

TEN OUT OF TEN YEARS OF PUBLISHED SOUTH AFRICAN ARCHITECTURE

Compiled by Roger Fisher

In compiling this list, Roger Fisher has only considered works related to South Africa published over the last ten years.

1. 40 architects under 40

Cargill Thompson, J. 2000. 40 architects under 40. Köln: Taschen ISBN 3-822-86212-6
The opening up of South African society has made it either radical or chic to include South African architects in international publications. We find featured the PG Glass building (pp. 196-199) and The University of Pretoria's Gordon Institute of Business Science (pp. 190-195) of Henri Comrie and Professor 'Ora Joubert's (Head of the Department of Architecture) Huis Laubscher (pp. 200-203).

2. A guide to recent architecture

Muwanga, C. 1998. South Africa. A guide to recent architecture. London: Chrysalis Books. ISBN 3-829-00476-1
South Africa is now on the tourist circuit, and with the assumption that some may be interested in what our architects are up to, a miniscule pocket guide was published highlighting projects of the decade of mid 1980-90s. My favourite entry remains 'Transportable post boxes' (pp. 108-109). Would that all architectural solutions could be so simple and effective.

3. Architecture, apartheid and after.

Judin, H. and Vladislavic, I. 1998. Architecture, apartheid and after. Rotterdam: NiA ISBN 9-560-62092-4
The South African architectural event of the decade of the nineties was the 'blank' exhibition facilitated by the Netherlands Institute of Architects. While it stirred ire, left many mystified and some untouched, the accompanying reader of diverse 'texts', remains seminal. Unfortunately it was not given broad currency in South Africa. The University of Pretoria campus is featured in my essay 'Native heart'.

4. The making of an African building. The Mpumalanga Provincial Government complex.

Malan, C. & McInerney, P. (Editors). 2001. The making of an African building. The Mpumalanga Provincial Government complex. Johannesburg: MPTS Architectural Library ISBN 0-620-28294-0. Meyer Pienaar Tayob Schnepel consortium's in-house publishing – produced two monographs to commemorate the two new provincial legislatures commissioned for the newly created provincial dispensation of a democratic South Africa, namely that of Mpumalanga and Northern Cape.

Both explore by way of the Nelspruit and Kimberley examples what is emergent in an endemic architecture that might successfully address the needs of society in search of a distinguishable identity within the African context. The project architects, Reiner Förtsh and Herman Schnepel based in Nelspruit are Tuks Alumni as is the co-editor of the books, Chris Malan.

5. Architecture on my mind: critical readings in design.

Lipman, A. 2003. Architecture on my mind: critical readings in design. Unisa Press. ISBN 1-868-88241-1
As a one-man conscience for the entire South African architectural corps, Alan Lipman has raged and coaxed as architectural reviewer to the Sunday Independent newspaper since 1992. A selection of Lipman's writings are collected into an anthology, arranged under themes much of the authors making, and perhaps some rather whimsical. The layout matches the writing – crisp and no nonsense.

6. Reflections on the making of space.

Fox, J. (Editor). 1997. Revel Fox. Reflections on the making of space. Ndabeni: Rustica Press ISBN 0-620-22627-7
Revel Fox, died in late 2004, had a catalogue prepared at the time of his Sophia Gray Memorial Lecture in Bloemfontein in 1997, a novel adjunct to a prestigious event which is now the high-water mark of the South African architectural calendar. The Department has an arrangement that the Sophia Grey architect has the exhibition shown on Tuks campus, one of which was Bannie Britz, Tuks alumnus.

7. Africa style in South Africa. Pondokkies, khayas and castles.

Strauss, P. 1994. Africa style in South Africa. Pondokkies, khayas and castles. Johannesburg: Jonathan Ball ISBN 1-868-42021-021-3
'Africa Style in South Africa' was on the shelves in time to celebrate the new democracy and features contemporary works of Tuks graduates, including Villa Ivy, the converted stable residence of Professor 'Ora Joubert.

8. Architecture of the Transvaal.

Fisher, R., Le Roux, S. with Maré, E. 1998. Architecture of the Transvaal. Pretoria: Unisa. ISBN 1-868-88039-7. A collection of ten essays surveying the chronological development of the built environment, Contributions come from, amongst other notable critics, three Tuks alumni, namely Schalk le Roux, Roger Fisher and Carl Gerneke, writing on mosque architecture, Pretoria critical regionalism, and

the Brazil modern architectural impact in the old Transvaal. The volume remains the closest to a contemporary overview of architectural development in the country.

9. Model building specifications and standards. Guide for architects.

Wegelin, Hans. 1990 (Second printing of fourth revision 2000). Model building specifications & standards. Guide for architects. Pretoria: Wegelin Private Press. Hans Wegelin retired from the Department of Architecture in June 2005. This is a fine condensation of thirty-odd years of teaching and even more as practitioner, presenting in accessible form the tricky art of specifying for construction. It is also available in electronic format.

10. Roses at the Cape of Good Hope.

Fagan, Gwen. 1988 (second reprinting 1995). Roses at the Cape of Good Hope. With photographs by Gabriël Fagan. Cape: Town Breestraat Publikasies. ISBN 0-620-11032-5
Every so often one may possess at an affordable price, totally disproportional to the intrinsic value of the item, a work of art and science all in one. While a book on the topic of roses requires a litany of facts, the writing is never laboured, and the prose is elegant, at times, poetic.

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