

BARNETT, Robert Alexander  
18 Jul 1911 -

Robert Alexander Barnett was born in Germiston and was educated at the PTPS (no longer in existence) and at St John's College in Johannesburg from where he matriculated in 1929. He studied architecture at the University of the Witwatersrand and received the Diploma in Architecture in 1934. While a student he received architectural experience in the offices of KR MCKENZIE, KEF GARDINER, REID, MARTIN, Murray & Telford; HANSON, TOMKIN & FINKLESTEIN. In 1934 he joined JS BOWIE of Benoni and became a partner in that year. The partnership was dissolved in November 1944 on Bowie's retirement.

In 1934 a design of Barnett's won the competition for a building now known as Edenvale Hospital, the winning design was changed to meet amended requirements, and in collaboration with CF DRAKE, a colleague in Bowie's office, he won the South African Architectural Record's competition for a kiosk for the British Empire Show, Johannesburg in 1936.

Barnett closed the Benoni office in 1944, continuing to practice in Germiston. Among the buildings for which he has been responsible were buildings for the Witwatersrand Technical College from Klerksdorp to Witbank (1934 to 1945), hostels for labourers for Germiston Municipality (1943), Germiston hospital buildings (1947), branch buildings for Barclays Bank (1950 to 1978), Police headquarters in Standerton (1960), Police flats at Marlands (1973), Natal Building Society regional office block (Germiston?) (1973), a number of industrial and commercial buildings and houses. Barnett retired in 1978.

ISAA 1935

(Barnett 1990; ISAA mem list; SAAR Jan 1935:23; SAAR Jun 1935:56; SAB & AT Mnl 1937:9)