High Street Abattoir

A New Interface for Architecture of Industry Mediated Through a Public Abattoir
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University of Pretoria

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BUILDING

Address: Eerste Fabrique Station Precinct
Function: Bovine Abattoir
Research Field: Environmental Potential
DISCOVERY

This dissertation follows a path of discovery starting with one problem and unearthing the next in the pursuit of a solution. The dissertation begins by identifying the static nature of industrial architecture and from there follows a series of investigations which finally leads to the selection of a site and the generation of a program. The chosen site is in Mamelodi at the Eerste Fabrieke Station on the site of the old distillery and Consol Glass Works, dating back to 1890. The programme is an abattoir within the proposed new urban framework by GAPP. An abattoir in the context of a high street will test the hypothesis of a new interface between industry and the public realm on an acute level. The resulting design will attempt to develop a new interface for architecture of industry for even the most gruesome of processes.

The sun is high up in the sky and I’m in my car
Drifting down into the abattoir
Do you see what I see dear?
The air grows heavy, I listen to your breath
Entwined together in this culture of death
Do you see what I see dear?
Mass extinction, darling, hypocrisy
These things are not good for me
Do you see what I see dear?

Lyrics from “Abattoir Blues” by Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds
20 September 2004
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