

THE HERITAGE PORTAL

an Experiential Narrative

A rehabilitation project that reawakens mysteries of the past and simultaneously evoke the need to **tell stories about it.**



The Heritage Portal an experiential narrative

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The Site

Westfort, Broekscheur 318-Jr, Pretoria

25°44'04.89"S

28°04'43.01"E

The Client

The Heritage Portal

The Programme

Heritage narration as an event

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Abstract

Hidden in the western outskirts of Pretoria lies the remains of what used to be the protector of the West, known as 'Westfort'. Just before the outbreak of World War II, the fort was dismantled, stripped down for its steel and left to fall into ruin (Van Vollenhoven 1998:25).

This dissertation addresses the ongoing process of ruination and isolation within highly contested continuums of change. By rehabilitating this forgotten ruin, Westfort might awaken mysteries of the past and simultaneously evoke a need to tell stories about it.

The Heritage Portal will act as the mediator in celebrating the continuity of our collective and continuous South African heritage through the experience of narration. The intention of the project is to protect the heritage significance of the Westfort precinct, secure its future value, and introduce continuity through experiential architecture.

KEYWORDS:

Ruination, collective, experiential, rehabilitate, narration, continuity

Samevatting

Versteek in die westelike uithoeke van Pretoria is die oorblyfsels van die voormalige bewaarder van die Weste, vandag bekend as 'Westfort'. Kort voor die Tweede Wêreldoorlog uitgebreek het is die fort gedemonteer, gestroop vir sy staal, en aan totale verval oorgelaat (Van Vollenhoven 1998:25).

Hierdie verhandeling spreek die eindelose proses van ruinasie en isolasie in hoogs bestrede tye van verandering aan. Deur hierdie verlate ruïne te rehabiliteer, kan Westfort moontlik raaisels van die verlede ontbloot en terselfde tyd 'n behoefte skep om stories daarvoor te vertel.

Die Erfenisportaal sal as bemiddelaar optree in die viering van ons gemeenskaplike en deurlopende Suid-Afrikaanse erfenis deur middel van vertelling. Die intensie van die projek is om die geskiedkundige belang van Westfort te beskerm, om sy toekomstige waarde te bevorder, en om kontinuïteit deur die ervaring van argitektuur bekend te stel.

KERNWOORDE:

Ruinasie, kollektiewe, ervaring, rehabiliteer, vertelling, kontinuïteit



Thank you

My person, my husband,
for inspiring me to make the most
of life. I am in awe of your endless
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responsibility of creativity.

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ABSTRACT

LIST OF FIGURES

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The proposed context p.1
- 1.2 The research problem p.3
- 1.3 The research question p.3
- 1.4 Research intentions p.4
- 1.5 Research methodology p.5
- 1.6 Delimitations & assumptions p.5

CHAPTER TWO

CONTEXT

- 2.1 The Fortification of the capital city p.7
- 2.2 The Westfort precinct p.19
- 2.3 The process of ruination p.33
- 2.4 Contextual precedents p.43

CHAPTER THREE

HERITAGE IN THEORY

- 3.1 Heritage perspectives p.52
- 3.2 The identity of Place p.55
- 3.3 Heritage management p.57
- 3.4 Experiential potential p.61
- 3.5 Heritage narration

CHAPTER FOUR

PRECINCT VISION

- 4.1 Pretoria West p.67
- 4.2 Westfort Heritage Village p.69
- 4.3 Beacon of continuity p.75
- 4.4 Project objectives and heritage significance p.77

CHAPTER FIVE

PROGRAMME

- 5.1 Client & participants p.79
- 5.2 Programme requirements p.83
- 5.3 Programmatic precedents p.99

CHAPTER SIX

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

- 6.1 Design vision and intent p.101
- 6.2 Design precedents p.105
- 6.3 Design exploration p.109
- 6.4 Design resolution p.125

CHAPTER SEVEN

TECHNÉ

- 7.1 Tectonic concept p.137
- 7.2 Conservation strategy p.137
- 7.3 Structural systems p.139
- 7.4 Environmental strategies p.143
- 7.5 Technical resolution p.145

CHAPTER EIGHT

RESOLUTION

p.167

CONCLUSION

p.193

REFERENCES

TABLE OF CONTENTS



LIST OF FIGURES

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Figure 1.1

Collage of historical photographs of Westfort as a ruin (Van Vollenhoven:1998:45)

Figure 1.2

Photograph of the entry portal at Westfort taken in 1987 (Van Vollenhoven:1998)

Figure 1.3

Collage of site interpretation (Author:2016)

CHAPTER TWO

CONTEXT

Figure 2.1

Historical map of the capital city indicating the fortification process and the position of Westfort (Author:2016)

Figure 2.2

Fort Schanskop after construction (Van Vollenhoven:1996)

Figure 2.3

Fort Schanskop today (Author:2016)

Figure 2.4

Fort Klapperkop after construction (Van Vollenhoven:1996)

Figure 2.5

Fort Klapperkop today (Author:2016)

Figure 2.6

Fort Wonderboompoort after construction (Van Vollenhoven:1996)

Figure 2.7

Fort Wonderboompoort today (Author:2016)

Figure 2.8

Current map of Tshwane indicating the position of Westfort in relation to its counterparts (Author:2016)

Figure 2.8

Current map of Tshwane indicating the position of Westfort in relation to its counterparts (Author:2016)

Figure 2.10

Fort Daspoortrand in ruination (Van Vollenhoven:1996)

Figure 2.11

Current map of Tshwane indicating the position of Westfort in relation to its counterparts (Author:2016)

Figure 2.12

Locality map of Westfort situated on the western edge of Pretoria (Author:2016)

Figure 2.13

Floor plan of Fort West as commissioned by archaeologist (Van Vollenhoven 1996)

Figure 2.14

Aerial photograph of Fort West (Author 2016)

Figure 2.15

Site analysis of original intent & materials of Westfort (Author 2016)

Figure 2.16

Site documentation of Westfort in its current condition (Author 2016)

Figure 2.17

Patient check-up with doctors on site, 1979 (NASA Archive collection: 2015)

Figure 2.18: One of the patients at Westfort Hospital, 1963 (NASA Archive collection: 2015)

Figure 2.19

A Wedding accompanied by the military orchestra, 1933 (NASA Archive collection: 2015)

Figure 2.20

Patients lying in the sun as part of their daily treatment ritual, 1941 (NASA Archive collection: 2015)

Figure 2.21

Security gate at colored male section, 1945 (NASA Archive collection: 2015)

Figure 2.22

Native male patients section, 1941 (NASA Archive collection: 2015)

Figure 2.23

Westfort Leper institution and self-sustaining village, 1956 (NASA Archive collection: 2015)

Figure 2.24:

Historical map of site development at Westfort (Author:2016)

Figure 2.25

Aerial view of Westfort in its current condition (GIS Department:2016)

Figure 2.26

Sketches from site visits at the Fort (Author 2016)

Figure 2.27

Photograph of entry portal at Westfort in its current condition (Author 2016)

Figure 2.28

Functioning St Mary's hospital complex

(1963) (NASA Archive collection: 2015)

Figure 2.29: Collage of St Mary's hospital complex with current and historic context overlap generated in Honors year as part of site analysis (Author 2015)

Figure 2.30

St Mary's Hospital building in current condition (Author 2016)

Figure 2.31

Aerial view of Westfort precinct (1942) (NASA Archive collection: 2015)

Figure 2.32

Aerial view of Westfort precinct in current condition (Author 2016)

Figure 2.33

Functioning Orthodox Church at Westfort (1952) (NASA Archive collection: 2015)

Figure 2.34

Orthodox Church at Westfort as community hall (Author 2015)

Figure 2.35

Remains of the Orthodox Church at Westfort after a protest action (Swart 2016)

Figure 2.36

Native men patient complex at Westfort (1941) (NASA Archive collection: 2015)

Figure 2.37

Re purposed rondawels for pig farming (Author 2016)

Figure 2.38: Aerial view indicating project site boundaries (Author:2016)

Figure 2.39

Amer Fort complex upon approach from village (Wessels:2016)

Figure 2.40

Map of Jaipur indicating its relationship to the Fort complex (Rajora:2013))

Figure 2.41

Multiple routes up to the Fort complex (Wessels:2016)

Figure 2.42

Circulation and tourist trails (Rajora:2013)

Figure 2.43

Community members from Genadendal (Roos:2008)

Figure 2.44

Elevations and plans of original built fabric (Roos:2008)

Figure 2.45

Restoration and construction by community members (Roos:2008)

Figure 2.46

Restoration of local cottage (Roos:2008)

Figure 2.47

Pilgrims gathering around the church of St George (Davey 2010)

Figure 2.48

Section indicating the visibility planes (Ching 2007:113)

Figure 2.49

Exterior Facade two churches (Zamani Project :2011)

Figure 2.50

Temporary roof structure for protection (Grace et al 1967: 23)

Figure 2.51

Elevation of two churches (Zamani Project :2011)

Figure 2.52

Section indicating the visibility planes (Ching 2007:113)

Figure 2.53

Potential strategies for the Westfort precinct as one holistic entity (Author 2016)

CHAPTER THREE

HERITAGE IN THEORY

Figure 3:1

Contested heritage monuments in recent protest action (THE TIMES 2015)

Figure 3.2

Collage of fragmented heritage artefacts within the inner city of Pretoria (Author 2016)

Figure 3.3

Diagram of the collective memory of place as the point of origin for the documentation of our collective history (Author 2016)

Figure 3.4

Diagram adapted from Leach (2002) to illustrate the concept of 'Place Identity' (Author 2016)

Figure 3.5

Different determinants that influence the individual's relationship on to place (Cross 2001:3)

Figure 3.6

Diagrammatic illustration of the Fort in its current state and the possible transformation in a new state of existence (Author 2016)

Figure 3.7

Intuitive drawing of the spatial journey to the Fort (Author 2016)

Figure 3.8

Exploration of theory to understand the potential of heritage narration (Author 2016)

CHAPTER FOUR

PRECINCT VISION

Figure 4.1

Precinct vision diagrams illustrating the potential strategy of the design interventions (Author 2016)

Figure 4.2

Four integral action points as suggested by Nabeel Hamdi in project planning (Hamdi 2010)

Figure 4.3

Collage of possible community integrated projects that encourages equal participation (Author 2016)

Figure 4.4

Conceptual exploration of integration possibilities between the Fort and the Village (Author 2016)

Figure 4.5

Conceptual master plan indicating the programmatic possibilities (Author 2016)

Figure 4.6

Proposed main access points and routes at Westfort (Author 2016)

Figure 4.7

Metaphysical comparison between the typology of a lighthouse and a fort (Author 2016)

Figure 4.8

Conceptual collage of Westfort, inspired by the lighthouse metaphor as a beacon of continuity and belonging (Author 2016)

CHAPTER FIVE
PROGRAMME

Figure 5.1

Map of South Africa indicating the 8 UNESCO World heritage sites and the distribution of heritage communities across Gauteng (Author 2016)

Figure 5.2

Proposed masterplan for the Westfort heritage village (Author:2016)

Figure 5.3

Diagram of stakeholder involvement throughout the program (Author 2016)

Figure 5.4

Proposed sequence of events at Westfort heritage village (Author:2016)

Figure 5.5

Allocation of event one at Westfort heritage village (Author:2016)

Figure 5.6

Allocation of event two at Westfort heritage village (Author:2016)

Figure 5.7

Allocation of event three at Westfort heritage village (Author:2016)

Figure 5.8

Allocation of event four at Westfort heritage village (Author:2016)

Figure 5.9

Allocation of event five at Westfort heritage village (Author:2016)

Figure 5.10

Spatial exploration of programmatic requirements (Author 2016)

Figure 5.11

First design explorations of programmatic requirements (Author 2016)

Figure 5.12

Elevated view of Freedom Park (Young: 2008)

Figure 5.13

Section and floor site plan of design (Young:2008)

Figure 5.14

Elevated views of the circulation routes and landscape integrated events (Young:2008)

CHAPTER SIX
**DESIGN
DEVELOPMENT**

Figure 6.1

Conceptual exploration of spatial and architectural intent on plan (Author 2016)

Figure 6.2

Conceptual summary of the design response (Author 2016)

Figure 6.3

Analysis of the original spatial and architectural intent of the Fort as constructed in 1898 (Author 2016)

Figure 6.4

Newly constructed south wall with corten steel (Török 2012)

Figure 6.5

Reconstruction of original palace with new foundations and walls (Török 2012)

Figure 6.6

Viewpoint overlooking the surrounding city (Török 2012)

Figure 6.7

New walkways to separate old from new (Török 2012)

Figure 6.8

Interior view of museum corridor (MITLibraries:2016)

Figure 6.9

Construction additions (<http://mela.iuav.it>)

Figure 6.10

Entrance additions celebrating old and new (Stavroulaki:2003)

Figure 6.11

Plan of Castelvecchio (Stavroulaki:2003)

Figure 6.12

Different angles and modes of viewing art (Stavroulaki:2003)

Figure 6.13

Surrounding views from western edge of the Fort (Author 2016)

Figure 6.14

Model and analyses of the existing conditions of the Fort and potential interventions (Author 2016)

Figure 6.15

Southern Elevation of ridge upon approach (Author 2016)

Figure 6.16

A series of events visible with subtle beacons in the landscape (Author 2016)

Figure 6.17

Early design exploration of site integration and different approaches (Author 2016)

Figure 6.18

Site plan development (Author 2016)

Figure 6.19

Proposed site plan of the Heritage Portal (Author:2016)

Figure 6.20

First model exploration to understand spatial arrangement (Author 2016)

Figure 6.21

Early layout and planning explorations (Author 2016)

Figure 6.22

Model exploration of iteration two (Author 2016)

Figure 6.23

Design development of layout exploration two (Author 2016)

Figure 6.24

Circulation alterations through site according to specific requirements of events (Author 2016)

Figure 6.25

Model exploration to finalize spatial arrangements (Author 2016)

Figure 6.26

Design plan development (Author 2016)

Figure 6.27

Section exploration of new research addition (Author 2016)

Figure 6.28

Plan development of research addition (Author 2016)

Figure 6.29

Section exploration of new library and documentation addition (Author 2016)

Figure 6.30

Plan development of library and documentation addition (Author 2016)

Figure 6.31

Section exploration of new restaurant addition (Author 2016)

Figure 6.32

Plan development of restaurant addition (Author 2016)

Figure 6.33

Plan development of new exhibition and events additions (Author 2016)

Figure 6.34

Section exploration of new exhibition and story telling additions (Author 2016)

Figure 6.35

Plan development of the top floor levels of the Fort (Author 2016)

CHAPTER SEVEN
TECHNÉ

Figure 7.1

Conceptual collage of tectonic approach (Author 2016)

Figure 7.2

Extrusion of all Structural systems at the Fort (Author 2016)

Figure 7.3

Exploration of the material application (Author 2016)

Figure 7.4

Existing and proposed material palette (Author 2016)

Figure 7.5

Proposed water and energy conservation strategies at the Heritage portal (Author:2016)

Figure 7.6

Diagrammatic exploration of natural light as a spatial agent (Author 2016)

Figure 7.7

Daylight simulations to test the desired daylight requirements (Author:2016)

Figure 7.8

Detailed section development of courtyard and exhibition rooms (Author:2016)

Figure 7.9

Detail exploration temporary roof structure (Author:2016)

Figure 7.10

Detail illustration of new exhibition rooms (Author:2016)

Figure 7.11

Detail resolution of the copper roof construction (Author:2016)

Figure 7.12

Detail exploration of elevated walkways (Author:2016)

Figure 7.13

Detail resolution of elevated walkways (Author:2016)

Figure 7.14

Detail section of the beacon of hope (Author:2016)

Figure 7.15

Detail exploration of the beacons (Author:2016)

Figure 7.16

Detail resolution of the beacons (Author:2016)

CHAPTER EIGHT
RESOLUTION

Figure 8.1

Proposed site plan of the Heritage Portal (Author:2016)

Figure 8.2

Final plan of the Portal research and validation event (Author:2016)

Figure 8.3

Section of the Portal research and validation event (Author:2016)

Figure 8.4

Final plan of the Portal library and documentation event (Author:2016)

Figure 8.5

Section of the Portal library and documentation event (Author:2016)

Figure 8.6

Final plan of the Portal restaurant (Author:2016)

Figure 8.7

Section of the Portal restaurant (Author:2016)

Figure 8.8

Final plan of the Heritage Portal exhibition and storytelling additions (Author:2016)

Figure 8.9

Final plan of the elevated viewing platforms (Author:2016)

Figure 8.10

Model building process (Author:2016)

Figure 8.11

Final context model built to scale 1:200 (Author:2016)

Figure 8.12

Final presentation (Author:2016)

Figure 8.13

Night view of the Fort as a beacon of continuity (Author:2016)

CONCLUSION

Figure 9.1

First conceptual model of the Fort as a beacon of continuity and belonging (Author 2016)