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INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN LANGUAGE STUDIES

AN EXPLORATION OF THE CONSTANT AND TRANSFORMATIVE

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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

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List of Abbreviations

CBD	Central Business District
ALMA	African Language Material Board
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
PANSALB	Pan South African Language Board
ISDF	Integrated Spatial Development Framework
SANAF	South African national Air Force
SAHRA	South African Heritage Resources Act
NZASM	Nederlandsch Zuid-Afrikaans Spoorwegmaatschappej
MBS	Building Management Service
ACS	Adjustable Climbing System
NBR	National Building Regulations
SABS	South African Bureau of Standards

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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.

Firsly, 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 accomodate 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.