Centre for the Understanding of the Built Environment dissertation design project

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The University of Pretoria
Pretoria
South Africa

November 2006
dedicated to my family, friends and loved ones
Cabe chief executive Jon Rouse plans a series of media campaigns and vows to engage with the public 'at their level'

Public blanks architects

Robert Booth

The government design watchdog Cabe has branded architects a complete failure at communicating their importance to society and has unveiled a new three-year strategy which will see it turn away from the profession to promote its agenda to the public.

Jon Rouse, Cabe’s chief executive, cited a new Mori survey of the public that showed that only one in eight could name a living architect. Of those, a quarter named dead architects, including Christopher Wren.

He said: “Architects have managed to completely detach themselves from society. They are fantastic at communicating with one another but have completely failed at communicating with the wider public. The evidence is there, and you can’t argue with it.”

Further findings revealed almost no interest in which architects designed which buildings. Eight out of 10 could not link the Eden Project, the Millennium Bridge and the Dome with their architects, even when given a list of their names.

Stating that “we will have to forget about architecture as a highbrow subject. The public has voted and we have to engage at their level”, Rouse revealed that Cabe is planning a series of public facing media campaigns.

The first will use enthusiasm generated by the World Cup and the start of the next football season to launch a campaign about the impact of well-designed stadiums on the people that use them – fans and athletes.

Other initiatives include the promotion of better healthcare buildings and the direct advantages that can have for patients, and an extension of its campaign for better housing design. “We don’t want to be on page 15 of the architecture section, we want to be in the sports pages,” said Rouse.

“It is a form of proselytisation.”

Cabe officials are understood to have agonised over whether to use the word “architecture” or “the A-word” in communication with the public. Its strategy document, published today, says it will promote the importance of “place-making” which it plans to “inject into the blood of the nation”.

Penoyre & Prasad partner Sunand Prasad backed Rouse, saying: “It is true that the profession has walked away from the social agenda.”

Cabe’s new tack, which also aims to reposition it as the public’s design watchdog rather than the government’s agency, represents a blow for the RIBA which is dedicated to promoting architects as well as architecture.

Its director of communications, Roula Konzotis, refused to comment on Rouse’s assertion that the profession is suffering from a communication failure: “Jon Rouse is entitled to say what he wants. We are well aware that we have to communicate with the public as much as we can. We doubled our media coverage last year but I am conscious that we cannot be complacent.”

Cabe’s new strategy and attitude towards architects’ communication skills is geared towards changing attitudes among groups who demand new buildings and urban design, rather than those who supply them.

In the strategy document Cabe chairman Stuart Lipton revealed a bleak picture of the English built environment. “We are failing to deliver sufficient buildings and spaces of a quality in which we can take pride,” he said before warning that schools and hospitals are being planned which will be “blots on the landscape” and will “undermine the ability of public workers to do their jobs properly”.

Can you name a living architect?

84% said no
5% said Norman Foster
3% said Richard Rogers
4% named a dead architect
4% named other architects

Which profession’s work do you value most (two to three choices)?

Architects 5%
Planners 8%
Teachers 69%
Doctors 88%

Source: Mori/Cabe
Cabe should focus on key issues

“If you want something doing quickly, ask a busy man” the adage goes. And you don’t get much busier than Cabe’s Jon Rouse. The commission’s output since its inception has been more than a little impressive. Now though, with the news that Cabe is to extend its activities abroad to promote British architecture in developing countries it is in great danger of over-reaching itself.

It is not as if there is a shortage of things to do in the UK. Sorting out PFI for instance, or the OJEC procedures, or competitions, or affordable housing. Cabe is already involved in at least some of these matters but adding overseas activities to the portfolio can only dilute its concentration on the key issues.

This is decidedly not a “charity begins at home” argument. If anything, the opposite is true. Even the World Bank, not by any measure the most right-on of organisations, recognises that 40% of its projects in developing countries should be carried out by local consultants. This could be a lot higher, of course, in many parts of the world and is a reflection of the bank’s policy to force free markets (for Western goods and services) wherever possible. Rouse says he is interested in “aiding the role of British talent in the developing world” and helping the architectural profession step up its exports.

These are business arguments, which may be fine in themselves but can easily become distinctly suspect when elided with support for developing and urbanising countries. This already happens far too often at the Department for International Development.

Globalisation and disinterested international co-operation are very different animals. Get them confused and someone somewhere gets badly bitten. Rouse and Cabe would be far better channelling their considerable energies and expertise more narrowly. Leave the promotion of British architectural business abroad to the RIBA and the DTI.
R1 Billion development gets the green light

Pretoria – News on the blossoming local development of Lombardy Estate & Health Spa in Pretoria East to proceed (the developers of Oubaai Golf Estate) reported that all has commenced recently.

Further good news is that ABSA has placed its considerable financial muscle behind the development to the tune of R200 million. These funds will be used to finance all services and infrastructure requirements. Overall Lombardy’s development value is estimated at R1 billion (R1 000 000 000) which translates into a healthy investment in the economy of the region. Funding for the planned luxury apartments on the Estate (named Lombardy Piazza, designed by the legendary Stefan Antoni) is currently being finalised.

In the news
The Lombardy Estate & Health Spa name rose to prominence about 2 years ago when plans were announced to develop the luxury estate on the land surrounding the Lombardy Boutique Hotel, which is also home to the famous La Stalla & Lombardy Restaurants. “Lombardy is being hailed as the ultimate in luxury estate living, and it’s not hard to see why”, says Mr. Hazem Ashry, Deputy Managing Director - Africa of Kharafi Holdings.

Drawing inspiration from the towns of Bergamo, Cremona and Mantova in Italy, the Lombardy Estate and Health Spa will feature classic horizontal lines, generous roof overhangs and boundary walls. The combination of rustic stonewalling and modern finishes will further underline the predominantly country feel that is so carefully instilled in the luxurious Lombardy Estate and Health Spa. Situated only minutes from the centre of Pretoria, Lombardy Estate and Health Spa has received an overwhelming response. All 285 of Lombardy’s stands have been sold out, in addition to 55 of the luxury townhouses called Lake Lombardy. (A few are still available)
Development given

The good news on the property front is that the green light has been given for the project to proceed with full-scale development. Kharafi Holdings have been granted all necessary approvals and the construction of the Lombardy Estate can now commence.
Based in the heart of Pretoria North, just a few minutes drive from Wonder Park Shopping Mall is a newly built Tuscan development with full title units ranging from 60sqm - 130 sqm. You have a choice of several different plans to choose from and a various range of optional extras to be included to your newly built Tuscan home.

We include all bank costs and transfer duties, as well as ceramic tiles, carpets in all the bedrooms, four-plate stove and a three-sided wall to mark your own stand. There is a lot of positive potential in this area with phase 1 and phase 2 being sold out in less than six months. Prices have escalated to over R50 000 and will climb even higher by the end of the year.

Property investment is on a high in the North and everyone is welcome to the party. If you qualify for a loan at the bank for an amount of R382 000 and we can get your bond approved, then you will be looking at a newly built Tuscan house with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge and kitchen.

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Launch

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SPECIAL PROPERTY

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Tuscan is all about sophistication.
A new R15-billion “city” — likely to be the catalyst that will unite Tshwane and Johannesburg all along the highway — is to be established in Midrand.

Waterfall City is billed as the single largest mixed-use development on the biggest tract of empty land in the province.

It will not have one single, independent liquor outlet because it is to be established on Muslim-owned land, and the religion frowns on the use of alcohol.

With an additional 6 000 vehicles a day expected in the area — where peak hour starts at 2pm — the development is causing controversy among residents who are mobilising to protest against the expected congestion on the already-clogged roads.

But according to the brains behind the scheme, developer Werner van Rhyn, it’s all systems go. Most of the environmental impact, and traffic impact studies, had already been completed, he said.

“Residents need not fear traffic. Although our road plans have not yet been approved, it is a strict condition that we may not proceed with the various phases until roads are upgraded,” he said.

Waterfall City lies on property owned by Witwatersrand Estates Ltd, started in 1934. It was purchased by Moosa Ismail Mia, a trader, who bought the 3 000ha farm.

The Asiatics Tenure Act, an apartheid law, prevented him from owning property in his personal capacity, so he purchased it as a charity, the basis of which was to educate underprivileged children.

The land is still owned by the Mia family and is held in trust for the Islamic Trust. The family still lives on the land.

Some R217-million is to be spent on road improvements and upgrading, including a proposed new bridge at Allandale off-ramp and the widening and extension of many surrounding roads such as Maxwell Drive in Woodmead.

About 15 000 jobs are expected to be created in the development.

Most of the approvals had already been obtained, said Van Rhyn.

“We are awaiting the last few rezoning approvals. In the meantime, good progress is being made on infrastructure. Off-plan sales have already started.”

Van Rhyn has been trying for six years to get the development up and running but has met resistance from the Mia family.

They did not want to proceed because of the land’s religious status, which dictates the development must make a contribution to the community.

They eventually agreed, on condition that all profits due to the trust would go to educating underprivileged children. They also insisted on having a cemetery, public golf course and lower-cost housing as part of their contribution to community development.

The apartheid government tried to expropriate parcels of land several times and succeeded in getting land for Eskom’s headquarters and for the N1 highway that runs through it.

Midrand residents have expressed extreme concern about the increased traffic and have prepared a petition. Councillor Annette Denne said residents were demanding roads be upgraded before any development took place.

“Residents want Johannesburg mayor Amos Maseko to ensure bulk service contributions are paid by the developers towards upgrading and widening all local roads surrounding the proposed development,” she said.

The project will be completed in phases and should take between five and 10 years.

Although there will be no bottle stores allowed, alcohol will be allowed in restaurants.
Finally – Gautrain project starts rolling

Toll-free centre to be set up to minimise disruptions

ANNA COX

Work on the long awaited Gautrain will start later this month when the first properties are expropriated and a start is made on moving the services and utilities infrastructure.

To minimise disruption to motorists’ lives, a toll-free call centre is to be set up within about 10 days, linked to the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department, to give people information about route planning.

The centre, a first of its kind, will be linked to the Johannesburg Metro Police Department so that comprehensive information on all traffic problems can be dispersed to the public. The information will also be available on the Gautrain website.

In addition to this, said project spokesman Barbara Jensen, motorists using the same routes every day will be able to subscribe to an SMS service which will send them information at certain times of day, requested by them, about road works.

Businesses will also be notified of any planned power or water cuts timely.

The preliminary work, which includes the relocation of utilities and services such as water, electricity and phone lines, will take about five months. The work will also include road upgrades, the demolition of certain buildings and the installation of site offices.

“This work needs to be undertaken prior to the start of construction of the train and to ensure a smooth transition and to minimise disruption to the public, said project leader Jack van der Merwe.

Work will start in several places consecutively but the main disruptions are expected in the CBD around Park Station. A public meeting is planned on May 15 to discuss the works with affected residents.

The Gauteng MEC for public transport, road and works, Ignatius Jacobs, said the proclamation of properties needed for the first phases of construction were published in the Provincial Gazette on May 8.

The areas affected by this proclamation are Johannesburg Park Station and tunnel portal; Rosebank Station; Sandton Station; Marlboro Tunnel portal; Marlboro Station; and the maintenance yard.

“Land surveys and property valuations for all these properties have been finalised and the majority of properties are already available. The owners of those properties not yet vacated are now in the position to give final 30-day notices to their tenants as was agreed with them. These property owners started receiving their official letters of proclamation/expropriation with offers for compensation from May 8,” Jacobs said.

Discussions started with the affected property owners in October 2005 to reach agreement on early access to their properties.

In terms of the Gauteng Transport Infrastructure Act (GTIA), letters of “intention to proclaim” were handed to these landowners during December 2005.

Their final comments were received early in January 2006 and were provided to Jacobs who approved the proclamation on April 26.

“This is truly a milestone towards the implementation of the Gautrain Project. We have been involved in the planning and negotiations for some time and at last people will be able to see the project moving forward. The importance of expropriation is that it allows for project construction to commence.

“The procurement of land of this public transport infrastructure project has to date taken place according to the GTIA,” Jacobs said.

He assured landowners that each step of proclamation and expropriation was done according to the stipulations of this Act.

“They will all be treated in a fair and just manner,” he said.

In terms of the GTIA, a “Notice of Intention to Proclaim” must be given to landowners before proclamation takes place and the public has 30 days to comment on this notice. For the majority of the sections, the notices will go out within the next two weeks.

It is expected that the Phase 2 draft Preliminary Design, which includes the variant alignments as proposed by the preferred bidder, Bombela, is to be published towards the end of May. This is, however, subject to the approvals required from the Gauteng department of agriculture, conservation and environment. The public will then have a further 30 days to comment on the documents before Jacobs considers approval.

Roads closures, traffic diversions

The proposed Gautrain Park Station will be

next to Johannesburg Park Station, east

of Rissik Street and south of Wolmaraans Street.

The station will be on the western side of

the station building, next to Rissik Street.

Road will be closed and traffic diverted for

about 12 weeks.

Wolmaraans Street will be closed to

The old Johannesburg College of

Education and Mentor building will be

demolished.

The proposed Rosebank Station will be in

Oxford Road. The work will be executed in

three stages, the first lasting three-and-a-half months with an expected May 22 starting date.

To limit the impact on vehicles and

The Sandton taxi rank on the corner of

Rivonia and West streets will be relocated in

July.

The north-bound carriageway of Rivonia

Road will be closed after the completion of the

Katherine and West Street upgrades (early in

September 2006) until the completion of the

Sandton Station construction (i.e. at the end of

University of Pretoria etd – Sackett, C (2007)
Projects to rid city of crime, grime

PATRICK HLALHLA
METRO REPORTER

The Tshwane Metro Council and the Department of Public Works are pushing ahead with their multi-billion rand project aimed at renewing Pretoria’s inner city.

The R11-billion “Re Kgabisa Tshwane Programme” is aimed at improving the working environment of public servants at 40 national departments or agencies in the inner city.

The buildings are expected to be brought to “an acceptable norm, attracting private sector investment and ensuring the urban environment is improved” in terms of urban security, public space and accessibility.

Crime and grime – especially in the inner city – will be tackled by the metro council and the Department of Public Works.

Details of which buildings will be refurbished and what improvements will be made are still under wraps.

Attempts to get comment from project manager Dumisa Dlamini on what improvements will be undertaken and whether any government buildings will be demolished to make way for new ones, were unsuccessful.

The bulk of the work is expected to take place between 2008 and 2010, and is due to be completed by 2014.

The initiative includes the provision of two corridors concentrating on government accommodation and improvements to the city’s infrastructure and the metro council’s inner city development strategy.

Seven precincts – Mandela Corridor, Presidency (Union Building), Museum Park, Salvokop, Paul Kruger North, Sammy Marks Square and Church Square – will be provided along these corridors “for consolidating and clustering department accommodation around a public space network”.

The programme will:

- Improve the physical working environment for national government departments or agencies in the inner city;
- Contribute to inner city renewal and rejuvenation;
- Develop the image of Tshwane as an important capital city in Africa;
- Contribute to black economic empowerment; and
- Attract private sector investment.

The programme involves the renovation, upgrade and repair of government buildings which are in the category “good to fair” as opposed to excellent in terms of their condition.

Options being considered include the refurbishment of the buildings or demolition of existing ones to make way for new structures.

Deputy programme director Peter Chiapasco said they would undertake a feasibility study to determine the needs of 13 government departments in Pretoria’s inner city.

Chiapasco said there were a number of buildings which were between 60 and 70 years old and the metro council and the department would look at ways of improving them. “We cannot let government departments operate from inappropriate buildings,” said Chiapasco.

“It is difficult to say what will come out from the feasibility study. It is also difficult to say if there are any buildings which will be demolished,” he said.

Chiapasco said sites had been identified for the offices of three government departments – Land Affairs, Education and Foreign Affairs.

“Sites have been identified and we are busy with the procurement process,” said Chiapasco.

The Civitas Building is being renovated while the new National Library is under construction on the corner of Andries and Struben streets. The projects form part of the proposed Government Boulevard.
Inner city won’t be a slum – council

PATRICK HLAHLA

The Tshwane Metro Council has drawn up regulations to ensure Pretoria’s inner city does not become a slum.

The Tshwane Inner City Strategy provides clear development and management guidelines for developers interested in the inner city housing market.

It is also aimed at ensuring that all residential development in the inner city is of an acceptable standard and makes a positive contribution to the overall urban environment.

Nava Pillay, strategic executive officer: housing, city planning and environmental management, said the strategy would ensure that developers met standards in line with the National Building Regulations.

The residential market in the inner city has seen rapid growth recently, primarily in the form of conversions of commercial buildings into residential units.

But the conversion of existing office buildings into residential units needed to be carefully managed and monitored to ensure that existing office stock in the inner city was not depleted.

Pillay said one of the key issues was that proper amenities – including parks, cinemas and schools – were provided in the inner city.

“According to the strategy, the number of residential units would have to correspond with the availability of social and recreational facilities such as day-care centres, schools, parks and sports grounds.”

The municipality also wants residential developers to contribute to the provision of recreational facilities.

A survey would be undertaken shortly to determine what percentage of inner city residents own vehicles so that planning could be done for parking.

Pillay said one of the biggest problems facing the municipality was the fact that some landlords illegally convert their buildings.

“The strategy will ensure that landlords do not partition their offices and then turn them into residential units,” said Pillay.

Stevens Mokgalapa, the Democratic Alliance’s spokesman on inner city regeneration, said the city had experienced rapid urbanisation with high demand for housing in the inner city.

Mokgalapa said people migrating to the city to be close to work had put a strain on the infrastructure which could no longer sustain the influx.

“This trend allowed ambitious property developers to find innovative ways of addressing the demand by illegally turning unoccupied and dilapidated office space into residential units,” said Mokgalapa.

He said this happened without proper planning and the provision of necessary public facilities and support services, which led to the creation of slums and social problems in the inner city.

“The municipality needs to enforce its planning laws and policies and deal decisively with transgressors,” he said.

They have houses, but no homes

Janine du Plessis

Residents living in temporary housing at hostels in Atteridgeville have slammed the “unhealthy squalor” they are forced to live in.

And it seems the Tshwane Metro Council is buckling under the pressure to house the continuous influx of people – and ensure the hostels are fit to live in.

A member of the Atteridgeville Residents’ Association who did not want to be identified, said he was “disgusted” with the conditions of the temporary housing where thousands of people have been living for the past two years.

About 11 000 people are on the waiting list for council houses.

“There are kids playing in the rubbish and leaking sewage water. The council says there is no money to clean this place up.”

“The people have to relieve themselves outside because there are no proper toilet facilities. Some structures have been broken down and are dangerous.”

“This is not a home, how can people live under these conditions and still have faith in the council?” he asked.

The 36 family units of the Murray & Roberts Hostel, made by renovating some of the older structures, have no debris in the housing backlog.

And at the Saulsville Hostel, where 411 three-bedroom family units have been built, residents are still complaining about the shoddy workmanship on the houses.

The hostel official said the council had to look at emerging contractors, some of whom have little work experience.

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Fears of illicit building boom under fire from property developers, architects

Delay in approval of plans by city council

Illegal buildings are springing up around the city due to long delays in obtaining municipal approval of building plans.

Frustrated property developers and architects have criticised the Tshwane Metro Council for the delays, which they said could lead to more people erecting buildings without approved plans.

Most of the property developers and architects - who spoke on condition of anonymity - said they have waited for more than six months for their plans to be approved by the municipality's building control division.

They said the delays were frustrating as their clients could not legally build new houses or make additions or alterations to their existing homes.

The property developers and architects have called on the Metro Council to urgently implement steps to tackle the delays.

The failure by the municipality to approve plans on time has already led to some people making alterations without the necessary plans, according to several sources.

The municipality had by yesterday not responded to an inquiry sent through last month about the problems experienced by property developers and architects.

The Pretoria News repeatedly asked how many plans were submitted from the municipality - or indeed a response of any kind.

The Metro Council was recently taken to court for allegedly dragging its feet in considering building plans.

The application was brought by seven building and property development companies that stated in court papers that the National Building Regulations stipulated that council had to consider building plans within 30 days.

Instead, the builders said, the municipality took up to six months or longer when it came to duets - two houses on a property.

This did not only cause frustration for prospective home owners but also for builders who suffered cash flow problems as a result.

A property developer, who did not wish to be named, said the whole system needed a complete revamp.

"The current system is unacceptable to the public. The council's slow pace in approving plans has resulted in some people building illegally," he said.

The developer said he had been struggling for the past three years to have building plans approved.

"The biggest problem is that there are not enough qualified people to approve the plans. The municipality should also look at extending the working hours of its officials in the Building Section," he said.

The developer said he wrote a letter to Executive Mayor Dr. Cope.

He said it would appear the municipality had capacity problems. "The lack of staff is hindering the process of approving buildings," he said.

The delays in approving building plans have led to architects and developers "jumping the gun", he said. "They proceed with their buildings without approval from council," he said.

Garsfontein resident Leon Strydom said he submitted building plans for approval on June 23 this year for a small alteration and additions at his house for the construction of a garage and storeroom.

Strydom said he phoned the municipal offices after five weeks to inquire about the plan approval and was informed that it would take another two months.

"I strongly objected and the lady said I should invite the TV people to investigate that department," said Strydom.

It was frustrating to wait so long for building plans to be approved, he said.

Dr. Clive Napier, the Democratic Alliance's spokesperson on city development in the Metro Council, said it was shocking that seven builders and property developers had to seek court action to have relatively simple plans approved.

"Why has no progress been made over the past two years in addressing plan approval bottlenecks?" asked Napier.
Ontwikkelaars - hoe ver strek hulle eer

RIA LOGGENBERG

"Beloftes maak maak. Of, 'my woord is my eer' - aldus bekende gesegdes in die Afrikaans spreektaal.

Die vraag is net - hoe ver strek mense se eer?

Mediaberigte van beweerde bedrog met die vervalsing van okkusiesertifikate deur 'n bekende ontwikkelaar in Pretoria, was die afgelope maand of twee hoog nuus wat menige huiseiernaars - veral in sektuurskomplekse in die ooste van Pretoria - met skok verslaa en benoud gelaat het. Die vraag het telkens op bekommertes se lippe gelê: "hoe ver strek mense se eer? Wat het van mense se integriteit geword?"

Hierdie vraag is nie net tot die ooste van Pretoria beperk nie, maar word met groot onsteltenis en kommer ook deur huiseiernaars van 'n multi-miljoen Rand sektuurskoor digby Irene, Centurion, uitgesaai.

Ry jy met die besig Nelspruitweg in die rigting van Irene, merk jy, benewens die grondverkiesingswerke regs van die pad, die bemarkingsbord wat aandui dat 'n nuwe kompleks, Irene Mall, teen einde 2007 op die terrein gevestig sal wees. Onwillekeurig val jy oog, net daarna, op die smaakvolle dubbeleverdieping huise op 'n sektuursomheining landgoed in Pierre van Rynelpark. Gaan maak nader kennis, pryk die sierletters teen beide die netjiesse geboue, wat as sektuursbeheerders toegange dient, om aan te dui dat dit die gesogte Irene Farm Villages (IFV) is.

Onmiddellik besef 'n mens dat die ontwikkelaars van hierdie nuwe "mall" 'n uitstekende terreinkeuse gemaak het vir die ontwikkeling teens die gevestigde hoes inkomste landgoed, en digby die buurlandgoed bekend as Cornwall Hill Country Estates. Wat meer kan winkeleienaars vra?

Terug na die IFV sektuurslandgoed. Die enorme 250 ha landgoed wat, na verneem word, uiteindelik gaan spog met ongeveer 670 moderne huise op erwe wat wissel tussen 500 en 2 000 m², is op die oog af 'n toonbeeld van goeie beplanning, maksimum sekuriteit, gelukkige en gevestigde huiseiernaars wat elke morgen 'n spesifieke rede hierheen kom.

Vir sommige 'n goeie afteerbeplanning met 'n "affte-oord wat op die terrein" gevestig gaan word, vir ander die rustigheid om hul kinders onder veilige omstandighede. Eersdaags by die beplande "private school in te skryf vir onderwys van die hoogste standaard." Die natuurliefshebbers is natuurlik gelok deur die "landgoedterasse" en ooplaparkeer wat ontspannings- en sportasfaltlede sal bied soos die "extensive, manicured parkland" en vir die natuur kinders, 'n "ryskool en perdestalle." Dit is "steeds enkele van die voordele" wat hierdie landgoed sal bied. Aluds 'n landskapgroen glans beplanningsbrochure wat deur goed ingelinge agentes, reeds vroeg in 2000, aan belangstellendes met verwagtinge gegee is.

Wat meer wil enige huiseiernaars hé?
Ongeag jonk, middelbaar of bejaard?

Vervolg op bl. 5
Don’t rename Pretoria – call for more parking days at Menlyn

Work starts on new parking days at Menlyn

Experts say old Pretoria continues to be seen as unsafe

By HANTO OTTO

Voortrekker leader Andries Pretorius yesterday promoted cooperation and conciliation with black South Africans.

Singer Steve Hofmeyr, members of the trade union Solidarity and the Federation van Afrikaanse Kunsteuniversitas (FAK) yesterday handed over a memorandum to the Office of President Mbeki at Union Buildings.

The memorandum appealed for the retention of the name Pretoria as the name of the country’s capital.

It was signed by, among others, legal expert Professor Marinus Wierckx, chairman of the Blue Bulls Ex-Players’ Association Piet Uys, chairman of the FAK’s executive committee Danie Goosen and Wiln du Plessis, chief executive of the Gauteng North Business Chamber.

This followed after Mbeki recently said he supported the change of the city’s name.

“The current usage of Pretoria as the name of the city and Tshwane as the name of the Metropolitan Municipality is such a win-win solution – one that accommodates everyone,” they said.

Reducing the name Pretoria to a few city blocks would not promote conciliation, but instead send a message of retribution.

In support of this, the memorandum stated that according to the Constitution, South Africa belonged to everyone who lived here. It also demanded respect for all who helped to build and develop the country. “Changing the name... would be a disarrangement of the heritage and contribution of a segment of the country’s population,” it continued.

Referring to Andries Pretorius, after whom Pretoria was named, the memorandum said he brought black riders together to resist British imperialism.

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They requested to have discussions with Mbeki before a decision was made on the name change, saying they would cooperate constructively to find a solution.

The argument for keeping Pretoria’s name was that the successful future of the country depended on the ability of different groups to reach win-win solutions.

The current usage of Pretoria as the name of the city and Tshwane as the name of the Metropolitan Municipality is such a win-win solution – one that accommodates everyone,” they said.

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CUBE - The Centre for the Understanding of the Built Environment (Project building)
C.U.B.E. - The Centre for the Understanding of the Built Environment (Manchester, UK)
CBE - Council for the Built Environment
SACAP - South African Council for Architectural Practitioners
SACLAP - South African Council for Landscape Architectural Practitioners
EISA - Engineering Institute of South Africa
SACPCMP - South African Council for the Project and Construction Management Professions
SACPVP - South African Council for the Property Valuators Profession
TICP SDF - Tshwane Inner City Programme Spatial Development Framework
CBD - Central Business District
DPW - Department of Public Works
DAC - Department of Arts and Culture
CIDB - Construction Industry Development Board