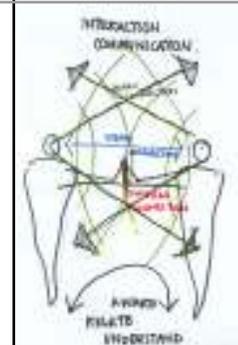


NORMATIVE POSITION 2/
 Introduction
 Philosophy
 Concepts
 Conclusion



'Architecture should be primarily a consequence of the form of the city and of the landscape and should participate in the new configuration of these'.
 [Bohigas 1999:12]

'cities' are 'transformed by the interface between electronic communication and physical interaction by the combination of networks and places'.
 [Castellas 2004:85]

'Design must respond to the dynamics of social uses in its physical form.'
 [Trancik 1986:219]



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Introduction 2.1/

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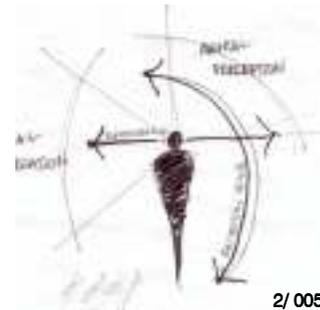
Philosophy 2.2/
 Experience
 Interact
 Communicate

Concepts 2.2/

Connection + Communication

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Conclusion 2.3/
 Location Driver



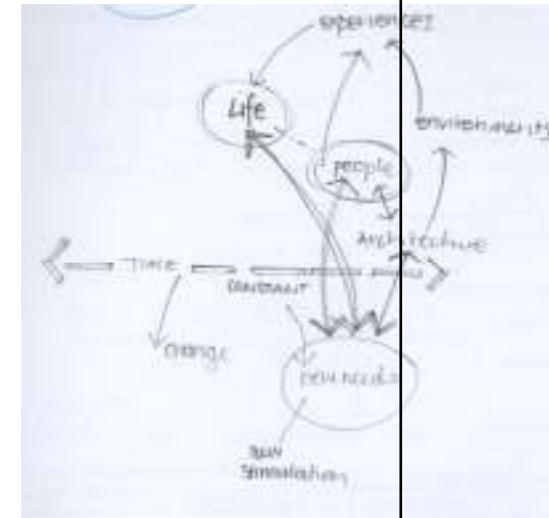
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2/ 006

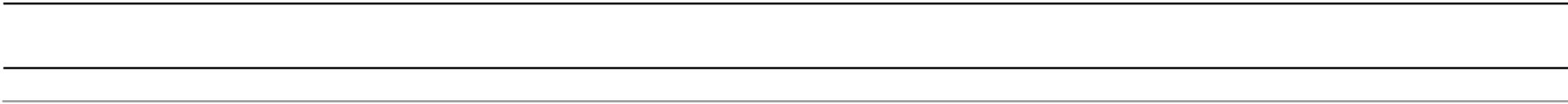


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'it is about how places differ without forgetting that they are connected and how they are connected without forgetting that they differ'.
 [Mark Mckenzie 2002:401]



List of Illustrations/

- 2/ 001 Elandspoor Road outward bound view [Author]
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NORMATIVE POSITION 2/ Introduction 2.1 + Philosophy 2.2/

Introduction 2.1/

The normative position of the author deals with the philosophical background to decisions made in the course of this project development. The theoretical discourse follows under the themes of Connection and Communication within the realms of Architecture and Urban Design and responds to the philosophical approach to creating environments for people. It is an investigation of the strategic location and the discovery of practical implications and applications of concepts found in literature and precedents appropriate to our current point in time.

Philosophy 2.2/

If creating environments involves creating them for people then the relationship between humans and their environments becomes very important. Understanding the way people function and interact enables environments to respond accordingly.

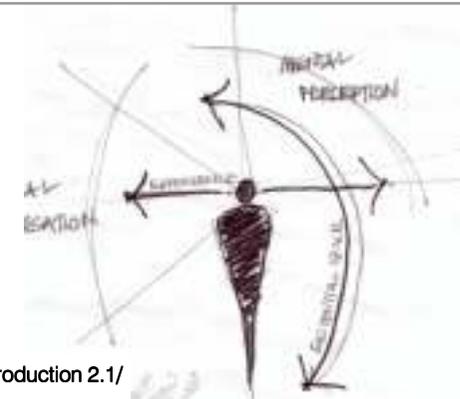
"I think therefore I am" the fine words of Descartes. In response we could fathom that "I experience through interaction, interpretation, discovery and leaving traces; therefore I am". If I see you and you see me and I communicate to you that I see you and you communicate to me that you see me, then we both confirm that we exist. The very essence of physicality is the interaction between human and the other and involving philosophy whereby we question the unknown as to whether we exist and how do we if we do exist or not.

If you couldn't see me and communicate with me then I wouldn't be there physically with you. How would you know or prove that I existed if there was no trace of me to communicate my existence? Our minds are programmed to question, investigate and prove. Life is about living and living is about experiencing and experiencing involves all of the human senses. The human senses act on multiple scales and require interaction in order to interpret information and communicate the physical environment with which we directly interact with. Physical proof is our only way of being certain of facts, otherwise facts would only be myths. No facts or evidence logically proves nonexistence. One can not explain the circumstances nor be 'absolutely' certain without physical proof.

Physical proof is our form of communication of information which we are then able to interact with and interpret. Thus **communication** through **interaction** via **connection** is the basis of all our experiences and is the ultimate components pertinent to fulfilling the desire and search for existence and proof of existence. One experiences through relating oneself to other humans and other objects. "I **experience** therefore I am". Through interaction and communication with other things, one is made aware of the envelopes between things. Through interacting one builds ones knowledge of one's self and ones environment and ones location in time and history.

Our location in time is expressive of the impact of technology which is becoming more and more ingrained in our lifestyles. We have the ability to alter our environments and create 'virtual environments' which we can perceive to experience. Technology is pushing the boundaries of interaction and creates endless opportunities in connection and communication in cyber space. But relation with our 'direct environment' is about confronting our physical location in time and is where architecture has a strong hold. Technology should be used as a tool to enable endless opportunities. It is the 'real world' which can not be disregarded which poses as the basis of the following dissertation.

**'workers still need to move their physical bodies to be in the thick of the innovation process, even though their products can often then be instantly sent online to distant markets and users'.
[Easterling 2004:19]**



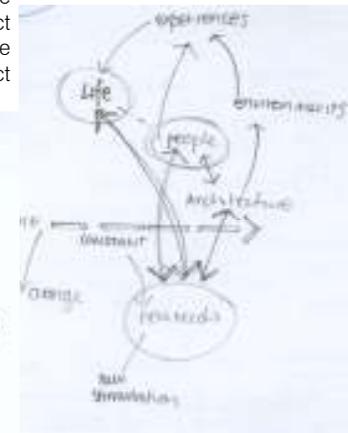
Introduction 2.1/

Philosophy 2.2/
Experience
Interact
Communicate
Connect

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'the idea of the city changes as the city changes as we consume new media' [Easterling 2004:19]

Illustrations/

2/ 009 Space + Relations [Author]

2/ 010 Life + Architecture Diagram [Author]

2/ 011 Connection + Communication Diagram [Author]

NORMATIVE POSITION 2/ Concepts 2.3 + Conclusion 2.4/

Concepts 2.3/ Connection + Communication

The point at which things interact physically is of most importance when considering architecture. The threshold between physical realms is investigated in the following dissertation with respect to connection and communication in design. One can understand in the example of a city that though it is one large system it is composed of multiple systems which overlap and are connected within a matrix. These systems are connected and it is at thresholds that connection and communication has potential for greatest impact.

'it is necessary to understand the city not as a global unitary system but as a number of relatively autonomous small systems.' [Bohigas 1999:9]

The inquiry into the programme of the intervention for one of the 'thresholds of entry' into Pretoria is largely driven by the need to address a changing city environment and society. New needs require environments to adapt in order to cater for its users and to enable the city to function to its highest potential. Movement is a major dynamic of our current lifestyle and here in South Africa individuals are inclined to travel large distances every day, in and out of the city, in order to achieve the necessary tasks required in a day's routine. Movement hinges on the ability to connect locations and modes of transport whilst at the same time communicating the essence of Pretoria to the moving observer. 'Connection' and 'Communication' become the multilayered concepts which act on physical and psychological levels.

'the conscious expression of space is essential to the highest expression of architecture' [Bacon 1957:15]

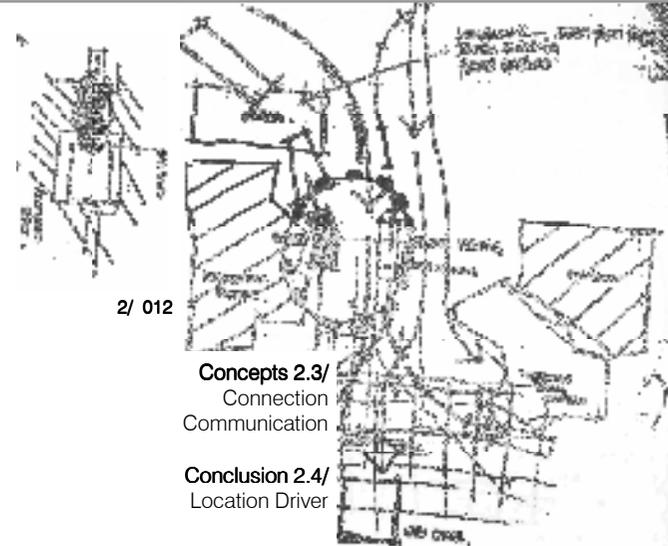
The architectural investigation for the following dissertation carries through further into the inquiry of the Urban Threshold Frame and continues to express the concepts of 'Connection' and 'Communication' on a local scale. Such a facility is driven by the necessary responses to the context and the programme of accommodation in order to cater for the people whom will interact with it and ultimately experience it on a physical level.

Conclusion 2.3/

The Urban Design threshold is on the periphery of the city and is connected by lines of movement. It is an entrance and point of interchange for several modes of transport as well as a hub for various access routes connecting to the surrounding context.

The site in the following dissertation edges the threshold of entry and has the potential to stitch the city fabric to create a logical sequence to the process of arrival into Pretoria along Elandsport Road. As an edging element of the city it also holds the opportunity for visual communication to passing traffic giving Pretoria the possibility to express itself through media and image as an introduction to the city.

Therefore the 'locational' condition for the following dissertation leads to the search for characteristics of connection and communication in architecture.



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Concepts 2.3/
Connection
Communication

Conclusion 2.4/
Location Driver

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'space is given to us as a set of potentials and we exploit these potentials as individuals and collectives in using space.' [Hillier 1996:154]

Illustrations/

2/ 012 Connecting Fabric Diagram [Author]

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