CHAPTER NINE

finale intervention

Figure 367: Site development plan
Through an investigative process of research and observation it has been determined that for a single architectural intervention to survive within an environment such as Eerste Fabrieke, it needs to form part of a larger network of functions. What initially started as a single intervention grew into a process of urban space and exploration.

Identifying outdoor space as a pre-requisite for form, the architectural intervention is the result of a reaction to its surroundings. This response is not necessarily to the existing built form, but rather to human behaviour, the way in which they move through space and how it can be optimised in order to benefit the everyday commuter. Referring back to Filip De Boeck where he wrote that it is not material infrastructure or built form that makes the city a city, but rather a means of interaction that proves to be the strongest form of infrastructure in most African cities: the way they move through the city, use the city and how they create and generate the city. Thus, the interaction between user and surroundings will ultimately determine the success or failure of the scheme.

African urbanism is a cultural phenomenon not yet clearly understood apart from the fact that it can change according to user needs and therefore should be designed accordingly. Through the provision of basic requirements (such as a post office, police station, information centre, just to name a few) necessary to establish Eerste Fabrieke precinct as a proposed urban core whilst accommodating the concept of ownership through self creation, one can derive at an environment belonging to the people of Mamelodi.
Figure 369: Southern bird’s-eye view of the entire complex, street and live/work housing development along the street edge.
Chapter nine

Figure 372: North-Eastern perspective of the Information Resource Centre

Figure 373-386: Spatial exploration of the entire interventional from different views and on a variety of scales
Conclusion

On a city scale, this process of evolution, growth and change can span over hundreds of years. It is a progression of interaction based on requirements and reaction. Thus the intervention merely introduces a single step in the direction of establishing Eerste Fabriek precinct as an envisaged urban core; contributing to the manifestation of Mamelodi as an economic and social entity within itself. In Conclusion, the success of African space is ultimately determined by one thing: Africans.