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portal to pretoria

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establishing a northern gateway to the city

**portal** n. 1. an entrance, gateway, or doorway 2. any entrance or access to a place 3. *internet.* a web site or service that provides access to a number of designated resources, information and facilities on a network 4. tool/ set of tools for organized knowledge discovery that assists identification and selection of appropriate resources



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establishing a northern gateway to the city

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Cities are the physical manifestation of man's existential ordering of his environment. They are a source of, and display the identity of an individual, culture or region. As architects, the buildings to which we give form determine the manner in which the users live in and around them, thus creating a perception of that environment. Each individual's perception is determined through experiential knowledge, their personal historical and cultural background effecting a unique experience of that environment. An affinity for this designed experience can be developed through an identity with the elements displayed. However, a failure to do so may discourage the use of a place and negativity may be fostered towards it.

It is our challenge as designers, within a South African context of diverse cultures, to design environments with which all its users can identify. Methods of place-making and form-giving must be accessible to each individual. The elements employed should transcend culture and history.

Identity and uniqueness of place should be our ultimate goals. Through the use of the place, a new experiential history is developed, encouraging fondness and sympathy. Through memories, it integrates itself with our lives.

