

## Food for thought in the realm of conservation and heritage

Periodical review: Aspects of architectural conservation for the museologist, (edited by Maurits Naudé)

*Aspects of architectural conservation for the museologist*

Maurits Naudé (guest editor)

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Reviewed by Claudia Gouws

This edition of the research bulletin of the National Cultural History Museum in Pretoria, written from the methodological viewpoint of the museologist, draws the attention to the need to protect heritage sites and to present them to the public as historically accurate statements of material documentation. The major challenge for this type of work is to maintain as much technical accuracy as possible within the constraints of the available financial resources.

In chapter 1 Naudé discusses the management and conservation of immobile objects and historical sites. Chapters 2, 4 and 5, also written by him, deal with the role and responsibilities of the researcher in architectural restoration and conservation.

Two architects, Johan Jooste and Leon Pienaar, are responsible for chapter 3, focusing on the technical aspects of fieldwork and recording information on old farm buildings. Their main concerns are strategies of locating sites, using photography for the purposes of documenting information, and the preparation of technical drawings.

In the last two chapters, two structures (the Klerksvly farmstead, in the former Qua-Qua National Park, and the 1886 homestead on the farm Zwartkoppies near Pretoria) are used to demonstrate two aspects of research and conservation. The one is the collection of oral information. The other aspect is the assessment of a site and buildings in order to determine architectural significance. It is clearly crucially important for any heritage site, with its building structures, to have a conservation management plan that will help to ensure its sustainable use and economic feasibility.

This publication is primarily aimed at museologists, architectural historians and cultural historians. However, there is much food for thought for any reader who has an interest in the conservation of heritage sites. The main focus is not on research and restoration procedures as such. The book embodies a more holistic and socially oriented approach to heritage management and the conservation of historical sites – specifically building structures in South Africa.