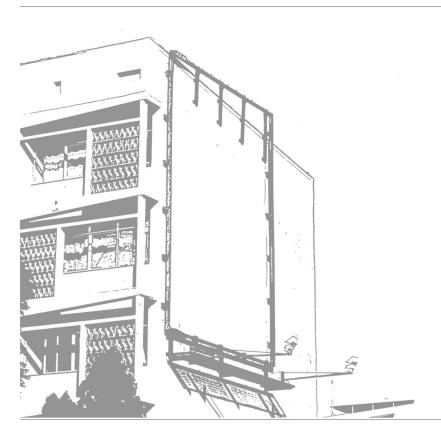


urban [i]scape

INTELLIGENT INFORMATION CENTRE



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Submitted in fulfilment of part of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Interior Architecture in the faculty of Engineering, the Built Environment and Information Technology, of University of Pretoria. South Africa

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November 2008





"Interior Architecture can be expressed in several ways. First, an entire building can be designed as an extended shell containing integrated and finished interiors. Second, Interior Architecture can be the completion of space within an existing architectural enclosure and finally, it can be the preservation, renovation, or adaptive reuse of buildings, historic or otherwise, with a focus on the design of interior space." (Kurtich & Eakin 1993:3)

The proposed dissertation is a study that touches on all of the design aspects mentioned above, but the main focus of the study will fall on the third approach, the recognition of the need for preservation, restoration, renovation and adaptive reuse, as a means to restore a sense of place in the existing fabric of the city, extending the lifetime of buildings, while preserving their history and character.





abstract Fig. 0.1. Sketch of the Berrals building by the author

PROJECT SUMMARY

Though constructed less than 60 years ago, the Berrals building, situated in the Tshwane Inner City has been identified as a place of historical and national significance.

Its importance can be attributed to the designer, Wynand Smit of the architectural firm Smit and Viljoen, who contributed to the establishment of Pretoria Regionalism in the Transvaal (Gerneke 1998:216) and the fact that the building is one of only a few remaining examples of the Brazilian influence on Pretoria Regionalism during the 1950's.

At this point in time the structure is in dire need of an intervention due to its deteriorating state.

The strong modern heritage of the building required recognition in the proposed intervention and a study of modern principles and its regional mutations became paramount in determining a suitable design intervention.

The study functions as a tool to determine which components of the building, as a modern icon, requires preserving, as well as what the design approach will need to consider in terms of interacting with the modern structure when a suitable new program is inserted into the building.



contents

STRUCTURE OF DOCUMENT





001	INTRODUCTION	2
	Adaptive Reuse as an Interior Architectural Device	3
002	PROBLEM STATEMENT	6
	Problem Statement	7
	Information Centre	9
003	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	12
	Brazilian Inspired Pretoria Regionalism	13
004	CONTEXT STUDY	16
	Introduction to the Site	17
	Macro Scale	19
	Meso Scale	19
	Micro Scale	39
005	PRECEDENT STUDIES	48
	Theoretical Precedents	
	Modern Archetype - Villa Savoye	49
	Contemporary - Richard and Lois Rosenthal Center for Contemporary Arts	55
	Typological Precedents	
	Transport Interchanges - Lugano Cental Bus Terminal	59
	Vauxhall Cross Interchange	62
	Public Media Source - Sendai Mediatheque	66 69
	Waiting Spaces - Virgin Atlantic's Heathrow Clubhouse Airport Lounge	69
	Component Precedents	
	Vertical Cores - Lloyd's Register	71
	Credon Centre	74
006	BASELINE DOCUMENT	78
	Social Considerations	79
	Economical Considerations	82
	Environmental Considerations	84



007	DESIGN DISCOURSE	8
	Modern Design Premise	
	Modern Design Analysis	9
	Functional Programme	
	Design Development	
800	TECHNICAL REPORT	10
	Contemporary Brise Soleil: Louvred Glass Window	10
	Metal Mesh Screen: Interior and Exterior	
009	TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION	110
	Site Plan	11:
	Ground Floor Plan	
	Mezzanine Floor Plan	110
	First Floor Plan	118
	Second & Third Floor Plan	
	Fourth Floor Plan	
	East Elevation	
	West Elevation	
	Section A- A	
	Section B- B	
	Section C- C	
	Louvred Wall System: Wall Mounted	
010	BIBLIOGRAPHY	134