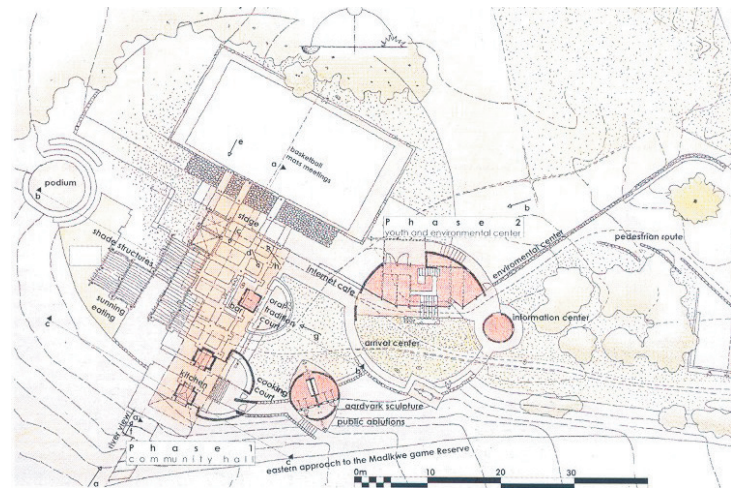


Bopitikelo Community and Cultural Centre
Peter Rich Architects

Fig. 32



This project, done for the Molatedi Community in the North West of South Africa has won the Best Building in the category of public and culture architecture for Africa and the Middle East at the recent World Architecture Awards. The building's location was determined by the intersection of cattle trails which lead to the river. This is where the cattle herders will gather and rest, while the cattle wallow in the river. The captive cultural tourism market at the nearby Madikwe Game Reserve acted as a generator for the project. The architect saw the project as a means to reintroduce cultural pride and traditional building methods in a community removed from its heritage. Traditional space making determined the architecture. The project consists of pavilions annexed by outdoor spaces, enclosed volumes and flowing vistas, which strongly establish a connection to the natural environment (S.A Architect 2001, p.34-36).

As with the Soweto Careers Centre, the connection and use of the natural environment is used to create enriched places. One aspect of the project which inspires is the careful consideration of location. Placing the facility at the intersection of cattle paths utilizes the local spatial dynamics to establish the centre within the collective consciousness of the community.

Fig. 33



Comunity centre, Marcovia, Honduras
Jae Cha

Marcovia is a small town which was destroyed in 1998 by a hurricane. Some 2500 houses were built as part of the relief program, but there is no electricity or communal facilities. Daytime temperatures are excessively hot and humid. The community had to hold religious services in the evenings in the open with the aid of gas lanterns.

The structure is beautifully simple. The columns consist of U shaped concrete blocks with steel reinforcing, the roof of corrugated metal on steel channels. Vertical enclosure is provided by screens manufactured from polyethylene monofilament fabric which is usually used in agricultural shading. These movable translucent planes allow for a flexible internal space. The structure is open on all sides, which allow for the free movement of air.

The structure was built over a period of three months by the community, with donations for material from local and international sources. It provides shaded playing area for children, a place of worship for a protestant Christian congregation and a place of trade training for older children (Architectural Review, 2001/12. p. 46-47).

The incredible sense of place and well being which is exhuded by this structure is create by the free flow of space and the almost sensual use of light while still clearly demarcating inside and outside. The fact that this is acclomplished with only a roof, floor, columns and screens indicates how the inherent emotional value imbued in all architectural elements can be utilized to stimulate an emotional response from the user.



Fig. 34

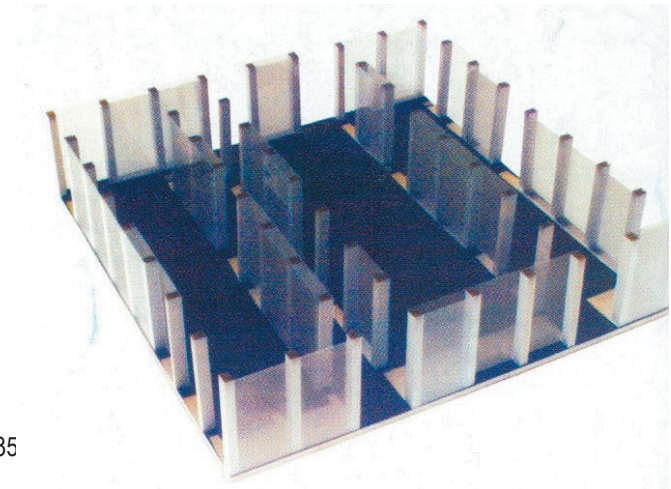


Fig. 35



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