



03. Research Methodology

An integration of different research methodologies is used in order to obtain the necessary research needed to fully explore the idea of tensions within the city of Pretoria.



Research focused towards the idea of tensions within the city of Pretoria was completed. The method by which this research was obtained was through a literature study. The literature study offers different points of view that strengthen the overall outcome of the dissertation. Information that was researched pertains to Apartheid's affect on South Africa's cities, its urban environment and its society, specifically focusing on the city of Pretoria. The transition of Pretoria's spatial landscape that occurred after Apartheid is explored in order to find opportunities that exist within Pretoria's new spatial landscape.

The history of the specific site is researched in order to understand the different layers that make up the urban fabric of the city. The historical layering allows for interpretation of this historical information into new design opportunities for the envisaged future of the city of Pretoria.

Once the specific urban space(site) that is in tension is identified the descriptive survey method of research is used. Careful observations of the urban space are documented. The observations provide a clear understanding of the chosen site. Certain patterns and criteria pertaining to the chosen site are drawn from the observations. This data informs the design decisions for the new urban intervention.

Precedents that deal with the same aspects that the new urban intervention encounters are researched. The design considerations appropriate to the new urban intervention are highlighted and inform the design decisions.

Theories of urbanism and architecture are explored in order to obtain insight into how and why certain parts of the city are in a constant spatial field of tension. Theories of urbanism and architecture offer various approaches in tackling the idea of tensions within the city Pretoria.