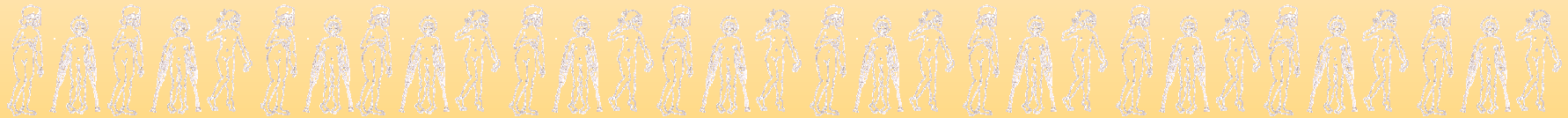




UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

PLAY REHAB

A Rehabilitation Centre for Children with
Cerebral Palsy



Jaco Botha 99136733

Masters of Architecture (Professional)

University of Pretoria

Jaco Botha 99136733

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Study Leader: C. Karusseit and M. Viljoen

ABSTRACT

A Rehabilitation centre for children with cerebral palsy is the proposed project undertaken in this dissertation.

This theme was chosen after the author had been involved with New Hope School in fundraising projects for the past 3 years. The author recognized the need of a dedicated rehabilitation facility for children with cerebral palsy as well as better accommodation for rehabilitation purposes.

Spending time with cerebral palsied children, the need for basic education becomes evident. Over protectiveness from parents could prevent these children from sensory experiences, which can only be evolved through touching, smelling, seeing hearing and tasting.

This early childhood experience of sensory development usually involves play. Play is the ultimate form of exploration for any child and when disabled, free play is usually non-associative with everyday activities. Without free play, children will have a handicap in natural development of social, mental, physical and sensory skills. Through harmless play, even a lion cub learns to become a hunter.

The aim of this project would be to create a center where play would be used to rehabilitate children with cerebral palsy. New Hope School is situated in the Menlopark area, Pretoria. The proposed site for the rehabilitation centre would be consolidated to the north western corner of the existing school grounds and thus engaging this project as an addition to the existing New Hope School.

The architecture used, should be of simplistic nature which merges the interiors of the building with nature. By achieving this, the children would get a basic form of sensory development while rehabilitating in the building.

"All consciousness is perceptual...The perceived world is the always presupposed foundation of all rationality, all value and all existence."- (Maurice Merleau-Ponty Quote)

"our perceived experience of interior and exterior architectural space is primarily a sensual event involving movement" - (tom porter, 1997:26)

"...architecture has to be experienced by all the senses, rather than just sight. The visual image may provide us with pictorial information, yet beauty is never skin deep." -(Papanek, 1995:76)



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CONCLUSION

The author attempted a technique to rehabilitate the first phase of basic education lost by disabled children because of their inability and freedom to explore. This basic education form part of sensory development which involve the act of play. The stimulation of senses would bring the child in touch with his/her body and would help the whole rehabilitation process that includes the physical and mental phases of rehabilitation.

The author do think that this above mentioned aim where achieved in the project undertaken.

However, this project could become much more in time. After a proper evaluation of the finalized project, it has become evident that the approach taken for the architecture was a materialistic style. The element of fantasy could have been brought into the concept, final design and detailing.

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