## Application for the condonation of the building works of 2016 executed without KwaZulu Natal AMAFA & Research Institute's approval to

# 153 FLORIDA ROAD, DURBAN - Erf. 910, DURBAN

Motivation for Reconciliation.



A Report by FRANK REITZ ARCHITECT – October 2022

### **Property Description: -**

Street Address - 153 Florida Road, Durban Lot Number – Erf 910, Durban. Municipality – eThekwini Municipality GPS Co-ordinates - -29°.50'. 01" S: 31°.01'. 00" E Site Area – 1044 m<sup>2</sup>

# History of Building: -

Building Built -1908
Style - Edwardian
Original use - Residence
Change of use - Converted to offices in 1995

| Record of Applications for the development of 153 Florida Road since 2008. |                    |   |                           |  |   |                      |
|--|--------------------|---|---------------------------|--|---|----------------------|
|  | Date of<br>Drawing | Author  | Authority                 | Title  | Description of work   | Approval<br>Date     |
| ,  | July 2008 -        | Artek 4 (Somers<br>Govender)                  | AMAFA                     | Conversion of existing offices to Restaurant/Caffe & place of<br>Entertainment | # Retention of Edwardian Façade. # Addition of historist balustrade and fretwork to existing replacement, heavily proportioned, brick, concrete and plaster verandah structure. # All structure behind the façade replaced - converted into a Restaurant / "Nite club" # On-Site Parking. | October<br>2009 -    |
| ı  | October<br>2009 -  | Artek 4 (Somers<br>Govender)                  | eThekwini                 | Conversion of existing offices to Restaurant/Caffe & place of<br>Entertainment |   | November<br>2010 -   |
| (  | November 2013 -    | First Edge<br>Architects<br>(D.G.Pillay)      | AMAFA                     | Deviations to Approved Plan No. 304/09/08                                      | # Built deviations to approved plan by ARTEK 4 formalised. # Modern interpretation of period boundary wall to both Front and side boundaries  | Approved –<br>Date ? |
| [  | November<br>2013 - | First Edge<br>Architects<br>(D.G.Pillay)      | eThekwini                 | Deviations to Approved Plan No. 304/09/08 Application No C225 05 11            |   | October<br>2014 -    |
| ı  | August<br>2016 -   | First Edge<br>Architects<br>(Prakesh Kussial) | AMAFA                     | Proposed Extension to Ext. Building  | # Extension to Nightclub into former Car Park - Extending the building on the ground floor to the boundary with 9th Avenue and parallel with the front of the old building. # Boundary wall to 9th Avenue replace with large arched niches.   | Not<br>submitted     |
|  | August<br>2016 -   | First Edge<br>Architects<br>(Prakesh Kussial) | eThekwini                 | Proposed Extension to Ext. Building  |   | October<br>2016 -    |
| (  | January<br>2022 -  | Stefano Vatteroni<br>Architects               | AMAFA (Case<br>No 21/356) | Proposed Refurbishment with Additions & Alterations (Zuma<br>Restaurant)       | As per drawings submitted by Stefano Vatteroni Architects   | Submitted            |
| ŀ  | January<br>2022 -  | Stefano Vatteroni<br>Architects               | eThekwini                 | Proposed Refurbishment with Additions & Alterations (Zuma<br>Restaurant)       |   | Not yet<br>Submitted |

#### **Building Description and subsequent alterations: -**

Original double storied house was simple in form with: -

- 1. An ornate front parapet-Gable.
- 2. Double storied front timber verandah that wraps around (for a short distance) the northern corner of this building creating an odd/unusual, symmetrical-asymmetrical façade.
- 3. Pair of bay windows to ground floor verandah.
- 4. Period access stair
- 5. Period Garden/Boundary wall Post and Pole.
- 6. Double pitched corrugated iron roof to simple building extending behind gable.
- 7. Sash windows.

Timber verandah replaced with plastered brick and concrete verandah at some time before 2008.

In **2008** an application was made to convert the building into a restaurant and nite club. The following alterations and additions were made: -

- 1. The front parapet/Gable was restored.
- 2. A new period/historicist, painted turned timber balustrade was added.
- 3. New period/historicist, painted timber brackets and frieze fretwork was added.
- 4. Front boundary/Garden wall was modernised to suit theme of nite Club (Post and glass panel infill).
- 5. Large front gate added with diamond motif.
- 6. Access stair altered.
- 7. Original front door replaced with historicist door.
- 8. New steel internal grand stair added.
- 9. Internal layout beyond the front façade was gutted and a new layout to suit a nite club built.
- 10. New asymmetrical structure added to rear of the building clearly expressed as an addition to the original building.
- 11. On-site parking are to side space of building.
- 12. This work was approved by both AMAFA and eThekwini Municipality.

In 2013 deviation drawings were submitted to both AMAFA and eThekwini Municipality and approved.

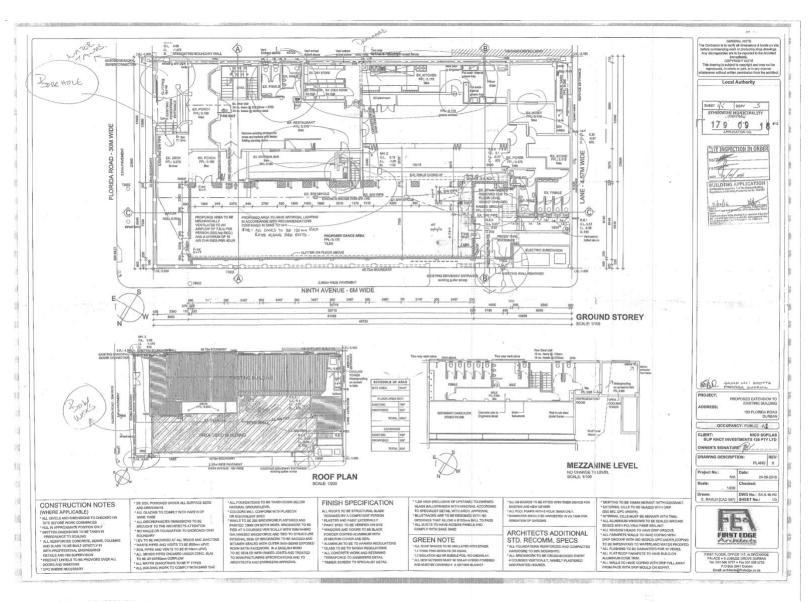
In 2016 the building was further added to: -

- 1. The former side on-site parking area was enclosed to form an additional "Dance Area" with a low pitched iron roof with pre-cast structural concrete beams/slab to the ground floor of the nite club. A future upper floor anticipated?
- 2. The same alteration was built to the boundary line on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and in line with the front verandah of the old building.
- 3. A raised external seating area (Platform) between this new alteration and the front boundary wall extended partly in front of original front verandah.
- 4. All on-site parking removed.
- 5. New 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue street-façade constructed with ached niches. Not built as per drawing Drawing shows setback from boundary, actually built right to boundary line. Post and ornate iron work boundary wall to 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue demolished.

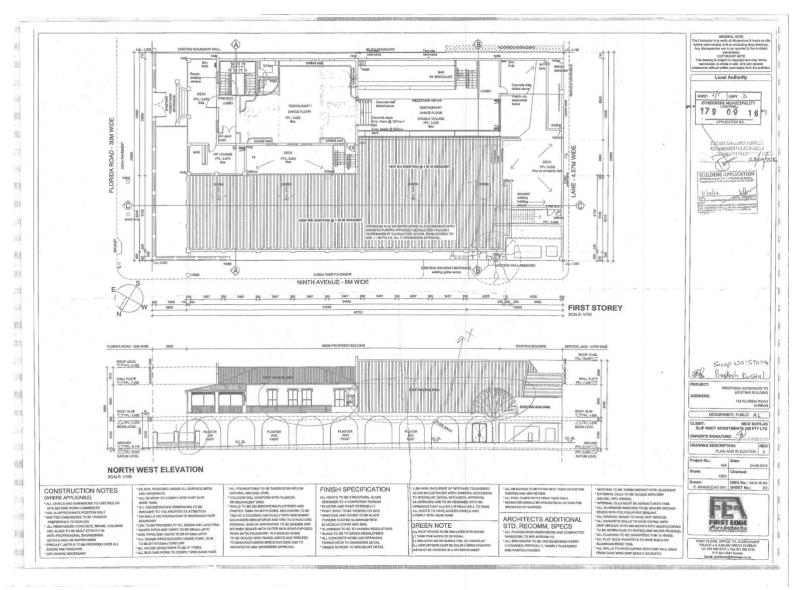


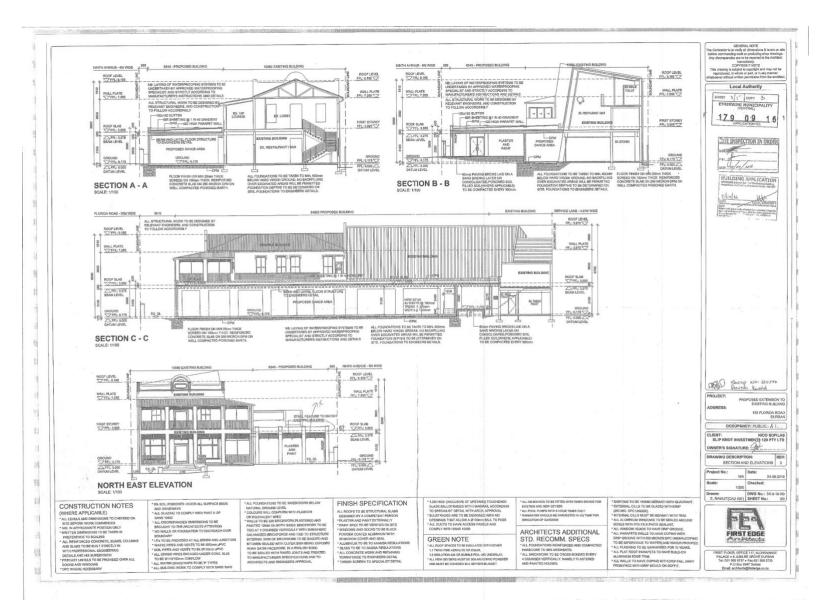
2018 via Google Street View

Photos of post 2016 addition



2016 Passed Submission Drawings





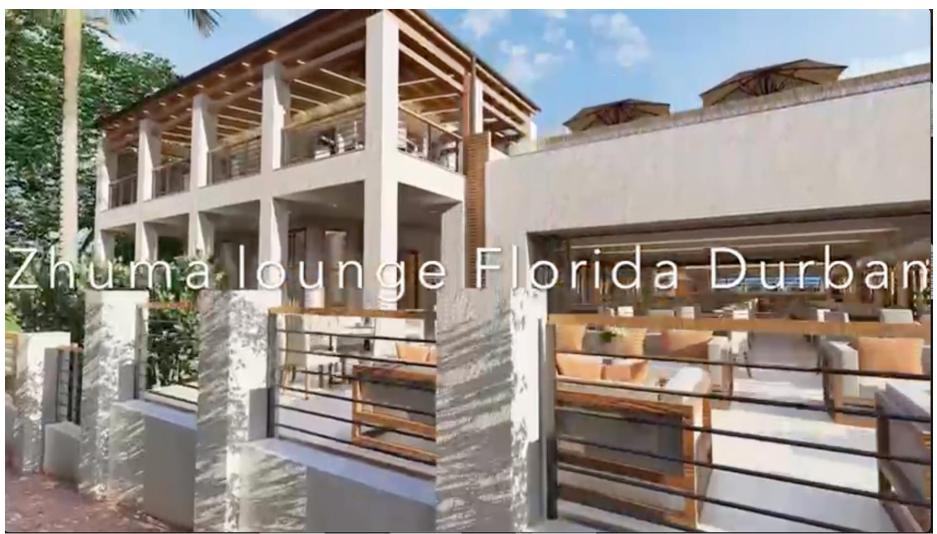
2016 Passed Submission Drawings

During the **COVID 19 Pandemic** of 2020/2021 the nite club was forces to closed down, during which many incidents of serve vandalism and theft took place, stripping the club of all its fittings and finishes.



This property is presently derelict and a blight on the prestigious FLORIDA ROAD Precinct.

In **2022** a proposed refurbishment of this building by Stefano Vatteroni Architects has been submitted to AMAFA.



Graphic incorrect in that the 2008 approved Balustrade, bracket and lattice freeze will be kept and restored.



Graphic incorrect in that the original Parapet-Gable, the 2008 approved Balustrade, bracket and lattice freeze will be kept and restored.



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This proposal undertakes to correct many of the incongruous Architectural design discissions of the 2016 addition: -

- 1. The use of the building will change from a nite club to an international quality fine-dining restaurant. This will be in keeping with the City's Florida Road development vision. It will also add value, both to the property values and the amenity of Florida Road.
- 2. The proposal means to demolish part of the 2016 addition and setback this addition to visually bring the historic building forward, to become the prominent building façade with the correct, original proportions restored.
- 3. This proposed setback ias above) in-line with the historic building's core (as per Stefano Vatteroni Architects drawings and graphics) is the correct Architectural solution on many levels, not the setback been increased back, as per Amafa's request, to the back of the side verandah. The larger setback will incur a loss of usable/rentable space and thereby a loss of income with very little Architectural gain. If the historic building had its original light-weight timber verandah in place, then the larger setback would make sense but the existing heavy masonry verandah is not part of the original but a crass replacement.
- 4. The Architecture of the altered addition will be neutral, elegant and understated. Again focusing the dominance on the historic façade.
- 5. The Historic façade is to be restored: -
  - 5.1 The broken Parapet-Gable is to be repaired by an AMAFA accredited contractor. Missing plastered panel to be restored as close to the original as possible.
  - 5.2 Roof to verandah is in poor condition and will be carefully restored with period "S-Profile" corrugated Iron roof sheets.
  - 5.3 The 2008 historicist timber balustrade, Brackets and fretwork will be retained and repaired.
  - 5.4 The front door and sash windows to the front and side façades will be repaired.
  - 5.5 All signage will be removed from this façade.
  - 5.6 The veranda on both floors will be opened up, free of any enclosing devises.
  - 5.7 The historic façade will be spot lit at night.

- 6. The arched niches to 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be converted into engaged boundary wall posts The arches will be removed retaining the lower section to form a post new boundary wall capping's will be formed. This will restore the rhythm of the boundary wall to 9<sup>th</sup> avenue and also alter the scale of the otherwise blank wall on the boundary line of the proposal.
- 7. A new signage policy to be submitted for approval by AMAFA by Architects Stefano Vatteroni Architects which will control the amount and quality of any future signage. An elegant signage solution has is also requested by the future restaurant.
- 8. The front boundary wall will be repaired.
- 9. The access stair will be repaired and the encroaching side stairs to be demolished with planted gardens introduced either side of this stair.
- 10. The opening to the addition facing Florida Road allows for easy movement of patrons from inside to outside and is a clear expression of this new modernist intervention. This is a good Architectural solution and is recommended and supported.
- 11. The Land Use Management is happy to approve the zero on-site parking requirement on this site. This in in line with the FLORIDA ROAD SPECIAL ZONING.

#### **Motivation & Conclusions: -**

The owners of this property would like to apologise for not getting AMAFA approval in 2016. eThekwini Municipality did however accept the submission and approved the building plans for these additions and alterations.

The 2022 application by Stefano Vatteroni Architects offers an elegant Architectural solution to the very poor, built, 2016 design. Florida Road and Durban will greatly benefit from the rectification and regularization of this key Florida Road site.