

STAFF CONSULTANCIES:

A HOUSE TO RETIRE IN - FOREST HILLS, DURBAN, KZN

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The brief was to design a house for a couple nearing retirement on a site located near the Krantzkloof Nature Reserve overlooking a meadow, on the remainder of the client's sub-divided property.

The property, in its original standing, contained a nondescript single storey house (which was to be passed down to the family), a swimming pool and a deteriorated tennis court positioned at the bottom-most (east-end) part of the site that ultimately made way for the new build.

The client wanted a practical, maintenance-conscious house that would harmonise with its environment and perform well to the microclimate through the implementation of passive design strategies as they relate to natural lighting, natural ventilation and thermal comfort, specifically.

In terms of the building programme, the building comprises two separate zones or 'entities': the family realm* (ground floor) which consists of private and common spaces for visiting family members and

friends, and the couple's realm* (first floor), the restricted part of the house.

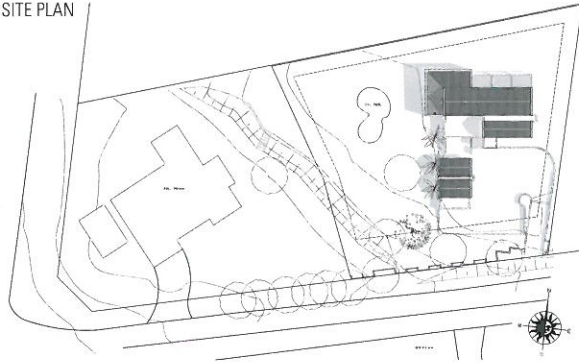
Further, the building programme is translated into a *Building Complex**. Although not completely manifesting "the actual social facts of the situation", recognition and application lead to the articulation of the building's resultant scale and proportions.

The elongated plan shape of the main building is orientated in the east-west direction achieving optimum results in terms of aspect and prospect. Materials were chosen for their functional and practical purposes embracing their characteristics associated with environmental, maintenance and aesthetic values in terms of colour, texture and appropriateness to context.

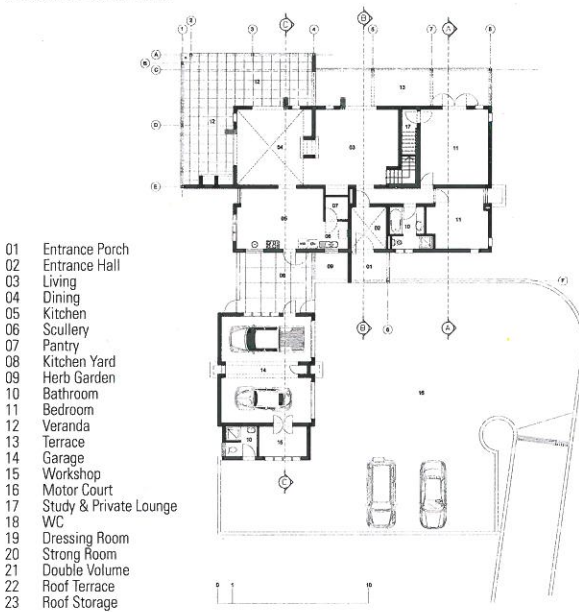
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* Reference is made to Christopher Alexander's A Pattern Language, pattern numbers 75, 95 and 136 in particular.

SITE PLAN



GROUND STOREY PLAN



SECTION CC



FIRST STOREY PLAN

