300_historical background

301 Historical timeline
analysis
Time line analysis

The historical timeline plays a role as a pattern-defining tool in the gradual progression of a nation. Past paradigms are response based in that prevalent circumstances of that time inform architectural design responses. This progression forms the identity of a culture and there-in, the development of an architectural Character.

Figure 015.  [FOLDOUT]
“Historical timeline”
Known to the Basotho as “Baroa”, later san dwelling typology appears peculiar to Basotho.

Although adaptive use of stone in structural considerations against weather and enemies is notable.

Stone proves as good thermal massing, entrance small and ideal for size of san, however larger peoples and animals find it difficult to enter having to crawl in on their belly to attack.

1800s

Moshesh, chief bands together disp westwards towards

19th century heralded the era of Lifaqane (pronounced Difaqane), meaning time of calamity, saw Shaka Zulu and the Zulu nation on a vicious campaign to conquer all other tribes. The threat of impending violence forces tribes to move westwards.

Tribal clashes throughout southern Africa force tribes to move around

Knock on effect causes tribes to scramble for territory, strategically so to protect livestock.

South Africa with movement of peoples
Moshoeshoe I, and the tribes, roughly 4000 people move further south west to the Qiloane plateau, later known as Thaba Bosiu, the legendary stronghold of the Basotho during the 'gun war' against Boer farmers.

Missionaries and Other Europeans move into Africa, Clashes erupt over land between the Basotho and Boers Settlers to the Free State.

As population pressure in the lowlands increased, Basotho began first to graze their animals in the Matlali and later to build villages. The earliest such village founded on a mountain known as Thaba-Tseka: 'the mountain with a blaze'.

The English provided Basotho with access to arms and eventually sanctuary in the form of protectorate-ship. The English also acted as mediators between the Boers in acquiring livestock and food in times of famine.

Local government was introduced through the creation of the Basutoland Council, an advisory body composed of the British resident commissioner, the paramount chief, and 99 appointed Basotho members.

This would form the first of many alliances with the west through aid.

Moshoeshoe declares tribes as one nation of Basotho. The nation of Lesotho is established.

European protection and alliances prove to be beneficial against combating attacks by Boers.
It is evident that the people of Lesotho have been at the mercy of external forces throughout time. Consistently having to respond to this, their identity is based on their relation to those external influences. Thus making it difficult to control, fortify and eventually shape this identity into something definitive and pride instilling. The future should in effect centre rural peoples as being formative of their own environments. The Author is of the opinion that, where equipped with knowledge their responses would be informed and internally orientated to progressing from within.