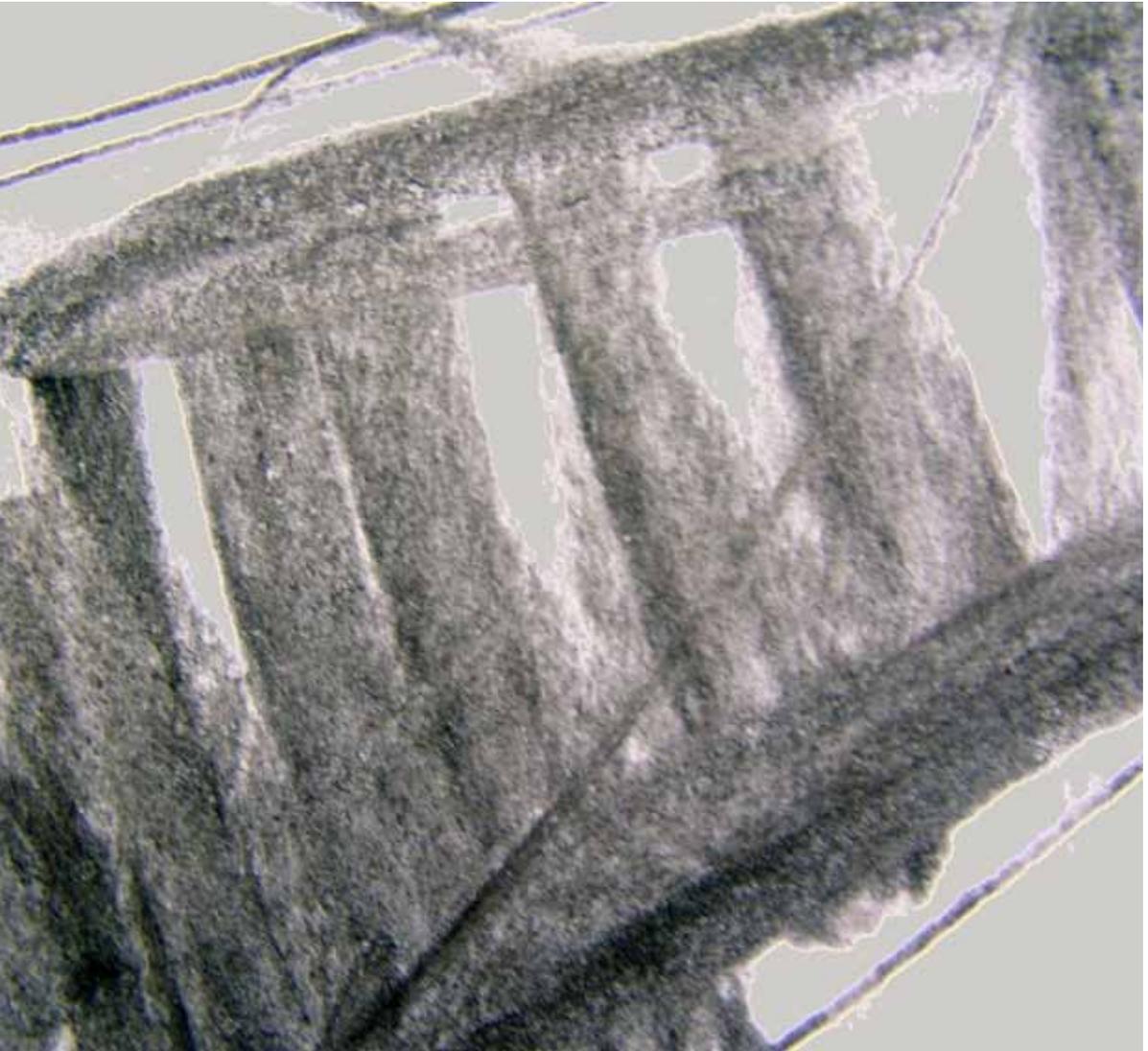




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chapter 05 Urban design





introduction

This chapter attempts to integrate the site analysis (the 'real') with the experiments (the 'fantasy'). On an urban scale the experiments generated the movement routes, the placement and scale of the buildings, and the landscaped areas which define the outside performance areas.

The urban design is based on the student urban framework entitled SchizoCity. As mentioned in chapter 3, it proposes to 'cut' through the existing city blocks and add a second layer of movement onto the existing.

Aspects of urban design generated the proposed development in part. This extends to the landscape surrounding the design proposal. The integration of architecture, landscape architecture and urban design is an essential exercise during the creation of space.

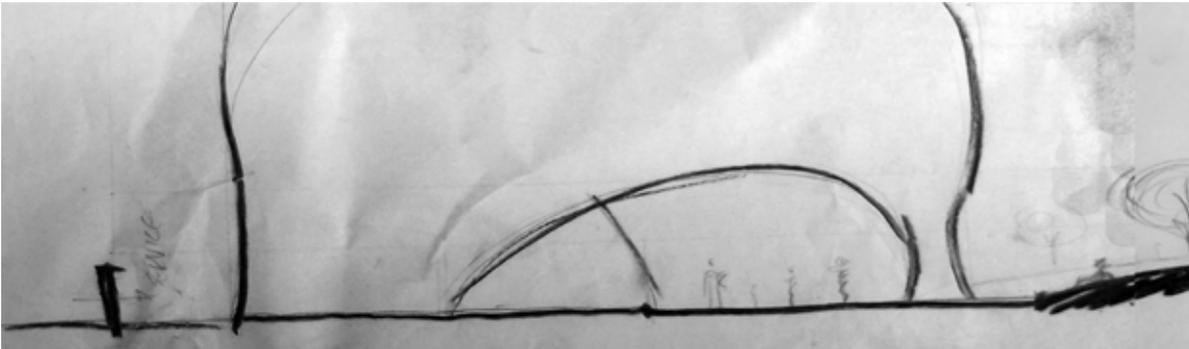


Figure 125 - sectional diagram of hard edge.

To assist with the final design process a set of basic urban design guidelines which act as restraints had to be developed. These guidelines are based on a combination of the SchizoCity framework and established urban design principles. They form a base onto which the proposed buildings can be placed. These guidelines are:

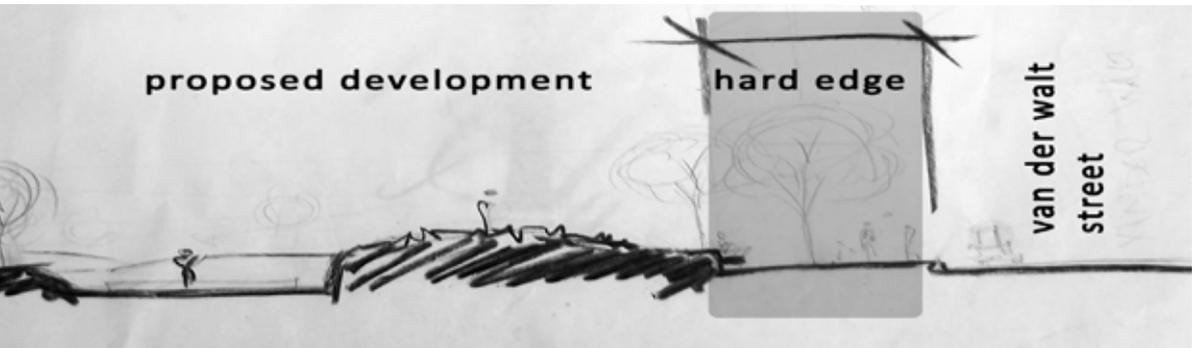
- The existing temporary structures on the corner of van der Walt and Visagie Streets are to be demolished (see figure 126).
- Strong street edges have to be defined. This is more relevant to the streets running in a North South direction mainly on van der Walt street. This strong edge would ensure that the proposed pedestrian movement does not compete with the existing movement rather creating a symbiotic relationship (see figure 127).



Figure 126 - diagram indicating temporary structures to be demolished.



Figure 127 - diagram indicating the implementation of strong street edges.



- A secondary crossing over Visagie Street is provided for pedestrian movement. This will consist of a raised street level and a change in surface. The purpose is to slow down traffic and allow easy pedestrian crossing. The vehicle user could also observe the proposed intervention (see figure 128).



Figure 128 - diagram indicating pedestrian crossing over visagie street.

- The tallest structure, a ten story apartment building, in the area is located on the South West corner of the site. This vertical edge determines the positioning of the landscaped area (see figure 129).

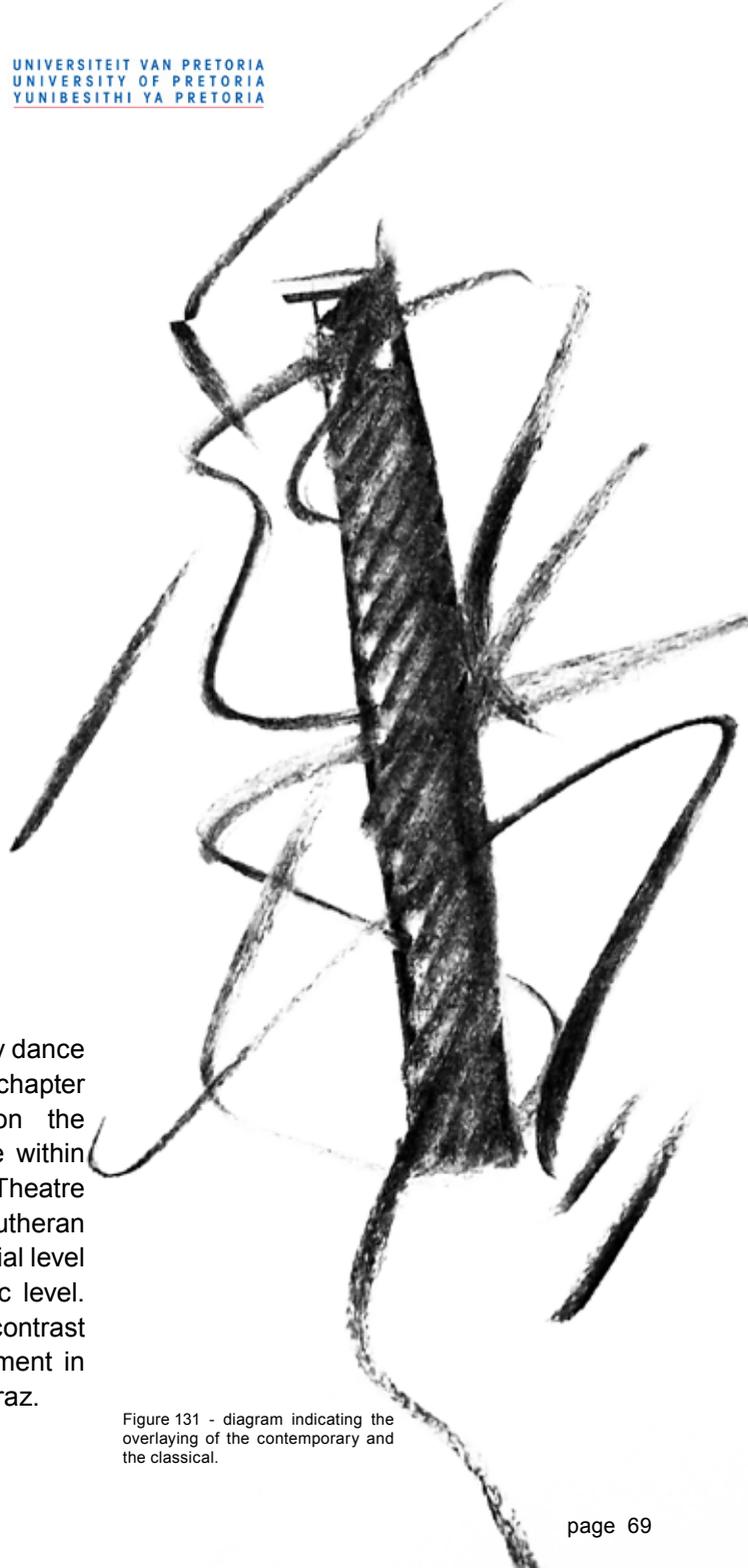


Figure 129 - diagram indicating positioning of the main landscaped area.

- The street block between Visagie Street and Burger Park Street is opened between the Doxa Deo Church and the Yeast housing. This is proposed in an attempt to extend the green 'fingers' and atmosphere of Burgers Park into the city (see figure 130).



Figure 130 - diagram indicating pedestrian movement cutting through the city block.



existing versus the new

In a similar fashion as contemporary dance builds on classical dance (see chapter 2), the project superimposes on the existing. The two buildings of note within this context are: the Unisa Little Theatre and the St. Peters – Evangelic Lutheran Church. This is attempted on a spatial level and unintentionally on an aesthetic level. The result of this is a celebrated contrast similar to the New Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, and the Kunsthaus in Graz.

Figure 131 - diagram indicating the overlaying of the contemporary and the classical.

With both these examples a clear contrast between the existing and the new is achieved. This contrast is on an aesthetic as well as spatial level. While visually seeming out of place these two projects, however, react well with their existing environment. A large part of the success of these projects are attributed to their ground floor levels and their relationship to the street.

The New Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, Scotland, by the Spanish firm Miralles/Tagliabue-EMBT, was inaugurated in October 2004. In 2005 this project received a number of awards among them the RIBA Stirling Prize, the RIAS Andrew Doolan Award for Architecture and a Scottish Design award. The combination and relationship of building and landscape ('land') became a significant factor of the design (Internet: Mirallestagliabue, 2009).

"We hope that from this emerges a series of identifications between the building and the land, land and citizens, citizens and the building, not just because of an "image"..." (Miralles & Tagliabue).

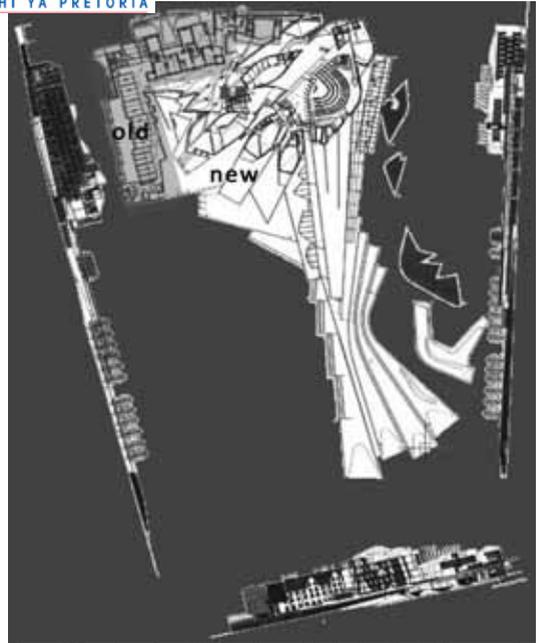


Figure 132 - plan of scottish parliament indicating the 'old' versus the 'new'.

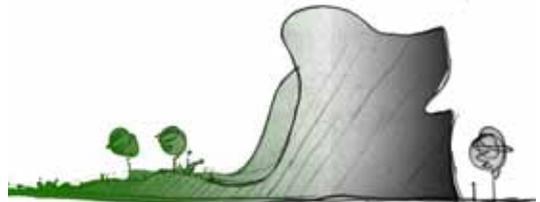


Figure 133 - diagram indicating the relationship between landscape (land) and building.

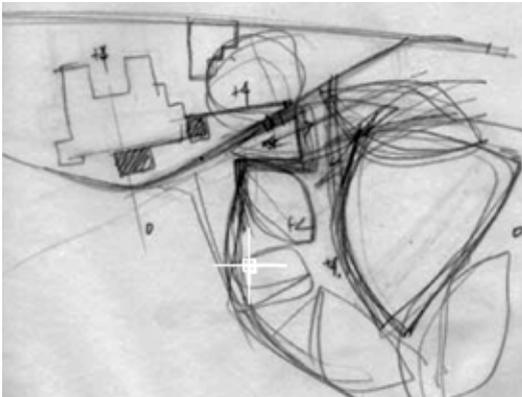


Figure 134 - conceptual sketch for scottish parliament by architect.



Figure 135 - image of scottish parliament with 'old' versus 'new' indicated.

The Kunsthau Graz, the Grazer Kunsthau or the Graz Art Museum, Graz, Austria, was design by the London based architectural firm Spacelab and completed in 2003. The two main architects on the project were Peter Cook and Colin Fournier. The project was a competition winning entry and is best summed up by a nickname given to it by the main architects, 'the friendly alien' (Internet: Gernot.xarch, 2009).



Figure 137 - plans and section of Kunsthau with 'old' versus 'new' indicated.

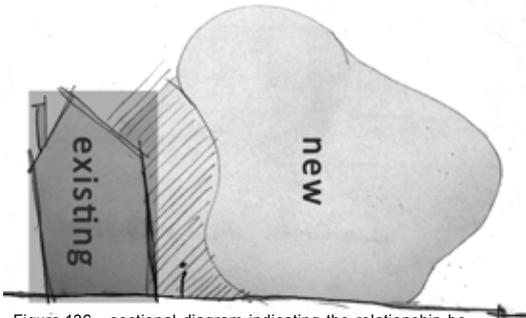


Figure 136 - sectional diagram indicating the relationship between existing and new ('alien').



Figure 138 - image of Kunsthau.



Figure 139 - image of Kunsthau.

proposed performance areas

A number of new performance areas will be added to site. The diversity of these areas is important in challenging and facilitating the contemporary choreographer. With the proposed intervention the site will present a variety of performance spaces:

- Soft landscape that will consist of grass lawns and shrubs.
- Hard landscape or square which can accommodate a range of activities.
- Two open air stages. One on ground floor level, the other one story up overlooking the square.

- Two studios, which hosts the permanent occupants of the Contemporary Dance Company. These studios expose the process of dance to the city dweller. The one studio on the North side for the vehicle user and the other studio submerged on the squares side for the pedestrian.
- The main contemporary performance area consists of a 'Black Box' theatre. This is the more formalised performance area.
- The existing, 'classical', Unisa Little Theatre on the North West side of the site.

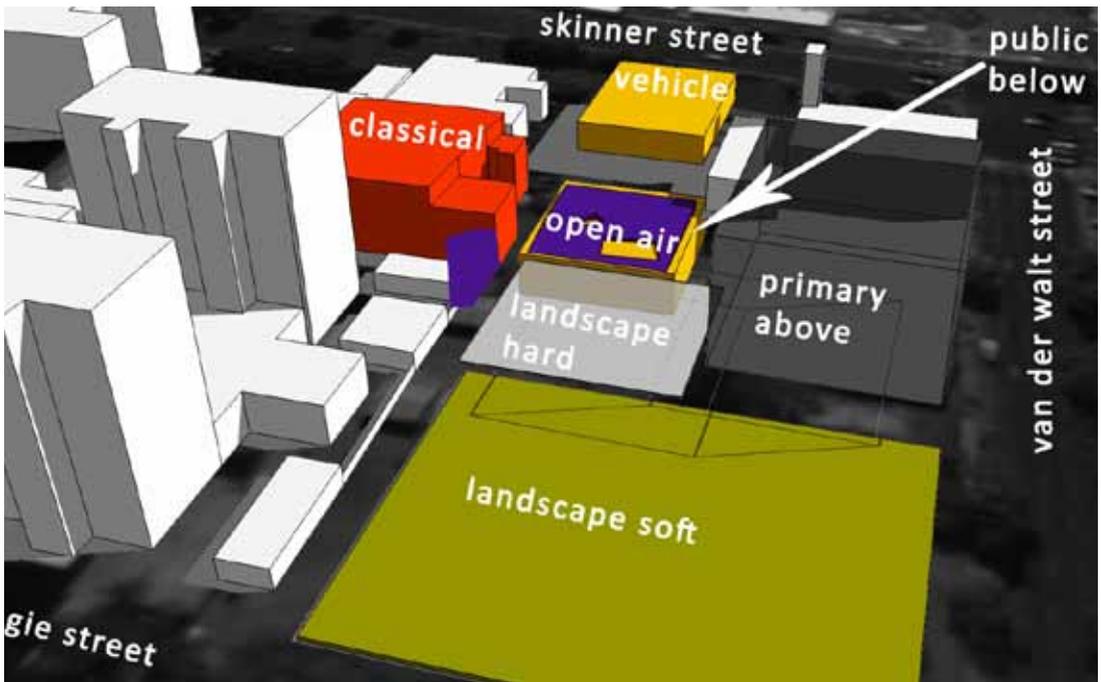


Figure 140 - diagram indicating the proposed organisation of variety of performance and urban spaces .

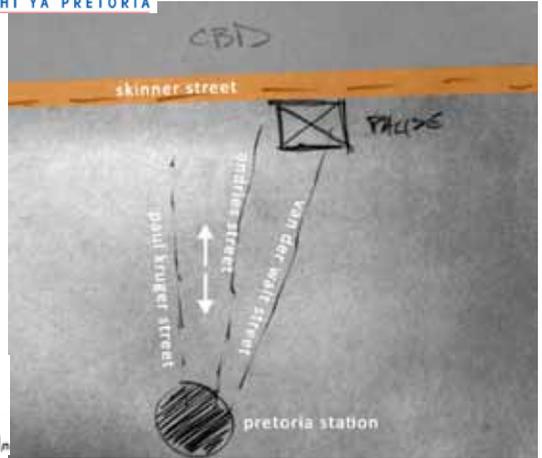


Figure 141 - diagram indicating 'pause' space before 'rush' of CBD .

summary

Soft and hard landscaping are employed to establish a 'pause' space within the CBD (see figure 141). This is supplemented by an active ground floor in the form of an eatery (see figure 142). The primary pedestrian movement is envisioned through the site as indicated in figure 143.

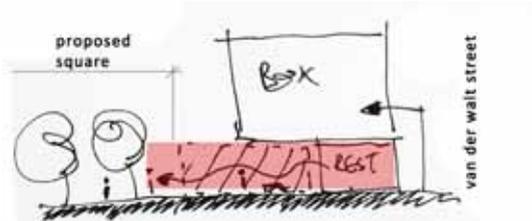


Figure 142 - diagram of active ground floor .

Soft and hard landscape culminates in the square as 'pause' area. The proposed project connects with pedestrian movement on van der Walt Street. A secondary pedestrian movement from the square passing the Unisa Little Theatre towards Skinner Street, is made available.

The ground floor levels of the proposed buildings and the way they react with their surroundings, existing and new, is of importance for the success of the intervention.

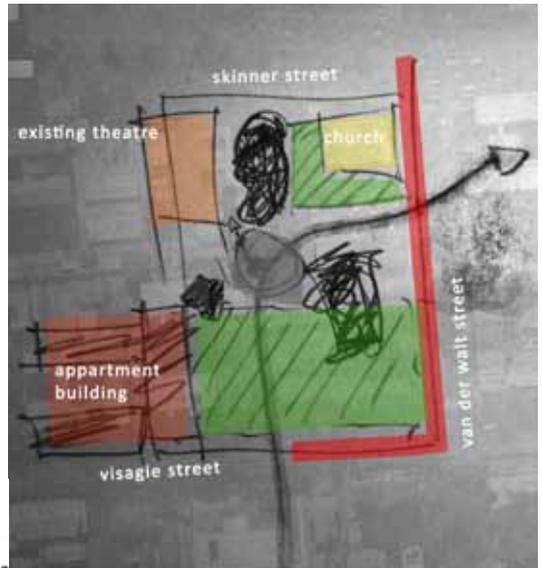


Figure 143 - diagram indicating the proposed urban design for site.