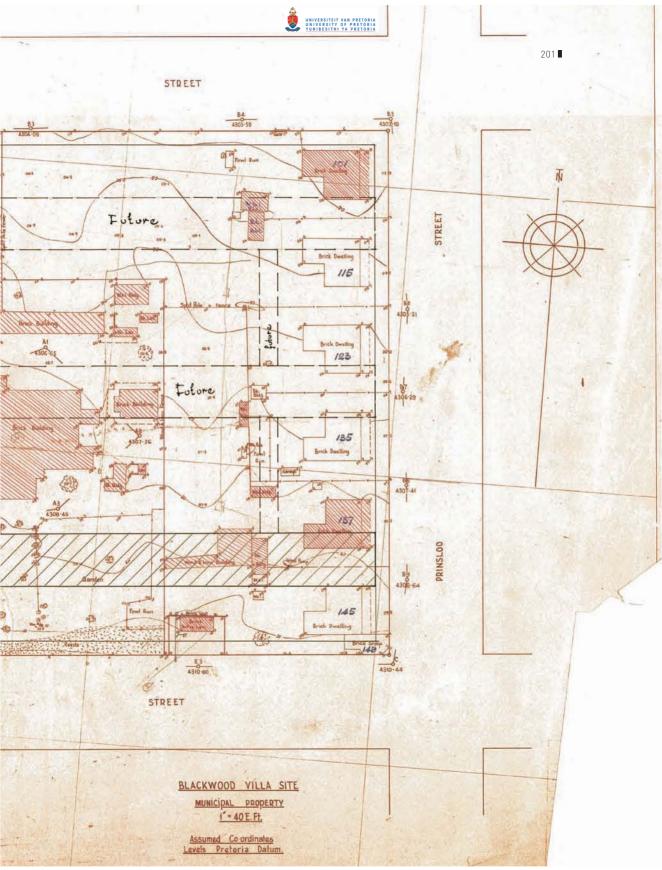
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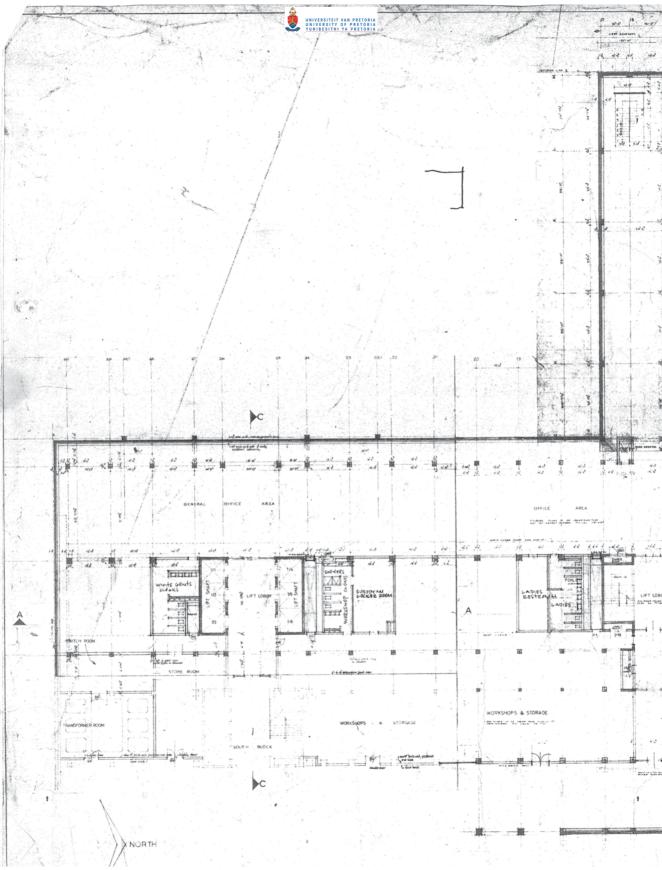
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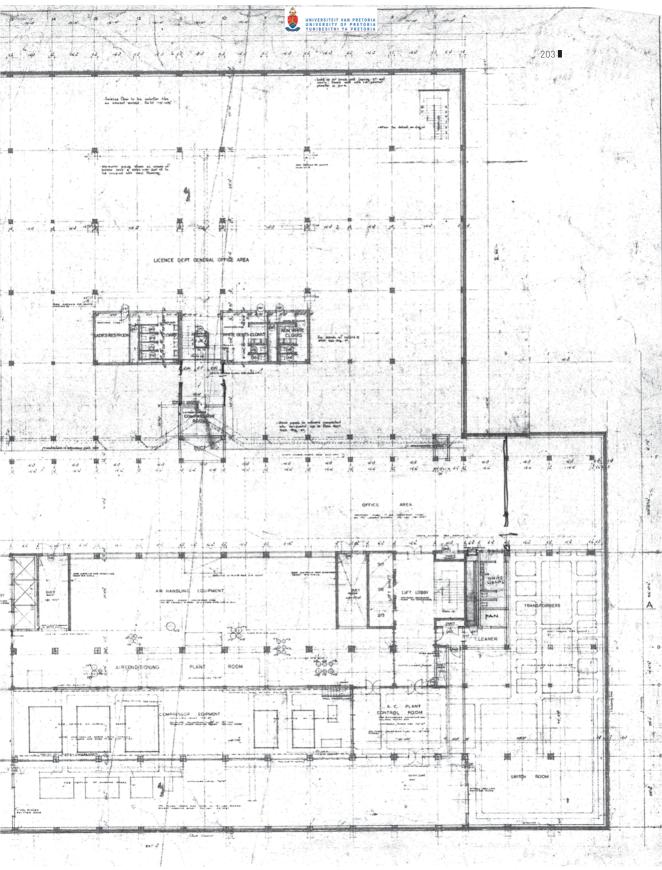


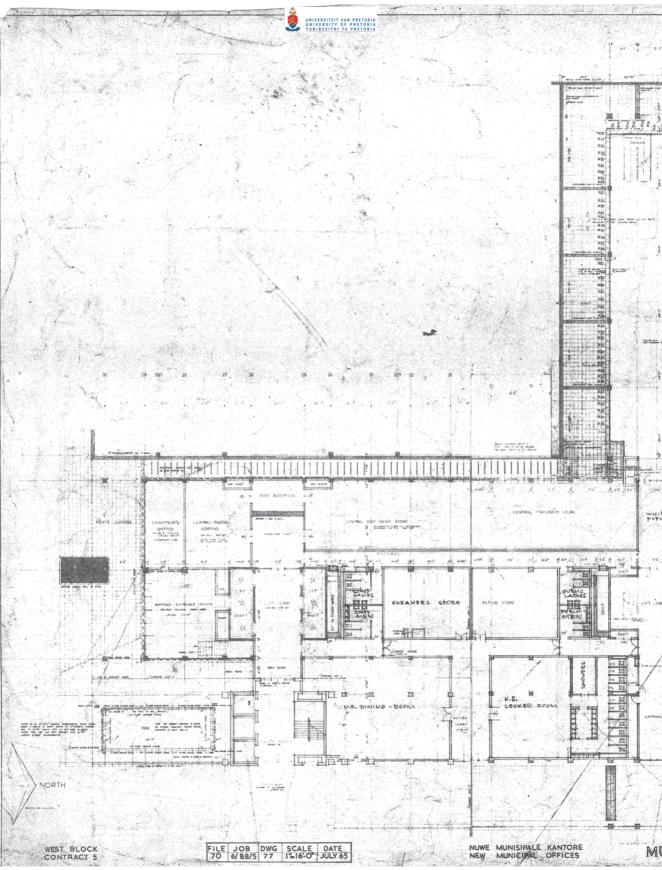


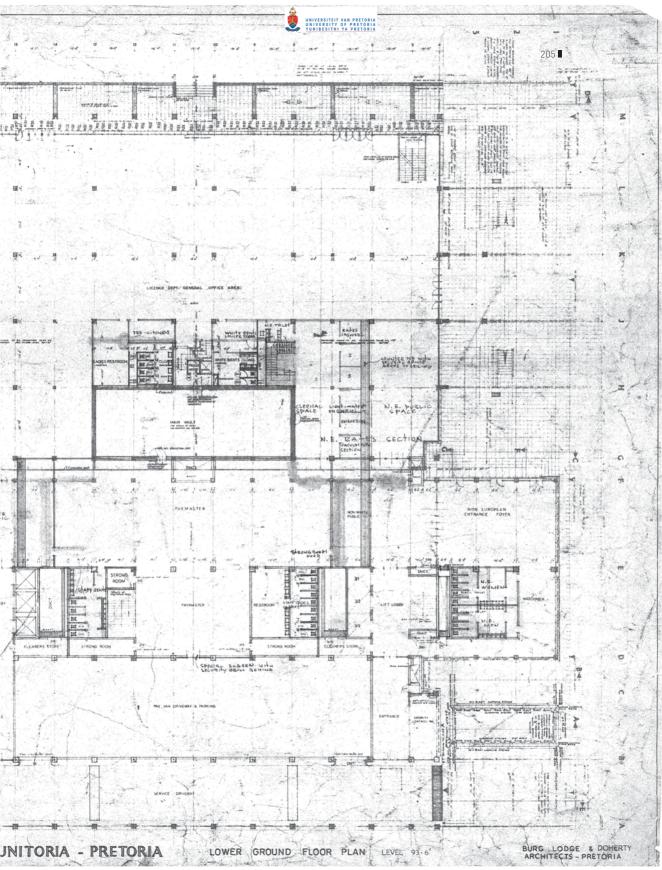




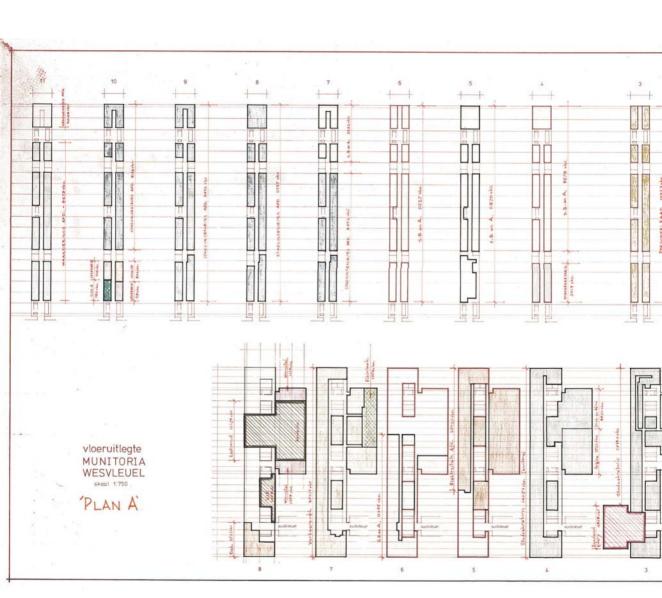




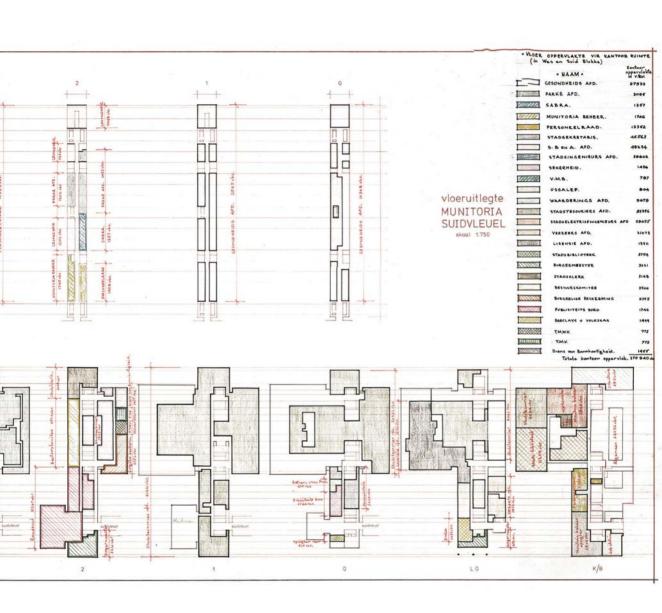


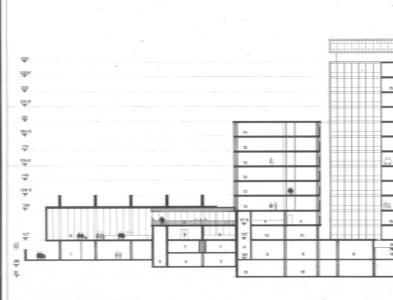


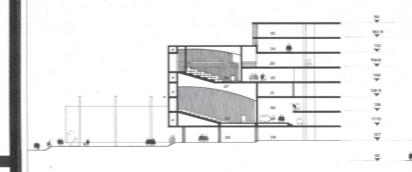










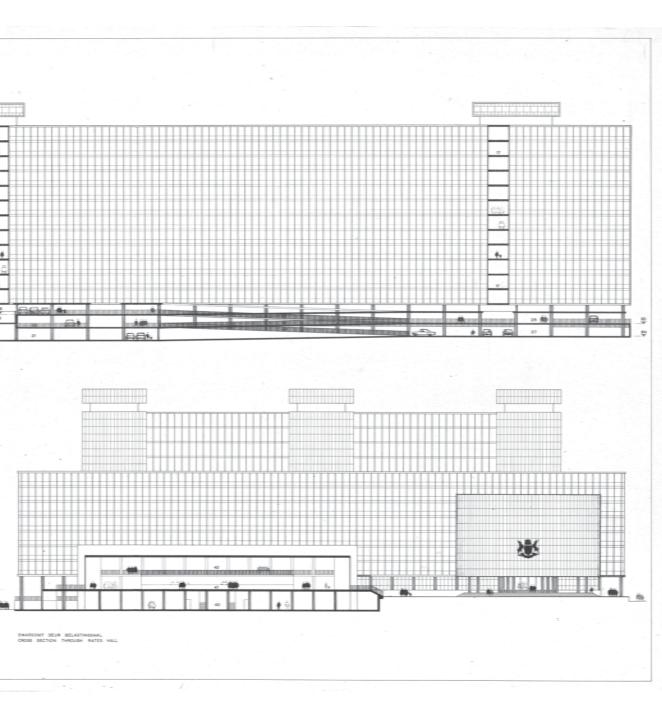




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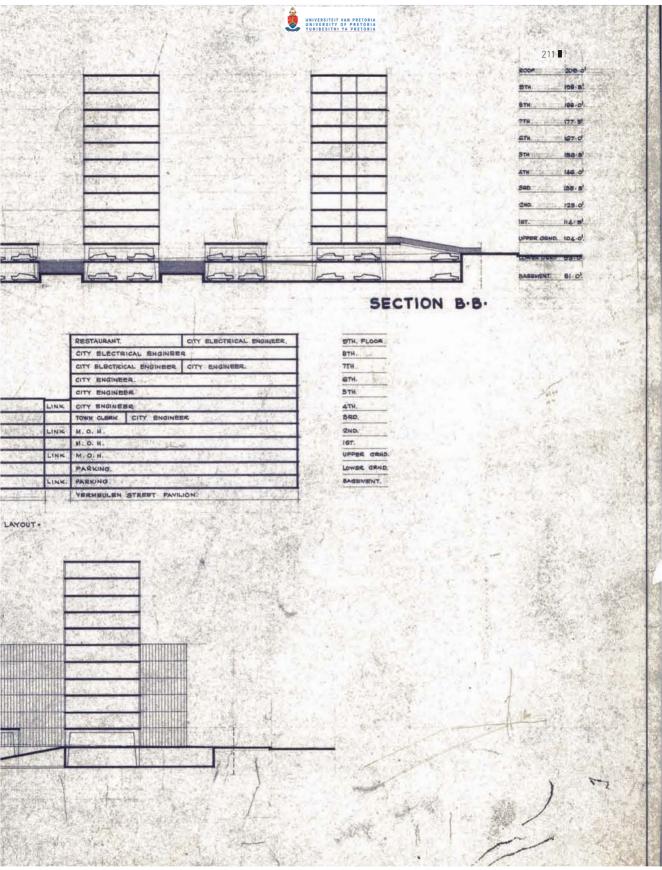
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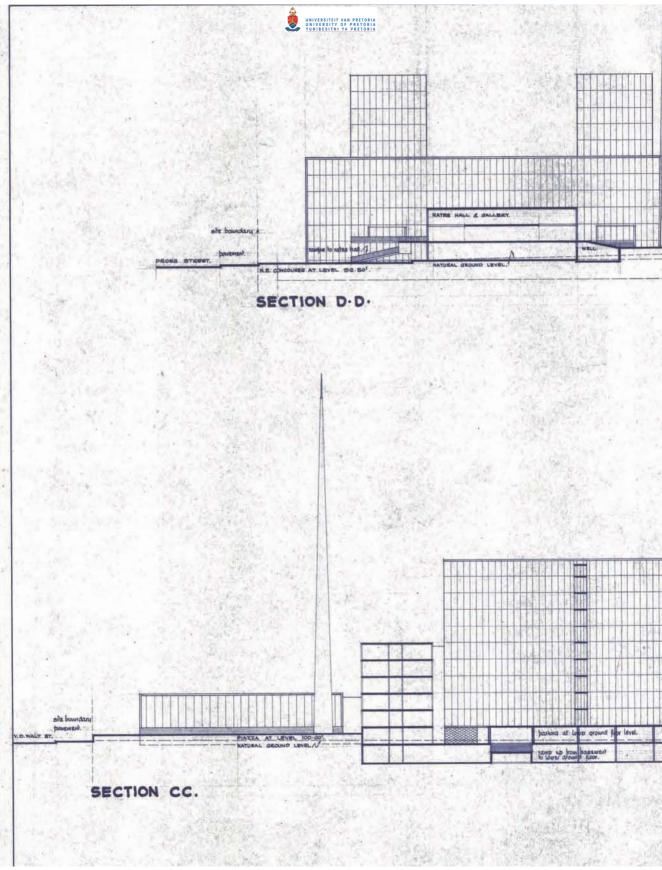
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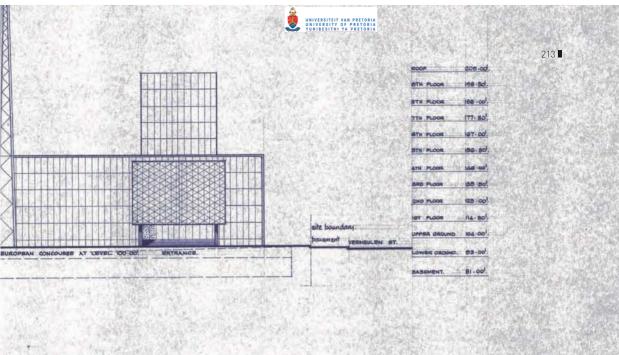
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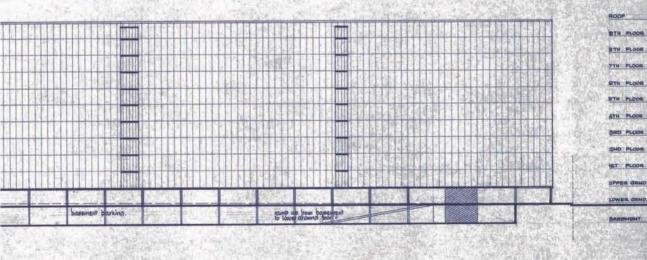
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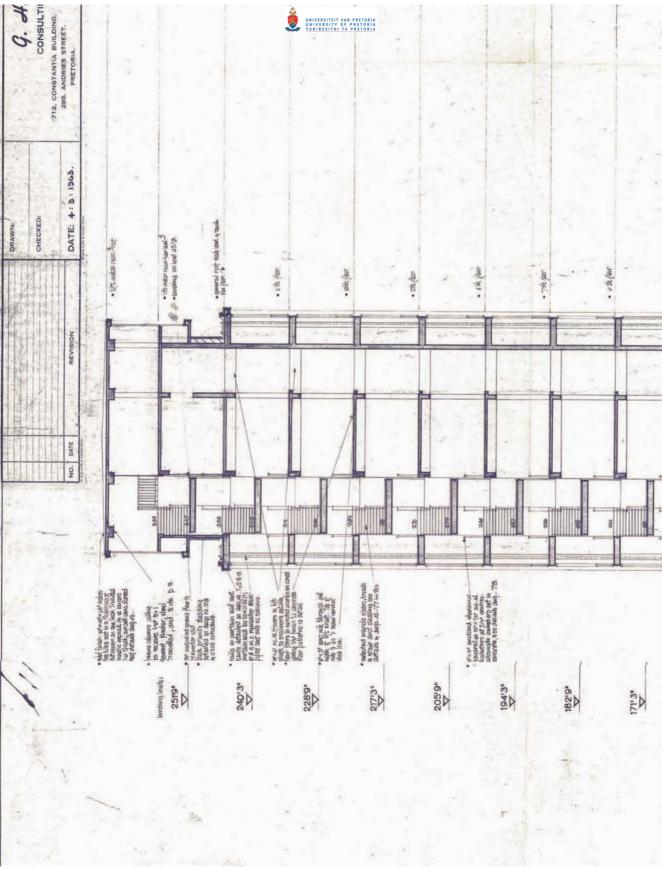
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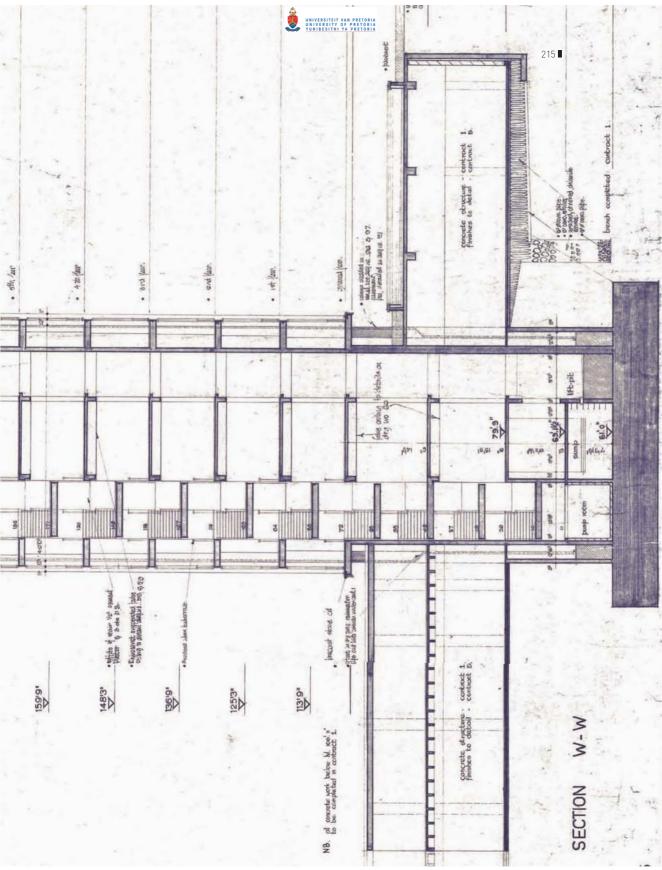
















STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: MUNITORIA (1969)

Architects: BURG DOHERTY BRYANT & PARTNERS Design Architect: DOHERTY, Anthony Carden (Tony)

144 Van Der Walt Street, c/o Vermeulen, Erf 3200, Pretoria, City of Tshwane

Munitoria, an L-shaped building comprising of a west and south wing, was completed in 1969, at the time one of the most modern buildings in the city. It became home to the City Council of Pretoria in February of that year. While badly damaged in the devastating fire of March 3, 1997, the building continues to be a landmark in the city today. Not only is it exemplary of the Modern Movement in architecture, it was also designed by one of the sons of Modern Architecture in Pretoria, Anthony Doherty (1930 – 2010). The firm Burg, Lodge & Doherty was renowned for their contribution to the rich inheritance of Modern Architecture in the city: the Administration Building of the SABS, the Pretoria Art Museum and the Reserve Bank Head Quarters to name a few.

Modern architecture is characterized by simplification of form and rational design, where ornament is replaced with the structure of the building. The first variants were conceived early in the 20th century. Modern architecture was adopted by many influential architects and architectural educators, gained popularity after the Second World War, and continued as a dominant international architectural style for institutional and corporate buildings in the 20th century. Many examples, like the Seagram Building in New York (1958) by pioneer Mies van der Rohe (1886 – 1969), are open to public visits today while continuing to be used for the original intended function, becoming living museums and testimony to the architectural layering of the city. Similarly, recognition of the contribution of Modern Architecture to the character of



Pretoria should be a major consideration prior to demolition or alteration of any representative structure.

Described as "Miesian-modernist" by Prof Schalk le Roux (1991:40-41), the nine storey structure of the Munitoria is characterized by stark functionality with much emphasis on glazed envelope and vertical articulation – typical of the Modern Movement. The Munitoria building was also one of the first ambitious interventions in the planning of the "new" Pretoria whereby commercial arteries of the city was traversed. According to Le Roux (1991: 41), the significance of the building lies in its prominent location and function.

Conclusion

In short, the Munitoria is significant for

- 1. Its contribution to the architectural heritage of the Modern Movement of the city
- 2. Being designed by a prominent local architect of the 20th century
- 3. And has been a prominent landmark in the collective frame of reference in the city.

Therefore, any alteration or intervention to the structure should be carefully considered *in lieu* of the above statement of significance.

References include, but are not limited to:

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Ford, Edward R. 2003. The Details of Modern Architecture. Volume 2: 1928 – 1988. MIT Press

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