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review and reasoning

rationale...

The next best thing to a playground designed entirely by children is a playground designed by an adult but incorporating the possibility for children to create their own places within it.

-Richard Dattner

Of foremost importance is the need to design a facility that fosters learning that encompasses the various theories presented to create a holistic design approach.

Many proposals for Pretoria look at the densification of the city in an effort to decrease the rate at which urban sprawl is occurring. However, one has to face the fact that the majority of people do not aspire to live in the city but rather strive to acquire their dream of living in a suburb with a “white picket fence” notion. So one has to ask oneself: how, as designers, can we make the city alluring? I presented myself with this challenge when choosing to work in the city. One possible solution I arrived at was to make the prospect of interacting with the city more attractive through convenience by providing an amenity on a site that is close to places of work and easily accessible to public transport. It also appeals to a parent's desire to want the best for their children.

The proposed pre-school should act as a catalyst for creating a sense of community in a city, where none exists, and for broader community improvement by becoming a communal centre and expanding to accommodate as the need for various additions [such as a clinic, night classes, communication services etc.] arises. This will ensure that the centre becomes an inherent part of the community utilised throughout the day.

importance of study...

We are in an age of progression where education is seen as key in one's personal development and success. The question arises as to what role an architect can play in community upliftment and education. As designers it is our responsibility to encourage progressive thinking by proposing a culmination of all related fields [architecture, interior architecture and landscape architecture].

The worrying factor is that even though much development has been made in education, many of the schools being designed in South Africa, and particularly Pretoria in this case, are not advancing towards more dynamic, interactive or contextual designs.

This proposal, like youth, is experimental and can be seen as a stepping stone to better understanding and defining the ideal.

Youth is wholly experimental

-Robert Louis Stevenson



defining the problem...

When children become interested in the natural and man-made world, their curiosity is best satisfied by first-hand experience - actually doing, rather than abstract discussion

-Richard Dattner

My inquiry probes the premise of how to create a pre-primary school in a city edge condition by looking at the design informants of:

- The specific requirements of children in a learning environment
- How architecture can assist in education in terms of “learning through play”
- Integration of landscape and architecture; inside and outside to widen the boundaries of learning from the classroom to play spaces outside
- Transitioning from informal to formal in an attempt to contextualise the school

My investigation looks at how one can create a pre-school that facilitates education to nurture children to their maximum capabilities and potential.

aims and objectives...

With this dissertation I strive to push the boundaries of what is considered normal and conventional to create a new architectural educational play typology for childcare facilities that explores the potential previously uncultivated. This thesis aims to present the shortcomings of past attempts at childcare facility designs and to investigate and contextualise the best possible solutions and implementations to create a revolutionary educational and play hub.

A site becomes a place when the link between architecture and context is established. This could be achieved by capturing the spirit of the place. The site is positioned on the fringes of a frayed urban fabric and is, in itself, a lost space that needs to be reclaimed. The site has been left to the devices of taxis and is surrounded by constant activity yet it fails to capture a celebration of its significance in relation to the urban fabric.



research methodologies..

- **Literature review**

Research and analysis of existing literature and theories on subjects pertaining to the topic and review on how the finding can be utilised in the design of the proposal.

- **Case studies**

A review of similar projects in an attempt to pinpoint admirable features, to possibly apply to the design, as well as possible downfalls

- **Context study**

A detailed inquiry into the site and its surrounding context including frameworks, zoning, topography, climate, access, history of the site and buildings of cultural and historical value around the site.

- **Material exploration**

A study into building and cladding materials to determine what would be most suitable for children so that it will, most importantly, not be detrimental to their health

- **Quantitative study**

- Population densities.
- Number of people on average travelling to /from the city.
- Estimated increase in residents after implementation of proposed residential components.
- Population of children residing in the city
- Number of children travelling to the city for education
- Modes of transport to/ from the city and most popular mode

- **Studies on educational strategies**