

NOTES FOR VICE-CHANCELLOR FOR INTRODUCTION OF CHANCELLOR
AT OPENING OF NEW BUILDINGS ON THURSDAY MAY 15, 1986 at 6 pm

The Chancellor's speech does not explain why the new buildings were needed.

May I suggest that you give this background; followed by a brief description of the progression of the work, and then of the buildings; and end with an invitation to the Chancellor to open them.

Attached are some notes from Mr van Heerden which provide most of this information.

RB

Matters relating to opening
of Quad II

J.S.H.

RHODES UNIVERSITY
INTERNAL MEMO

No.

To:

QUAD TWO
PROJECT.

From:

14 May 1986

Need

* The need for new buildings arose as long ago as 1964 when the English Department put in a bid for a new building.

By the 1970's the Departments of Geography and Geology were bursting at the seams in accommodation no longer adequate for the improved courses being offered. Annexes various parts of campus

Planning

* In 1980 planning of the new buildings for these three Departments started in earnest. All those concerned regarded this as the most important building project ever undertaken at Rhodes because of ~~its~~ ~~paramount importance~~ siting in the Central Campus Area. This was to be the ~~last~~ building project within this Area. culminating

Costs

* Tenders were called for in April 1981 for the building only and the Contract was awarded to LTA (Eastern Cape) Limited. The accepted tender was R2258888. The final building cost was R2250000 to which had to be added R405300 for cost fluctuations.

* The final cost of the project including buildings, professional fees, site works, and landscaping was R4206000.

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Work

2.

earliest women students
accommodation

* Work on site started in June 1986. Some old landmarks had to be demolished: ^{in particular} the old building at the corner of Artillery Road and University Road the previous home for Ichthyology, and before that for Zoology.

The removal of the venerable gum tree near the GLT caused consternation among many old students and staff. So did the old rose garden!

* English Department:

This was deliberately placed close to the Library for obvious reason. Charm and interest has been given to this small building by the planning of a private and planted courtyard ^{in the hope that} ~~where~~ outdoor seminars can be held or where a student can read in solitude.

* Departments of Geology + Geography:

* Their buildings were much more complicated with their detailed requirements for specialised laboratory facilities.

in Geology

* The staff accommodation, has been designed so that each member has available a study and an adjoining laboratory. This encourages research and has proved to be most successful.

* All the new buildings are linked to the existing buildings or to each other: Geography has two arched links — one connecting the Old Arts Block

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and another connecting it to the new English Department building.

The Geology building is connected to the GLT where it retains some accommodation with a glazed tunnel so designed that as one enters the new building one can either go up half a flight of stairs or go down half a flight. This gives students and staff the most convenient access to their new accommodation.

X In both Geography and Geology buildings the necessity for large laboratory spaces meant that exceptional high ceilings had to be designed so that adequate penetration could be provided.

But such high ceilings were ~~necessarily~~ ^{eventual} obviously not desirable in smaller rooms. The ~~first~~ solution required some very careful planning which led to a very satisfactory layout. There are now three high rooms stacked on one side of corridors, with four lower rooms stacked on the other side of the corridors, all within the same overall building height.

With this background information I now have great pleasure in calling on you, Mr. Chancellor, formally to open these new facilities