

## Lindsay Falck – In Memoriam

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Lindsay Falck belonged to a generation of architects in the Cape of whom many built their own houses. This infatuation with building - of physically engaging in the act of building – came from the way they wished to understand not only how buildings are made but how architectural form, in all its detail, is influenced by how it is made. It is this interest in the ‘making’ of buildings, indeed in the ‘tectonic’ quality of architecture and the wonder that is derived from it, that inspired Lindsay Falck both in his teaching and practice work throughout his working life.

I first met Lindsay in 1968 when he was our 2<sup>nd</sup> year Studio-master. In the conservative climate that characterised much of the School in the late 1960s, Lindsay stood out as an inspiring figure. For us at that time, his approachable personality and selflessness allowed all of us access to the world of architecture. Later in 1971 Lindsay (together with Tony and Adele de Souza Santos) again led our 5<sup>th</sup> year Studio, and we were able to extend our earlier learning experience with him. In sharing his interest in the tectonic, structural and resulting formal qualities of architecture, Lindsay regularly organised site visits for us students to projects then under construction in the city – projects such as Gawie Fagan’s Camps Bay house and Lindsay’s own house in Thistle Street, Newlands. They were visits from which we gained much knowledge. A contemporary of Roelof Uytenbogaardt and Neil Grobbelaar amongst others, Lindsay was taught by Professor Thornton-White, the Director of the School (then accommodated in the prefabricated buildings south of the rugby fields) in the 1950s and early 1960s. Under Thornton-White’s guidance that generation was schooled in the main design principles of the modernist masters such as Mies van der Rohe and Le Corbusier.

Equal to the selfless support given to students, was the encouragement and assistance Lindsay extended to young staff members. He was always there to give us guidance, reassurance and inspiration. And, in the few brief periods when he was required to serve as the Director of the School, he did it with the responsible leadership expected of him. In those ‘heady’ years of the early 1980’s, while the country was burning, he strove to build a sense of community in the School, organising topical discussions and a departmental ‘soup-kitchen’.

As in his teaching, Lindsay pursued his practice work with equal vigour. While his teaching commitments demanded much of his time, he was able to collaborate with others on various selected projects of different scales, both locally and nationally. In talking to Neil Grobbelaar recently, he recalled how upon graduation in 1958, Lindsay was immediately employed by Professor Thornton-White’s office where he did much of the overall design and detailed design work on the School of Architecture Centlivres Building at UCT. Later in the early 1980’s he was to work with a similar wide-ranging interest and intensity on the Mannenberg Community Centre.

As an outstanding teacher at the UCT School of Architecture, Lindsay Falck influenced a considerable number of students and young staff members for more than twenty-five years. What made him a special teacher of note was, amongst other qualities, his attentive and caring personality as well as his enquiring mind. Evidence of this life-long curiosity was his studies in City, Urban and Regional Planning (MCURP) at UCT, his later interest in the documentation of seminal technical case studies, in Landscape Architecture and more recently in Archaeological Conservation at the Department of Architecture (now the Weitzman School of Design), Pennsylvania University, Philadelphia.

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Lucien le Grange, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2020