

conception of the character

[5]

[Conceptualizing]

[5.1]

INTRODUCTION

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DESIGN INFORMANTS

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[5.1]

INTRODUCTION

Before all the required volumes and systems are stitched together, the project informants, theory and the ultimate character of the design needs to be combined to form a concept strategy to govern how the different volumes and systems will be stitched together and how decisions will be made. Thus an exploration need to be done to create a project concept which can guide the project from site layout up to detailing.

[5.2]

DESIGN INFORMANTS

The project informants are core ideas which have been extracted from different influential categories. These core ideas inform and guide design decisions and start working together at different stages of the design process. The influential categories are:

- _ Theoretical stance
- _ Group Framework
- _ Systems involved
- _ Site conditions

THEORETICAL STANCE

The theoretical approach of creating space and place via infrastructure, implies that **infrastructure become the framing structures and planes which define space and thus acting as architecture.**

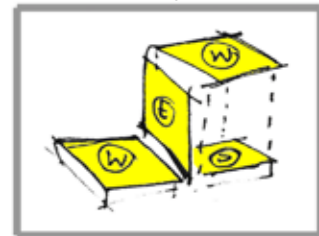
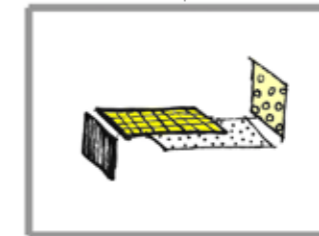
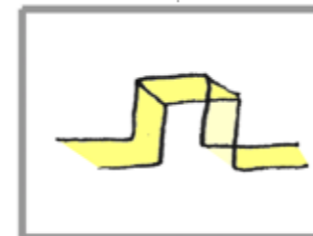
GROUP FRAMEWORK

The BCe1 Framework is not a prescriptive framework with rules and regulations, but rather **aims to add an experiential layer to the urban space** through which people filter. The framework places emphasis on the importance of thresholds as they are the catalyst links which frame the urban experiential space. The **threshold as link between space and place**, threshold as an activation of void space and layering in complexity of the threshold is the main governing informants.

informants >>> theory

INFRASTRUCTURE AS SPACE

PROGRAMMING PLANES

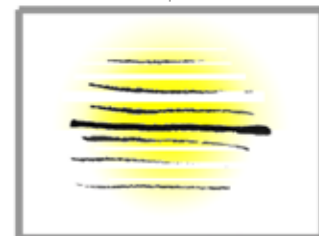
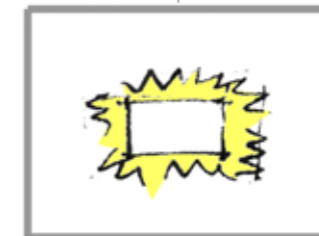
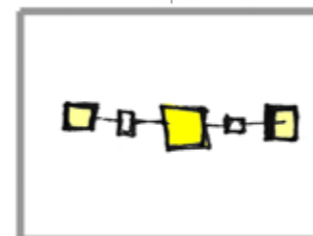


informants >>> framework

ADDING EXPERIENTIAL FIELD

ACTIVATE VOIDS

DECONSTRUCTING BOUNDARIES



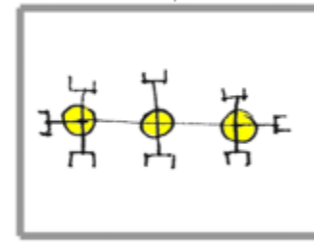
conceptualizing [5]

SYSTEMS INVOLVED

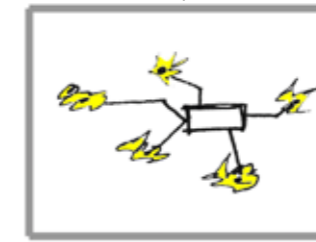
The functionality of the systems used as discussed in the accommodation schedule is mainly focussed on linking the intervention with the existing fabric. The most practical way to do so would be via the **existing services connections and the circulation routes**. The individual systems are also used to **'serve' the spaces**, to have a presence and a positive contribution to space. Before design can start, the individual systems' roles and processes need to be taken into account, the processes then start giving shape to the spaces and intervention.

informants >>> systems

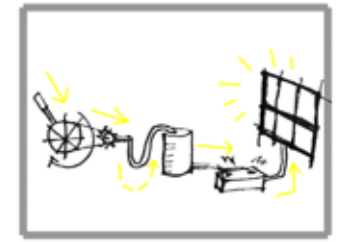
CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION ROUTES



SYSTEM 'IRRIGATES'



USE PROCESS/SYSTEM TO GIVE FORM



SITE CONDITIONS

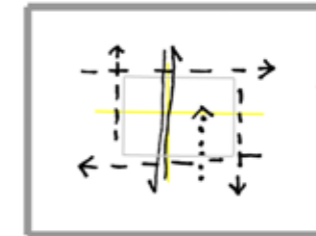
Of the many informative site conditions, ones which link directly to the intervention intentions were identified to give direction to where the intervention should take place and what needs to be connected and changed. Thus looking at the **circulation patterns, void spaces and the nature and setting of the current services** were used as informants.

informants >>> site

NON-CONTRIBUTARY FABRIC/VOIDS



CIRCULATION



SERVICE NODES



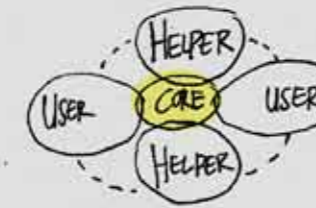
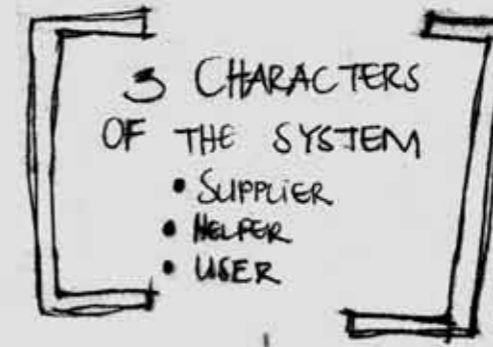
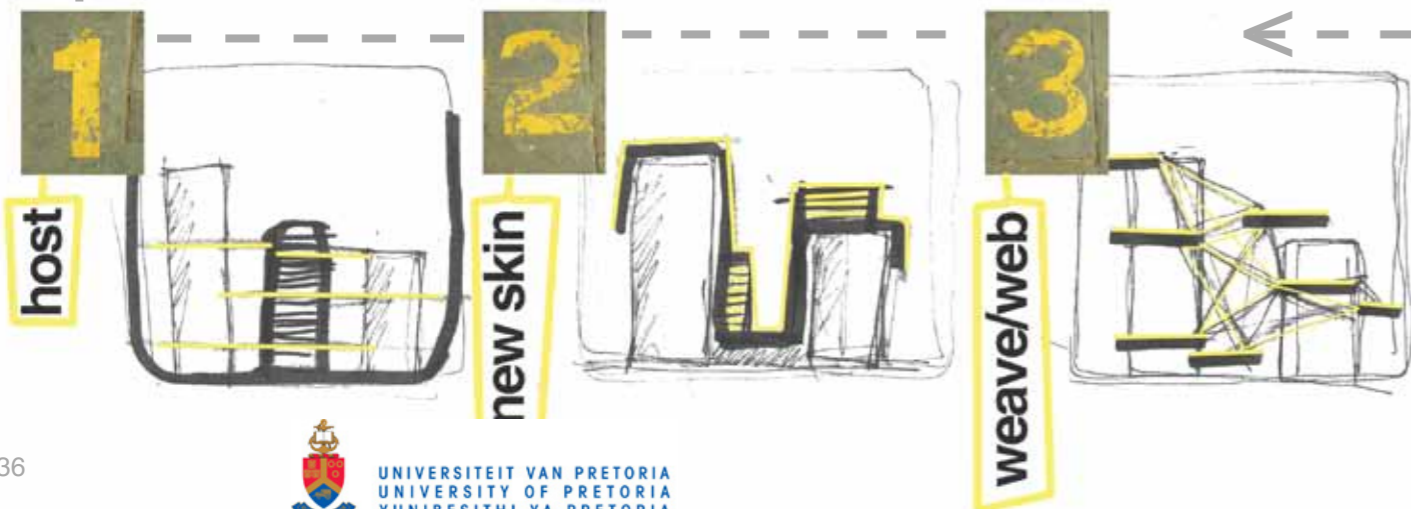
CONCEPT EXPLORATION

Each informant starts giving clues of how the design's character should manifest either as a whole or in certain instances. After considering the 'connective' nature of the intervention, certain characteristics which describe the intervention's intent start surfacing:

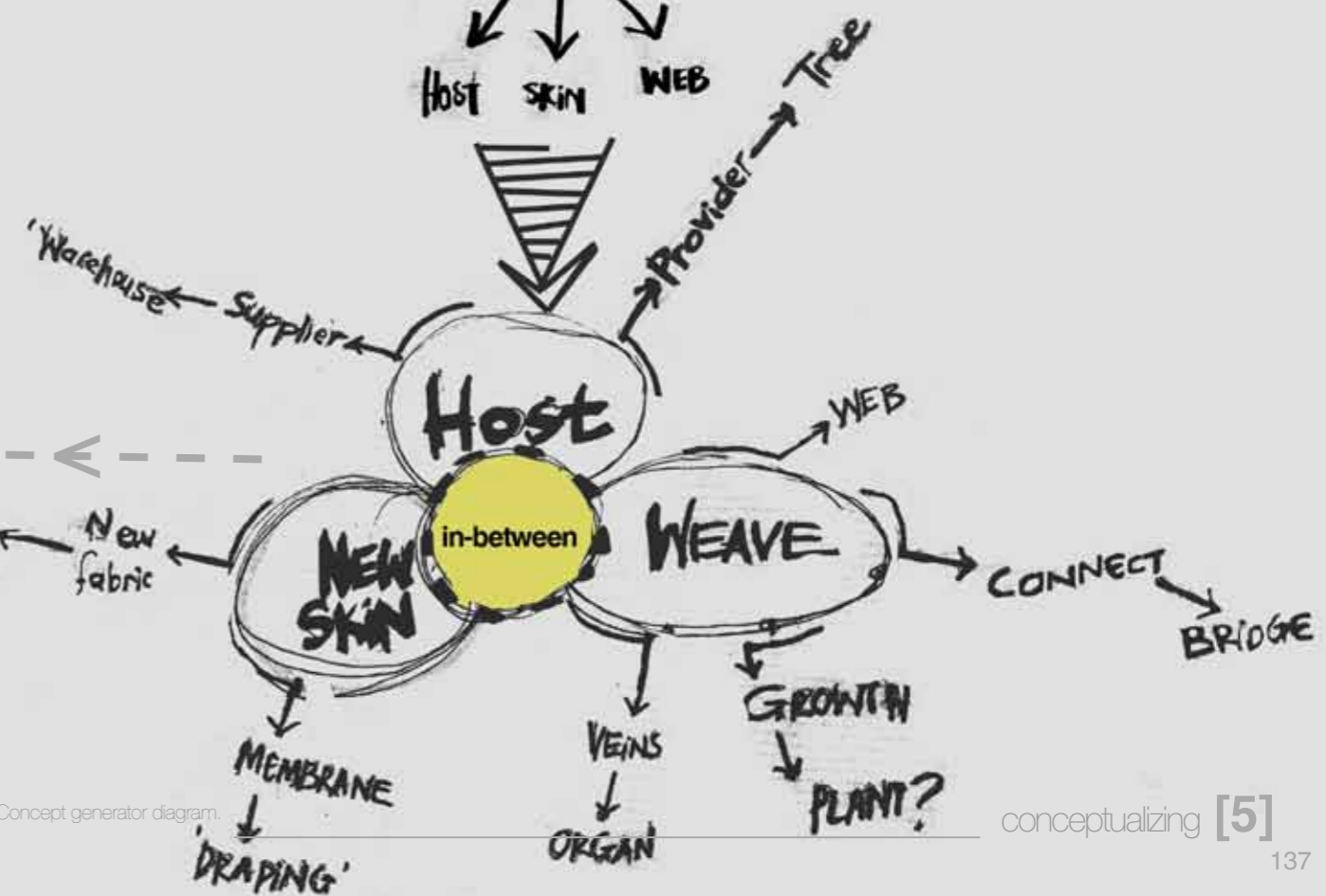
- _ The intervention acts as a **host** in a **symbiotic relationship** with the existing urban fabric.
- _ The intervention tries to **tie the loose elements together** and create a whole instead of parts.
- _ The intervention wants to **connect** to the existing fabric and make a difference as well as accept the existing fabric's influence on the building.

Thus the intervention manifests itself in an **in-between state** where it acts as the **link and supplier** between the different users. Three initial conceptual ideas were explored from this point of view:

- _ The Host
- _ The New Skin
- _ The Web



DESIGN'S NATURE

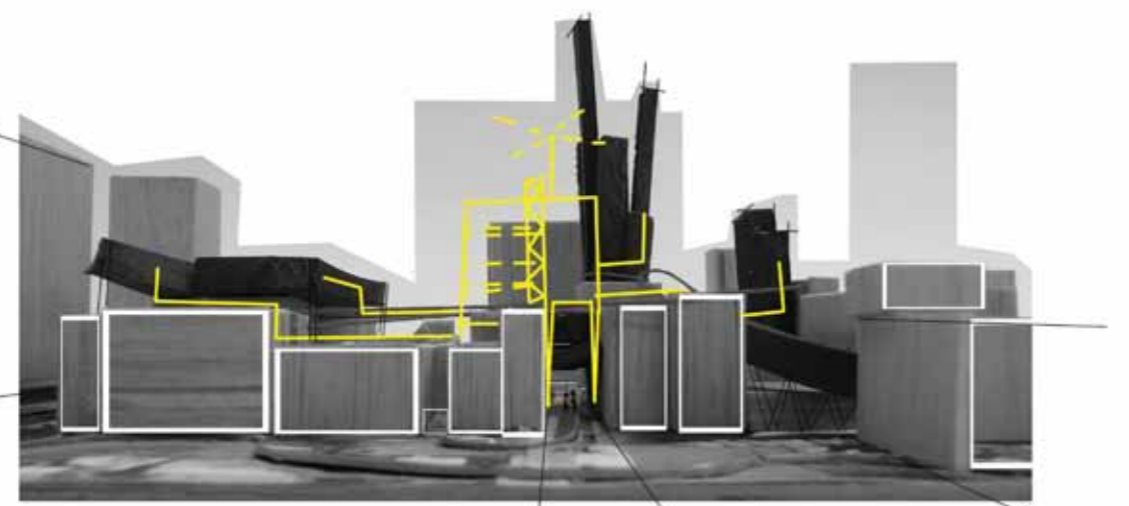


[Figure 5.1.] Concept generator diagram.

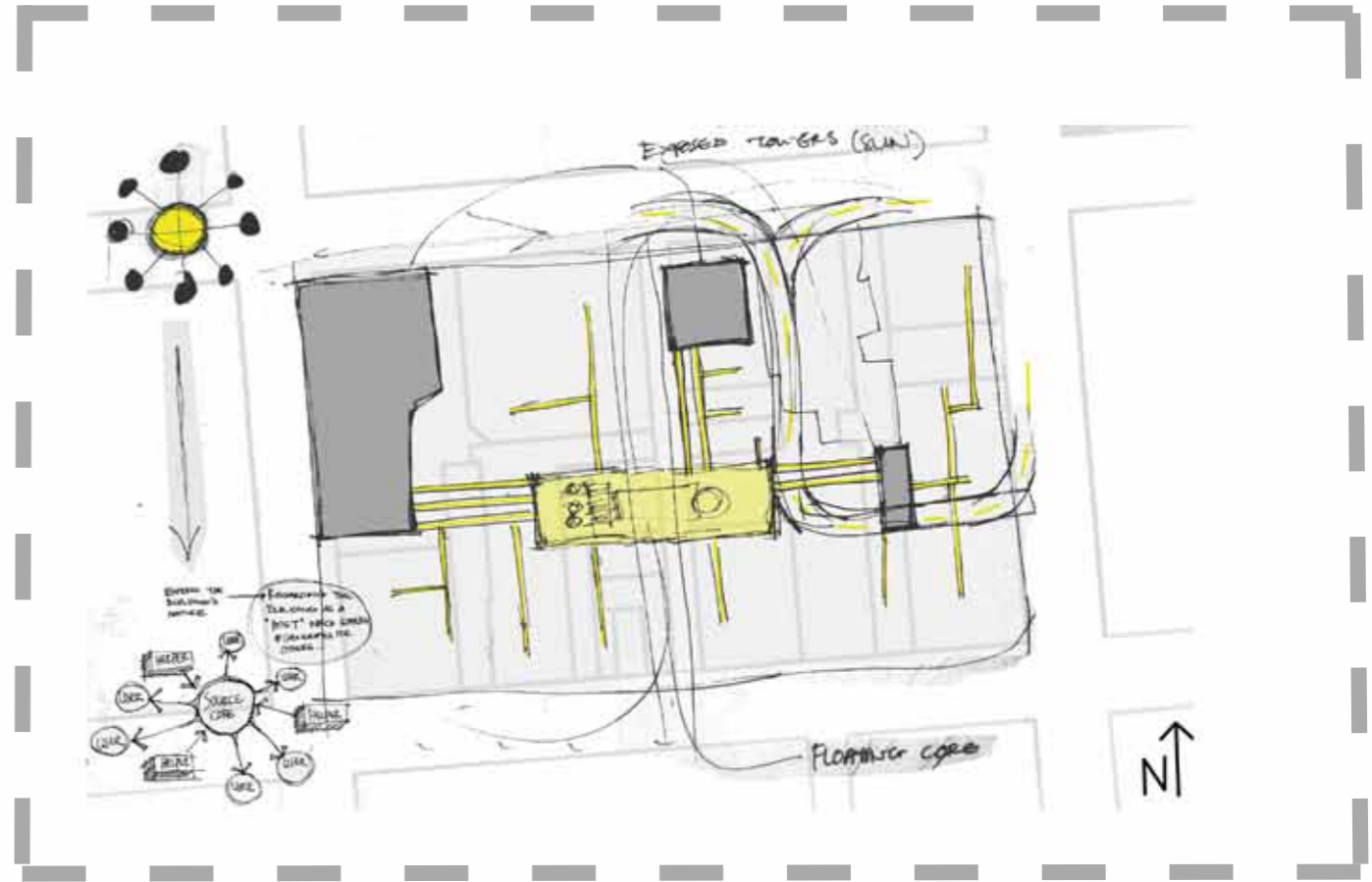
support
generate
sustain
give
support

generate
sustain
give

support
generate
sustain



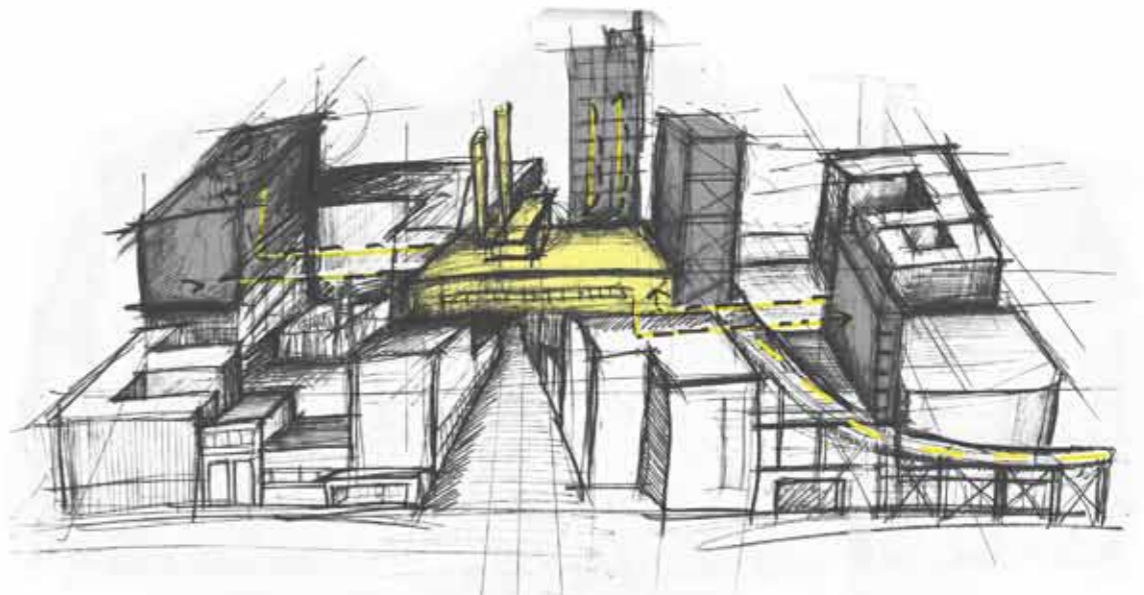
[Figure 5_2.] Abstract central host, placed in context model.



[Figure 5_3.] Plan (n.t.s) of central host structure in context, connected to the existing fabric.

THE HOST

The Host is a central system which acts as a **core for its surrounds**. It functions as a node where all the different components meet and distribute from again. The host supports, sustains and facilitates spaces and resources. Although the diagram of the host is very nodal, a more **linear layout would be more efficient**.



[Figure 5_4.] Perspective of central host, connected to existing fabric.

cover
protect

envelope

wrap
renew

cover
protect

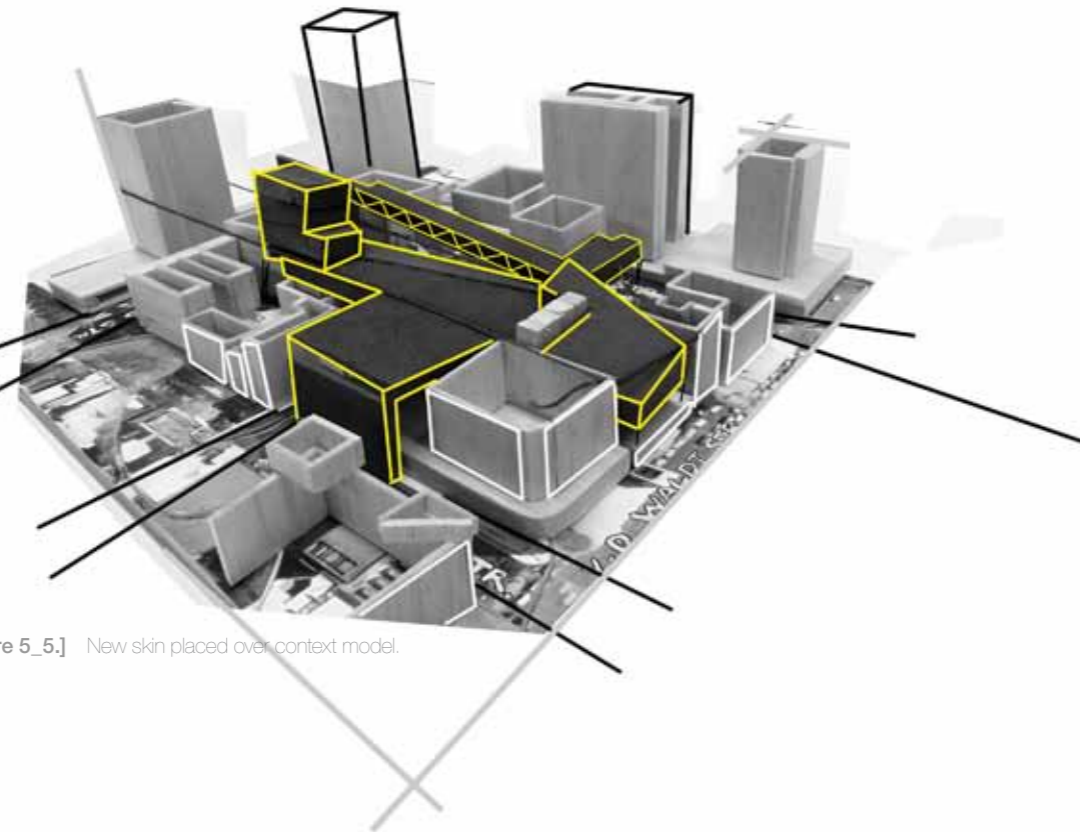
envelope

wrap
renew

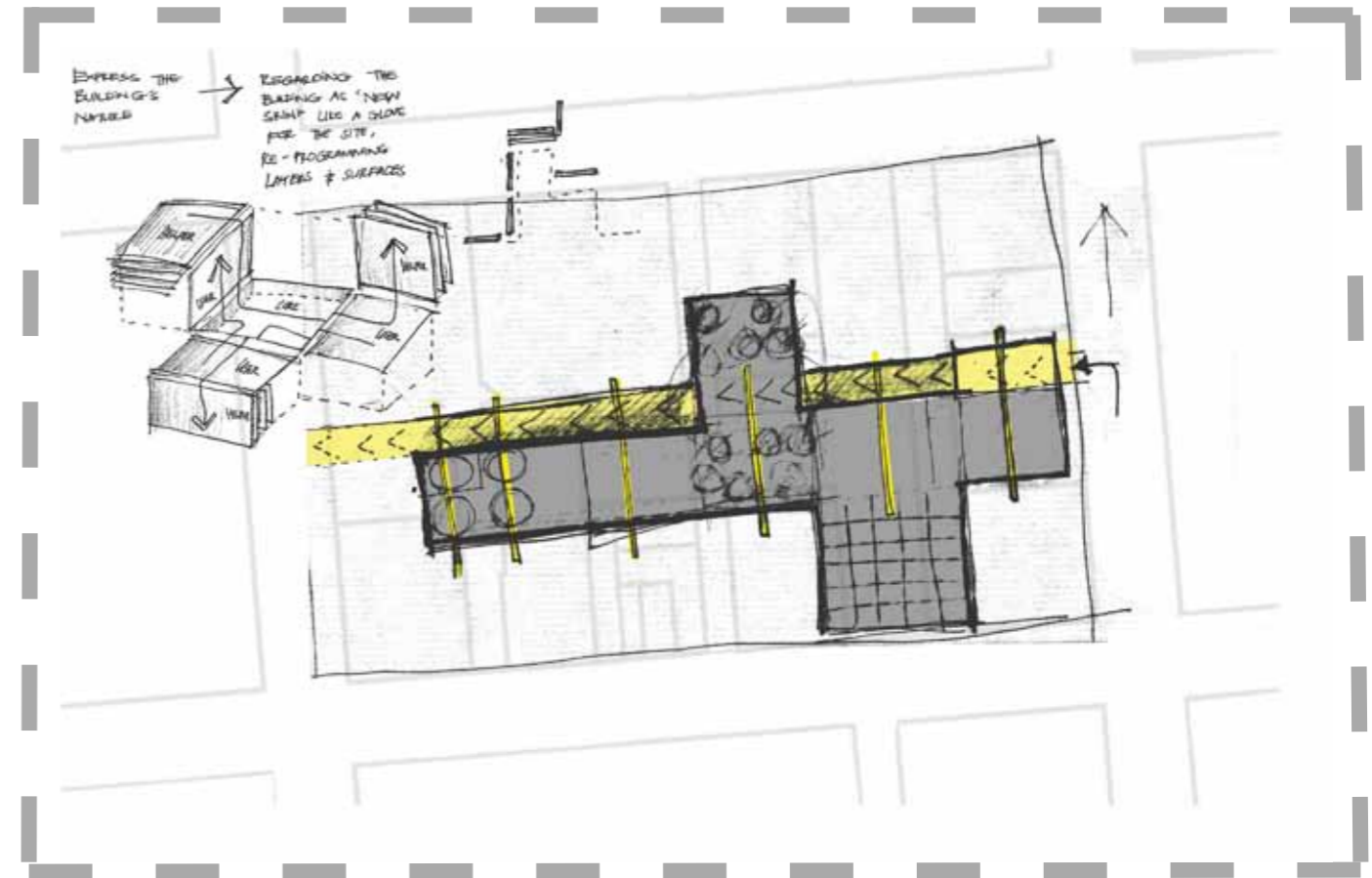
cover
protect

envelope
wrap

renew



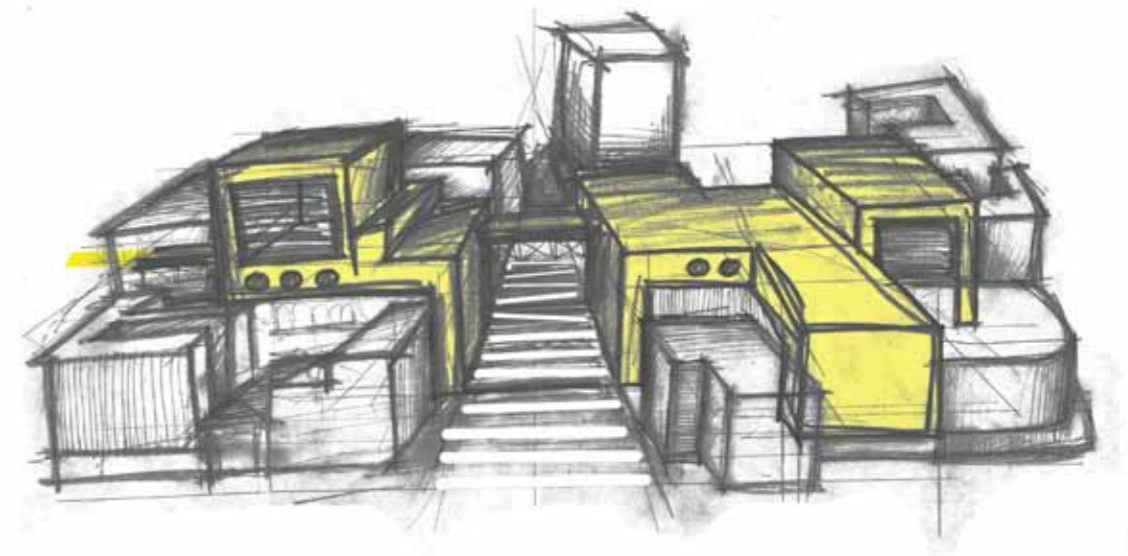
[Figure 5_5.] New skin placed over context model.



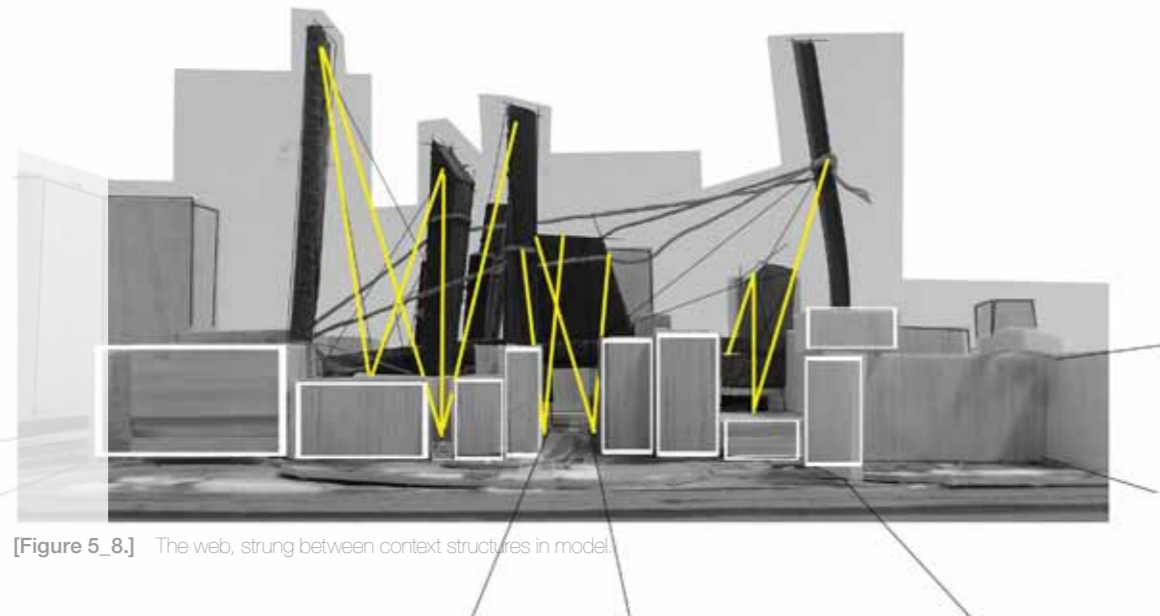
[Figure 5_6.] Plan (h.t.s.) of 'New skin' wrapping over the context.

THE NEW SKIN

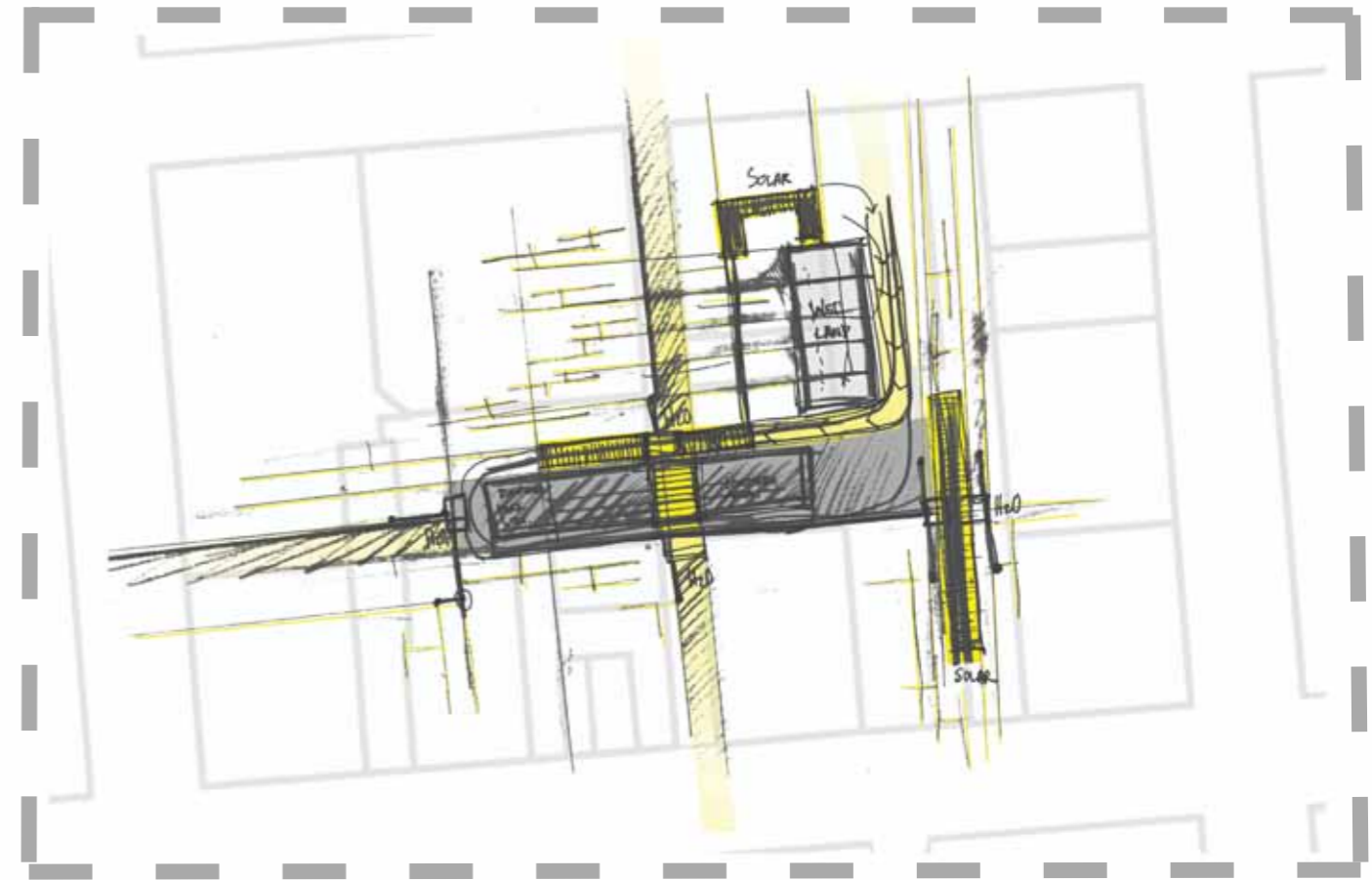
The New Skin focuses on **programming new and existing planes**. Addressing the complexity of the threshold by activating the threshold layers via programming. Surfaces which act as collectors, storage and public space work together and **wrap over and through the site like a glove** bringing new definitions to surfaces and spaces. Although the problem may only lie in the interpretation and thus the illustration of the concept, it does seem like this might not be such an appropriate approach because it seems to smother the site.



[Figure 5_7.] Perspective of 'New skin' wrapped across, over and around context.



[Figure 5_8.] The web, strung between context structures in model

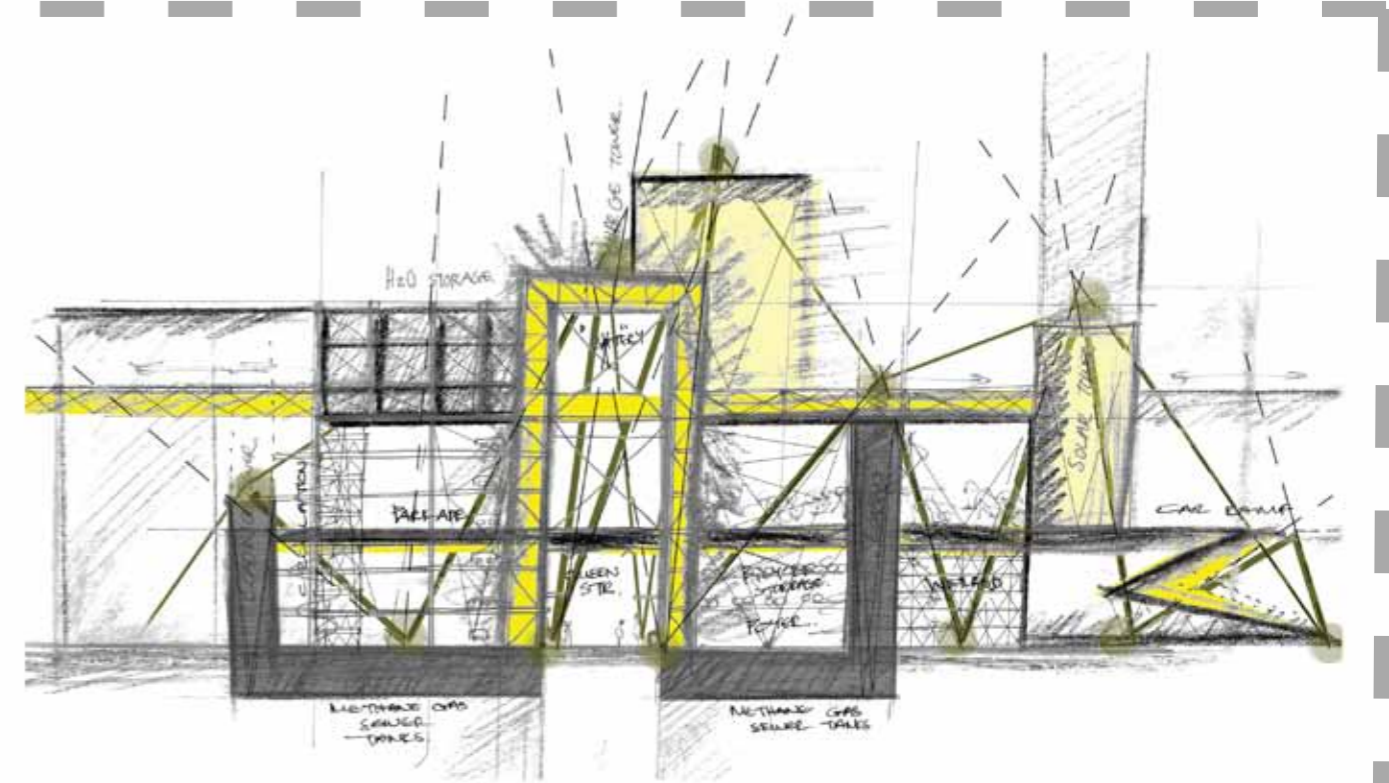


[Figure 5_9.] Plan (n.t.s.) of spun structure, nested in-between context.

cling
crawl
link
support
strengthen
co-dependant
cling
crawl
link
support
strengthen
co-dependant
cling
crawl
link
support
strengthen

THE WEB

The Web focuses on **elements joining nodes**, spaces and other elements. The Web is the tension, object and link in the **in-between condition** which facilitates the manifestation of the overall systems, routes and spaces to operate as a whole. The web is **supported by its context** and without its context it cannot exist or stand up. As the web intensifies, it starts to create a membrane or surface.

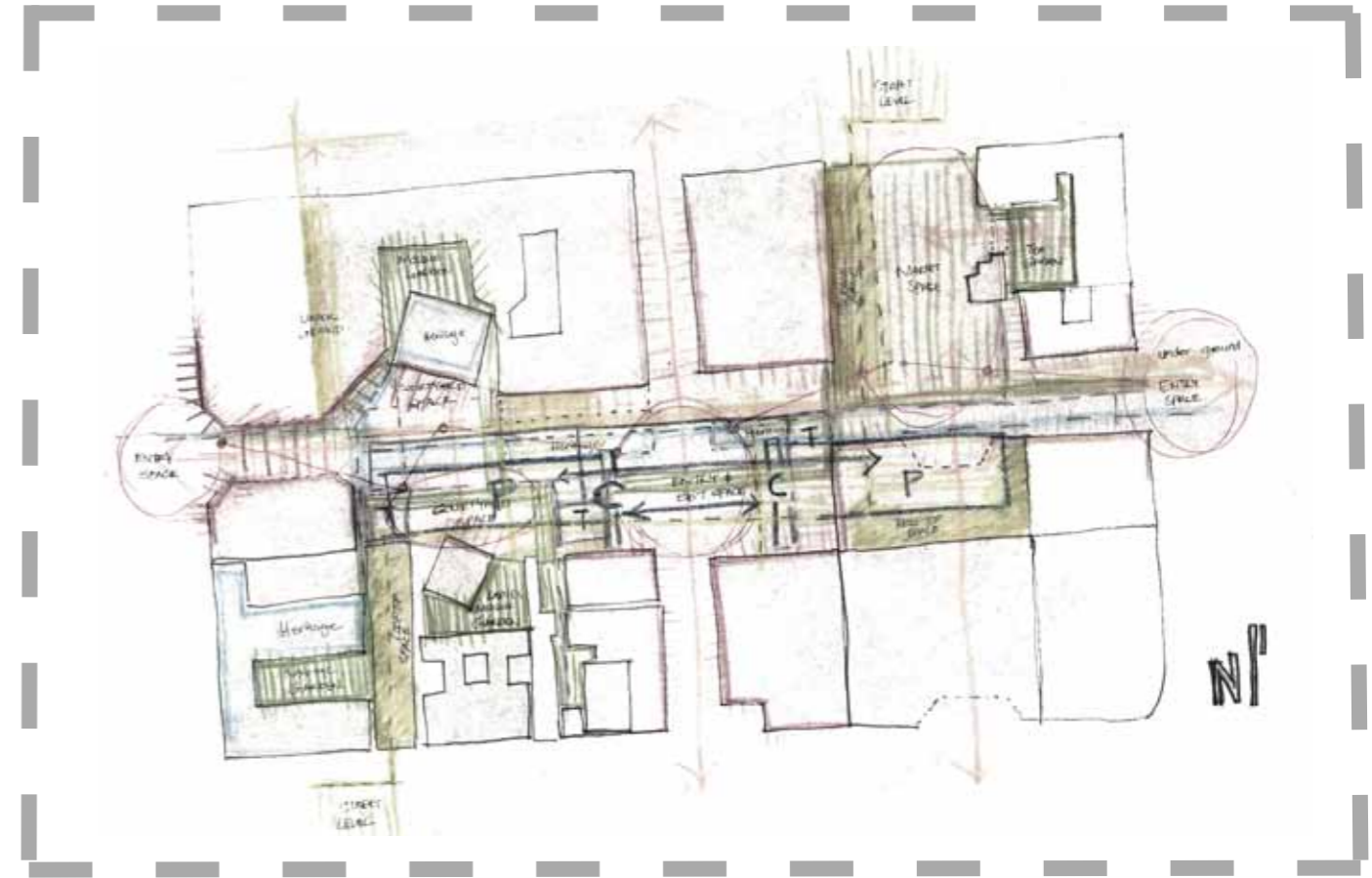
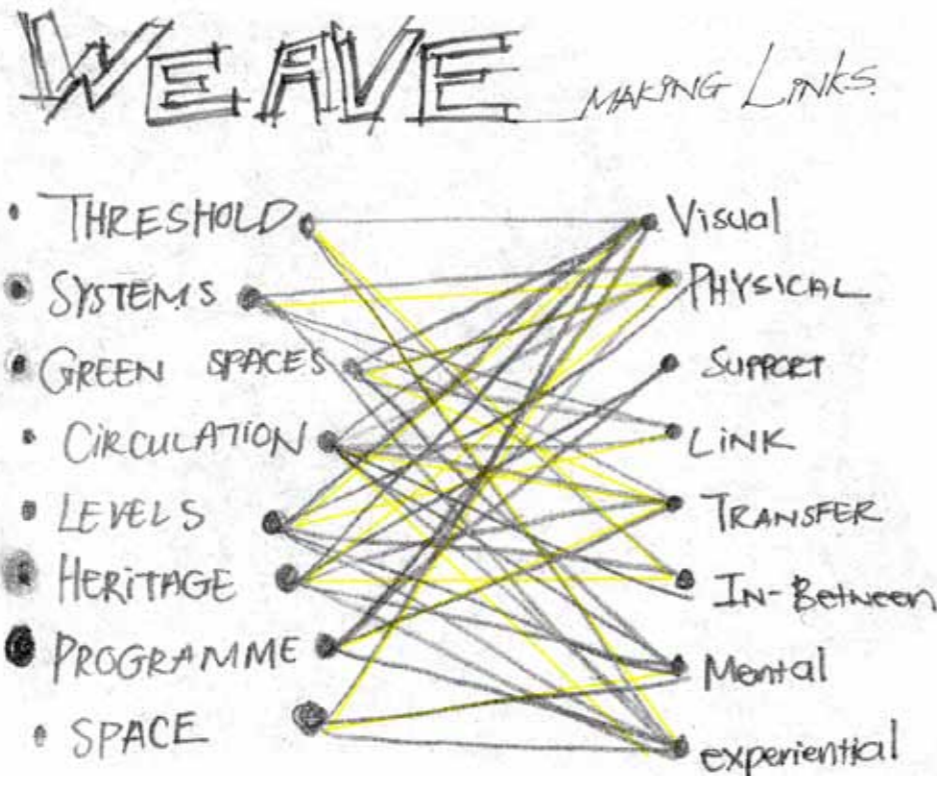


[Figure 5_10.] Section (n.t.s.) of spun structure connecting horizontal and vertical planes.



cling
crawl
link
support

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT
>>> FINAL PROJECT CONCEPT



[Figure 5_11.] Plan (n.t.s) of the weave connecting core functions via programme, planes and circulation.

co-dependant

THE WEAVE

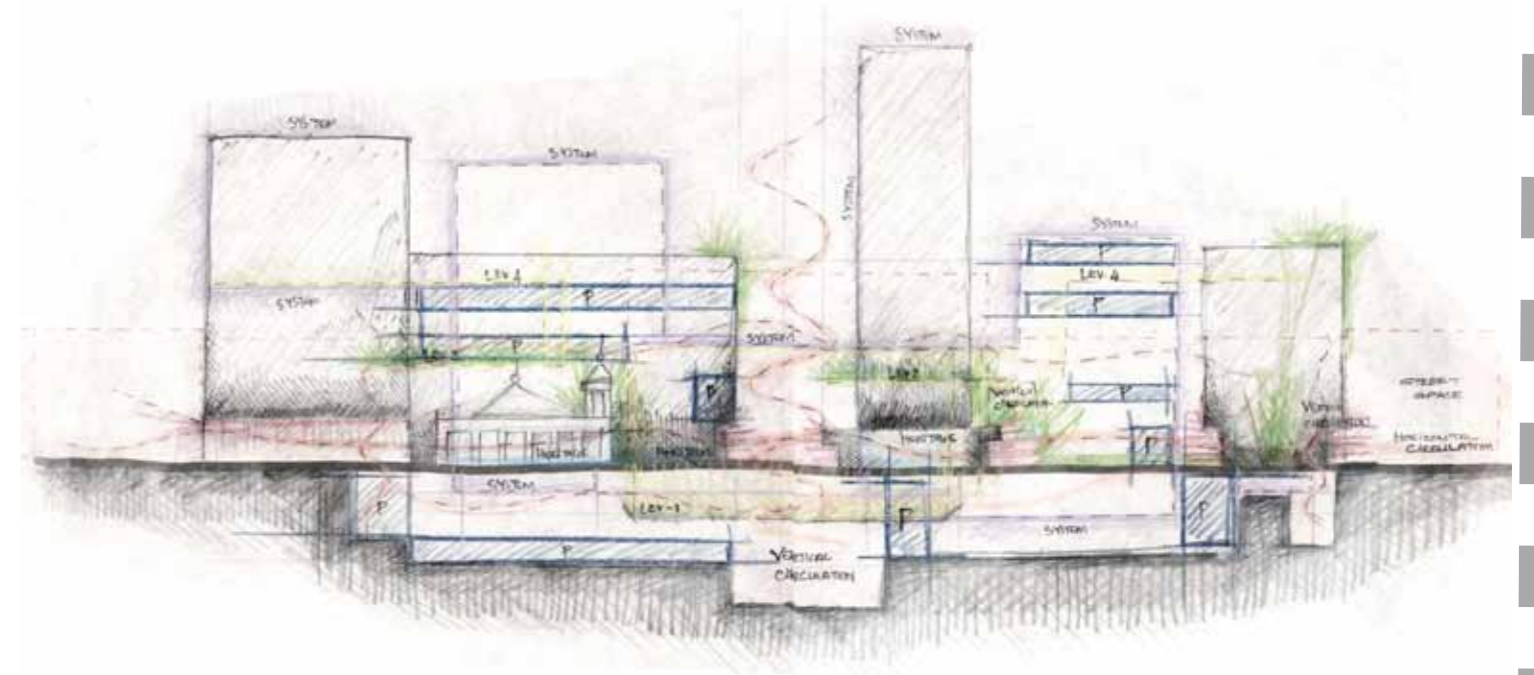
After considering the aim of each concept, a central commonality stood out; each concept aims to **connect the existing fabric with the intervention in an interactive manner**. Thus the main 'action' focuses on the **threshold between old and new** and how this relationship becomes **sybiotic** of nature. The synthesis of all these concepts, characteristics and ideas influenced by the informants is that the intervention 'weaves' between the structures, between public and private, between inside and outside and between resources and users.

CONCEPT STATEMENT

'Weave' as the conceptual character of the intervention focuses on **linking** elements, planes & energies through interconnected flows of resources, people and space. A series of different planes, objects and systems **working together as one**.

CONCEPT INTENTION

Establishing a relationship between elements, people and space through weaving them together in a support network, enabling the site to function as a whole.



[Figure 5_12.] Section (n.t.s) of weaving programme systems making new horizontal and vertical connections.

CIRCULATE

CIRCULATE

LINK LINK LINK LINK LINK LINK LINK

LINK LINK LINK LINK LINK LINK LINK

LINK LINK LINK LINK LINK LINK LINK

CORE

CORE

CORE

CORE

CORE