

University of Pretoria

Department of Architecture

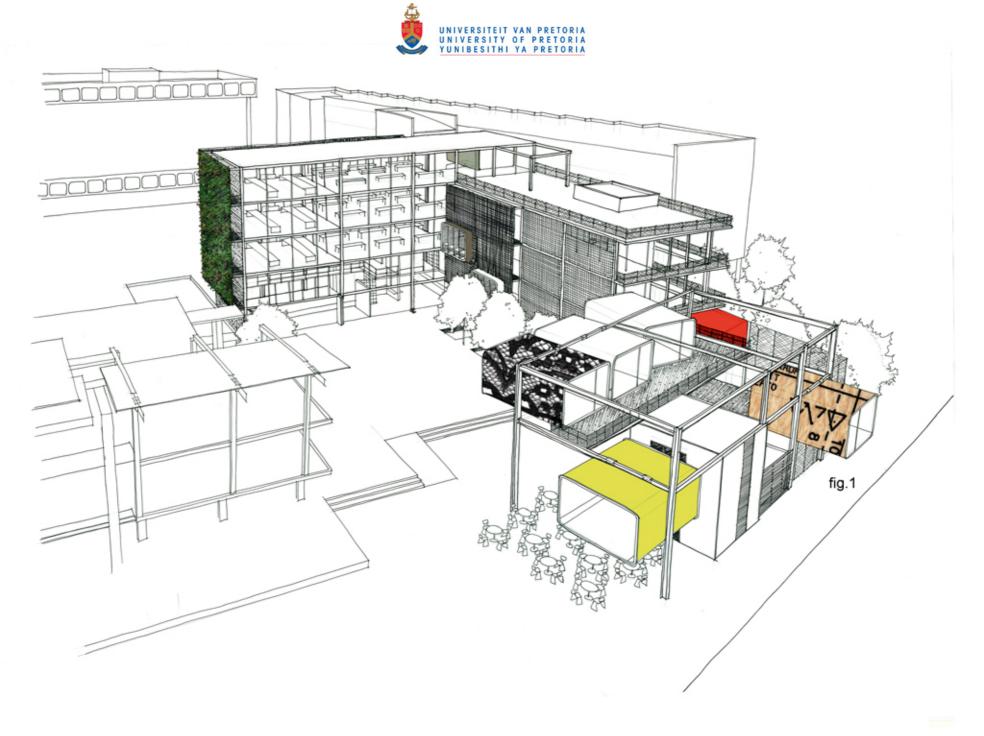
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# KNOOP

#### **PROJECT**



#### KNOOP

UP Fashion and Craft School Design Initiative UP Performing Arts UP Visual Arts Departments.

#### THESIS/CAUSE

To initiate an interdisciplinary cross-pollination to assert the University of Pretoria's creative arts.

#### CLIENT

UP in collaboration with TEKO – a Scandinavian Fashion and Textile School of Design that is co-operating with South African tertiary institutions through the Department of Trade and Industries.

#### **USERS**

UP students and young designers from the retail design industries.

#### MODUS

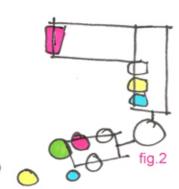
By creating a resource rich South African environment where design consultants will aid artisans to achieve viable careers in design.

#### LOCATION

Hatfield, Pretoria

#### MAIN INVESTOR

Property Investor: Intersite





"Everything around us either relates to the body or the environment. I think of modular systems where clothes are like small parts of the interior, the interiors are part of architecture, which is then part of the urban environment. I think of fluid space where they are all a part of each other, just in different scales and proportions." (Hussein Chalayan, British fashion designer)



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   | Models                    |      | List of figures             | ii  | 10  | Cut                              |              |  |            |
|---|---------------------------|------|-----------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------------------|--------------|--|------------|
|   |                           |      | Introduction                | 4   |     | Design development               | 10.1         | Concept 1                              | 60         |
|   |                           |      | Project Partners            | 5   |     |                                  | 10.2         | Concept 2                              | 61         |
|   |                           |      | Case Studies                | 6   |     |                                  | 10.3         | Concept 3                              | 63         |
|   |                           |      |                             |     |     |                                  | 10.4         | Concept 4                              | 65         |
| 1 | Out of fit                |      | Real world problem          | 8   |     |                                  | 10.5         | Skin development                       | 69         |
|   |                           | 1.1  | Context                     | 9   |     |                                  | 10.6         | Precedent 6: Bauhaus,                  | 70         |
|   |                           | 1.2  | Study area                  | 10  |     |                                  |              | Dessau                                 |            |
| 2 | Muse                      |      | olaay area                  |     |     |                                  | 10.7         | Precedent 7: Dré                       | 71         |
| _ | Inspiration behind KNOOP  | 2.1  | UP history                  | 12  |     |                                  |              | Wapenaar, Netherlands                  |            |
|   | mapmadon bermia rave en   | 2.2  | UP existing fashion labs    | 13  |     |                                  | 10.8         | KNOOP visual language                  | 72         |
|   |                           | 2    | Or existing lastificit lass |     |     |                                  | 10.9         | KNOOP functions                        | 74         |
| 3 | Fabric Decay              |      |                             |     |     |                                  | 10.10        | KNOOP users                            | 75         |
| • | Context analysis          | 3.1  | Precedent information       | 15  |     |                                  |              | 101001 00010                           |            |
|   | Context analysis          | 3.2  | UP Vision                   | 16  |     |                                  |              |  |            |
|   |                           | 3.3  | Gautrain                    | 18  | 11  | Make                             |              |  |            |
|   |                           | 3.4  | S.T.A.R.T.                  | 20  | ••• | Spatial exploration              | 11.1         | Cross-pollination diagram              | 80         |
|   | Louisian                  | 3.4  | 5.1.A.R.1.                  | 20  |     | Spatial exploration              | 11.2         | Public vs. private                     | 82         |
| 4 | Layering                  |      | Matra anala                 | 22  |     |                                  | 11.3         | Circulation                            | 83         |
|   | Site analysis             | 4.1  | Metro scale                 | 22  |     |                                  | 11.3         | Circulation                            | 03         |
|   |                           | 4.2  | Proposed land use           | 23  | 12  | Trim                             |              |  |            |
|   |                           | 4.3  | Precinct identification     | 24  |     | Technical investigation          |              | 1200 0200                              |            |
|   |                           | 4.4  | Landmarks                   | 25  |     |                                  | 12.1         | Brief specifications                   | 86         |
|   |                           | 4.5  | Hatfield linkages           | 26  |     |                                  | 12.2         | Material choice                        | 87         |
|   |                           | 4.6  | Energy flow                 | 27  |     |                                  | 12.3         | Frame                                  | 89         |
|   |                           | 4.7  | Urban development           | 31  |     |                                  | 12.4         | Precedent 8: British                   | 91         |
|   |                           | 4.8  | Precedent 1:                | 33  |     |                                  | 12.5         | Pavilion Expo '92, Spain               | 92         |
|   |                           |      | JDA Fashion District,       |     |     |                                  | 12.5         | Skin                                   |            |
|   |                           |      | Johannesburg, SA            |     |     |                                  | 12.6         | Precedent 9: Biovac                    | 94         |
|   |                           | 4.9  | Precedent 2:                | 34  |     |                                  | 12.7         | Centre, Cape Town, SA<br>Precedent 10: | 95         |
|   |                           |      | Schouwburgplein,            |     |     |                                  | 12.7         | Wall House, Chille                     | 90         |
|   |                           |      | Rotterdam, Netherlands      |     |     |                                  | 12.0         | Precedent 11: Eko Park,                | 96         |
|   |                           | 4.10 | Site plan                   | 35  |     |                                  |              | Warsaw, Poland                         | 50         |
|   |                           | 4.11 | Super Basement Plan         | 36  |     |                                  | 12.9         | Roofs                                  | 97         |
|   |                           |      |                             |     |     |                                  | 12.10        | Pods                                   | 98         |
| 5 | Fashion Fusion            |      |                             |     |     |                                  | 12.11        | Precedent 12: Japan                    | 100        |
|   | Psychology of fashion     |      |                             | 37  |     |                                  | 12.11        | Library                                | 100        |
|   | -                         | 5.1  | Identity                    | 38  |     |                                  | 12.12        | Precedent 13: Pods                     | 101        |
|   |                           | 5.2  | Protection & Modesty        | 39  |     |                                  | 12.13        | Technical precedent1:                  | 102        |
| 6 | Tailor-made               |      |                             |     |     |                                  |              | pods                                   |            |
|   | Parallels between fashion | 6.1  | Reconstruction              | 42  |     |                                  | 12.14        | Pod detail section 1:20                | 103        |
|   | and architecture          | 6.2  | Skin and bones              | 43  |     |                                  | 12.15        | Pod skins                              | 104        |
|   |                           | 6.3  | Precedent 3:                | 44  |     |                                  | 12.16        | floors                                 | 105        |
|   |                           |      | Centre De Pompidou,         |     |     |                                  | 12.17        | Technical precedents2:                 | 106        |
|   |                           |      | Paris, France               |     |     |                                  |              | floors                                 |            |
|   |                           | 6.4  | Precedent 4: Skins          | 45  |     |                                  | 12.18        | Services                               | 108        |
|   |                           | 6.5  | Reveal and conceal          | 46  |     |                                  | 12.19        | Comfort                                | 111        |
|   |                           | 6.6  | Creative process            | 48  |     |                                  | 12.20        | Technical precedent3:                  | 112        |
| 7 | Weave                     | 0.0  |                             | -10 |     |                                  |              | New 42 Studios, NY                     |            |
|   | Transmaterials            |      |                             | 50  |     |                                  | 12.21        | Technical                              | 113        |
|   |                           |      |                             |     |     |                                  |              | precedent4:skins                       |            |
| 8 | African Avant Garde       |      |                             |     |     |                                  | 12.22        | Glazing & light quality                | 114        |
|   | redesigning design        | 8.1  | Precedent 5 :DEFSA          | 53  |     |                                  | 12.23        | Electricity                            | 115        |
|   | education                 |      |                             |     |     |                                  | 12.24        | Ventilation                            | 116        |
|   |                           |      |                             |     |     |                                  | 12.25        | Acoustics & Ergonomics                 | 117        |
| 9 | Vintage Vogue             |      |                             |     |     |                                  | 12.26        | Circulation                            | 118        |
| - | Longevity of Knoop        |      |                             | 56  | 40  | KNOOD                            |              |  |            |
|   | congony or more           | 9.1  | Business and                | 57  | 13  | KNOOP<br>Technical desumentation | 40.4         | Flountiens                             | 400        |
|   |                           | 0.1  | Management Strategy         | 01  |     | Technical documentation          | 13.1         | Elevations                             | 120        |
|   |                           |      | Plan                        |     |     |                                  | 13.2         | Plans                                  | 122        |
|   |                           |      | r all                       |     |     |                                  | 13.3<br>13.4 | Sections<br>Details                    | 127<br>131 |
|   |                           |      |                             |     |     | 2405                             | 13.4         | Details                                | 131        |
|   |                           |      |                             |     |     | Designers                        |              | D-f                                    |            |
|   |                           |      |                             |     |     |                                  |              |  |            |

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i

References

## LIST OF FIGURES



| Fig.1   | KNOOP Revit model  | (Author 2008)  | 2                |
|---------|--|--|------------------|
| Fig.2   | KNOOP diagram  | (Author 2008)  | 2<br>3<br>5<br>6 |
| Fig.3   | Project Partner Logo's                                   | (Author 2008)  | 5                |
| Fig.4   | Case studies graphic                                     | (Author 2008)  | Ř                |
| Fig.5   | Tshwane University of Technology fashion lab             | (Author 2008)  | 7                |
| Fig.6   | University of Johannesburg fashion lab                   | (Author 2008)  | ,                |
| Fig.7   | Unitex factory shop                                      | (Author 2008)  |                  |
|         | LISOF, Rosebank, Johannesburg fashion lab                | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.8   |  |  | 8                |
| Fig.9   | Fabric decay New York                                    | (Chuang 2006:19)   | 9                |
| Fig.10  | Context photos   | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.11  | Site Geomatics map.                                      | City of Tshwane  | 10               |
| Fig.12  | Fashion and architecture graphic                         | (Edited by Author 2008)  | 11               |
| Fig.13  | 'Nicola kies 'n beroep' cartoon                          | (UP Archive)   | 12               |
| Fig.14  | Existing UP fashion labs                                 | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.15  | Existing UP lecture room                                 | (Author 2008)  | 13               |
| Fig.16  | Glare in existing fashion lab at UP                      | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.17  | Shared office of UP lecturers                            | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.18  | Existing UP sewing lab                                   | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.19  | Existing UP ironing area                                 | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.20  | Precedent map  | (Author 2008)  | 15               |
| Fig.21  | Gautrain stations diagram                                | (Author based on www.tshwane.gov.za) (Accessed 26 August 2008)               | 19               |
| Fig.22  | KNOOP site graphic                                       | (Author 2008)  | 21               |
| Fig.23  | Metro scale map  | (Author 2008)  | 2                |
| Fig.24  | Proposed land use map                                    | (Author 2008)  | .2<br>23         |
| Fig.25  | Precinct Identification SketchUp graphic                 | (Author 2008)  | 24               |
| Fig.26  | Railway graphic  | (Author 2008)  | 25               |
| Fig.20  | Loftus Rugby stadium                                     | (www.stadiumguide.com_loftus1) (Accessed 26 August 2008)                     | 20               |
|         | UP Administration building                               | (www.images.google.co.za) (Accessed 26 August 2008)                          |                  |
|         |  |  |                  |
|         | UP Human Resources building                              | (www.wikimedia.org) (Accessed 26 August 2008)                                |                  |
|         | Gautrain artist impression                               | (www.tshwane.gov.za) (Accessed 26 August 2008)                               |                  |
|         | Hatfield square  | (www.images.travelpod.com) (Accessed 26 August 2008)                         |                  |
|         | Innovation hub   | (www.images.google.co.za) (Accessed 26 August 2008)                          |                  |
| Fig.27  | Hatfield linkages  | (Author 2008 based on Gautrain Area Guidelines Plan 4.3)                     | 26               |
| Fig.28  | Gautrain SketchUp graphic                                | (Author 2008)  | 27               |
| Fig.29  | Main pedestrian movement                                 | (Author 2008 based on Gautrain Station Functional Area Guidelines, Plan 4.8) |                  |
| Fig.30  | Proposed land use diagram                                | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.31  | Main roads diagram                                       | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.32  | Hatfield square location SketchUp graphic                | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.33  | Access from Burnette street towards site                 | (Author 2008)  | 28               |
| Fig.34  | City Property Flats southern façade                      | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.35  | Second access corridor from Burnette street towards site | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.36  | City Property SketchUp graphic                           | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.37  | Main linkage towards site from Burnette street           | (Author 2008)  |                  |
| Fig.38  | KNOOP neighbours   | (Author 2008)  | 29               |
| Fig.39  | Land use map.  | City of Tshwane Municipality (2003:7)  | 31               |
| Fig.40  | Gautrain diagram   | (Author 2008)  | -                |
| Fig.41  | Urban framework development diagram                      | (S.T.A.R.T. team 2008)   |                  |
| Fig.42  | Urban framework development diagram                      | (S.T.A.R.T. team 2008)   |                  |
| Fig.43  | Urban framework development diagram                      | (S.T.A.R.T. team 2008)   |                  |
| Fig.44  | Urban framework development diagram                      | (S.T.A.R.T. team 2008)   |                  |
|         |  |  |                  |
| Fig.45  | Urban framework development diagram                      | (S.T.A.R.T. team 2008)   | 20               |
| Fig.46  | Site development concept model 1                         | (S.T.A.R.T. team 2008)   | 32               |
| Fig.47  | Site development concept model 2                         | (S.T.A.R.T. team 2008)   |                  |
| Fig.48  | Fashion district, Johannesburg Fashion ramp, Jhb         | (Fashion Square, July 2005:5)  | 33               |
| Fig.49  | Fashion square   | (Fashion Square, July 2005:11)   |                  |
| Fig.50  | Fashion square   | (Fashion Square, July 2005:13)   |                  |
| Fig.51  | Fashion square   | (Fashion Square, July 2005:15)   |                  |
| Fig.52  | Fashion square   | (Fashion Square, July 2005:20)   |                  |
| Fig.53  | Fashion square   | Available from:  |                  |
| Fig. 54 | Schouwburgplein artist impression                        | (www.netzspannung.org_files )(Accessed 17 April 2008)                        | 34               |
| Fig.55  | Schouwburgplein, Rotterdam                               | (www.beamerplanet.nl) (Accessed 17 April 2008)                               |                  |
| Fig.56  | Schouwburgplein  | (www.eikongraphia.com) (Accessed 17 April 2008)                              |                  |
| Fig.57  | Schouwburgplein  | (www. millov.nl) (Accessed 17 April 2008)                                    |                  |
| Fig.58  | Site plan 1:1000   | (Author & S.T.A.R.T team 2008)   | 35               |
| Fig.59  | Super basement plan                                      | (Author & S.T.A.R.T team 2008)   | 36               |

| Fig.60             | Fashion models                                       | (www.fashion-ation.net) (Accessed 7 August 2008)                               | 37  |
|--------------------|--|--|-----|
| Fig.61             | Army jacket fashion sketch                           | (www.voguepatterns.com) (Accessed 15 October 2008)                             | 40  |
| Fig.62             | Party dress  | (www.t reehugger.com) (Accessed 5 February 2008)                               | 41  |
| Fig.63             | Urban renewal by Mari Santos                         | (www.wiredminds.ca/mari/urbn/urban.html ) (Accessed 2008)                      | 42  |
| Fig.64             | Jacket turned inside out                             | (Author 2008)  | 43  |
| Fig.65             | Centre Pompidou service ducting                      | (www.sjsu.edu) (Accessed 2 July 2008)  | 44  |
| Fig.66             | Centre Pompidou model                                | www.richardrogers.co.uk (Accessed 7 July 2008)                                 |     |
| Fig.67             | Centre Pompidou artist impression                    | www.richardrogers.co.uk (Accessed 7 July 2008)                                 |     |
| Fig.68             | Centre Pompidou section                              | www.richardrogers.co.uk (Accessed 7 July 2008)                                 |     |
| Fig.69             | Tattoo house, Australia                              | (www.andrewmaynard.com) (Accessed 21 May 2008)                                 | 45  |
| Fig.70             | Ai Café, Japan                                       | (www.monsterandcritics.com_arts) (Accessed 9 July 2008)                        |     |
| Fig.71             | Hairywood tower, London                              | (www.wayfaring.info2007) (Accessed 13 April 2008)                              |     |
| Fig.73             | Anders Edstorm urban fashion photography             | (Quinn.2003:202)   | 46  |
| Fig.74             | Hidden girl image                                    | www.objectsinspaceandtime.com (Accessed 23 April 2008)                         |     |
| Fig.75             | Creative process diagram                             | Jean-Pierre de la Porte input 6 July 2008                                      | 47  |
| Fig.76             | Vintage dress  | (www.sewingtoday.com) (Accessed 23 October 2008)                               | 56  |
| Fig.77             | Design development diagram                           | (Author 2008)  | 58  |
| Fig.78             | Design development sketches                          | (Author 2008)  | 59  |
| Fig.79             | Concept 1 first floor plan (not to scale)            | (Author 2008)  | 60  |
| Fig.80             | Concept model 1                                      | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.81             | Concept 2 development                                | (Author 2008)  | 61  |
| Fig.82             | Multi-level runway                                   | (thecoolhunter.net - home8_files) (Accessed 17 May 2008)                       | 62  |
| Fig.83             | Coco Chanel runway                                   | (thecoolhunter.net - home8_files) (Accessed 17 May 2008)                       |     |
| Fig.84             | Concept 1 ff & 2 <sup>rd</sup> f                     | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.85             | Concept 1 model                                      | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.86             | Concept 2 gf &ff                                     | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.87             | Concept 2 model                                      | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.88             | DESIGN DEV2 Ground floor conceptual plan             | (Author 2008)  | 63  |
| Fig.89             | First floor conceptual plan                          | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.90             | Concept model 3                                      | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.91             | Pod exploration concept models                       | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.92             | Concept model 4                                      | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.93             | Circulation diagram                                  | (Author 2008)  | 64  |
| Fig.94             | Public vs. private diagram                           | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.95             | Arcade diagram                                       | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.96             | Retail location diagram                              | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.97             | Neighboring building green space diagram             | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.98             | Creative process diagram                             | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.99             | Building interaction diagram                         | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.100            | Stitching neighboring buildings through time diagram | (Author 2008)  | 65  |
| Fig.101            | KNOOP concept models                                 | (Author 2008)<br>(Author 2008)   | 67  |
| Fig.102            | KNOOP diagrammatic sketch                            | (Author 2008)  | 68  |
| Fig.103            | Conceptual skin development (Author)                 |  | 69  |
| Fig.104<br>Fig.105 | Skin development diagrams (Author)<br>Bauhaus        | (Author 2008)<br>(www.fiholocaustmuseum.org_bauhaus02) (Accessed 26 July 2008) | 70  |
| Fig.103            | Bauhaus  | (www.natureparktravel.com_weimar_bauhaus2) (Accessed 26 July 2008)             | 70  |
| Fig.107            | Dré Wapenaar Hang-Kiss-and Smoke spot 2002           | (www.drewapenaar.nl) (Accessed 2 July 2008)                                    | 71  |
| Fig.108            | Pavilion of emptiness 2008                           | (www.drewapenaar.nl) (Accessed 2 July 2008)                                    | / / |
| Fig.109            |  | (www.drewapenaar.nl) (Accessed 2 July 2008)                                    |     |
| Fig.110            |  | (www.thecoolhunter.net) (Accessed 20 May 2008)                                 | 72  |
| Fig.111            |  | (Cheng, 2003:35)   | 12  |
| Fig.112            |  | (Chuang, 2006:131)   |     |
| Fig.113            |  | (Chuang, 2006:98)  |     |
| Fig.114            |  | Elle decoration house&leisure jan-feb2007                                      |     |
| Fig.115            |  | (www.thecoolhunter.net) (Accessed 20 May 2008)                                 |     |
| Fig.116            |  | (Cheng.2003:366)   | 73  |
| Fig.117            |  | (Accessed 15 July 2008)  |     |
| Fig.118            |  | www.style.com (Accessed 30 August 2008)  | 74  |
| Fig.119            | Casa De Rodriguez hat studio New York                | (Chuang 2006:176)  |     |
| Fig.120            | Jutta Neumann NY Inc. shoe studio                    | (Chuang 2006:167)  |     |
| Fig.121            | Mary Ping studio                                     | (Chuang 2006:61)   |     |
| Fig.122            | Leif and Tooya studio New York                       | (Chuang 2008:17)   |     |
| Fig.123            | Casa De Rodriguez hat studio New York                | (Chuang 2006:178)  |     |
| Fig.124            |  | (Edited by Author 2008)  | 75  |
| Fig.125            | The sartorialists                                    | (www.style.com) (Accessed 26 March 2008)                                       | 77  |
|                    |  |  |     |

| Fig.126  | Creative link section diagram                                   | (Author 2008)  | 80  |
|----------|---|--|-----|
| Fig.127  | Creative link plan diagram                                      | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.128  | Ground floor creative links                                     | (Author 2008)  | 81  |
| Fig.129  | First floor creative links                                      | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.130  | Second floor creative links                                     | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.131  | Public vs. Private diagrams                                     | (Author 2008)  | 82  |
| Fig.132  | Main circulation vs. service walkways diagrams                  | (Author 2008)  | 83  |
| Fig.133  | Space suit image  | www.google/images.com (Accessed 15 June 2008)                          | 85  |
| Fig.134  | Material choice diagram   | (Author 2008)  | 87  |
| Fig.135  | Sequence scan   | (Author 2008)  | 88  |
| Fig.136  | Sexy image  | house&leisure jan-feb2007  |     |
| Fig.137  | Bead scan   | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.138  | Twentonox Architectural Metal Mesh                              | (www.twentinox.de) (Accessed 9 July 2008)                              |     |
| Fig.139  | Lace scan   | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.140  | Omega 1550 gkd screen   | (www.gkdmetalfabrics.com) (Accessed 11 September 2008)                 |     |
| Fig.141  | Twentinox close up  | (www.twentinox.de) (Accessed 9 July 2008)                              |     |
| Fig.142  | joep verhoeven/demakersvan plastic-coated copper wire           | (Fairs, 2006:319)  |     |
| Fig.143  | Structural frame  | Kurt Waelbers engineer   | 89  |
| Fig.144  | Frame strength calculations                                     | Mr. Kurt Waelbers (8 August 2008)                                      |     |
| Fig.145  | KNOOP Revit graphic   | (Author 2008)  | 90  |
| Fig.146  | British Pavilion for Expo 92 / Grimshaw Architects              | (http://www.grimshaw-architects.com) (Accessed 15 June 2008)           | 91  |
| Fig.147  | British Pavilion for Expo 92 canopies                           | (http://www.grimshaw-architects.com) (Accessed 15 June 2008)           | -   |
| Fig.148  | Ombre garments  | (www. blog.buffalostate.edu) (Accessed 23 October 2008)                | 92  |
| Fig.149  | Biovac Institute,   | (Architect and Builder June-July 2007:62)                              | 94  |
| Fig.150  | Wall house , Santiago de Chile                                  | (www. dezeen.com) (Accessed 16 February 2008)                          | 95  |
| Fig.151  | Eko Park Pavilion, Warsaw, Poland / Apa Kurylowicz & Ass.       | (Ballard Bell & Rand. 2006:250-252)                                    | 96  |
| Fig.152  | Andrew Maynard Japan Library Pod                                | (www.andrew.maynard.com) (Accessed 25 May 2008)                        | 99  |
| Fig.153  | suspension mechanism section                                    | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.154  | Concept2 model of pods  | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.155  | Caravan construction  | (www. claireandsean.com) (Accessed 14 June 2008)                       |     |
| Fig.156  | Pod isometric   | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.157  | Japan Library   | (www.andrewmynard.com) (Accessed 21 May 2008)                          | 100 |
| Fig.158  | Peckham Library artist impression by Will Alsop Peckham         | (www.alsoparchitects.com) (Accessed 24 July 2007)                      | 101 |
| . 19.100 | Library at night  | (image.guardian.co.uk_sys-images_bookspecklib) (Accessed 24 July 2007) |     |
|          | Library interior pod structure                                  | (www.archidose.org) (Accessed 22 October 2008)                         |     |
| Fig.159  | Bordeaux Law Courts   | (www.richardrogers.co.uk) (Accessed 2 July 2008)                       |     |
| Fig.160  | Aliedhealth consultation rooms                                  | (www.thecoolhunter.net) (Accessed 7 August 2008)                       |     |
| Fig.161  | POD Cross section through                                       | roof (The Architect's Journal 8 November 2000:33)                      | 102 |
| Fig.162  | Three dimensional image of capsule                              | (Metal Works Summer 2000)  |     |
| Fig.163  | Long section through capsule                                    | (Metal Works Millennium Projects Summer 2000)                          |     |
| Fig.164  | Pod section 1:20  | (Author 2008)  | 103 |
| Fig.165  | Hannibal roof tent  | (www. Wikipedia/Hannibal) (Accessed 14 July 2008)                      | 100 |
| Fig.166  | Pod skins   | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.167  | Heavy duty velcro   | www.3Mreclosable fastener tape.htm (Accessed 14 July 2008)             |     |
| Fig.168  | FLOOR Cut away isometric of floor construction                  | (The Architect's Journal 8 November 2000:33)                           | 106 |
| Fig.169  | Cut- away of typical floor, Birmingham school of Art            | (The Architect's Journal 16 November 1995:57)                          | 100 |
| Fig.170  | Floor construction development                                  | (Author 2008)  |     |
| Fig.171  | Shoe analogy image  | (Author 2008)  | 107 |
| Fig.172  | Service skin Revit graphic                                      | (Author 2008)  | 108 |
| Fig.173  | Basement column diagram   | Mr. Kurt Waelbers (6 October 2008)                                     | 109 |
| Fig.174  | KNOOP Sewerage diagram  | (Author 2008)  | 100 |
| Fig.175  | KNOOP Water diagram   | (Author 2008)  | 110 |
| Fig.176  | KNOOP fire water distribution                                   | (Author 2008)  | 110 |
| Fig.177  | Runway model in bikini  | (www.style.com) (Accessed 14 June 2008)                                | 111 |
| Fig.177  | New 42 Studios, N Y/ Platt Byard Dovell White Architects        | (Ballard Bell & Rand. 2006:51)   | 112 |
| Fig.179  | SKIN Exploded animation through elevation                       | (The Architect's Journal 7 July 2005:55)                               | 113 |
| Fig. 179 | Cut away isometric of west wall junction                        | (The Architect's Journal 9 January 2003)                               | 113 |
| Fig. 181 | Screen fixing detail, , TFL International headquarters, Preston | (The Architect's Journal 9 January 2003)                               |     |
| Fig.182  | KNOOP power supply diagram                                      | (Author 2008)  | 115 |
| Fig.182  | Model and fan image   | (www.fashion-ation.) (Accessed 26 August 2008)                         | 116 |
| Fig.184  | Smartglass Soundprufe   | (www.smartglass.co.za) (Accessed 26 August 2006)                       | 117 |
| Fig.185  | Multi-level fashion ramp  | (thecoolhunter.net - home8_files) (Accessed 17 May 2008)               | 118 |
|          |   |  |     |



The essence of this dissertation is to explore the synergies between fashion and architecture as visual communicators with the aim to create a place of "orientation" and "identification" for the urban nomad.

In his book Genius Loci – *Towards a Phenomenology in Architecture*, Norberg-Schulz identifies these two functions as the means by which man gives meaning to his environment in order to be at home in this world. Where "orientation" and "identification" are not present in an environment, man feels alienated. (1980:19)

In the first chapter of this document we will assess the real world problem of urban fabric decay in the Hatfield area, where the emptiness of the chosen site has left a void in the landscape. We will explore how this void was not seen as a limitation by the designers, but rather as an opportunity to enhance its possibilities, as it often takes an artist's eye to find beauty in that what seems damaged. The second chapter urges that the arts should be elevated in a developing country such as South Africa in order to assert people with a sense of self worth and belonging.

In chapter three we evaluate the existing urban context in regards to three major influences on site choice: the Gautrain station adjacent to the site, the UP Vision for a Future Urban Campus, and S.T.A.R.T. – the Urban Framework for the Hatfield area that aims at Social Transition through the Activation of Regenerative Techniques.

Chapter four involves a site analysis where care was taken to include the existing natural aspects along with the relevant cultural and historical layers of the site to expose a wardrobe of opportunities in the design for the three schools. To unbutton the potential of a fashion school, an in depth study into the psychology of fashion added further richness to the design. This is discussed in chapter five and leads up to chapter six where parallels are drawn between fashion and architecture.

To draw value from such a discussion, one has to apply the theory to a relevant design challenge. The project envisages a fresh approach to cross-pollination between the arts. In chapter seven and eight the relevance of this approach in South Africa becomes apparent when it is illustrated how a theme such as 'reconstruction' can add value to the urban landscape and in chapter nine the longevity of such a project is questioned and defended with a business and management strategy plan.

Finally CMT (Cut, Make, Trim) is a humoristic play on the fashion industry's process of manufacturing. Chapter ten (Cut) involves the design development, chapter eleven (Make) the functional and spatial design execution and chapter twelve (Trim) the technical investigation.

Throughout the project, KNOOP was not seen in isolation, but as part of a larger design reality with a common thread - that of designing a place for the people.

# introduction





































case studies