

THINKING

A Wind Development Centre in Central Pretoria

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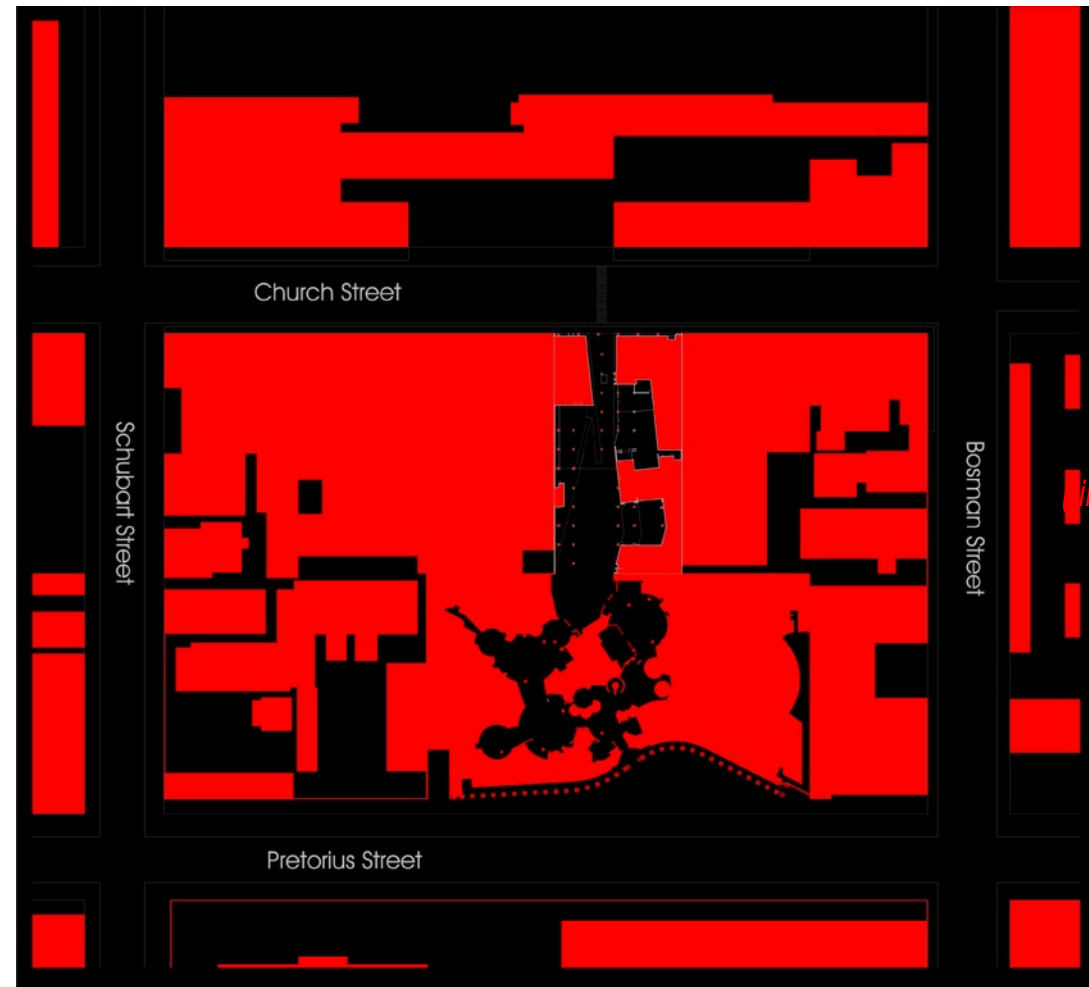
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Submitted as part of the requirements for the degree of Magister in Architecture (Professional) M.Arch(Prof) in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, University of Pretoria.

November 2004.

TRIPLEX

A Mixed-Development Corridor in Central Pretoria



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Opsomming

In hierdie studie word 'n ondersoek gedoen na die ontwerp van 'n Sentrum vir Verstandelike Ontwikkeling in die middestad van Pretoria.

Die navorsingsprosesse resultate in die velde van die menslike brein en verstand word ondersoek. Onderzoek word ook gedoen na die wyses waardeur denke en verstandelike funksie verbeter kan word.

Die ontwerp van 'n sentrum waar navorsing oor die verstand gedoen en inligting rakende die veld versprei

word, moet gelei word deur die faktore wat 'n invloed het op denke en meta-denke.

Historiese denkmodelle rakende denke speel 'n belangrike rol in ons bestaande uitkyke en opvattinge oor die werking van die verstand. Hierdie denkmodelle word kortliks bespreek ten einde 'n meer byderwetse en toepaslike denkmodel daar te stel.

'n Multi-dissiplinêre benadering is 'n voorvereiste vir 'n studie van hierdie aard, daarom word uiteenlopende velde soos populêre sielkunde, omgewings-sielkunde,

opvoeding, gesondheid, neurologie, volhoubaarheid en sosiale heropbou ondersoek.

Die uitgangspunt van die studie is dat denkvaardighede aangeleer en ontwikkel kan word. Alhoewel verskillende mense verskillende vermoëns en aanlegte sal hê, is dit in die belang van die individu en die samelewing dat hierdie vaardighede tot 'n hoë vlak ontwikkel word oor 'n breë snit van die samelewing. Die bou-omgewing lewer 'n belangrike bydrae tot hierdie proses en toepaslike ontwerp kan die taak aanhelp en vergemaklik.

Summary

This dissertation investigates the requirements and design of a Mind Development Centre in the Pretoria Central Business District.

The investigation touches upon the research done into the human mind and brain and the ways in which it can be improved and supported.

Environmental factors that influence thinking and meta-thinking is investigated and applied in the design of a centre where research of the mind can be conducted

and where knowledge gained can be disseminated.

Historical paradigms about thinking play an important part in understanding the way one thinks about thinking. These are briefly discussed and the examination arrives at a contemporary and more appropriate theory of thinking and mind.

Fields touched upon in this investigation include popular psychology, environmental psychology, education, health and fitness, neurology, sustainability issues and social reconstruction.

The history and context of the site is examined in

order to design a building that not only responds to its environment, but serves to project the principles it embodies its direct surrounding area.

The normative position throughout the investigation is that thinking is a skill that can be taught and developed. It is accessible to all, but, like physical prowess, some might display a greater proficiency or natural aptitude. It is considered to be in the best interest of individuals and society alike that thinking skills be raised among as broad a base as possible. Through its influence on thinking, the built environment and appropriate design can contribute to this task.

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Introduction

This study consists of several components that together serve to illustrate the design of a Mind Development Centre.

The issues considered and decisions taken have cross-influences one another. Because of this, the contents of the divisions are not clearly delimited. Each investigates the problem from a different perspective, though.

Being smaller wholes contributing to a larger whole, the chapters can be read independently and order is not critical. The argument does unfold more logically, however, if the text is read sequentially. The Design Discussion in particular would be easier to follow after

reading the other chapters.

The Design Discussion presents design considerations, technical considerations and precedent studies as parallel text. Here different approaches are recommended for reading the text.

If the purpose is to obtain an overview of the work, reading the individual text streams would be preferable. Where particular aspects are considered, however, it is recommended that the reader follow the information as presented in the layout.

The design presented in this study makes use of conventional construction techniques. The functions accommodated are not unusual as such. In other

respects, forms might seem unusual or uncomfortable.

If the prevalent mode of thinking were completely incorrect, all convention would need to be abolished. If the current paradigm was completely correct on the other hand. Existing solutions and approaches would have resulted in the best outcomes.

The attempt was made to provide a solution that embraces what is useful in conventional approaches, but challenge that which inhibits the mind, both functionally and symbolically.