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"What this demonstrates to me is that where traditionally each of the activities of the different academic groupings would have been siloed into their own way of doing, this project has created an opportunity for a synergy where the whole is greater than the sum of its' parts, including an enthusiasm in the students they will only discover in use and not in invention."

Prof Roger Fischer, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

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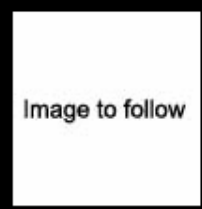


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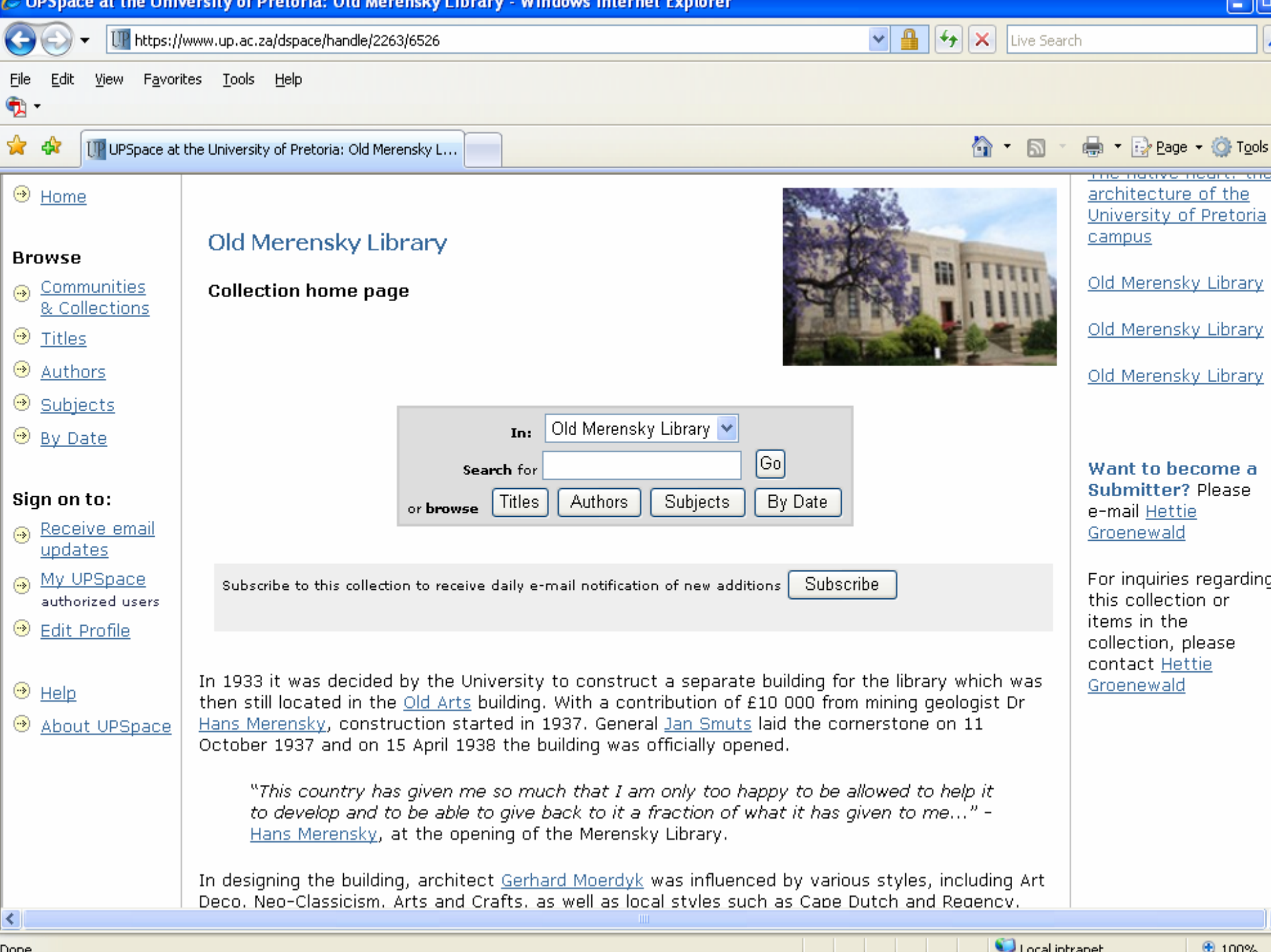
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Old Merensky Library

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"This country has given me so much that I am only too happy to be allowed to help it to develop and to be able to give back to it a fraction of what it has given to me..." - [Hans Merensky](#), at the opening of the Merensky Library.

In designing the building, architect [Gerhard Moerdyk](#) was influenced by various styles, including Art Deco, Neo-Classicism, Arts and Crafts, as well as local styles such as Cape Dutch and Regency.

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Merensky Library, University of Pretoria

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Historical Background [\[edit\]](#)

In 1933 it was decided by the University to construct a separate building for the library which was then still located in the Old Arts building. With a contribution of £10 000 from mining geologist Dr [Hans Merensky](#), construction started in 1937. General [Jan Smuts](#) laid the cornerstone on 11 October 1937 and on 15 April 1938 the building was officially opened.

"This country has given me so much that I am only too happy to be allowed to help it to develop and to be able to give back to it a fraction of what it has given to me..." - Hans Merensky, at the opening of the Merensky Library.

In designing the building, architect Gerhard Moerdyk was influenced by various styles, including Art Deco, Neo-Classicism, Arts and Crafts, as well as local styles such as Cape Dutch and Regency. Moerdyk himself described the building as a study in Persian style, with influences from Africa including the Zimbabwe and ancient Egyptian ruins. He used local materials and incorporated symbols of African origin. The prominent zigzag pattern, for example, is taken from the Zimbabwe ruins and represents water and fertility, the crocodile as a water figure and the bird as a symbol of space, symbolizing the freedom and creativity of the author. The curving of the walls symbolises an open book. The green bevelled glass windows were imported from Italy and helped to minimise heat from the sun and also protected paper against ultraviolet light. The design of the building is a source of controversy and speculation with some claiming that Moerdyk used it as a practice run for the design of the [Voortrekker Monument](#), as there are many similarities between the two buildings. Today this national monument serves as the Edoardo Villa museum and also houses amongst others, a [Mimi Coertse](#), Marita Napier and the largest [South African](#) sheet music collections.

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Du Pisanie, Maureen
Van Rheede van Oudtshoorn, G.P.
De Kock, Rikus
UPIfonet**LC Subjects:** Library buildings -- South Africa -- Pretoria
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Merensky 1
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Merensky, Hans, 1871-1952
Main campus
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University of Pretoria library**Issue Date:** 21-Oct-2008**Creation Date:** 2008**Sponsors:** UPIfonet, Health Sciences Libraries, University of Pretoria**Abstract:** In 1933 it was decided by the University to construct a separate building for the library which was then still located in the Old Arts building. With a contribution of £10 000 from mining geologist Dr Hans Merensky, construction started in 1937. General Jan Smuts laid the cornerstone on 11 October 1937 and on 15 April 1938 the building was officially opened. "This country has given me so much that I am only too happy to be allowed to help it to develop and to be able to give back to it a fraction of what it has given to me..." - Hans Merensky, at the opening of the Merensky Library. In designing the building, architect Gerhard Moerdyk was influenced by various styles, including Art



design of the Voortrekker Monument, as there are many similarities between the two buildings. Today this national monument serves as the Edoardo Villa museum and also houses amongst others a Mimi Coertse, Marita Napier and the largest South African sheet music collections. This DVD relates the history of the Merensky Library of the University of Pretoria. The latest architectural technological developments are also shown.

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Departments of Architecture & Library Services

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Chapel (Old Monastery)

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Bought from the Catholic Church in 1980, the complex which is now known as [Tukkiewerf](#) comprises three buildings – a chapel and monastery built in 1925 and a [Monastery hall](#) designed by Gerald Bernhard and built in 1946. The complex was upgraded in 1984 and presented to the SRC for its administrative needs. The chapel with its stained glass windows is often used for weddings and church services. The chapel was known as the Church of Saint Alfons Maria de Liguori, after Saint Alfons, the founder of the order of Liguorians, or Redemptorists, who was declared a saint in

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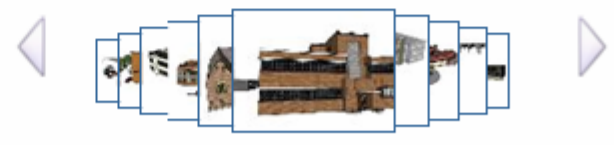
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Building Sciences Building

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Since its inception in 1929, the [Department of Architecture](#) and Building Sciences moved from one building to another until 1960 when it found a permanent home in this building designed by its own staff members. Expansion of the building in 1973 meant that the department could increase its student numbers. The building is modern in character with elements of Neo-Brutalism. Large windows on the southern side allow for natural light in the studios.

Source: *Campus Building Guide 2008*

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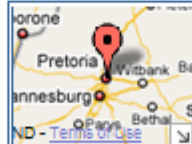
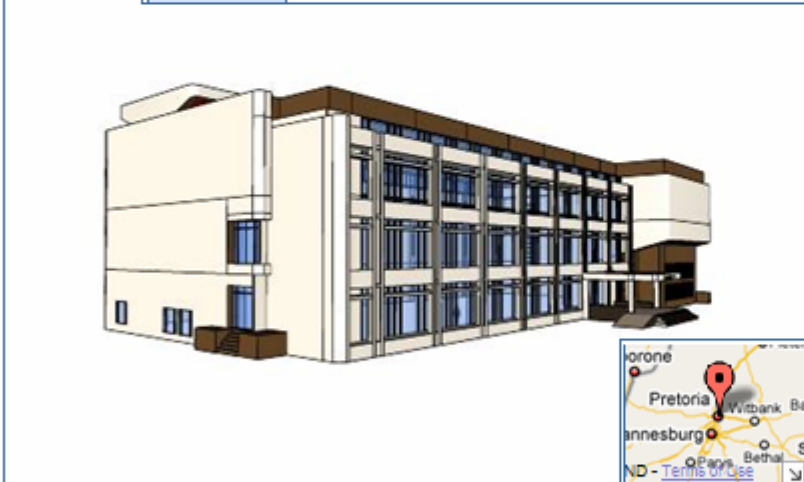
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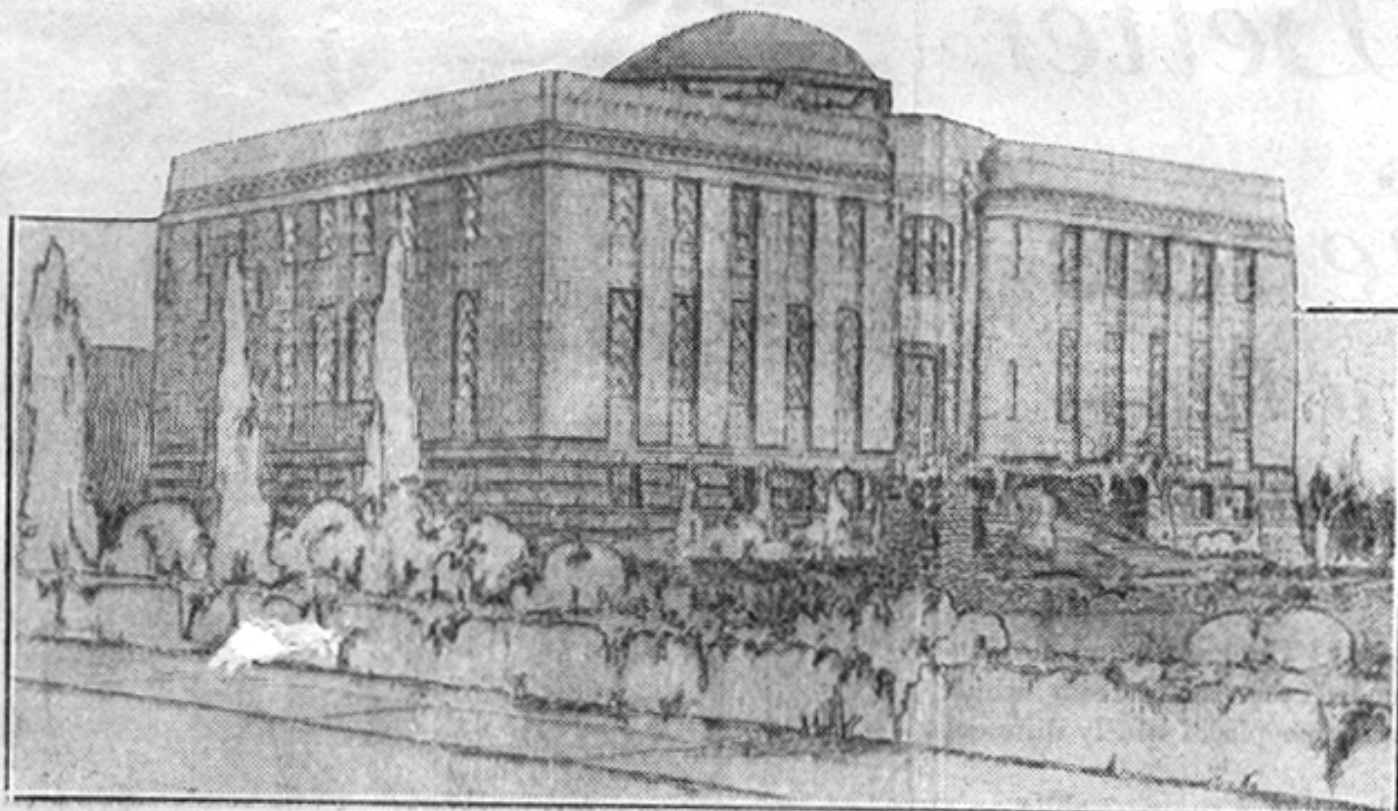
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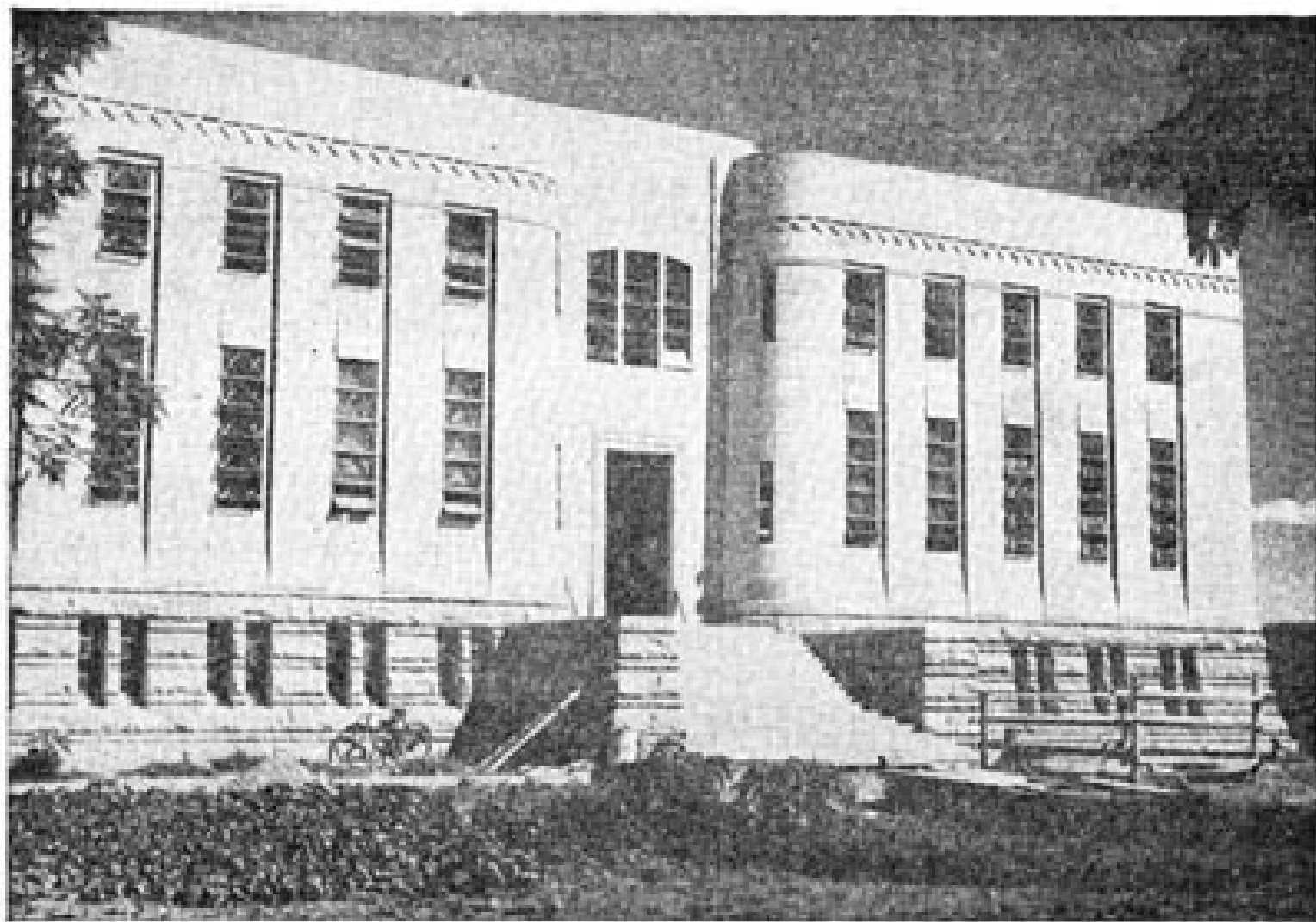
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Pretoria's New Library



A perspective drawing by the architect, Mr. Gerard Moerdyk, of the new library for the University of Pretoria. This imposing building, which will be fire-proof, air-conditioned and capable of accommodating a quarter million volumes, will cost £30,000, and will be one of the most modern libraries in South Africa. Building operations will start shortly.



Die nuwe biblioteekgebou van die Universiteit Pretoria wat gister amptelik deur min. H. A. Fagan geopen is.



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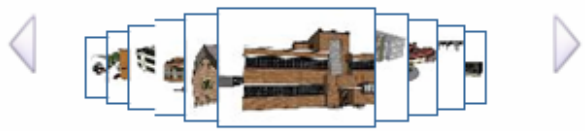


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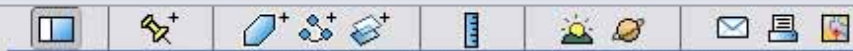
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