access

an opportunity platform for Burger’s Park Pretoria

Gavin Williams
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Key Words: accessibility, inclusive design, library, community centre, Burger’s Park, Pretoria CBD, ramps.
Site description: Adjacent to Burger’s Park, Pretoria – underutilised corner site
Client: Department of Arts and Culture, Library and Information Services
Users: Residents of Burger’s Park precinct, pedestrians passing through the precinct and people from the Pretoria CBD.
Site Location: Erf 718 Portions 1, 2, 3 and 4, Pretoria
c/o Andries Street and Visagie Street, Pretoria, South Africa
GPS Coordinates: 25°45’9”S, 28°11’26”E
Theoretical Premise: The understanding of accessibility in architecture and inclusive design.
Architectural Approach: An exclusively inclusive approach to the provision of a facility and resources that address the community needs of Burger’s Park
Research filed: Urbanism and human settlements
abstract

This dissertation investigates the accessibility of public architecture. The aim is to illustrate the relevance of accessibility in architecture by establishing a theoretical premise and applying it in design.

The theoretical analysis defines inclusive design and examines the relevance of the topic within the South African context. It explores written theory on the topic and how it has evolved. The aim is to understand the implications of an inclusive design approach in architecture and to assess the inclusivity of recently completed buildings. The design investigation explores an exclusively inclusive approach in the design of a public building. The intent is to create a building that is inclusive; one that can be used by all.

Currently, there is a lack of accessible public facilities in the Burger's Park precinct, thus the Burger's Park Opportunity Platform is proposed. The Opportunity Platform is a building that provides and facilitates the necessary resources for a community to prosper. It facilitates much needed community programmes and facilities such as literacy and skills training and access to books, the Internet and other media. The public nature of this building type implies that it is to be used by the entire community, which provides appropriate conditions to explore inclusive design in Pretoria.

The study, through theoretical, empirical and contextual enquiry, provides an understanding of the principles pertaining to inclusive design and how it manifests in architecture.
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 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.

..............................................

Gavin Williams
thank you

Thank you to everyone who made this journey with me.
Thank you to everyone that motivated, fed, loved and listened to me.
Thank you to the music.
Thank you to God.

This study is dedicated to Phillip Jacques van Zyl, who became a user of this building half way through the year.
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