

6.3.4. Thusanong.



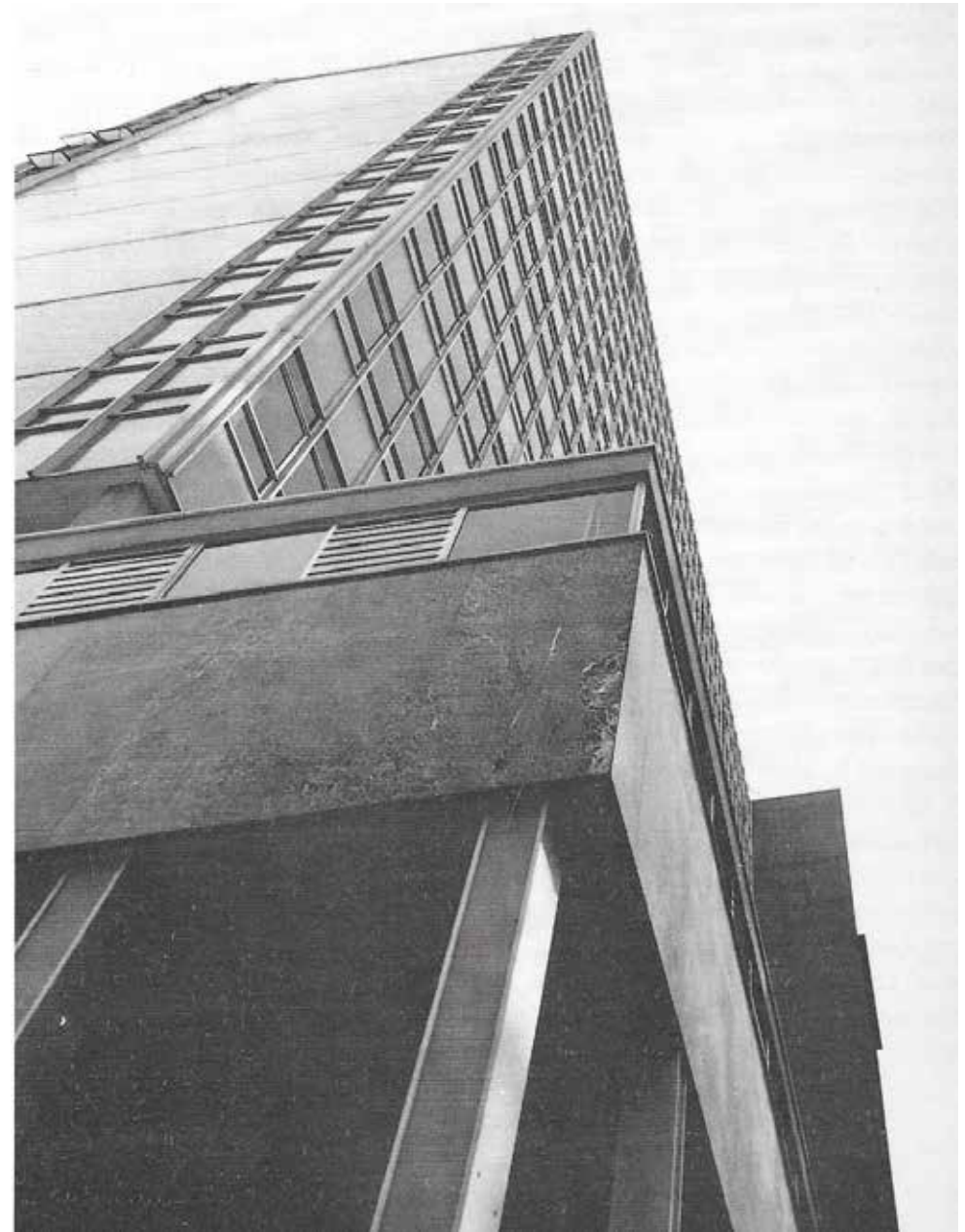
Erf Number:	4777 (previously 212 - 214).
Name:	Thusanong (place of help).
Architect:	M. Sack.
Previous Names:	African Guarantee Building; AGI Building and Lithorn House.
Approved / Existing Plans:	None.
Date of Construction:	1958
Architectural Style / Aesthetics :	Johannesburg Modular Regionalism.
Historical Use:	Banking and Office.
Current Use:	Office.
Intended Use:	Office.
Rarity or Technical interest:	First building in Johannesburg to use anodised aluminium prefabricated curtain walls. During construction 10 floors were installed in 10 days using 3 cranes and prefabricated units.

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Relationship to setting and place:	None.
Relationship to historical aspects:	Constructed on the site of the second Stock Exchange Building and the Palladium Theatre.
Social Importance:	n/a.
Modifications:	Building survives substantially intact.
Integrity of current Structure:	Building survives substantially intact.
Known lost aspects or changes made:	Unknown.
Scientific or Research Potential:	Some, a fair example of Johannesburg Modular Regionalism.
Other:	None.
Protection:	None - However, by 2018 the structure will be more than 60 years old and will be afforded protection in terms of the National Heritage Resources Act.
2002 - 2015 Historical information:	Demolition proposed for 2002 Kopnong project. Granted by SAHRA. Appealed by public in 2005. Appeal declined.
Significance:	First building constructed in Johannesburg with anodised aluminium prefabricated curtain walls
Section 3.3 of NHRA:	e; f; & h.
Grading:	Culturally Significant - grade to be confirmed following full heritage study.
Current Condition - Exterior:	Fair.
Current Condition - Interior:	Fair.
Recommendations - Exterior:	Exterior is a good example of Johannesburg Modular Regionalism and should be retained and restored. The roofline needs to be respected - no additional bulk permitted, no additional openings permitted at street level.
Recommendations - Interior:	Interior fit out is low grade contemporary office, not worthy of retention.
NHRA Applications:	An application as per Section 34.1 of the NHRA is required if work is proposed to the building after 2018.
Recommendations - Overall:	The buildings facades should be retained and restored. The roofline of the building is to be respected. Thusanong is one of the last remaining unaltered Monte Sack buildings in Johannesburg, and is a good example of his work.

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Thusanong represents an intact example of the work of South African architect Monte Sack. Built in 1958, the building facades survive in fairly original condition.

“The African Guarantee high-rise is a curtain wall building with natural anodised aluminium sub-framing and tinted green glass spandrel panels. On the north elevation the glass wall is protected from sun penetration by projecting horizontal aluminium sun-hoods - a detail possibly of Marcel Breuer provenance. This is a building that possesses the elegance and perfect proportion and joie de vivre of a new technology under control - and the delicacy of touch characteristic of Monte Sack. Again, as on the Colonial Bank Building, there is the use of rich natural veined and figured material: planar marble surfaces, on this occasion in sharp raised green onyx. On the west - walls of the main slab block, green mosaic panels (divided with deep horizontal shadow-lines at floor level) are chromatically graded from dark green upwards to light green at top-floor level. This design intervention by a watercolorist-architect is quite brilliant in the context of mechanistic architecture.”⁴³



43. Chipkin, C. M. (1993), page 313.

African Guarantee Building - Chipkin, C. M. (1993), page 135.



Contemporary image - exterior of Thusanong.

Gauteng Provincial Government Precinct, Johannesburg, Gauteng - Heritage Guidelines for Interested and Affected Parties - July 2017.