Concluding remarks and final manifestation of the argument in the form of final models and drawings.
In an age where the progressive and the novel are fetishized and the fictional ideal of a man-made future utopia blinds us to the value of the historical or the existing, we attempt to reimagine our world without questioning whether something need be reimagined. The public library is a victim of a self-fulfilling prophecy that called for its reinvention in order to cope with a digital future and maintain its relevance; this reinvention took the form of the library being renamed as the resource centre and the rapid proliferation of these counterfeit replacements made up of blended functions, technologies and atmospheres, ill-defined spaces, have only acted to expand the placeless geographies that characterise our urban environments.

If new libraries are to be built as places of meaning and significance whilst critically engaging with the future of the type, then architects need to embrace the library’s essential character as an enclosed, well-defined and regulated semi-public space built to house physical codices and people whilst facilitating non-digital interactions. It is this typical library that has both value and a contemporary role, rather than existing as a placeless window into the bottomless riches of the digital world. It is an enclosed space of order, context and structure in contrast to the infinite chaos of the outside.

Following these concluding remarks, the drawings and models that have been made to communicate the design of the library act as the architectural manifestation of the argument. As the fruit of this investigation into the issue of institutional placelessness, the architecture presented here should be understood by the reader as the final chapter of this argument and as a means of critically assessing the relevance and potential of the approach to place-making proposed by this dissertation.

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FIGURE 7.6 Surface texture of cast slate

Exploration samples made to ensure cast slate walls
are detailed evenly.

FIGURE 7.7 Surface texture and modulating explorations

Designing the treatment of openings.

FIGURE 7.8 Surface texture of cast slate

FIGURE 7.9 Surface artification and moulding explorations

FIGURE 7.10 Surface articulation and moulding explorations

FIGURE 7.11 Designing the treatment of openings

LIST OF FIGURES
In accordance with Regulation 4(c) of the General Regulations (G.57) for dissertations and theses, I declare that this thesis, which I hereby submit for the degree Master of Architecture (Professional) at the University of Pretoria, is my own work and has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other tertiary institution.

I further state that no part of my thesis has already been, or is currently being, submitted for any such degree, diploma or other qualification.

I further declare that this thesis is substantially my own work. Where reference is made to the works of others, the extent to which that work has been used is indicated and fully acknowledged in the text and list of references.

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