

## R500-m CITY CENTRE FACELIFT STARTS TODAY!



A model of the envisaged Verwoerd Square development on the block bounded by Church, Van der Walt, Vermeulen and Prinsloo streets, showing the retained Sammy Marks Building, with the planned five-star hotel directly behind it. The round dome of the planetarium can be seen to the right of the Sammy Marks Building. On the south-western corner of the square is Garlicks,

with an office block to the north of it. From Munitoria, in the north, a walkway will cross over Vermeulen Street, to office extensions flanked by a clinic and the new municipal library. A perspex roof will cover a large portion of the area between the hotel, Garlicks and the office block. On the right of the picture the new Reserve Bank building can be seen.

# Joint venture on an ambitious project

COR UYS

Municipal Reporter

IT'S ON! Pretoria's multimillion-rand rejuvenation starts today.

Over the next six years as much as R500-million will be pumped into the capital's sagging "city core" as the private sector responds to a city council decision to go ahead with its most ambitious project yet.

The project — details of which were announced by the council in June last year — is expected to result in "a total metamorphosis" of the heart of the city by 1993.

At its monthly meeting yesterday, the council approved procedures, requirements and conditions for tenders and presentation procedures to be followed by firms and consortiums that would like to participate in the scheme.

The council will now immediately start the procedure to invite the private sector formally to make offers to undertake the project. A council spokesman said the invitation would be advertised countrywide "to make as many developers as possible aware of the project".

The management committee member responsible for town planning affairs, Mr Cor Uys, said developers — which could include consortiums — would be required to submit proof before September 14 of their financial capability to execute the development successfully.

Detailed proposals by developers must reach the council by November 17.

Mr Uys said the city council would hopefully be able to approve the proposals and give the green light at its monthly meeting in January next year for the work to start.

The mayor of Pretoria, Dr Chris Swart, said the project was based on partnership between the city council, as property owner — and also tenant in some of the envisaged buildings — and the private sector as financiers and developers.

The project will comprise the redevelopment of Church Square, the conversion of Church Street between Bosman and Prinsloo streets into a pedestrian boulevard, and the redevelopment of Verwoerd Square on the block bounded by Church, Van der Walt, Vermeulen and Prinsloo streets.

Included in the scheme are open-air cafés, kiosks and lower-level shops on Church Square.

The pedestrian boulevard will be full of trees, flower-boxes, benches, water-pools and fountains, open-air cafes, kiosks, platforms for musicians, a large chessboard and a morning market.

Developments on Verwoerd Square will include a planetarium, restaurants, coffee bars, roof-gardens, cinemas, a five-star hotel with conference facilities, a new city library, a tourist bureau and an airways terminal.

● Our Political Correspondent reports from Cape Town that Pretoria MPs have welcomed the city council's plan to revamp the city centre.