



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

re + treat |ri'trēt|

a community based hotel development in the Lesotho highlands

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Submitted in fulfillment
of part of the requirements
for the degree of magister in
architecture (professional),
in the faculty of engineering,
built environment and
information technology,
university of pretoria

November 2009

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Funded in part by the NRF
and in part by the University
of Pretoria



re + treat |ri'trēt|

verb [intrans.]

- move back or withdraw, esp. so as to remove oneself from a difficult or uncomfortable situation: *“the advent of a dam forced the community to have to retreat from their current environment”*.
- change one’s decisions, plans, or attitude, as a result of criticism from others: *“given the effect on rural communities the Highlands Water Authority have retreated from their position on the relocation of communities”*.
- to change ones view of something and apply a renewed process or a substance to (something) to protect or preserve it or to give it particular properties: *“re-treating their approach to relocating communities could turn the threat of the dam into opportunities for the local peoples”*.

noun

- a quiet or secluded place in which one can rest and relax: *“by proposing a hotel retreat, the tourism intervention provides a new source of income for the community”*.



Abstract

“ A critically regionalist approach to ever changing environments, the scheme questions current policies that negatively affect locals with regards to a dam development in a remote area of Lesotho. In so, it proposes a framework in which the various communities affected by the dam can utilise new and existing resources to realign their livelihoods to one that ties in with the development. Within this framework, a hotel/lodge is proposed as an income generating initiative that capitalises on the new dam and the Maluti Mountains as tourist attractions”.



Acknowledgements

Amira Osman | Gary White | Marianne de Klerk | Jacques Laubscher | Piet Vosloo [Prof.] | Nicolas Clarke

Karel Bakker [Prof.]

Jean- Pierre de la Porte

Gerald Schulz | Ursula Knapp

Ntate Steven Phakisi | Ntate Tsieso Phakisi | Ntate Charles Mwakalumbwa | Ntate Khathibi | Ntate Bore Motsamai

Communities of Ha Konki and Tsekong

Ntate Moeketsi Senaoana | Mme 'Maitumeleng Senaoana | Letalbika Senaoana | Itumeleng Senaoana

Otsile Mabusela | Thato Mahapa

Avril Paterson

Morohoane Motsamai



Dedication

“To my mother Maitumeleng Senaoana on her 50th birthday”

2nd October 2009

your loving son.



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Figure 001. [RIGHT]
Thaba Putsoa Mountain Ridge





This thesis aims to create an architectural vision for the economic and cultural evolution of Lesotho's rural communities. It acknowledges the contemporary and regards environmentally sensitive/responsive design as essential. The thesis methodology follows a critical-regionalist approach to unravel the site's inherent organizational and operational complexities.

A hotel retreat is envisioned within a resettlement framework. The development is driven by the hypothesis that an environment has the ability to adapt to changing circumstances without losing its character. Therefore the thesis strives to develop an architecture true to the region, wherein the spirit of place would play a quintessential role in defining its very identity and meaning.

In proposing a resolution for existing problems and fostering the intrinsic potentials of the site, the thesis offers a basis for communities to act collectively in developing their environments.

Adapted from CVETKOVIC, S. (2006).
Towards a healthy architecture. Watloo,
Ontario, Canada: University of Waterloo



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