

# interaction

a built environment staging centre

# project summary

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**Site Location:** Erf R/332, Hatfield

**Address:** c/o Lynnwood Road and University Road, Hatfield, Pretoria,  
South Africa

**GPS Coordinates:** 25°45'23.50"S, 28°13'43.79"E

**Programme:** Built Environment Staging Centre

**Site:** The University of Pretoria – linking Main Campus and South Campus

**Client:** Department Facilities Management at the University of Pretoria

**Users:** Students and facilitators of the Department of the Built Environment,  
the built environment industry and the general public

**Architectural Theoretical Premise:** The relationship between theory  
and practice

**Architectural Approach:** Developing a new inhabited bridge between  
Main Campus and South Campus at the  
University of Pretoria

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I further state that no part of my dissertation has already been, or is currently being, submitted for any such degree, diploma or other qualification.

I further declare that this dissertation is substantially my own work. Where reference is made to the works of others, the extent to which that work has been used is indicated and fully acknowledged in the text and list of references.

The dissertation is 22 087 words long (excluding the scanned items).

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# abstract

## keywords:

staging, interaction, transition process, architectural education, theory, practice, relationships

This dissertation investigates the relationship between architectural education and practice. The nature of the relationship between these two phases in architecture is continuously debated and discussed. The debate generally revolves around the responsibilities of educational institutions to produce architects that can easily adapt in the work environment and the industry's responsibility to assist graduates in the transition process. The debate is discussed and analysed in depth and a programme is developed to assist in facilitating this capricious relationship. A more collaborative relationship between architectural theory and

practice can benefit both the quality of architectural education and the architectural industry.

The architectural building type that will be investigated is an inhabited bridge. The structure will act as a unifying space between architectural education and practice, Main Campus and South Campus, as well as the different departments in the Built Environment at the University of Pretoria. The facility will act as a platform for the students to interact with members of the different departments in the Built Environment, the built environment industry and the public.

The architectural exploration aims to create an environment where the relationship between theory and practice can successfully sustain itself. This is achieved through the development of three types of relationships: social, intellectual and practical. These relationships are developed in order to inform and support one another in the attempt to create a more stable and interdependent relationship between architectural theory and practice. An additional relationship that is addressed is the University's interface and relationship with its local community and society at large.

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# list of terms & abbreviations

**Architecture** (when referring to the students or the study of architecture)  
– A collective term used to describe architecture, landscape architecture and interior architecture.

**BRT** - Bus Rapid Transport

**Built Environment** – The School for the Built Environment at the University of Pretoria. The school covers all the programmes within the Built Environment, divided into three departments, namely: Architecture, Construction Economics and Town and Regional Planning.

**CAA** – Commonwealth Association of Architects

**CBD** – Central Business District

**CID** – City Improvement District

**Construction Industry** – Includes all entities involved in the construction process, amongst others engineers, suppliers, builders, developers, etc.

**CoT** – City of Tshwane. This term specifically refers to the greater Tshwane area or the area covered by the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality or the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality itself. Not to be confused with 'Pretoria' as this refers to the original city, before the amalgamation of the various local governments, including areas such as Centurion, Hammanskraal, Akasia, Mabopane, Soshanguve, Pretoria, etc (<http://www.ananzi.co.za/advertising/>

[tshwane/index.htm](http://www.ananzi.co.za/advertising/tshwane/index.htm)).

**Graduate Staging Centre** – This dissertation introduces a new typology of Staging Centres. These are buildings that are designed with the main aim of showcasing the work that is being produced at an academic institution. The Staging Centres are discipline-specific and should act as a foyer between the academic institution and its local environment.

**HEQF** - Higher Education Qualification Framework

**HoD** - Head of Department

**HMCDF** – Hatfield Metropolitan Core Development Framework.

**Incubation Centre** – According to Dr Mark Yates an influential figure in global business, a business incubator is a facility set up by a university to assist graduates in establishing and managing their own businesses. Financial and business support is provided for up to three years for graduates who are starting their own business; in turn, they, as members of the business incubator, give a percentage of their earnings back to the centre (Yates, 2009).

However, in this dissertation the term will be used differently, as it does not aim to be an incubation centre in terms of its management, but will provide a forum for the interaction between the students of the Built Environment and the members of the built environment, assisting students in the transition process between education and industry. It will not be managed as an incubation

centre in terms of business, but only act as an incubation facility.

**Industry** – Refers in a broad sense to all people involved in the industry of the built environment, including people from the architecture, construction, construction management, town and regional planning, and quantity surveying professions.

**ITP** – Integrated Transport Plan

**NVABES** – New Visual Arts Building and Exhibition Spaces. This abbreviation refers to a new project at the University of Pretoria (UP) currently underway. It entails the extension and refurbishment of the Visual Arts Building and a new exhibition space for the University of Pretoria's permanent collection (see Permanent Collection Building). The new exhibition space for the permanent collection should not be mistaken for the exhibition space proposed as part of this dissertation. The two spaces are separate and should only relate to each other, but it is not one space (see Fig 1.3).

**NQF** - National Qualification Framework

**Permanent Collection Building (PCB)** (also see NVABES) – This building forms part of the NVABES development. Its footprint and relationship to its environment forms part of this dissertation. The PCB will house the University's permanent collection with an estimated value of R400 million, currently not on display.

**RIBA** – Royal Institute of British Architects

**SACAP** – South African Council for the Architectural Profession

**SAIA** – The South African Institute of Architects

**SPTN** – Strategic Public Transport Network

**TMSDF** – Tshwane Metropolitan Spatial Development Framework

**TOD** – Transit Oriented Development

**Transition Process** – The term refers directly to the interface between architectural education and the architectural industry; the phase between the completion of a specific degree and actually working at a firm or as a practicing architect.

**UCT** – The University of Cape Town

**UP** – The University of Pretoria

Pretoria in my [h(e)]art!



# thank you

Arthur Barker

Jacques Laubscher

My entire family and all my friends

Cornè

In my heart I will always know that this was a good year -  
thanks to you!