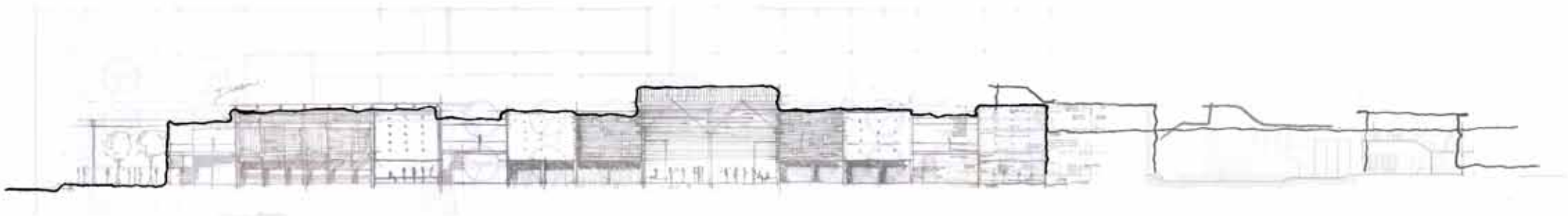
PUBLIC INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTRE

knowledge transference_connectivity_community



K. Steyn

If there is one thing that I've learned during this year, it is that you'll never know the outcome of your decision unless you follow through.

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Study leader: G. White

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Abstract

The project is situated within the underdeveloped periphery of Mamelodi. It addresses urban issues of connectivity at a physical, spatial and educational level, as a setting for the proposed architectural intervention. The thesis explores a number of architectural issues, mainly the design of a multi-functional information and resource centre to facilitate a series of public, civic and economic services. These issues are formed through programmes which concern information and knowledge provision. Aspects that informed the nature and scope of the intervention include methods of knowledge distribution, the role of the public library as one beyond that of its functional origin and the potential of the building type to serve as a catalyst within a community. Owing to the physical and programmatic context of the building, it needs to offer adaptability, flexibility and eventually change; both in terms of changing information technologies and within an informal trading-dominant society. Pertinent considerations are small scale construction methods that would allow the participation of local contractors, the creation of tectonics and articulation of space with which the community can associate as well as energy saving principles to allow minimal cost.

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LIST OF FIGURES

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