

Durban Art Deco Society

Fading Glory of Lower Glenwood

Sunday 7 April, 2019

A tour past Art Deco styled apartment and commercial buildings in Berea, Umbilo and Moore roads. As this area thrived in the 1930's and 1940's, a number of sites were developed with the fashionable Art Deco style in various forms. Recently, some buildings have lost their lustre with the changing use of the neighbourhood.

1. Syringa Avenue



This group of Art Deco styled apartment buildings surprises by its location in a neglected neighbourhood close to the Warwick Triangle.

2. Hansa Shops *Lower Berea Road*



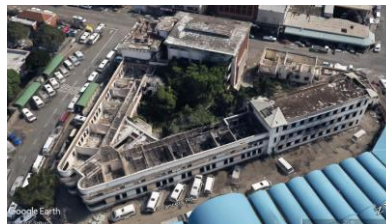
Three adjoining shop buildings which extend over the sidewalk with flats above: A few years ago these shops were renovated and painted bright colours, emphasising the Art Deco decoration. The owner, Mr Hansa, was presented with a Merit Certificate by the Durban Art Deco Society for this work, which he continued with the renovation of Berea Court.

3. Normandie Hotel *19 Lancers Road*



Simple Art Deco treatment sympathetic with the adjoining building, Projecting veranda and roof capped with two connected finials,

4. City Building of the University of Natal *Lancers Road*



Though the Natal University College moved to the Berea Ridge in 1931, the City Building was built in 1936 to house the Commerce Department, giving students working in the city better access to after-hours lectures. In the foyer is a foundation stone laid by the students in 1938. The building was extended in 1948, but vacated by the University in 1979 when the Commerce Department was consolidated at Howard College.

Dr Mabel Palmer admitted the University's first black students to BA courses in 1935. Parallel courses to the white students were held at Sastri College, moving in 1955 to Marian Buildings in Lancer's Lane, behind the City Building.

5. S. Mohanlall Mansions *c/r Berea and Umbilo Roads*



Handsome symmetrical apartment building with windows outlined by a cement strip and two partially hidden pilasters running up through the floors.

6. Garvock *14 Umbilo Road*



Impressive symmetrical apartment building with multiple flat pilasters rising to a skyline cornice which is patterned with Egyptian leaf moulds.

7. 40/44 Umbilo Road



Symmetrical apartment building with fluted double entrance and shops on the ground floor. Two broad pilasters rise to the skyline. A less subdued paint job, extending to the shops below, would improve it.

8. Escombe Court 29-31 Umbilo Road



This handsome Art Deco façade has benefited from a recent paint job. This building and a second connected at its back are now used for student accommodation. The street-side ground floor has been blotted out, leaving a grimy security entrance at one end.

9. Makan Bros 45 Umbilo Road



Small single-storey shop with an impressive Art Deco edifice extending over the pavement.

10. Sad Sacks c/r Umbilo & Moore Roads



Brick apartment building with shops at ground level. Portholes, framed windows, and a protruding round stairwell. Probably dates from the 50's.

11. Moorlands 158 Moore Road



Three-storey corner building with an impressive array of Art Deco features.

12. Meyerton 162 Moore Road



Well-refurbished symmetrical apartment building with a central panel window lighting up the stairwell. Thoughtless extension of a drainpipe across the front.

13. Santa Maria 187 Moore Road



Compact apartment building with a classical Art Deco front façade.

