



wood for the trees

A temporary theatre for the performance of '*Circles in a Forest*'

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002. ABSTRACT

In the world of architecture a field of **tension** exist between **permanence** and **temporality**. The aim of this study was to explore the **possibilities** residing within this duality. During the urban investigation conducted in the Pretoria CBD, scars of **vacant space** were found that exposed the possibility of **temporarily utilizing** these empty spaces. In general vacant spaces tend to become **unsafe, degraded** and **illegally occupied**. If these vacant spaces could be **temporarily reused** it would **benefit** the owners, users and community at large.

The **binding workshop** of The Government Printing Works on Vermeulen Street just west of Church Square is in the process of being **relocated** and no planned future use is evident. The investigation proposes that the workshop be adapted to accommodate a **temporary performance space**. Through the process of matching a vacant permanent space with a temporary program their **interdependence** became evident resulting in an approach towards a **mutuality beneficial symbiosis** between the temporary and the permanent. The **permanent host** will benefit the **temporary guest** by providing **shelter, safety** and **physical support**. The **temporary guest** will benefit the permanent host by giving it **life, activity** and the opportunity to contribute to its local context. The temporary program will **preserve** the existing host and **protect** it from deterioration.

Production design as an inherently, temporary form of space creation was selected as the **medium** for this investigation. Performance space positions architecture within the realm of temporary **experience** and lasting **memory**. **Circles in a Forest** are the **inspiration** behind the design of the temporary performance space. This novel by author Dalene Matthee speaks of a segment in the **history** of South Africa, but also tells a **universal story**; that serves as a **warning** against the **exploitation** of people and natural **resources**.

The design focused on creating **layers** of permanence and temporality dependant on each other. As these layers are **peeled** away the space can be **reinterpreted** and adapted for **other** performances and programmes.

temporary

permanent

tension

symbiosis

theatre

stage production

narrative

reuse

recycle

vacant



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