

Star.

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THE NEW LIBRARY

To the Editor of The Star

Sir,—I read the awards of the British architect who was deputed to decide upon the best design for the new public library. I have since seen the three designs selected for first, second and third prizes and am horrified to find that a gloomy-looking structure without the slightest pretence of cohesion with surrounding architecture is the winning design. Why, sir, the first prize design reminds me of the pink painted wooden little houses I as a child used to build Swiss villages with! Were the building meant to replace the old Fort as a gaol, or even as the threatened new administrative offices at Pretoria for the new steel works, I could have been passably content.

I do not know a single architect engaged in the profession to-day. I have no connection, direct or indirect, with the building trade; I am a mere man in the streets of Johannesburg, and as a citizen I protest against the disfigurement of the at present magnificent open space with so unsightly a structure. I trust abler pens than mine will pursue the matter.

CITIZEN.