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CONCLUSIONS

"The longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes. If you foolishly ignore beauty, you will soon find yourself without it. Your life will be impoverished. But if you invest in beauty, it will remain with you all the days of your life."

Frank Lloyd Wright



The intention of this dissertation is to test if architecture in form, functional and technology can aid in the conservation of nature reserves that are at risk of losing their historical and ecological significance in the urban context of Tshwane. The dissertation set out to analyse, investigate and identify the challenges associated with these natural enclaves and propose an architectural solution to counter the challenges of these less-defined landscapes in terms of the wilderness nature and the loss in significance they are experiencing due to little to no interaction.

The dissertation focused its investigation and architectural intervention on the WNR and tested the argument that resulted in a conservation facility. The conservation facility was developed from the argument that stated that architecture can be utilized in the in-between of nature and urban to act as conservator for nature reserves.

The dissertation identified architecture on the three elements of form, function and technology and developed these elements individually by means of architectural theories or structured approaches. Two of the three elements were assigned theoretical approaches based on the nature of the challenge they were intended to address. Form, in terms of the historical significance conservation considered Herman Herzberger's theory on hospitable form and function in terms of the ecological conservation considering the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity approach. The third, technology, was considered to complete the architecture in making the building functional to achieve its objective in acting as conservator. These three elements combined formed a synergy of architecture that not only produced a space of productive use but also aids the nature reserve in defining the landscape and protecting the significance of site's ecology and history.

The argument in terms of structure was implemented successfully and an architectural intervention was developed to act as conservator. In structuring the architecture under the elements of form, function and technology the dissertation succeeded in its objective to create an architecture that can define and make the WNR more relevant for the surrounding urban environment.

In terms of the general research questions that asked if architecture can redefine the edge, how does the architecture do this and if it is possible for architecture to aid in significance conservation, it can be concluded that architecture can achieve these and the design proves this as a case study. The research question regarding the destruction or deterioration of the nature reserve is subjective and each reader will conclude with their own opinion. The objectives as stated in chapter 1 have been met. An architecture was structured in the in-between, the importance of place significance was achieved by the resolution and a contribution in terms of possibly how architecture can handle the relationship between urban and nature was made.

Further research in terms of the dissertation's investigation can be considered on how Herman Herzberger's theory can be applied. The approach on how the dissertation was structured can be utilized, altered and applied on other contextual challenges within the South African landscape to see if architecture will be possible to assist in more complex contextual problems.

According to the results and resolution of the design, the investigation to test if architecture can aid in contextual conservation was successful. An in-depth analysis and contextual understanding architecture in terms of form, function and technology will be able to aid in the conservation of nature reserves.

Fig_251 (Left): Nunzio Paci painting 2 (Designwrlld, 2015).