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# A NEW DESIGN IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS

NOVEL, HYGIENIC AND BEAUTIFUL



An architect's model of the new English Medium Primary School, which is about to be built.

The new English Medium Primary School at Pietersburg, designed by Mr. Gerard Moerdyk, represents a novel and interesting departure from conventional methods in the Transvaal. An attempt has been made to combine the useful, the hygienic and the beautiful. The design comprises four wings, radiating from an octagonal open-air amphitheatre. This space was originally intended for a central hall, but as no primary school is allowed a hall, an open-air meeting place was evolved, with roofed stage and three small columned porticos, which could provide shelter in case of rain.

There are eight classrooms, two storerooms, a staffroom and a principal's office, besides cloakrooms and lavatories. There is an entrance for girls and one for boys, under the direct supervision, on the one side of the principal's office, on the other of the

staffroom. Waterborne sewerage makes it possible to place the lavatories next to the cloakrooms inside the building. This scheme prevents wet feet and subsequent colds in the rainy season, as well as doing away with those unsightly little buildings at opposite corners of the playground.

There are four long verandahs which provide covered playgrounds on very hot or wet days, besides sheltering the classrooms from the sun in the afternoon. The building will be so placed as to get the maximum of air as well as a graded amount of light. Every classroom gets direct sunlight in the morning, but by 9 o'clock the sun is too high to make the rooms uncomfortable by shining into the long windows, which can, if required, be entirely opened.

The interior will be made as interesting as funds will allow. The walls of the classrooms will be painted in

various pleasing tints; the ceilings, too, will not conform to monotonous white. The exterior will be plastered in rough stucco, which, with its play of lights and shadows, lends a most fascinating effect. And the gables, at the ends of the four wings, have been based on the "Hartebeesthuisie" gables, that form of architecture which the Transvaal may truly call its very own.

As a result of the Administrator's decision to entrust the designs of schools and school hostels to private architects, new and original buildings will replace the type we all know so well. It will be interesting to watch the various ways in which different men will interpret local needs, climatic requirements and educational ideals.

The contract for the erection of the school has been given to Messrs. Allen, Leggatt and Leemhuis, of Pretoria, the cost being £5,590.