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Conclusion Chapter 8

Conclusion

This study is aimed at identifying ways in which architecture can promote social cohesion and desegregation. The preindustrial vernacular, which has failed to adapt from apartheid ideologies, has been proposed to include social integration as opposed to the creation of segregated environments.

The investigation can be summarised as creating *entopia*, which focus on architecture of the every day, cater to real world needs of city users and address problems unique to place and setting - and in the context of Pretoria, includes social integration.

To successfully establish *entopia* and create socially responsive architecture, three principal factors emerged. Firstly, that extension of public space

is paramount in the creation of socially conscious architecture by providing space that can be appropriated by city users and serve as a platform for integration and communication. Secondly, architecture needs to function as a communication activator through the creation of space that will encourage communication since the mere provision of public space does not guarantee interaction. Community formation can not be forced and needs to be encouraged through the provision of spaces and opportunities where accidental meeting may take place. The third factor, is the acknowledgement of the importance of context which throughout this study has been concerned with the creation of a pedestrianised gateway to the city as is needed within the context in which the project is located. Contextual response

is of utmost importance in the creation of *entopia* and socially responsive architecture to allow the new design to respond to specific problems on site and interpret ways in which social integration may be achieved.

Programmatic response and the creation of mixed use environments has been found to facilitate integration as it responds to all three factors mentioned above and proved to be vital during the design process. The design serves to illustrate how the three factors mentioned can be implemented to facilitate socially responsive architecture.

In conclusion architecture and the built environment has a direct influence on social cohesion, community formation and desegregation, and it is the authors belief that architecture is pivotal in the realisation thereof.

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