

adaptive reuse of the agrivaal building

by
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Study leader: Karel Bakker (Prof.)
Course coordinator: Jacques Laubscher (Dr)

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project summary

Programme: New Headquarters for the Delegation of the European Commission in South Africa

Site description: Adaptive reuse of an existing dilapidated building

Client: The Delegation of the European Commission for South Africa, The European Union.

Users: Staff of the European Commission, Government and non-governmental organisations, general public

Site Location: Erf 1087, Arcadia, Pretoria

Address: c/o Hamilton Street and Edmond Street, Arcadia, Pretoria, South Africa

GPS Coordinates: 25°44'26.00" S, 28°12'18,32" E

Architectural Theoretical Premise: The investigation of the principles of environmental sustainability and heritage

Architectural Approach: The adaptive reuse of an existing building using principles of cultural significance and environmental sustainability

Research filed: Environmental potential

In accordance with Regulation 4(e) of the General Regulations (G.57) for dissertations and theses, I declare that this thesis, which I hereby submit for the degree Master of Architecture (Professional) at the University of Pretoria, is my own work and has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other tertiary institution.

I further state that no part of my thesis has already been, or is currently being, submitted for any such degree, diploma or other qualification.

I further declare that this thesis is substantially my own work. Where reference is made to the works of others, the extent to which that work has been used is indicated and fully acknowledged in the text and list of references.

The dissertation is 16 324 words long (excluding the scanned items).

signature

Neda Samimi

_thank you to:

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_ Dr Laubscher, Prof. Bakker and Prof. Vosloo

_my Bokunde friends

abstract

This project stemmed from the idea of abandoned buildings prevalent in the City of Pretoria. It also responds to the increasing effect of environmental damage becoming evident worldwide.

As part of the solution, this dissertation explores the adaptive reuse of the existing Agrivaal Building in Pretoria, South Africa. The early Modern, Art Deco influenced Agrivaal Building has been left dormant for a number of years, with the intention of being renovated and brought to life. However political and sensitive debate has hindered the progress of the abandoned building. This project envisions the revival of the building, through an intervention that is mindful of pertinent environmental issues, as well as respecting existing cultural heritage.

The investigation includes principles of heritage and environmental sustainability, as main design informants of the proposed new headquarters of The European Commission in South Africa. This will entail research on the existing building and ways it can be appropriated to mitigate issues of environmental damage. The proposed intervention will also respond to the identity of the European Commission in a South African context.

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