This dissertation sought to investigate the ability of architecture to reduce the vulnerability of migratory populations within South Africa and, more specifically, Pretoria. It has demonstrated that through the consideration and analysis of community, context, form-making and technology that a sensitive architectural intervention may achieve this intention.

The intricate networks of a secretive and individual-oriented community were exposed to reveal new methods of conceptualising spatial formation. These included:

• The non-cohesive ‘third space’, inherently non-physical, open and flexible with the ability to accommodate exception and the mixing of diﬀerence into diverse, social constructs of space,

• The ‘looseness’ of space present in Marabastad, where the constant mixing of territories and associations of smooth and striated spaces culminate in a delicate balance between the formal and informal,

• Finally, the dialectical dependency expressed by the theoretical analysis and approach to space saw the opposing facets of the architectural commodity establishing an alternative to spatial interpretation. The tension formed between fetish and fossil, wish image and ruin allowed for the resulting architecture to expose the impact of both human nature, political will and the passage of time on architecture.

By reassessing and comprehending the needs of migratory population groups, the dissertation proposed a relevant programme that not only provided access to necessary humanitarian support facilities but also offered a platform for remuneration, meaningful employment and the promotion of tacit skills and knowledge. Originally intended for use by refugees and asylum seekers, the resultant knowledge and information centre has the added ability to serve local individuals, forming a socially cohesive environment that celebrates and documents the untold memories of new citizens and South Africans alike.

The approach developed in expressing the architecture, through form and technology, celebrates the diﬀerence of constituent elements. Drawing upon the contextual analysis, the spatial experience developed raises an awareness to the dynamic relationships and tensions perpetuated by the presence of international visitors in South Africa. Stereotomic, general spaces frame a ﬂexible and ﬂuid space between them, while providing the necessary services and support. Furthermore, the relationships between local and international, old and new, internal and external, and tectonic and stereotomic are exposed and celebrated for their diﬀerence.

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