

PROF. DANIE PAGE: SY TYD VOORUIT IN OMGEWINGSBESTUUR 1914 - 2007 BY DR. PIET CLAASSEN**PROF. DANIE PAGE: AHEAD OF HIS TIME IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT 1914 - 2007 BY DR PIET CLAASSEN****Die Redakteur, Stads- en Streekbeplanning**

Prof. Danie Page, stigter van hierdie tydskrif "Stads- en Streekbeplanning / Town and Regional Planning", die eerste en nog steeds die enigste vaktydskrif vir stads- en streekbeplanners in Suid-Afrika, is in Januarie 2007 in sy 93e jaar oorlede. Sy groot bydrae tot stads- en streekbeplanning en geïntegreerde omgewingsbestuur verdien sekerlik 'n huldeblyk. Prof. Page het in sy lang loopbaan as landmeter, stads- en streekbeplanner en akademikus diep spore getrap, veral op die gebied van stads- en streekbeplanning. Hy was President van die Suid-Afrikaanse Instituut van Stads en Streekbeplanners in 1968, en hy dien in die sewentigerjare op die Eerste Minister se Beplanningsadviesraad. Hy was vir baie dekades stadsbeplanning-konsultant vir verskeie dorpe soos Stellenbosch, Franschhoek, Vredendal en St Helenaabaai. Hy was lid van die Royal Town Planning Institute, en hy het talle gesaghebbende publikasies plaaslik en oorsee die lig laat sien. In 1967 word hy hoof van die pas gestigte Departement "Streekbeplanning", Fakulteit Lettere en Wysbegeerte, Universiteit van Stellenbosch, wat hy spoedig laat verander na "Stads- en Streekbeplanning", en het hom dadelik beywer om 'n eie tydskrif vir stads- en streekbeplanners te stig.

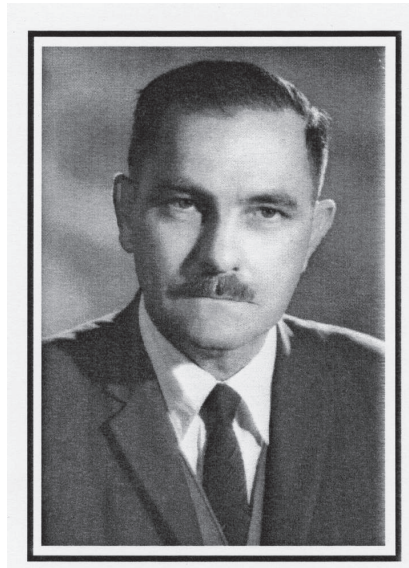
Tydskrif vir Stads- en Streekbeplanning

Die destydse Suid-Afrikaanse Instituut van Stads- en Streekbeplanners het voor 1974 vir lede op 'n kommersiële tydskrif ingeteken. Prof. Page het die Raad van die Instituut ooreed om dit te vervang met die Instituut se eie tydskrif. Terselfdertyd het hy die Fakulteitsraad genader om so 'n tydskrif te steun. Ek was teenwoordig by die vergadering met die Dekaan, Prof. Nel, waar die voorstel bespreek is. Die Dekaan was taamlik skepties oor hoe lank so 'n tydskrif sou oorleef. Prof. Page het egter deurgedruk en geargumenteer dat die Professie 'n eie vaktydskrif nodig het. Die eerste uitgawe het in 1974 verskyn, aanvanklik as "Tydskrif vir Streekbeplanning / Journal for Regional Planning", en later as "Tydskrif vir Stads- en Streekbeplanning / Journal for Town and Regional Planning". Prof. Page was die redakteur tot met sy aftrede in 1980. Min het hy seker geraai dat die tydskrif in 2008 nog steeds sal verskyn, 34 jaar later. Ongelukkig is dit nie meer die amptelike tydskrif van die Instituut nie. Wie weet, dalk word die gebrek binnekort reggestel.

Prof. Page se lewe as stads- en streekbeplanner

Prof. Page was 'n persoon van sy tyd, uit-en-uit 'n modernis, met 'n sterk geloof in die potensiële bydrae van stads- en streekbeplanning tot sosio-ekonomiese vooruitgang en bewaring van die natuurlike en kulturele omgewing. Hy was sy tyd ver vooruit in sy holistiese benadering tot, en integrerende siening van, beplanning: hy het reeds in die laat sestigerjare "geïntegreerde omgewingsbestuur" toegepas. Vir hom het stads- en streekbeplanning nie net gegaan oor die beboude omgewing nie, maar moes dit, in 'n streekverband, ekonomiese en sosiale ontwikkeling bevorder, die natuurlike omgewings beskerm, en dié prosesse integreer met ruimtelike ontwikkeling. Hy was 'n baanbreker in die bewaring van die landelike en kulturele omgewing en 'n voorstander van 'n afgebakende "stadsrand". Hoofsaaklik te danke aan hom het Stellenbosch nie tot bo in Jonkershoek uitgebrei nie, maar is die rand van Stellenbosch in die Jonkershoekvallei, nog waar hy dit beplan het amper 40 jaar gelede, ondanks sterk ontwikkelingsdruk. Hy het bygedra tot die bewaring van die historiese gebiede van dorpe soos Stellenbosch en Franschhoek deur die afbakening

van hul historiese kerne, vandag bekend as "oorleesones", die instel van estetiese-komitees, en die aanneem van riglyne vir ontwikkeling in sulke gebiede. Ten spyte van sy versindheid was Prof. Page 'n persoon van sy tyd, sterk beïnvloed deur modernisme en sosialisme. Hy het byvoorbeeld gespeel met die idee van 'n pag-stelsel waar die staat alle grond besit. Hy het 'n sentristiese benadering gehad, en 'n geloof in die waarde en integriteit van professionele insette, in teenstelling met politieke besluite. Prof. Page het die meeste van sy werk gedoen in die groeityd van apartheid. Hoeveel groter en blywender sou sy bydrae nie gewees het nie as hy sy genialiteit en energie in die post-apartheid tyd kon toegepas het. Prof. Page word met groot waardering deur sy kollegas en talle oud-studente onthou – en hoopelik ook lesers van *Stads- en Streekbeplanning*. Sy positiewe nalatenskap sal nog vir geslagte ons omgewings vorm.

**Prof. Danie Page**

1914 - 2007

The Editor, Town and Regional Planning

Prof. Danie Page, founder of this journal "Stads- en Streekbeplanning / Town and Regional Planning", not only the first but still the only technical journal for town and regional planners in South Africa, died in January 2007 at the age of nearly 93 years. His big contribution to town and regional planning and integrated environmental management certainly deserves a tribute. During his long career as surveyor, town and regional planner and academic, Prof. Page made his mark, especially in the field of town and regional planning. He was President of the South African Institute of Town and Regional Planners in 1968, and served on the Prime Minister's Planning Advisory Council during the seventies. He served for decades as a planning consultant for various towns like Stellenbosch, Franschhoek, Vredendal and St Helena Bay. He was a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute and he published many authoritative papers, both locally and overseas. In 1967 he became head of the then recently established Department of Regional Planning, in the Arts Faculty of the University of Stellenbosch, which he soon changed to the Department of Town and Regional Planning. He also immediately campaigned to establish a journal for town and regional planners.

Journal for Town and Regional Planning

Before 1974 the then South African Institute of Town and Regional Planners subscribed to a commercial journal for their members. Prof. Page persuaded the Board of the Institute to replace this with their own journal. At the same time he approached the Stellenbosch Arts Faculty Board to support such a journal. I was present at the meeting with the Dean, Prof. Nel, when the proposal was discussed. The Dean was fairly sceptical about the potential life-span of such a journal. However, Prof. Page persevered and argued that the profession needed its own journal. The first edition was published in 1974. It was initially called "Tydskrif vir Streekbeplanning / Journal for Regional Planning", which later became "Tydskrif vir Stads- en Streekbeplanning / Journal for Town and Regional Planning". Prof. Page was the editor until his retirement in 1980. He probably did not think at the time that the journal would still be going strong in 2008 – 34 years later. Unfortunately it is no longer the official journal of the Institute. Who knows, maybe this will be corrected soon.

Prof. Page's life as town and regional planner

Prof. Page was a person of his time, every inch a modernist, with a strong belief in the potential contribution of town and regional planning to both socio-economic progress and conservation of the natural and cultural environment. He was well ahead of his time with his holistic approach to, and integral view of, planning; already during the late sixties he was applying the principles of integrated environmental management. For him, town and regional planning was not only about the built environment, but it had also to encourage regional economic and social development and protect the natural environment while integrating those processes with spatial development. He was a pioneer in the conservation of rural and cultural environments and championed the demarcation of city boundaries. It was mainly because of his endeavours that Stellenbosch did not expand into Jonkershoek. The urban boundary of Stellenbosch is still on the edge of the Jonkershoek Valley, the way he planned it nearly 40 years ago, despite strong pressure at the time for development. He contributed to the conservation of historical areas in towns like Stellenbosch and Franschhoek by defining their historical cores, better known today as "overlay zones", establishing aesthetics committees and adopting guidelines for development in such areas. Despite his visionary insight, Prof. Page was also a man of his time, strongly influenced by both modernism and socialism. He for instance played with the idea of a lease system, where the government would own all of the land. He also had a centrist approach and believed in the value and integrity of professional input, in contrast to political decision-making. Prof. Page did most of his work during the growing years of apartheid. How much bigger and lasting would his contribution not have been if he could have applied his genius and energy in the post-apartheid era? Prof. Page is remembered with much appreciation by his colleagues and alumni – and hopefully also by readers of the journal *Town and Regional Planning*. His positive legacy will inform our environment for generations to come.