



conclusion

User orientation within the Pretoria urban environment is essential in encouraging the unfamiliar city user to make use of the resources available. However, orientation elements cannot be all we provide. In order to create a richly experiential and populated environment, a unique quality must be instilled in order to nurture fondness in users.

This dissertation has afforded me the opportunity to study and become intimately acquainted to a portion of the city with which I was previously unfamiliar. The knowledge gained of my site and its locality rendered me more sympathetic towards the particular environment, appreciating its positive qualities, and making me enthusiastic to overcome the weaknesses. The city-wide context was revealed as an environment rich in potential, though requiring some development to optimise the city for the use of all. It was within the northern district study area that the strongest sense of place was experienced. Here the users had collectively taken ownership of their environment, their individuality experienced in a variety of sensory displays.

Through the study I have developed a sense of ownership of my city, a feeling that must be transferred to the intended user of the site. The user must become aware of the many opportunities available in the city. The city should be a distinct display of a collective identity, thereby becoming a source of identity for the individual. As designers we must aim to alter the perception of those who use, or should use, the city. It then lies in the hands of the users to appropriate the city, to reveal and optimise its potential. As Jane Jacobs concludes "...lively, diverse, intense cities contain the seeds of their own regeneration, with energy enough to carry over for problems and needs outside themselves," [Jacobs, J. 1972: p. 462]. This, I believe, to be true of Pretoria and eagerly anticipate its future.



fig. 7. sketch of voortrekker monument





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