



create

investigating the dialogue between craft and design

a centre for the crafts in the inner city of Pretoria



by Estée Swiegers

Submitted in fulfilment of part of the requirements for the degree Master in Interior Architecture (Professional) in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, University of Pretoria. November 2011.

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Course coordinator: Jacques Laubscher



To all of those who supported me during this year and believed in me so much more than I believed in myself.

To my parents, Mark, Ruan and Mel for putting up with me... and to George, for all the late night coffees, tutoring and laughs when the going got tough.



In accordance with Regulation 4(e) of the General Regulations (G.57) for dissertations and theses, I declare that this thesis, which I hereby submit for the degree Master of Interior Architecture (Professional) at the University of Pretoria, is my own work and has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other tertiary institution.

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

I further declare that this thesis 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.



Programme_	Crafts Centre
Site description_	Vacant "Metro building" refurbishment, Pretoria CBD
Client_	Department of Arts and Culture
Users_	Students and scholars within the creative fields, general public
Site Location_	Erf 111, Pretoria CBD
Address_	c/o Church and Du Toit Street, Sammy Marks Precinct, Pretoria, South Africa
GPS Coordinates_	25°74'63.18"S,28°19'81.44"E
Architectural Theoretical Premise_	The relationship between craft and design in theory and practice
Architectural Approach_	The refurbishment of a vacant building in the inner City of Pretoria into a crafts centre, reacting to an existing block framework
Research filed_	Urbanism and human settlements



ABSTRACT

The focus of this dissertation aims to bring about a dialogue between craft and design by using interior architecture as design medium.

The study will investigate how craft can be implemented in space, in the form of products and as a part of place-making, in order for it to be elevated to the status of design. The roles of the producer and the user are of particular focus and are the means by which this re-establishment of craft's identity, previously prey to local and global perceptions, will take place. An intervention that enables a productive work ethic is envisioned, to help contextualise a product effectively in order for it to reach its full potential.

This concern for craft can raise awareness of local and global trends in its innovation and encourage the continuous integration of various creative fields. Furthermore, the investigation anticipates a redefinition of the term, commonly associated with souvenirs or curios, into an entity that harbours independence: an attribute that many designed products have.

A vacant building in the Pretoria CBD is home to this crafts centre and its refurbishment aims at addressing the needs of those within the creative fields, as well as the general public. This Pretoria regionalist building from the 1960s poses an opportunity in terms of its materiality and its interior, comprising only a column grid. Thus a design opportunity arises in the form of vertical planes as infill, light entry and pedestrian movement, allowing surfaces and details to illustrate craft's potential within the built environment.

The value in the Modern facade is considered to a great extent in terms of retention, whereas the interior allows for a bolder intervention.



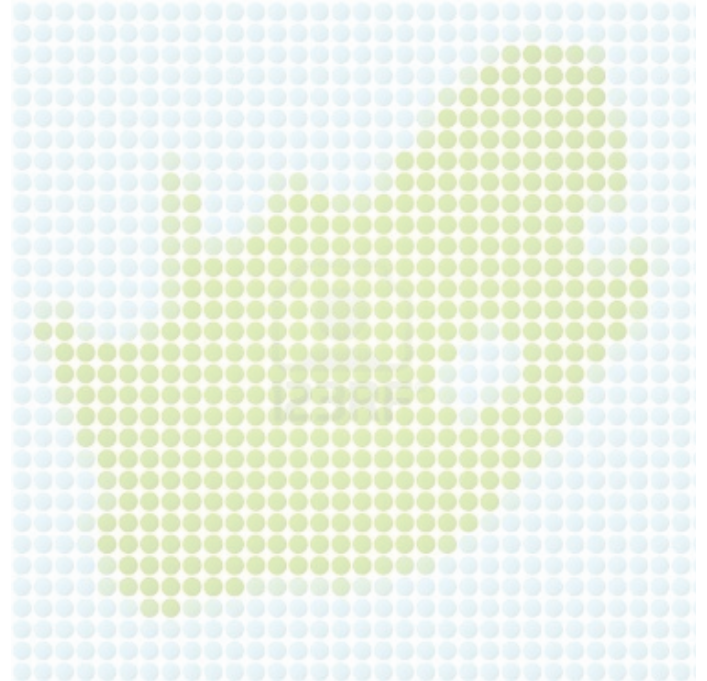
EKSERP

Die fokus van hierdie skripsie beoog om 'n dialoog tussen handwerk en ontwerp te laat ontstaan, deur die binneruim te gebruik as ontwerp medium.

Die studie sal die rol wat handwerk speel in die binneruim, ondersoek, en hoe handwerk hier kan geïmplementeer word, met die doel om hierdie entiteit te verryk. Die outeur glo dat handwerk op so manier die status van ontwerp kan bereik. Die rol van die produsent en die gebruiker word op gefokus, en is die middel waardeur die hervestiging van handwerk se identiteit sal plaasvind. Die outeur stel voor 'n ingryping wat fokus op 'n produktiewe werksetiek en 'n omgewing wat help om 'n produk effektief te kontekstualiseer sodat dit sy volle potensiaal kan bereik.

Die outeur glo dat daar 'n bewustheid van handwerk bevestig word, wat innovasie kan verhoog, en die deurlopende integrasie van verskeie kreatiewe velde aan te moedig. Verder, verwag die ondersoek om 'n herdefiniëring van die woord "handwerk" te laat ontstaan, sodat die entiteit onafhanklikheid kan bereik, soos baie ontwerpte produkte.

'n Vakante gebou in Pretoria se middestad is die tuiste van hierdie handwerk sentrum en die opknapping daarvan is gerig op die behoeftes van diegene binne die kreatiewe velde, asook die publiek in die algemeen. Die gebou is 'n moderne gebou uit die vroeë 1960s wat 'n geleentheid inhou, en slegs bestaan uit 'n kolom rooster. Die ontwerp geleentheid leen hom tot die implementering van vertikale elemente en lig, sodat handwerk se potensiaal in hierdie vorms geïllustreer kan word.





CONTENTS

THANK YOU _____	CHAPTER 1_ INTRODUCTION
PLAGIARISM REPORT AND PROJECT SUMMARY _____ V	Introduction _____ 16
ABSTRACT _____ V	1.1 Problem Statement _____ 18
TABLE OF CONTENTS _____ V	1.2 Vision _____ 18
LIST OF FIGURES _____ X	1.3 Theory outline _____ 18
	1.4 Pragmatic approach _____ 19
	1.5 Review of Research Methodology _____ 19
	1.5.1 Adaptive reuse _____ 20
	CHAPTER 2_ BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT
	2.1 Interpreting craft and design _____ 22
	2.2 Real-world problem _____ 23
	2.3 Site _____ 26
	2.3.1 Criteria for proposed site _____ 26
	2.4 Client _____ 30
	CHAPTER 3_ THEORETICAL DISCOURSE
	Introduction _____ 32
	3.1 Proposed theories _____ 33
	3.2 Research questions _____ 33
	3.3 Cultural production _____ 34
	3.3.1 Craft as a field _____ 34
	3.3.2 Craft as 'making' _____ 35
	3.3.3 Craft innovation _____ 36
	3.4 Phenomenology _____ 37
	3.5 Fred Scott _____ 41
	3.5.1 The case of the redundant building _____ 41



CHAPTER 4_ FRAMEWORK AND BUILDING ANALYSIS

4.1 Macro context	43
4.2 Framework: REACT	43
4.2.1 Key aspects of framework	43
4.2.2 Principles	46
4.3 Building analysis	52
4.4 Heritage approach to intervention	54
4.4.1 Craft as an entity in the inner city	58

CHAPTER 5_ PRECEDENT STUDIES

5.1 Constitutional Court	60
5.1.1 Building and Site	61
5.1.2 Craft and design	62
5.1.3 Parts to the whole	65
5.2 SESC Fabrica Pompeia	68
5.3 African Craft Market	77
5.4 Dude Cigar Bar	80
5.5 Contemplating the Void	81
5.5.1 Art Trap by MASS Studies	81

CHAPTER 6_ CONCEPT AND DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Approach and tectonic investigations	84
6.1.2 Intervention approach	87
6.2 Client requirements	92

6.2.1 Ground floor requirements	92
6.2.2 First floor requirements	94
6.2.3 2nd and 3rd floor requirements	96
6.3 Conceptual approach to built fabric and tectonics	98
6.3.1 Staircase	101
6.4 Design strategies	102

CHAPTER 7_ TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION

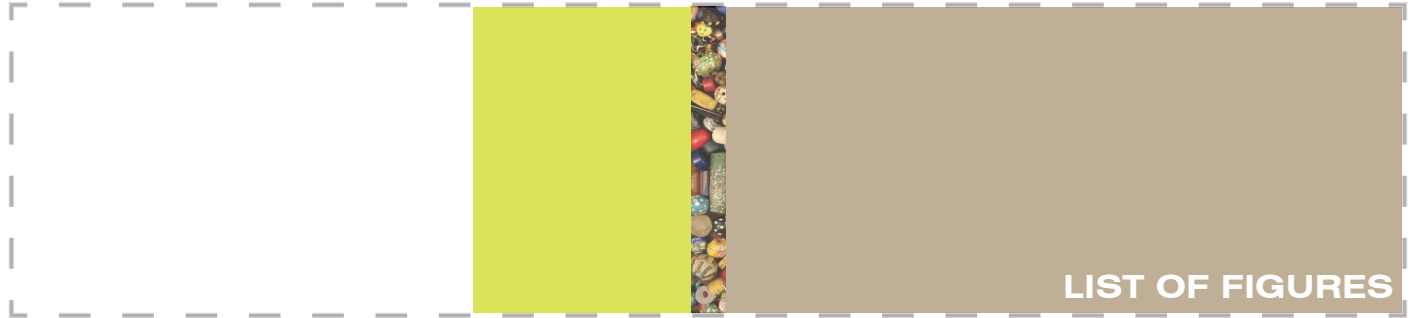
7.1 Material and colour palette	104
7.2 Building elements	106
7.2.1 Circulation and services	106
7.2.2 Cooling	108
7.2.3 Lighting	109
7.3 Detail design elements	116
7.3.1 Staircase and bridge as representatives of concept	116
7.3.2 Approach to exhibition elements	118
7.3.3 Approach to permanent seating	119
7.3.4 Approach to facade treatment	120

CHAPTER 8_ TECHNICAL DRAWINGS

8.1 Siteplan and plans	123
8.2 Sections	126
8.3 Elevations and details	132

CONCLUSION	143
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REFERENCES	144
------------	-----



1_ INTRODUCTION 2_ BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Fig. 1.1: Diagram illustrating the individual within a set of constraints, in relation to a specific cultural context, edited by author, 2011. Davies, M. L. & Meskimmon, M. 2003. p. 80.

Figure 1.2: Adaptation of vacant building development potential as outlined by Kincaid. Kincaid, D. 2002.

Figure 2.1: Diagram illustrating interdisciplinary approach. Author, 2011.

Fig. 2.2: Visual interpretation of craft process. Author, 2011.

Figure 2.3: Author's abstraction of potential. Author, 2011.

Figure 2.4: Context outlining creative production processes in Pretoria. Author, 2011.

Figure 2.5: Craft-based design products. Global Africa Expo, 2010.

Fig. 2.6: Sammy Marks Precinct, Inner City of Pretoria. Author. 2011.

Fig. 2.7: Exterior of proposed site, corner of Du Toit- and Church Street. Author, 2011.

Figure 2.8: Diagrammatic site context showing adjacent buildings and streets. Author, 2011.

Figure 2.9: Interior of vacant building. Author, 2011.

Figure 2.10: Craftswoman weaving the "Zulumama" chair design by Haldane Martin. Internet: www.haldanemartin.co.za. Access: 16 March 2011.



3_ THEORETICAL DISCOURSE 4_ FRAMEWORK AND CONTEXT

Fig. 3.1: Elements influencing cultural production. Author, 2011.

Fig. 3.2: Hand involvement in craft, Author, April 2011.

Fig. 3.3: Craft's role as an entity that strives for a degree of autonomy. Author, May 2011.

Fig. 3.4: Existential nature of craft- craft in relation to space, Author, April 2011.

Fig. 3.5: Craft-making enables sensory stimulation. Author, 2011.

Fig. 3.6: Interpretation of an object's influence on space, Author, April 2011.

Fig. 3.7: "Unwrapping" of space and spatial elements, Author, May 2011.

Fig. 3.8: Craft interpreted in terms of phenomenology- 2D and 3D, Author, April 2011.

Figure 4.1: Conceptual illustration of precinct framework. Author, 2011.

Figure 4.2: Masterplan (not to scale) indicating "React" framework principles. Author, 2011.

Figure 4.3: Gehl's planning principles reinterpreted by framework group. Gehl, J. 2010.

Figure 4.4: Block framework concept. Author, 2011.

Figure 4.5: Section through Sammy Marx Precinct. Al Kayyali, A. 2011.

Figure 4.6: Edge condition principles according to Gehl. Gehl, J. 2010.

Figure 4.7: Section through Church Street and proposed development block. Al Kayyali, A. 2011.

Figure 4.8: Activity implementations according to framework principles. Gehl, J. 2010.

Figure 4.9: Abstract diagram connecting and linking a network of public space. Hofmeyer, A. 2011.

Figure 4.10: Concept exploration in terms of building envelope and activities. Author, 2011.

Figure 4.11: Building envelope analysis. Author, 2011.

Figure 4.12: Metro building (circa 1960), exterior and interior views. Author, 2011.

Figure 4.13: Existing textures and materiality surrounding the site. Author, 2011.



5_ PRECEDENT STUDIES

Figure 5.1: Entrance area to the Court foyer. Author, 2011.

Figure 5.2: Site plan showing Old Fort Complex. Law-Viljoen, B. 2006.

Figure 5.3: Court Logo. Law-Viljoen, B. 2006.

Figure 5.4: Signage and front doors to the Court. Author, 2011.

Figure 5.5: Foyer illustrating the theme. Author, 2011.

Figure 5.6: Foyer columns by Jane du Rand. Author, 2011.

Figure 5.7: Lighting elements alluding to craft elements. Author, 2011.

Figure 5.8: Doors and floor treatments. Author, 2011.

Figure 5.9: Court Chamber showing materiality and production process. Law-Viljoen, B. 2008: 86.

Figure 5.10: Sun screens by Lewis Levin Architects. Author, 2011.

Figure 5.11: Concept development section west-east. Law-Viljoen, B. 2006.

Figure 5.12: Facade with triangular inserts. Author, 2011.

Figure 5.13: SESC Pompeia. Lima, Z. 2006: 264.

Figure 5.14: Plan of SESC Pompeia. Blanc, P. 2003 : 60.

Figure 5.15: Windows of basketball court. Lima, Z. 2006: 258.

Figure 5.16: Window showing timber trellis. Internet: <http://lifestyleartdesign.blogspot.com/2011/04/italian-design-tradition-lina-bo-bardi.html>. Access: 5 July 2011.

Figure 5.17: Interior of SESC Pompeia. Kok, P. 2011.

Figure 5.18: Interior SESC Pompeia: fabrics made on display and exhibition/ leisure area. Gebrian, A. 2011.

Figure 5.19: Designated leisure- and flexible spaces throughout SESC. Blanc, P. 2003: 63.

Figure 5.20: Detail. Lima, Z. 2006: 263.

Figure 5.21: Stairs in museum. Lima, Z. 2006: 263.

Figure 5.22: Bo Bardi's conceptual treatment of columns. Angelidakis, A. 2009. Internet: <http://andreasangelidakis.blogspot.com/2009/12/bunker-flowerpots-and-other-miracles-by.html>. Access: 3 July 2011.

Figure 5.23: Columns treated as natural elements. Angelidakis, A. 2009. Internet: <http://andreasangelidakis.blogspot.com/2009/12/bunker-flowerpots-and-other-miracles-by.html>. Access: 3 July 2011.

Figure 5.24: Exhibition elements by Bo Bardi for MASP. Angelidakis, A. 2009. Internet: <http://andreasangelidakis.blogspot.com/2009/12/bunker-flowerpots-and-other-miracles-by.html>. Access: 3 July 2011.

Figure 5.25: African Craft Market, Rosebank. Knoll, C. 2001: 1.

Figure 5.26: African Craft Market balustrade and interior of coffee shop. Lipman, A. 2001.

Figure 5.27: Dude Cigar Bar brick wall detail. Studiomake. 2011. Internet: <http://www.studiomake.com>. Access: 2 October 2011.

Figure 5.28: Dude Cigar Bar interior. Internet: <http://www.studiomake.com>. Access: 2 October 2011.

Figure 5.29: Section through Guggenheim void and ramp. Designboom. 2010. Internet: <http://www.designboom.com/weblog/cat/9/view/8574/mass-studies-art-trap.html>. Access: 15 September 2011.

Figure 5.30: Interaction in atrium. Designboom. 2010. Internet: <http://www.designboom.com/weblog/cat/9/view/8574/mass-studies-art-trap.html>. Access: 15 September 2011.

Figure 5.31: Section through atrium threshold. Designboom. 2010. Internet: <http://www.designboom.com/weblog/cat/9/view/8574/mass-studies-art-trap.html>. Access: 15 September 2011.

Figure 5.32: Atrium. Designboom. 2010. Internet: <http://www.designboom.com/weblog/cat/9/view/8574/mass-studies-art-trap.html>. Access: 15 September 2011.



6_ DESIGN DEVELOPMENT 7_ TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION

Figure 6.1: Conceptual drawing illustrating structural and theoretical approach to existing building. Author, 2011.

Figure 6.2: Conceptual drawing illustrating typical activity spaces within the existing building. Author, 2011.

Figure 6.3: Approach to structural intervention. Author, 2011.

Figure 6.4: Building location and intervention approach. Author, 2011.

Figure 6.5: Conceptual exploration of atrium concept and programme. Author, 2011.

Figure 6.6: Ground Floor conceptual layout. Author, 2011.

Figure 6.7: First Floor conceptual layout. Author, 2011.

Figure 6.8: Second and Third Floor conceptual layout. Author, 2011.

Figure 6.9: Concept diagram illustrating intervention approach. Author, 2011.

Figure 6.10: Concept exploration diagrams. Author, 2011.

Figure 6.11: Exploration of the seam in clothes-making and architecture. Author, 2011.

Figure 6.12: 3D images exploring concept. Author, 2011.

Figure 6.13: Design exploration of concept: subtracting, adding and the seam. Author, 2011.

Figure 6.14: Ching's diagrammatic investigations into columns in space. Author, 2011.

Sourced: Ching, 2007: 122-127.

Figure 7.1: Material palette. Author, 2011.

Figure 7.2: Diagrams illustrating circulation and services in building. Author, 2011.

Figure 7.3: Diagrams showing HVAC system on ground- and first floor. Author, 2011.

Figure 7.4: Lighting examples for intervention. Spazio, 2008.

Figure 7.5: Section investigating atrium, entrance and exhibition space. Author, 2011.

Figure 7.6: Ground Floor Plan (not to scale). Author, 2011.

Figure 7.7: Cross section through atrium illustrating staircase and bridge construction. Author, 2011.

Figure 7.8: First Floor Plan indicating atrium, exhibition space and workshop (not to scale). Author, 2011.

Figure 7.9: Section indicating activity spine and atrium. Author, 2011.

Figure 7.10: Exploded diagram of main staircase. Author, 2011.

Figure 7.11: Detail section indicating staircase construction. Author, 2011.

Figure 7.12: Section indicating exhibition platform principles. Author, 2011.

Figure 7.13: Technical exploration of seating. Author, 2011.

Figure 7.14: Section indicating facade treatment. Author, 2011.

Figure 7.15: Window elevations (without/ with mesh addition). Author, 2011.

Figure 7.16: Mesh screen mechanism detail. Author, 2011.

Figure 7.17: Mesh screen mechanism detail. Author, 2011.



8_ TECHNICAL DRAWINGS

Figure 8.1: Site plan and Ground Floor- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.2: Ground Floor- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.3: First Floor- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.4: Section AA- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.5: Section AA (partial)- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.6: Section BB- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.7: Detail of roof insertion- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.8-8.11: Existing building elevation with new screens. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.12: West elevation- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.13-8.14: Staircase details- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.15: Corner detail of frame- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.16-8.18: Handrail and balustrade detail- not to scale_ November exam
Author, 2011.

Figure 8.19: Location of detail in building- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.20-8.21: Permanent seating details- not to scale_ November exam.
Author, 2011.

Figure 8.22: Location of detail in building- not to scale_ November exam.
Author, 2011.

Figure 8.23: Threshold seating detail- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.24: Location of detail in building- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.25: Threshold seating detail- not to scale_ November exam. Author, 2011.

Figure 8.26: 3D interior illustration. Author, 2011.



*We see no lines of distinction between the buildings and spaces we design
and the objects we make.*

Craft and intimacy happen at all scales.

Studiomake