



>>Re-Programming Public Space

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Normative Position

The most intriguing aspect about the discipline of architecture, including all the fields of architecture such as interior, landscape and urban design, is how the simple act of creating, manipulating or destroying form, can alter the human psyche. The world as people know it is shaped by the mere thoughts and aspirations of an architect, using their own experiences, thoughts and opinions. What architects create will determine so much more than just shelter from the surrounding environment. What they create shapes the minds and experiences of the people exposed to it. How architecture influences the way people perceive their world places immense responsibility on the architect as the architect can either enhance that perception, or totally destroy it. Architecture, of course, is a very subjective art. What one person calls a work of art; another calls a grotesque monstrosity. Architecture must create places and spaces that are no longer about the building, but to start designing and creating spaces that respond to the people who use the spaces and respond to the environment in which the architecture is found. Architecture has the ability to not only create from anew but has the capacity to mould and transform spaces, including those not meeting the requirements of a newer generation, or should never have been created. To transform spaces into environments that will enhance the psyche and use of a space is the art. Architecture must do more than just meeting the physical requirements of spaces.



Dissertation Summary

The intention of this dissertation is to re-programme public space. The site of Strijdom Square is used to prove that through the insertion of a symbiotic building into an urban environment a public square can be regenerated. The regeneration of Strijdom Square will on an urban level increase the use and accessibility of the inner city CBD. It is an architectural intervention that attaches itself onto the existing urban fabric. The building layers the space so that it facilitates accessibility and interaction between the open space and the built environment. Together with the symbiotic building and the re-design of the square the public space will become a space that people are drawn to and want to be in.

>>	List of Figures.....				
>>	Normative Position.....				
>>	Dissertation Summary.....				
>>	Chapter 1	>>	>>	>>	Introduction.....
>>	Chapter 2	>>	>>	>>	City Context.....
>>	Chapter 3	>>	>>	>>	Growth of Site.....
>>	Chapter 4	>>	>>	>>	Site Analysis.....
>>	Chapter 5	>>	>>	>>	Design Implementation
	first concept				
☒	Accommodation				
☒	Deconstructing program				
☒	Second concept				
☒	Florida International University's School of Architecture				
☒	Marne-la-Vallee School of Architecture				
☒	Third concept				
☒	Seattle Library				
☒	Fourth concept				
☒	Netherlands Dance Theatre				
☒	Tahiti Centre for Movement & Dance				
☒	Theatre concept				
☒	Fifth concept				
☒	KunstHal				
☒	First Floor				
☒	Second Floor				
☒	Third Floor				
☒	Designing Strijdom Square & van der Walt Street Structure				
>>	Chapter 6	>>	>>	>>	Technical Inquiry.....
>>	Bibliography.....				

.....	iv
.....	xi
.....	xii
.....	1
.....	5
.....	15
.....	27
>> West 8's Schouwburgplein.....	48
>> First concept.....	53
>> Accommodation >> Ground Floor.....	58
>> Deconstructing program.....	61
>> Second concept.....	64
>> Florida International University's School of Architecture.....	66
>> Marne-la-Vallee School of Architecture.....	69
>> Third concept.....	74
>> Seattle Library.....	76
>> Fourth concept.....	78
>> Netherlands Dance Theatre.....	82
>> Laban Centre for Movement & Dance.....	86
>> Theatre concept.....	88
>> Fifth concept.....	95
>> KunstHal.....	98
>> >> First Floor.....	104
>> >> Second Floor.....	112
>> >> Third Floor.....	116
>> Designing Strijdom Square & van der Walt Street Structure.....	128
.....	130
.....	171

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List of Figures

All photos, drawings and sketches by author unless otherwise stated

Introduction

Fig 1.1 North-west corner of ABSA building.

Fig 1.2 Side-walk activity in Pretoria inner city.

City Context

Fig 2.1 Aerial view of inner city [Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 2.2 Aerial view of open spaces in the CBD [Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 2.3 Aerial view of Church Square [Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 2.4 Aerial view of Strijdom Square [Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 2.5 Aerial view of Sammy Marks Square [Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 2.6 Photo of Church Square.

Fig 2.7 Photo of Strijdom Square.

Fig 2.8 Photo of Sammy Marks Square.

Fig 2.9 Aerial view of open space next to the State Theatre [Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 2.10 Aerial view of open space next to Sammy Marks Square [Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 2.11 Aerial view of public space in front of Reserve Bank [Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 2.12 Photo of open space next to the State Theatre.

Fig 2.13 Photo of open space next to Sammy Marks Square.

Fig 2.14 Photo of public space in front of the Reserve Bank.

Fig 2.15 Figure ground diagram of Pretoria CBD.

Growth of Site [photographers not stated if unknown]

Fig 3.1 Church street looking west at the second church. Built in Church Square in [(1885). AIS Afrikana Special Collection, University of Pretoria].

Fig 3.2 Church Street looking east [(date unknown). AIS Afrikana Special Collection, University of Pretoria].

Fig 3.3 Church Street looking west from the corner of van der Walt Street [(1880). AIS Afrikana Special Collection, University of Pretoria].

Fig 3.4 Markplein in during morning trade [(1911). AIS Afrikana Special Collection, University of Pretoria].

Fig 3.5 Markplein [(unknown date). AIS Afrikana Special Collection, University of Pretoria].

Fig 3.6 Corner of van der Walt & Church Street [(date unknown). AIS Afrikana Special Collection, University of Pretoria].

Fig 3.7 Corner of Church Street & Prinsloo looking west [(1897). AIS Afrikana Special Collection, University of Pretoria].

Fig 3.8 Sammy Marks building looking north [(1922). AIS Afrikana Special Collection, University of Pretoria].

Fig 3.9 Markplein [(1966). AIS Afrikana Special Collection, University of Pretoria].

Fig 3.10 Excavation of Strijdom Square [(1970). AIS Afrikana Special Collection, University of Pretoria].

Fig 3.11 Construction of basements [(1970). AIS Afrikana Special Collection, University of Pretoria].

Fig 3.12 Site information for stand 2909 [AIS Afrikana Special Collection, University of Pretoria].

Fig 3.13 Site information for stand 2909 [AIS Afrikana Special Collection, University of Pretoria].

Fig 3.14 Construction of the concrete cupola (TRANSVAALER 1972: 16).

Fig 3.15 Diagrams indicating the various repairs needed on the cupola [MEYER 1979: 5].

Fig 3.16 Section through the foundations of the cupola indicating how repairs were done [MEYER 1979: 5].

Fig 3.17 Newspaper article of Strijdom Square (BEELD 1985:15)

Fig 3.18 Completed cupola [MEYER 1979: 5].

Fig 3.19 Newspaper article criticizing Pretoria's built environment [MEYER 1979: 5].

Fig 3.20 Newspaper article criticizing the proposal of Verwoerd Square [UYS 1990:2].

Fig 3.21 Model of Verwoerd Square [UYS 1987: 1]

Fig 3.22 Architect's model of Verwoerd Square [UYS 1990: 1]

Fig 3.23 Artist impression of Verwoerd Square [MATHEWS 1991: 14].

Fig 3.24 Newspaper article reporting name change of Verwoerd Square [VAN DER LINDE 1991: 13].

Site Analysis

Fig 4.1(a) Aerial of Strijdom Square and immediate context
[Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 4.1(b) Panoramic photo looking north.

Fig 4.2(a) Aerial of Strijdom Square and immediate context
[Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 4.2(b) Photo looking north-east.

Fig 4.3(a) Aerial of Strijdom Square and immediate context
[Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 4.3(b) Panoramic photo looking east.

Fig 4.4(a) Aerial of Strijdom Square and immediate context
[Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 4.4(b) Green area inside Strijdom Square.

Fig 4.5(a) Aerial of Strijdom Square and immediate context
[Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 4.5(b) Photo of State Theatre's north-western corner.

Fig 4.6(a) Aerial of Strijdom Square and immediate context
[Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 4.6(b) Photo looking north-west at the Standard Bank
Centre.

Fig 4.7(a) Photo of south-east corner of Premium Towers.

Fig 4.7(b) Aerial of Strijdom Square and immediate context
[Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 4.8 Diagram indicating the un-responsive facades of
State Theatre & ABSA building

Fig 4.9 Diagram indicating the un-responsive facades of
State Theatre & ABSA building

Fig 4.10 Photo of western facade of State Theatre looking
south.

Fig 4.11 San Marco Square in Venice
[http://www.ourvenicecarnival.com/images/
stmarks.jpg].

Fig 4.12 San Marco Square in Venice
[http://eeyore.astro.uiuc.edu/pics/italy/venice/
square.jpg].

Fig 4.13 Diagram indicating height ratios of existing buildings
to the square.

Fig 4.14 Photo of the northern facade of the ABSA building.

Fig 4.15 San Marco's Square
[http://www.restaurantdoctor.com/trips/
italy2000/italpix/marco1.jpg].

Fig 4.16 Diagram indicating current accessibility onto site.

Fig 4.17 Photo of level difference between van der Walt
side-walk & the square.

Fig 4.18 Diagram indicating the level differences between the
square & its surroundings.

Fig 4.19 Photo of the entrance to the underground toilets.

Fig 4.20(a) Aerial of Strijdom Square and its immediate context
[Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 4.20(b) Photo of staircase access on the south-western
side of the square.

Fig 4.21(a) Aerial of Strijdom Square and immediate context
[Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 4.21(b) Photo of northern part of square looking west.

Fig 4.22(a) Photo of staircase on the south-eastern side of the
site.

Fig 4.22(b) Aerial of Strijdom Square and immediate context
[Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 4.23 Photo of Strijdom Square surface.

Fig 4.24 Diagram indicating pedestrian movement in & around
Strijdom Square.

Fig 4.25 Diagram indicating pedestrian movement in & around
Strijdom Square.

Fig 4.26 Photo of underground parking.

Fig 4.27 Plan of the State Theatre.

Fig 4.28 Photo of entrance to the Rendezvous Theatre.

Fig 4.29 Photo of the underground parking lot under Strijdom
Square.

Fig 4.30 Photo of entrance to the staircase in the under
ground parking lot.

Fig 4.31 Plan of basement level 1.

Fig 4.32 Photo of staircase to the underground arcade.

Fig 4.33 underground arcade passing under van der Walt
Street.

Fig 4.34 Photo of Standard Bank on the basement level of
the Standard Bank Centre

Fig 4.35 Photo of the upper floors from the basement level
of the Standard Bank Centre.

Fig 4.36(a) Aerial of Strijdom Square and its immediate context
[Geography Department, University of Pretoria].

Fig 4.36(b) Panoramic photo of Sammy Marks Square.

Design Implementation

Fig 5.1 Photo of elevated view from the north of Schouwburgplein [HOLDEN 1997: 33].

Fig 5.2 Photo of cinema complex on the west side of the square at night [VON CLEEF 1998: 45].

Fig 5.3 Photo of raised plinth [HOLDEN 1997: 35].

Fig 5.4 Photo of elevated view from the south-east of Schouwburgplein [L'Architecture D'Aujourd'Hui 1996: 24].

Fig 5.5 Photo of timber seating in Schouwburgplein [VON CLEEF 1998: 44].

Fig 5.6 Exploded isometric view of Schouwburgplein [L'Architecture D'Aujourd'Hui 1996: 24].

Fig 5.7 Analysis of Schouwburgplein.

Fig 5.8 Photo of first concept model.

Fig 5.9 Photo of first concept model.

Fig 5.10 Concept sketch.

Fig 5.11 Concept sketch.

Fig 5.12 Concept sketch.

Fig 5.13 Perspective concept sketch.

Fig 5.14 Table by Jan Gehl [GEHL 1987: 13].

Fig 5.15 Diagram indicating the ground floor accommodation.

Fig 5.16 Section through typical theatre [www.archiguide.com: 12 April 2006].

Fig 5.17 Diagram indicating the traditional theatre program.

Fig 5.18 Conceptual diagram indicating a possible deconstruction of the theatre program.

Fig 5.19 Second concept model.

Fig 5.20 Second concept model.

Fig 5.21 second concept model.

Fig 5.22 Plans of the Florida International University Architectural Department [PEASON 2003: 106].

Fig 5.23 Axonometric FIU Architectural Department [PEASON 2003: 103].

Fig 5.24 Photo of FIU Architectural Department [PEASON 2003: 105].

Fig 5.25 Photo of FIU Architectural Department [PEASON 2003: 107].

Fig 5.26 Photo of FIU Architectural Department [PEASON 2003: 104].

Fig 5.27 Photo of FIU Architectural Department [PEASON 2003: 104].

Fig 5.28 Photo of eastern elevation of the Marne-la-Vallee School of Architecture [SLESSOR 2000: 66].

Fig 5.29 Photo of western facade of the Marne-la-Vallee School of Architecture at night [SLESSOR 2000: 69].

Fig 5.30 Photo of the interior space of the Marne-la-Vallee School of Architecture [SLESSOR 2000: 61].

Fig 5.31 Photo of the interior space of the Marne-la-Vallee School of Architecture [SLESSOR 2000: 62].

Fig 5.32 Photo of the interior space of the Marne-la-Vallee School of Architecture [SLESSOR 2000: 62].

Fig 5.33 Photo of the interior space of the Marne-la-Vallee School of Architecture [SLESSOR 2000: 62].

Fig 5.34 Photo of the interior space of the Marne-la-Vallee School of Architecture [SLESSOR 2000: 68].

Fig 5.35 Photo of the interior space of the Marne-la-Vallee School of Architecture [SLESSOR 2000: 60].

Fig 5.36 Fourth floor plan [SLESSOR 2000: 65].

Fig 5.37 Fifth floor plan [SLESSOR 2000: 65].

Fig 5.38 North-south section [SLESSOR 2000: 65].

Fig 5.39 East-west section [SLESSOR 2000: 65].

Fig 5.40 The two wings of the Marne-la-Vallee School of Architecture [SLESSOR 2000: 63].

Fig 5.41 Studio spaces Marne-la-Vallee School of Architecture [SLESSOR 2000: 67].

Fig 5.42 Third concept model.

Fig 5.43 Third concept model.

Fig 5.44 Third concept model.

Fig 5.45 Photo of the Seattle Central library [OLSON 2004: 89].

Fig 5.46 Photo of the Seattle Central library [OLSON 2004: 91].

Fig 5.47 Model of Seattle Central library [ARCHITECTURAL RECORD 2000: 123].

- Fig 5.48 Interior photo of Seattle Central library [OLSON 2004:94].
- Fig 5.49 Interior photo of Seattle Central library [OLSON 2004:94].
- Fig 5.50 Section through Seattle Central library [ARCHITECTURAL RECORD 2000: 125].
- Fig 5.51 Fourth concept model.
- Fig 5.52 Concept sketch.
- Fig 5.53 Fourth concept model.
- Fig 5.54 Fourth concept model.
- Fig 5.55 Concept Sketch.
- Fig 5.56 Concept Sketch.
- Fig 5.57 Concept Sketch.
- Fig 5.58 Concept Sketch.
- Fig 5.59 Concept Sketch.
- Fig 5.60 Concept Sketch.
- Fig 5.61 Isometric section of Netherlands Dance Theatre [BUCHANNAN 1988: 32].
- Fig 5.62 Photo of outside of Netherlands Dance Theatre [BUCHANNAN 1988: 33].
- Fig 5.63 Photo of interior of Netherlands Dance Theatre [BUCHANNAN 1988: 33].
- Fig 5.64 Ground floor plan of Netherlands Dance Theatre [BUCHANNAN 1988: 35].
- Fig 5.65 Photo of outside of Netherlands Dance Theatre [BUCHANNAN 1988: 33].
- Fig 5.66 Section through the Netherlands Dance Theatre [BUCHANNAN 1988: 35].
- Fig 5.67 Photo of interior of Netherlands Dance Theatre [BUCHANNAN 1988: 36].
- Fig 5.68 Photo of exterior of the Laban Centre for Dance & movement [BUILDING 2002: 35].
- Fig 5.69 Photo of exterior of the Laban Centre for Dance & movement [RYAN 2003: 132].
- Fig 5.70 Photo of exterior of the Laban Centre for Dance & movement [RYAN 2003: 133].
- Fig 5.71 Photo of exterior of the Laban Centre for Dance & movement [RYAN 2003: 131].
- Fig 5.72 Photo of interior of the Laban Centre for Dance & movement [RYAN 2003: 134].
- Fig 5.73 Plan of the first of the Laban Centre for Dance & movement [POWELL 2003: 45].
- Fig 5.74 Section of the Laban Centre for Dance & movement [POWELL 2003: 42].
- Fig 5.75 Concept sketch.
- Fig 5.76 Concept sketch.
- Fig 5.77 Concept sketch.
- Fig 5.78 Concept sketch.
- Fig 5.79 Concept sketch.
- Fig 5.80 Concept sketch.
- Fig 5.81 Concept sketch.
- Fig 5.82 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.83 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.84 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.85 Fifth concept model.
- Fig 5.86 Fifth concept model.
- Fig 5.87 Fifth concept model.
- Fig 5.88 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.89 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.90 Fifth concept model.
- Fig 5.91 Fifth concept model.
- Fig 5.92 Photo of exterior of the KunstHal [DOMUS 1993: 38].
- Fig 5.93 Photo of interior of KunstHal [DOMUS 1993: 47].
- Fig 5.94 Photo of exterior of KunstHal [DOMUS 1993: 44].
- Fig 5.95 Section through KunstHal [DOMUS 1993: 46].
- Fig 5.96 Photo of interior of the KunstHal [METZ 1993: 70].
- Fig 5.97 Photo of interior of the KunstHal [METZ 1993: 73].
- Fig 5.98 Photo of interior of the KunstHal [METZ 1993: 70].
- Fig 5.99 Sketch section of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.100 Sketch plan of first floor of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.101 Sketch plan of first floor of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.102 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.103 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.104 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.105 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.106 Sketch section of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.107 Sketch plan of first floor of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.108 Sketch plan of first floor of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.109 Sketch plan of first floor of symbiotic building.
- Fig 5.110 Exterior concept sketch.

Fig 5.111 Interior perspective sketch.

Fig 5.112 Sketch plan of second floor of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.113 Sketch plan of second floor of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.114 Sketch plan of second floor of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.115 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.116 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.117 Sketch plan of third floor of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.118 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.119 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.120 Sketch plan of third floor.

Fig 5.121 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.122 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.123 Photo looking south along western facade of State Theatre.

Fig 5.124 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.125 Photo looking at western facade of State Theatre.

Fig 5.126 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.127 Photo looking south along western facade of State Theatre.

Fig 5.128 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.129 Photo looking along western facade of State Theatre.

Fig 5.130 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.

Fig 5.131 Photo of public space in Copenhagen [GEHL 1987: 34].

Fig 5.132 Photo of side-walk cafe in Copenhagen [GEHL 1987 28].

Fig 5.133 Concept model.

Fig 5.134 Concept section sketch

Fig 5.135 Photo of a public space in Copenhagen sitting [GEHL 1987: 34].

Fig 5.136 Diagram drawn by Jan Gehl [GEHL 1987: 64]

Fig 5.137 Perspective sketch of Strijdom Square with new symbiotic building in it.

Fig 5.138 Perspective sketch of Strijdom Square with new symbiotic building in it.

Fig 5.139 Computer generated 3D's of symbiotic building.

Technical Inquiry

Fig 6.1 Plan of Strijdom Square column spacings.

Fig 6.2 Plan of Strijdom Square column spacings.

Fig 6.3 Model indicating the service core of the new structure.

Fig 6.4 Computer generated 3D's of building.

Fig 6.5 Computer generated 3D's of building.

Fig 6.6 Computer generated 3D's of building.

Fig 6.7 Computer generated 3D's of building.

Fig 6.8 Computer generated 3D's of interior of building.

Fig 6.9 Computer generated 3D's of interior of building.

Fig 6.10 Computer generated 3D's of details.

Fig 6.11 Computer generated 3D's of details.

Fig 6.12 Computer generated 3D's of details.

Fig 6.13 Computer generated 3D's of details.

Fig 6.14 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.15 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.16 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.17 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.18 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.19 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.20 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.21 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.22 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.23 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.24 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.25 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.26 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.26 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.27 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.28 Computer generated 3D's of Strijdom Square's sun.

Fig 6.29 Sun penetration for 21 December @ 16h00.

Fig 6.30 Sun penetration for 21 December @18h18.

Fig 6.31 Sun penetration for 21 June @ 16h18.

Fig 6.32 Sun penetration for 21 March./September @ 16h18.