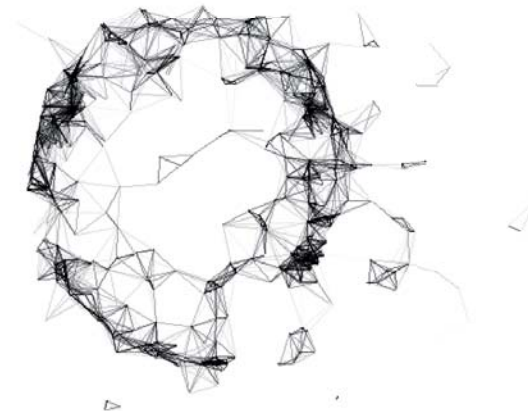
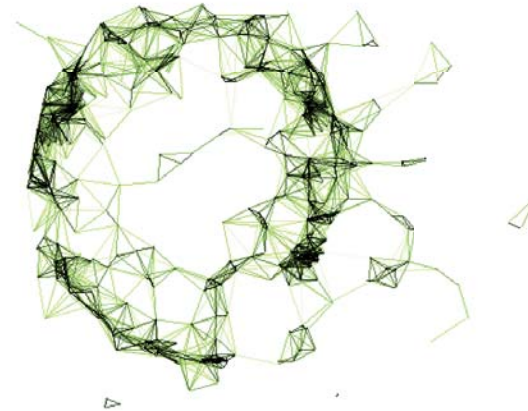




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proximity

vertical agriculture the old pretoria west power station



to my family

whom i love very much

to my grandfather

who loved me very much

to my friends

this world is ours.

By Calayde Davey

Course Coordinator

Arthur Barker

Study Leaders

Arthur Barker

Nicholas Clarke

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements
for the degree of

Magister in Architecture (Professional)

Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and
Information Technology

University of Pretoria, Department of Architecture

November 2010



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abstract

The thesis addresses the proximity of contemporary global human issues to local human issues and presents an architectural solution. By identifying, exploring and drawing closer the proximities between these global and local issues, new solutions can be developed for local application. There are new fields created for architecture when we understand and connect the proximity of objects of both cultural and biophysical creation, and when we understand and build on our ever-narrowing proximities between what has been and what is to come. The narrowing global conditions have direct implications on us as individual human beings and our individual local societies. These proximities have been explored, developed, and resolved for local application. The resulting research field for urban agriculture ultimately guided an appropriate architectural response within the city of Pretoria, South Africa.

Opposite - Definitions of *proximity*
[Oxford 2003, Princeton 2005]

proximity

1. [n] the property of being close together
2. [n] the region close around a person or thing
3. [n] nearness in space or time or relationship

law of proximity

when two or more objects are close to each other,
they may be seen as a perceptual [virtual] unit

preface

The study of the relationship between space and time is all consuming - from our sciences to our daily lives and interactions. The world we live in is full of great and fascinating paradoxes - we are growing increasingly closer to each other and increasingly apart from each other; we are interacting closer with nature and yet we move away further from the “natural”. We are moving closer to history and closer to our future as we have the total ability to manage our physical and metaphysical environments ourselves.

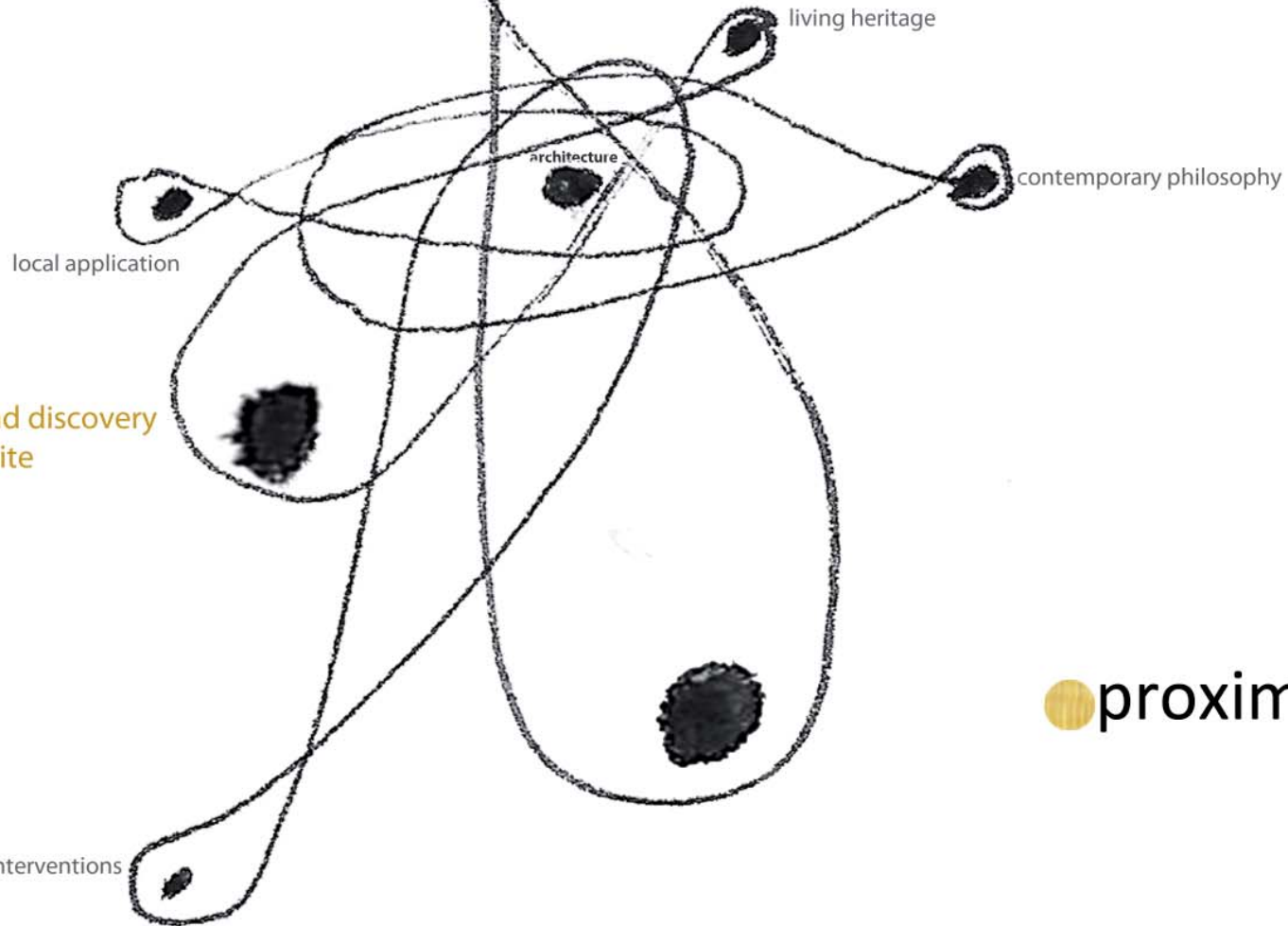
The duty of architecture and the built environment is to understand and interpret physical and metaphysical role-players in order to innovate responsibly - to investigate, understand and connect issues that are related but removed from each other. When the proximity of such issues are drawn closer and the issues start to overlap, new fields for innovation are created. This thesis draws closer the proximities of global issues to local issues and develops an architecture within the new field that they create.

The project is organic and process-orientated. It is directed to both the past and the future. The thesis is written in a narrative manner so as to better relate the process involved in the unfolding of the design solution - in a spirit of discovery, exploration and progressional fantasy.

Figure 1: Investigation topics that inform the development of the project [author, 2010].



real world challenges



● proximity

search for appropriate interventions