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Precedent is used in all disciplines as a guide or as a justification for a particular line of thinking or course of action, or for a particular decision
[Righini 2000: 178]
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The following Precedents are set out as a visual reference reflecting an array of architectural influences which have been drawn on in the following dissertation.

Due to the nature of Architecture, incorporating a variety of factors which need to be accommodated within a design, the precedents for the following dissertation have been divided into categories appropriate to their qualities and features focused on.

A response to the location of any project requires an analysis of dynamics and especially Architectural Language. Architectural Language being the character and approach to ‘space and place’ making, climate response, materials used and construction methods specific to a context and point in time.

Pretoria is predominantly a Governmental and Educational base. This said, the buildings which can be found invariably function as landmarks for Pretoria and monuments and historical features for Pretoria as well as for South Africa. The Union Buildings and Voortrekker Monument can be seen as the gem stones of Pretoria from a political point of view. UNISA [University of South Africa] and the University of Pretoria are seen as the Education symbols of Pretoria. Church Street and Paul Kruger Street are seen as the main historical axis for Pretoria crossing at the main Public Space for the CBD Church Square.

The above mentioned buildings and features of Pretoria are visually displayed further in this dissertation. The intention is to reflect an understanding of a context before implementing new development.
The following dissertation is located within Muckleneuk within the vicinity of UNISA and Freedom Park. The context of Pretoria forms a precedent for all new development. Architectural qualities specific to Pretoria need to be understood, appreciated and responded to. This approach incorporates acknowledging street edge relationships evident in illustrations 6/011 to 6/013 with canopy cover, façade detailing, material pallets and general space making. A response such as this attempts to integrate new development into the context and to provide a facility with which the people of Pretoria can associate with. All the following precedents are appropriate specifically towards the following dissertation as they reflect qualities from urban design to technical detailing which need to be incorporated in the final design and reflect the type of architecture which would be appropriate.
UNISA sits as a prominent Landmark on the Southern Entry point into the city of Pretoria on the Southern Ridge of Pretoria. As a large Education Facility it has a certain monumentality about it and accentuates this through the form which sits boldly and views out over Pretoria as shown in 6/ 018, 6/ 20, 6/ 032 and 6/ 033. UNISA responds to the typography with bands of ceramic clad walling acting like contour lines. The building is comprised of a number of levels staggering up Bourke’s Hill. UNISA is just one building which expresses a certain ‘Pretoria character’ and earthy materiality and palette shown in these illustrations. The UNISA building acts as an Icon, for both Pretoria and for the University of South Africa.
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The following dissertation sits on the periphery of the CBD of Pretoria. The environment is a transition threshold moving into Urban Fabric with multiple modes of transport access. Thus precedents appropriate are those of an Urban setting dealing with city features such as Public Spaces and Pedestrian Active Edges and the integration of these with City Fabric.

The location on an entry point into the city deals with ‘Threshold’ qualities requiring and understanding of design when dealing with approaching from a distance, sequence in approach and simple communication using bold form. The Melbourne Gateway is an example of using architectural forms to express and celebrate a gateway into the Urban Environment.

Pedestrian Activity is a quality which can be promoted within the city environment. Street edges in the following dissertation need to provide for pedestrian activity. The Scottish Parliament provides an integrated design with a covered edge with seating and visual connection to the surrounding context.

Public Spaces can be features within a city and should be promoted to provide space for interaction, amusement and leisure. Gathering spaces, meeting spaces and interactive spaces are the core experience spaces of the city. Federation Square in Melbourne was designed to give the people of Melbourne a place to gather within the city. It’s location is nestled amongst the Urban Fabric and responds to the surrounding buildings. Facilities, museums, galleries and café’s are clustered around the social space. Transport systems are in close proximity such as Flinders Train Station. Green space such as the river walk along the Yara river are also connected to the space. This active environment promotes a social and interactive lifestyle for the people of Melbourne and creates a symbolic gesture of gathering.
The Melbourne Gateway is a gateway into the city of Melbourne, located along a freeway and train link heading into Melbourne. This gateway [6/005] creates an introduction for visitors to the city and makes a statement in declaring the entrance into the city. The symbolic concept of creating a gate in a wall, is used with a yellow boom like structure, large red stick elements creating a wall through which one passes and a yellow smooth flowing wall channels one towards the gate as a sound tube/barrier to the surrounding residential area. [6/007-010] The placement of a large yellow beam leaning over the movement channel aims to express technological innovation and emphasize a boom element which people have to move under.

This is just one concept of creating a threshold on the periphery of the city to make people aware of moving from one area to another. The approach is one of making a bold statement which is clear and able to be put across in a few seconds as people speed past into the city. The colourful and bold forms edge the movement channel creating a defined threshold which is narrowed towards an ‘opening in the wall’. [Bill Corker] [Partner at Dental Corker Marshall www.abc.net.au 12/10/2006] This approach is intended as the emphasis for Elandsport Road is a more subtle manner with Urban Fabric clipping off of the channeling forms.
The Scottish Parliament Precinct is approximately 30 000m² with an array of facilities including the Debating Chamber with Parliamentary Facilities, Public facilities, a Media Tower and Finance Offices. This precinct is located in Edinburgh’s Old Town and Heritage site opposite the Royal Holyrood Palace. This new development located in a deep historical context and providing a mixed use precinct with clustered facilities is definitely the kind of environment which can be envisaged in the following dissertation. Pedestrian Activity is catered for and technology is embraced. The Street edge is of main interest for this dissertation with direct interaction with the passing traffic, concrete seating and a concrete and timber street covering proving for street activity.
Federation Square was intended to give Melbourne a social gathering space and icon for Melbourne like Sydney Harbor Bridge and Sydney Opera House are for Sydney. This environment brings together a mix of cultural facilities and attractions such as the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, The Australian Racing Museum and Hall of Fame, the National Design Centre and visitor centre for Melbourne. There are also supporting services such as restaurants, cafes and bars to create an entertainment area. The concept involves clustering facilities and activities in one location to create a real destination and place of activity. This precinct is located within the city with Flinders Train Station located just down the road and the Yara River running next to it. This mix of dynamics is exactly the feel that the Elandspoort Road threshold could envisage allowing for interaction and the opportunity for people to gather as a city and enjoy large screen display. Places of gathering with the opportunity to view large display screens is very much needed in preparation for the Soccer World cup in 2010 if the intention is to involve the whole nation and get everyone watching the Soccer.
Public Spaces Public Spaces Public Spaces Public Spaces
Australia, Melbourne:
Federation Square
Gathering space
Clustered facilities
Category: Public space
Accommodation Schedule:
Open paved space
National Exhibition Facilities
Broadcasting Facilities
Shops
Commercial Spaces
Open air theatre for 150000 people
Design Features:
Paved open space
Large screen display
Clustering of facilities

Public Spaces
Australia, Melbourne:
Federation Square
Gathering space
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