CHAPTER *8*

CLOSING

8.1_CONCLUSION

The intention of this dissertation was to question the condition of lost space associated with infrastructural space within our urban environments. This was developed by understanding how cities have developed over the past century and what ideals and ideologies were followed to give expression to this spatial condition. This led to the investigation of place making theories and the role architectural design can have to re-establish place.

The lost space/s along the railway line in Doornfontein, Johannesburg was studied by interpreting the theoretical studies done on the formation of lost space along with the theories relating to the qualities associated with good public places. The railway line was identified as the first infrastructural device that forms a distinct barrier within the context. The analyses found that the condition of lost space along the railway line is a result of a multitude of factors and events over time. This has led to physical, movement, social and ecological barriers within the context that are caused by the lack of integration between the infrastructural space and architectural space. The study concluded by highlighting the need to establish a relationship between infrastructural and

architectural space within the context to allow for evolve and adapt qualities associated with good public space. A library is proposed for the site to function as a pragmatic device between the train station and the existing school on site.

The project primarily focussed on the accessibility of the context and the integration of open spatial systems. This was done by understanding place from an ecological lens, investigating regenerative theory and the principles of evolution and change. Kevin Lynch's theories on the image of the environment were also used as conceptual informants to develop the design. The proposed Architecture establishes a new relationship between the infrastructure and its context by creating a series of edges, paths and planes to establish legible connections within the context.

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