Chapter 9_Technical Report
9.2 Conclusion

The dissertation investigated the reprogramming of a portion of land on the University of Pretoria's periphery. The aim was to exploit boundary and facilitate transition through suitable programme. It is the intention of the author to allow the University to commit to the ideal of place making along its borders, this commitment would signify the Institutions lifelong journey to partnership building and self transformation within the urban context.

The fundamental determinant of the investigation was the influential hypothesis of urban planning, and was consciously explored throughout the design process. The approach towards an inclusive environment was shaped by the ideals of creating a place of refuge with character and an identity which the user would easily relate to.

The predominant quality of this inclusive approach is the definition of the intervention, the boundary or edge. The significance of this element is carried on through the design discourse as it becomes central to the convergence of space. The threshold becomes the plane where conflict and function are merged to form a third dimension, a “between” inside and outside, celebrating the inclusion and exclusion of that particular function where contradiction and conflict is free to occur.

The empirical theories of the urban planners suggest that conducive environments are those that offer choice. However it becomes clear that effective spatial planning requires an established variation to programme or the introduction of new programmes that accommodate for the creation of nodes around which new space can sustain itself.

The site provided for particular design challenges particularly with regards to connectedness, however through the programme of hospitality the possibilities of integration and public use became critical components which allowed for the unification of Campus and its surronds.

The location of the intervention allows diversity to define the district edge, it allows for chance encounters and it becomes a node of unpredictability in the sense that perhaps it would be perceived as ill placed or peculiar. This in itself becomes the flourishing aspect of its diversity, its unpredictable use and its subjection of monotony. Cities and the buildings which form them have the capacity of providing something for everybody only when they are created for everybody. As mentioned in the first pages of this dissertation the aim was to oppose the current translations of space within the South African city. This dissertation proposes an architecture that fulfils its programmatic requirements responsibly, while taking into account its effects within the social and environmental context. Community response and active engagement are crucial to the success of the project, it is therefore important to consider the perceptive realities which come to the fore as a result of the intervention.