

## 100 PROJECT INFO

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## **A\_The Brief**

### **1\_Point of Departure:**

To design a building that would be a container for a centre for dance in the Pretoria CBD. The thesis also attempts to explore ways to regenerate the chosen site and study area in order for the area to become a destination.

The primary goal is to design a centre for the study of the art of dance. The centre will be situated in the Pretoria CBD, opposite the State Theatre, to the south of Pretorius Street.

### **2\_Approach:**

The thesis explores the theories of legible, cohesive environments where functions found in an environment can complement and feed off one another. It will inquire into the methods used to visually communicate ideas and notions so that the particular environment chosen as site and study area can be read and understood by its users. The thesis will therefore aim at generating an understanding of the study area so as to identify the issues that place constraints on the proposed State Theatre Centre for Dance, and in turn recognize the opportunities that the area holds.

### **3\_Project aims and objectives:**

To link with the South African State Theatre complex and by doing so, to strengthen the presence of the institution within the city of Pretoria. The centre will form an annex to the South African State Theatre.

To visually communicate itself as a centre for dance and, by doing so, to create a focal point / landmark of regenerated city space.

To strengthen the presence and awareness of the art of movement within the city in order to become a platform for social upliftment.

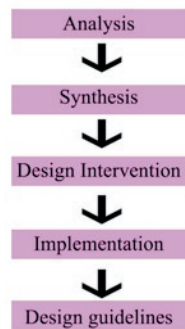
To promote a relationship between the pedestrian and the centre for dance by creating a “destination” building that is accessible to all city users.

The proposal is aimed at communicating a strong message of regeneration and social potency by avoiding ingratiating gestures to ‘blend’ with surrounding buildings.



## B\_The Methodology

The thesis is to pursue the systems approach to problem solving:



The analysis segment will focus on understanding the context and study area for the State Theatre Dance Centre. Following the analysis, the synthesis stage will be the conclusion to the analysis so as to determine what would need to be implemented, on a larger scale, within the study area and context for the proposed project to have maximum positive effect on its surrounding environment.

The design intervention will follow as a response to the information obtained in the study of the context. In response to this study, the proposed intervention is anticipated to be an appropriate one. The design intervention will be followed by the implementation stage where the responsibilities for the project to be realized successfully, will be investigated.

The design guidelines will then aim to identify all the necessary elements for the design intervention to work.



## C\_Performance Criteria

### The needs of the city and its users:

The city of Pretoria once housed the most prestigious theatre in the country, the South African State Theatre. The Theatre established Pretoria as the cultural capital of South Africa. After the rise and fall of the State Theatre, the companies within the institution that formed the lifeblood of the Theatre slowly departed, some even leaving the city. Johannesburg, particularly Newtown, has in recent years been established as a cultural precinct and is today regarded as the home of arts and culture.

The State Theatre is still struggling to return to its former glory and can only do this by being recharged with its lifeblood: the companies that produce the arts.

There is no reason why any one city should be the cultural capital of the country. It is in every city's interest to express its richness through the means that the arts offer.

The needs of the city and its users identified by this thesis for exploration are:

- Ways of assisting the regeneration of the South African State Theatre within the city of Pretoria.
- Communicating the arts within the city of Pretoria so that the city will be perceived as culturally rich.

For the proposal that this thesis will produce, the current environment surrounding the Theatre will be carefully investigated. This investigation aims to identify how the Theatre ties into the larger city context, as well as how the environment needs to be adjusted in order for the proposed project to have maximum effect.



## D\_The Programme

### 1\_The purpose of the programme:

The vehicle for the thesis has been identified as the State Theatre Centre of Dance. The programme for any project identifies the needs of the users, that are to be satisfied. The programme is therefore the context- and site specific needs of the environment.

### 2\_The elements of the programme:

- 4 medium multi-use dance studios (private)
- change rooms (male and female, incl. lockers and showers) (private)
- therapy rooms x 2 (private)
- conference / classrooms x 2 (private)
- library and student / staff lounge (private)
- canteen / cafeteria (private)
- entrance foyer / lobby (semi-public)
- reception and waiting room (semi-public)
- toilets (semi-public)
- ground-floor gallery (semi-public)
- landscaped public / pedestrian walk-through (public)
- retail strip against adjacent building to feed onto walk-through (public)

The thesis aims to identify the needs of the context and, through the context analysis, recognize areas within the study area in need of remedy. Within the study area, Strijdom Square has been identified as having a major impact on the chosen site as it is one of the largest and most important squares in the CBD. Therefore the Square as well as its surrounding buildings will be analyzed in terms of their impact and how poor areas and aspects can be remedied. The analysis also aims to recognize those areas that are currently functioning well and how these areas could be conserved.

