



OVERVIEW 2024



Credit Alex Dodge: "Entrances, Gates & Fences" – Aug Newsletter



TURNING 60 – Cause to Celebrate

VASSA was founded in 1964, as a result of interest in folk buildings stimulated by a course at the University of Cape Town Summer School, led by Dr James Walton.

In 2024, UCT's Summer School followed our footsteps, and offered three talks

on **The Significance of Vernacular Architecture**

Vernacular Architecture in the 21st century – Adapting to change through re-use

Kookskerm to Kombuis – The adaptation of the hearth in corbelled buildings in the Karroo

Voices of the Past – Considering the role of oral histories in understanding the landscape



FEBRUARY

Talk: Jenny Whittle
On her research
locating the
positions of the
original Cape farms
via historical maps



Outing: Three farms which lie just off the N1 en route to Paarl
De Meye, Muldersvlei and Joostenberg.



MARCH

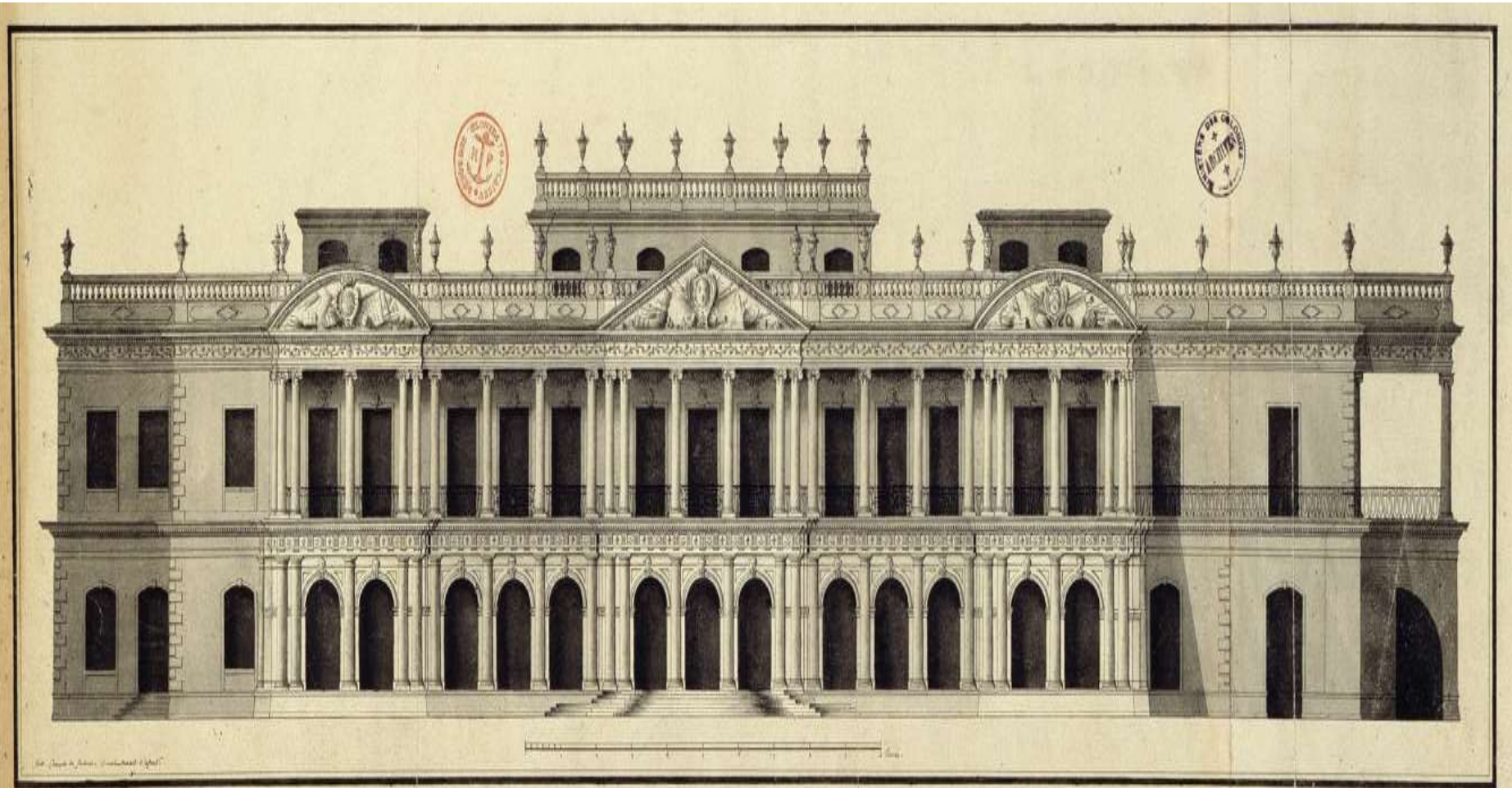
Talk: The influence of Egyptian Architecture on the local architecture of the Cape –Andre van Graan

Outing: Historic areas in The Waterfront : The Breakwater area, The Time Ball – Leslie Cox



APRIL Talk

Architecture and Cultural Hybridity in Eighteenth-Century Pondicherry *Professor Gauvin Alexander Bailey*



FACADE DU GOUVERNEMENT DE PONDICHERY

Jean-Louis Champia de Fonbrun, Pondicherry, facade of the Government House of Pondicherry, ca 1752.

APRIL Outing: Glen Dirk
– Andre van Graan & Trevor Thorold

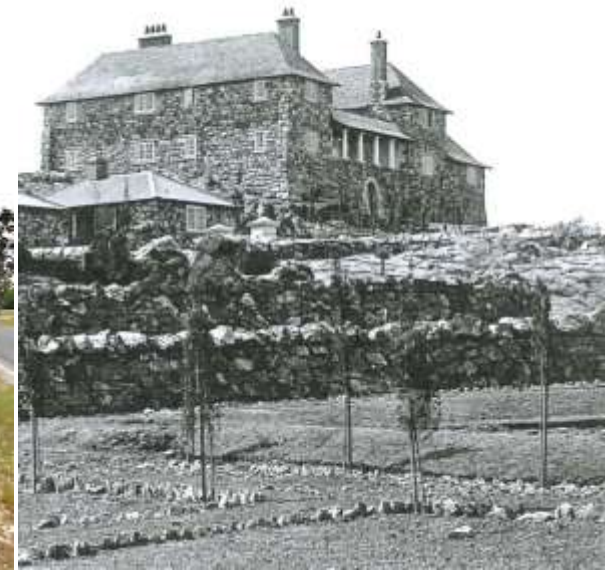


MAY Outing – *Andre van Graan*
Lower Kenilworth Walkabout: In search of the Arts & Crafts tradition in Cape Town domestic architecture



JUNE

Talk:
**The impact of the Arts & Crafts
Movement on South African
architecture**
– Andre van Graan



Outing:
**The Porter Estate
in Tokai – Antonia Malan
& Alex Dodge**





JULY

**Outing: Zorgvliet Homestead, Oranjezicht
Plus Additional Walkabout of Long Street
- *Nicolette Duckham***





AUGUST

Talk by *Paddy Attwell*

The Constantia-Tokai Valley:

Where Nature meets Humankind

**The importance of trees in the cultural landscape,
mainly in the Constantia/Tokai valley**

Constantia's Forgotten Farms

John Cornell and his co-author Stephen D'Alton have done research into the history of farms in the lower Constantia Area, starting from the four large farms, Weltevreden, Schildpadvlei, Timour Hall and Hauptville, as well as some adjacent farms. While these date back to the early 1800s, there were later subdivisions into a number of smaller farms. What is somewhat surprising is that some 30 farm homesteads still exist, and these were tracked down from their early survey diagrams and from aerial photographs from the 1940s, at which time the entire area was still under vines everywhere! The farmhouses found lie between Spaanschemat River Road and Boundary Road, from Constantia Main Road down to Bergvliet. And Stephen's grandparents actually owned Hauptville.



SEPTEMBER

Talk: *Roshan Bhurta*

Preserving History: Spatial Documentation of Heritage Sites through the lens of Mostert's Mill and other sites

House of Wonders (Beit-al-Ajaib)
Stone Town, Zanzibar

Oblique View (Section NW-SE, Textured)



SEPTEMBER WEEKEND AWAY – *Yvonne Reynolds* The Upper Breede River Valley and Warm Bokkeveld





NOVEMBER Talk

WUPPERTHAL
*Graham Jacobs &
John Wilson-Harris*

**Two different perspectives
on the projects to repair the
damage caused by a fire in
in the Cedarberg in 2018**



OCTOBER Outing

VILLIERSDORP *Viccie le Roux*



NOVEMBER

Talk by
Barry Gasson

**THE CAPE
TOWN PIER**



NOVEMBER
Outing

**GLENELLY &
IDAS VALLEY**
Stuart Hermansen



Jim Hislop Admin

Unauthorised removal of plaster reported to Heritage Western Cape some months ago. They placed a cease works order on the renovations as far as I know. And now here it sits in this state as winter comes. I don't know what the current status is. But unfortunately not many people can afford the required heritage consultants, and correct materials, etc, when repairing a building of great age such as this, and so some owners just try to do their own maintenance without going through the correct process. The system is unfortunately flawed. The building forms part of the Waalendorp development begun in the 1760s by Jan de Waal, and I have found that apart from the Bokaap Museum, there are two other houses that date from the same era, also part of Waalendorp, that are incorporated into more modern fabric. One is also in a dire state. This house is the second last remaining 18th century wavy parapet building in Cape Town. It is not a provincial heritage site to my knowledge, but should be.



NEED FOR VIGILANCE

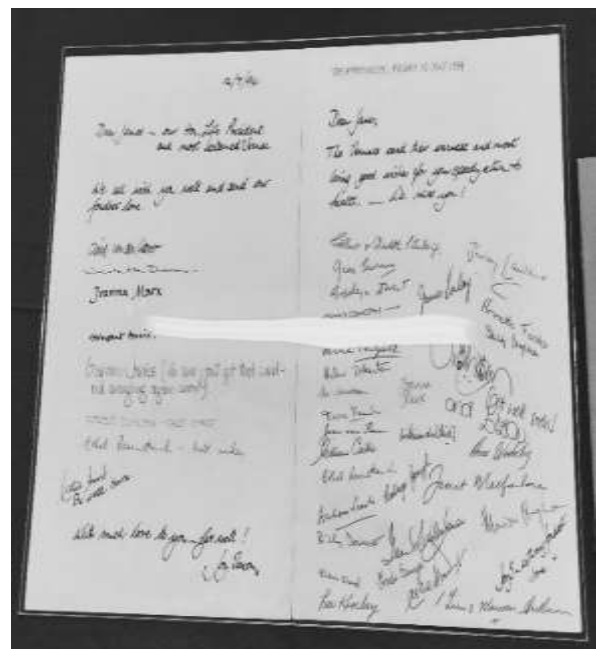
Development proposal for the Oude Molen precinct.

Image from the Visual Impact Assessment prepared by David Gibbs.



A VISIT TO THE JAMES WALTON ARCHIVE , SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, STELLENBOSCH UNI BY JAMES WALTON'S FAMILY - Jennifer Trewin, his granddaughter, and her family and father, George Todd, along with select Vernaccers Marieta Buys & Busi Mofu laid out some material from the James Walton archives – a treasure trove of research, graphics, publications and

correspondence , prompting
the question: “Where did he
find the time for all this work?”



PEOPLE



Jos Baker, whose name will be forever linked to **Klein Zoar, Brooklyn** passed away in April. She always wanted to die in her home and I'm glad her wish was granted. Thanks to those members of this Facebook group who donated & bought copies of her book, **Preserving a House**.
- Tribute by Jim Hislop

5 Tatler 15 June 1989

25th anniversary

MEMBERS of the Vernacular Architectural Society of SA celebrated their 25th anniversary at a dinner at the City and Civil Service Club on Friday 2 June.

Among the 120 diners were 12 of the founder members including Dr James Walton, the society's honorary life president.

The Vernacular Architecture Society was formed in February 1964 by those who had attended a UCT Summer School course on architecture and wanted to pursue their interest further.

There are two main aspects of the society's work: Educational (promoting interest in the vernacular, ie local architecture of South Africa, as well as that of other countries) and recording (compiling records - mainly photographic - of significant buildings and areas. Buildings under threat of demolition are of particular concern).

Monthly meetings are held at the Athenaeum, usually taking the form of slide lectures by guest speakers.

There is also a monthly outing on a Saturday to inspect a building or other place of interest. Especially popular are the occasional weekend outings.

The most recent of these was in May to small fishing harbours on the south coast.

There are approximately 280 members. Honorary life members include Dr Walton, Mr and Mrs Gwile Fagan, Mr and Mrs Hugh Floyd, Mr Dirk Visser (recently appointed vice-chairman), Mr Revel Fox, Mr Graeme Binckes, Mrs Desiree Duckham (Picton-Seymour) and Mr William Malherbe. Membership subscriptions are extremely modest. Inquiries may be directed to the membership secretary, Mrs Sue Henderson (685-3977) or the honorary secretary, Mr Jeremy Lawrence (47-2800).

At the Vernacular Architecture Society dinner at the City and Civil Service Club on Friday 2 June were honorary life president Dr James Walton with chairman Joanna Marx at the microphone and Helen Binckes.

A planned H-shaped Cape Dutch house birthday cake proved too ambitious and seen here with the three replacement cakes are (from left): Sue Henderson, Annette Foster and Joy Saxon, members of the sub-committee.

At the dinner were Doreen Rosenberg, Virginia Fortescue, Nicolette Duckham and Bruce Kinglay.

P-Bolt

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Ludwig's Roses
2 April 2020

The original shrub of 'Gwen Fagan' from 1992 responded to some digging in of horse manure and is showing off its dense clusters of nice full blooms.





VASSA
 Vernacular Architecture Society of South Africa
 Umbutho wezakwiwo zemveli wasMzantsi Afrika
 Volksboukundige Vereniging van Suid-Afrika

VASSA Journal

100th Issue
 Weaving heritage to empower people in the wake of disaster
 The recent restoration of the Nazarene-sown centre of Nqopha's Master Gertsebe Cederberg,
 South Africa, 2005-2021 | Graham Jacobs
 Rebuilding homes after the fire of 2018 | Julia Wilson-Harris



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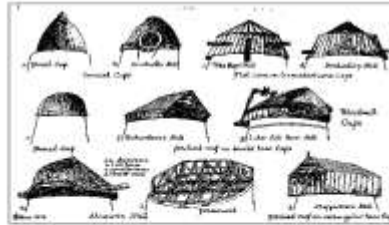
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THE EARLY DAYS 1960-1980

2024

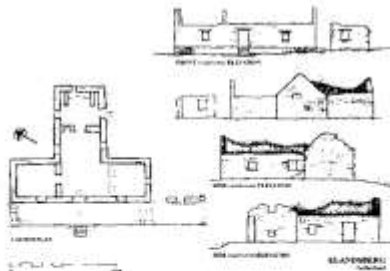


Compiled from
 VASSA archives and members' memories

Vernacular Architecture Society of South Africa
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60th Anniversary 1964-2024



Souvenir



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VASSA Journal

100th Issue
 Diverse Pictorial Experiences: A celebration of my mother's life and career | Isabella
 Doolittle
 Mass production to counter extractivism: Vernacular Buildings in South Africa | J. Pistor
 Moya
 Artist discovers an old house | Martin Smit



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