PLAY REHAB
A Rehabilitation Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy

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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. Overprotectiveness 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)
# THE PROBLEM AND ITS SETTING

1. **Introduction**
2. **Problem statement**
3. **The project**
4. **Project brief**
5. **Design objectives**
6. **What is Cerebral Palsy?**
7. **Relevance to design**
8. **Causes of Cerebral Palsy**

# CONTEXT STUDY & SITE ANALYSIS

1. **Introduction**
2. **Macro site**
3. **Micro site**
4. **Physical context**

# PRECEDENT STUDIES

1. **Introduction**
2. **Philosophy for rehabilitation of people with Cerebral Palsy**
3. **Accommodation and functional layout of rehabilitation for people with Cerebral Palsy**
4. **Spaces for children**
5. **Architectural approach**

# THEORETICAL APPROACH

1. **Introduction**
2. **The human experience**
3. **Cerebral Palsy and environmental perception**
4. **Movement and perception**
5. **Movement in buildings**
6. **Design principles**
7. **Spatial framework**

# DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

1. **Introduction**
2. **Site constraints and opportunities**
3. **Movement, access & security**
4. **Manipulation of Waterkloof spruit 100 year flood line**
5. **Design proposal for Waterkloof spruit**
6. **Main entrance**
7. **Care centre and consulting rooms entrance**
8. **Specialized play room**
9. **Lounge**
10. **Open plan kitchen**
11. **Care rooms**
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

6  TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1 Introduction</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2 Accessibility, movement and functionality</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3 Entrance</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4 Restaurant area</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5 Kitchen</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.6 Office Area</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.7 Pool Area</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.8 Physical therapy</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.9 Play area</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.10 Consulting rooms</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.11 Care rooms</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.12 Bathrooms</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.13 Materials</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.14 Finishing schedule</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7  TECHNICAL DRAWINGS                         111

8  APPENDIXES                                 155

8  REFERENCES                                 158
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 were 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.
9. REFERENCES
Figure 58. Schematic representation of River filed Lodge. The use of green spaces between the buildings create a quiet and relaxing atmosphere for patients.

Figure 59. Dark room therapy

Figure 60. Play room therapy

Figure 61. Hydro therapy pool

Figure 62. Image from Shukodai park

Figure 63. Image from Shukodai park

Figure 64. Image from Shukodai park

Figure 65. Playground image from world wide web

Figure 66. Playground image from world wide web

Figure 67. Rainwater down pipe detail

Figure 68. Roof and gutter detail

Figure 69. North western elevation

Figure 70. Roof detail

Figure 71. Large glass façade and restaurant area

Figure 72. View towards restaurant area

Figure 73. Dining area

Figure 74. Plan of pavilion

Figure 75. Steel column in building

Figure 76. Elevation over pond

Figure 77. Steel column and glass facade

Figure 78. Images garden pavilion

Figure 79. View of interior detail

Figure 80. Images of garden pavilion

Figure 81. Images of textures from tea pavilion

THEORETICAL APPROACH

Figure 82. First concept sketch

Figure 83. play through touch

Figure 84. Difficulty of movement

Figure 85. Accessibility in buildings should aim to be the same for both able and disabled people

Figure 86. Typical situation to be avoided in buildings

Figure 87. Movement

Figure 88. Order

Figure 89. Direction

Figure 90. Proportional system

Figure 91. Balance

Figure 92. Skylight indicate the direction of movement

Figure 93. Concept of economical movement

Figure 94. Visual experience of disabled person

Figure 95. Figure ground model: the ambiguity of this reversible figure underlines the concept of space as a dynamic presence; the architect’s eye; 1997

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Figure 96. Conceptual design development of site plan

Figure 97. Conceptual design development of site plan

Figure 98. Pedestrian gate way from 26th & Cecilia road

Figure 99. Waterkloof spruit

Figure 100. Arial photograph of Waterkloof spruit surrounding the proposed site

Figure 101. Concept section of manipulation of flood line

Figure 102. Section of gabion wall

Figure 103. Concept sketches of main entrance

Figure 104. Concept sketches of specialized play area
THE PROBLEM AND ITS SETTINGS
Figure 1. Location of site
Figure 2. Life Healthcare logo
Figure 3. New Hope School logo
Figure 4. United Cerebral Palsy logo
Figure 5. Gauteng context map
Figure 6. 20 km radius map
Figure 7. 2 km radius map
Figure 8, 9 & 10. Visual identification of children with Cerebral Palsy
Figure 11, 12 & 13. Illustrations from Cerebral Palsy brochure, Life health 2009

CONTEXT STUDY & SITE ANALYSIS
Figure 14. Arial photo indicating the micro and macro site, Google earth map
Figure 15. 2 km study area context map
Figure 16. Existing economical node map, www.streetmap.co.za
Figure 17. City-wide context map.
Figure 18. Faerie glen nature reserve
Figure 19. Menlo park high school
Figure 20. Wilgers Hospital
Figure 21. Virgin Active Menlyn
Figure 22. Fearie glen Hospital
Figure 23. Menlyn Maine

Figure 24. Menlyn Mercedes garage
Figure 25. PWC building
Figure 26. Menlyn BMW garage
Figure 27. Menlyn shopping centre
Figure 28. RMB offices
Figure 29. View towards the west from N1, Atterbury road offramp
Figure 30. New Investec offices
Figure 31. City town lodge, Atterbury road
Figure 32. Attitude office park, Atterbury road
Figure 33. BOE building, Atterbury road
Figure 34. Movement map for macro site
Figure 35. Charles street link between Pretoria East and the inner city
Figure 36. 200 m radius map of project area
Figure 37. Photo of entrance of New Hope School
Figure 38. Photo of Waterkloof spruit
Figure 39. New Hope School sport grounds
Figure 40. Accommodation diagram of micro site
Figure 41. View towards main entrance gate of New Hope School

Figure 42. Main entrance of New Hope School building
Figure 43. View towards existing New Hope School transport parking area
Figure 44. Existing bridge over Waterkloof spruit on interior road towards sport grounds
Figure 45. Road towards sport grounds
Figure 46. Waterkloof spruit
Figure 47. Proposed site photo.
Figure 48. Proposed site photo
Figure 49. Proposed site photo
Figure 50. Proposed site photo
Figure 51. Movement diagrams of proposed site.
Figure 52. Penetrating angles of the sun
Figure 53. Sun solstice

PRECEDENT STUDIES
Figure 54. Precedent studies compilation
Figure 55. Play ground image, little school
Figure 56. Play ground image, little school 2
Figure 57. Green areas between walkways and buildings
TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION

Figure 105. Walkway surfaces
Figure 106. Walkway surfaces
Figure 107. Walkway surfaces
Figure 108. Bath with turn chair
Figure 109. No step in shower, enough space for shower chair
Figure 110. Grab rail for toilet layout