



THATCHERS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH AFRICA DEKKERSVERENIGING VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Newsletter 6/2019
20 June 2019

NEWSLETTER

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT IMPANGELE LODGE, MULDRSDRIFT ON SATURDAY, 20 JULY 2019 AT 09:00

Our upcoming Annual General Meeting is now the next event on our calendar. It will be much appreciated if you could send the attached booking form to the TASA office as soon as possible so that the necessary preparations can be made.

The Executive Management meeting will take place on Friday, 19 July 2019 at 18:00 during a working lunch.

Breakdown of Cost

Mr Bill and Mrs Margaret Bragge will make the conference facility available to us free of charge.

AGM documentation	:	R 60 per book
Finger lunch at 13:00	:	R 75 per person
		R 135 per person
Accommodation	:	R 275 per head per night
Breakfast Saturday 20 July 2019	:	R 90 per person
		R 365 per person
Tea/coffee and biscuits	:	On tap

The seven (7) cottages have tea/coffee/milk/biscuits and bottled water.

The AGM's Agenda will be sent to you as soon as it is finalised. Please notify the office if you have a discussion point that you wish to include. The Minutes of our previous Annual General Meeting held on 2 June 2018 is attached for your perusal.

THERE IS GREAT CONCERN AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT PLACING TILES ON TOP OF THATCHED ROOFS

Although in some instances tiles are placed on top of thatch abroad, it must be taken into account that the way in which thatched roofs are built overseas is totally different from that in South Africa and tiles are not placed on a rotting basis. While in South Africa, tiles are being placed on thatch which is in an awkward condition and the proprietor does not want to incur additional costs to improve the roof's condition.

The reasons received from members are:

Foundation

The tiles are going onto a decaying foundation.
The wood that is tied to the thatch is untreated.

Aesthetically

The lines are all good and straight when the roof is new, but now after some years, the lines are all over the place. If the thatch is not removed from the roof, leaving only the spray layer, the roof on the uneven decaying foundation is not going to look good after a few years.

Durability

If tiles are put on an existing thatch roof, the actual thatch under the tiles would deteriorate even quicker than normal.

Thatch has to breathe and when this doesn't happen, dry rot sets in quite quickly and one would lose the thatch. The moisture that comes through the roof, especially in cool times, condensates under the roof tiles and falls unto the thatch.

Insulation & R-values

Taking the thatch off to only have a spray layer creates an insulation problem.

There are no guidelines on what the thickness of the thatch should be below the tiles.

Pests

A moist and warm condition is created that creates a breeding ground for insects and pests. Complaints are received of bats, rats and birds that stay between the tiles and thatch. This problem occurs especially in Botswana and the Kruger National Park.

Fire load & Insurance

From an insurance point of view. The use of tiles on top of the thatch does not reduce the fire load of the roof. In the event of a fire in the thatch, the Fire Department cannot reach the source of the flame through the tiles. The insurance rate is therefore not reduced by putting tiles on top of the thatch.

General

Thatched roofs are declining and do not represent more than 1% of houses worldwide. Reasons are the high cost of maintenance, fire hazards, and cheaper alternative roof coverings. I do not say that thatch roof's days are numbered, but we have just have to work smarter to keep our market slice.



WRONG INSTALLATION OF STEEL FLUES

Incorrect installation of chimeys and steel flues undermines our Industry.

A disaster waiting to happen

Thatch was touching the steel flue. The asbestos liner is too short and does not comply with specification requirements.

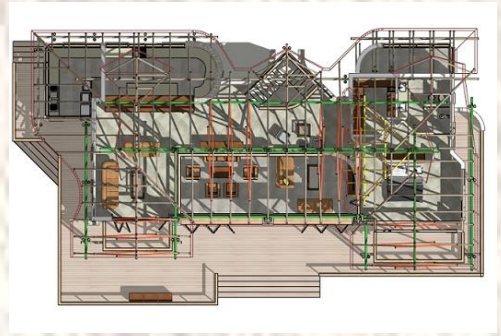
The heat of the steel flue charring the sprei layer



INCORPORATING THE ATTRIBUTES OF THATCH ROOFING IN BIM SOFTWARE



Some illustrations of how the design of thatched roof structures can be done using the latest technology – the colour coding identify different structural members.



The BIMx app is a ‘reader’ for the 3D model (hyper model) generated by Archicad. The BIMx model accessed from Dropbox through the link will be updated soon, and will contain information of the materials used (type, density, length, area, volume, etc.) I could add any other info like data sheets, access to manuals, specifications, so that by tapping on a pole (for example) you would get the length and diameter for that specific element by tapping the small blue dot and then tapping “info” – at the moment there is a whole lot of codes and unfinished data. This is very powerful software and incredibly valuable when in “in the bush”. All the drawings are also accessible through the BIMx app. The process is called Building Information Modelling.

Please contact Mr Gerd Bolt of Bolt Architects if you are interested. Contact details: Telephone : 012-460 4698
Mobile: 083 285 6789 Fax: 086 684 2955 Email: gerd@studiobolt.co.za

We are looking forward to another pleasant and constructive Annual General Meeting.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'André Friis'.

André Friis

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

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