

*“The designer must make legitimacy for his or her work in the same way that the poet makes truth in poetry.” (Scott, 2005:150)*

# 4

## DESIGN APPROACH AND APPLICATION

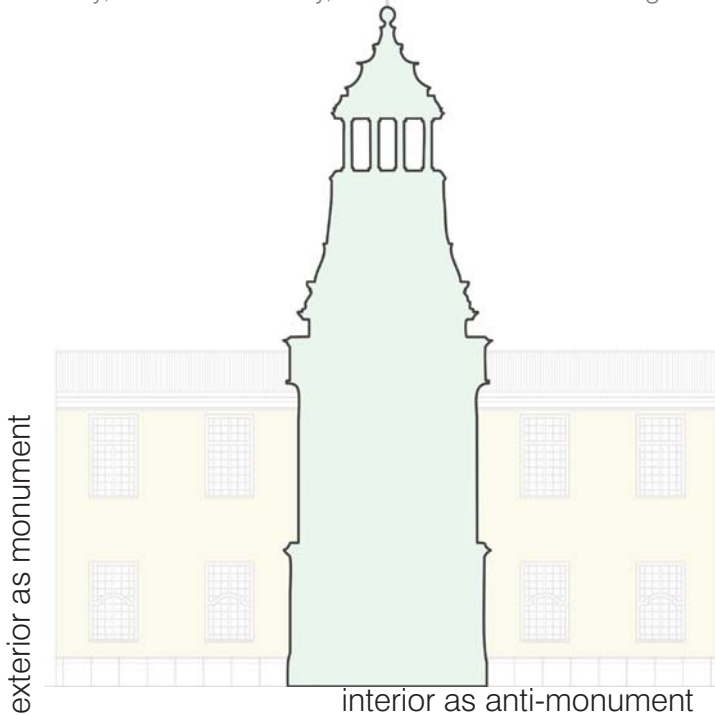
### 4.1 Application

The intervention should be applied to the interior of the Human Anatomy Centre, respectfully retaining the architectural form of the existing as point of departure. The reasoning behind this notion is justified by its positive economical impact (through the reuse of existing infrastructure), its minimal additional environmental impact and the protection of the existing historical built fabric. The Code of Ethics of Co-existence in Conserving Significant Places in Article 8 of the ICOMOS Burra Charter (1999:21) states:

Adapt a co-ordinated multi-disciplinary approach to ensure an open attitude to cultural diversity and the availability of all necessary professional skills.

The intent is to transfer the notion of diversity and social awareness beyond the built process in an attempt to evolve the envisioned application and reinterpret it as a celebration of humanity within a South African context.

Any change in building programme, however, requires a change in the spatial and physical composition (Scott, 2005:171). In order to structure and facilitate the notion of change and its effect on the architectural envelope, Scott's theory of stripping back will be followed. The application of new work will pertain mostly, but not exclusively, to the interior of the building.



*Illustration 4.1 Application of design intent*

## 4.2 Approach

### 4.2.1 Alteration Strategy

Alteration suggests change to the existing built fabric in order to enable it to obtain a new function. Article 15.1 of the ICOMOS Burra Charter (1999:6) states that:

*Change may be necessary to retain cultural significance, but it is undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to a place should be guided by the cultural significance of the place and its appropriate interpretation.*

The initial response to altering the building would be to perform critical maintenance to the key elements in the building. Scott reflects on this process as 'making good' (Scott 2005:1). The Icomos Burra Charter (1999:6) requires that maintenance be performed in order to retain the cultural significance of a place. Chapter 8 will outline the technical approach to maintenance. Demolition will be implemented as a second step in the alteration of the existing structure. When executed incorrectly, the act of demolition has the ability to endanger cultural significance through unwanted removal of built fabric.

Three instances have been identified where controlled demolition will be done in this project. They are:

1. Where unwanted entropic skid has become an immediate threat to the future existence of the Administrative Building as architectural symbol in the Pretoria landscape.
2. Where demolition has the capability to tolerate rather than accommodate new work. This notion should allow new work to be clearly distinguishable as such.
3. When the scale of demolition has been considered as an extension of new work. The intention is that the scale of demolition correlates

with the scale of the envisioned intervention. This will eliminate unwanted removal or destruction of built fabric.

Scott (2005:127) accentuates that ruination (the act of demolition) requires precision while simultaneously allowing for creative expression. Such alteration highlights two important aspects; firstly, the level of alteration should be of such a nature that it allows for a well-resolved intervention (*ibid.*: 170). It may therefore be argued that a minor intervention has the ability to add to additional entropic skid and in doing so contribute to the detriment of the host building. Secondly, the alteration process, when viewed in isolation from other processes involved in the change of architecture, should provide possibilities for intervention that would otherwise not exist. Scott (2005:126) compares the alteration process to that of a shadow that is cast by new work.

#### 4.2.3 Intervention Strategy

Intervention to the existing refers to Scott's theory of new work. Article 22.1 of the ICOMOS Burra Charter (1999:7) states that:

New work such as additions to the place may be acceptable where it does not distort or obscure the cultural significance of the place, or detract from its interpretation and appreciation.

Generating new form in reaction to the altered ruin manifests in the Human Anatomy Centre through the theoretical principle of reinterpretation (as discussed in *Section 3.2*). The intervention allows for a new spatial hierarchy and function, as was the initial intention of the architect. The intervention should, however, remain as dynamic as the subject material it houses. The intervention to Human Anatomy should be in constant flux, developing together with new discoveries about the human body. Scott (2005:171) reflects on the successful intervention at the well-known Castalveccio by Carlos Scarpa and concludes that this museum was initially complete, but that Scarpa has placed it in a state of beautiful incompleteness for future generations (2005:165).

The Human Anatomy Centre utilises 'the ruin' to generate new form (indicated in *Chapter 8.1*). Asymmetry in form may appear to be hostile to the existing structure, but this intention questions the existing grid composition and suggests a sense of incompleteness. This notion is supported by the



ICOMOS Burra Charter (1999:7) in article 22.2:

New work should readily be identifiable as such.

*Illustration 4.2 The interior of the Castel Vecchio. [http://3.bp.blogspot.com/\\_4lQQyoQe3jw/SzMeMR9Efb/AAAAAAAAAMw/YcQ2JqivgSU/s400/Castelvecchio+Museum.jpg](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_4lQQyoQe3jw/SzMeMR9Efb/AAAAAAAAAMw/YcQ2JqivgSU/s400/Castelvecchio+Museum.jpg)*