

HETEROTROPHIC SYNTHESES

MEDIATION IN THE DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE OF
GABRIËL (GAWIE) FAGAN



Submitted

by

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– ¹ Fagan at his desk in his office at 156 Bree Street, Cape Town (Author, 2008).

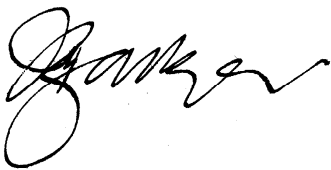
DECLARATION

In accordance with Regulation (4e) of the General Regulations (G.57) for dissertations and theses, I declare that this thesis, which I hereby submit for the degree Philosophiae Doctor in Architecture in the Department of Architecture in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology at the University of Pretoria is my own work and has not been previously 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 lists of references.

The thesis is 146 422 words long, including appendices and excluding scanned items.



Arthur Barker (May 2012)

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– ²Emeritus prof. Roger Fisher (1951 -) joined the Architecture Department at the University of Pretoria in 1986 and retired in 2009. In 2010 he was the recipient of the Writers and Critics Award from the South African Institute of Architects recognising years of writing extensively on South African architecture.

– ³Prof. Joubert (1959 -) was head of the Department of Architecture at the University of Pretoria from 2004 to 2008 and prior to this, head at the University of the Free State, also for four years. In 2008 she invited me to teach in the Masters and first year programmes on a part-time basis.

– ⁴Prof. Bakker (1956 -) became head of the Department of Architecture at the University of Pretoria at the end of 2008.

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1. Left: Cape vernacular architecture (Fagan, 2012b). Right: Villa Savoye (1928) at Poissy by Le Corbusier representing the epitomy of Modern Movement expression (Author, 1989).....	3
Figure 1.2. Die Es, Camps Bay, Cape Town (1965): street and garden views (Author, 2009).	4
Figure 1.3. Other Fagan works. From the left: Volkskas Bank in Roodepoort (1959) (Author, 2008), Men's Residence (Helshoogte) Stellenbosch University (1970) (Author, 2009), Newlands Brewery alterations and additions (1993) (Author, 2009), model of a proposed tower block for the Fagans, Bree Street (2010) (Author, 2010).	11
Figure 1.4. No. 41 Milford Road, Plumstead (Author, 2010).	13
Figure 1.5. Photographs taken of Cape vernacular buldings in Stellenbosch (Author, 1973).	13
Figure 2.1. Left: Alvar Aalto (http://mit81.com/baker/content/alvar-aalto [Accessed: 12/04/2012]). Middle and right: Aalto's studio in Munkkiniemi, Helsinki, Finland (http://www.greatbuildings.com/cgi-bin/gbi.cgi/Aalto_Studio.html/cid_1136145171_3_13.html [Accessed 1/05/2012]).	18
Figure 2.2. Top left: The Fagan's bedroom at Die Es (Author, 2008). Top right: Fagan residence, Die Es (Fagan archive, undated). Bottom left: Fagan's office at 156 Bree Street (Author, 2010). Bottom middle: Lancia and Alfa Romeo parked in Die Es carport (Author, 2008). Bottom right: Fagan feeding Clara after their midday meal at the yacht club in Cape Town's harbour (Author, 2012).	19
Figure 2.3. Top left: Oscar Niemeyer (Papadaki, 1950: inside cover). Middle and right: Plan and interior view of Niemeyer's Canoas house, Rio de Janeiro, 1953-4 (Curtis, 1996:499).	20
Figure 2.4. Left: Alvaro Siza (http://www.builderasia.com/alvaro-siza/ [Accessed: 12/04/2012 12:08]). Right: Siza's Boa Nova restaurant in Porto, Portugal (Author, 2004).	22
Figure 2.5. Left: Garden view of Stauch's own house Hakahana to the West of Pretoria (1951) (Author, 2008). Middle: Interior view of guest bedrooms at Hakahana (Author, 2008). Right: Hellmut Stauch (Garden and Home, May 1969.).....	23
Figure 2.6. Left: Garden view of Eaton's van Wouw House in Pretoria (Author, 2008). Middle: Roof structure in attic study space in van Wouw house (Author, 2008). Right: Norman Eaton (http://www.artefacts.co.za/main/Buildings/archframes.php?archid=450&countadd=0 [Accessed: 12/04/2012]).	23
Figure 2.7. Left: Extended rectangular cottage at Waenhuiskrans (Walton, 1997:59). Right: Villa de Madame de Mandrot, Le Pradet by Le Corbusier and Jeanneret (1929) (St. John Wilson, 2007:161).	30
Figure 2.8. Left: The primitive hut. Frontspiece from the second edition of Abbé Laugier's Essai sur l'architecture, engraved by Ch. Eisen, 1755 (Frampton, 1995:31). Right: The Caribbean hut displayed at the Great Exhibition portraying architecture's four industrial motives: ceramic hearth set on raised platform, bamboo posts and roof purlins, woven mat walls (Mallgrave et al, 1983:27).	31
Figure 2.9. Left: Boullée's project for a cenotaph for Isaac Newton c. 1785. Right: Durand's plan permutations (both Frampton, 1992b:15).....	32
Figure 2.10. Progression of framed and reed structures. Left: A circular matjieshuis, Ou Tuin, Kamiesberg (Walton, 1997:18). Middle: Rectangular reed-walled cottage, Oudekraal Fontein (Walton, 1997:30). Right: L-plan reed-walled cottage, Oudekraal Fontein (Walton, 1997:31).	34
Figure 2.11. Top left: Cave: Derinkuyu underground city in Turkey dating from the 8th to 7th century B.C. (http://www.istanbuldiary.com/images/turkey/tours/cappadocia/Derinkuyu.jpg [Accessed 1/05/2012]). Top Right: Covered courtyard. Pompeii, Italy. Early Roman house c.250 B.C. (Lewcock, 2006:208). Bottom left: Open courtyard. House of the Vetti in Pompeii with impluvium (Fletcher, 1946:199). Bottom right: Hearth. A Sheppard's one-roomed cottage. Bottekloof, near Stilbaai (Walton, 1997:67).	35
Figure 2.12. Le Corbusier's sketch of primary forms alongside a view of ancient Rome (Curtis, 1996:28).	36
Figure 2.13. Left: Greek temples and cars from Vers Une architecture, 1923 (Curtis 1996:169). Right: Le	

Corbusier's Modulor Man (1946) (Frampton, 2001:162).	37
Figure 2.14. The Piloti system (Le Corbusier & Jeanneret, 1943:23).	38
Figure 3.1. Boschendal, Stellenbosch, Cape Town. One of the oldest Cape farmhouses, first settled in 1685 and restored by the Fagans in 1973 (Author, 2007).	48
Figure 3.2. Top: Vernacular houses in Velorenvlei photographed in June 1972 (Fagan slide archive EM, undated). Bottom: Plan, section and axonometric of typical 19th-century vernacular dwelling in Struisbaai, Southern Cape (Japha, 1997:2159).	51
Figure 3.3. Houses at Puntjie in the Southern Cape (Fagan archive, undated).	52
Figure 3.4. U, T and H plan types (De Bosdari, 1971:19).	53
Figure 3.5. Left: Plan and axonometric of typical double-storey slate roofed Eastern Cape settler house showing central passageway (Japha, 1997:2157). Right: The influence of Nicholson's "Practical Builder" published in 1820 (on the left) can be seen in the design of the Dutch Reformed Parsonage in Worcester in 1824 (on the right) (Lewcock, 1960:31).	53
Figure 3.6. Left: Entry courtyard to Baker's Westminster near Ladybrand in the Free State (Author, 2008). Middle: Grootte Schuur restored by Baker for Cecil John Rhodes around 1892 (Picton-Seymour, 1989:40). Right: Baker's Rust en Vrede, Muizenberg, Cape Town (Picton-Seymour, 1989:173).	55
Figure 3.7. Top left: Plan of House Wilson (1955), Worcester, Western Cape (Fox, 1998:80). Middle: Front view (Fox, 1998:81). Right: Garden view to House Wilson (Architect and Builder, April, 1958:45).	59
Figure 3.8. Left: Elevation and plan of House Droomer, Worcester, Western Cape (1955) (Fox, 1998:84). Right: Garden view to House Droomer (Fox, 1998:85).	60
Figure 3.9. Left: Plan of and garden and entrance views to House Ross, Worcester, Western Cape (1955) (Fox, 1998:83) and Architect and Builder, April, 1958:46). Right: Plan of and garden and entrance views to House Fox, Worcester, Western Cape (1955) (Architect and Builder, April, 1958:42-45).	61
Figure 3.10. Left: Rothemborg House (1930) in Clampenborg, Copenhagen by Arne Jacobsen (De Corral, 1995:30). Right: Front view of House Faure, Bloubergstrand, Cape Town (1967) by Fox (Fox, 1998:109).	62
Figure 3.11. Left: House Dessau (1930s) plan. Right: House Dessau perspective (both UIA International, 1985:60).	63
Figure 3.12. Top: House Trumpelman, Krigeville, Stellenbosch, 1954, ground floor and lower ground floor plans. Bottom: Section and view from the garden below (all Architect and Builder, V8.1, January 1958:38-42).	65
Figure 3.13. Left: House Malan, Stellenbosch, c.1958, plan. Right: View from the garden (all Architect and Builder, January 1958:45-47).	66
Figure 3.14. Plan and street elevation, courtyard house, Parow North (Architect and Builder, January 1965:17).	66
Figure 3.15. Top: House Abramson, Newlands, Cape Town (Sam Abramson architect), south east view (Wale, c.1964:103). Middle left: House Naudé, Kenilworth, Cape Town (Naudé, Papendorf, Van der Merwe and Meyer with Adèle-Marie Naudé), south-west facade (Architect and Builder, April 1967:9). Middle right: House, Durbanville, Cape Town, (Colyn and Meiring), street view (Architect and Builder, July 1962:12). Bottom left: House Buurman, Belville, Cape Town, (Colyn and Meiring), north view (Architect and Builder, April 1964:8). Bottom middle: House, St. James, Cape Town (Munnik Visser), entrance courtyard (Architect and Builder, April, 1962:10). Bottom right: House Elliot, Newlands, Cape Town (Julian Elliot architect), exterior and interior views (Architecture South Africa, March/April 2003:cover and 8).	68
Figure 3.16. Top left: Anderssen House (1949), Pretoria, Norman Eaton architect (UIA International, 1985:22). Top right: House Biermann (1962) Barrie Biermann architect. Bottom left: House Mikula (1965-7), Paul Mikula architect (Architecture SA, May/June 2005:14). Bottom right: House Manor Gardens, Durban (1973) Hallen and Theron (Architect and Builder, February 1973:34-35).	70
Figure 4.1. Left: Le Corbusier and Van der Rohe in Stuttgart in 1926 (Chipkin, 1993:166). Right: Le Corbusier's five point plan for a new architecture 1929 set against a traditional model (Benton, 2006:22).	75
Figure 4.2. Top left: Cover of zero hour magazine (McIntosh et al, 1933; 1985). Top right: House Munro in Pretoria by McIntosh, completed in 1932 (McIntosh et al, 1933; 1985). Middle left: House Stern	

by Martienssen, Fassler and Cooke (Jonas 1937:106). Middle right: House Harris by Hanson, Thomas and Finkelstein in Houghton, Johannesburg, 1933 (Lipman, 1962:10). Bottom: Letter from Le Corbusier to the Transvaal Group in 1936 and published in Oeuvre complete de 1910-192. (Le Corbusier and Jenneret, 1943).	78
Figure 4.3. Left: Le Corbusier sketch of house and garden in Catalonia 1928 (Curtis, 1987:239). Right: Martienssen sketch of rural architecture (Herbert, 1975:208).	80
Figure 4.4. Left: Le Corbusier's Mathes house published in the March issue of the South African Architectural Record of 1938 (Howie, 1938:84).	80
Figure 4.5. Left: View of Maison Loucheur (1929) showing the tectonic play of organic stone wall and engineered facade (Le Corbusier & Jeanneret, 1943:197). Right: House for Madame de Mandrot, near Toulon, 1931. Construction is of load bearing rubble stone throughout with timber framed openings (Frampton, 2001:134).	82
Figure 4.6. Left: Le Corbusier and Jeanerret: Maison Errazuris, Chile, 1930: interior (Frampton, 2001:133). Middle: Section through Maison Errazuris (Frampton, 2001:133). Right: Interior of House Errazuris (Joedicke, 1969:16).	83
Figure 4.7. Left: Plan of Casa Bedo by Douglass Cowin, 1936 (Anon, 1938: insert). Right: Entrance view of Casa Bedo (Anon, 1938:428).	85
Figure 4.8. Left: Two pages from the 1947 Wits exhibition catalogue showing (on the left) the three essential Vitruvian qualities necessary in architecture and (on the right) Modern Movement influences (Anon, 1948:104-105).	86
Figure 4.9. Left: Moerdyk's Voortrekker Monument of 1938: arrival and entry point (Author, 2009). Second from left: Eatons' Anderssen House, The-Willows, Pretoria, 1949-50 (Harrop-Allin, 1975:80). Second from right: Eaton's Anderssen House, Pretoria North, 1939 (Author, 2008). Right: Leith's Houghton house completed in stone sourced from the site (Anon, 1952c:275).	89
Figure 4.10. Left: Martienssen, Fassler and Howie's £950 entry to the Argus Ideal Homes Competition of 1937 (Herbert, 1975:160). Right: Cowin's £1700 entry (Herbert, 1975:162).	90
Figure 4.11. Left: Hellmut Stauch's series of sections showing sun angles for optimum winter penetration (Stauch, 1945:207).	93
Figure 4.12. Left: Cowin's winning entry to the Rand Daily Mail Ideal Homes Competition of 1934 (Cowin, 1934:257).	95
Figure 4.13. Left: Pretoria university lecturer Basil South and head of school Prof. A.L. Meiring in the Cape during their visit with the students around 1945 (Fagan archive, undated). Middle: Image from "Essays in Half-Tone" by Cole Bowen (1957). Right: Inside cover of Pearse's Eighteenth Century Architecture in South Africa (Pearse, 1968).	97
Figure 4.14. Left: The living room of residence Wooll by Stauch and Wepener (1950-51) showing mono pitch roofs (Anon, 1952a:196). Right: View of living room of House van der Merwe in Menlo Park, Pretoria (1951) with similar mono pitch roofs (Anon, 1952a:196).	98
Figure 4.15. Three plans. Top left: Cole Bowen's House Hester of 1950 (Cole Bowen, 1953:38). Top right: Cole Bowen's House Vincent of 1950 (Cole Bowen, 1953:43). Bottom: Cole Bowens' House Collins of 1951 (Cole Bowen, 1953:46).	99
Figure 4.16. Left: Stauch's Meat Board building of 1952 in the centre of Pretoria (Author, 2008). Right: Niemeyer's Ministry of Education and Health building in Rio de Janeiro completed in 1943. (http://www.flickr.com/photos/14479222@N04/6783311971/ [Accessed 02/05/2012]).	103
Figure 4.17. Left: The ceramic screen of Eaton's Netherlands bank in Durban 1961-5 (Author, 2004). Right: Eaton's woven brick wall at the Little Theatre in Pretoria (c.1950) (Harrop-Allin, 1975:97).	105
Figure 5.1. Diagram illustrating regionalist approaches in the 20th century, including Fagan's as a Relative regionalism highlighted in blue (Author, 2012).	112
Figure 6.1. Fagan's childhood home as it existed in 2009 in Avenue Road, Newlands, Cape Town (Author, 2009).	121
Figure 6.2. Left: Gravestone of Fagan's paternal grandparents in the cemetery of the Dutch Reformed Church in Tulbagh (Author, 2009). Right: Gravestone of Fagan's paternal great grandfather in the same	

cemetery in Tulbagh (Author, 2009).	122
Figure 6.3. Top left: Fagan's parents in the garden of their Newlands Home. (Fagan, Q., 1975: 51). Top right: Johannes and Gawie Fagan c.1932 (Fagan archive, undated).. Bottom left: Henry and Gawie Fagan in the Gardens in Cape Town c.1935 (Fagan archive, undated). Bottom right. Fagan and his white rabbit in the garden of their Newlands home. c.1935 (Fagan archive, undated).....	123
Figure 6.4 . Fagan's reworked lecture notes: SABC 11 Dec 1975 p.6 and Glimpses of the Cape 20 April 1977 p.14 (All Fagan archive).	125
Figure 6.5. Fagan's matric class of 1942. Fagan is at the top right. (Photo courtesy of Jan van Riebeeck High School, 2009).	128
Figure 6.6. Fagan's final year high school results (Photo courtesy of Jan van Riebeeck High School, 2009).	129
Figure 6.7. Left: The three Fagan brothers on the Liesbeeck river with their tin boat. Johannes is on the left and Henry on the right. c. 1933 (Fagan archive, undated). Right: Fagan and family at Bloubergstrand, c.1931. Fagan is on the left in earnest conversation with his mother (Fagan archive, undated).....	131
Figure 6.8. Left: Gwen at 18 months old with her father (Fagan, G.E. 1999: 9). Middle: Gwen in her twenties (Fagan, G.E. 1999: 182). Right: Fagan and his wife among the Euphorbias in the Eastern Cape next to Fagan's Adler sports c.1944. (Fagan, archive, undated)	133
Figure 6.9. Left: Gwen on Fagan's motorbike c.1942. Right: Gwen at her wedding in 1949 (both Fagan archive, undated).....	134
Figure 6.10. Left: Fagan on his B.S.A. 500cc "Police Twin" motorbike outside his parents' house in Newlands c.1944 (Fagan archive, undated). Right: Moto Guzzi motorbike still parked in the basement of Fagan's 156 Bree Street Office in Cape Town (author, 2010).	135
Figure 6.11. Fagan and his guitar as student in the 1940sand later as father and architect in the 1960s (Fagan archive, undated).....	136
Figure 6.12. Karl (Karel) Jooste probably in his mid forties (Photo courtesy of his son Johan Jooste, 2012).....	139
Figure 6.13. Basil South. Photograph taken by Fagan presumably on the student trip to Cape Town c.1947 (Fagan archive, undated).	140
Figure 6.14. Cole Bowen behind his camera (Steenkamp, 2003:4).	141
Figure 6.15. Hellmut Stauch (Garden and Home, May 1969).	142
Figure 6.16. Norman Eaton (http://www.artefacts.co.za/main/Buildings/archframes.php?archid=450&countadd=0 [Accessed: 12/04/2012]).	143
Figure 6.17. First year architectural studies prize to G.T. Fagan (Anon, 1947:284).	146
Figure 6.18. Third year architectural design prize to N.G. Meyer for his country town office building (Anon, 1949:285).	147
Figure 6.19. Model of Fagan's bungalow (Fagan archive, undated).....	147
Figure 6.20. Left: Fagan's third year project for a block of flats in Pretoria (Anon, 1949:240). Right: Cranbrooke Hotel Johannesburg by H. H. Le Roith (Fassler, 1956:178).....	148
Figure 6.21 Plan of Fagan's thesis project (Fagan archive, undated).	148
Figure 6.22. East edge of living room at House Keurbos (1951) (Photo courtesy of Leon Krige photographer, 2010).	149
Figure 6.23. Fagan as student in Pretoria c.1946 (Fagan archive, undated).	150
Figure 6.24. Diagram, drawn by Fagan in 2008 on the back of sketches for the unbuilt House van Zyl (2007), that describes the untimely deaths of personalities associated with Fagan at the University of Pretoria. Fagan's lecturer Basil South died of a heart attack after suffering tick bit fever, Richard Monnig committed suicide after an extramarital love affair, Karl Jooste died after an accident in his Lotus sports car, Felix Viljoen also committed suicide after being diagnosed with a fatal disease and T.C. Nel and Tielmann Scholz both died from heart failure.	151
Figure 6.25. Fagan and Dr. Hurter, who was chairman of the board of directors of Volkskas bank, at the opening of the Strand branch in Cape Town on 24 April 1975 (Engelbrecht, c.1981:286).....	152
Figure 6.26. Left: Fagan's Tripacer in the Karoo with Fagan and presumably a bank official c. 1950s (Fagan	

archive, undated). Right: Fagan's Tripacer at Wingfield in Cape Town c. late 1950s (Fagan archive, undated).....	153
Figure 6.27. Left: Fagan describes types of construction in Lourenço Marques but the image of the 'traditional' chimney is perhaps more telling (Fagan, 1955). Middle: Guedes's Aeroplane House with exaggerated chimney which possibly inspired the chimney at Fagan's Paradys house (Fagan, 1955). Right: Chimney at House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009).....	154
Figure 6.28. The Montagu branch of Volkskas as it existed in 2008. The street presence and corner treatment are still strong features while some of the interiors have survived in the new commercial arrangement (Author, 2008).	156
Figure 6.29. Left: Gwen and Henry shortly after his birth in 1951. Middle: Gwen and the first three children Henry, Helena and Jessie at the beach c.1956. Right: All four children posing for yearly family Christmas card c.1963 (All Fagan archive, undated).	156
Figure 6.30. Fagan and family with their workers on the Kameeldrift farm and the Tri-pacer ZS-DGO in the background c.1958. (Fagan archive, undated).....	157
Figure 6.31. Left: Fagan's expanding family of vehicles. From left to right in the hangar: an Allis Chalmers tractor, Fiat Multipla car, Piper Tri-pacer ZS-DGO, Peugeot 403, BMW 600 bike and an International 3 ton truck (Fagan archive, undated). Right: Fagan's extension to the Kameeldrift house in Pretoria (completed around 1962) as it existed in 2008. The stone chimney and splayed walls are the hallmark elements reminiscent of the only house Keurbos (1951) completed by Fagan by that date (Author, 2008).....	157
Figure 6.32. Fagan and his yacht Suidoos which is still moored in the yacht basin of Cape Town's harbour (Author, 2010).....	160
Figure 6.33. The 'sound of music' at the Fagan home. c.1966 (Fagan archive, undated).....	162
Figure 6.34. Top left: Basement of 156 Bree Street. A partly completed plane can be seen in the background. Top right: The steep open tread wooden staircase leading from Bree Street to the reception area. Bottom left: Façade of the old grain store now Fagan's office. Bottom right: Reception area with piano to the left and boardroom behind the gold curtains. (All Author, 2009).	164
Figure 7.1. Left: Steel framed timber platform at the junction of living and entrance hall at Die Es (1965) (Fagan, 2012b). Right: Similar platform at junction between passage and main bedroom at House Keurbos (1951) (Author, 2008).	174
Figure 7.2. Top left: Model of House Visser (2011) (Author, 2012). Top right: Ground floor plan of House Visser (Fagan archive - Job No. 1102, 21/02/2011). Middle left: Plan of House Neethling (1983) (Fagan archive - Job No.8205, undated). Middle right: View of fireplace in living room of House Neethling (Author, 2009). Bottom left: Fireplace 'room' at Die Es (1965) (Author, 2008). Bottom right: Dormers at House Swanepoel at Cape St. Francis (1980) (Author, 2005).	175
Figure 7.3. Top left: Glazed fanlight to passageway at House Levin (1969) (Author, 2009). Top middle: Frameless top glazing to door at House Raynham (1967) (Author, 2008). Top right: 'Frameless glazing' to western edge of living room to House Patterson (Author, 2008). Bottom: Glazing between roof rafters to House Blommaert (1982) (Author, 2009).	177
Figure 7.4. Top: House Keurbos (1951), Bishopscourt, Cape Town, lower ground and ground floor plans (Fagan archive). Middle: Sections (Architect and Builder, November 1959:38). Bottom: inner court (Fagan archive) and view from garden (Architect and Builder, November 1959:34).....	178
Figure 7.5. Top: Die Es (1965), Camps Bay, Cape Town, ground and first floor plans (Fagan archive, undated). Bottom left: Die Es (1965), Camps Bay, Cape Town, road view looking West (Fagan archive, undated). Bottom right: view from the West (Author, 2008).	179
Figure 7.6. Top: House Raynham, Newlands, Cape Town (1967), lower ground, first and ground floor plans (Fagan archive, undated). Middle left: Approach view (Fagan archive, undated). Middle right: Interior view of children's playroom (Author, 2008). Bottom: View from garden (Author, 2008).....	180
Figure 7.7. Left: Foyer and dining area of House Keurbos (1951) flooded with light from glazed roof over (Author, 2008). Middle and right: Steel roof collars to House Beyers (1998) and House Swanepoel in Hermanus (1990) act as roof and flue supports (Author, 2009).....	182

Figure 7.8. Left: Biermann's sketch (to which Fagan often refers) showing the spatial and constructional layout of the traditional Cape house (Biermann, 1995:37). Right: Timber tie beams of roof truss supporting floor of roof space (Fagan, 2012b).	183
Figure 7.9. Left: Bagged and painted brickwork to House Swanepoel in Cape St. Francis (1980) (Author, 2005). Right: Honest expression of different materials at Die Es (1965) (Author, 2008).	183
Figure 7.10. Left: Plan of House Patterson (1966) (Fagan archive - Job No. 655, undated). Right: Section through House Patterson (1966) (Fagan archive - Job No. 655, undated).	185
Figure 7.11. Top: Barrel vaulted roof at House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009). Middle left: Barrel vaulted roofs to Idas Valley (1975) (Author, 2009). Middle right: House Lückhoff (1981) (Author, 2009). Bottom left: Proposed house with barrel vaults and linking mono pitch roofs to House Van Zyl (2007) (Fagan archive - Job No. 0702 24/03/2006). Bottom right: Model of House Visser (Author, 2012).	186
Figure 7.12. Top: Continuity of hinge detail in various Cape vernacular doors (Fagan, 2012b). Bottom: Sophisticated detailing of wall cupboard in Cape Dutch homestead and simple clock niche in vernacular house (Fagan, 2012b).	187
Figure 7.13. Top left: Front door handle to Die Es (Fagan, 2012b). Second from top left: Fagan sketch of front door handle (Fagan, 2012b). Second from top right: Front door to House Keurbos (1951) finally completed in 2008. (Author, 2009). Top right: Sunscreen to second bedroom at House Keurbos (Author, 2009). Middle left: Column and beam junction at House Keurbos (1951) (Author, 2008). Middle right: Detail of front door at House Keurbos (1951) (Author, 2009). Bottom: Details of stair at Die Es (1965) (Photo's courtesy of Auret, 2005).	188
Figure 7.14. Unfinished plane in the basement of Fagan's office (Author, 2009).	189
Figure 7.15. Fagan and his wife on the terrace of their House Paradys (2003) on the left. The house sits comfortably with its rather ostentatious neighbours and forms a unity with in diversity (Photo courtesy of Du Plessis, 2004).	190
Figure 7.16. Left: Courtyard to House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009). Middle: Green and blue hues to doors at House Swanepoel in Cape St. Francis (1980) (Photo courtesy of Pierre Swanepoel architect, 2012). Right: Green and brown hues to House Beyers (1998) (Author, 2009).	191
Figure 7.17. Proportional systems placed over various Cape Town Cape Dutch buildings (Fagan, 2012b).	192
Figure 7.18. Proportional layout for door to Die Es (1965) (Fagan, 2005b:36).	192
Figure 7.19. Top: Boundary walls merge building with landscape at House Swanepoel in Hermanus (1991) (Author, 2008). Bottom: Plan of House Swanepoel Hermanus showing tight service and generous living spaces (Fagan, 2005a:103).	194
Figure 7.20. Top: First and ground floor plans of House Brink (2002) showing extent of accommodation (Fagan archive - Job No. 0206). Bottom left: House Paradys (2003) 'disappears' below the road (Author, 2009). Bottom right: Southern Bedroom at Die Es with its high level views to the sky and distant focus on the Atlantic sea (Author, 2008).	195
Figure 7.21. Approach up the avenue of Oak trees to Groot Constantia (Author, 2007).	196
Figure 7.22. Left: Entrance way to House Raynham (1967) (Author, 2008). Right: Plan of House Swanepoel at Hermanus (1990) showing movement route that turns at 180 degrees to face the sea (Fagan, 2005a:103).	198
Figure 7.23. Top left: Constantia Town Hall, court edge onto parkland, Cape Town, Piet Louw architect (Architecture SA, May/June 2005:32). Top right: Nieuwe Sion, approach view, Stellenbosch, Cape Town, Martin Kruger architect (Leading Architecture, November/December 2002:33). Bottom: House Weylandt, Franschoek Valley, Cape Town, view and plan, Van der Merwe Miscewski Architects (Architecture SA, November/December 2008:32,33).	199
Figure 7.24. Top: Le Corbusier's Petite Villa Au Bord Du Lac Léman of 1925, plan and elevation (Corbusier & Jeanneret, 1943:74). Bottom left: Street view of Eileen Gray's Tempe à Pailla (1932-4) (Constant, 2007:147). Right: Plan of Tempe à Pailla (Constant, 2007:153).	202
Figure 7.25. Top: First and second floor plans of House Levin (1969) with blue areas demarcating open plan space (Fagan archive - Job No.6910, 24/07/1969 and amended by Author). Bottom left: Section	

through House Levin (1969) showing balance of open and closed spaces (Fagan archive - Job No. 6910). Bottom middle: View from living room to bedrooms above (Author, 2009). Bottom right: View to living area from bedroom access way (Author, 2009).	206
Figure 7.26. Top: Part plans of bathrooms (highlighted in blue) to House Swanepoel at Cape St. Francis(1980) (Fagan, 2005a:103), House Paradys (2003) (Fagan archive - Job No. 0204, 06/02/02) and House Beyers (1998) (Fagan archive - Job No. 9813, 03/11/1998). Bottom: Part plans of 'passage' spaces (highlighted in blue) to House Raynham (1967) (Fagan, 2005a:52), House Neethling (1983) (Fagan, 2005a:83) and House Auldearn (1992) (Fagan archive - Job No. 9302, 01/03/1993).	207
Figure 7.27. Top left: Plan of House Bertie Roberts (1965) (Anon, 1968:12). Top right: Ground plan of House Beyers (1998) (Fagan archive - Job No. 9813. Bottom left: Concrete service beams at House Bertie-Roberts (1965) (Fagan archive - Job No. 644,undated). Bottom right: Concrete columns and cantilevered beams and slab at House Beyers (1998) (Author, 2008).	209
Figure 7.28. From the left: Entry foyer at Die Es (1965) (Author, 2008); Rooflight to bathroom of House Swanepoel in Hermanus (1990) (Author, 2009); Rooflight at House Beyers (1998) (Author, 2009) and glazed roof over entrance and dining area to House Keurbos (1951) (Author, 2009).	210
Figure 7.29. From the left: Window to the sea from the study area on the mezzanine at House Patterson (1966) (Author, 2008); Window to main bedroom at Die Es (1965) facing Lion's Head (Author, 2008); View to back of Table Mountain from main bedroom at Die Es (1965) (Author, 2008).	211
Figure 7.30. Shades of blue indicating the various spaces within one volume which can be used independently or at once - the living area is to the left, followed by the raised dining area platform and finally the outside court (Fagan, 2005a:27 and amended by author).	212
Figure 7.31. Left: Fagan in his workshop at Die Es c.1965 (Fagan archive, undated). Right: Fagan's family all busy with the construction of Die Es (Fagan, 2012b).	213
Figure 7.32. Left: Section through Le Corbusier and Jeanneret's House Errazuris in Chile (1930) (Frampton, 2001:132). Right: Interior view of Le Corbusier and Jeanneret's Petite Maison de Weekend (1935) (Frampton, 2001:136).	213
Figure 7.33. From the left: Stone pebbles as floor at Die Es (1965); brick floors at House Raynham (1967) and timber windows, door and eaves at House Raynham (All Author, 2008).	214
Figure 7.34. Left: The roof of Die Es under construction c.1965 (Fagan, 2012b). Right: Layered construction of Die Es roof (Fagan, 2012b).	215
Figure 7.35. Left: Continuous steel rod handrail at Die E (Fagan, 2012b). Middle: Glass Japanese fishing float reused as light fitting at Die Es (Fagan slide archive, undated). Right: Front door at Die Es made from old copper boilers (Fagan, 2012b).	216
Figure 7.36. Left: Existing sandstone buildings in the Main Street of Ladybrand in Free state (Author, 2008). Middle: Sandstone columns to Fagan's Volkskas Bank (1958) in the same town (Author, 2008). Right: House Paradys (2003) 'hiding' in the dunes in Langebaan (Photo courtesy of Du Plessis, 2004).	217
Figure 7.37. Fagan and family at work on Die Es (1965). On the left Fagan can be seen with Gwen hauling concrete with their wheel barrows while his son Hennie fixes steel for the first floor in the centre picture. On the right Fagan pours concrete into the formwork of one of the columns, a job he notes (2012b) that no one else was prepared to do from the rickety scaffolding!	220
Figure 7.38. Left: Living space of Cole Bowen's Vincent House in Pretoria (1951) showing bagged and painted brickwork walls (Anon, 1953:44) and plan of House Hester in Pretoria (1950) on the right showing slate paving to living and bedroom areas (Anon, 1953:38).	222
Figure 7.39. Left: Fagan's Ladybrand Volkskas Bank (Fagan archive, undated). Right: Fagan's Volkskas Bank in Roodepoort (Author, 2008).	223
Figure 7.40. Left: Main Street of Tulbagh restored by Fagan after the earthquakes of 1969 (Fagan, 1975:cover). Right: Aerial view of the Castle restored by Fagan from 1969 to 2002 (Anon, 2002:43).	223
Figure 7.41. Die Es (1965): Chimney; in-situ concrete first floor, timber treads and Japanese fishing bouy as	

lamp; bick stairs leading to entrance door (Photo's courtesy of Auret, 2006).	227
Figure 7.42. Street view of House Swanepoel at Hermanus (1990) (Author, 2008).	228
Figure 7.43. Top left: Section and plan of House Beyers (1998) showing sun angles for mid winter and summer (Fagan archive - Job No. 9814, undated). Top middle: Sliding shutter to window of Eileen Gray's House Lou Perou (1954-1961) (Constant, 2007:194). Top right: West elevation of Die Es (1965) showing sliding shutters to first floor (Photos courtesy of Auret, 2006). Bottom first three from left: Yacht type connections to timber columns in House Keurbos (1951) (Author, 2008). Bottom second two from right: Machined timber connections in House Mitchell (2005) (Author, 2009).	229
Figure 7.44. View of Die Es (1965) chimney showing plasticity of finish and form (Photo's courtesy of Auret, 2006).	231
Figure 8.1. Fagan's organizational layout for accommodation for House Auldearn (1992) (Fagan archive, job no.9302, undated).	242
Figure 8.2. Top left: Fagan taking levels with his theodolite at Die Es. Note the model in the foreground (Fagan 2005a:28). Top right: Fagan's site notes and levels for the unbuilt House Van Zyl (2007) (Fagan archive - Job No. 0701, undated). Bottom: Site layout of House Raynham (1967) with mountain profile superimposed (Fagan archive - Job No. 695, undated).	243
Figure 8.3. House Fagan in McGregor (2005). Left: Ground floor plan. Middle: Lower ground floor plan. Right: Section (all Fagan archive - Job No. 0507, 23/09/2005).	244
Figure 8.4. Fagan's ink thumbnail sketches on 2 A4 pages for House Beyers (1998) (Fagan archive - Job. No. 9813, undated).	246
Figure 8.5. Left: Fagan's ink sketches for House Beyers (1998) on the back of an invitation to an art exhibition (Fagan archive job no. 9813, undated). Right: Fagan's fountain pen sketches on bumf for Die Es (1965) (Fagan archive - Job No. 565, undated).	247
Figure 8.6. Top left: Balsawood and Plasticine model of Die Es (1965) (Fagan archive - Job No. 656, undated). Top right: Clay model of House Swanepoel at Cape St. Francis (1980) (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated). Bottom left: Cardboard model of House Auldearn (1992) in possession of client (Fagan archive - Job No. 9302, undated). Bottom right: Cardboard model of House Mitchell (2005) (Fagan archive - Job No. 0503, undated).	247
Figure 8.7. Top left: One of Fagan's initial sketch for House Beyers(1998) (Fagan archive - Job No. 9813, undated). Top middle: Sketch for House Auldearn (1993) (Fagan archive - Job No.9303 , undated). Top right: Sketch for House Fagan at McGregor (2005) (Fagan archive - Job No. 0507, undated). Bottom left: Sketch for House Swanepoel at Cape St. Francis (1980) (Fagan archive - Job No.8011 , undated). Bottom right: Fagan's sketch for House Swanepoel at Hermanus (1990) (Fagan archive - Job. No. 9021, undated).	248
Figure 8.8. Left: Sketches for House Fagan at McGregor (2005) (Fagan archive - Job No. 0507, undated). Right: Sketches for House Paradys (2005) (Fagan archive - Job no. 0205, dated 15/10/2007).	249
Figure 8.9. Fagan's sketches in ink on bumf for Die Es (1965). The drawings show a completely mirrored layout of that which was built (Fagan archive - Job no. 656, undated).	250
Figure 8.10. House Beyers (1998): Initial sketch showing grid layout on the left and final sketch plan on the right (Fagan archive - Job No. 9813, undated).	250
Figure 8.11. Top left: Fagan's sketch plan for Die Es (1965) (Fagan archive - Job No. 656, undated). Top right: Bird's eye view of Die Es (1965) (Fagan archive - Job No. 656, undated). Bottom left: 1:50 cardboard model of House Beyers (1998) (Fagan archive - Job No. 9813, undated). Bottom right: 1:200 cardboard model of House Fagan at McGregor (2005) (Fagan archive - Job No. 0507, undated).	251
Figure 8.12. Sea facing elevation of House Swanepoel at Cape St. Francis (1980) (Author, 2005).	253
Figure 8.13. Client requirements on two A4 pages as drafted by Montu for House Swanepoel at Cape St. Francis (1980) (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).	254
Figure 8.14. Left: Google earth image of House Swanepoel at Cape St. Francis (1980) (www.google earth [Accessed 1/09/2011 20:46]). Right: View of house Swanepoel from the sea (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).	255

Figure 8.15. Fagan's notes on grid line A4 paper (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).....	256
Figure 8.16. Left: Fagan's site study (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, 25/07/1980). Right: First plan exploration (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, 25/07/1980).....	257
Figure 8.17. Left: Fagan's site study (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, 25/07/1980). Right: Exploration of wing orientation (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).....	258
Figure 8.18. Left: Shift in orientation of kitchen wing (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated). Right: Exploration of services to more closely align with bedroom wing (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, 25/07/1980).....	259
Figure 8.19. Left: Entry shifted to south-west corner (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated). Right: Courtyard definition (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).....	259
Figure 8.20. Top left: Exploration of dormers (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated). Top right: Sections that explore relationship between changing building width and roof height (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated). Middle left: Similar section exploration (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated). Middle right: Sections and dormer exploration (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated). Bottom middle: Roof sketches (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).....	260
Figure 8.21. Depiction of conceptual idea of house strung as a hammock between the dune as viewed from the sea (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, July 1980).....	261
Figure 8.22. Sketch explaining main design generators (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).....	262
Figure 8.23. Sketches and descriptions of functional layout and definition of external spaces (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).....	262
Figure 8.24. Articulation of bedroom spaces (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).....	263
Figure 8.25. Explanation of hammock analogy and relationship of building width to roof height (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).....	264
Figure 8.26. Description of 'service wing' (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).....	264
Figure 8.27. Bedroom plan exploration and colour study (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).....	265
Figure 8.28. Top left: Final plan development (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated). Bottom left and right: Three dimensional exploration of building form (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).....	266
Figure 8.29. Left: Cardboard model depicting main walls as structural and space defining elements (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated).....	267
Figure 8.30. Diagrams illustrating the development of the design for House Swanepoel in Cape St. Francis (1980) starting with the attenuated form as a response to site and subsequent articulation to define spaces and edges (Author, 2009).....	267
Figure 8.31. Site plan (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, 1/12/1981).....	268
Figure 8.32. Part working drawing showing plan (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, 18/11/1980).....	268
Figure 8.33. Part working drawing showing elevations (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, 18/11/1980).....	269
Figure 8.34. Part working drawing showing sections and north elevation (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, 18/11/1980).....	269
Figure 8.35. Top left: The Fagan's picnicking alongside the partly constructed building. Top right: Walls constructed to roof height. Bottom left: Roof under construction viewed from site entry point. Bottom right: Roof under construction as viewed from sea edge (All Fagan archive job no. 8011, slide collection IC).....	270
Figure 8.36. Part working drawing showing structure (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, 27/11/1980).....	271
Figure 8.37. Door and dormer schedule (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, February 1981).....	271
Figure 8.38. Views of the house as built. Top left: View from sea. Top middle: View from north west to living areas. Top right: View to sea from under roof at bedrooms. Second from top left: View to the north. Second from top right: Facing south. Second from bottom left: View from dune. Bottom: Entrance court (All photographs courtesy of Pierre Swanepoel architect, 2012).....	272
Figure 8.39. Views of the house as built. Top left and middle and bottom left: Main living area and kitchen with mezzanine loft over. Top right: Living area to main bedroom. Bottom right: Main bedroom (All photographs courtesy of Pierre Swanepoel architect, 2012).....	273
Figure 9.1. Left: House Die Es (1965) ground floor plan (Fagan, 2005a:27) and view down entry stair (Author,	

2009) Middle: House Patterson (1966) ground floor plan (Fagan archive - Job No. 655, undated) and view to mezzanine from dining area (Author, 2009). Right House Levin (1969) first floor plan (Fagan archive- Job No. 6910, 24/7/1969) and view of central stair (Author, 2009).....	276
Figure 9.2. Top left: Le Corbusier's sketch for petite villa on Lake Léman showing circulation routes and enclosure (Tzonis, 2001:68). Top Right: Fagan's sketch for Die Es (1965) also indicating movement and enclosure (Fagan archive - Job No. 656, undated). Bottom left: Plan diagram of Tempa à Pailla by Eileen Gray (1932-34) indicating movement routes in relation to the path of the sun (Constant, 2007:161). Bottom right: Street view of Tempa à Pailla (1932-34) (Constant, 2007:147).	277
Figure 9.3. House Hockey, Pietersburg, Karl Jooste, undated (National Cultural History Museum, Pretoria).	279
Figure 9.4. Top left: Moulded roof to House Swanepoel in Cape St. Francis (1980) (Fagan archive - Job. No. 8011, undated). Top Right: External walls rise and fall to meet roof profile (1967) (Author, 2008). Bottom left: Enclosing boundary wall at House Swanepoel in Hermanus (1990) (Author, 2008). Bottom right: Fagan's preliminary sketch for Die Es (1965) showing organic walls and chimney (Fagan archive - Job No. 656, 1964).	280
Figure 9.5. Left: House Die Es (1965) organically shaped chimney (Author, 2009). Middle: Curved wall of lower ground floor bathroom to House Keurbos (1951) (Author, 2009). Right: Niche to living room of House Keurbos (Author, 2009).	280
Figure 9.6. Top left: Le Corbusier and Jeanneret's proposal for Maison Errazuris, Chile (1930) (Le Corbusier et Jeanneret, 1943: 49). Top right: Le Corbusier and Jeanneret's house for Madame Mandrot, near Toulon, France (1931) (Frampton, 2001:134). Bottom left: Interior of Le Corbusier and Jeanneret's Maison de Week-end, La Celle-St-Cloud (1935) (Frampton, 2001:136). Bottom right: Fagan's photograph of Guedes's Aeroplane House in Lourenço Marques (1951) (Fagan, 1955:image 42).	281
Figure 9.7. Top left: View of barrel vaulted roof to House Paradys (2003) showing similar form and chimney to that of Guedes's Smiling Lion (Author, 2009). Top right: Guedes's Smiling Lion in Lourenço Marques (1958) (Guedes, 2009:98). Middle left: Semper's plan of the Caribbean hut showing central hearth, ordered bays and part enclosure (Semper & Mallgrave, 1986:2). Middle right: Part plan of House Die Es (1965) showing similarities to Semper's diagram through regularised bays and part enclosure but with shifted chimney position. Bottom left: View of syncopated roof of Die Es (1965) (Author, 2008). Bottom right: Alvaro Siza's Boa Nova restaurant in Porto, Portugal (1963) influenced by the local Mediterranean (Author, 2004).	282
Figure 9.8. Top left: Stone retaining wall at House Bertie-Roberts, Camps Bay (1966) (Fagan archive - Job No. 644, undated). Top middle: House Die Es (1965) showing junction with ground (Author, 2009). Top right: Die Es, Camps Bay, (1965) still under construction) (Fagan archive - Job No. 656, undated). Bottom left: House J.J. Fagan, McGregor (2005) (Author, 2008). Bottom right: House Raynham, Newlands (1967) (Author, 2008).	283
Figure 9.9. Top left: Plan of House Raynham, Newlands (1967) (Fagan, 2005:48). Top right: Chimney, Die Es, Camps Bay, (1965) (Author, 2009). Bottom left: Fireplace to House Neethling, Durbanville (1985) (Author, 2009). Bottom right: Living room, Die Es, Camps Bay (1965) (Fagan archive - Job No. 656, undated).	285
Figure 9.10. Top left: Mies van Rohe's Farnsworth house, Plano, Illinois (1946 to 1950) depicting synergous relationship between inside and outside space (http://www.greatbuildings.com/cgi-bin/gbi.cgi/Farnsworth_House.html/cid_1176264517_20050610_134119_farnsworth_mies.html [Accessed 06/05/2012]). Top right: Vernacular Karoo houses constructed to deal with the exigencies of climate (Fagan 2012b).	285
Figure 9.11. Top left: Living room ramp, House Keurbos (1951). Top right: Entrance stairs, Die Es, Camps Bay (1965). Bottom left: House Swanepoel, Hermanus (1991). Bottom right: House Auldearn, Elgin (1992) (all Author, 2009).	286
Figure 9.12. Top left: House J.J. Fagan, McGregor (2005) (Author, 2008). Top right: House Paradys, Langebaan (2003) (Author, 2009). Bottom left: House Swanepoel, Hermanus (1990) (Author,	

2009). Bottom right: Keurbos, Newlands (1951) (Author, 2008).	287
Figure 9.13. Top left: East edge, Die Es, Camps Bay (1965) (Author, 2008). Top right: West edge, Die Es, Camps Bay (1965) (Author, 2008). Bottom left: East edge, House Brink, Langebaan (2002) (Author, 2009). Bottom right: West edge, House Brink, Langebaan (2002) (Author, 2009).	288
Figure 9.14. Top left: Living room, Die Es, Camps Bay (1965) (Author, 2008). Top right: House Swanepoel, Hermanus (1990) (Author, 2009). Bottom left: Main bathroom and court before a 2009 modernization, Keurbos, Newlands (1951) (Author, 2008). Bottom right: House Neethling, Durbanville (1985) (Author, 2008).	289
Figure 9.15. Top left: House Swanepoel, Cape St. Francis (1981) (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011). Top middle: House Swanepoel, Hermanus (1991) (Author, 2008). Top right: Window added to House Raynham, Newlands (1967) (Author, 2008). Bottom left: House Raynham, Newlands (1967) (Author, 2008). Bottom middle: House Beyers, Betty's Bay, (1998) (Author, 2009). Bottom right: House Blommaert, Stellenbosch (1982) (Author, 2009).	291
Figure 9.16. Top left: House Keurbos, Newlands (1951) (Author, 2009). Top right: House Levin, Langebaan (1969) (Author, 2009). Middle left: Plan, House Bertie-Roberts (1966) (Anon, 1968:12). Middle right: Ground floor plan, House Raynham (1967) (Fagan, 2005:52). Bottom left: Roof plan, House Neethling, Durbanville (1985) (Fagan, 2005:82). Bottom right: Ground floor plan, House J.J. Fagan, McGregor (2005) (Fagan archive - Job No. 0508, undated).	293
Figure 9.17. Top left: Ground floor plan, House Bertie-Roberts, Camps Bay (1965) (Anon, 1968:12). Top right: Plan, House Stillman, Massachusetts, Marcel Breuer (Breuer, 1962:151). Bottom left: Model, House Swanepoel, Cape St. Francis (1980) (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated). Bottom right: Framed roof support, House Swanepoel, Cape St. Francis (1980) (Author, 2005).	294
Figure 9.18. Top left: Playroom of House Raynham (1967) (Author, 2008). Top right: Loft space over passage to House Swanepoel in Cape. St. Francis (1980) (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, undated). Bottom left: Loft space over passage to House Paradys (2003) (Fagan archive - Job No. 0205, undated). Bottom right: Loft space in bedroom of Hellmut Stauch's House Hakahana (1951) (Author, 2008).	296
Figure 9.19. Top left: House Fagan (Paradys), Langebaan (2003). Top right: House Raynham, Newlands (1967). Bottom left: House Swanepoel, Hermanus, 1991. Bottom middle: House Beyers, Betty's Bay, 1998. Bottom right: Die Es, Camps Bay, 1965 (All Author, 2009).	297
Figure 9.20. Top left: Shutter to Non Pareille homestead, Paarl (1876) (Author, 2007). Top middle and right: Shutter opening mechanism and shutter to House Keurbos (1951) (Author, 2008). Bottom left: Shutter to main bedroom at Die Es (1965) (Author, 2008). Bottom middle: Sliding shutter to House Fagan in McGregor (Author, 2009). Bottom right: Hinged and ventilated shutter to House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009).	298
Figure 9.21. Left: Moulded rooflights to House Swanepoel in Cape. St. Francis (1980) (Author, 2005). Middle: View through rooflight to bathroom of Die Es (1965) (Author, 2009). Right: Raised rooflight to House Wolfaardt (1965) (Author, 2009).	299
Figure 9.22. Left: House Beyer's (1998) showing concrete support system (Author, 2009). Right: Cantilevering supports to House Bertie-Roberts (1965) (Fagan archive - Job No. 644, undated).	299
Figure 10.1. Left: One room deep extended rectangular cottage at Oudekraal Fontein in the Cape (Walton, 1995: 36). Right: Stauch and Wepener's Marriott residence in Johannesburg built in 1947 with north orientation to all living rooms and a bi-nuclear planning layout (Anon, 1952b).	302
Figure 10.2. Top left: View from living room in House Keurbos (1951). The stone clad wall can be seen behind the bookcases (Author, 2008). Top right: House Bertie-Robert (1966). View from the garden showing stone retaining wall. (Fagan archive - job No. 644, undated). Bottom left: House Auldearn (1992). View from car court to entrance portico (Author, 2009). Bottom right: House Fagan in McGregor (2005). Concrete retaining walls anchor the house to the ground (Author, 2009).	303
Figure 10.3. Top left: View from roof of House Paradys (2003) into courtyard at road edge (Author, 2009). Top right: House Die Es (1965). Rooflight over entrance hall (Author, 2008). Bottom left: House	

Raynham (1967). Window connection to Table Mountain range (Author, 2008). Bottom right: House Swanepoel in Hermanus (1990). Glazed courtyard roof providing connection to the sky (Author, 2009).....	305
Figure 10.4. Left: Lime kilns at Mowbray, Cape Town (Pearse, 1933:23). Right: Fagan's sketch of the lime kilns presumably copied from Pearse (Fagan, archive, Die Es - Job No. 656, undated).....	306
Figure 10.5. Left: Fireplace at die Es as viewed from road side garden (Author, 2008). Middle: Cantilevered braai to dining court of Die Es (1965) (Author, 2008). Right: Fireplace to Fagan's farmhouse at Kameeldrift (Author, 2008).	307
Figure 10.6. From the left: Fagan's sketch plan for Die Es (1965) (Fagan archive - Job no. 656 undated); Fagan's working drawing plan of Die Es showing addition of window to partially divorce the fireplace and from the main block (Fagan archive job no. 656, undated); View from hearth looking up at wired glass skylight separating fireplace and main building (Author, 2008) and view of slit window alongside fireplace (Author, 2009).	307
Figure 10.7. Left: Fireplace flue as roof support to House Raynham (1967) (Photo courtesy of the Raynham's, 2009). Right: Fireplace at House Beyers (1998) (Author, 2009).	308
Figure 10.8. Top left: Glazed rooflight to dining area at House Raynham (1967) (Author, 2008). Top right: Bathroom to House Keurbos (1951) as it was originally designed and built (Author, 2008). Bottom left: Bathroom at House Keurbos altered by owner in 2010 and designed by Bert Pepler Architects (Photo courtesy of Leon Krige, 2010). Bottom right: Original covered terrace to House Keurbos (1951) now enclosed (Author, 2008).	309
Figure 10.9. Left: Main bathroom courtyard at House Swanepoel in Hermanus (1990) (Author, 2009). Middle: Bathroom rooflight at House Swanepoel in Hermanus (1990) (Author, 2009). Right: Rooflight over small internal garden to House Auldearn (1992) (Author, 2008).	310
Figure 10.10. Top left: Fagan's unbuilt Oudebaaskraal with central courtyard (1984) (Fagan, 2005b:94). Top right: Courtyard from dining room at die Es with 'woven wall" and slit to sea view beyond (Author, 2008). Bottom: Plan and approach view of House Wolfaardt at Skaaprivierplaas (1965). The plan shows a prtially defined courtyard (Fagan archive - Job No. 653, June 1965).	311
Figure 10.11. Left: Fagan's sketch of the dining courtyard perpared for the local authority (Fagan archive- Job No. 656, undated).....	311
Figure 10.12. Left: Glazed walkway to bedrooms at House Blommaert (1982) (Author, 2009). Right: View from courtyard to glazed walkway at House Blommaert (1982) (Author, 2009).	312
Figure 10.13. Left: Partly submerged courtyard at House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009). Right: Courtyard to House Patterson (1966) (Author, 2008).	312
Figure 10.14. Top and bottom left: Exterior and interior views of barrel vaulted roofs at Houses at Idas Valley (1975) (Author, 2008). Middle: Exterior and interior views of barrel vaulted roofs at House Blommaert (1982). Right: Exterior and interior views of barrel vaulted roofs at House at House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009).	313
Figure 10.15. Top left: Splayed window to House Keurbos (1951) (Author, 2009). Top middle: Floor to ceiling windows with rounded corners to Die Es (1965) (Author, 2009). Top right: Layered boundary wall to House Raynham (1967) (Author, 2008). Bottom: Model of House van der Linde (2011) (Author, 2012).....	314
Figure 10.16. Top left: Honeycomb wall between living and dining rooms in House Collins (1951) by Cole Bowen (Cole Bowen, 1953:49). Top right: Brickwork wall niches in living room and study of Eaton's Anderson house (1949-1950) (Harrop-Allin, 1975:80). Bottom left: Fagan's sketches of screen wall to Die Es (1965) (Fagan archive job. no. 656, undated). Bottom middle: Keurbos original patio wall (Fagan, 2012b). Bottom right: Rear wall of carport to Die Es (Author, 2012).....	315
Figure 10.17. Top left: Balustrade as screen wall in House Fagan in McGregor (2005) (Author, 2009). Middle: Cupboard as screen between hall and dining area of House Keurbos (1951) (Author, 2008). Top right: Curtained cupboard to bedroom of House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009).....	316
Figure 10.18. Left: Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret: Maison de Weekend, La Celle-St-Cloud, 1935: isometric (Frampton, 2001:136). Right: Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret: Maison de	

Weekend: interior (Frampton, 2001:136).....	317
Figure 10.19. Top left: Pitched roof to House Raynham (1967) ((Photo courtesy of the Raynhams, 2008). Top right: House Levin (1969) (Author, 2008). Bottom left: House Auldearns' Frank Lloyd Wrightian roofs (Author, 2009). Bottom right: Model of House van der Linde (2011) (Author, 2012).....	318
Figure 10.20. Left: House Keurbos (1951): column support for main roof over dining and living areas (Author, 2008). Middle: Column support to carport at Die Es (1965) (Author, 2008). Right: Roof supports to House Swanepoel in Cape St. Francis (1980) (Author, 2005).	318
Figure 10.21. Some of Fagan's lesser know buildings which all illustrate the formal principle of a singular statement. Left: House Levin in Saldanha Bay (1969) (Author, 2008). Middle: Fagan's sketch for House Gardiner in Camps Bay (1972) (Fagan archive job no. 7203, 10/4/1972). Right: House Brink (2002), Langebaan (Author, 2008).	319
Figure 10.22. Left: Proportional layout system in Hambidge's book Dynamic Symmetry with Fagan's office stamp in top right corner (Hambidge, 1932:101).	320
Figure 10.23. Left: House Mitchell (2005): Flicht beams in living area (Author, 2009). Middle: House Keurbos (1951): beams used to reduce span and define spaces (Photo courtesy of Leon Krige Architect, 2010). Right: Column supports for thatch roof at House Swanepoel in Cape St. Francis (1980) (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, slide collection IC, undated)	322
Figure 10.24. Left: Main bathroom to House Die Es with plexiglass skylight over (1965)(Author, 2009). Middle: Bathroom entrance to House Lückhoff (1981) (Author, 2009). Right: Bathroom off bedrooms to House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009).....	322
Figure 10.25. Left: Japanese fishing net floats as light fixture in second bedroom of Die Es (1965). Middle: Front door to Die Es (1965) made from copper boilers (Author, 2009). Right: Front door to House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009).....	323
Figure 10.26. Top Left: Exposed first floor concrete floor slab to House Die Es (1965) (Author, 2008). Top right: Bagged and painted brickwork to House Blommaert (1982) (Author, 2009). Bottom left: Differing internal and external colours to doors at House Swanepoel in Cape St. Francis (1980) (Fagan archive - Job. No. 8011, slide collection IC, undated). Bottom right: Bagged and painted brickwork and timber beams and ceilings to House Blommaert (1982) (Author, 2009).	324
Figure 10.27. Top left: Fagan's sketch plan for House Levin (1969) with central circulation core (Fagan archive - Job No. 6910, 24/07/1969). Top right: Various sections for House Swanepoel in Cape St. Francis (1980) showing loft and storage spaces (Fagan archive - Job No. 8011, 18/11/1980). Bottom left: Part plan of House Raynham showing extension of passageway into playroom (Fagan, 2005a:52). Bottom right: Plan of House Swanepoel in Hermanus showing tight service and generous living spaces (1990) (Fagan, 2005a:103).....	325
Figure 10.28. Top left: Plan of Maison Loucheur by Le Corbusier (1929). Note the tightly planned bathrooms (Le Corbusier & Jeanneret, 1943: 198). Top middle: Plan of main bathroom at Die Es (1965). Top right: Plan of House Beyers (1998). Note the tightly planned bathrooms (Fagan archive - Job No. 9813, undated). Bottom left: View of rooflights to upper floor bedrooms at House Levin (1969) (Author, 2009). Bottom middle: View of angled rooflight to House Wolfaardt (1965) (Author, 2009). Bottom right: View of rooflight around chimney to House Swanepoel in Hermanus (1990) (Author, 2009).....	326
Figure 10.29. Left: Sliding glazed panels between rafters at House Keurbos (1951) (Author, 2008). Middle: Window to mezzanine over passage at House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009). Right: Porthole at House Paradys (2003) sea facing bathrooms (Fagan, 2012b).	327
Figure 10.30. Top left: House Keurbos (1951) (Wale, c1964:50). Top right: House Bertie-Roberts (1965) (Anon, 1968:12). Second from top left: House Die Es (1965) (Fagan archive - Job No. 656, undated). Second from top right: House Raynham (1967) (Fagan, 2005a:52). Second from bottom left: House Swanepoel in Cape St. Francis (1980) (Fagan, 2005a:73). Second from bottom right: House Neethling (1983) (Fagan, 2005a:83). Bottom: House Paradys (2003) (Fagan, 2005a:125).	328
Figure 10.31. Left: House Bertie-Roberts entrance stair from carport (Fagan archive - Job No. 644, undated).	

	Right: Entrance wall, carport column and steel rod handrail leading to front door (Author, 2009).	329
Figure 10.32.	Top left: House Bertie-Roberts(1965) (Anon, 1968:11). Top right: Model of Die Es (1965) (Fagan archive - Job. No. 656, undated). Second from top left: House Raynham (1967) (Author, 2008). Second from top right: House Swanepoel Cape St. Francis (1980) (Author, 2005). Third from top right: House Swanepoel in Hermanus (1990) (Author, 2008). Second from bottom right: House Neethling (1983) (Author, 2009) Bottom left: House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009). Bottom right: House Fagan in McGregor (2005) (Author, 2009).	330
Figure 10.33.	Top left: House Bertie-Roberts (1965) (Fagan, 2005a:19). Top right: House Bertie-Roberts (1965) (Fagan archive - Job No. 644, undated). Middle left: House Die Es (1965) low garden wall (Author, 2008). Middle: House Raynham (1967) sunken garage (Author, 2008). Middle right: House Swanepoel in Hermanus (1990) (Author, 2008). Bottom right : House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009). Bottom left: House Fagan in McGregor (2005) (Author, 2009).	332
Figure 10.34.	Top from left to right: House Die Es (1965) (Author, 2009), House Patterson (1966) (Author, 2008). House Keurbos (1951) (Author, 2009), House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009). Bottom from left to right: House Brink (2002) (Author, 2009), House Auldearn (2002) (Author, 2009). House Lückhoff (1981) (Author, 2009).	333
Figure 10.35.	Left: House Neethling (1983) (Author, 2009). Middle: House Swanepoel in Hermanus (1990) (Author, 2009). Right: House Beyers (1998) (Author, 2009).	334
Figure 10.36.	Fagan's sketches for House Bertie-Roberts (1965) showing supporting role of chimney on left and access on right (Fagan archive - Job No. 644, undated).	334
Figure 10.37.	Part plans showing relationship of bedrooms to the exterior. Top left: House Lombard (c. 1960s) in Nylstroom by Karl Jooste - note the slight wall splay (Courtesy of Cultural History Museum Pretoria). Top right: House Bertie-Roberts (1965) (Anon, 1968:12). Second from top left: House Blommaert (1982) (Fagan archive - Job No. 8204). Second from top right: House Raynham (1967) (Fagan, 2005a:52). Second from bottom left: House Swanepoel in Cape St. Francis (1980) (Fagan, 2005a:73). Second from bottom right: House Neethling (1983) (Fagan, 2005a:83). Bottom left: House Swanepoel in Hermanus (1990) (Fagan 2005a:103). Bottom middle: House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009). Bottom right: House Fagan in McGregor (2005) (Fagan archive - Job No.0507, undated).	335
Figure 10.38.	Blue areas indicate bedrooms and associated spaces. Top left: House Keurbos (1951) (Wale, C.1964:50). Top right: House Bertie-Roberts (1965) (Anon, 1968:12). Second from top left: House Raynham (1967) (Fagan, 2005a:52). Second from top right: House Neethling (1983) (Fagan, 2005a:83). Second from bottom left: House Paradys (2003) (Fagan, 2005a:125). Second from bottom right: House Paradys (2003) (Author, 2009). Bottom left: House Swanepoel in Cape St. Francis (1980) (Fagan, 2005a:73). Bottom right: House Fagan in McGregor (2005) (Fagan archive - Job No.0507, undated).	337
Figure 10.39.	Top left: House Raynham (1967) (Photo courtesy of the Raynhams). Top right: House Neethling (1983) (Author, 2009). Bottom left House Swanepoel in Hermanus under construction (1990) (Fagan archive - Job No. 9020, undated). Bottom right: House Die Es (1965) under construction with Fagan and his son Hennie working (Fagan archive - Job No. 656, undated).	338
Figure 10.40.	Fagan's sketch of the roof to House Auldearn (1993) with reference to Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesen (Fagan archive - Job No. 9302, undated).	338

LIST OF APPENDICES

- APPENDIX A: Curricula Vitae of the architect and his wife
- APPENDIX B: Family tree
- APPENDIX C: Awards
- APPENDIX D: Motivation letters for honorary membership of the American Institute of Architects
- APPENDIX E: Domestic architecture project list summary
- APPENDIX F: Data sheets of individual buildings
- APPENDIX G: Student work
- APPENDIX H: Fagan's library
- APPENDIX I: Interview questions
- APPENDIX J: Précised biographies of important personalities related to the study
- APPENDIX K: External examiners' comments and author's responses

LIST OF TERMS

1	Attenuation	29
2	Counter pastoral modernity	74
3	Critical Regionalism	110
4	Dialectic	28
5	Fourth vernacular	56
6	Generative typology	33
7	Heterotrophia	27
8	Heterotypological	302
9	Historical typology	31
10	Interpretative vernacular approach	45
11	Mediation	28
12	Modern Movement	73
13	Pastoral Modernity	73
14	Polarity	29
15	Productive typology	35
16	Programmatic modernity	73
17	Reflective modernism	204
18	Regionalism	109
19	Relative regionalism	226
20	Replicative vernacular approach	45
21	Transitory Modernity	73
22	Typological	29
23	Vernacular	43

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	I
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	II
LIST OF FIGURES	III
LIST OF APPENDICES	XVII
LIST OF TERMS	XVIII
ABSTRACT OF THE STUDY	XXIV
SECTION A – PRELUDE	1
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND PROPOSAL	2
1.1. Introduction	3
1.2. Problem context	3
1.3. Problem Statement	5
1.4. Assumptions	7
1.5. Research Strategy	8
1.6. Delimitations of the study	11
1.7. Importance of the study	12
1.8. Structure of the study	13
CHAPTER 2: PREPARATION	16
2.1. Introduction	17
2.2. Architects with similar approaches	17
2.3. Possibilities for investigative approaches	24
2.4. Heterotrophia – a mediated typological synthesis	25
2.5. Mediation and attenuation	28
2.6. Typological concepts	29
2.6.1. Historical typologies	31
2.6.2. Typological sources	33
2.7. Summary	38
SECTION B – CONTEXTUALIZATION	40
CHAPTER 3: VERNACULAR VARIATIONS	41
3.1. Introduction	42
3.2. The vernacular – definitions and clarifications	43
3.2.1. Introduction	43
3.2.2. Definitions	44
3.2.3. Approaches to the vernacular	45
3.2.4. South African inherited vernaculars	48
3.2.5. A redefinition of inherited vernaculars in South Africa	50
3.2.6. The fourth vernacular	56
3.2.7. Fourth vernacular architects and their approaches	57
3.3. Summary	70



CHAPTER 4: MODERN MOVEMENT MEDIATIONS	71
4.1. Introduction	72
4.2. The Modern Movement – definitions and clarifications	73
4.3. Modern Movements	74
4.3.1. The first Modern Movement	75
4.3.2. The second Modern Movement	76
4.3.3. Le Corbusier mediations	81
4.3.4. The third Modern Movement	84
4.3.5. The development of the Modern Movement in South Africa	85
4.3.6. Summary	105
CHAPTER 5: REGIONALIST REINTERPRETATIONS	107
5.1. Introduction	108
5.2. Definitions and clarifications	108
5.3. Regionalism in the twentieth century	111
5.3.1. Conservative (response) regionalisms	112
5.3.2. Radical (resistive) regionalisms	113
5.3.3. Mediatory (reactionary) regionalisms	114
5.4. The mediative regionalist approach	115
5.4.1. The dialectical opposition: tradition and modernity	116
5.4.2. The mediative processes: resistance and response	116
5.4.3. The mediative outcome: imitation and invention	116
5.5. Regionalism in South Africa	117
5.5.1. Conservative regional responses	117
5.5.2. Radical regional reactions	117
5.5.3. Mediative regional responses	118
5.6. Summary	118
SECTION C – CRYSTALLIZATION	119
CHAPTER 6: INITIATIONS - THE MAN AS MEDIATOR	120
6.1. First initiation (1925-1942): Formative influences	121
6.1.1. Nurture and nature	121
6.1.2. Hand and mind	126
6.2. Second Initiation (1943-1951): Tertiary Education	132
6.2.1. University of Cape Town	132
6.2.2. Gwen Gannon	132
6.2.3. Music and technology	135
6.2.4. The University of Pretoria	137
6.3. Third Initiation (1952-1964): The banks	151
6.3.1. Brakdakke	152
6.3.2. A new architectural approach	154
6.3.3. The banks	155
6.3.4. Family life	156
6.4. Fourth initiation (1964-): Conservation work	158



6.5. Balance - a healthy mind and a healthy body	160
6.5.1. Sailing	160
6.5.2. Music	161
6.6. The man	162
6.7. Summary	165
SECTION D – EXPRESSION	166
CHAPTER 7: DESIGN DERIVATIONS	167
7.1. Fagan and the inherited vernacular	168
7.1.1. Initiations	169
7.1.2. Fagan's attitude to the vernacular	169
7.1.3. Fagan's responses	171
7.1.4. Dialectics in Fagan's vernacular	173
7.1.5. The houses	177
7.1.6. Learning from the vernacular - ten lessons	180
7.1.7. Summary	198
7.2. Fagan and the mediated Modern Movement	200
7.2.1. Fagan's Modern Movement influences	200
7.2.2. Fagan and the fourth Modern Movement	203
7.2.3. Summary	217
7.3. Fagan and regionalism	218
7.3.1. Fagan's regionalist context	219
7.3.2. Influences on Fagan's regionalist approach	219
7.3.3. Fagan's regionalism	224
7.3.4. Summary	231
CHAPTER 8: THE DESIGN PROCESS	233
8.1. Rationality and intuitivity	234
8.2. Design	235
8.3. The design process	235
8.3.1. Initiation	236
8.3.2. Preparation	236
8.3.3. Incubation	236
8.3.4. Synthesis	236
8.3.5. Evaluation	237
8.3.6. Action	237
8.4. Fagan's design process	237
8.4.1. Initiation	240
8.4.2. Preparation	240
8.4.3. Incubation	244
8.4.4. Synthesis	245
8.4.5. Evaluation	249
8.4.6. Action	251



8.5. House Swanepoel, Cape St. Francis	251
8.5.1. Initiation	253
8.5.2. Preparation	255
8.5.3. Incubation	257
8.5.4. Synthesis	257
8.5.5. Evaluation	260
8.5.6. Action	265
8.6. Summary	273
CHAPTER 9: FORMAL TENSIONS AND MEDIATIONS	274
9.1. Science and experience	275
9.2. Form and context	277
9.2.1. Orthodox Modernism/organicism	278
9.2.2. Cape and Mediterranean	280
9.2.3. Classic and romantic landscape relationship	282
9.2.4. Static and dynamic	283
9.3. Space and place	285
9.3.1. Approach / entry	286
9.3.2. Entry: vehicular / pedestrian	287
9.3.3. Front and back	287
9.3.4. Thresholds and boundaries	288
9.3.5. Introverted and extroverted	290
9.4. Form and function	291
9.4.1. Frame and enclosure	293
9.4.2. Space and volume	294
9.4.3. Focus and function	296
9.5. Technology and form	297
9.6. Summary	300
CHAPTER 10: (HETERO)TYPOLOGIES	301
10.1. Introduction	302
10.2. Generative typologies (from the cellar to the sky)	303
10.2.1. The cave (the cellar)	303
10.2.2. The hearth (and the symbolic mound)	305
10.2.3. The covered courtyard (the partial sky)	308
10.2.4. The open courtyard (the sky)	310
10.2.5. The defensive elements	313
10.3. Productive typologies	318
10.3.1. Constants	318
10.3.2. Conventions	321
10.4. New and renewed typologies	327
10.4.1. The linear (attenuated) plan	327
10.4.2. The guided entrance	329
10.4.3. Building / earth relationship	331
10.4.4. The chimney as focus	332

10.4.5. Bedroom privacy and external contact	334
10.4.6. Functional separation	336
10.4.7. The roof as holding element	337
10.5. Summary	339
SECTION E – FINALE	340
CHAPTER 11: CONCLUSIONS	341
11.1. Purpose of the study	342
11.2. Results of the enquiry	342
11.2.1. Problem One	342
11.2.2. Problem Two	343
11.2.3. Problem Three	344
11.2.4. Problem Four	344
11.2.5. Problem Five	345
11.3. The effect that Fagan has had on architecture in South Africa	346
11.4. Issues that require further investigation	348
11.5. End note	348
CHAPTER 12: LIST OF REFERENCES	349
12.1. Cited works	349
12.2. Consulted references	362
SECTION F – APPENDICES	365
CHAPTER 13:	365
13.1. APPENDIX A: Curricula Vitae of the architect and his wife	366
13.2. APPENDIX B: Family tree	369
13.3. APPENDIX C: Awards	370
13.4. APPENDIX D: Letters of motivation for honorary membership of the American Institute of Architects (AIA)	372
13.5. APPENDIX E: Domestic architecture project list summary	377
13.6. APPENDIX F: Data sheets of individual buildings	380
13.7. APPENDIX G: Student work	471
13.8. APPENDIX H: Books in Fagan's library	475
13.9. APPENDIX I: interview questions and Fagan's responses to email questions	480
13.10. APPENDIX J: Précised biographies of important personalities related to the study	491
13.11. APPENDIX K: External examiners' comments and author's responses	513

ABSTRACT OF THE STUDY

Heterotrophic syntheses: mediation in the domestic architecture of Gabriël (Gawie) Fagan.

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This study will undertake a critical analysis of the domestic architecture of Gawie Fagan so as to define its uniqueness in the South African architectural landscape, and the contribution the architect has made to the establishment of a place-specific architecture that is nationally and internationally recognized. It will attempt to increase the limited written knowledge of the work of South African architects and to add to the critical debate on South African architecture.

The study will employ both descriptive and normative approaches as the built work and writings of Fagan are unpacked. This will be done through an analysis of the dichotomies, tensions and mediations that exist in his architecture. It will demonstrate that there are heterotrophic and typological tendencies present in his domestic oeuvre and that they represent a unique synthesis of the local Cape vernacular and aspects of the Modern Movement. It will attempt to provide a clear understanding of the man and his philosophies and through this process will add to the critical debate on South African architecture.

Fagan's work will firstly be contextualized, after which an analysis will be undertaken to determine how external and internal influences have impacted on the design of his houses and how these have contributed to the development of a unique South African architecture.

Key words: vernacular, Modern Movement, regionalism, heterotrophia, mediation, attenuation.