



09

Conclusion

Figure 8.1 Western edge of Pretoria City Hall (Hoffman 2017)



Conclusion

The dissertation was a commentary on architecture's role in democratic society and its use as a tool in the creation of public space. The main intention was to provide the public with equal opportunity for expression and interaction at micro and macro scales. Through the investigation, it became evident that, to be successful, architecture of a political nature ought to be able to adapt in order to respond to the requirements of our changing political climate. By doing so, it is possible to add value to the political climate through the interpretation and representation of the tangible and intangible aspects of the past and present climates in architecture.

By using Pretoria City Hall, a building representative of a past regime, as the canvas for the

dissertation a unique opportunity to designing in the political realm was created.

The dissertation attempts to create an architecture that is able to respond to the changing political climate and provide a foundation from which the public is able to engage with. The responsiveness of the architecture to the political climate aids in the creation of an architecture that is legible through time and addresses identity, ideals and the individual. Furthermore, the dissertation attempts to represent political power through the activation of the public's voice by strengthening architecture's role in its facilitation of the democratic process of debate. The architecture does not act as the political voice but rather acts as the megaphone from which the

public's voice may be heard.

Throughout the design process and the realization of the scheme one constant in the political landscape was unearthed and identified as an important characteristic of our democratic society; Debate. Democracy cannot happen when there is complete agreement. Debate is needed for democracy to be successful and develop at the same rate as society. Through the act of protest the South African public has been able to express their distrust –with the way the country is managed. The dissertation therefore supports society's debate with the political powers and argues that in order for there to be change, our architecture needs to act as the release valve whereby debate is facilitated.

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