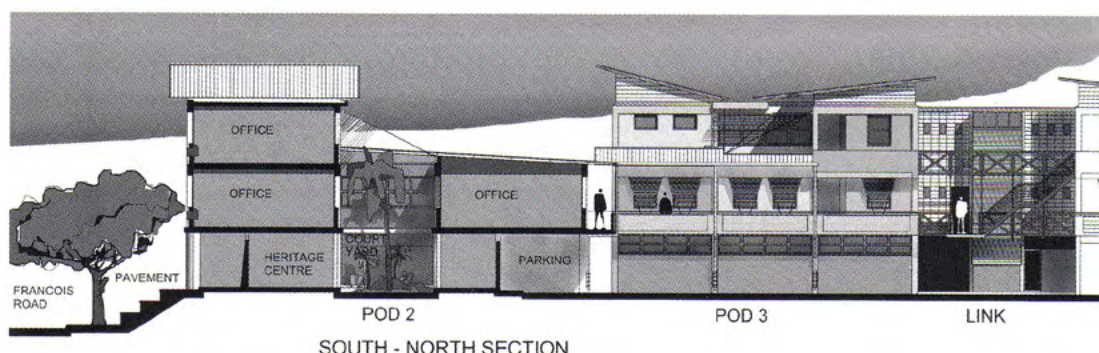
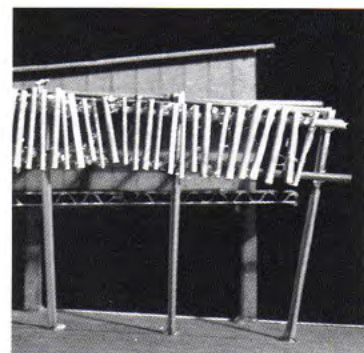


Emerging Architects

Intothukho Junction, Cato Manor, Durban
East Coast Architects



This project resulted from winning the design competition called for by Cato Manor Development Association in 1999, the first notable achievement of the practice. The brief for the 'Administrative Support Centre' was for the provision of office space for the Association and other NGO organisations, with limited commercial accommodation on the corner site.

The design addresses the following issues:

Form: The massing is variegated with a number of units, informally aligned, making reference to the tapestry of housing in the area, both formal and informal. The mono-pitched roofs serve to express that simple urban vernacular.

Grain: Colours and finishes reflect the varied nature of local building, as do thatching laths used as sunscreens to the windows. 'Card-board' housing of the area is reflected in the thin metal sheeted roofs.

Public-Private interface: The office space is elevated on pilotis allowing for an incremental expansion of the commercial spaces at street level. A battered serpentine wall snakes continuously under the office floors marking a clear distinction between the public pavement and the private parking spaces. The wall is ruptured in places to permit vehicular access and controlled visitor entry points.

Street-square: At the corner, the building units are set back to provide a setting for a public square for meetings, gatherings, events and exhibitions. This area can be temporarily roofed or screened for semi-private functions.

Working environment: Each office floor is per-

forated to permit a view of the central landscaped courtyards. These courtyards provide visual relief, act as light wells and give access to fresh air.

Urban design: This concept with a hard edge or barrier to the street and a soft, secure core, is appropriate to any urban block.

Complexity & dialogue: The development explores, and attempts to make explicit and legible, a dialogue between the diverse poles of disparate and divided communities in Durban. This includes the often discordant tension between formal and permanent, informal or temporary, between cheap and loud, or polished & polite.

Loud & proud: The building aims to express the confidence



Tower support for suspension bridge.



Angelic Budlond

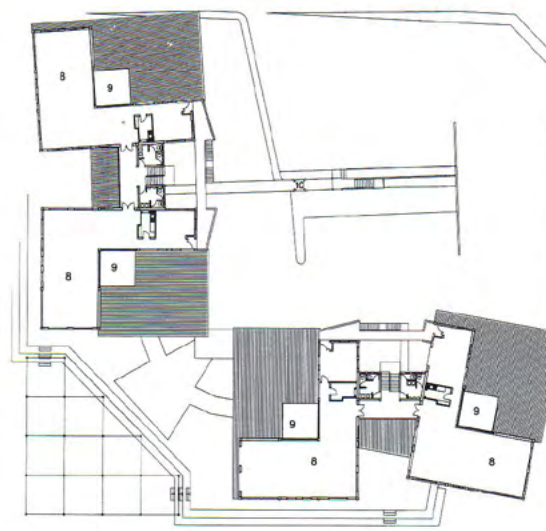


of both developers and sponsors (EU) and the setting of the example for appropriate development within a loose, urban framework.

In conclusion, the building is almost fully let at competitive rents. Consequently, two further units with commercial and office space are to be built on the northern boundary

Dissatisfied with his qualification as an electronic technician (Technikon Natal), Dave Barrow enrolled for Architecture at Natal, to graduate B.Arch cum laude in 1992. There upon he became employed in the limited practice of his teacher, Derek van Heerden, before emerging as a partner in East Coast Architects, formed in 1998 with Derek, fellow

Natal graduate Steve Kinsler, and Coy Dlamini. Derek van Heerden graduated with a B.Arch degree in 1982, and joined the architectural office of the Urban Foundation before entering into partnership with fellow Natal graduate Ms Jenny Whitehead in 1985. After joining the full-time staff of the University of Natal as a Lecturer in 1994, Derek maintained a solo practice.



Second floor



First floor



Ground floor



Francois Road entrance.



Corner Francois Rd and New High Street.

- 1. Interpretative Centre
- 2. Tourism Office
- 3. e-Café
- 4. AV Room
- 5. Shop
- 6. Public square
- 7. Parking
- 8. Office spaces
- 9. Courts
- 10. Suspension bridge

ABOVE LEFT: Note thatching laths as sunscreens.
LEFT: Note the built-in seats along open passages.