

JSC/H&L

Central XX

20/6/34

Yours sincerely

Dear Mr. Blersch,

With reference to your letter of the 13th June, 1934, in regard to a competition for plans for the proposed Town Hall at Stellenbosch, I should be very pleased to help you in any way I can to enable you to obtain a suitably designed building for this historic Town.

While personally I feel it might be more desirable for important works of this description to definitely choose and appoint a suitable Architect, I realise it is difficult to do this without giving offence to the Architectural profession as a whole and I think under all the circumstances and the fact that it is a public building that your Council should arrange for a competition, which, if properly handled, should have satisfactory results.

I am therefore sending you a copy of the Architects Year Book from which you will see page 132 that there are two or three methods of dealing with a competition and, as recommended by the Institute of Architects, I feel that the open competition is the best.

I look upon a competition as a means of appointing an Architect, and the designs as sketch designs. The real work on the scheme comes after the Architect has been appointed and would naturally be done in consultation with the promoters. When I am acting as Assessor I always provide for a clause in the Conditions stating that the Architect must be prepared to make reasonable alterations in his design. See Clause 5 page 137 of Year Book, and page 2 of Conditions, copy of which I am sending you. This would get over the difficulty which is worrying your Council. The most important factor in Competitions is ofcourse the Assessor and he must be carefully chosen for his special qualifications for the building to be designed.

-----  
*John  
Major's*

I have recently been appointed President-in-Chief of the South African Institute of Architects and I should be pleased to advise your Council in regard to the appointment of an Assessor and further, with the concurrence of the Hon. the Minister of Public Works, who is interested in these