

# urban [i]scape

**INTELLIGENT INFORMATION CENTRE**



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*“Interior Architecture can be expressed in several ways. First, an entire building can be designed as an extended shell containing integrated and finished interiors. Second, Interior Architecture can be the completion of space within an existing architectural enclosure and finally, it can be the preservation, renovation, or adaptive reuse of buildings, historic or otherwise, with a focus on the design of interior space.” (Kurtich & Eakin 1993:3)*

The proposed dissertation is a study that touches on all of the design aspects mentioned above, but the main focus of the study will fall on the third approach, the recognition of the need for preservation, restoration, renovation and adaptive reuse, as a means to restore a sense of place in the existing fabric of the city, extending the lifetime of buildings, while preserving their history and character.



# abstract

## PROJECT SUMMARY



Fig. 0.1. Sketch of the Berrals building by the author

Though constructed less than 60 years ago, the Berrals building, situated in the Tshwane Inner City has been identified as a place of historical and national significance.

Its importance can be attributed to the designer, Wynand Smit of the architectural firm Smit and Viljoen, who contributed to the establishment of Pretoria Regionalism in the Transvaal (Gerneke 1998:216) and the fact that the building is one of only a few remaining examples of the Brazilian influence on Pretoria Regionalism during the 1950's.

At this point in time the structure is in dire need of an intervention due to its deteriorating state.

The strong modern heritage of the building required recognition in the proposed intervention and a study of modern principles and its regional mutations became paramount in determining a suitable design intervention.

The study functions as a tool to determine which components of the building, as a modern icon, requires preserving, as well as what the design approach will need to consider in terms of interacting with the modern structure when a suitable new program is inserted into the building.

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