

Introduction

The work of chosen alumni of School of Architecture at Pretoria University is exhibited as part of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Department. Because the Department, as an academic institution, exists in service of the community, it would like to enter into dialogue with that community and be accountable for its programme. For this reason the Department exhibits the work and thoughts of its best students as well as practicing architects, who are regarded as important contributors to architecture, to the general public by means of a retrospective exhibition.

The public is exposed to the experience of architecture on a daily basis. Why then an exhibition of architectural work in an art gallery? The exhibition has multiple goals:

- * It is an attempt at obtaining an overview of, and highlight possible trends in the work of students and practicing architects who have excelled over a 50 year period,
- * to exhibit the graphic design thoughts of architects as artefacts in their own right,
- * to offer architects an opportunity to expose the design content of certain selected works, in order to promote an understanding of the rôle of architecture as a cultural expression, as well as understanding of the context from which the designs originated,
- * and to understand the position of certain architects within a wider architectural debate.

The Department does not wish to claim the work of the exhibitors as its own. Although the chosen architects all share their Alma Mater, and therefore share a common education, each exhibitor has undergone a unique process of development in which the Department has played no part. The Department, in its education process, does however place a premium on the uniqueness of the individual, as well as the ability of architects who have studied at the Department to act creatively within ever changing contexts. In this sense the exhibition is a celebration of creativity and the positive contribution of architectural endeavour.

Acknowledgements

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- * The Pretoria Art Museum: This exhibition is a co-operative project between the Department and the Art Museum. The Art Museum runs the exhibition and financed the opening, invitations and advertisements.
- * Ms Willemien Beukes, third year student at the Department, for the design of the exhibition logo. Her design was chosen in a one-day design competition.
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- * Mr Willem Steyn and mr Johan Jooste, for preparing the exhibit of the late Karel Jooste.
- * Mr Rudolf van Rensburg, Ms Marianne de Klerk and mr Hans Wilreker, for preparing the exhibit of Jan van Wijk.

Karel Bakker (Exhibition co-ordinator)