

## **Architectural Significance of Reichenau Mission**

Brother Nivard Streicher, designed the church at Reichenau and supervised the building process, he was well known for his unique architectural design of beautiful churches in the neo-gothic style and other buildings, which can be enjoyed at the different mission stations that have been started by the Mariannahill Trappists missionaries.

In 1898 the construction of the church was started and four years later it was completed. The value of this building is well described below.

The sandstone has been used to maximum effect, and even the steeple is made of it. The building is Brother Nivard's most perfect neogothic structure and there is beautiful integration of various crafts. The interior consists of a single volume nave -without aisles -but with a Brothers' and a Sisters' Chapel in the two transepts. Relatively little light enters tall narrow windows and so the interior is quite mysterious. It is a little jewel, which has been lovingly repainted by the sisters, and in which the furnishings are stylistically intact. Externally, the craftsmanship is a joy to behold, yet the building stands a little unhappily on its vast barren field.

Brusse, R. (1985. p, 84)

The water mill which was built in 1896 and the school buildings built in 1892 are of architectural interest both built from local dressed and hewed stone. Part of the mill was restored in 2008 -2009.

## **Reference**

Brusse, Robert (1985). *Brother Nivard Streicher – Architect of Mariannahill- 1884-1922*, Natalia 15. Natal Society Foundation 2010. [Online]. Available at: <http://www.natalia.org.za/Files/15/Natalia%20v15%20article%20p79-88%20C.pdf> (Accessed: 16 January 2015)