

PRECEDE



005

NT STUDIES

International H2 and Local H2

- > Idea Store
- > Laban Centre
- > Nelson Mandela Interpretation Centre
- > Velocity Films



PROJECT_ _Idea Store,
Community Library

LOCATION_ _Whitechapel
London
UK

ARCHITECTS_ _Adjaye and Associates

COMPLETED_ _2005

"I'm telling you, films like Minority Report, you know, with those interactive environments, where billboards know your name and you can play on those glass screens. They're coming."

David Adjaye

>Description_

The concept of the Idea Store is to make information accessible to the local community. The building is wrapped in glass, taking its scale from surrounding civic functions. Its colourful character is borrowed from the small shops and market stalls of Whitechapel Road, which anchor the building to its context.

The Idea Store is both civil and inclusive, iconic and contextual, but most of all it is loved by its users. The civic identity comes from its height and the boldness of the facade. It is situated in the heart of the community it serves.

Two entrances serve the ground floor, which also accommodates a video store, childrens library and café. The café extends to the first floor and serves to attract users to the other levels. A semi-enclosed escalator is sheltered behind the suspended glass facade and provides access to the first and second levels. The facade also protects the inner skin from overheating during summer, using vents to expel hot air.





Laminated timber beams stiffen the external walls, and support bookshelves, work surfaces and storage in a variety of positions throughout the building.

The Idea Store is a re-branding exercise of what a library essentially is. Mixed activities support its main function. These include, amongst others, a nursery, dance studio, seminar spaces, internet facilities, an external deck and physiotherapy classrooms.

>Influence on dissertation_

The context of informal market stalls underneath the awnings of existing buildings informs the proposed design, as well as the use of coloured translucent panels to reflect the existing surroundings.

A multi-functional approach aims to accommodate the widest possible range of users, without discarding the main function of the design. This is equally true for the precedent and the proposed new building. A cafeteria situated on the ground floor serves passers-by, thus acting as a destination for people from the street.



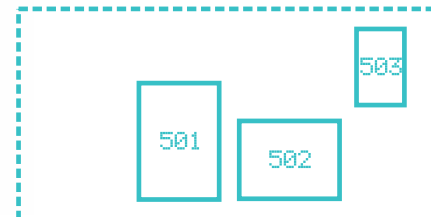
5.04



ground floor plan

>Materials_

- _Glazed interlayered panels
- _Steel members
- _Cast-in-situ concrete





PROJECT_ _Laban Centre,
Dance Studios

LOCATION_ _Lewisham
London

ARCHITECTS_ _Herzog & de Meuron

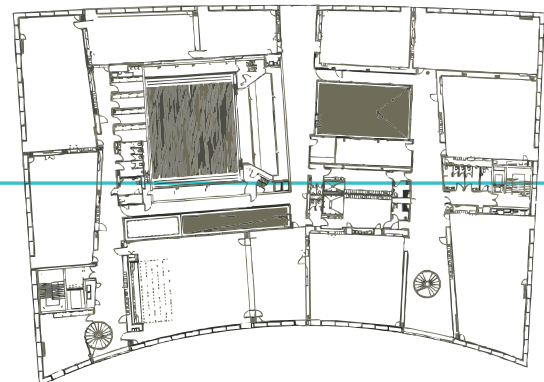
COMPLETED_ _2003

>Description_

The Laban Centre is located in a post-industrial landscape that is devoid of existing civic-scaled amenities. It is bleak suburbia found inside the city, inhabited by poor minorities and working class communities. In addition, the existing transport infrastructure is inadequate (Abache, L. 2003).

Herzog & de Meuron made use of the industrial heritage of the area to "...awaken a latent urbanity in an act where the 'Post-' could stand for transformation rather than... decay..." []. With its physical presence and committed programme, the new building becomes a catalyst for revitalisation, by attracting outside interest and investment to the area (Abache, L. 2003).

The building is organized around two parallel flanks. The main, public entrance is multi-levelled in a double volume space. The other is private for access to the dance studios and service spaces. The generic plan repeats itself three times on all levels of the building. At the heart of the building is the dance theatre which acts as an orientation point, while the dance studios are



ground floor plan

located on the upper levels.

The circulation layout is rather simplistic but varied, with areas of rest or acceleration. The two main staircases not only organize vertical circulation, but also define horizontal public and semi-public circulation routes. Their black granular surface treatment contrasts with that of other shiny wall surfaces and the multi-coloured facade (Abache, L. 2003).



The facade was a joint effort with local artist, Micheal Craig-Martin. The skin consists of transparent or translucent glass. Transparent polycarbonate panels are mounted in front of the glass as a protective

>Influence on dissertation_

The Laban Centre has served as a catalyst attracting interest to the surrounding area. The transparent facade allows outsiders to 'be inside' the building by exhibiting internal activities. The facade reflects its surroundings and is illuminated at times. The building's mass dematerialises in the process.



>Materials_

- _Steel structure
- _Glass panels
- _Corrugated polycarbonate sheeting

504

505

506



PROJECT_ _Nelson Mandela Interpretation Centre,
Community Museum Facility

LOCATION_ _Alexandra
Gauteng

ARCHITECTS_ _Peter Rich Architects

COMPLETED_ _In progress

>Description_

This community owned-museum Facility is situated in a high-density urban community. The raised first floor acts as both a bridge and a gateway. The centre aims to host jazz archives, internet cafés, a food court, and a youth centre with workshop areas.

The building is designed on both a civic and domestic scale through the use of materials and the manipulation of space. The language of the design reflects resourcefully selected materials, consisting of recycled and waste materials. Rural and urban materials are combined with a more sophisticated use of polycarbonate walling.

The visual and physical culture of Alexandra is celebrated by the loose-fit composition on the terrain, and by the views the building creates because of its open-air qualities.



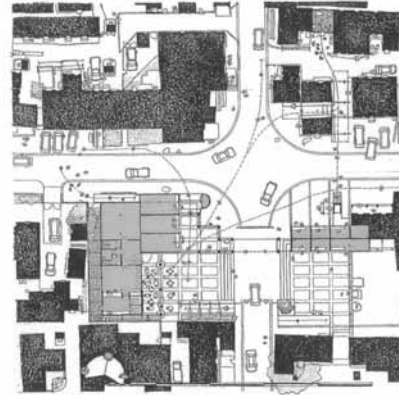


"The centre is dignified while being appropriately tough in a context of poverty and neglect."

(Deckler, Graupner, Rasmuss 2006:46-49)

>Influence on dissertation_

Within the urban scale it is important to define certain landmark buildings against a backdrop. Although the proposed design does not serve as the backdrop, it makes a contribution to civic life by being recognisable. Furthermore, the existing context is reinforced by the selective use of materials. These include, amongst others, a universal beam structure with infill masonry panels and polycarbonate sheeting.

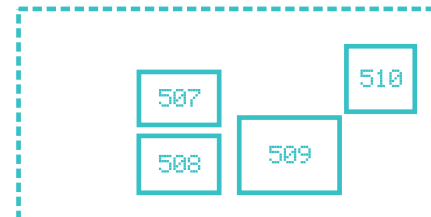


Site plan



>Materials_

- _Steel structure
- _Polycarbonate sheeting
- _Masonry units



5.08



PROJECT_ _Velocity Films,
Film Production Studio

LOCATION_ _Rivonia, Johannesburg
Gauteng

ARCHITECTS_ _Noero Wolff Architects

COMPLETED_ _1994

"We believe architecture is practical
and not a fine art and it is the
question of use which distinguishes
architecture from the other arts."

_Joe Noero

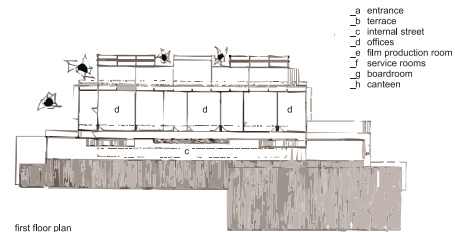
>Description_

The building houses a film production company and accommodates both the administrative and production facilities of the company. It had to reflect the creative and temporary nature of the company, and as such, has been designed as a "work in progress". There was a strong need for the building to have the ability to change and adapt, much like a film set, to the future requirements of the client.

The building is organized along a double-volume street designed as a social space where spontaneous encounters can occur. To maximize natural light the working spaces are arranged on the north-facing side, along the internal street which runs the entire length of the building. Areas that serve the work spaces are placed on the southern side. The internal street allows for natural light penetration from both sides and also assists in achieving adequate cross ventilation.



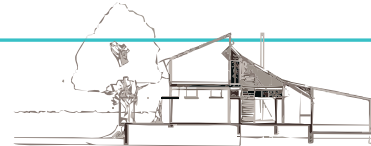
The selection of materials emphasizes the industrial nature of the building. The frame, rather than being clad, is revealed and the cladding materials are inserted into the frame. The building illustrates that, even by using conventional detailing and building components that can be purchased off the shelf, a contemporary South African architecture can still be realized.



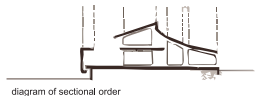
_first floor plan



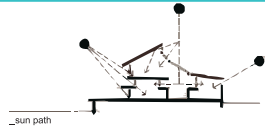
_ground floor plan [scale approx 1:1000]



_cross section



_diagram of sectional order



_sun path



_ventilation strategy

>Influence on dissertation_

The double volumes of the proposed design mimic the internal street. Within these volumes spontaneous interactions are encouraged to stimulate creativity, by providing spaces where people can interact and react.

The proposed building focuses on similar principles of adaptability. The frame structure permits the "notion of the building as scaffolding or a framework for inhabitation" and reinforces the temporary nature of the building, where it and its uses will inevitably change over time.

>Materials_

- _Steel frame
- _Corrugated steel
- _Cast-in-situ concrete
- _Masonry, timber and corrugated sheeting
- InFill panels

