

DESIGN 100

Architecture 60 + Landscape Architecture 30 + Interior Architecture 10

This issue of *Image and Text* celebrates the teachers in the various programmes in the Department of Architecture at the University of Pretoria as academics. The Department of Architecture celebrates its sixtieth year in 2003, the programme in landscape architecture its thirtieth year in 2002, and interior architecture its tenth in 2003. Each milestone marks a moment to stand still and reflect.

The proof of the academic worth of a department is the quality of the texts that emanate from the teaching corps. It is true that the quality of the teaching determines the intellectual preparedness of the graduates for their chosen profession but, unfortunately, does not predict the quality of their designs. The quality of the designers teaching in the programmes determines the credibility of the teachers and it could be argued, challenges the quality of the future designs of graduates.

The Pretoria School of Architecture was reputedly home to a corps of enthusiastic pragmatists who readily took to the exotic expressionism of the Brazilian Modern, but elected not to dabble in theoretical musings.

In her essay *Reminiscences: the Pretoria School of Architecture as remembered by early graduates, 1943-1953* Alta Steenkamp reflects on those early teachers whose legacy is the impressions that linger in the memory of the early graduates – in fact a record of an oral tradition – one of which this country is justly proud.

Rudolph van Rensburg dwells on the element of architecture that is essential to the abstract quality of the art, namely light. He takes the long view of its role in the various historical phases of the discipline, emphasising the multi-valence of its qualities in the expression of the architecture of the different periods.

Graham Young demonstrates the importance of the landscape architectural practitioner bringing back to the academic debate realities encountered at the coalface. Through his essay *Transforming urban open space: the development of two parks in Soweto with emphasis on art in the park* he demonstrates the paucity of professional expertise in some communities, requiring that those of us having privileged knowledge, and hence power, have obligations to a wider range of communities than those we recognise as our own in our ordinary daily affairs.

Gift Setshedi, in documenting the experience of a teacher having students document the artifacts of an absent community now appropriated by another, argues in his essay *Documenting the post-apartheid genius loci of Salvokop: a recommendation for the rehabilitation process* that we need to develop an appreciation of the accretions of process as evidence of achievement and aspirations. This is counter to the argument that heritage is the search for a pristine and sanitised past, achieved through the gentrification of so-called 'degraded' environments.

Students too are academics in their own right as demonstrated by students of Interior Architecture programme. Nico Botes elides products and text into an assemblage of student designs and design statements that challenge the

idea of 'Book'. The article also becomes the record of an exercise in doing an installation at an exhibition for public viewing and its reception by the media.

The architect remains the eternal romantic, having nostalgia for a lost – even if somewhat recent – past. Henri Comri reflects on the designer as traveller, and as chronicler of those places encountered. While he expresses his sense of loss of the past techniques of drawing to recall, he argues cogently for its retention, even in this digital era, since it exercises the creative mind of the designer.

As a Department we are proud of the achievements of our teachers, students and researchers. We thank the editorial committee of *Image & Text* for the opportunity to showcase a narrow spectrum of our achievements. We are also appreciative of the efforts of the panel of experts that have been drawn from the spectrum of disciplines represented and a breadth of institutions as referees of the contributions. Gratitude is extended to the alumni who have made financial contributions, Blueprint Design for forgoing the normal tariffs and the sponsors featured in the advertisements. Special thanks are extended to Alta Steenkamp, guest editor, for giving her time and energy in all aspects required in realising this venture.

List of contributing alumni:

- Boogertman Krige Architects
- Cave Klapwijk & Associates Landscape Architects
- Crafford & Crafford Architects
- Jeremie Malan Architect
- KH Landscape Architects
- Newtown Landscape Architects

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