GERALD STEYN ARCHITECT⁺

Biographical Notes

Gerald Steyn received a B Arch degree from the University of the Free State in 1975. After undertaking postgraduate research under Prof Dr Frei Otto at the University of Stuttgart, Germany, during 1977 and 1978, he received his Master of Architecture degree from the University of the Free State in 1978. The University of Pretoria awarded him a PhD degree in 1995 for his research on design principles for compact homes.

He worked as Chief Research Officer at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Pretoria before going into private practice in 1980. He co-founded Grobler-Steyn Architects and Engineers in 1981 – a multi-disciplinary general practice with its head office in Pretoria. During that decade he specialised in large affordable housing projects and was responsible for the design and/or contract administration of approximately 6 500 individual detached houses, 430 cluster and townhouse units and 520 apartments in blocks of flats.

In October 1992 he opted to pursue a new career as an independent consulting architect. Since then his work has included a large number of individual houses, lodges and housing complexes, as well as small-scale industrial, commercial and institutional projects. A notable project was that for the premises for the High Commission of Namibia in Pretoria, completed in 1998.

For two terms he was a member of the SACAP Council, the regulatory body for the profession, and chaired a number of committees including Registration, Heads of Schools, Research, and Validation.

Gerald Steyn joined the Department of Architecture of the Tshwane University of Technology in 1999, responsible for postgraduate programme development, and was appointed research professor in 2001. In 2017 he was transferred to the Department of Building Sciences as postgraduate coordinator. He also developed and presents an online research methodology course for the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment. His academic and research interests include settlement dynamics, affordable housing, and vernacular African architecture and urbanism.

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