Wallace Honiball

Elandspoort 357-JR

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BUILDING

Address: Elandspoort 357-JR, Pretoria.
Function: Governmental, destination (tourism) and recreation (public)
Research field: Environmental potential.

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Abstract

Any full history of the uses of nature would be a history of human thought.

- Raymond Williams on Nature

(FORTY, 2000:220).

*The architect must be a form-artist; only the art of form leads
the way to a new architecture.*

- August Endell on Form

(FORTY, 2000:149).

Landscape design and architecture adhere to the similar principles of form making. These have been affiliated with nature through history, sharing dialogues of philosophy. As theoretical premise, an investigation at the relationship between form and programme in the Western world (*from Antiquity to the 21st Century*). The conclusion was that there is a relationship between form and programme, that different periods in history have drawn varying conclusions regarding this relationship. My conclusion views the *idea* as the most important aim of architecture, that the relationship between form and programme influences/guides/shapes the *idea* through the design process.

The urban framework aims to preserve, to link and enhance open space in the Pretoria Central Business District. The theoretical investigation and framework directed the need for a site that would allow me to convey my own conclusion regarding the relationship, ingrained with the idea of preserving and linking open space in the focus area of Pretoria. The Union Buildings as selected site, orientated around its natural landscape, is layered with different interventions representative of relationships between form and programme, presenting the opportunity to explore my premise. The site is dominated by biota or nature, allowing the assessment of the terrain in terms of how landscape (more specifically plants) as a programme influences architectural form.

Interventions focused on the *Vredehuis* complex (sited on the Union Buildings grounds) function as the focus of the argument. The site is classified as a botanic garden. The programme of botany is informed by the site history; residential (1880-1914), botanic gardens (1914-1975), nursery (1915-1950), greenhouse (1918-1975) and entomology/plant pathology division (1914-2007). A further investigation of plants informs the function and programme of the design.

Architectural form, programme & nature.

Landscape design and architecture adhere to the same principles of form making. These disciplines have been affiliated with nature through human history, sharing dialogues of philosophy. As theoretical premise, an investigation looked at the relationship between form and programme in the Western world (from Antiquity to the 21st Century).

The Union Buildings as selected site orientated round its natural landscape is layered with different interventions representative of different relationships between form and programme, presenting the opportunity to explore my premise.