

'n Huldeblyk aan:

Francois D. Wallace van Zyl

A tribute to:

Dankie Wallace dat ons saam kon reis op die weg van beplanning**Thanks Wallace for taking us with you on a journey of planning**Celdri de Wet¹ & Philip Grobler²

Beplanning gaan hoofsaaklik oor die skepping van ruimte; en nie oor administratiewe aksies nie. Onthou altyd die menslike en 'n koppeling met die kunssinnige. Wees altyd krities. Verkry inspirasie in die dinamika van die omgewing en nie op uitgetrapte paaië nie. Die lewe is 'n reis waarin jy vir jouself betekenis moet vind, maar maak seker dat jy dit geniet."

Dit is sommige van die lesse wat geleer kan word van emeritus-professor Wallace van Zyl wat in 1995 amptelik afgetree het as die hoof van Departement Stads- en Streekbeplanning aan die Universiteit van die Vrystaat in Bloemfontein, waar hy twintig jaar van sy loopbaan as opvoeder deurgebring het.

Nadat professor van Zyl in vier vername streke gewerk het, naamlik Suid-Afrika, Wes-Europa, Suid-Australië en Noord-Amerika, en aan vyf universiteite klas gegee het, was hy in die besondere posisie gewees om 'n ryk geskakeerde kennis oor stads- en streekbeplanning aan Suid-Afrikaanse studente en die breër beplanningsgemeenskap te kan oordra. 'n Man van 'n sigbaar anderste tekstuur' soos gesien kan word in die dra van tweed-baadjies om sy Skotse afkoms te reflekteer gekomplimenteer deur geweefde dasses uit Lesotho, terwyl hy as die toonbeeld van gemak sy ryke kennis en ervaring van beplanning oordra.

Wallace van Zyl beskou onderrig as 'n eerlike gesprek wat die weetgerige gees prikkel deur middel van beskrywende en entoesiastiese dialoog die beplannings-teorie en die praktyk krities te verken. Die ervare leermeester stel hom dit ten doel om nie die antwoorde te verskaf nie, maar eerder die feite aan hulle voor te lê om sodoende die leerders in staat te stel om self die antwoorde te vind. Sy gemaklike en gerusstellende styl laat 'n onuitwisbare merk op die intellek van die toehoorder soos die talloze studente wat sy lesings bygewoon het sou getuig – 'n ruimte waar leerders gelykheid en 'n bewustheid van sosiale geregtigheid kon ervaar.



Figure/Figuur 1 Emeritus Professor Francois D. Wallace van Zyl

Planning is primarily about the creation of a space; and not an over-administrative action. Always maintain the human scale and an attachment to the artistic. Maintain a critical attitude. Find inspiration in the dynamic environment and not on the road well travelled. Life is a journey in which to find your own expression, but ensure that you enjoy the ride".

These are some of the lessons to be learned from Professor Wallace van Zyl who formally retired as head of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of the Free State (South Africa) in 1995 where he spent 20 years of his career as an educator.

Having worked in four major locations of South Africa, Western Europe, South Australia and North America, and having taught at five universities, Wallace van Zyl was placed in a position to impart a richly textured knowledge of town and regional planning to South African students and the broader planning fraternity. A man of visibly different 'textures' as reflected in the wearing of tweed jackets to reflect his Scottish ancestry, complemented by woven ties from Lesotho, he imparts his rich experiences and knowledge of planning with consummate ease.

Wallace van Zyl treats teaching as an honest conversation which beckons the inquiring mind through descriptive and enthusiastic dialogue to critically explore planning theory and practice. He makes a concerted effort not to provide the answers but rather the facts to enable learners to find the answers for themselves. His easy and disarming style leaves an indelible mark on the mind of the listener as attested to by the numerous students who passed through his classroom – a space where learners experienced equal treatment and an awareness of social justice.

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Insig in Wallace D. Van Zyl se nalatenskap noodsaak die naspoor van sy lewensreis. Hy is op 4 April 1930 gebore te Firgrove, destyds 'n klein plattelandse gemeenskap aan die buitewyke van Kaapstad. Hy kom uit 'n kunssinnige familie en word vroeg reeds blootgestel aan musiek, die teater en onderrig. Sy Ma het vir meer as 50 jaar onderrig gegee in Engels en musiek, terwyl sy tante 'n dans- en drama-ateljee in Kaapstad bedryf het waar Wallace vanaf 'n vroeë ouderdom die klavierbegeleiding tydens die danslesse waargeneem het. Sy Skotse oupa was 'n onderwyser en sy ouma het gereeld Dickens aan hom voorgelees – iets wat hom sensitief gemaak het van armoede en die haglike lewens-omstandighede van arm stedelinge. Regdeur sy loopbaan sou Wallace te doen kry met sake rakende geregtigheid en billikheid in beplanning wat 'n konstante bewustheid van 'n sosiale bewussyn by hom ingeprint het. Sy kunssinnigheid help hom om in latere jare die wêreld van die argitektuur te betree en lesings te gee in stedelike ontwerp.

Wallace se skoling het 'n vormende invloed gehad en bied diverse omgewings – van Wellington in die Wes-Kaap tot Dale Kollege in die Oos-Kaap waar hy meer geleer het oor die lewe in 'n koshuis (lewe in kommunies), oor rugby (die ding wat hy die meeste haat), tennis, swem en natuurlik swak taalgebruik! Oor die jare sou Wallace sy liefde vir sport en 'n gesonde lewenstyl behou. Hy swem nog gereeld – dit op die ouderdom van 75 jaar – en is 'n lid van die plaaslike branderplankklub.

Sy inherente vermoë tot volharding is alreeds duidelik tydens sy skooljare. Hy verower die Senior Musiekprys en word aangewys as die Leerling met die meeste Deursettingsvermoë. Ná skool skryf hy in by die Universiteit van Kaapstad. In 1952 behaal hy 'n graad in Argitektuur. As kunssinnige vind hy uitdrukking in sy skryfwerk en hy word die subredakteur van die Universiteit van Kaapstad se kampuskoerant. Wallace se betrokkenheid lei hom om te help met die veldtogte vir studenteraadverkiegings van medestudente soos Zac de Beer ('n politikus van weleer) die supermarkreus Raymond Ackerman en Regter John Didcott. Wallace se taalvaardighede neem toe. Vandag praat en verstaan hy vyf tale waaronder Engels, Afrikaans, Nederlands, Duits en Frans. Hierdie linguistiese vermoëns sou later lei tot die publikasie van meer as 80 akademiese artikels.

Vroeg in sy loopbaan as student ontdek Wallace dat hy 'n 'proses'-persoon is met 'n diep subjektiewe dryfkrag om te leer in plaas van om homself as 'n 'produk' te sien. Dit, tesame met 'n bewuswording dat hy dit geniet om medestudente te beïnvloed – as werwer en 'n soort kruisbestuier – en die feit dat hy uit 'n familie van leerkragte kom, word mettertyd duidelike rigtingwysers vir sy daaropvolgende loopbaan as opvoeder.

Sy passie vir beplanning word steeds gedomineer deur sy liefde vir die stedelike leefwyse en die stadslewe, en professor Van Zyl is, volgens sy eie bekentenis, 'n regte stadsjapie. Dié voorliefde kan raakgesien word in aanhalings uit sy vroegste dagboeke in die Kaap (1949-1952): "To meet outside friends or enjoy a bite of food, we either wandered up the steps to the Student Union or hiked down to the Evergreen on the Main Road. What a setting! How wonderful to experience the brilliant shafts of light when the setting sun outlined the pine-clad slopes of Devil's Peak or to walk in a drizzle up to Rhodes Memorial with its haunting statues." In Kaapstad kon hy sy liefde uitdruk vir die see en die berge, die mense, die klimaat en 'n verskeidenheid van buite-belangstellings wat wissel van klassieke klavierlesse tot krieket, swem, bergklim en reis.

To understand his legacy, one has to trace the journey of Professor Wallace D van Zyl. He was born on the 4th of April 1930 in Firgrove, then a small rural hamlet on the outskirts of Cape Town. Born into an artistic family, he was exposed to the realms of music, the theatre and teaching. His mother taught English and music for more than 50 years, while his aunt had a dance and drama studio in Cape Town where Wallace played the piano from a young age to accompany the dancers. His Scottish grandfather was a teacher and his grandmother read Dickens to him – something that made him acutely aware of poverty and the living conditions of the urban poor. Throughout his career he would be exposed to issues of justice and equity in planning which instilled in him a constant awareness of having a social conscience. His artistic inclination assisted him in later years to enter the world of architecture and lecture on the subject of urban design.

Wallace's schooling had a formative influence and offered diverse environments – from Wellington in the Western Cape to Dale College in the Eastern Cape where he learned about life in a hostel (communal living), rugby (his pet hate), tennis, swimming and the coarse use of language! Throughout the years Wallace maintained his love for sport and a healthy life style. Even today in 2005, at the age of 75, he still swims and is a member of his local surf club.

While at school, he showed his inherent tenacity. He received the Senior Music Prize and was chosen as the Most Persevering Scholar. After school he studied at the University of Cape Town. In 1952 he obtained a degree in Architecture. Being artistically inclined, he found expression in his ability to write and at UCT he became sub-editor of the varsity newspaper. His involvements also lead him to assist in the student election campaigns of peers such as Zac de Beer (later a well-known South African politician), the supermarket king-to-be, Raymond Ackerman, and Judge John Didcott. Wallace's flair for language grew. Today he speaks and understands five languages including English, Afrikaans, Dutch, German and French. This linguistic ability would later result in the publishing of more than 80 academic articles.

Early in his career as a student, Wallace discovered that he was a "process" person with a deep subjective driving force to learn as opposed to seeing himself as a "product". This, together with the discovery that he enjoyed influencing fellow students as recruiter and cross-pollinator, while coming from a family of teachers, became clear pointers for his future career as an educator.

His passion in planning is still dominated by his love for city living and city life. He is, by own admission, a 'city freak'. This inclination can be detected in quotes from his early diaries in Cape Town (1949-1952): "To meet outside friends or enjoy a bite of food, we either wandered up the steps to the Student Union or hiked down to the Evergreen on the Main Road. What a setting! How wonderful to experience the brilliant shafts of light when the setting sun outlined the pine-clad slopes of Devil's Peak or to walk in a drizzle up to Rhodes Memorial with its haunting statues." In Cape Town, he could express his love for the sea and mountains, the people, climate and variety of outside interests ranging from classical piano lessons to cricket, swimming, mountaineering and travel.

Wallace verhuis van Kaapstad na die voormalige Rhodesië en doseer daarna in argitektuur aan die Universiteit van Natal in Durban. Gedurende dié tydperk bly hy aktief betrokke by die uitvoerende kunste en gebruik hy sy kennis om 'n pos as skakelbeampte te bekom vir die Kaapstadse Simfonie-orke en 'n pos as musiek en drama kritikus vir die publikasie, die *Nataller*, in Durban.

Sy aanvaarding van die Duitse Akademiese Uitruidiens (DAAD) -studiebeurs lei tot drie jaar van reis, werk en studiegeleenthede in Europa. Dit was gedurende dié tyd dat Wallace sy vrou, Gerda (in 'n argitekskantoor), in Denemarke ontmoet. Hulle trou in 1960. Gerda is self uiters kunstig en is betrokke by die kunste en kunslyf. Sy is 'n professionele keramiek-kunstenaar.

From Cape Town Wallace moved to the former Rhodesia and thereafter lectured in architecture at the University of Natal in the city of Durban. Throughout these years he remained active in the performing arts and used his knowledge to obtain an appointment as the public relations officer of the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra and as music and drama critic for the publication, the *Nataller*, in Durban.

His acceptance of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) scholarship led to three years of travel, work and study opportunities in Europe. It was during this time that he met his wife Gerda (in an architect's office) in Denmark. They married in 1960. Gerda is of artistic persuasion, involved in arts and crafts and is a professional ceramist.

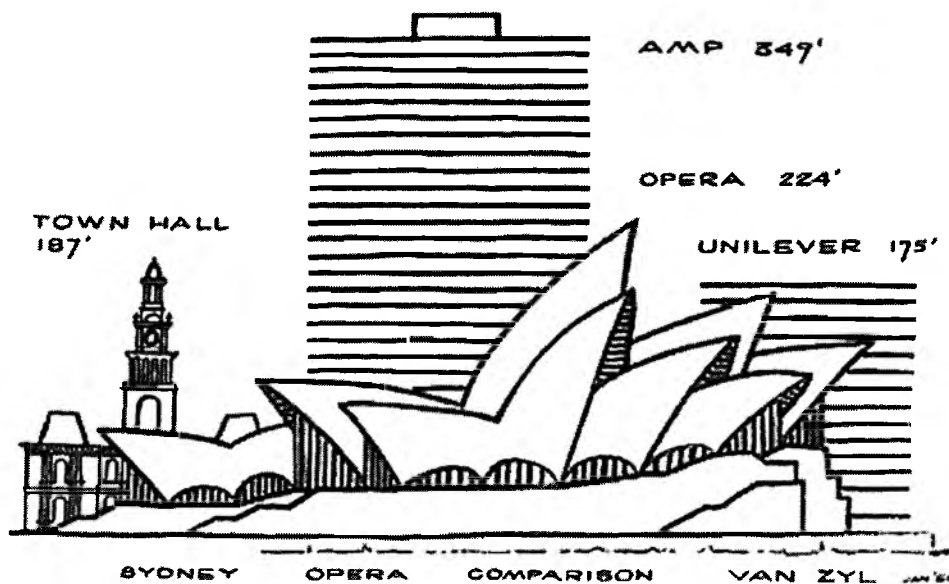


Figure 2: Comparing Sydney Opera House with other buildings (Van Zyl 1960)

Ná sy terugkeer uit Duitsland in 1960, vertrek Wallace in 1961 na Sydney, Australië. Sy voorliefde vir kuns en sy vermoë om die eenvoud in ontwerp te vind, kom hom te pas toe hy skets vir die media moes maak om die konstruksie van die beroemde Sydney Opera-huis onder die aandag van die Australiese publiek te bring (Figuur 1).

Ná 'n jaar in Sydney verhuis die Van Zyl-egpaar na Adelaide waar Wallace vir vyf jaar werk. Buiten sy lesings, skryfwerk en navorsing, gebruik hy die geleentheid in Australië om die domein van openbare optredes as spreker te betree ten opsigte van beplanningskwessies. Hy praat op talle interstaat-konferensies, reël uitstallings, verskyn op televisie en gee gereeld openbare lesings.

Hy behou deurentyd sy bande met Suid-Afrika en help met die stigting van die Suid-Afrikaanse Dorps- en Landelike Beplanningsvereniging in 1964; 'n liggaam wat die openbare bewustheid van beplanning bevorder. Wallace word later, in 1980, aangewys as die President van die Suid-Afrikaanse Instituut van Stads- en Streek-beplanners en 'n lid van die eerste SA Raad vir Stads- en Streekbeplanners.

Upon his return from Germany in 1960, Wallace van Zyl visited Sydney, Australia in 1961. His artistic affinity and ability to find the simplicity in design assisted in a drawing he made for the media to promote the construction of the now famous Sydney Opera House among the Australian public (Figure 1).

After one year in Sydney, he moved to Adelaide where he worked for five years. Besides teaching, writing and research, he used the opportunity in Australia to enter the domain of public speaking on planning issues by speaking at numerous inter-state conferences, arranged exhibitions, appearing on television and giving frequent public lectures.

Keeping ties with South Africa, he assisted in the founding of the South African Town and Country Planning Association in 1964, a body dedicated to public awareness of planning. He would later become the President of the South African Institute of Town and Regional planners in 1980 and a member of the first SA Council for Town Planners.

In 1968 aanvaar Wallace 'n pos by Virginia Tech in Blacksberg, VSA. Hier voltooi hy 'n Meestersgraad in Stads- en Streekbeplanning met spesialisasie in Vervoer. Dié tweejaarkursus word binne nets 12 maande voltooi – met A-simbole deur die bank! Sy passie vir openbare vervoer (of die gebrek daaraan), beweging deur stede, en binnestedelike voetgangerareas sou van sy vernaamste spesialiteitsvelde word. Sy voetganger-opname(s) in die Sentrale Sakedistrik van Bloemfontein en omliggende dorpe, vorm deel van Wallace se kursus in stedelike ontwerp aan die Universiteit van die Vrystaat om sodoende studente bewus te maak van die interaksie tussen voetgangers en voertuie as 'n bekendstelling aan binnestedelike lewe.

Wallace trek in 1970 verder noord na die Universiteit van Waterloo in Kanada, waar hy sy Doktoraat in Beplanning in 1974 behaal met die fokus op die Uitvoerende Kunste in die middestad van Toronto. Die egpaar se twee kinders, Renata en Hugo is hier gebore. Wallace se hantering van beplanning, naamlik om sy gegewens toe te laat om die eindproduk te beïnvloed en te inspireer, en om nie aan die eindproduk te dikteer nie, reflekteer in sy rol as gesinsman. Sy dogter, Renata, bevestig dat haar Pa hulle nooit kwaad gemaak het nie en ook nie hul lewens probeer reël het nie. In 'n toespraak tydens die viering van haar Pa se sewentigste verjaarsdag in 2000 stel sy dit só: "You affirmed me, without arrogance and made me feel confident, without flattery."

Wallace van Zyl se entoesiasme in die klaskamer dui op sy passie vir die lewe. Dit word deur sy seun bevestig in sy kommentaar oor 'n onlangse praatjie deur sy Pa waarin Hugo sê dat hy kan verstaan hoekom sy Pa so gewild was by die studente, want Wallace beskou 'n lesing as 'n soort opvoedkundige teater waar geen vervelige oomblikke toegelaat word nie!

Wallace verhuis vanaf Kanada na die VSA ná die aanvaarding van 'n professoraat by die Ball State University in Indiana in 1973 en 1974. Hier word hy bewus van die ooreenkomste in stedelike vorm tussen stede in Australië en dié in die VSA. Wat belangrik was, was dat hy verskillende benaderings kon ervaar tot ontluikende beplanningskwessies wat regeringshervorming sou noodsaak; 'n ervaring wat Wallace goed te pas kom ná sy terugkeer na Suid-Afrika in 1975. Die Van Zyls keer na hul vaderland, Suid-Afrika, terug met 'n boot genaamd die *Oranje* om hulle in Bloemfontein in die toe Oranje-Vrystaat te vestig.

Professor Wallace van Zyl word die hoof van die nuwe Departement van Stads- en Streekbeplanning aan die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat. Hier is hy in staat om sy buitelandse ervarings aan talle studente oor 'n tydperk van twintig jaar oor te dra. Dit wissel van sy Duitse ervaring oor doeltreffendheid in die herbou van stadskerne, kulturele fasiliteite (insluitend kloosters en musiek), sy Deense ervarings van vakmanskap, humanisme en maatskaplike behuising, die Nederlandse ervaring in essensiële beplanning met die natuurlike kragte van die see asook streekbeplanning, Australiese beplanning in 'n omgewing met skaars hulpbronne en sy Kanadese ervarings van regeringshervorming en regering op streeksvlak.

Dié ervaring tesame met Wallace se unieke uitdrukkingsvermoë is van groot waarde vir sy studente op 'n tydstip toe Suid-Afrika te staan kom voor uitdagings soos laekoste-behuising, groot ingenieurs- en konstruksiewerke en om die kragte van verandering te begryp wat inwerk op beplanning te midde van 'n unieke politieke 'apartheid'-omgewing.

In 1968 he accepted a post at Virginia Tech in Blacksberg, USA. Here he completed a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning specialising in Transportation. This two year course was completed in only 12 months – with straight A symbols! His passion for public transportation (or the lack thereof), movement through cities, and inner city pedestrian areas were to become some of his main trademarks. His pedestrian survey(s) in the Central Business District of Bloemfontein and surrounding towns formed part of Wallace's course in urban design at the University of the Free State and made his students aware of the interaction between pedestrians and vehicles as an introduction to life in inner cities.

Wallace moved further north to the University of Waterloo in Canada in 1970 eventually to obtain a Doctorate in Planning in 1974 that focused on the Performing Arts in the city centre of Toronto. It is here that his two children, Renata and Hugo, were born. Wallace's manner of dealing with planning, namely, to allow his subject matter to influence and inspire the end product, and not to dictate the end product is reflected in him as a family man. His daughter, Renata confirms that Wallace as father never provoked them or planned their lives. In a speech she gave at her father's seventieth birthday in 2000 she states: "You affirmed me, without arrogance and made me feel confident, without flattery".

Wallace van Zyl's enthusiasm in the classroom is akin to his enthusiasm for life as attested to by his son. In commenting on his impressions of a recent talk by his father, Hugo said he could understand his father's popularity with his students because he regards a lecture as a form of educational theatre where dull moments are not allowed to creep in!

Wallace moved from Canada to the USA by accepting a professorship from Ball State University, Indiana in 1973 and 1974. Here, he could see the similarities in urban form between cities in Australia and the USA. What is important, he could experience different approaches to emerging planning issues which demanded government reform; an experience that served him well upon returning to South Africa in 1975. The Van Zyl family returned to their home country, South Africa, on a ship named the *Oranje* after which they settled in Bloemfontein in the then Orange Free State.

Professor Wallace van Zyl took up the leadership position as Head of the new Department of Town and Regional Planning at the University of the Orange Free State. Here, he was able to relay his overseas experiences to numerous students over a 20 year period. This ranged from German experiences in efficiency in rebuilding city centres, cultural facilities (including monasteries and music), Danish experiences in craftsmanship, humanism and social housing, the Netherlands experience in essential planning with the natural forces of the sea and regional planning, Australian planning in an environment with scarce resources and Canadian experiences in government reform and regional government.

These experiences together with Wallace's unique expression thereof, served his students well at a time when South Africa had to confront the challenges of low-cost housing, major engineering and construction works and to understand the forces of change affecting planning in a unique political 'apartheid' environment.

Professor Van Zyl vind met sy private konsultasiewerk 'ontvugting' na die Vrystaatse Goudveid en die nywerheidsdorp, Sasolburg, om verskeidenheid by sy beplanningswerk te voeg.

Wallace van Zyl gee uitdrukking aan sy plig teenoor die publiek met talle gereelde briewe en artikels in plaaslike koerante en in ander publikasies oor nuuswaardige en omstredende ontwikkelinge. Die Stigting Simon van der Stel, waarvan hy 'n stigterslid was, oorhandig in 1993 'n Sertifikaat van Verdienstelike aan Wallace vir sy gereelde publikasies oor ontwikkelinge in Bloemfontein. In 1995 ontvang hy 'n erelidmaatskap van die SA Instituut van Behuising.

Met sy aftrede in 1995, verhuis Wallace en Gerda na Vishoek, Kaapstad, waar Wallace inspirasie vind in die natuur – veral die kombinasie van berg en see. Dit verbaas mens nie om te hoor dat Wallace steeds aktief is op die gebied van stads- en streek-beplanning met lesings by die Universiteit van Kaapstad se Winterskool nie, hy 'n Uitvoerende Lid is van Vishoek en Clovelly se inwonersvereniging is nie en hy steeds vir plaaslike koerante skryf oor onderwerpe wisselend van reis tot by beplanningsbeginsels in bewaring nie.

Hy rig in 1997 'n uitdaging aan die Suid-Afrikaanse profesie om in die periode ná 1994 getrou te bly aan sy maatskaplike gewete: "Urban planning originated as a reform and welfare movement and a reaction against the health hazards of the industrial revolution (satanic). The public interest and social welfare were paramount, but now we leap on the wagon of economic competition. However, a lively city might not be built by private profit alone, but also by considering non-material and symbolic values."

Kritici van Wallace se loopbaan mag daarop wys dat hy oorsee moes gaan om sy stem te vind in die arena van openbare optredes en dat hy meer uitgesproke kon wees oor die beplanningstelsel in 'n apartheid Suid-Afrika. Sy loopbaan as hoof van die Departement van Stads- en Streekbeplanning aan die Universiteit van die Oranje-Vrystaat spreek egter vanself. Hy was instrumenteel in die lewer van die eerste plaaslik opgeleide swart stadsbeplanning-student kort ná sy terugkeer na Suid-Afrika in 1975. Hy is ook 'n volgehoute kritikus van die regering op elke vlak wanneer dit herinner moes word om nie te swig onder kapitalistiese winsmotiewe nie, maar om 'n maatskaplike gewete en 'n menslike skaal in beplanning te behou.

Wallace glo in die krag van individualisme en die ontwikkeling van nuwe idees: sy nalatenskap spreek tot die benutting van enige gegewe situasie as 'n geleentheid om te leer, en die onbaatsugtige mededeelsaamheid met kennis soos die talle studente kan getuig wat hy gedurende sy akademiese loopbaan verryk het asook die breër publiek met wie hy in gesprekke getree het oor beplanningskwessies van die dag – hetsy stadsbeplanning, ons beboude erfenis, behuising of die volhoubaarheid van die omgewing. Die hoogste lof aan hom as mens is dat hy die toppunt van die lewe kon bereik deur volgehoute hulp aan sy medemens om op kreatiewe wyse uiting te gee aan sy/haar stem.

Regdeur sy lewe het Wallace geleenthede benut om die uitdagings bloot te lê wat 'n toepaslike beplannings-optrede vereis. Hoewel hy homself nie as 'n visioenêr sien nie, beskik hy tog oor die vermoë om kritiese sake wat ons toekomstige bedreig, te identifiseer. In 1974 het Wallace in 'n lesing by die Ball State University, 'n lys toekomstige

He did private consultancy work which saw him 'escape' to the Free State Gold Fields and the industrial town of Sasolburg to add variety to his planning work.

Wallace van Zyl expressed his duty to the public in numerous regular letters and articles in local newspapers and other publications on newsworthy and controversial developments. The Simon van der Stel Foundation, of which he was a founding member, in 1993, awarded Wallace a Certificate of Merit for his regular publications regarding developments in Bloemfontein. By 1995, he was awarded an honorary fellowship of the SA Institute of Housing.

Upon retirement in 1995, he moved to Fish Hoek in Cape Town where he finds inspiration in nature – particularly the combination of mountain and sea. Not surprisingly, Wallace stays active in the field of town planning by giving lectures at the winter school of the University of Cape Town, serving as an Executive Member of the Fish Hoek and Clovelly Resident's Association and continuing to write for local newspapers on subjects ranging from travelling to the planning principles in conservation.

In 1997 he challenged the South African profession in the period after 1994 to be true to its social conscience: "Urban planning originated as a reform and welfare movement and a reaction against the health hazards of the industrial revolution (satanic). The public interest and social welfare were paramount, but now we leap on the wagon of economic competition. However, a lively city might not be built by private profit alone, but also by considering non-material and symbolic values."

Critiques of the career of Wallace might point out that he had to go overseas to find his voice in the arena of public speaking and that he probably could have been more outspoken on the planning system while working in an apartheid South Africa. However, his record as head of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of the Orange Free State speaks for itself. He was instrumental in producing the first locally trained black students shortly after his return to South Africa in 1975 and he is a consistent critic of government at any level when it needs reminding not to bend under capitalistic profit motives, but to maintain a social conscience and the human scale in planning.

A strong believer in the power of individualism and the development of new ideas, his legacy speaks to the use of any given situation as an opportunity to learn, and the selfless sharing of knowledge that can be attested to by the numerous students he enriched during his academic career as well as the broader community which he engages on the planning issues of the day – be it urban design, our built heritage, housing or the sustainability of our environment. The ultimate accolade as human being is that he has reached the pinnacle of life by constantly assisting his fellow man to find creative expression of his/her own voice.

Throughout his life, Wallace has used opportunities to expose the challenges that require an appropriate planning response. Although he does not see himself as a visionary, he has the ability to identify the critical issues that confronts our future. As early as 1974 in a lecture at Ball State University, he listed future challenges that still ring true today: the threat to privacy (phones, computers, data banks), the threat to individuality (conformity,

uitdagings uitgestip wat vandag nog geldig is: die bedreiging van die mens se privaatheid (fone, rekenars, databanke), die bedreiging van individualiteit (konformiteit, burokrasie), hewige individuele wedywing *versus* groepsrag, die spoed waarteen mense kan verander en reageer op toekomstige skokke, diepte *versus* oppervlakkigheid, egtheid teenoor valsheid, die meng van realisme en idealisme en die hantering van sosialisme *versus* ekonomiese groei.

Wallace van Zyl is voorwaar 'n man met 'n ryk geskakeerde persoonlikheid en daarby die ewige reisiger. Sy passie vir lewendige stede en sy nalatenskap in beplanning noop ons as individue om ons eie verantwoordelikhede na te kom en ons stemme te laat hoor sodat die toepaslike beplanningsaksies kan volg na gelang van die uitdagings van die dag.

bureaucracy), individual cut-throat competition *versus* group strength, the speed at which humans can change and respond to future shock, depth *versus* superficiality, sincerity *versus* falsity, blending realism with idealism and dealing with socialism *versus* economic growth.

Professor Wallace van Zyl is indeed a man of many textures and a constant traveller. His passion for lively cities and his legacy in planning moves us as individuals to take up our own responsibility in expressing our own voice to ensure appropriate planning responses to the challenges of the day.