



part four  
analysis of finds

# South African Precedents

Engineering tower basement



Engineering tower basement



Humanities sublevels



Humanities sublevels



South African Institute of Infectious Disease and Molecular Medicine, University of Cape Town - Link Building (Fagan 2005/2006)

The appointed firm was Gabriel Fagan Architects. Their brief was to connect the three research buildings in the Institute's complex with a central symbolic building.

This building facilitates dialogue between researchers and serves as a central orientation point for visitors and students.

The main objective was to link the buildings with a contrasting contemporary building which must connect delicately to the historic structures. The transparency of the protruding cylinder of the link building is such a contrast to the solid mass of the neo-classical buildings that it takes on a higher importance in the hierarchy of the complex. It becomes the obvious point of entry.

The cafeteria was placed centrally in the main movement paths to encourage interaction and communication

A feeling of community was created by the fact that people can move up the light steel stairs and look into the previous exterior windows of the old laboratories of each level.

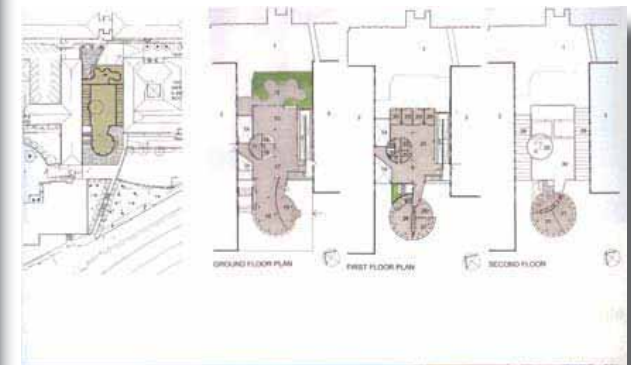


Fig.66



Origin Museum, University of Witwatersrand,  
Johannesburg



Landmark signage



Museum + department



Replicas displayed



Large projection room



Human movement



Visual installation



Display wall



Audio & visual communication

Fig.67

Cradle of Humankind

- Maropeng and Sterkfontein caves.



Fig.68



## International Precidents

### Tower



### Retreat



### The House of spirituality, Spain (1975)

In the brief Emilio Ambasz was told by his clients to create a chic country house on their farm near Seville in the Sierra Morena. It is called the Casa de Retiro Espiritual and the design won the Progressive Architecture Award in 1980. (The Ultimate house on the Landscape).

Ambasz sought to go back to the origins of architecture: the result is a building that seem to stand for the pure essence thereof. (Buchanan) It is a fusion of expressing the relationship between nature and architecture. In the carefully choreographed sequence of experiences Ambasz has achieved a relation with the universal elements: Sun, sky, stars, wind, earth and water. This relation generates a communication to the immaterial essence of the spiritual power of one's soul. The building is smooth and soft white and is reminiscent of trouble free Mediterranean architecture.

Ambasz has realised the premise of his design by constructing the house in an idyllic arcadia – as a kind of Andalusian dream – within which it is precisely and poetically placed in relation to the surrounding landscape views as well as the solar and celestial constants, drawing both landscape and ambient elements into a relationship with itself, and it with them. (Buchanan)

The building has two main parts: The entrance tower, which is a landmark and has an almost sculptural function. And the house which itself retreats into the ground

Fig.69

### Cave



The three sacred archetypes:

1. Earth - Retreat
2. Water - Cave
3. Air - Tower