



A CONTEMPORARY MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

*The Design of a New Satellite Museum for the
Ditsong: National Museum of Cultural History in Pretoria.*



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
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'N NUWERWETSE MUSEUM ERVARING

Die Ontwerp van 'n Satelliet Museum vir die
Ditsong: Nasionale Museum vir Kultuur Geskiedenis

deur Suné-Marié Steyn

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Sleutelwoorde:

Museum
Hedendaags/ nuwerwets
Kultuur
Atrium
Uitstalling

Ekserp

Hierdie verhandeling se oorsprong lê in 'n belangstelling in museum-argitektuur en die behoefte om museum-ervarings in Pretoria te verbeter. Die stad benodig 'n museum wat nie onderskeid tref tussen verskillende kulture en herkoms nie; wat 'n ervaring bied waarmee daaglikse gebruikers van die stad hulle kan vereenselwig. Die doel van die satelliet museum is om alledaagse gebruikers van die stad bloot te stel aan 'n onverwagse museum-ervaring. Hierdie museum-ervaring sal aangetref word op alledaagse plekke en ervaar word as deel van daaglikse aktiwiteite. Die museum-ervaring sal 'n persoon se daaglikse roetine verryk en 'n geleentheid skep vir self-refleksie en nadenking.

Hierdie verhandeling stel 'n nuwe satelliet museum vir die bestaande Ditsong: Nasionale Museum vir Kultuur Geskiedenis voor as 'n manier om die museum aan die publiek bloot te stel. Hierdie satelliet museum sal dien as 'n tak van die groter museum. Die verhandeling bevestig dat wat die rol van 'n kontemporêre museum in die middestad van Pretoria is en hoe dit argitektonies geïmplimenter kan word.

Die ontwerp ingryping behels die aanpasbare hergebruik van die Standard Bank Sentrum, 'n bestaande gebou oorkant die Lillian Ngoyi Plein in die middestad van Pretoria. Die verhandeling voer aan dat 'n museum 'n deel van 'n persoon se daaglikse roetine moet vorm. Die museum moet nie net op toeriste gerig wees nie, maar moet ook daaglikse gebruikers van die stad betrek. Met die integrasie van 'n museum in 'n gebou met kommersiële en korporatiewe gebruike, ontstaan die uitdaging om 'n verbintenis te skep tussen die bestaande kommersiële ruimtes en die nuwe museum ruimtes. Die ontwerp maak gebruik hiervan as geleentheid, en bevestigteke aanvaarde metodes van uitstal, inhoud en bouvorm van museums.

Die dokument ondersoek hedendaagse argitektuur tendense in museums en evalueer bestaande museums in Pretoria. 'n Ondersoek na kultuur in Suid-Afrika en na die verhouding tussen die nuwe satelliet museum en die konteks vorm ook deel van die navorsing. Die studie kom tot die gevolgtrekking dat 'n nuwerwetse museum-ervaring konstante verandering moet kan fassiliteer en 'n ruimtelike ervaring bied wat die drumpels en grense tussen die nuwe museum en die bestaande publieke ruimte laat wegsmeel.



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Abstract

This dissertation originated from an interest in museum architecture and the desire to improve museum experiences for the inhabitants of Pretoria. The city is in need of a museum that does not distinguish between different cultures and backgrounds, and that provides an experience that a regular city user can relate to. This dissertation aims to address this need with the creation of a museum that relies on a chance museum encounter in an everyday place. This museum encounter will enrich people's daily city experiences and provide opportunity for self-reflection and contemplation.

The dissertation proposes a new satellite museum for the existing Ditsong: National Museum of Cultural History as a method of exposing the public to this museum. This satellite museum will function as a branch of the larger museum. The aim of this satellite museum is to provide regular users of the city with an unexpected museum experience.

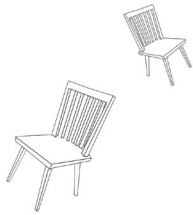
The design intervention deals with the adaptive re-use of the Standard Bank Centre, an existing building next to the Lilian Ngoyi Square in the CBD of Pretoria. The dissertation argues that in order to create a culture of visiting museums, a museum should not only be aimed at

tourists, but should become part of people's daily routines and should focus on reaching the regular users of the city. With the introduction of a museum into a building with commercial and corporate uses, the challenge arises to create a link between the existing commercial spaces and the new museum spaces. The design makes use of this ambiguity as an opportunity, and questions the accepted models of display and exhibition; content and the built form of museums.

This dissertation considers what a contemporary museum in the inner city of Pretoria should be in terms of function and architectural implementation. The document investigates contemporary trends in museum architecture and evaluates existing museums in Pretoria. It also includes an investigation into culture in South Africa and into the relation of the satellite museum to its context. The study concludes that a contemporary museum experience is one that facilitates continuous change, and provides a spatial experience that blurs the threshold between the new museum and existing public space.

Keywords:

Museum
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Culture
Atrium
Exhibition



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- FIGURE 8.34** Seating on the ramp of the Centenary Building, September, 2010.
- FIGURE 8.35** Section exploring the ramp as a suspended structure, July, 2010.
- FIGURE 8.36** Ground floor plan of design intervention in existing building, October 2010.
- FIGURE 8.37** Ground floor plan of design intervention indicating entrances and thresholds, not to scale, October, 2010.
- FIGURE 8.38** Lower ground floor mezzanine plan of the design intervention in the existing building, October, 2010.
- FIGURE 8.39** Lower ground floor mezzanine plan of the design intervention indicating entrances and thresholds, not to scale, October, 2010.
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- FIGURE 8.41** An example of a display in the Context Room, September, 2010.
- FIGURE 8.42** Section A-A: section through the museum spaces parallel to Van der Walt Street, not to scale (November exam presentation).
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- FIGURE 8.45** 3D rendering of entrance into building from Van der Walt Street (November exam presentation).
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- FIGURE 8.51** Ground Floor Plan, not to scale (November exam presentation).
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Chapter 09: Technical Resolution

- FIGURE 9.1** *Technical drawing, Digital Collage*, October, 2010.
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FIGURE 9.22 Lighting details, not to scale, September, 2010.

FIGURE 9.23 Lighting details, not to scale, September, 2010.

FIGURE 9.24 Section of effect lighting, not to scale, September, 2010.

FIGURE 9.25 Lighting detail, not to scale, September, 2010.

FIGURE 9.26 Ramp details, not to scale (November exam presentation).

FIGURE 9.27 Ramp details, not to scale (November exam presentation).

FIGURE 9.28 Details, not to scale (November exam presentation).