

# contents

University of Pretoria etd – Novellie, J (2007)

---

list of illustrations >>	4
list of abbreviations >>	17
introduction >>	11
theoretical exploration >>	14
context study >>	22
precedent studies >>	52
design investigation >>	67
technical investigation >>	88
design proposal >>	108
conclusion >>	117
addendum a: schedule >>	121
references >>	125



In conclusion, the design and technical investigation process substantiates the aim of creating a balance between the constants and transformative elements in a building.

The design is formulated by investigating a series of connections and exchanges. These include a theoretical investigation, consideration of user requirements and context analysis. These are the strands that make up the rhizome of the design and the aim is to create a non-hierarchical dialogue between them. The result of this process gives form to the design.

Architecture cannot be separated from the network that surrounds it but should rather facilitate it, allowing it to expand. Architecture is both a strand and a rhizome. This will allow architecture to recognise and facilitate the cultural and social groups in an African context and will allow for a dialogue between them to develop.

The spatial ability of the various user groups were analysed in terms of field-dependence and field-independence. This investigation showed that different cultural and social groups use space in different manners. It is important to create a facility that will allow for a balance and a dialogue between user groups. This is done by creating areas of consistency and areas of a transformative quality. The dialogue between the two creates opportunity for interaction and unexpected occurrences.

As reflection on the dissertation, it is important to analyse the process and evaluate the success thereof.

Through the theoretical exploration, it became evident that society is becoming more diverse and space-independent in its requirements - but architecture thus far does not accommodate the trend. Apartheid city planning resulted in segregated areas, isolated by road systems, with little interaction between them. Even after the group area act was abolished, it is hard for these areas to integrate. It is the areas surrounding the CBD, where these roads interlink, where integration is most evident. The current architecture of the CBD's periphery, however, does not express this. Furthermore it is not enough for architecture to merely express the society it represents, but should also be a facility to accommodate the development of this society. For this reason the design not only allows for an integrated society, but can also be adapted to the future needs of the users. This was achieved by the following means:

Firstly, spaces of consistency were provided. These act as points of reference for the user and provide the identity of the design.

Secondly, spaces of a transformative quality are provided in relation to the constants. The transformative spaces are adaptable depending on the events they have to support. This allows the users to express themselves through their use of the space.

Lastly, these are linked with areas of interaction. This provides the opportunities for different cultural and social groups to meet and integrate.

Whilst providing spaces applicable to various user groups, the building also allows users to come into contact with each other. The building is a facility that will successfully provide for the needs of the society in its context, Pretoria.