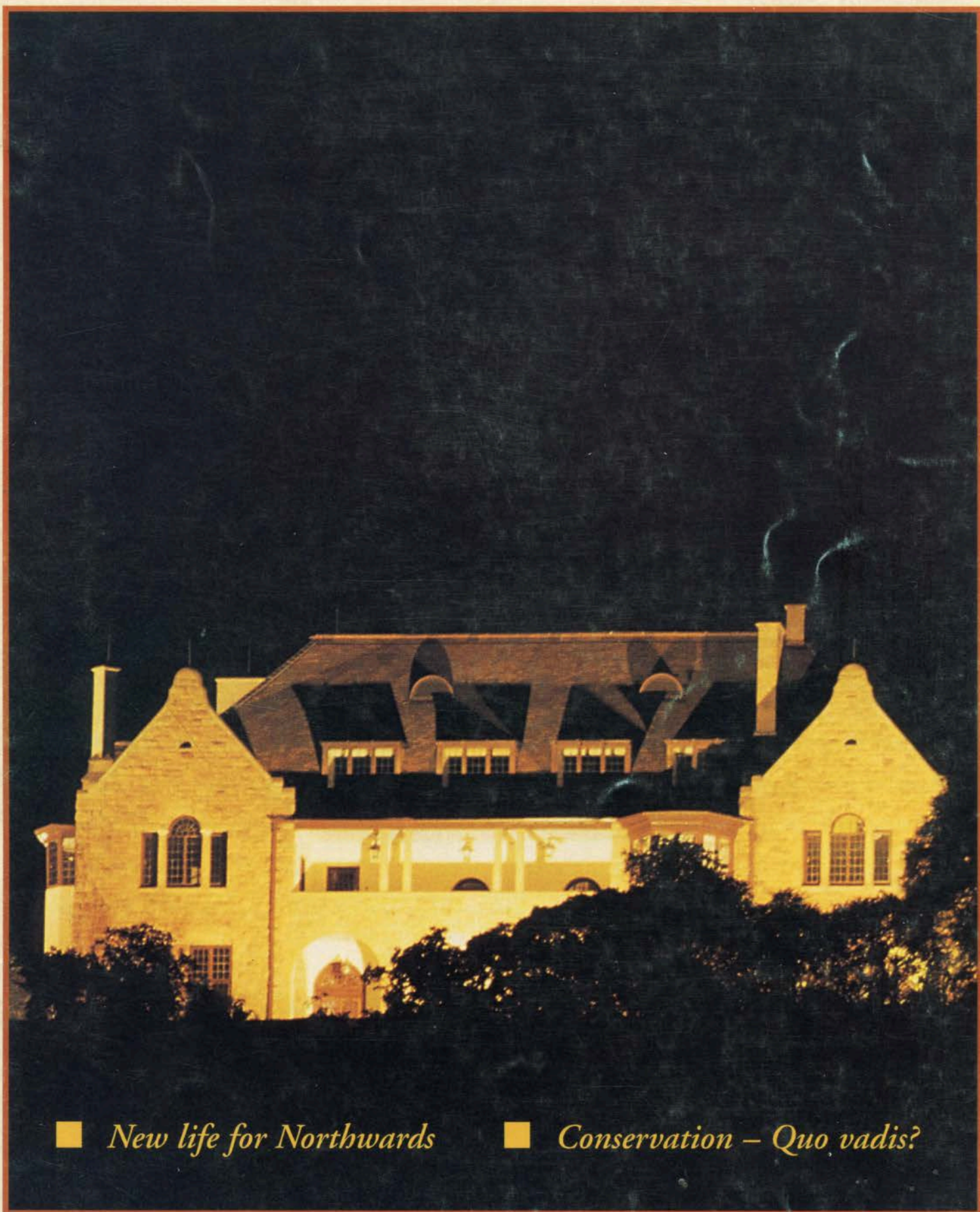


RESTORICA

NO 29

1996



■ *New life for Northwards*

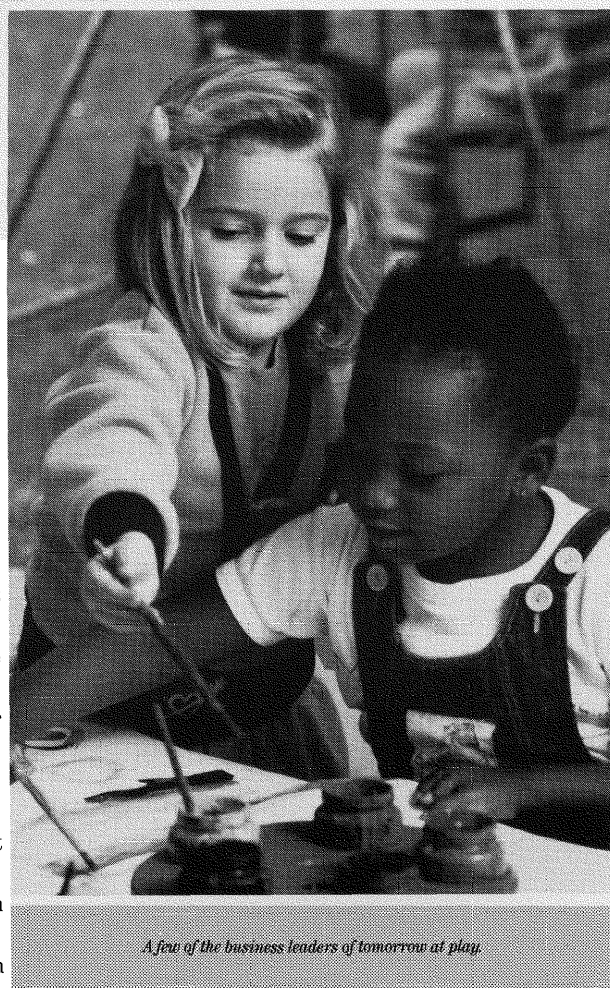
■ *Conservation – Quo vadis?*

*Some of our biggest reasons
for believing in big business
are some of our smallest.*

If our children are to inherit a country worth inheriting, a financially strong country, big business becomes more important than ever before.

For one thing, like other small countries with big business, it is big business that enables South Africa to compete in the international markets and be a big earner of foreign exchange.

For another, it is big business that provides a stable base from which medium and small business can grow and expand on



A few of the business leaders of tomorrow at play.

a scale significant enough to become major contributors to the wealth- and job-creation processes of the new South Africa.

And that is really what a healthy economy is all about, a mix of big, medium and small businesses operating internationally and internally off a strong, competitive base.

Big business and the South African economy. Inseparable if the new South Africa is to have an economy worthy of generations to come.



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From the editors

"... a building is really a living being... it needs nourishment in order to live, just as a man does. It sickens and dies, and also, it can be cured of illness by a good doctor... You might say that a building does not sicken and die like a man, and I would reply that indeed it does just that. But when it has a good doctor when it falls ill, that is a master builder who repairs and cures it, it will stay in a good condition for a long time."

Filarete (c.1403 - c.1448)

Are we on a kill or cure road in South Africa or on the path of healthy conservation? Do we have enough "doctors" to care for the built environment?

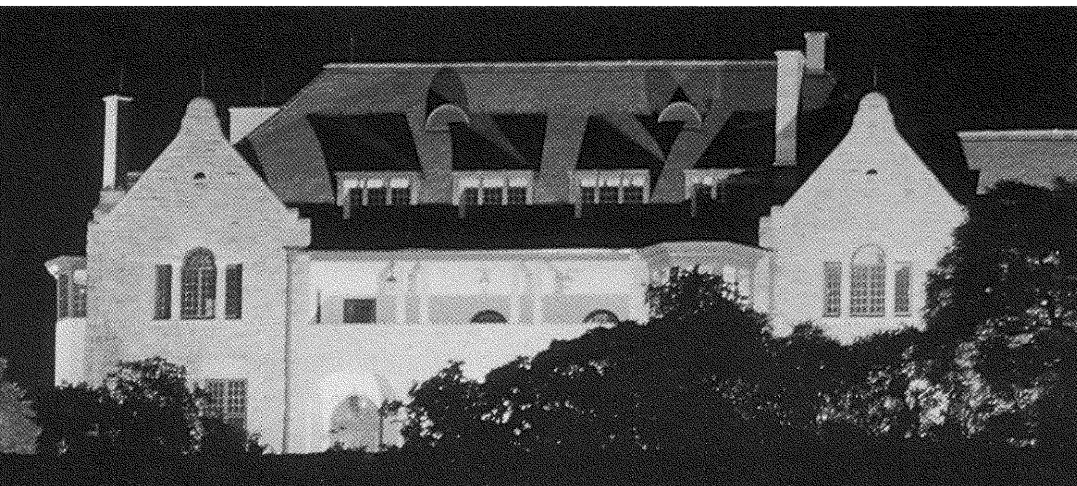
In this issue of Restorica a variety of viewpoints are expressed. All underline the importance of the involvement of not only doctors, but indeed dedicated specialists in many fields. Certain parts of the country have been comprehensively listed. However, unfortunately some major cities and towns lag behind in this process. Or even worse, in some deserving places, no listing has been initiated at all. With South Africa in an important economical upswing, the fine balance between conservation and development should be maintained where relevant and listing can be used as an important tool to achieve this goal. Perhaps the previous net was cast too Eurocentrically. A lesson should be taken from the KwaZulu-Natal proposed proclamations for 1996.

Reflected in this publication is the involvement with conservation at various mission stations. This choice raises interesting questions: Why mission stations? Are they an easy entry into the RDP? We think not. Perhaps it reveals a sincere effort, the selection made easier because of accessibility, familiarity and definability. But the road does not stop here.

Laudable as the efforts are to educate the youth in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth about the built environment, they are isolated. This type of education should be included in school curricula, from as early as primary level. Pupils should be made aware of their rich heritage and be taught to look critically at the built environment and its future extensions. This would ensure a better quality of life for all of South Africa's rainbow people.

Northwards at Night
Cover sponsored
by Gencor

PICTURE: WALDEMAR BUSSIAHN



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Are today's buildings worthy of conservation tomorrow?

Carefully conceived and assembled buildings in South Africa have become a rarity. Site, surroundings, the street scape, detailing and fine construction today are reserved for a select group of buildings. The prevailing impression is that the town house complexes and shopping malls, which today dominate our city scapes are assembled in the most utilitarian way possible, only to be refurbished, at great cost in a mere three or four years.

For those with an interest in building conservation, this is an anachronism. The buildings we deal with, have mostly stood the test of time. The big test, namely adaptability and transformation, many have passed with flying colours. Both Parliament and the Union Buildings now serve a new government. In Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth old produce markets serve whole communities by being transformed into theatres and concert halls. The mansions of the affluent of the past have successfully been adapted into prestigious business chambers. Excellent design, aesthetic appeal, workmanship and materials of the highest standard have won the day in these buildings.

It is often in amazement that conservationist see how the interiors of restaurants, hotels and even homes and offices are carefully selected to copy those of an earlier era while the prospective occupants seem to be completely apathetic towards or oblivious of building conservation. A whole industry exists in producing replicas in paving, furnishing, lighting, panelling, etc.

The conservationists of today cannot and should not spend their energies on preservation alone but must be involved in planning and development and contemporary architecture. The reasons for this are two-fold: old buildings should not be conserved in isolation, but should be part of a whole town and street scape, and development around such a building or row of buildings should enhance the old. Recognising our heritage is of prime importance in new developments. In a time when we can expect a mushrooming of new buildings, conservationists must not only be custodians but should act as facilitators to make sure that the architecture which is created for the next century is of such a nature that new architecture, worthy of conservation, is created.

We are aware that the State is the custodian of the crown jewels when it comes to our architectural heritage. It would be interesting to see what type of new architecture the government of the day will

create in South Africa. Architecture has often in the past been used by statesmen to leave a visible legacy of their power.

The late president Mitterrand, for example, left France with several "monuments" (Woongids, 20 January 1996) in the architectural history of France to preserve his place of prominence. Le Grande Louvre, Le Grande Arch and La Tres Grande Bibliotheque are but three of the architectural triumphs which he achieved, despite criticism of the severest kind. Time alone will prove the architectural merits of his architectural pursuits.

An admirable example of cooperation is in progress (Woongids 24 February 1996) in the area of Ferney-Voltaire where 24 French towns are now aiming at collecting R26 million to purchase and restore the chateau where the French philosopher/author/poet François de Voltaire lived for 20 years.

This is the type of action from which our own towns can benefit. Malmesbury in the Swartland region of the Western Cape recently started a movement to preserve the town. This effort can grow considerably if surrounding towns and villages cooperate and contribute.

We in South Africa are dependant on the State for the preservation of many of our cultural gems. Private enterprise has an equally important role to play in this respect. Apart from physical architecture there are two other important factors regarding our architectural heritage: adequate legislation to protect our building heritage, and an efficient structure to implement such legislation. Equally important is a national presence in the form of a non-statutory body to act as guardian of our architectural heritage. This role the Simon van der Stel Foundation has fulfilled for the past 36 years.

To continue doing so we need the support and financial assistance of those who care about the aesthetic appearance of our cities, towns and countryside. As with most non governmental organisations, this organisation is severely hampered by inadequate funds. What is needed is a commitment to assist by those who care about architecture and the architectural heritage of our country.



Mrs Gerda Coetzee
National Chairman
Simon van der Stel
Foundation

"... there can be no greater Security to any Work against Violence and Injury, than Beauty and Design"

— ALBERTI L. B., DE RE AEDIFICATORIO 1452, AS TRANSLATED BY LEONI G., IN 1726

Bewaring leef in takke

Kragdadig sou nie 'n onvanpaste woord wees om die Stigting Simon van der Stel se takke se bewaringsaksies te beskryf nie. Nasionaal verbind maar op voetsoolvlak bedryf elke tak bewaring in sy streek volgens bepaalde behoeftes.

Terwyl sommige takke hulle toespits op inligting, opvoeding en motivering, onderneem ander self restourasie. Die Suid-Kaap tak se restourasiewerk wat pas op die vissersdorp Melkhoutfontein naby Stilbaai voltooi is, is 'n sprekende voorbeeld van hoe bedag die takke is op behoeftes in hul omgewing.

Uit 'n volksboukundige oogpunt is dit besondere huise met hulle abba-vuurherde of komeintjies. Dekriet vir die projek is deur die Suid-Kaapse tak geskenk, die Lazarus Ontwikkelingstrust van die Anglikaanse kerk betaal vir balke, vensters en deure en die gemeenskap onderneem self die werk.

Die Oudshoornse bewaringskomitee het bygedra tot die herstel van die loodglasvensters van die Drilsaal op die dorp.

Verskeie takke is besonder gemoeid in estetiese en/of ontwikkelingskomitees.

Die Stellenbosch-tak doen uiters waardevolle werk op die dorp waar groei teen 'n snel tempo plaasvind en waar daar voortdurend gemaan moet word om die historiese karakter van die dorp te behou. Hierdie tak se vinger is op die pols van bewaring en ontwikkeling. Ook die Breërivier-vallei-tak speel 'n belangrike rol in Worcester se estetiese komitee.

Drakenstein-tak waak oor die argitektoniese skatte van die Paarl. Tydige ingryping het reeds verskeie geboue in die dorp gered. Hulle is tans

besig met die restourasie van "Cheve" – 'n huis langs die Paarl Gimnasium. Die tak het hom die afgelope jaar veral beywer om nouer samewerking met ander bewarings- en gemeenskapsorganisasies.

Die keurige nuusbriewe wat die Pretoriase tak uitstuur wemel van interessante inligting. Hulle opvoedkundige toere word goed ondersteun en hulle het vanjaar reeds Soshanguve, Mabopane en Makao, tradisionele tuistes van die Bakwena- en Bakghatlastamme besoek. Hierdie tak speel 'n leidende rol in die ontwikkeling van die stad.

Die Kaapstad-tak het verteenwoordiging op oa die Victoria & Alfred Waterfrontkomitee, die Kaapse Erfenistrust en die Omgewingsadvieskomitee. Hulle argitektoniese bewaringsopvoedingseminaar is vanjaar toegespits op onderwysers. Blou plakette, met die doel om besoekers se aandag te vestig op die belangrikheid van geboue is aangebring op oa St. Stephen's Kerk, die radarstasie by Kaappunt en in die Kompanjies tuin.

In Port Elizabeth kon die Oos-Kaapse tak die afgelope jaar nie al die leerlinge wat hulle bewaringseminaar wou bywoon, akkommodeer nie. Die tak is steeds gemoeid met die restourasiewerk op Clarkson in die Tsitsikamma en het ook verlede jaar op Erfenisdag met 'n foto- en boekuitstalling die aandag gevestig op die belangrikheid van bewaring.

Die Uitenhage-tak maak steeds sy stem dik waar dit kom by bewaring van die argitektoniese erfenis.

Benewens suksesvolle inligtingstoere vir sekondêre skoolhoofde na historiese plekke in Potchefstroom en volgehoue restourasiewerk aan die Berlynse sendingkerkkompleks, het hierdie tak weereens vanjaar 'n suksesvolle huistoer gehou en duisende rande vir bewaring ingesamel.

Die Bloemfontein-tak se nominasie van Bethanie Sendingkompleks vir die Sanlam restourasietoekenning was sukseksvol en hulle sal vanjaar die restourasiewerk kan voltooi. Die gedenkplaat vir die Franse generaal de Villebois-Marieull, digby Boshof, is pas onthul. Hierdie tak stap voort in die rigting wat hulle groot mentor, wyle prof. Petrus Nienaber aangewys het.

Suid-Afrika se sandsteen boukultuur in die Oos-Vrystaat is steeds die lede op Bethlehem se trots.

Die Witwatersrand-tak was in 1995 die gashere vir die AJV. Die Stigting se dank aan hulle dat hulle besoekers bewus gemaak het van die feit dat vervloë Johannesburg steeds bestaan op die heuwels om die stad. Hierdie tak is nie alleen die vervaardigers van die blou plakette wat die Stigting gebruik nie, maar het self plakette op verskeie geboue aangebring, oa die Markteater en Museum Africa.

Die Suid-Kaapse tak ondersteun die vissersgemeenskap van Melkhoutfontein se restourasieprojek



Honoured for excellence

Since 1969 the Simon van der Stel Foundation has awarded gold medals for architectural conservation to 47 individuals and institutions.

Recipients of the 1995 medals were Mr Harry Oppenheimer for his life-long involvement in the field of conservation, and Mr Mannie Manim and the late Mr Barney Simon for the Market Theatre Complex.

Market Theatre

This complex is today proof of how a condemned industrial building was recycled into a vibrant, functional asset to the local community.

The Old Market in Newtown became redundant when the city required larger market premises in the mid-Seventies. It was the vision and drive of several people, recognising the potential of the building, who rescued it from falling into disrepair or bowing to the demolisher's hammer.

A call from Mr Morris Norton of the City Engineer's Department to Mannie Manim and the late Barney Simon was the start of a theatrical transformation. They were made aware of the fact that tenders were invited from theatre groups to hire the 1916 building.

The enthusiasm of Manim and Simon, as well as the unique architectural features and the structure's suitability for adaptation, saved the complex. The building, inter alia, in the main arch has the longest three pin arch in the Southern Hemisphere.

Mannie Manim's vision for creating a venue where all the cultural groups of South Africa could meet kept the building from being demolished. He was also intimately involved in the designing, building and planning and made great personal financial sacrifices. He inspired the community to partake in the actual renovation process.

The late Barney Simon's contribution to the multi-faceted culture of South Africa is important. By saving an historical building and finding for it an ongoing use the theatrical duo created a marriage of building and theatre.

"Their contribution to theatre and the arts has been acknowledged," said Mr Herbert Prins, chairman of the Witwatersrand branch, who nominated Messrs Manim and Simon for the national award.

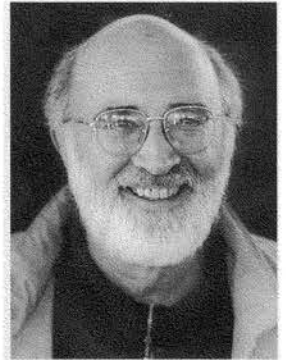
"It is fitting that their gift to conservation should be similarly recognised with this award from the Simon van der Stel Foundation."

Mr HF Oppenheimer

Excellence transcends merit and it is for this reason that the Foundation's gold medal was awarded to Mr Harry Oppenheimer. As chairman of Anglo American Corporation his influence in cultivating the interest in conservation of this corporation was considerable. By establishing the Rhodes Trust, an affiliate company of Anglo American, he made sure that there would be funds available for restoration.

His initiative over many years resulted in the following commendable conservation efforts:

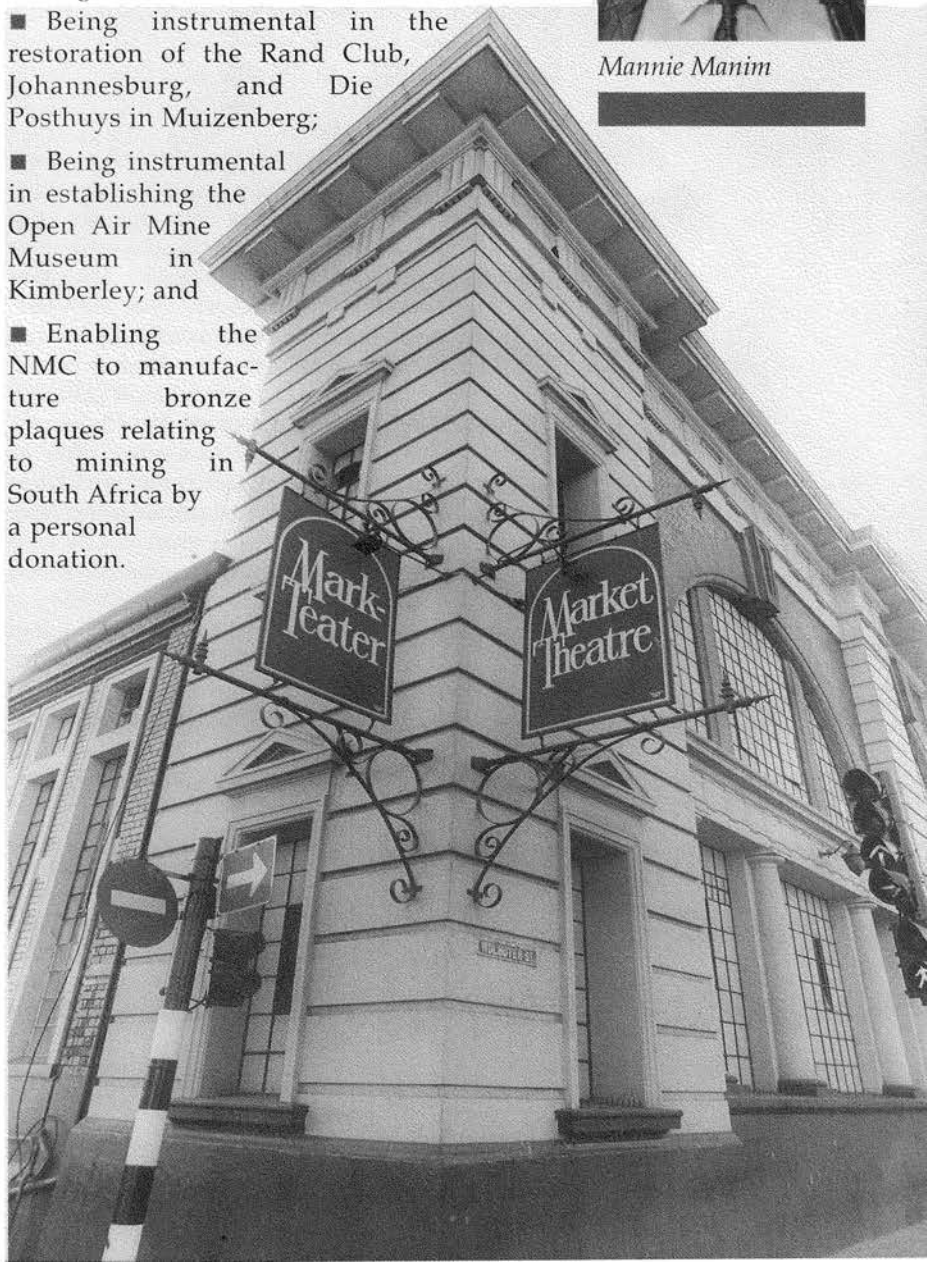
- Keeping the Brenthurst Estate intact;
- Establishing the Brenthurst Library;
- Donating the Leaping Impala fountain to the City of Johannesburg;
- Initiating the restoration of Boschendal and Rhône in the Drakenstein Valley - through the Rhodes Trust;
- Being instrumental in the restoration of the Rand Club, Johannesburg, and Die Posthuys in Muizenberg;
- Being instrumental in establishing the Open Air Mine Museum in Kimberley; and
- Enabling the NMC to manufacture bronze plaques relating to mining in South Africa by a personal donation.



Barney Simon



Mannie Manim



'n Europese perspektief

Deur E.S. van Bart
vryskut joernalis

Waar in Suid-Afrika nog dikwels 'n debat gevoer word oor bewaring versus ontwikkeling op argitektoniese gebied, het die debat in Europa tot een oor bewaring en ontwikkeling gevorder. Dié debat vind hoofsaaklik plaas tussen, onderskeidelik, aanhangers van die Neo-modernisme en die Neo-klassisisme. Eersgenoemde vind die kontras tussen die nuwe en die oue opwindend, laasgenoemde plaas die klem op harmonie in verwysing na die oue.

Dat in Europa geen twyfel bestaan oor die bewarenswaardigheid van waardige historiese geboue nie, kan nie bloot sinies toegeskryf word aan toeriste-dollars wat ongetwyfeld noodsaaklik vir die ontwikkeling van die Europese ekonomie – en daarmee vir die ontwikkeling van die Europese boubedryf – is, nie, maar ook aan 'n kultuur-milieu waarin waardering vir die prestasies van die verlede as kenmerkend van die beskaafde mens beskou word. Beskaafdheid is die "produk" van baie eeue se nougesette arbeid aan die verfyning van die menslike intellek en gees, wat noodwendig neerslag vind in sy fisieke omgewing. Dit is derhalwe onvermydelik dat die argitektuur, naas die beeldende kunste en die letterkunde, as die hoogste uiting van kulturele ontwikkeling en identiteit beskou sal word. Op dié drie skeppingsgebiede word die veredelende ontmoeting tussen mens en natuur ten beste verbeeld.

Hoe diep die wortels van die Europese beskawing lê, blyk uit hierdie Anglo-Saksie se gedig. Dié redes wat in haas elke argument ten gunste van bewarenswaardigheid aangevoer word, dui op 'n betrokke gebou/plek as dokument van die geskiedenis/verlede.

Treffend verbeeld die onbekende digter van *The Ruin* dat die werk van "the dead departed master-builders" nie net hul "merk" toon nie, maar ook aan die geskiedenis herinner:

Splendid this rampart is, though fate destroyed it./The city buildings fell apart, the work/Of giants crumble./ ...And grit holds in its grip, the hard embrace/Of earth, the dead departed master-builders./ Until a hundred generations now/ Of people have passed by. Often this wall/Stained red and grey with lichen has stood by/ Surviving storms while kingdoms rose and fell./And now the high curved wall itself has fallen.

St. St. Stephan-katedraal
vind weerkaatsing in
die spieëlglas van Haas
Haus in Wenen.

FOTO: M. VAN BART,
DIE BURGER

Dié gedig kom in die Exeter Book, 'n manuskrip-volume van Oud-Engelse gedigte, saamgestel in c.975, voor. *The Ruin* handel oor die verval van 'n Romeinse stad, waarskynlik Bath.

Die gedig vertoon elemente van die *encomium urbis*, 'n lofdig aan 'n stad. Die *encomium urbis* was reeds in klassieke Griekeland bekend. Poësie-leermeesters het in besonderhede voorgeskryf wat, hoe en in watter volgorde van elemente, oor 'n stad geskryf moet word. 'n Ontwikkeling van hierdie digvorm was die gevolg van die Christendom: Dié variant *encomium urbis* het die vorige glorierykheid van die stad met sy latere agteruitgang of vernietiging vergelyk, duidelik 'n sinspeling op die mens se verval onder aanslag van die sonde.

In die lig van dié Christelike konnotasie is dit heel interessant dat dit juis regoor katedrale in Europa is dat kontroversiële Neo-modernistiese ontwikkeling tans plaasvind, beplan word of in die redelik onlangse verlede voltooi is. Om kortliks vier te noem:

Reg teenoor die Koninklike Portaal van Chartres-katedraal is 'n nuwe museum, ontwerp deur die Franse argitek, Patrick Berger, beplan. Die museum-ontwerp word as "waaghalsig" beskryf, dit wil sê, Neo-modernisties in kontras met die Gotiek van die katedraal. Uiteraard is daar sogenaamde "oningelikes", waaronder heelwat Neo-klassisistiese argitekte, wat die verontagsaming van die oue, die bestaande, bevestigte en die ontwikkeling beskou as 'n voortsetting van die "verval" van argitektoniese standaarde.

Daar is natuurlik altyd die emosioneles wat in elk geval die Modernisme, neo of nie, as "demonies", 'n gepaste styl vir die uitbeelding van die "dekadente" twintigste eeu, sien. In Ulm, Duitsland, is einde 1993 'n nuwe stadshuis ingewy, ontwerp deur 'n argitek van New York, Richard Meier. Meier se hiper-Neo-modernistiese beton-massa is baie duidelik gebaseer op 'n ontwerp van Hans Scharoun wat onsuksesvol was toe daar in 1924 ook vir ontwerpe vir 'n nuwe stadshuis gevra is. Weer is daar waarnemers wat die Meier-ontwerp as ewe onsuksesvol beskou, daar die enigste "goeie" kenmerk van die gebou die talle uitsigte wat dit op die 161m hoë toring van die Gotiese Ulm-katedraal bied, is.

In Wenen is Hans Hollein se beton-sakegebou, Haas Haus, met 'n spieëlglas toring, in 1990 voltooi, steeds die moeder van kontroversiële geboue in Wenen. Die enigste aanvaarbare kenmerk van hierdie gebou in baie oë is die weerkaatsing van die St. Stephan-katedraal in Haas Haus se spieëlglas.

En in Engeland is die debat tussen die Neo-moderniste en die Neo-klassici oor 'n meesterplan vir die Paternoster Square ontwikkeling reg langs en ten noorde van Sir Christopher Wren se Barokmeesterwerk, die St. Paulus-katedraal, nog nie ten einde nie. Die wen-ontwerp van Arup Associates van Londen, 'n Neo-modernistiese ontwerp tot in die fynste besonderhede, het reeds in 1987 in die diep water beland nadat Prins Charles dit afge maak het as 'n kru ontkenning van die historiese aard van Londen.



Broader heritage concept for NMC

Affirmative conservation is what one could call it – the course that the National Monuments Council (NMC) has embarked on, entailing the identification and proclamation of a wider variety of institutions as notable heritage, in an attempt to involve and satisfy a broader section of South African society than before. Hopefully it would also ensure that the body remains relevant amidst the rapidly changing authority structures.

In the process of so-called affirmative conservation, about 50 percent of the funds that have been made available for this purpose during the past year, have been allocated as subsidies to RDP-related projects involving, for example, restoration, according to NMC director George Hofmeyr.

When freelance journalist, Lisel Krige, spoke to him in Cape Town, Mr Hofmeyr pointed out that the Council was at present, amongst other things, working on the house in Johannesburg where President Mandela had practised as an attorney before going to prison. Likewise, the Kimberley house of Sol Plaatje, who was the first secretary of the ANC, had also been proclaimed a National Monument. Furthermore the Council is in the process of both erecting a memorial in Johannesburg and of proclaiming the grave of Enoch Sontonga, composer of *Nkosi Sikelel' i Afrika*.

Such actions will undoubtedly be welcomed by all conservationists who have been feeling uncomfortable about the selective approach of the NMC in the past. There are, however, strong indications that there is still prejudice in the ranks of many South Africans about the profile of the body and its criteria. An encouraging prospect, which will allow for submissions and proposals that could be considered for the drafting of new, broader legislation, is that the NMC is looking at the establishment of a Forum for this purpose.

In a statement, Mr Hofmeyr says the NMC "wishes to establish a FORUM to review existing national legislation and draft new legislation on heritage resources conservation".

"A revision of the present National Monuments Act (Act No. 28 of 1969, as amended) has become essential since it contains many shortcomings and is partly based on outdated conservation principles."

The statement goes on to say that the Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Dr Ben Ngubane, had approved the proposed forum, which would lead to the redrafting of existing legislation with the assistance of working committees.

The new legislation would include the following aspects:

- The built environment, including individual buildings and structures, national monuments, immovable property on the Register and conservation areas;
- Movable cultural objects such as antiques;
- Archaeological and palaeontological sites and objects, including shipwrecks; and
- Graves of victims of conflict.

Future

The establishment of the forum was in line with recommendations which had, according to Arts and Culture chief director Themba Wakashe, been tabled by ACTAG (Arts and Culture Task Group) that the National Monuments Council should be given a much broader brief.

"Our forum would naturally need to take note of the contents of the ACTAG report and white paper – and keep in touch with it," Mr Hofmeyr said.

During a visit to the NMC in February by Dr Von Droste, Director of Unesco's World Heritage Centre in Paris who is responsible for the evaluation and approval of World Heritage Sites, Mr Hofmeyr said though there is a perception that the NMC is mainly involved with national monuments, there are in fact ten conservation categories which fall under its jurisdiction. They are:

- Fossil sites and objects;
- All archaeological objects and sites;
- More than 4 000 objects, properties and sites;
- Conservation areas;
- A wide range of structures or objects older than 50 years;
- A wide range of antiques;
- Cultural treasures, where any moveable object is of unique national interest;
- In cases of imminent demolition or uncertainty about the future of an object of a national character, the NMC can provisionally declare it for a maximum of five years;
- The register of conservation-worthy properties which do not necessarily qualify as national monuments, but serve as an important planning tool; and
- An estimated 60 000 war graves are automatically protected. Most of these are associated with the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902), but the National Monuments Council is investigating the possibility of including certain graves of those who died in conflict or the Struggle.

Inclusive

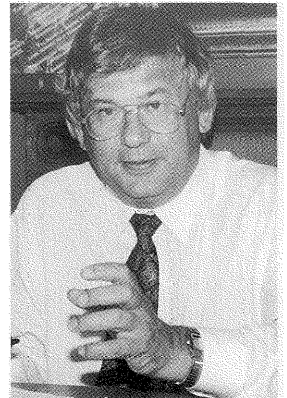
The most important prerequisite is that something of truly historic value should not be ignored or overlooked for political reasons. "A few years ago there were demands that the so-called colonial history and heritage should be ignored, but fortunately the tide is turning," Mr Hofmeyr said.

"There seems to be agreement that the conservation base should rather be broadened than narrowed down."

With a new council and new legislation, one would hopefully reach a definition of national cultural heritage which would be much more inclusive. "We are still involved in a process of introspection on various management levels," he said.

Though there is an imbalance as far as existing national monuments are concerned, it should be remembered that conservation was, after all, originally a Eurocentric concept, Mr Hofmeyr said. For the first time it is now possible, with national co-operation, to look at conservation in a broader sense.

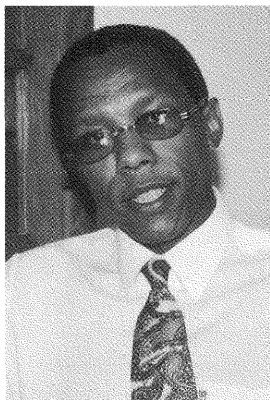
He was optimistic about the future of conservation in South Africa: "We feel heritage conservation will be the overall winner in the end."



*Mr George Hofmeyr
Director
National Monuments
Council*

Conservation – quo vadis?

A whole new outlook on conservation is on the cards for South Africa, reports Lisel Krige. It entails a policy that will deal with the broad concept of heritage, instead of focusing on monuments only.



Mr Themba Wakashe
Chief Director: Arts
and Culture
Department of Arts,
Culture, Science and
Technology

The Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology had set its sights on the presentation of the white paper on this issue by the end of March this year, said chief director Themba Wakashe.

A report evolving from a process of evaluation by the appointed Arts and Culture Task Group (ACTAG), was tabled in July last year. This report, resulting in the white paper, concerned the “broader heritage” of South Africa.

Explaining this, Mr Wakashe said recommendations had been tabled that the National Monuments Council should be given a much broader brief – to be able to deal with more than just monuments.

“The National Monuments Council is looking at establishing a forum to investigate the broadening of legislation,” he said. Not only would the possibility of amended legislation be looked at, but also the future of conservation in general and the possibility of a broader base for the NMC.

Profile

Outlining the prospects pertaining to the conservation of architectural heritage in particular, Mr Wakashe said one would have to move away from the prevailing tendency to conserve mostly Eurocentric and Cape Dutch architecture. “We are looking at a way of saying that South Africa’s heritage is much broader than it seems to be. We need to revisit the concept,” he said.

According to Mr Wakashe, existing major role players in conservation, like the Simon van der Stel Foundation, would also have a role to play in the future dispensation. However, he said, the profile of personnel involved in the structures and institutions which were concerned with conservation, would have to change in order to serve a broader purpose.

Bodies like the Foundation, with the kind of expertise it is known for, could make a wonderful input, said Mr Wakashe.

The question of how to profile South African heritage within the new political dispensation, was very important – and it was for “everybody”, Mr Wakashe said.

Guidance was needed on three levels in the profiling process:

- On ministerial level in terms of the policy announcement;
- From conservation bodies themselves – as they know the technicalities involved;
- Communities have to be involved: not only by identifying what they felt should be conserved, but also in the follow-up action.

An excellent example of this kind of self-

driven action, is displayed by the conservation body of Genadendal, which originated as a mission station in the eighteenth century.

A whole collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century structures on the Historic Church Square, as well as authentic artefacts – all collected from within the boundaries of the settlement, are being conserved and maintained through local initiative.

Though a large number of buildings on the Genadendal Church Square have been declared national monuments, the community has never managed to obtain funds from central government ranks for the restoration and preservation thereof.

As the local conservationists were convinced and then in fact had proof, that their treasure was of national interest, they resisted the allocation of Genadendal as an “Own Affairs” responsibility when the classification had still been valid. This led to the inception of self-driven fund-raising campaigns, which have enabled the community to take care of its own architectural heritage – albeit on a shoestring.

Mission stations in particular were the kind of conservable heritage he was interested in, Mr Wakashe said. “Many of them have been neglected, whilst having played an important role in the education of our country’s new and current leadership.”

According to Mr Wakashe, another question that arose with regard to architectural conservation in the broader sense, is that of our role in terms of our relationship with the international community.

“What can we learn from the international community in terms of blending the new and the old? This is something we should start defining,” Mr Wakashe said.

As a typical example of this practice, he mentioned the additions that had been made to the Louvre in Paris – where the various stages of architecture had been blended masterfully.

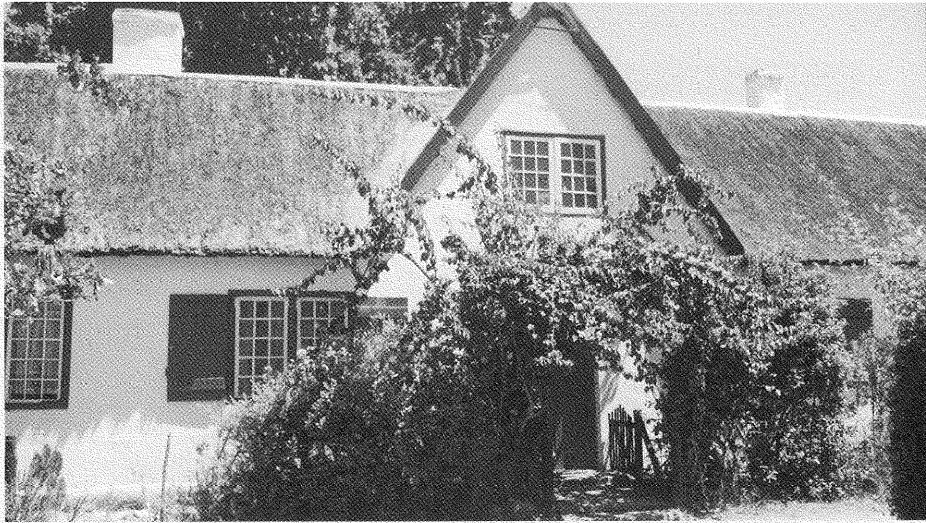
“The context we are faced with,” Mr Wakashe said, “is that we will have to bring together the historic Cape Dutch architecture and the new heritage which will be identified.”

Then there are also the gaps which would be impossible to fill, like District Six – of which only about four buildings remain. Sophiatown is another example.

The time has come for a more far-sighted, almost “preventative” type of conservation in South Africa.

Church Square, Genadendal ►
Excellent examples of restored buildings

PICTURES: LISEL KRIGE



Mission settlements in the Cape

Moravian mission settlements not only incorporate environments and buildings which are of cultural and historical significance but collectively also constitute a resource base from which to address some of the development needs of poor rural communities.

By Lucien le Grange
architect/urban planner
and senior lecturer
Cape Town

In this article the writer, who has been involved in conservation planning and the restoration of buildings on Moravian mission settlements for the past 12 years, discusses the limitations of current development. Approaches and attempts at offering a possible way by which to implement holistic development in mission settlements are suggested.

Pressures for development

New physical development on Moravian mission settlements has in general occurred at two levels, namely the modernisation of houses by individual occupants and the upgrading of infrastructure by local or regional authorities. Upgrading was first initiated by the Church in the 1970s when limited electrification projects were introduced to Genadendal and Elim. During the mid 1980s large-scale infrastructure upgrading came to be implemented by state agencies in Mamre and Genadendal.

While this new development was of course essential to deal with problems of poor infrastructure, overcrowding and the need for new community facilities, it was often insensitively implemented. In each case the scale, materials and form of such new interventions have often led to the transformation of historic precincts; new settlement patterns were introduced, roads were widened which changed traditional streetscapes and new house types were introduced, as was the case in Genadendal and Mamre.

More recently Moravian mission settlements, like many other urban townships, have become the focus for infrastructure upgrading projects linked to the RDP and as informed by the needs of local inhabitants. Typically co-ordinated by regional services councils these projects, such as at Elim and Wupperthal, include water supply/reticulation services, new sewage disposal systems and improvements to roads. As with upgrading projects in the 1980s, these current developments

pose similar threats to the historic character of settlements, especially in the more preserved environments of Elim and Wupperthal. They are currently being monitored and great care needs to be taken to ensure that the character of buildings and vernacular environments are protected.

Current approaches

Current development approaches on the Moravian mission settlements are primarily limited to infrastructure upgrading. As elsewhere in the country, the concept of development (in terms of priorities) is confined to the provision of water, sewage disposal, electrification and the upgrading of roads. While these services are indeed necessary to the well being of any community, other socio-economic development programmes are often overlooked or not given immediate priority. Accompanying this conception of development is an 'engineering-design' approach which has in certain instances remained insensitive to the issues and elements that make up the mission vernacular landscape. In general, limitations of these current planning approaches can be characterised by:

- the absence of a holistic developmental approach;
- a failure to recognise the complexity of mission settlement environments and the broader cultural landscape;
- the failure to recognise dominant settlement patterns;
- an ignorance of, or an unwillingness to seek expert advice; and
- the application of inappropriate standards.

In addition to these, a number of more general problems further limits the present approach to development. In certain instances the authority of the central church administration – which could at least have given conservation guidance – has been ignored in the initiation of such projects. In other cases planning and engineering consultants have failed to acknowledge the historical value of these settlements. Often there has also been an absence of an integrated design approach between the various disciplines. In terms of land-tenure, development proposals are typically predicated on individual free-hold title which poses major problems for the Moravian Church in a context where traditional communal systems of tenure have prevailed for nearly two hundred years.

These shortcomings have caused unnecessary destruction and procedural difficulties in a number of instances. In certain cases such as at Mamre and Genadendal, upgrading projects

Mission Settlement	Mission Centre - Restoration of Buildings	Settlement - Infrastructure Upgrading	Settlement - Restoration of Vernacular Houses	Conservation Guidelines in existence	Declared Conservation Area(s)
Genadendal *	In progress	In progress	None	No	No
Mamre *	No	Completed	None	No	No
Enon (Including Bersheba) *	No	In progress	None	No	No
Elim	In progress	In progress	None/Pend	Yes	Yes
Wupperthal	No	In progress	None	No	No
Clarkson	No	Limited/Pend	None	No	No
Wittewater	No	Limited	None	No	No
Goedverwacht	Limited	Limited	None	No	No

* Moravian Missions where the church now has control only of the mission centre area.

Table 1. Summary of Conservation and Infrastructure Upgrading work in selected Moravian Mission settlements, 1996

have left an indelible blemish on the historic character of the settlements. In other cases the issue of environmental and architectural conservation was only raised after infrastructure upgrading had already been designed and approved of in principle by local communities. Under such circumstances advocacy for the conservation of a regional architectural heritage is often conceived of by local communities as being anti-developmental. This belated inclusion of conservation concerns can also lead to delays in the implementation of desperately needed accommodation and services.



Traditional Houses, Elim, 1994

Sustainability

The issue of creating sustainable development has not been considered enough for in almost every mission settlement where development has only involved the provision/upgrading of infrastructure, the following typical problems have become manifest:

- a lack of town or local government management skills;
- the absence of skills and resources for the maintenance of infra-structure, eg launching of sustainable income generating projects; and
- the inability of all sections of the local community to pay for service charges.

Conservation, and development for that matter, is of very little significance under these circumstances if viable income generating opportunities are not created. In order to avoid fostering a culture of 'entitlement' and to restore a sense of dignity amongst these poor rural communities it is important that issues relating to their broader socio-economic advancement and sustainability be addressed.

Future considerations

Given this experience within Moravian mission settlements it is evident that the conservation of the cultural and physical environment cannot be addressed in isolation from a range of other developmental problems. One way to deal with the issue is through an integrated planning process which needs to deal with a range of environmental problems as well as with questions of community empowerment and sustainability.

In terms of economic planning issues, the process should address the economic use of land holdings – including agriculture (small scale and commercial), forestry, small scale industry, arts and crafts activities and tourism. In addition it should deal with the development of social services, namely the provision of services such as health, education, housing, infrastructure and community facilities. Mission settlements could once again assume a regional service-function role. Furthermore it needs to be concerned with the management of natural resources, particularly water resources. Within this approach the question of land tenure also needs to be looked at creatively. In the present national context

where tenure relationships are critical in determining access to funding resources it is important to find ways by which to accommodate individual forms of tenure while still preserving aspects of the communal ownership of land. In attempting to deal with the current development of Clarkson, the application of the new Communal Property Association Bill offers possible solutions for dealing with the complex issue of communal land tenure on mission settlements.

By its very nature integrated planning also allows for consideration of the various elements that make up the complex cultural landscape of mission settlements. Insofar as it cannot be concerned with isolated physical problems it needs to take into account the natural environment and agricultural land that exists in settlements when embarking upon any new development.

In terms of the built environment within mission settlements – in both the mission centres and within the residential areas themselves – an integrated planning and conservation strategy should include the following:

- the declaration of mission settlements (or parts thereof) as 'conservation areas';
- the acceptance and implementation of appropriate guidelines (including 'model' plans for additions and alterations to dominant house types);
- the establishment of local conservation trust funds (as in the case of the Elim Conservation Fund, established to assist poorer members of the community to restore and repair their dwellings);

All of the above mentioned elements that constitute an integrated development approach need then to be considered in the upgrading, modernisation and conservation of Moravian (and other) mission settlements. It is an approach that should be adopted by the Moravian Church and all its respective mission settlement communities if they wish to preserve their rich cultural heritage.

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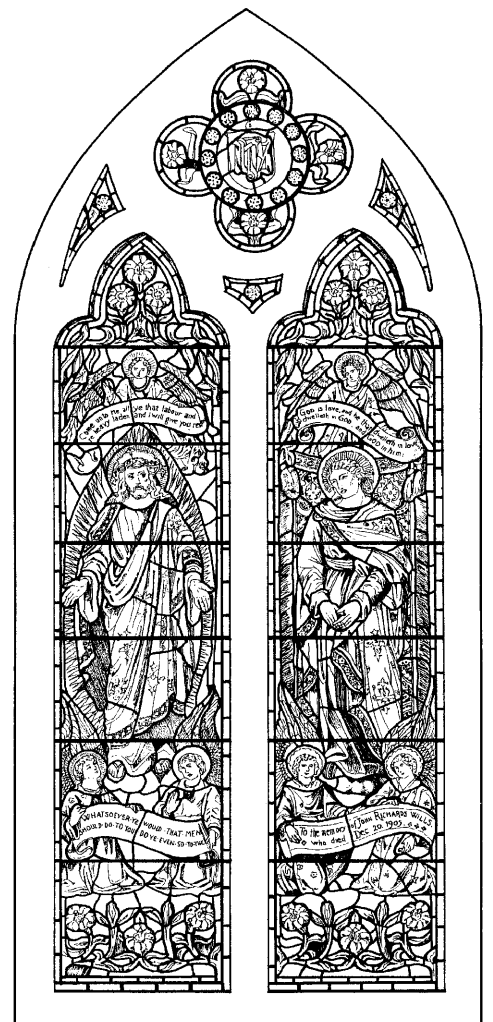
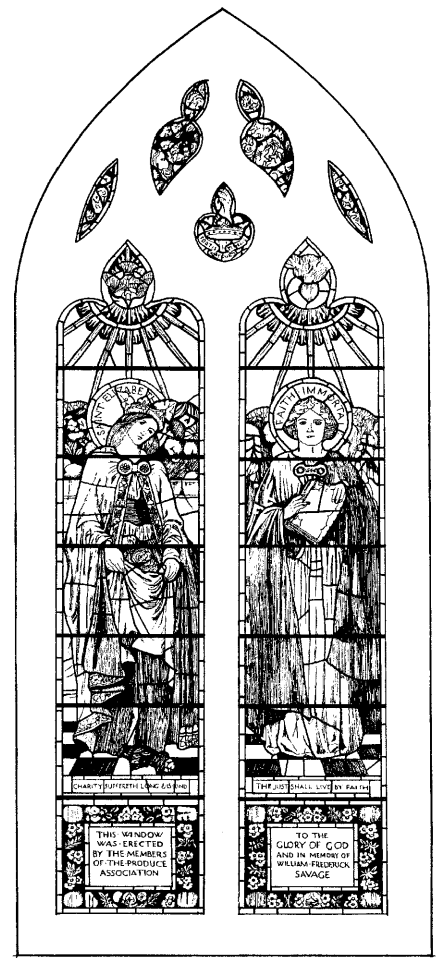
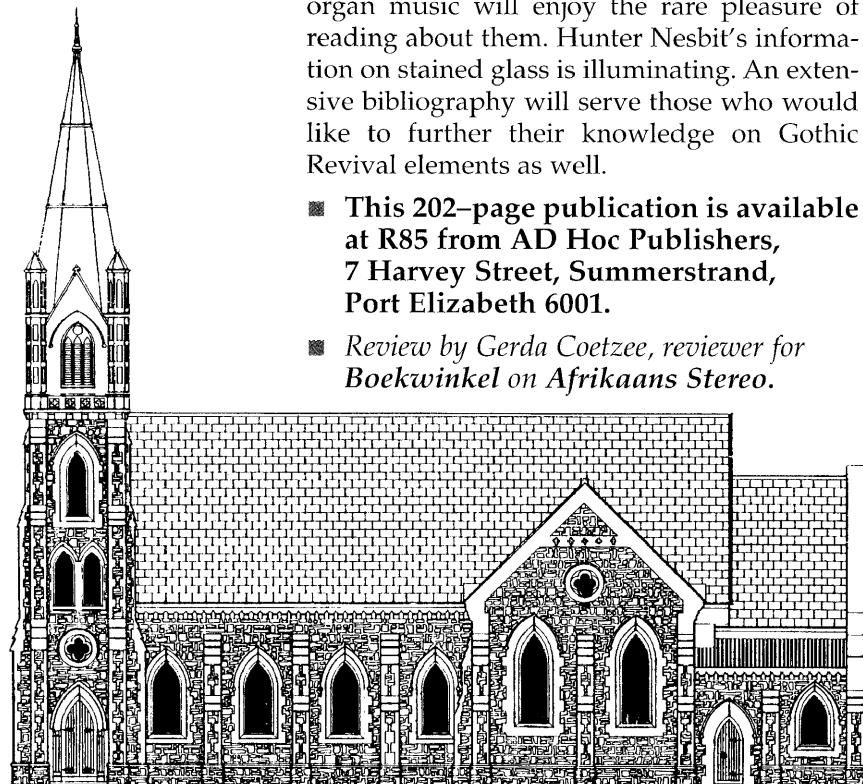
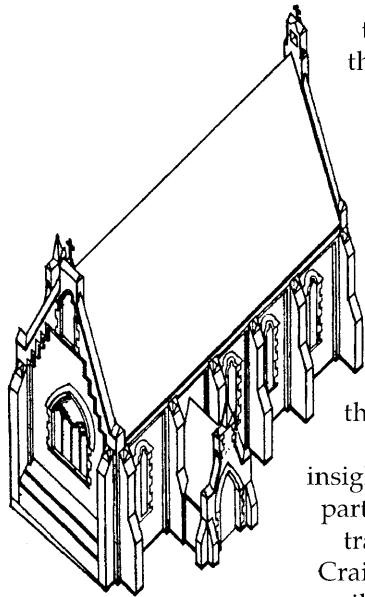
EIGHT BEAUTIFUL GOTHIC REVIVAL CHURCHES OF PORT ELIZABETH, by Albrecht Herholdt, in association with Estelle Steenkamp and Hunter Nesbit, will interest many more readers than only those resident in Port Elizabeth.

The publication gives in its introduction, background on the development of the Church in South Africa; in a chapter on architecture it discusses the development of Gothic Revival architecture and a whole chapter enlightens the reader on church furniture. The author scooped an expert on organs, Estelle Steenkamp and an expert on stained glass, Hunter Nesbit, to write these subjects. Church bells are also not forgotten.

Knowledgeable on these subjects, the reader can now explore the Gothic Revival churches of the city with insight. The book is generously illustrated. Of particular pleasure are the drawings, illustrating the introduction to each chapter. Craig Billson will be able to make a living as an illustrator if the architectural profession fails him.

The book should give pleasure to conservationists, and supply architects with a mine of information. Those interested in organs and organ music will enjoy the rare pleasure of reading about them. Hunter Nesbit's information on stained glass is illuminating. An extensive bibliography will serve those who would like to further their knowledge on Gothic Revival elements as well.

- This 202-page publication is available at R85 from AD Hoc Publishers, 7 Harvey Street, Summerstrand, Port Elizabeth 6001.
- Review by Gerda Coetzee, reviewer for *Boekwinkel on Afrikaans Stereo*.



Taking care of the family silver...

Not only must state buildings be properly maintained and conserved, but they must be promoted as part of the bringing together of this nation, so that a new future can be forged out of yesterday's heritage. Whether it is recognised or not, this is the only heritage we have. We must build on it, refine it and put it to such use that those who will come after us will be grateful for the generation of today.

Although South Africa's history does not date to antiquity, the country has a noble heritage in the buildings built through the years. Time is mentioned to put into perspective how long the Department of Public Works has been about.

Since the building of the Castle in Cape Town after Jan van Riebeeck had landed there, Public Works, not quite in its current guise, has provided and commissioned public buildings for many clients and users. This does make Public Works the oldest Government Department in South Africa. It is therefore also relevant that the department is charged with the safekeeping of some of the oldest, imposing and culturally rich man-made edifices. These have survived onslaughts from the elements and more dangerously, man.

The variety of buildings collected over the years cover a range of works. The most magnificent of these include the Castle, Groote Schuur, Tuynhuis, Union Buildings, Palace of Justice, Appeal Court and Libertas, to name but a few. These buildings reflect the richness of the past, but also point towards the future as they play an active role in today's society. They serve the government with much needed accommodation and act as drawcard for visitors and tourists.

These structures are but a few examples of buildings that are monuments and well known. The question is, what about the buildings in our countryside, gems in their own right, which do not attract the same amount of attention and money. These buildings usually form the centre of small towns and reflect the use of local construction materials and construction methods. Each of these has its own story to tell and is in its own right worthy of conservation.

Some smaller places like Hanover, Heidelberg, Kroonstad and many others can boast with examples that grace the countryside. Police stations, magistrate's courts and gaols can be found throughout the land. Add to these, schools, houses, post offices, hospitals, military bases, and museums and the full picture become known. Some of the strangest examples are a Jewish

Synagogue, a variety of blockhouses, houses in the Knysna woods and even a number of overseas buildings that are monuments abroad.

The main concern about these buildings is that they have to be adaptable to new and varied uses. This is where a distinction must be made between preservation and conservation, because of the way in which governments need to adapt their buildings.

Preservation is to keep intact without change, whereas conservation is to keep the

*By George Zondag
principal architect
Public Works*

*Union Buildings
Pretoria*



building in use with the necessary changes designed to ensure its viability – both points of view are valid, but the second appears more applicable to government buildings.

*"We shape our buildings and
then our buildings shape us"*

–Sir Winston Churchill

The adoption of the second approach has led to the general belief that the government does not maintain the buildings in its care. This cannot be further from the truth and can be put in perspective by looking at PWD's total responsibility.

Expensive to run

Public Works has in the region of 69 000 buildings in its care, of which those listed as monu-

*Natal Museum
Pietermaritzburg*

ments plus those recognized as worthy of conservation do not number more than a few thousand. These buildings are more expensive to run and maintain, leading to other problems.

Government is not immune to the many problems of the day. It is difficult to compare with countries more advanced in aspects of restoration, but to reach an informed departure point, comparisons have to be made. The Secretary of State in Britain said: "The government is not immune to the problems – financial and other – that face all owners of historic buildings, but should set the best possible example in caring for its historic buildings."

This is so much more true in the new South Africa where the government of the day has many other priorities. However, this does not remove its responsibility to preserve the public heritage.

Policy document

Public Works is drawing up a policy document with a view of forming a coherent and well-directed approach to the historical buildings in its care. Some factors that have to be considered are:

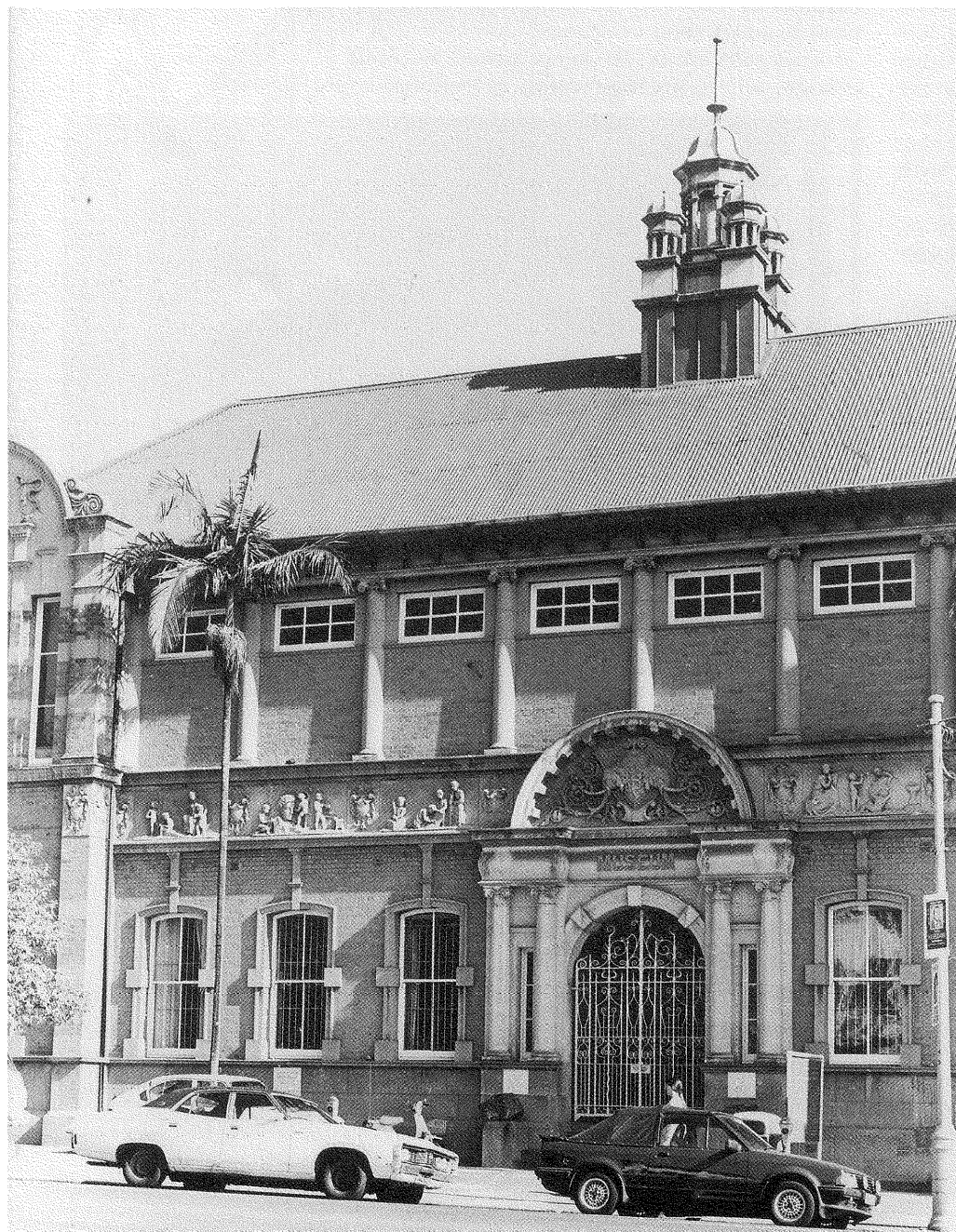
- There are buildings in government care that may be worthy of listing, but have not been listed. Where such a building is likely to be affected by a development proposal, the government should consult with the NMC and other interest groups. This is a two-way process, where both parties should discuss the problem and search for a suitable and acceptable solution.

An example where this process has failed is the Palace of Justice in Pretoria. Built in the period 1896 - 1902, with a delay during the Second Boer War, the building suffered immense abuse with the addition to the north façade of an additional structure that blocked the original façade and beautiful entrance. The listing of this building was a matter of long debate between the government and the NMC. The outcome of the process was that a compromise could not be reached and in this instance the system for the conservation of such a building failed, luckily not with dire consequences.

For the Palace of Justice everything has eventually worked out for the better. The intrusive north wing has been demolished and the full restoration of the rest of the buildings is being finalised.

*Shrouded in secrecy for seventy years...
The Palace of Justice in Pretoria ►
now stands proud after the intrusive
north wing has been demolished.*

PICTURES: CLIFF GREEN





There is therefore a clear path ahead – closer collaboration between the government and national conservation interest groups needs to take place. All parties have a broad base of knowledge and experience that have to be wisely put to use. Our heritage is not that big that it can be squandered, and especially not the buildings in government care.

■ A frequent case of bad restoration is the demand that a historical building should be made suitable for purposes for which it was not designed. Government is more often than not guilty of this, mainly at the request of its clients. When the new purpose is not too far removed from the original purpose, all is fine.

*Eureka Factory,
Pretoria
PAG Drill Hall, P.E.*



The adaptation can be made, however, it must be remembered that Public Works is the only legal owner of the buildings. A work of art always has two owners and the other owner is the moral owner, that is, the whole community – born and unborn – because all works of art are part of the National Heritage. It is therefore imperative that a transparent, structured approach should be adopted for the conservation of buildings.

■ Where these buildings cannot be adopted for alternative uses, they should be offered to other government departments. If this

fails, they should be put out to open tender, and sold to the highest bidder. The demolition of historic structures must only be seen as absolutely the last resort and only when it can be proved that all steps have been taken to retain the building and a new use found for it.

■ Many old skills are dying out. We need desperately to train our own craftsmen so that these trades do not get lost. For some aspects of restoration, tradesmen have to be imported from overseas at a huge cost. Training is included in the scope of the National Public Works Programme that forms an integral part of the task of Public Works. Therefore certain dying crafts like stonemasonry, carpentry, specialist painting, etc must be promoted and encouraged. Public Works can play a vital role in keeping alive these essential trades needed for the proper conservation of our heritage.

■ There is also the question of other state departments playing a more important role in the upkeep of the historical buildings. This would be a question of education and proper communication. They must be kept liable for the damage done and no changes to the buildings should be allowed without Public Works giving the go-ahead.

■ A register would have to be set up with supporting documentation about the buildings in state ownership. This list would have to be kept up to date and be freely available to anybody that wishes to look into certain aspects. This could be done in close cooperation with the NMC. Much of the documentation is available, but must be compiled as a cohesive register.

These are but a few broad outlines towards a Public Works conservation policy that still has to be fully developed.

■ The author, together with Cliff Green and Susan Pyke, forms a small group responsible for the historical buildings in the care of Public Works. They are consulted on the various aspects relating to restoration and conservation.

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Wat is 'n lewende monument?

"With Northwards restored to something akin to its original form, the question "for what purpose?" needs to be addressed. The answer is two-fold. First it must be used. Furthermore, the interested public should have access. In this way one could talk of a living monument rather than a museum."

Neil Viljoen – JCE Trust

Wat maak 'n argitek met so iets in sy opdragbrief? Is daar ooit nog plek in ons huidige situasie vir monumente? Dit is van die vroeë wat eerste by my opgekom het en waaraan ek vandag nog dink as ek die goudgeel verligte romantiese kasteel daar bo-op die donker rand sien uitstyg.

Behoeftes aan opheffing

Johannesburg was teen die eeuwending nog maar 'n blikkiesdorp met duisende armes, weinig beskawing, geen kultuur en... 'n nypende tekort aan vrouens, veral vrouens van statuur. In dié tyd het daar 'n man geleef, ene John Lace, aantreklik en ryk.

Toe kom sy uit die Karoo, die skone en wilde Jossie Brink en maak groot manne se knie swak net waar sy kom. Maar die romanse met John het alle verwagting oortref en vanaf Johannesburg tot in Londen en terug gegolf met hartverskeuring, verleiding, huwelike, skeisake, hertrou ensovoorts.

Na die ergste verby was sien ons vir John, nou met die nuwe van, Dale Lace (deur haar uitgedink) en Jossie, nou met die naam José Dale Lace, lus vir nuwe dinge. Tydelik het hulle in Doornfontein gewoon, maar dit was nie vir haar goed genoeg nie. Florence Phillips (later Lady Florence) het 'n kort ruk gelede al te perd die berg net noord van die dorp verken en van daar die asemrowende uitstyg tot by die Magaliesberge ontdek. Dit het die gesogte Parktown Rif geword waar al die myn-magnate, die sogenaamde "Rand Lords", hulle mettertyd sou vestig.

En hier het John 'n pragtige perseel van nege hektaar bekom, groot genoeg om 'n landgoed met perdestalle, 'n melkery, groentetuine, landerye en boorde aan te lê. José het gesorg dat hy dié argitek, Sir Herbert Baker, aanstel om die geboue te ontwerp.

Vir die opsigtershuis by die ingangshek waarin die jong paar voorlopig sou woon, asook vir die luukse perdestal het Baker sy "Kaaps-Hollandse" styl aangewend moontlik om haar Kaapse herkoms te weerspieël. Maar vir die hoofhuis, die eintlike Northwards, Herbert Baker se eerste groot opdrag in Johannesburg en dan ook sommer sy grootste huis, het hy al sy ontwerpvernuft aangewend. Hy het dus sy geliefkoosde "Arts and Crafts Movement" tot 'n vroeë hoogtepunt laat uitblom. Maar weereens het hy ook in die hoofhuis Kaaps-Hollandse elemente in die hoofgewel gebruik en José het 'n binneshuisversierder, ene mnr. Clark, aangestel om uitdrukking aan haar eie persoonlike styl te gee wat ietwat meer Victoriaans

of, soos sy gesê het "Hollywood styl" was.

Op hierdie manier het die huis nie net nog 'n tipiese Baker geword nie maar 'n huis met karakter, waarin Arts and Crafts en Engelse landelike argitektuur die Transvaalse hoëveldse ruimtes ontmoet en waarin die Kaapse kultuur en Johannesburgse kosmopolitaanse gees mekaar die hand reik. Hoewel die lewenslustige en sportiewe José nie op kulturele vlak met Florence Phillips kon kers vashou nie, het sy haar met hierdie huis beslis getroef.

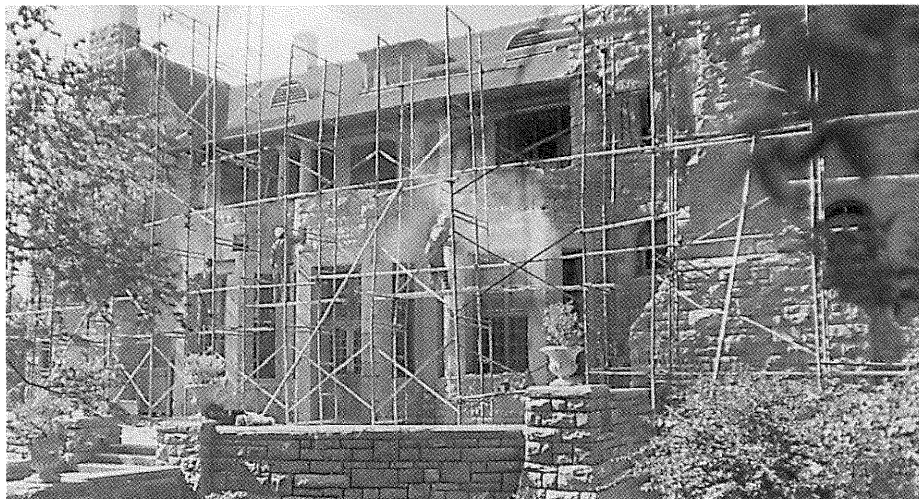
Sulke hoogtepunte bly gewoonlik nie lank staande nie en na sewe jaar van uitspattige sosiale lewe op hierdie barre rotsrif het John Dale Lace se fortuin asook die huis in vlamme opgegaan. Herbert Baker se vrou het hom glo in die nag wakker gemaak en die vlamme gewys met die woorde "daar is waarskynlik weer vir jou werk". Dit sou egter anders kom.

Statieg gesinshuis

Die ruïnes het nog gesmeul toe mnr. George Albu (later Sir George) op die toneel verskyn het. Eintlik was hy al 'n ruk op die agtergrond waar hy die krummels en reste van die ander voortvarende pioniers en Rand Lords opgetel en skoongemaak het om hulle dan sinvol in sy eie belang aan te wend. Hy het maar net vir die regte oomblik gewag. George Albu was 'n ander tipe persoon, sober, 'n goeie besigheidsman, 'n restoureerder en ... die stigter van Gencor. Hy was ook 'n man wat van ander se foute geleer het. So kon hy baie van John Dale Lace leer. Maar die belangrikste twee lesse vir huisbou was die volgende: Moenie dat jou vrou met jou op hol gaan nie en... pasop vir die gevaarlike kombinasie van 'n vrou met verbeelding en dié argitek. Hy kies dus 'n redelik profiel-

Deur Albrecht Holm
argitek
Pretoria

Northwards : onder konstruksie by restourasie 1995. Klipmure word gewas en voegwerk word oorgedoen.





Erker in die danssaal soos Sir Herbert Baker dit ontwerp het, en herlewing in fynste detail – beligting en balustrade



lose argitek, Theophile Schaerer, 'n Switser, wat nie sy eie stempel wou afdruk nie maar eerder gedoen het wat Albu van hom wou hê. Julia Albu, die kleindogter van Sir George het vir skrywer gesê sy dink dat haar oupa vir Schaerer gekies het omdat hy Duitssprekend was soos hyself en omdat hy hom jammer gekry het. Nogal vreemde kriteria om 'n argitek te kies.

Albu was ook die leier van die groep mynagnate wat nie met Rhodes se imperialistiese strewes assosieer het nie maar ZAR gesind was. Politiek het egter nie sy lewe oorheers nie. Hy was 'n man wat na waarde vir geld gesoek het en dit ook gekry het. Hy en sy vrou Gertrud, het baie kinders gehad. Daarom moes hy die reeds aansienlike huis ook nog vergroot en hom meer prakties inrig. Hy laat dus 'n groot eetkamer en twee verdiepings met slaapkamers aanbou aangesien eet en slaap die

Suidelike aantrede tot Northwards en manjifieke ingangsportaal



twee belangrikste funksies vir 'n gesinshuis is. Maar terselfdertyd was hy 'n man wat kwaliteit raakgesien het en dit waardeer het.

Hy het al die belangrike kwaliteite van Baker se ontwerp soos byvoorbeeld die groot danssaal en die ruim portale en woonvertreke asook die hele swier van die uitleg en tuinrye bewaar. Omdat hy 'n streng sobere lewe gely het, het hy die jolige biljartkamer van die Dale Laces in 'n rustige studeerkamer laat verander.

In Pa se voetspore

Die sakebelange, die huis en die titel het op George Albu se seun, Sir George junior, oorgegaan. Foto's wat uit daardie tyd dateer wys dat hy feitlik geen verandering aangebring het nie behalwe dat die vertreke ietwat kariger gemeubileer is. Hy het die landgoed ook nog bedryf maar daarby 'n groot aantal wilde diere aangehou om sy kinders te vermaak. In hierdie gedaante het die huis in die Albu-familie gebly tot 1954 waarna dit aan die SAUK verkoop is.

Ons sien dus in hierdie tyd die negatiewe aspekte van blote bewaring sonder ontwikkeling, want alhoewel Albu junior die huis en landgoed onveranderd gelaat het, het die omgewing en omstandighede hom ingehaal en drasties rondom hom verander.

Bestaanstryd

Die jare sestig van hierdie eeu was gekenmerk deur onsimpatieke verandering, nuwigheid en ontwikkeling in die gees van modernisme. Northwards het ook nie ongeskonde gebly nie want die nuwe snelweg het dwarsdeur die koppie gesny en die ou hekgebou en hek in die stof laat byt. Dit was die tyd toe bewaringsgesindes dikwels 'n verlore stryd gevoer het om erfenisbates net solank te red totdat die besluitnemers òf tot ander insigte kom òf deur mense met 'n ander gesindheid afgelos word.

Die rede waarom die SAUK Northwards bekom het was dan ook nie om dit te bewaar nie maar wel



omdat die prominente rotskoppie 'n ideale plek sou wees om die nuwe uitsaaitoring op te rig. Die Parktown Heritage Trust onder leiding van mev. Flo Bird verdien om hier genoem te word want die fisiese redding van die gebou is hulle verdienste. Maar bewaar was hy nog nie. Hy moes nog eers deur die meule van verval, aanpassing en "praktiese aanwending" as koshuis en later as kantoorgebou gaan wat ernstige littekens op hom nagelaat het. Die pragtige stalle is in dié tyd gesloop. Na die SAUK het die TPA en uiteindelik die JCE Trust die eienaars geword.

So baie gebruikers verniel gewoonlik 'n huis, en die huidige restaurasie van Gencor was dus nie net 'n oulike item op 'n wenslys nie, maar 'n noodsaaklikheid.

Tweede herlewing

Op grond daarvan dat Sir George Albu senior die oorspronklike stigter van General Mining was, het die huidige opvolger, Gencor Beperk, 'n langtermyn huurpag oor die gebou bekom en die multi-miljoen randse restaurasiewerk aangepak met die doel om 'n "lewende monument" daar te stel.

Restourasie is 'n wetenskap met hoë tegnologie en 'n kuns in een. Die kuns lê veral in die intuïsie wat nodig is om die verskillende en soms teenstrydige navorsingsresultate teen mekaar op te weeg en te evalueer en daarvan 'n sinvolle geheel te vorm. Die wetenskap lê veral in die noudesette navorsing na die geskiedenis en dit wat die verskillende rolspelers met die gebou wou bereik en uitdruk asook in strukturele ondersoek.

Die tegnologie lê in die vakkundige aanwending van ou en nuwe materiale en metodes. As 'n voorbeeld kan die geologiese speurwerk genoem word wat gebruik is om die gepaste vervangingsandsteen te vind wat oor jare presies so sal verkleur soos die bestaandes. Hiervoor is skyfies van verskillende sandsteenmonsters tot een mikron dikte (dit wil sê tot deursigtigheid) geslyp en min-

eralogies onder 'n mikroskoop ontleed.

Daarby is restourasie 'n spanpoging van argitek, bourekenaar, ingenieur, geoloë, ingenieurs, kultuurhistoriese navorsers, binneshuisversierders, bouaannemer, onderaannemers en ambagsmanne en uiteindelik is 'n belangrike skakel in die ketting, die bouheer of kliënt.

Die restaurasiebeleid wat argitek Holm Jordaan en Holm opgestel het, het die historiese agtergrond met geraadpleegde literatuur, persoonlikhede en hulle invloed op die gebou tesame met omgewingsaspekte en uiteindelik die kliënt se opdrag en wense asook praktiese aspekte in ag geneem en tot die volgende aanbevelings gekom:

Aanbevelings

- Tegniese, vakkundige restourasie moet gedoen word aan klipwerk, vensters, dak, geute ens.
- In breë trekke moet die gebou binne en buite sover moontlik na die toestand en afwerking soos in

Danssaal met skildery van José Dale Lace tot Baker-glorie herstel; onder, balkon in danssaal, en Northwards rig 'n uitnodiging na die bal.



Nuwe lig op 'n ou saak

Belighting is een van daardie areas waar wetenskap en kuns in noodwendige spanning saamwerk. Die gebaande weg vir belighting is reeds wankelrig aangesien die bestaande riglyne slegs objektief en rekenkundig van aard is. Wanneer histories korrek of aanvaarbaar as element by die gewone kriteria gevoeg word verdwyn self daardie riglyne.

Belightings-ontwerp raak vele aspekte van enige projek. Afgesien van die basiese vereistes en regulasies vir veiligheid en minimum ligvlakke, is sekere aspekte van besondere belang vir restourasie projekte.

Vroegtydige kennis van die voornemens om oorspronklike meubels, kunswerke en ornamente in die gebou terug te plaas is noodsaaklik aangesien dit die keuse van lampe en lig armature direk beïnvloed. Alle materiale is UV- en hitte-sensitief en feitlik alle lampe is 'n bron van beide.

Afgesien van die UV straling is daar 'n ander dilemma. Die oorspronklike gebruikers het met veel minder lig as ons oor die weg gekom. Die oorspronklike kleure en ontwerpe, wat met veel tyd en koste nagevors is, was nooit in soveel lig gesien nie. Nou moet daar besluit word of die kleure en teksture moet lyk soos die oorspronklike of soos hulle werklik is.

Belightings-tegnologie het gelukkig ontwikkel, en die wye keuse van lampe en armature maak die meeste deure oop. Dit is veral die onlangse verskyning van kompakte ontladingslampe met getroue daglig kleure en optiese vesel tegnologie wat die onlangse onmoontlike, binne ons bereik plaas.

Heelwat antwoorde word deur die nuutste tegnologie vir restourasie-vernante werk gelewer. Die mees suksesvolle restourasie-belighting strategie is om soveel moontlik van die oorspronklike belighting te restoureer en dan met replikas aan te vul. Wanneer addisionele lig wel benodig word, word die ligbron weggesteek en die lig bereik die area via 'n indirekte roete soos byvoorbeeld plafonne, lig howe, of selfs van buite.

Die illusie dat alles deur die sigbare ligte verlig word werk uitstekend, sonder enige afbreuk aan die periode. Dit verg egter die beste toerusting en besonder deeglike ontwerp, aangesien 'n enkele fluoresseserbuis se flikker die projek kan kelder.

– Urbain du Plessis
U2+3 Imagineering

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Eetkamer gerestoureer na die Albu periode



die tyd van Sir George Albu senior terug restoureer word.

■ Die hoofvertrekke met Baker-invloed is deur Albu feitlik nie verander nie. Hier moet die Baker-inslag en -karakter behou en weer herstel word.

■ Die twee vertrekke met Clark-invloed nl. die "drawing room" en hoofslaapkamer moet sover moontlik na die uitrusting in die Clark-styl herstel word.

■ Die res van die vertrekke en gange (wat hoofsaaklik vir kantore gebruik sal word) moet sover moontlik na die afwerking en kleure van Sir George Albu junior herstel word.

■ Latere toevoegings en veranderings moet verwyder en herstel word.

■ Terreinwerk: Die aantrede en toegang na die gebou is van uiterste belang en behoort volgens die ou roete geneem te word. Daar moet dus 'n pad aan die suidekant van die koppie gemaak word met die oorspronklike hekke aan die begin. 'n Rekonstruksie van die oorspronklike priedel en tuinhuis word voorsien. Plantegroei en tuinluiteg sover as moontlik na die oorspronklike terug gebring te word.

■ Alle dienste soos water, riool, stormwater, elektrisiteit, telefoon, brandweer, verwarming ens. moet herstel en/of deur nuwe toerusting en dienste vervang word.

Met die uitvoering van die restourasiewerk is sover as moontlik die oorspronklike materiaal hergebruik. 'n Gekerfde marmer kaggelmantel wat in vroeër jare uit die gebou verwyder is, is met groot sorgvuldigheid uit sy nuwe posisie in 'n ander huis verwyder en teruggebou in sy oorspronklike plek in die "drawing room" van Northwards. Die restourasie van die ligtoebehore alleen is reeds 'n storie op sy eie. So ook kan daar van die binnenshuisversiering en tot uiteindelik van die tuinluiteg verhandle geskryf word waarby 'n gelukkige fonds baie keer 'n rol gespeel het. In sulke gevalle vra 'n mens jouself dikwels die vraag af wat sou gebeur het as die restourasie van hierdie gebou nog met 'n jaar of wat uitgestel was?

Lewende Monument

Besorgdheid en omgee vir die fyner dinge in die lewe wat dikwels nie vir hulleself kan sorg nie, hierdie besorgdheid en omgee kan ons as die hoogste graad van beskawing en verfyning sien wat enige mens kan bereik. Dit was nog altyd die onderskeiding van die adel. Indien 'n persoon of organisasie nou nog verder gaan en die daad by sy besorgdheid voeg, dan is die resultaat 'n positiese en waardevolle bydrae tot bewaring en tot kultuur in die algemeen. Dit is 'n opheffing van die mensdom, iets wat die mens uitruk uit die negatiewe spiraal van Darwin se teorie van "survival of the fittest".

Indien die gemeenskap so 'n aksie raaksien as 'n goeie daad en dit as 'n noodsaaklikheid aanvoel en met publieke deelname en geesdrif beantwoord, dan kom 'n "lewendende monument" tot stand. Laat dit so met hierdie opheffingspoging van Gencor aan Northwards gebeur!

Restoration of the Old Cape Archives

Anyone walking down Government Avenue on a sunny Cape morning may now delight in the distinctive Edwardian presence of this refurbished and monumental pile and the glinting of the gold leaf on the rooftop finials, writes Cape Town architect Michael J Scurr.

The Old Cape Archives, a National Monument and most prominent architectural landmark in Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town, has now been fully refurbished and restored as the culmination of a two-phase programme commissioned by the Department of Public Works.

The restoration is part of a long-term programme initiated by the PWD during which attention has been deliberately focussed on preserving and revitalising culturally significant buildings throughout South Africa. The completed restoration of the contemporary Union Buildings and the restoration of the Palace of Justice on Church Square, Pretoria, are examples, particularly with regard to similar fine stonework of period detailing. As in the case of the Old Archives, these buildings have also benefited from the guidance of senior PWD architects Cliff Green and Peet Wolmarans.

Architects for the restoration were Rennie and Goddard of Cape Town, who have been involved in such award winning restorations as the East London City Hall, the historic Vergelegen homestead near Somerset West and the National Monuments Council offices in Cape Town.

Following the moving of the Archives to the former Roeland Street gaol site in recent years, the State-owned "Old Cape Archives" has been occupied by the South African Library. This sandstone building, secluded garden and adjoining privately owned stack-room block are now to be fully used for library purposes and will be a welcome and elegant extension to the library headquarters further down Queen Victoria Street. The intention is also to make full use of the grand central domed hall and fine meeting rooms for special exhibition purposes, public lectures and chamber music.

The recently completed Phase 2 restoration follows on the first phase roof-top contract during which the copper dome, green-glazed tiled towers, pitched roofs and the ornate end pavilions complete with fish-scale tiles and coronets were all extensively restored. This work was carried out by Gordon Verhoef & Krause during 1992/1993.

The Phase 2 contract, awarded to Wilson Bayly Holmes-Ovcon, involved the complete refurbishment of the interior, the insertion of

modern services and further and more extensive replacement of and repair to external stonework.

Background

The Old Cape Archives was built in two stages between 1906 and 1913 to serve as the Senate House and administrative offices of the University of the Cape of Good Hope. This examining institution had very close ties at the time with the South African Library and with what is today the University of Cape Town and formed the nucleus of the present Pretoria-based University of South Africa.

The 1906 grand design was won in competition by Messrs Hawke and McKinlay Architects of London. They came to the Cape to carry out the commission and were subsequently also responsible for the stately grey granite Supreme Court further down Queen Victoria Street, as well as for the Johannesburg City Hall and, in association with Percy Walgate, for the nucleus of the UCT Rondebosch Campus. The fine interior marble paving, crisp plaster vaulted and moulded ceilings and the elegant teak and oak joinery - well appointed with brassware - found in these buildings epitomise the contribution of this firm to the Arts and Crafts detailing of this era in South Africa.



The Old Cape Archives

PICTURE: M VAN BART,
DIE BURGER



Exterior

A main component of the restoration was the repair and replacement of external stonework. Much original sandstone was decayed and repair-disfigured and critical location at eye level mitigated against further extensive "plastic" repair on the facades.

Characterful curly-grained Flatpan Free State sandstone is no longer available as mining activities and slime dams have obliterated the quarries. A radical decision was therefore taken at the outset to replace the most severely scarred courses up to the piano nobile level with available and durable Cape granite, as an extension of the existing granite plinth.

Various stone repair techniques were employed overall. Aside from granite insertion, removed original Flatpan sandstone was utilised afresh for the replacement of specific and highly visible smaller sandstone elements such as balusters and modillions. Special plaster repair of less visible moulded sandstone was pursued with due reference to masonry layout and appearance.

The procedure involves careful cutting back at decayed areas and reinforced bonding with suitably placed copper wires. Repetitive elements including balusters and copings were pre-cast while selected sheltered smaller mouldings and isolated minor damage were reinstated in blended sands and resin.

General areas of the sandstone were cleaned by bristle brush scrubbing and the most severely stained, slurry-coated or chemically discoloured areas were manually scraped before extensive lime mortar repointing.

Interior

The alterations to the interior involved the removal of the antiquated lift and stairway insertion of the 1920s and the introduction of new service rooms and an appropriately sized 3-way-open-

ing lift serving all eight levels for practical advantage.

The courtyards flanking the centre drum were roofed over with patent glazed rooflights at eaves level in order to improve climatic control and facilitate maintenance. New courtyard floors were also inserted close to corridor level to improve the usability of both lower ground and piano nobile floors. The columns along the curved marble and slate corridors were cleaned down and found to be of pink sandstone obscured by many layers of paint.

The central hall, which until recently housed the reading room of the Archives, was stripped of all added partitioning and shelving and two-toned afresh to highlight the architectural plasterwork to advantage. The ornate centre cupola lantern stands within a circular heavy glass pavement rooflight designed to send shafts of light down into the main hall. Old waterproofing was removed, the cast iron frames were re-glazed and all was resealed to reinstate this period feature.

The hall has been planned to house several historic book collections with new glass-fronted perimeter and free-standing cases introduced to match the existing oak panelling. Additional units were made for the reconfigured layout on the gallery level to improve storage capacity with minimal intrusion.

Offices and reception rooms required general refurbishment, upgrading of services, general redecoration and provision of new, or restored original, light fittings.

A new teak reception cubicle was designed to control access and also to act as a central monitoring point for services. The foyer cloakrooms were replanned with references to woodwork and polished granite in the spirit of the original and numerous touches to fireplaces, original delicate bronze commemorative reliefs, ironmongery and so on, completed a long list of architectural tasks.

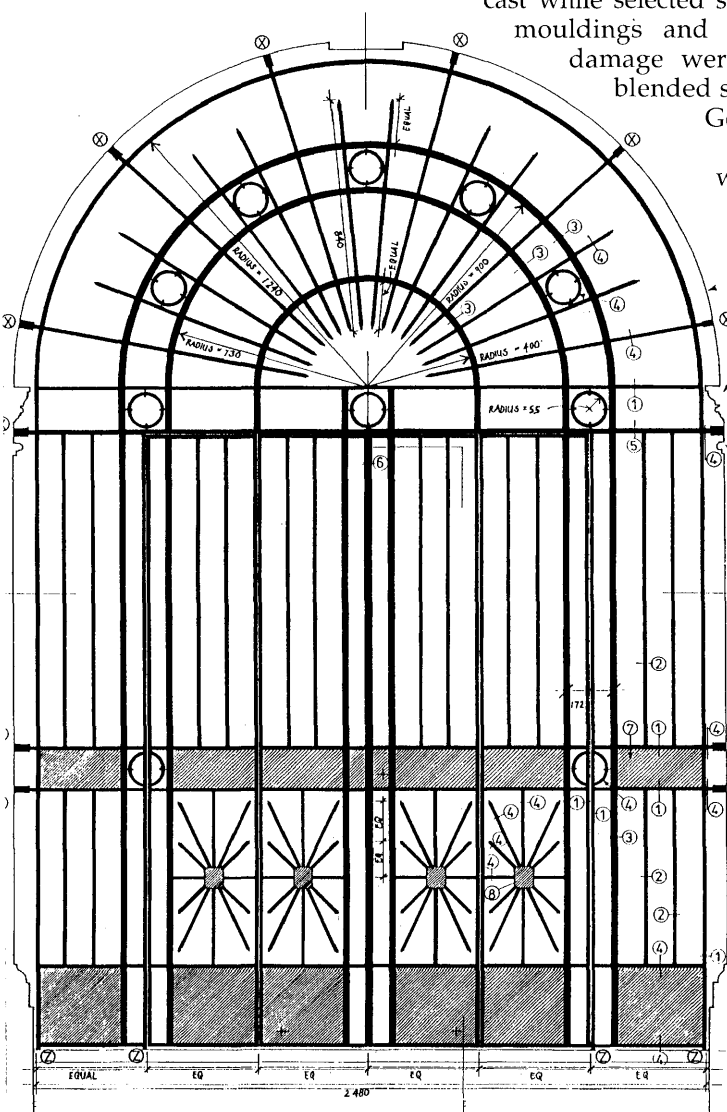
New requirements

The lower ground floor spaces, as well as the upper floors, house stackrooms, laboratories, workshops and general store rooms. Here, the main emphasis was on the provision of secure, climatically controlled and fire protected areas suitable for the library.

A simple covered walkway now facilitates all weather traffic between the main building and the nearby Slotsboo stackrooms. The redundant planthouse was demolished and replaced with a new building to cater for the present requirements.

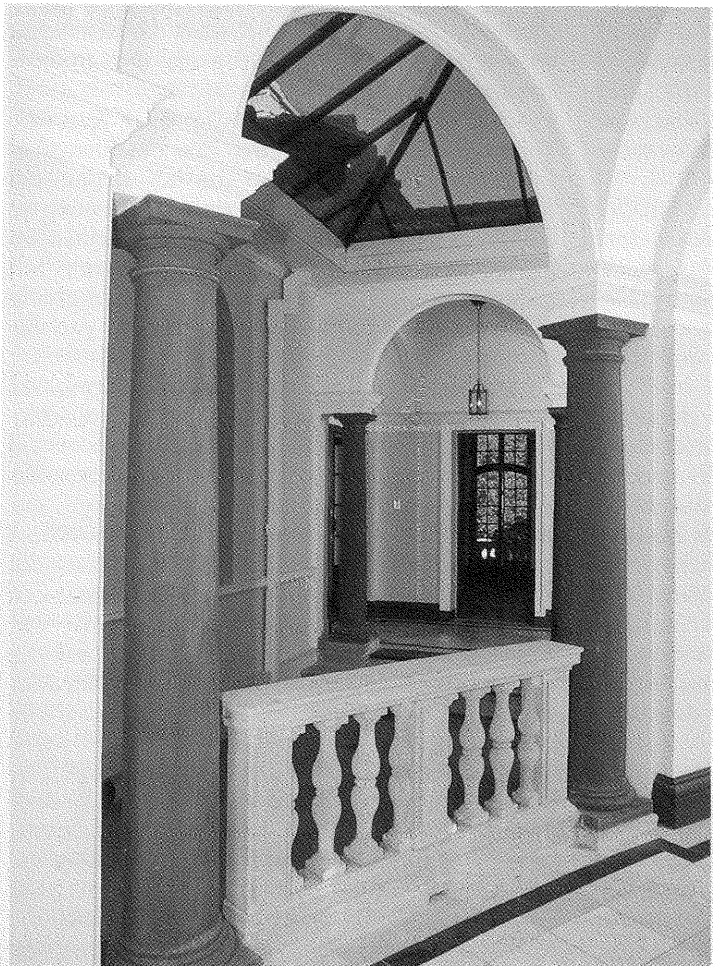
The complex has a fire detection system installed throughout and CO² protection is provided in the most important storage areas. The lower ground floor stackrooms and main hall are air-conditioned partially using the original airways as planned by Hawke and McKinlay.

Detail of new main entrance gate



Restored interior ►

PICTURES: RENNIE & GODDARD
ZELDA WAHL



Jeug moet leer bewaar

Deur E.S. van Bart
vryskut joernalis

Die hoofde van die Onderwysdepartemente-komitee (HED-COM) het goedkeuring verleen vir die benoeming van 'n Nasionale Projektdirekteur plus drie Nasionale Koördineerders om kurrikulumontwikkeling ten opsigte van omgewingsopvoeding te koördineer. Hierdie groep van vier deskundiges sal bygestaan word deur 'n verteenwoordigende komitee van ongeveer 35 lede.

Bogaande blyk in antwoord op navrae van die skrywer aangaande die amptelike beleid van die Departement van Onderwys betreffende omgewingsopvoeding (bewaringsopvoeding). Volgens mnr. T.J. Gordon, Superintendent: Kommunikasiediens van die Wes-Kaapse Onderwysdepartement, word die WKOD in die Nasionale Komitee sowel as in die provinsiale inisiatief verteenwoordig. Op provinsiale vlak is rolspelers en belanghebbendes geïdentifiseer wat bydraes kan lewer ten opsigte van kurrikulum-ontwikkeling om sodoende die nasionale proses ten opsigte van omgewingsopvoeding te beïnvloed.

Hoewel omgewingsopvoedingsprogramme reeds 'n geruime tyd as onderafdeling van Lewensopvoeding in skole aangebied word, word met die nuwe nasionale en provinsiale inisiatiewe onder meer ondersoek ingestel na die integrering van omgewingsopvoedingsprogramme met ander skoolvakke, of die aanbieding daarvan as transkurrikulêre temas.

Die WKOD stel die gebruik van die term omgewingsopvoeding in plaas van bewaringsopvoeding voor, daar eersgenoemde 'n meer omvattende term is.

Volgens mnr. Gordon beskou die WKOD omgewingsopvoeding as 'n integrerende deel van opvoeding in die bree beskou en is omgewingsopvoeding daarop ingestel om die nodige bewustheid, kennis, etiek, waardes en vaardighede aan leerders oor te dra om hulle omgewingsgeletterd te maak.

Die besluit van die Onderwys departemente om omgewingsopvoeding formeel by skoolkurrikula in te skakel, is die belangrikste ontwikkeling op bewaringsgebied die afgelope aantal jare wat veral gekenmerk is deur die toenemende vernietiging van Suid-Afrika se beperkte argitektoniese erfenis. Veral die beklemtoning van die kulturele erfenis naas die natuurlike is prysenswaardig, daar natuurbewaring, belangrik soos dit ongetwyfeld is, in die verlede die grootste, indien nie die enigste, klem ontvang het.

Hiermee word aangesluit by die siening van bewaringskundiges wat in die verlede by herhaling daarop gewys het dat bewaring slegs sal slaag indien 'n bewaringsbeleid gevolg word wat berus op 'n beskouing van die natuurlike en die kulturele (mensgemaakte) omgewing as 'n interafhank-

like erfenis-eenheid.

Die Wes-Kaap is die enigste provinsie met 'n Sentrum vir Bewaringsopvoeding – in Aliwal Straat, Wynberg – waarmee die WKOD 'n voorbeeld aan die res van die land stel betreffende die opvoeding van die jeug tot die waardering en bewaring van die omgewing.

Die WKOD ken aan die einde van elke jaar deur middel van Toekennings vir Bewaring pryse toe aan skole of aan groepe leerlinge wat uitstekende werk op bewaringsgebied gedoen het. Die hooftoekenning van die jaar, die Walters Toekenning vir Bewaring, sluit 'n kontantbedrag wat tot R6000 kan wees, en 'n gegraveerde bronsplaat in.

Die bewaringsprojekte wat deur skole ingeskryf word, dek die hele bewaringsveld, van natuurbewaring tot kulturele bewaring, ingeslote die bewaring van ons argitektoniese en argeologiese erfenis. Een van die volgende oogmerke van die Sentrum is om verdere geld uit die openbare sektor te bekom sodat geldelike toekennings in verskillende kategorieë gedoen kan word. Dr. Dan Sleigh, direkteur van die Sentrum vir Bewaringsopvoeding, het pas R5 000 van Volkskas vir prystoekennings ontvang, maar verdere geldelike bydraes is uiteraard nodig.

Die toekennings word dikwels deur skole gebruik om 'n bewaringsfonds by hul skole te stig, waaruit die uitbouing en instandhouding van hul projekte gefinansier kan word.

Volgens dr. Sleigh is die doel met die Toekennings vir Bewaring om bewaringsbewustheid ten opsigte van die natuurlike, die mensgemaakte en die sosiale omgewing te bevorder. Dit impliseer dat leerlinge aktief by bewaringswerk betrek word waardeur hul energie, ondernemingsgees en vaardighede positief ontwikkel word tot voordeel van die gemeenskap.

Dr. Sleigh stel dit onomwonde dat sukses met die herstel en bewaring van die natuurlike en mensgemaakte omgewing nie sonder die skole en onderwysers behaal kan word nie. Dit is by die kind waar respek vir die self, die ander en die omgewing vasgelê moet word.

Presies hoe tydig die inisiatiewe van die Onderwysdepartemente ten opsigte van formele omgewingsopvoeding, veral wat betref ons kulturele erfenis, is, blyk uit die resultate van navorsing wat verlede jaar deur die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede gedoen is.

Volgens mnr. Desmond Martin, administratiewe direkteur van die RNG, was die doel met die navorsing om vas te stel, enersyds, hoeveel skole bewus was van Erfenisdag en, andersyds, van die bestaan en werksaamhede van die RNG. 'n Kleurplakkaat is deur die RNG aan alle skole in die land versprei om

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Erfenisdag en bewaringsbewustheid te bevorder. Saam met die plakkaat is 'n kort vraelys versprei. Altesame 24 856 plakkaate met vraelyste, teen 'n koste van nagenoeg R62 140, is uitgestuur. Volgens mnr. Martin is slegs ongeveer 700 vraelyste terug ontvang. Hiervan het hy 405 ontleed. Die resultate is as volg:

Vir 83% van die respondente was die RNG-plakkaat die eerste kennisgewing oor Erfenisdag wat hulle ontvang het. Met die ontvangs van die plakkaat het 55% die eerste keer van die bestaan van die RNG gehoor. Ses-en-sestig persent het aangedui dat hulle 'n les-uur sou inruim om Erfenisdag en die betekenis daarvan te bespreek, maar slegs 58% sou die plakkaat by die bespreking betrek. Net 49% sou 'n projek aanpak wat betrekking het op Erfenisdag en die boodskap van waardering en bewaring wat dit wil uitdra. Slegs 3% het van elders ook informasie oor Erfenisdag ontvang, maar 97% sou meer inligting oor die RNG wou ontvang.

Weens die swak respons kan gevolgtrekkings daarop gebaseer nie sonder meer op die universum (die totale aantal skole) van toepassing gemaak word nie, daar die geldigheid en betroubaarheid van resultate in geval van 'n baie lae responsyfer ooreenstemmend laag is. Wat egter met sekerheid gesê kan word is dat die lae responsyfer die dringendheid van opvoeding tot erfenis-bewaring beklemtoon.

Volgens mnr. George Hofmeyr, direkteur van die RNG, is die Raad terdeë bewus van die belang van bewaringsopvoeding, veral wat die bewaringsterrein van die RNG aanbetref.

Die RNG het reeds 'n verslag ontvang van 'n konsultant wat aangestel is om die Raad te adviseer oor die rol wat dit in bewaringsopvoeding kan speel. Die RNG beoog die samestelling van onderwys-pakette wat aan onderwysers wat met bewaringsopvoeding gemoeid is, beskikbaar gestel sal word. Die doel is om die betekenis en belang van kultuur-historiese bewaring veral op die terrein van die RNG oor te dra.

Mnr. Hofmeyr het daarop gewys dat geen finale besluite egter geneem kan word alvorens nuwe wetgewing oor erfenisbewaring, wat die huidige wet op Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede (wet 28 van 1969, soos gewysig) sal vervang, opgestel is nie. Daarin sal die magte en pligte van 'n moontlik nuwe Erfenisraad en Provinsiale Erfenisrade uiteengesit word. Dit is derhalwe waarskynlik dat elke provinsie sy eie bewaringsbeleid grootliks sal bepaal en daarmee ook uiteraard bewaringsopvoedingsprojekte.

Op die forums wat beplan word om nuwe bewaringswetgewing te bespreek, sal die RNG sekere basiese standaarde en vereistes vir bewaringsaksies in die provinsies stel.

Uit bogaande is dit duidelik dat die inisiatiewe van die Nasionale en Provinsiale

Onderwysdepartemente en die Departement van Kuns, Kultuur, Wetenskap en Tegnologie, waaronder die RNG resorteer, die moontlikheid van inter-departementele samewerking skep. Die WKOD het reeds aangedui dat hy graag aan die forums van die RNG sou wou deelneem.

Die Dept. van Omgewingsake en Toerisme, wat volgens adj.min. Bantu Holomisa, tans besig is met 'n groenskrif vir bespreking wat tot 'n witskrif oor 'n nuwe nasionale omgewingsbeleid vroeg aanstaande jaar sal lei, behoort ook betrek te word daar daar meer male reeds op gewys is dat ekotoerisme kultuur-historiese erfenis naas die natuurlike behoort in te sluit. Daarbenewens is die ekotoerisme-bedryf waarskynlik die grootste toekoms-tige werkverskaffer in Suid-Afrika en kan omgewingsopvoeding reeds op skoolvlak as voorbereiding vir moontlike toetreding tot die bedryf dien.

Stigting

Twee takke van die Stigting Simon van der Stel is al vir geruime tyd besig met bewaringsopvoedingsprojekte vir Suid-Afrika se jeug.

Wat 1995 betref, het die Kaapstadse tak onderwysers betrek. 'n Kursus vir 60 onderwysers is aangebied oor twee dae met die tema: Die kasteel as opvoedkundige hulpmiddel.

Dr. Helena Scheffler koördineer jeugprojekte vir die Kaapstadse tak, en by verlede jaar se projek was veral dr. Dan Sleight, mev. Gwen Fagan, mev. Grace Gianellos en mnr. K. Koperski, betrokke.

Die Port Elizabethse tak het 'n seminarie oor argitektuur en erfenisbewaring vir hoërskoleringe en hul onderwysers gehou. Aspekte van die beboude omming is ondermeer belig deur plaaslike argitekte en lektore van die Universiteit van Port Elizabeth se Departement Argitektuur, in samewerking met die Onderwysersentrum van Port Elizabeth.

Leerlinge van die Hoërskool Grey in Port Elizabeth pas die kennis wat hulle by die bewaringsseminaar gekry het, gereeld toe.



FOTO: CARLIE NORVAL,
DIE BURGER

"Ons emosies hang saam met ons omgewing, en ons moet versigtig wees hoe ons ons omgewing inrig. Namate ou geboue afgebreek word, besef mense al hoe minder die waarde daarvan."

— CINDY PAYNE
ST. 8-LEERLING
HOÛRSKOOI WESTERING
PORT ELIZABETH

Wider vision wanted as Paarl tries to pacify pride and prejudice

By Reg Weiss
Drakenstein Branch

The word "footprint" is much to the fore as the SABC tries to re-juggle its programmes to serve all sectors of our multi-racial community. Just how fraught with pitfalls and prejudice such a path can be, is now only too abundantly clear. In the new South Africa, all of us have to give a little; even if some must be denied a channel so as to "see" what it is they have really sacrificed.

This also applies to bodies such as the Simon van der Stel Foundation which is striving hard to foster in our rainbow nation a common love and concern for the footprints of a past which did not begin with the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck in 1652, or end in 1994.

Instead of learning to share, if not rejoice, in our rich and diverse heritage, there are those of us who prefer instead to hit the other fellow on the head, or who fall down at the first opportunity to shout "foul", even where no foul was ever intended.

In multiracial communities like Paarl this could turn out to be a very dangerous game indeed.

Truth is that in the New South Africa we not only have a new ball game but a new ref.

Clearly, we will all need to

change our perspectives and broaden our vision.

Challenges

The Foundation may count itself privileged. It is the custodian of a broader "footprint" than most, going right back to the earliest days of man's association with the sub-continent. Our sturdy progenitors left footmarks – under at least 11 different cultural headings – which we can easily accommodate.

Long before the advent of the New South Africa, the Drakenstein Branch tried to gear itself up to meet new challenges and to broaden interest in its activities. Picking its way gingerly through a "political" minefield, a few important if tentative steps were taken.

The branch sees its task as follows:

- to stimulate interest in and awareness of conservation amongst all sectors of the general public;
- to encourage private owners, tenants and public bodies to conserve worthwhile buildings and sites; and
- to promote the conservation or acquisition of threatened properties of historical, ethnic, architectural, aesthetic, artistic or cultural importance.

Although its membership has always been open, the branch realised afresh that it would have to shed its somewhat "white elitist" image and stimulate membership in the wider community. In common with other cultural institutions, the response was less than overwhelming.

The branch is, however, grateful for the positive response from the local authorities. In spite of dissenting voices, there is growing

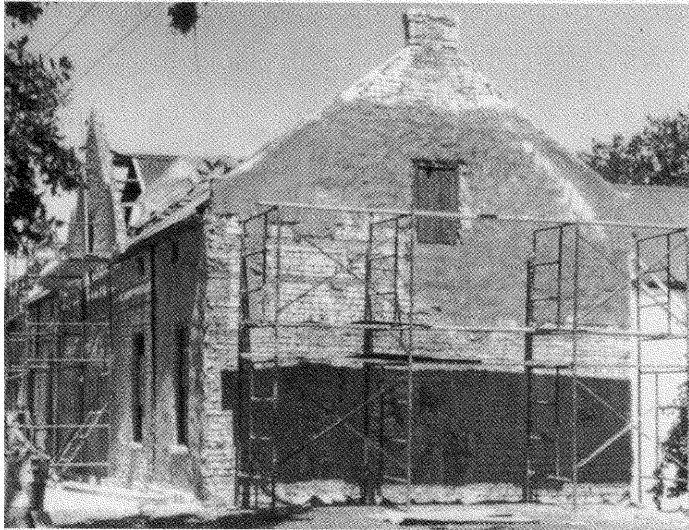
recognition that opportunities now exist to reach an even wider audience than before and to make conservation at all levels a key priority.

Not only does the Foundation have a much wider audience than in the past but also an exciting challenge to make conservation meaningful to the very people who helped to create our unique architectural gems. These monuments to inter-racial cooperation at the most basic level are there for all to enjoy and, indeed, are a marketable asset.

In spite of the unflattering things about "elitist architectural considerations" found in some RDP documents, even the most

Vlakkeland during restoration.

PICTURES: MIKE COPELAND



hardened Philistine will concede that there is money to be made out of tourists.

The fact that most of the white-walled beauties of the Cape were created by black, brown and white hands, is an excellent inspiration for the cooperation, industry and harmony needed to make South Africa a Bafana Bafana winner. The skill of Coloured and Malay craftsmen, a cuisine which owes much to other sectors of the community and an indigenous language which has roots well beyond the Afrikaans community, are all marketable tourist commodities.

Our cultural heritage is not, however, composed only of Cape Dutch houses. We need only think of the German mission stations, the schools, primitive halls and churches round which the life of local communities revolved, and of our typical farm cottages now rapidly disappearing.

Our friends of other cultural groups will have to assist us in this matter and, if tackled intelligently, we may even be able to enlist support from the RDP.

What is needed is some innovative thinking and a willingness on our part to put our shoulders to the wheel.

Healing process

The branch's watchdog function still vests in the executive and its representative on the town's aesthetic committee. The focus obviously remains largely on one side of the river but significant moves have been made to widen the perspective. A visit to the Bokaap proved fruitful.

This is, however, also an essential part of the healing process, and prompted renewed interest in a heritage precious to other race groups in Paarl. Some of these buildings in the so-called Ou Tuin were bulldozed with the implementation of the Group Areas Act many years ago, but two mosques still survive, and the little old St Stephen's Anglican church in Noorder Paarl was taken over and beautifully restored by the neighbouring Dutch Reformed Community.

The Congregational Church in Templier Street, once attended by a largely Coloured congregation, has also been restored and is used by an evangelical group. The old Zion's Mission church near Zeederberg Square, was rapidly falling into ruin when it was rescued and utilised by the Nederduitse Hervormde Kerk.

Only the Holy Trinity Anglican Church which forms part of a unique collection of old buildings in the centre of Paarl, succeeded in keeping its doors open to all races throughout a trying era of racial unhappiness.

The Drakenstein Branch has decided to put up plaques at various places in Paarl to mark sites of historic importance. The Ou Tuin and the Victor Verster Prison – from where Nelson Mandela walked to freedom on February 10, 1991 – were singled out for special attention.

The Ou Tuin was home to many of Paarl's foremost Coloured and Malay citizens, professional people and artisans, but was swept away under the Group Areas Act to make way for sports fields, shops and offices.

Rescue and restore

The branch has also shown concern about two old farmsteads in the Daljosofat area ideally situated for a multi-cultural rescue effort. The first is the old manor house, New Orleans, in the middle of a coloured township of the same name, which is now rapidly collapsing into a rather spectacular ruin. All may not yet be lost, but it will require much money and prompt action to prevent it meeting the same fate as Rust-en-Werk which was eventually bulldozed.

Not far away, Vlakkeland is under threat from a rapidly advancing African township and squatters in search of building material. This homestead with its attractive gables was painstakingly restored on a limited budget by the Foundation's former branch secretary, Mr Mike Copeland, and later sold to a trust administered by a church group. The homestead is deteriorating and an architect has been called in to advise on repairs.

The Drakenstein branch decided last year to vote R3 000 as seed money towards stimulating renewed interest in the building and its restoration. The farmstead forms part of a historic group of farms popularised by the writer W A de Klerk as the cradle of the Afrikaans language movement in Paarl. It is also reputed originally to have been the home of a freed slave, "Klaas of Malabar". As such, and with its proximity to an African township, it represents the sort of cultural cross-linkage which could fire the imagination of someone wanting to establish a reconciliation or youth leadership training centre.

Shift in focus

With the right publicity, such an ideal might commend itself to overseas investors who are already involved through the Lutheran Church. With the necessary facilities, it could also serve as an interesting "intercultural" tourist centre. For the present, however, the enthusiasm and expertise needed to tackle such an ambitious project seems to be lacking, and the branch has approached BIFSA to see whether it cannot use the R3 000 to train plasterers in carrying out repairs to the building.

Clearly, not everything can be restored or commemorated, nor does one envisage a type of cultural affirmative action, but a shift in focus can serve to stimulate greater sensitivity towards one another.

For those who would criticise, I cite an unknown author:

*Ah me! with wider vision
Perhaps I should forgive
The horrid little houses
Where happy people live.*

Act of utter barbarism

By Rory Riorden
city councillor
Port Elizabeth

The demolisher of the First Church of Christ Scientist in Port Elizabeth will face charges under the National Monuments Act in May this year, for failing to obtain a demolition permit.

Demolition of the building designed by the late Herbert MacWilliams took place while a NMC meeting was in progress to declare it a national monument. The developer was well aware of the architectural importance of the building – it was the only church building in the country designed in the so-called Californian style – but ignored requests to preserve the façade in any new development.

Soon after the demolition, Port Elizabeth city councillor Rory Riorden, commented on this lamentable act in the Eastern Province Herald of May 22, 1995.

The destruction of the façade of the First Church of Christ Scientist in Park Drive, Port Elizabeth, was an act of utter barbarism.

One can explain it away in a hundred ways: The church had gone unsold for years, and nobody could make a development work while maintaining the complex and difficult sited façade; the land was now worth much more than the building: the building was, anyway, little more than a façade, etc, etc.

Nonsense. Barbarism is barbarism, more so when it is motivated by greed and it pays well.

Parallels with the demolition of Frank Lloyd Wright's Imperial Hotel in Tokyo present themselves. Wright gave Tokyo an exquisite Art Nouveau hotel just after the First World War. It survived the great earthquake but became run-down after the Second World War and was demolished and replaced with a building of lesser beauty.

The First Church of Christ Scientist was in no way comparable with the Imperial Hotel. It was a façade with a basic structure attached, because it was built on a shoestring budget. It was beautifully

positioned both in Port Elizabeth and on the site itself. It was gracious, grand, and inspirational, and about as good a façade as any this 190-year-old industrial town has.

Those who ought to have protected it failed in their important task as clearly as those who destroyed it succeeded in their work. The lesson to be learnt from this destruction is that we must now properly structure the protection of our history.

We may not have the proudest architectural history in the world, but it is our only history. It exists in the CBD, in Central, on Richmond Hill, on Park Drive, and in Mill Park, in Bethelsdorp, in the Red Location, in Kleinskool, and in some other precincts.

Port Elizabeth is not Prague. Our architectural tradition is not the best in the world, but it is one of only two rich troves of old buildings in our country.

It is now urgently necessary that preservation societies, monument councils, institutes of concerned professionals, councillors and municipal officials, and lobby groups with an interest in the city's history come together and plot new strategies of preservation to conserve the past.

Central and Richmond Hill and Bethelsdorp, Kleinskool and the Red Location are areas that must now be frozen. No further rezoning must be permitted, and façades must be noted and preservation orders made legally enforceable at great cost to offenders.

A R5 000 fine is a tiny addition to a building development. A law that demands the rebuilding of destroyed property could create an entirely different perspective for developers.

The ancient cities of Europe and Asia attract millions of tourists because of the glory that comes from old and new living side-by-side. More foreigners visit Prague every year than there are local citizens, many because the centre of the city is 600 years old and frozen as it was then.

There are few cities in South Africa that can remotely hope to build such an environment, and we live in one of them.

For the sake of the economy and our children we must do better with the asset than we are now doing.

I hope a law can be found to compel the new owners of the First Church of Christ Scientist to reinstate its façade. Better still, I hope they volunteer to do so without legal pressure.

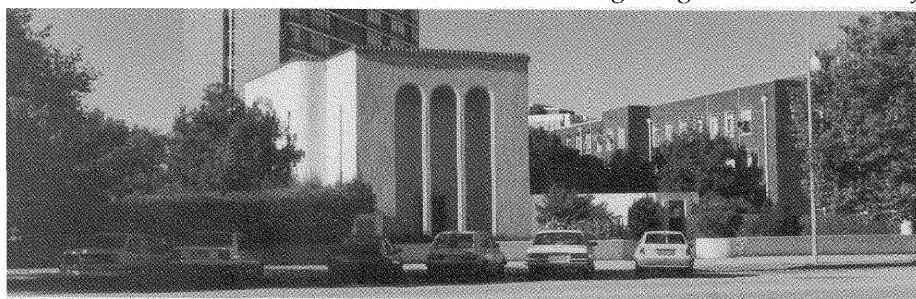
They are brave persons who admit a mistake and are willing to spend heavily to reinstate the damage they have caused. I hope we have such courageous people in the new owners of that extraordinary, destroyed church. The city awaits their actions now.

Gone in minutes...

PICTURE: CARLIE NORVAL,
DIE BURGER

For many decades the First Church of Christ Scientist occupied a place of pride in Port Elizabeth's Park Drive.

PICTURE: NMC



Steenberg – toonbeeld van balans

Die omvattende, dog sensitiewe, restourasie- en ontwikkelingsprojek van dié historiese Steenberg landgoed naby Kaapstad is 'n verfrissende bries op die bewaringsfront.

Die projek wat al vroeg in 1992 op Steenberg teen die noorderhelling van die ruwe Steenberge in Tokai begin is, is tans besig om sy finale fase binne te gaan. Altesame 210 erwe wat rondom 'n 18-putjie gholffbaan gegroeper is, word nou vir sowat R500 000 stuk bemark. Die plaas se nuwe eienaars is die Johannesburgse myngroep JCI, wat nou onder die ontbondelingsnaam Johnnic bekend staan.

Die landgoed spog met een van die oudste en volledigste Kaaps-Hollandse plaasopstalle in die Skiereiland. Dit is reeds vroeg in 1993 onder die uiters bekwame leiding van argitek Dirk Visser klaar gerestoureer. Maar ook JCI verdien 'n klop op die skouer: Hy het opdrag gegee dat die ou plaasgeboue getrou gerestoureer moet word – en hy was ook nie skaam om ten duurste daarvoor te betaal nie.

Die opstal sluit die plaashuis, die wynkelder, die jonkheershuis, stalle, 'n waenhuis en die werf met sy ou witgekalkte muur van klip en klei in.

Die U-vormige plaashuis is tussen 1740 en 1763 gebou. Die datum 1683 aan die seldsame konvekse-konkawe voorgewel is egter misleidend: Dit is die datum waarop die landgoed as Zwaanswyk aan de Steenberg vir die eerste keer deur goewerneur Simon van der Stel uitgegee is.

Die hele plaas, wat ook 'n stuk berggrond insluit, beslaan tans 202 ha en is sedert 1990 die eiendom van Johannesburg Consolidated Investments (JCI).

Die restourasiewerk aan die opstal – dit sluit werf, herehuis, jonkheershuis, kelder, waenhuis en stalle in – is deur die bou-maatskappy Ovcon behartig en het R4 miljoen gekos. Die argitek, mnr. Dirk Visser het onder meer van die Victoriaanse foto's wat die Amerikaanse fotograaf Arthur Elliot 'n eeu gelede van die plaasgeboue geneem het, gebruik om die geboue so getrou moontlik te restoureer.

Die plaashuis se vier slaapkamers het elk 'n eie badkamer bygekry, maar origins is dit noukeurig na die oorspronklike gerestoureer.

Onder die buitengewone en aantreklike elemente is die pragtige waaivormige bolig, die paneel-voordeur van kiaat met 'n kleiner uitskuifraamvenster wat tot op die onderdeur afskuiw, asook die portfisiedeur, voudeure en hortjies van kiaat en stinkhout. 'n Span skrynwerkers wat in outydse houtwerk spesialiseer is opdrag gegee om die houtwerk te restoureer. Van die vensterruite is meer as 'n eeu oud.

Die jonkheershuis, met die uitleg byna soos dié van 'n gemeenskapshuis, is ietwat gemod-

erniseer. Die ses slaapkamers het eie badkamers gekry en in die solderruimte is slaapkamers ingerig. Vensters is in die rietdak ingebou om lig te verskaf. Die oorspronklike daklyn het egter dieselfde gebly. Al die dakbalke is van behandelde Kaapse populier wat onvernies en ongeverf gelaat is.

Die skuur wat in die veertigerjare in 'n Kaaps-Hollandse styl op die plek gebou is waar die oorspronklike plaashuis gestaan het, is opgeknip en sal as restaurant benut word. Dit vertoon 'n besonderse figuur-reliefwerk aan die timpanum bo die dubbeldeure en 'n ou akkerboom daarnaas is al twee eeue oud. Die werf is in 'n pragtuin omskep en die werfmuur herbou waar dit vervalde was.

Die wynkelder is gerestoureer en as 'n wynproesentrum ingerig. Die tuin is deur die Kaapse landskapsargitek mnr. Ian Ford onder hande geneem. Hy het wyd bekendheid verwerf vir sy treffende restourasie van die Vergelegen tuine op Somerset-Wes. Op Steenberg het mnr. Ford naas die skepping van pragtige blom- en kruietuine ook toegesien dat die 250 akkerbome aandag kry.

Die nuwe gholffbaan wat op 'n laagliggende deel van die plaas gebou word, kos sowat R18 miljoen.

Al die huise wat om die baan gebou word, moet aan neergelegde voorskrifte vir die argitektuur, die groote van die huise en hoogte daarvan voldoen om nie afbreek te doen aan die natuurryke omgewing en die hoë standaard wat in die Constantia Vallei deur die belastingbetalersvereniging vereis word nie.

Die geskiedenis van Steenberg is besonder interessant: Dit is in 1688 aan Catherina Ras uitgegee, wat toe reeds vyf jaar daar geboer het. Die landgoed was bekend as Zwaanswyk aan de Steenberg, wat later verkort is na Steenberg.

Met hierdie projek het JCI nogeens getoon dat bewaring en ontwikkeling hand aan hand kan gaan om nuwe lewe in 'n ou afgeleefde plaas te blaas tot voordeel van die eienaars en die hele gemeenskap.

Deur
Marthinus van Bart
Redakteur : Woongids
Die Burger

Gewel van Steenberg
herehuis

FOTO: DIE BURGER



Monuments and cultural heritage conservation in KwaZulu-Natal

By Joanna Walker and
Len van Schalkwyk
KwaZulu
Monuments Council

In terms of the interim national constitution, heritage conservation is deemed a provincial competence. Under instruction of the provincial Minister of Education and Culture a Museums and Monuments Task Group was commissioned in the course of 1994/1995 to investigate the desirability and, indeed, the feasibility, of a new united provincial cultural heritage conservation body.

Heritage conservators in the province rose to the challenge and draft legislation for a proposed new monuments body was workshopped with regional role-players. Plans were subsequently formulated whereby the Natal Regional Office of the National Monuments Council (NMC) and the KwaZulu Monuments Council (KMC) would amalgamate, forming a new body to be known as Amafa aKwaZulu-Natal (Heritage/Erffenis KwaZulu-Natal).

Innovative categories

Towards the end of 1995 the draft was passed to lawyers to be legally formatted. The proposed draft legislation has now been submitted to the Minister for review and enactment. A number of new innovative categories of protection and compliance are contained in the

draft proposals, particularly with reference to precolonial historical sites and places of significance to previously marginalised sectors of our society. However, the essence of good existing legislation, specifically relating to the processes and protocol regarding the conservation, listing and proclamation of historical buildings, has been retained.

Whilst awaiting official sanction of the new legislation, the two existing Monuments Councils continue to work cooperatively within the framework of their respective organisations' existing Acts.

Despite the move to greater provincial powers and the imminent creation of a new provincial body, the future existence of a restructured national body seems assured. Not

only is this desirable, but also necessary. Cooperatively, the national body should interact with all the nine regions and guide the process of inevitable new provincial heritage legislations that will be promulgated. Further, its future role in issues of a truly national nature, and obviously those within the international arena, are self evident.

In many ways KwaZulu-Natal is well positioned for its pending changes. The KwaZulu Monuments Council was instituted in 1981 with its headquarters at the Ondini Historical complex in Ulundi. Its role and purpose was to research and provide protective measures for places of historic and cultural interest directly relevant to the history of the then KwaZulu. Several sites in the region, including the internationally significant battlefield of Isandlwana and Ulundi, and the Royal Capital at Ondini, had previously been declared under the auspices of the Historic Building Commission (pre-1969) and subsequently conserved by the NMC.

These, and other sites, were, at the inception of the KMC, transferred to the jurisdiction of the new body. Within the rapidly changing socio-political milieu of the 1980s the KMC initiated a programme of interpretation at these sites that moved beyond interpretations and presentations that had pandered largely to the descendants of the colonial victors (Laband and Wright 1980; Laband 1985; 1988; Laband and Mathews 1992). This new programme further strove to recognise all protagonists in the region's history and create a greater sense of identity and participation.

Partnerships

Furthermore, most of the sites under the jurisdiction of the KMC lie in economically depressed rural areas and in many instances these are of little significance to impoverished neighbouring local communities. Disempowered as they have been, these communities are all too often merely passive bystanders to even their own history. The further development of sites by the KMC thus came to be largely informed by the recognition of the need for local community involvement in any envisaged development programmes.

Whilst this participative process is ongoing, and not without its own inherent problems, successful partnerships have been negotiated, particularly where economic upliftment and social benefits can be envisaged and indeed, have been achieved (Van Schalkwyk 1994; 1995).

It is significant that this changing milieu is also reflected in the NMC records in

Reconstruction of Royal Residence, Ondini.



NMC proclamations

1984 – 1989

Forty nine colonial buildings and structures +
Nairansamy Temple, Newlands
Khambula Battlefield, Anglo-Zulu War
(1879)
Sastri College, Durban

1990 – 1995

Forty three colonial buildings and structures +
Hindu Thirukootum and Shree Ganaser
Temple, Durban
Durban Indian Girls' Secondary School
Old Satya Vardhak Sabha Crematorium,
Durban
Soofie Mosque, Ladysmith
John Dube House, Inanda district
Collingham Shelter Late Stone Age site,
Mpendle
Mhlwanzini Cave Late Stone Age archaeo-
logical site, Bergville
Mgodoyanuka Late Iron Age archaeological
site, Bergville
Hattingsvlakte Iron Age engravings site

Amafa :

some proposed proclamations

1996

Lower Thukela
Nxamalala/Bhengu/Shange archaeological conservancy incl:
Wosi Early Iron Age site (c. 500 AD)
Ndondondwane Early Iron Age site (c.750
AD) Mamba Early Iron Age site (c. 900
AD)
Mhlatuzana Cave Middle Stone Age
archaeological site
Kosi Bay Tsonga fishtraps
Mboma's Tree – divination site of the cele-
brated Shakan sangoma, Mboma
Capture site of President Nelson Mandela
Zanzabari Temple
Methodist Chapel (1886), Edendale,
Pietermaritzburg

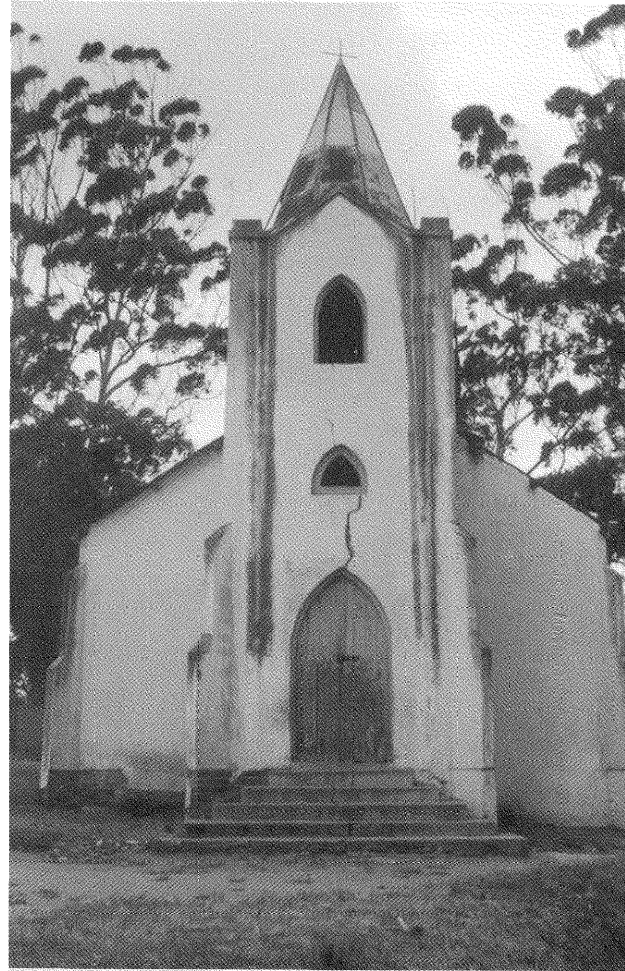
Pietermaritzburg where a clear shift in emphasis in the types of sites that were proposed for listing and declaration can be observed. The NMC's historical proclivity towards European colonial buildings, structures and battlefields has, for many, become the hallmark of what cultural conservation is about.

From the early 1980s, in collaboration with both international and local museum and university research colleagues, marginalised areas of the province's cultural history began to be addressed. This research has, and continues to manifest itself in the recognition, declaration and interpretation of a whole new range of places of historical and cultural significance to other sectors of the province's population, as the appended list of NMC proclamations indicates.

In this respect both organisations have, over the last decade and a half, demonstrated a commitment to trying to represent the province's cultural heritage more inclusively. However, given the undoubted biases of our recent past, a long road still lies ahead. Notwithstanding the ethos of the two bodies, and an envisaged stimulating future for Amafa, real inclusivity will not be achieved unless there is a very real and active participation by interest groups from within our various communities themselves.

*Christianenberg Berlin
Mission Church
Pinetown District
and John Dube House,
Inanda District.*

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Versekeringsreus ondersteun

"Besides gaining the loyalty of the occupants and visitors, old buildings that stay in use, rise to other freedoms ... they transcend style and turn it into history. By showing a tangible deep history, the building proposes an equally deep future." – Steward Brand

Vir Sanlam is die bewaring van besondere geboue uit die verlede vir die hede en die toekoms 'n saak van erns. Die maatskappy is reeds sedert 1965 finansiële betrokke by die restourasie van verskeie geboue, waaronder die Tweetoringkerk in Bloemfontein, Het Bakhuis in die Kasteel, die Lutherse Kerk in Strandstraat, Kaapstad, Groot Paardevlei in Somerset-Wes en Arbeidsgenot op Oudtshoorn.

Sanlam het onder die besef gekom dat daar talle historiese geboue dwarsoor Suid-Afrika is wat daagliks gebruik word, maar wat dringend restourasie benodig. Daar is ook talle geboue wat reeds in onbruik verval het as gevolg van verwering, maar wat steeds 'n belangrike en bruikbare rol in die gemeenskap kan vervul indien die nodige fondse vir restourasie bekom kan word.

Bydrae

In 1994 is daar dus aangekondig dat daar jaarliks 'n restourasietoekenning gemaak sal word. Die uitsluitlike doel van die Sanlam Restourasietoekenning – wat vanjaar vir die derde maal toegeken gaan word – is juis om 'n bydrae te lewer tot die restourasie van sulke geboue.

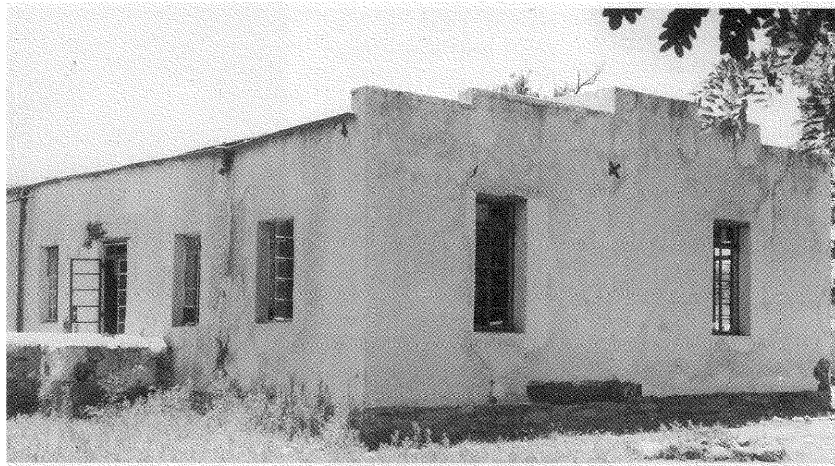
Hierdie projek word in samewerking met die Raad vir Nasionale Gedenkwaardighede en die Stigting Simon van der Stel aangebied. Die beoordeling van projekte geskied onder die voorsitterskap van die Kaapse restourasie-argitek Gawie Fagan.

Die voorwaardes vir hierdie toekenning is uniek in die sin dat die projek tot voordeel van gemeenskappe moet strek en deur hulle ondersteun en benut moet word. Sulke geboue moet reeds as permanente of voorlopige nasionale gedenkwaardighede verklaar word,

wat beteken dat dit ook van argitektoniese en historiese waarde is.

Die doel van hierdie restourasie is dan ook tweeledig. Eerstens is dit die bewaring van besondere geboue vir die nageslag en tweedens dien gerestoureerde geboue as toeristeaanlokkhede met 'n gevolglike ekonomiese implikasie vir die gemeenskap.

Bethanie se platdakskooltjie word nou deur bemiddeling van Sanlam gerestoureer



Clarkson se skoolgebou tydens restourasie. Die gemeenskap se pragtige kerkgebou is links.



bewaring

1995-Toekenning

Bethanie, wat huis van die armes beteken, is in die distrik Edenburg in die Suid-Vrystaat geleë. Sendelinge van die Berlynses Sendinggenootskap het hulle in 1834 in die nabyheid van die Rietrivier gevestig wat tans as die distrik Edenburg bekend staan. Hier het hulle 'n sendingstasie onder die Korana gestig wat hulle Bethanie genoem het.

Bethanie was die eerste sendingstasie wat deur die Berlynses Sendinggenootskap in Suid-Afrika gestig is.

Dit sou vir meer as 'n eeu 'n belangrike rol in die sending- en kultuurgeskiedenis van die Vrystaat speel. In 1963 is die inwoners – ten uitvoering van die Groepsgebiedewet – na Thaba 'Nchu verskuif.

Die besondere Gotiese kerkgebou wat in 1868 voltooi is, word deur die plaaslike gemeente van die Evangelies Lutherse Kerk benut.

Die kerk is deur die bekende Duitse argitek, Richard Wocke – ook argitek van die Tweetoringkerk in Bloemfontein – ontwerp. Bouwerk is deur die inwoners van die stasie, wat daardie tyd hoofsaaklik Tswanas was, gedoen. Dit is die enigste sendingkerk in die Vrystaat uit die 19de eeu wat nog in gebruik is.

Bethanie se platdakskooltjie is in 1860 voltooi en dien tans as primêre skool vir die kinders van plaaslike werkers asook kinders wat van omliggende plase kom. Sover bekend is dit die oudste skoolgebou in die Vrystaat wat nog as skool benut word.

Die huidige eienaar, die "Berliner Missionwerk", het ingestem om Bethanie oor te dra aan die Evangelies Lutherse Kerk, wat die terugkeer van die oud inwoners van die stasie en hulle afstammeling sal koördineer.

Restourasie van die kompleks sal nie net 'n nasionale kultuurskat bewaar nie, maar ook 'n beter omgewing vir kerk- en skoolbywoning skep.

Clarkson

In 1994 word die Morawiese Sendingkompleks te Clarkson in die Tsitsikamma die ontvangers van die eerste Sanlam Restourasietoekenning.

Die toekenning was vir die herstel van die sendingskool, waarskynlik die oudste skool in die Oos-Kaap nog in gebruik voor 'n brand dit in 1993 beskadig het. Die skool maak deel uit van die historiese sendingstasie waarvan sommige van die geboue reeds in 1840 opgerig is.

Voordat die rietdak aan die brand geslaan het, was die gebou wat uit drie dele bestaan in 'n baie goeie toestand. Die balke was van stinkhout en die vloere en skoolbanke van geelhout.

Die Oos-Kaapse tak van die Stigting Simon van der Stel het 'n leidende rol gespeel by die uitvoering van die restourasie projek.



Tydens die 1995-Toekenningsplegtigheid: Sanlam se besturende direkteur Desmond Smith, Herma Gouws, voorsitter: Bethanie Restourasie projek, die Kaapstadse argitek Gawie Fagan en Vivienne Japha van die Departement Argitektuur, UK.



Sanlam



AWARD FOR RESTORATION

in collaboration with the National Monuments Council and the Simon van der Stel Foundation.

Applications are being awaited for the Sanlam Award for Restoration for 1996. The award which amounts to R50 000 will be administered by the Restoration fund of the National Monuments Council.

The conditions of the award are as follows:

1. The property concerned must provisionally or permanently have been declared a national monument.
2. The award is for a restoration project or for extensive renovations which will bring about lasting results. Routine maintenance will not be considered.
3. The project must be to the benefit of the community, and it should preferably be supported and used by the community. The extent of the project should preferably be such that the prize-money will make a meaningful contribution towards its completion.
4. The project must be completed by 31 March 1997.
5. The prize-money may be awarded to more than one project, at the discretion of the judges. All decisions taken by the judges will be final. No correspondence will be entered into.
6. The recipient(s) of the prize-money must give visible recognition to Sanlam.
7. Entry forms can be obtained from all offices of the National Monuments Council, the head office of the Simon van der Stel Foundation, or at Sanlam Head Office, Cape Town on tel: (021) 947-3836.

Application forms must be submitted before
31 May 1996 to:

Mrs Adriana Andersen
Public Relations Practitioner
Sanlam
PO Box 1
7532 SANLAMHOF



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Conservation and development – attainment of synergy

By Wilma de Bruin
freelance journalist

The challenge as we approach the millennium is the attainment of synergy between development and conservation on the road ahead, thereby functionally putting architectural heritage to use as well as celebrating the uniqueness of own buildings and settlements.

Too often in the past cultural heritage has been sacrificed for financial benefits. With a country emerging from the constraints of the past and with a wealth of cultures and diversity evolving, we should instead embrace every opportunity of preserving our total cultural heritage to the benefit of every South African in this rainbow nation, as well as to that of tourists and visitors to this country.

André van Graan, chairman of the Heritage Committee of the Transvaal Institute of Architects, says: "What is needed in a new, democratic South Africa, is a holistic, integrated, bottom-up conservation approach which invites and encourages participation by all culture groups and the public at large."

He continued that instead of the past elitist expert decision makers, the community should identify and decide on buildings and sites to be considered.

"Even though it may be uncomfortable for us and irk some people, negative relics of the apartheid era such as mine hostels and compound blocks should also be preserved. Ignoring or getting rid of things like that rather than preserving them, ultimately produces a white-washed version of conservation. Often those elements which are now being removed, are the very elements which relate to a much larger proportion of the South African population," Mr Van Graan adds.

In urban areas, conservation is not something which should necessarily be seen as opposing development, but rather as complementary to development, he maintains.

"A city like Johannesburg increasingly faces disinvestment as a result of perceived problems such as violence and crime. Part of the problem however, is that, unlike European cities which are mostly multi-functional, Johannesburg has become mostly stratified and single-functional with a mono-development pattern of mainly office blocks and shops. Multi-purpose cities encourage people to work, live, play and relax in the city, which, in turn, helps to solve security problems."

Frequently in our cities buildings worth conserving and recycling are simply demolished. Buildings in urban Johannesburg worth conserving are in many instances not very old, are soundly built and, in terms of the Reconstruction and Development

Programme, are sufficiently upgradable for high-density housing.

The fact that the Johannesburg City Hall has been adapted for use by both the Gauteng Provincial Government and Premier Tokyo Sexwale, and that the decision has also been taken to utilize the old Rissik Street Post Office, encourages him. "These steps are catalysts for both development and conservation."

Tourism

Another important aspect which is not sufficiently recognised in the conservation of old buildings is the potential income from tourism.

"Tourists mainly come to cities for their historical context. Cities with no historical context do not and will not attract people. A city like Johannesburg which is the prime point of arrival in South Africa, probably has almost no benefit from tourism. "Upon their arrival, tourists are whisked away to suburban and country hotels whence they leave for the Kruger National Park or other tourist destinations like Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth. What do they go to Cape Town for? For the historical buildings which, in many instances, have been recycled and functionally reintegrated into city life, particularly at the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront – a shining example of the synergy between development and conservation."

Education

In order to create a stronger awareness among all South Africans of the importance – both culturally and financially – of architectural conservation on the one hand, and the significance of the synergy between conservation and development on the other, cultural history should form an integral part of education in this country, Mr Van Graan emphasises.

In Pretoria, award-winning architect Ora Joubert agrees with him, stressing that "in South Africa, where there has generally been a lack of appreciation for architecture per se and for conservation in particular, the need for education to raise awareness – both formally and by facilitating groups and publicity campaigns – cannot be over-emphasised."

She stressed the fine dividing line between development and conservation, for modern complexes like the Carlton Centre consumed more electricity in the seventies than the whole of Soweto, showing that more cost-effective development options needed to be considered. This eventually led to a paradigm shift in favour of the recycling of existing buildings, such as the Workshop in Durban, the V&A in Cape Town and the Tramshed in Pretoria. Ms Joubert main-

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tains that the character and spirit of a particular building or area are often determining factors for conservation.

"Take for example the Arcadia Residents' Association. Their concern and interest have led to the conservation of several fine buildings in the area.

"The people living in a particular area or suburb should for instance determine whether outdoor bill boards are conducive to the area or not, and veto development detrimental to the character and spirit of the area." The same applies to architectural conservation on a bigger scale, like Church Square.

"One can hardly imagine that, at some stage, the authorities contemplated demolishing certain facets."

Ms Joubert also believes the conservation of indigenous African architecture will become increasingly important in future. Several excellent examples of indigenous architecture, which deserve to be preserved, can be found in rural areas.

"Gone are the days that unsympathetic farmers could come along and demolish settlements of both historical and anthropological importance on their farms. Again, a bottom-up approach should be followed and the people consulted. Thereafter conservation bodies could be approached for conservation assistance," she adds.

Three levels

Ideally there should be three levels of architectural conservation in South Africa, suggests Ms Joubert.

- Historical buildings, eg Colonial and Cape Dutch;
- Indigenous and vernacular architecture of anthropological importance;
- Suburban architecture in older areas eg Yeoville and Melville in Johannesburg and Clydesdale and Arcadia in Pretoria.

Role of the developer

Bart Dorrestein, chief executive officer of Stocks, recognises the necessity of balancing the diversity of need to make productive progress. The company supports the preservation of the country's architectural heritage where this is applicable and practical. Only by learning from and respecting the past, can a viable future be created.

Developers must respect the cultural heritage of the country. There must be strong protective mechanisms to prevent irresponsible developers from destroying our environment and damaging our historical heritage. "Stocks as a company has been involved in eco-tourism, in particular through projects such as Kwa Maritana and Bakubung. Architectural sensitivity is shown in projects such as the Swakopmund Station Hotel, the Ferry waiting room in Durban, Ruyterplaats Estates and Braampark – where even trees that were older than 50 years were preserved," says Mr

Dorrestein.

Sanlam Properties' approach of "Conserve and Build" is echoed by managing director Banus van der Walt in a recent issue of its in-house magazine TOPaddress. "Gone are the days that one could demolish, knock down and act indiscriminately in the name of development.

In the past technology and progress often meant sacrificing nature, the environment or socio-historical assets. Fortunately it was realised world-wide that conservation and protection are investments in the future," says Mr Van der Walt. "The time when companies could do what they liked is past."

Sanlam Properties goes out of its way to thoroughly evaluate the impact of its developments. Even before the first brick is laid, thousands of man-hours will have been spent on research and consultation. The company always tries to ensure that its actions create as many advantages as possible while simultaneously limiting the disadvantages to the minimum.

Conservation authorities like the National Monuments Council do important work to ensure that there is conservation from a public point of view. However, the burden cannot be borne by this body alone. The private sector should share these tremendous responsibilities.

Balance

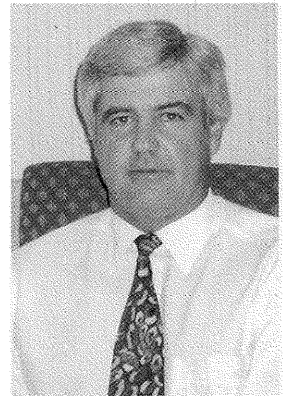
Mr Van der Walt stresses the importance of balance. "Sanlam Properties has a responsibility towards Sanlam's policy-holders, but on the other hand the company's responsibility towards all of South Africa's people is equally important. The company must therefore be prepared to spend money on conservation projects, although this may not happen at the expense of the policy-holders.

"Our point of view is that not only the work of, for instance, Herbert Baker should be preserved. Less well-known work which is representative of all periods of our country's history deserves equal attention."

The Ansteys building, an extremely good example of the popular Art Deco architectural style, was declared a National Monument and has been presented to the non-profit organisation, New Housing Company (Newco) which is using it for housing, just as was done sixty years ago.

Mr Van der Walt points out that it is often not possible to use a preserved building for its original purpose. An example in this regard is the old Fever Hospital with its beautiful stonework and façades in Braamfontein. Today this forms part of Sanlam Properties Braampark office development. Another example of an old building emphasising the synergy between development and conservation is the old locomotive shed in Durban. This was developed into the popular Workshop shopping centre.

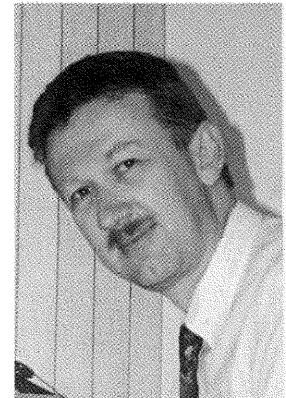
Both sides of the conservation coin must be looked at continuously. It is most important to couple conservation with economic upliftment. Balancing these two is imperative.



Banus van der Walt



Ora Joubert



André van Graan

New meanings for old monuments

The Acting Director: Museums & Heritage Resources of the Department of Education, Sport and Culture in the Province of the Eastern Cape, examines the changing perspectives on historical sites. This is an amended version of Denver A Webb's FitzSimons Memorial Lecture, delivered at the Port Elizabeth Museum on International Museums Day in 1995 ...

History, to put it rather bluntly, is about people in the past. It is an axiom that every age writes history anew. That is to say, every age makes a different evaluation of what is significant in its past, according to Arthur Marwick in the *History of Nature*. It is thus indeed appropriate that as our country enters a new age we write history anew through new meanings for the physical manifestations of our past.

Thomas H. Buckle, one of the great nineteenth century English historians, highlighted the connection between the present and the past. "There will always be a connection between the way in which men contemplate the past and the way in which they contemplate the present."

E.H. Carr, another eminent English historian, explored this relationship further. History, in Carr's striking phrase, is a dialogue between the present and the past.

These historians were themselves products of a particular historical approach and of their age - which is not to suggest their ideas have not lasted extremely well. In the nineteenth century the prevailing historical interest in Europe was in great men and nation building. From the second decade of the twentieth century Marxism as an intellectual model focused attention on social and class forces.

In the 1960s counter-cultures and alienation from the status quo shifted the focus to groups and people on the margins of society, on the "little people" of history. Now as we approach the end of the millenium the prevailing historical context is post-modernism.

A relatively recent issue of *History Today* which focused exclusively on sites managed by the National Trust in Britain, characterised post-modernism for history as a "pick-and-mix approach" providing freedom from the "tyranny of intellectual fashion."

It may be too early for such sweeping statements, but there is certainly a lot going for the approach in interpreting historical sites.

The challenge we face is two-fold: redress the imbalance by identifying sites of significance to the marginalised majority and recontextualise those sites whose history has been depicted in a narrow sectarian manner.

Changing interpretations

What is the significance of finding new monuments and attaching new meanings to old ones? There are two dimensions to the answer: a spiritual one and a material one.

Attaching meanings to monuments that enable people to feel that it is their history and identity which is represented by the historical relic provides an anchor in life - a sense of belonging. In the process of rediscovering lost or suppressed histories people rediscover their self-respect and sense of value. It is only by understanding the past

that we can make sense of the future.

On the more material level, communities can derive considerable benefit from the rediscovery of sites of significance to all the country's inhabitants in terms of tourism and in terms of restoration projects that recycle old monuments like mission stations into community centres and nodes of development. The recent blossoming of interest in cultural tourism, in particular, holds great promise in this regard. But for this to happen, we need to manage and interpret our historical sites properly.

Pitfalls

The danger is that in attempting to redress imbalances, we create new institutions that reflect the prevailing ideology in a crass and insensitive manner.

There is also the danger that we descend into relativism, where each interpretation is as good as the next one and discarded as soon as it is no longer useful and where objectivity is abandoned.

Another inherent danger lies in historicism - adopting an approach that is so present-minded that the past simply becomes an attic to be looted for tools to be used in the present.

Enduring Principles

There is clearly a fine line between these pitfalls and possible new meanings for old monuments. What makes the difference? The answer lies in subscribing to certain enduring principles in developing these new meanings. As far as historical interpretation is concerned these include: objectivity, critical analysis of sources and a striving for accuracy. More generally these include: respect for human dignity, non-racialism, and cultural pluralism.

This is the era of public history. It is not only the professionals who have a right to ascribe meaning to monuments. We all have a right to interpret what is significant to ourselves. As long as our interpretations are sensitive to the principles outlined above, who is to say any one interpretation is wrong and another is right?

The truth is, after all, frequently multi-faceted. What is important is which facet we seek to emphasise.


Both the professional custodians of a country's historical relics and the broader community, as stakeholders in the process, face a tremendous challenge. The new meanings we attach to our old monuments should be broad enough not to exclude other legitimate meanings.

"It is only by understanding the past that we can make sense of the future."



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