



LYF [TAAL]

SPORT + DEVELOPMENT

[SPORT HAS THE ABILITY TO UNITE A NATION]

NELSON MANDELA, 1995

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ABSTRACT__

This project is a response to the author's passion for sport and his curiosity about the architectural process that is necessary to understand and facilitate the interrelation of body, mind and soul.

The potential influence of physical exercise; its correlation with the metaphysical aspects of the individual and how this influence spills over into the larger context of society is investigated.

This dissertation attempts to form an architectural response that is indigenous to the local population, the climate and the existing urban condition. The investigation ranges from a thorough understanding of the community to the effective contribution that architecture can offer, based on the concept of 'sport for development'¹ in South Africa.

The primary objective of the architectural response is to amplify the potential of sport as a means of building peace and self-actualisation within a society that suffers from the effects of crime and violence.

Although popular culture reinforces the belief in the potential of sport, Spaaij (2009:1109) identifies factors and conditions that must be met if the positive value of sport is to be achieved.

The dissertation incorporates these factors and conditions into a multipurpose 'sport for development' community complex. This complex aims to augment the existing 'sport for development' programmes in South Africa and serve as a prototype for future 'sport for development' centres, which ultimately includes everyone in the process of reconciliation.

'STRONG LIMITATIONS OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STRONG ARCHITECTURAL INTERPRETATION, IF YOU ARE CAPABLE OF SENSING THE SPIRIT OF YOUR EARTH AND SKIES.'

(VON MEISS 1997:7)

¹ It is common to mistake 'sport for development' as 'sport development'. The latter implies the development and diffusion of sport itself, whereas the former implies using sport as a tool in development assistance, poverty reduction and peace building. According to the UNOSDP (www.un.org) its antecedents can be traced back to antiquity, when the Olympic truce was used to establish temporary peace between warring states.