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# A LIVING NECROPOLIS

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# A LIVING NECROPOLIS

The introduction of a necropolis to the inner city of Pretoria, focusing on the cycle of life

In my beginning is my end. In succession  
Houses rise and fall,  
Houses live and die: there is a time for building  
And a time for living and for generation  
(Eliot 1985: 196)

Research field: Heritage and Cultural Landscapes

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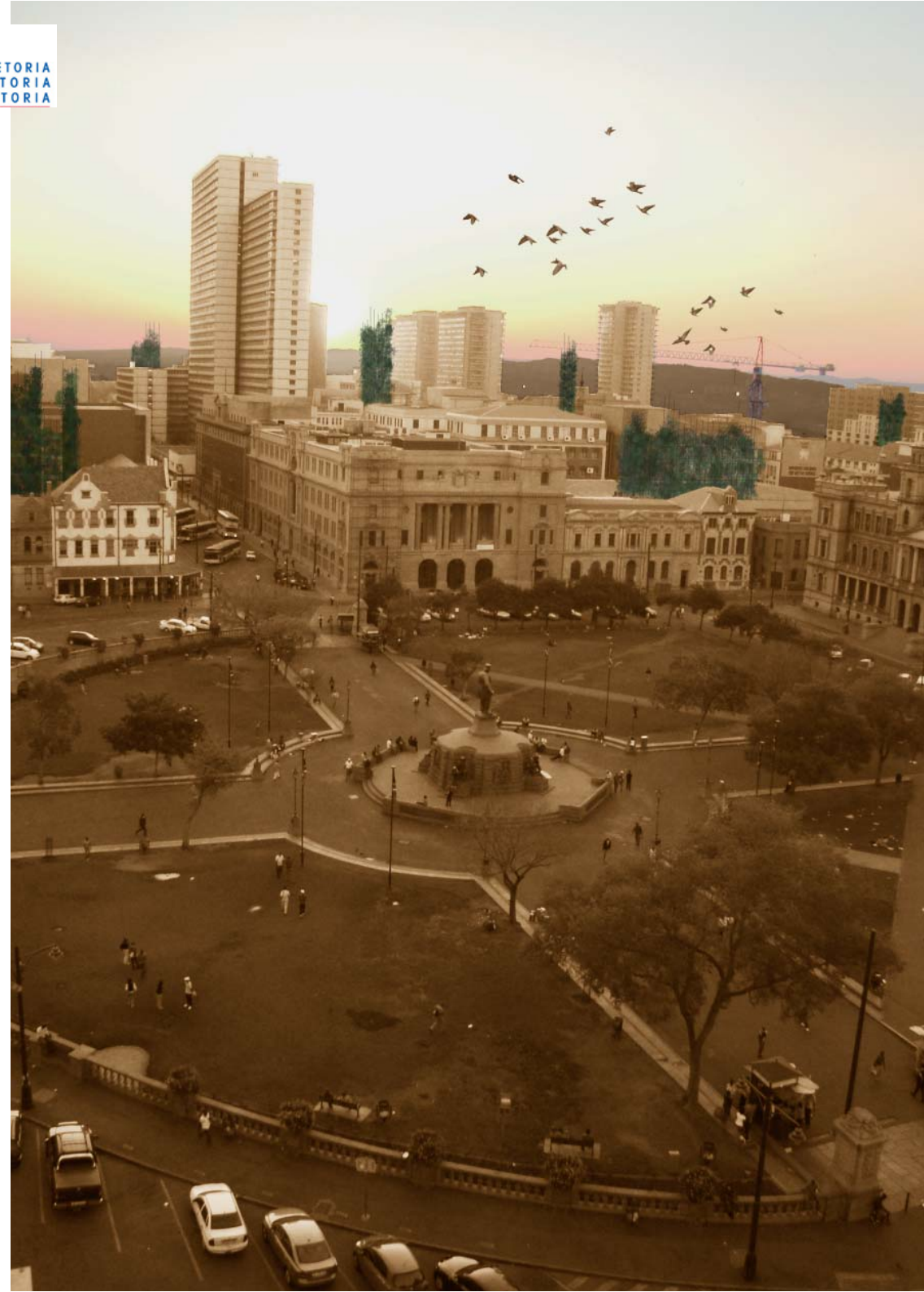
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A Vertical Burial structure and Promatorium

**University of Pretoria, Department of Architecture**

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*Fig. 1: (Opposite page) The vertical extension of the parks of remembrance within the inner city of Pretoria (Author, 2010).*



# Abstract

The proposed thesis design is a necropolis (city of the dead) in the form of a vertical park structure through which alternative methods of burial are investigated. The question of an architectural expression of consciousness to overcome cultural norms and challenge perceptions is researched through the theoretical exploration of the following: the cycle of life; the physical and meta-physical *between*; and collective dwelling.

Through exploring ways of sensitively infusing urban environments with an awareness and acknowledgement of death, life is celebrated by exposing death through a physical manifestation of the whole cycle of life, which will transcend several generations of urban dwellers. In populating the *between*, these anti-monument memorials would become accepted over time and a meta-physical awareness would be created to produce a new culture of urban life.



To You: This is all yours.

To my parents: thank you for your support, love and continuous interest in everything.

To Larin and Arthur: thanks for every kind and harsh word, encouragement, support and continual willingness to help whenever you can, even if I haven't always received in the same way it was given.

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# Content

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Abstract                    | VII       |
| Acknowledgements            | IX        |
| <b>1. Introduction</b>      | <b>1</b>  |
| 1.1 Introduction            | 1         |
| 1.2 Background              | 4         |
| 1.3 Burial forms            | 14        |
| 1.4 Definitions             | 19        |
| 1.5 Research question       | 20        |
| 1.6 Problem statement       | 21        |
| 1.7 Delimitations           | 22        |
| 1.8 Assumptions             | 23        |
| <b>2. Literature review</b> | <b>25</b> |
| 2.1 The cycle of life       | 25        |
| 2.2 The <i>Between</i>      | 27        |
| 2.3 Collective dwelling     | 29        |
| 2.4 Conclusion              | 30        |
| <b>3. The client</b>        | <b>33</b> |



|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <b>4. Context</b>                                    | 34  |
| 4.1 Context  | 34  |
| 4.2 Site selection                                   | 37  |
| 4.3 Site analysis                                    | 44  |
| <b>5. Precedents</b>                                 | 55  |
| 5.1 Introduction                                     | 57  |
| 5.2 León Tarantorio, Spain                           | 58  |
| 5.3 Crematorium Baumschulenweg, Germany              | 62  |
| 5.4 Modena Cemetery, Italy                           | 66  |
| 5.5 MFO Park, Switzerland                            | 72  |
| <b>6. Design</b>                                     | 77  |
| 6.1 Concept  | 80  |
| 6.2 3D development                                   | 84  |
| 6.3 Parti  | 92  |
| 6.4 Site   | 96  |
| 6.5 Ground floor                                     | 103 |
| 6.6 Memorial space                                   | 104 |
| 6.7 Vertical place of remembrance                    | 110 |
| <b>7. Technical resolution</b>                       | 127 |
| <b>8. Conclusion</b>                                 | 147 |
| <b>Appendix</b>                                      | 151 |
| - Statistics   | 152 |
| - History of Cemeteries in Pretoria                  | 154 |
| - First cemeteries in Pretoria                       | 158 |
| - Complete list of cemeteries in the City of Tshwane | 160 |
| - Final presentation and model                       | 162 |
| List of figures                                      | 165 |
| References   | 175 |