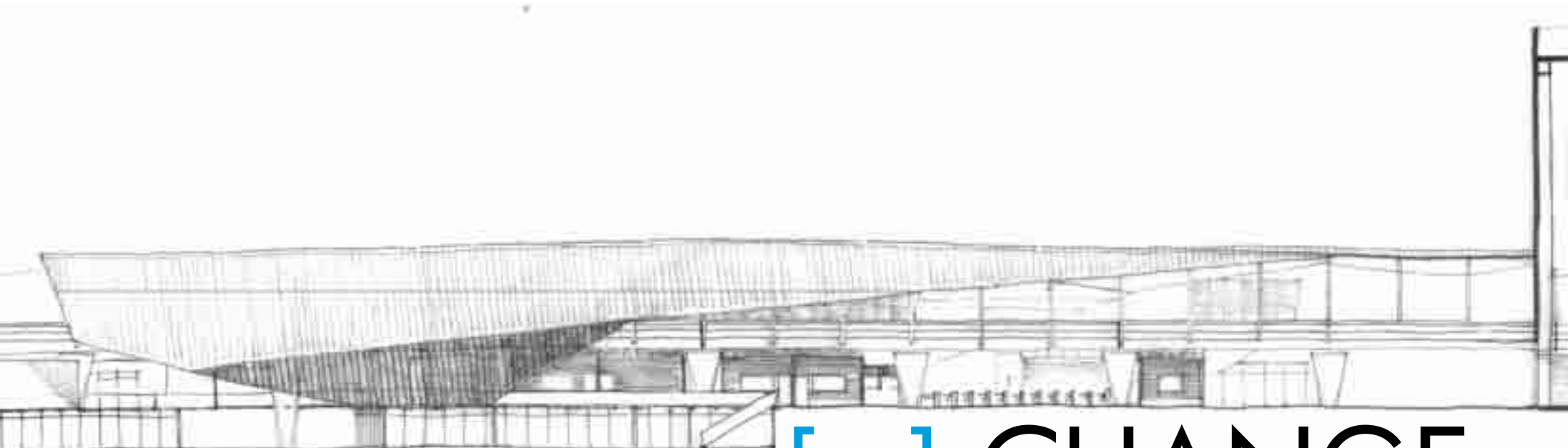




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# [EX] CHANGE

an architecture of experience

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A train station and intermodal  
freight warehouse in Pretoria West

Submitted in fulfillment of part of the Requirements for the degree of Master of Architecture (Professional) in the faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

University of Pretoria 2010

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# Abstract

The thesis is about the programmatic exchange and confluence between production processes, public transportation and people.

The proposed intervention would be developed to fit in with the City of Tshwane Spatial development framework and an industracity vision and framework for the location in Pretoria West, developed by the framework group. The new intervention will deal with both production process and public activity in the design of a train station and intermodal freight warehouse. The site location is in Pretoria West, a mixed use suburb with restricted industry, business, retail, flats and single residential areas. The site is the Pretoria West Power Station an intersect fir existing infrastructure and public transportation routes.

The aim of the investigation is the integration of public functions with industrial functions in ways that contest monotonous urban environments, preserving the heritage of the site in the outcome. The research questions what can be done to facilitate the return of lost production, increase the interaction of people and processes and address the decaying historical fabric of the Pretoria West Power Station.

The study examines the history of production and railway stations, uses descriptive survey methods, precedent studies and architectural and urban theory to inform the intervention.

The aim of the design is to transform an industrial site into a vibrant integrated environment, introducing programmes that will attract people , but keep the industrial character intact. The character of the site will be conserved through the introduction of new light industries, keeping the memory of process. The design concept links into the idea of electrical input and output exchanges of a power station.

It focuses on the exchanges of energy, physical and visual exchanges between heritage, people and products, service exchanges and exchanges in function between freight and passengers and in context - heritage and production.

The design objectives are to extend the railway line as a suspended platform to provide access and exchange for freight and passengers and to depart from the introverted nature of the existing buildings to encourage public interaction with the history of the site and the production processes. The railway track infrastructure will serve multiple purposes

# Preface

The thesis is about the programmatic exchange between production processes and public transportation and how these two functions meet. It will address the issues of boundaries, production and energy flow.

The proposed project is a freight logistics and storage facility combined with a commuter rail station, situated on the western edge of Pretoria West.

The exchange of goods/material on site will be dealt with through the handling and packaging of products for shipping/export on an existing rail network. The new architectural intervention will act as a conduit for material to be delivered to production facilities as well as the distribution of finished products from these facilities for export to local, national and global markets.

The exchange of people through the rail network to and from Pretoria West Power Station is equally important to facilitate an exchange of energies. The integration of a public transport facility will provide a visual exchange between

the viewer [commuter] and the production activities along with a physical exchange between people and the rich industrial heritage of the site.

The aim is to design spaces that will encourage people to interact with the entire process of production, thus allowing passive participation through visual connection.

The historical importance of the site cannot be neglected. The heritage strategy will be to adapt the existing process of producing energy (electricity) of the site - conducting a new flow of energy through regeneration of production facilities after the site has been decommissioned.

These new interventions will provide renewed energy for the site by converting the introverted, monotonous industrial nature of the Pretoria West Power Station into an extroverted and inviting public place.