INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN LANGUAGE STUDIES

AN EXPLORATION OF THE CONSTANT AND TRANSFORMATIVE

Jacqueline Novellie
20042109

Submitted in the fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Magister in Architecture (Professional) in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology.

Department of Architecture
University of Pretoria
2006

Mentor: Rudolf van Rensburg
List of Illustrations

Theoretical Exploration

2.1 Diagramme illustrating theory investigation process
2.2 Diagramme of the rhizome and its plateau
2.3 Diagramme of the intensities found in a rhizome
2.4 Diagramme of field-dependent model
2.5 Diagramme of field-independent model
2.6 Diagramme of the characteristics of the field-independent model
2.7 Diagramme of uninterrupted flow
2.8 Diagramme of interrupted flow
2.9 Exploration of the interaction between constants and transformative
2.10 Exploration of interaction in architecture

Context

From left to right:
3.1 Road map: Pretoria, Johannesburg and surrounding areas
3.2 Road map: Pretoria Inner City
3.3 Public Transport Map: Train Stations
From left to right:
3.4 Map of proposed ISDF (Tshwane Municipality 2006)
3.5 Map of precincts (Tshwane Municipality 2006)
3.6 Pedestrian and public transport spine (Tshwane Municipality 2006)
3.7 Private transport and parking (Tshwane Municipality 2006)
3.8 Public space network (Tshwane Municipality 2006)
3.9 Map of proposed precincts (Author)
3.10 Map of precinct and study area (Author)
3.11 Street Map: Study Area
3.12 Aerial Photograph of Study Area
3.13 Existing buildings in the study area (Author)
3.14 "A sketch for an ideal city on the site of Pretoria.” (Ball, B.W.B. 1968:125)
3.15 Analysis of Apartheid Pretoria (Author)
3.16 Analysis of Post-apartheid Pretoria (Author)
3.17 Analysis of field-dependence in study area (Author)
3.18 Analysis of field-independence in study area (Author)
3.19 Model of field-dependent/field-independent site analysis (Author)
3.20 Model of transformative qualities in study area
3.21 Aerial photograph of pretoria in the early 1900’s. (SANAF)
3.22 Aerial photograph of pretoria in the early 1900’s. (SANAF)
3.23 Fencing to be removed in Christina street
3.24 Existing building 1 (Author)
3.25 Existing building 2 (Author)
3.26 Measured drawings of existing building 1
3.27 Existing location plan
3.28 Aerial photo: Public open spaces
3.29 Aerial photo: Education Facilities
3.30 Aerial photo: Retail
3.31 Aerial photo: Municipal Services
3.32 Aerial photo: Transport
3.33 Aerial photo: Museums & Historical
3.34 Lighting along the Museum Boulevard
3.35 Seating along the Museum Boulevard
3.36-3.38 Signage along the Museum Boulevard
3.39 Paving pattern along the Museum Boulevard
3.40-3.42 Jacaranda trees
3.43-3.44 Fencing along the Museum Boulevard
3.45 Informal trade on the Museum Boulevard
3.46 Skateboarder in Pretorius Square
3.47 Pretorius Square
3.48 pedestrians along Bosman street
3.49 Map: Movement analysis
3.50 Aerial photo: Pedestrian routes
3.51 Existing Site: Section A-A
3.52 Existing Site: Section B-B
3.53 Existing Site Plan

Precedent Studies

4.1 Guide Psychogeographique de Paris by Guy Debord (Brayer, M. (et al) 2004:23)
4.2-4.6 Mobius House (Domus. April 1999. volume 814. page 39-41)
4.7-4.11 Mercedes-Benz Museum (Domus. April 1999. volume 814. page 39-41)
4.12-4.14 Bibliotheque de France (Koolhaas 2002:29)
4.15 Analysis of Bibliotheque de France by author.
4.16-4.18 Electric Ladyland (Leading Architecture. March 2003.page 42)
4.21 Children’s Library Poster (Leone Novellie)
4.22 Coram Family Children’s Centre (Architects Journal. September 1999. volume 210/9 page 30)
4.23 Graffiti as text on architecture. (www.banksy.co.uk)
4.29 Akibu-Schechter Jewish Day School, Chicago (ARCHITECTURE. December 2004. volume: 93/12 page 84)
4.30 -4.36 Anish Kapoor (www.artoutline.com/anishkapoor)

5.14 Illustration of concept into design
5.15 Concept section
5.16-5.18 Concept exploration of the circulation hub
5.19 Retractable floors
5.20 Interchangable partition walls
5.21 Sun angles for pretoria
5.22 Sunlight requirements of the existing Department of Home Affairs
5.23 Louvre System over circulation hub
5.24 Wind directions in Pretoria

Technical Investigation
6.1 Technical Data on louvre system (Colt catalogue. 2004)
From left to right:
6.2 Copper Cladding (LeCuyter. 2002:74)
6.3 Concrete slab (Architecture and Urbanism. 1998. 184)
6.4 Timber beams (Architecture and Urbanism. 1998. 87)
6.5 Sandblasted glass (Architecture and Urbanism. 1998. 175)
6.6-6.9 Structural exploration of central pods
6.10 Structural exploration of the main building
6.11-6.13 Peri Wehahn formwork systems (Peri Wehahn catalogue)
Centre Pompidou (Architecture of Today. 1992:93)
Centre Pompidou (A Guide to the world’s greatest buildings. 2000:177)
University of Pretoria etd – Novellie, J (2007)
### List of Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CBD</td>
<td>Central Business District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALMA</td>
<td>African Language Material Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PANSALB</td>
<td>Pan South African Language Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISDF</td>
<td>Integrated Spatial Development Framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SANAF</td>
<td>South African national Air Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAHRA</td>
<td>South African Heritage Resources Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NZASM</td>
<td>Nederlandsch Zuid-Afrikaans Spoorwegmaatschappej</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBS</td>
<td>Building Management Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACS</td>
<td>Adjustable Climbing System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBR</td>
<td>National Building Regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SABS</td>
<td>South African Bureau of Standards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
list of illustrations 4
list of abbreviations 17

introduction 11

theoretical exploration 14
context 22
precedent studies 52
design investigation 67
technical investigation 88
design proposal 108

conclusion 117
addendum a: schedule 121

references 125
FOREWORD
An interest in African space-making philosophy was triggered by a previous project regarding African Places of Worship. Research done for this brought to the author’s attention the difference in spatial experience of various cultures. The way in which a society experiences space would be expressed in its way of life and in its dwellings. This expression forms an integral part of the heritage of a culture.

OBJECTIVE
After the Group Area Act was abolished in 1994, integration has been taking place. However, many of the structures currently found in the CBD of Pretoria, cannot adapt to the needs brought on by integration. To facilitate change of users and programme, new interventions need to be designed for transformation.

The objective of this dissertation is to investigate the development of an appropriate South African spatial expression for an integrated capital city, Pretoria. This will be done by designing an Institute for African Language Studies.

Firstly, appropriate theory will be investigated to determine the various ways in which different cultural and social groups experience space. The context study will focus on determining which of these spatial experiences can be found around the site. During the design development phase, ways in which to accommodate these expressions will be investigated as well as ways to allow for interaction between the various groups. To conclude, an assessment will be done to determine the success of the investigation.

PROBLEM STATEMENT
Currently there are many such institutes abroad, specifically in the United States of America, with the main archive for African languages located at Columbia University, New York. These language institutes in Africa primarily represent only the local languages and have limited, if any, interaction with institutes abroad. This project aims to be a point of interaction between the institutes.

Pretoria, as a capital city of South Africa, receives many international visitors. These are predominantly delegates, politicians, businessmen and academics rather than tourists, visiting purely for sightseeing and pleasure. The institutional buildings of Pretoria become the gateways to the city from where visitors can experience South African culture as well as the country’s standing in the international community.

As the future framework for Pretoria includes a PAN African Parliament, the need for competent translators capable of speaking the represented African, and other languages will arise. The project will provide training facilities and offices for translators.

CLIENT
The clients that will occupy the building are The African Language Material Archive (ALMA), maintained by UNESCO and the Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB). Funding can be obtained from the Department of Art & Culture and the Department of Education of South Africa.