



The investigation of the concept of dematerialization as a shift from matter to information is what initiated the theoretical development of this study. This process has a significant impact on the process of spatial design as interior design relies on materiality and the physical realm to manifest. Through the shift of matter to information, valuable spatial qualities are lost and the unique characteristics of the process of the design is diminished, refer to Chapter 1 section 1.2.

Therefore the act of making is reintroduced into the design process to strengthen the unique character of the interior design discipline. The dissertation implements the Research Through Making methodology with the support of proposals made by a preceding project done by Wherry (2015), where a Hybrid Research Strategy was developed, along with new proposals made in this study to develop a parallel making and design process.

This section includes an overview of the work done throughout the study to bring together all the themes discussed in the individual chapters. The final chapter will be a reflection on the observations and reflections of the work done and the objectives that were achieved, and will be written with the support of a diary which was kept throughout the year. The chapter concludes with contributions made by this study as

well as recommendations for further study.

6.1 PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

The structure of Chapter 6 is similar to the final reflections written by Wherry (2015:100) where she brought together and reflected on the whole study of all the themes throughout the separate chapters of the document. The chapter is written as a personal reflection to the entire study.

The style of the writing in the form of a personal reflection allows the reader to gain insight into the theoretical, design and making process, as it is not a linear process as conveyed in the form of the document. Therefore this chapter will follow a similar style to conclude and reflect on the experience and development of the final outcome of the dissertation.

Throughout the course of the study an informal diary was kept to help me document general thoughts as well as the time that was spent on specific activities done. Notes were made at the end of each day and sometimes at the end of a week, where meetings, milestones and activities were noted as well as significant observations or reflections. The thoughts documented, supported reflections that were written for the making process in the document on various occasions, to recall observations made on the day, if they were not documented elsewhere. The diary was used to recall thoughts and the development of the design process which greatly informed the final reflections for this chapter.

At an early stage I reflected on the preceding projects to determine a clear methodology for this project to support the process. Throughout this study I constantly used *Knowing through making* (Wherry, 2015) as a touchstone to be able to determine if the parallel process proposed in this study met the objectives set out in Chapter 1: Introduction, as a reflection on the preceding projects. Because this study is a reflection on previous work done, the outcome had to contribute new knowledge to the Research Through Making process and reflect on the criticism given on the projects, as elaborated in Chapter 2 section 2.3.1.

The structure of *Knowing through making* (Wherry, 2015) also assisted greatly with the structure of the document and allowed me time to focus on the actual application of the methods proposed and tested by Wherry (2015) rather than to spend time developing the methodology.

The approach to material as the initial step in the design process and not as an application to the final outcome, led to an intricate and imaginative spatial understanding of the space in all its manifestations, giving me the insight needed to understand what the user experience would be like and therefore creating opportunity to observe and reflect on the process.

From the start, a good theoretical approach formed the basis for the study to develop from. A clear idea of the material that would be used for this study was also achieved from the beginning of the study. With the clarity of the theory and material, it took a while to find a way to integrate everything into one theme. As I started investigating the concept of dematerialization a clear concept started to develop, allowing opportunity for the methodology, material and space to become interdependent throughout the dissertation. The strong link between the three themes (methodology, material and space) strengthened the proposed parallel process. The intertwined nature allowed for the conventional process and making process to constantly inform one another and develop as one process, refer to Chapter 2 figure 2.3.5 parallel design process and 2.3.6 synthesised design process.

The material chosen in the nature of the Research Through Making methodology, was initially an arbitrary choice, but after the development of the theoretical approach along with the choice of a site and typology, the material choice was strengthened and a significant layer was added to the concept.

Whilst the development of the site and programme and the analysis of the theory, I started intuitively exploring the material to allow myself to gain insight to the possibilities of the paper as early in the study as possible. This process informed the decisions made for the site and programme, which would support the act of making with paper.

If a student chooses to implement the Research Through Making methodology along with the proposed synthesized process, the order of the material and theory, refer to Chapter 2 Section 2.4, could be changed, but ideally the choice of the one should be informed by the other from the beginning to allow for the development of a clear concept. Another extremely important aspect would be to start the making process at the earliest stage of the study, as the nature of this proposed process is based on the significance of the material and the influence it has on the spatial outcome if implemented as a core to the design exploration and spatial development.

From the early stages of the study the material was selected and new knowledge was largely made whereas collected knowledge was used to support the arguments. Because the act of making allows for data to be generated, the integration of the theoretical aspect and the design application of the study is more naturally and successfully integrated, and the final outcome does not seem removed from the theoretical and design explorations.

6.2 CONTRIBUTIONS

This study makes the following contributions:

- + This study contributes new knowledge to the Research Through Making methodology, as it builds on a prior proposal for a hybrid research strategy implemented by Wherry (2015) as part of the MInt (Prof) programme at the University of Pretoria.
- + This study contributes a creative spatial outcome by implementing and improving on the proposed hybrid research strategy.
- + This study contributes to the discipline of interior design as it implements a parallel process which integrates the act of making as well as more conventional spatial design processes, to achieve a creative and integrated spatial outcome.
- + This study contributes to the interior design programme of the Department of Architecture at the University of Pretoria as it creates opportunity for a new parallel design and making process to be implemented which could lead to more creative spatial outcomes.
- + This study contributes to the development of the *cybrid* concept, and the implementation of *cybridity* in a specific typology.
- + This study contributes significant and creative concepts to the proposed future development of the Boukunde architectural archive.
- + This study contributes to the present discussions regarding the impact of dematerialization on the interior design discipline and environments.
- + This study contributes new knowledge regarding the approach to materiality as an initial step in the design development to guide and inform the creative spatial outcome.

6.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

This study makes the following recommendations for further study:

- + The implementation of paper as interior artefact be further investigated to develop the durability of the material as a spatial application.
- + Investigate the spatial impact of pattern and texture as a space defining element.
- + Further explore the spatial possibilities for paper as a material for sustainable interior design solutions.
 - Further develop and strengthen the spatial language of paper as both a temporary and or structural material in the built environment.
- + Explore and develop the generic character for the *cybrid* aesthetic which could accommodate various typologies beyond the archive.
- + Investigate the crafted essence of making, with the support of technology as it has a unique aesthetic language.



6.4 CONCLUSION

The diary contributed significant value to the time management and documentation of thoughts, therefore the use of a diary would be beneficial to any future studies undertaken, and students should as far as possible document thoughts and reflections on a daily basis. The personal reflections of this chapter allows for the reader to gain a better understanding of the actual non-linear process of the study, and the structure of this chapter has the potential to inform and encourage the archiving of student work and the nature of the design processes followed.

This dissertation is concluded with personal reflections of the process. The chapters to follow include the appendix and a list of references where further information can be gathered.