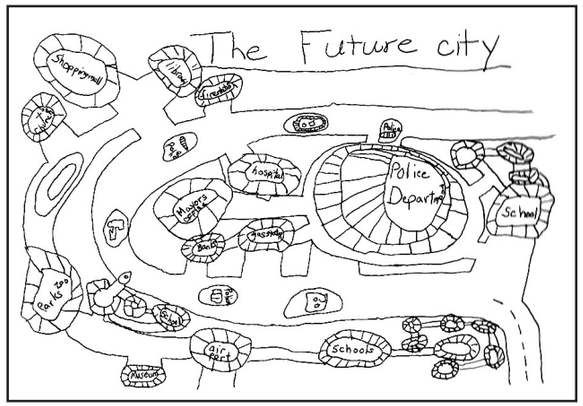

Figure 5

A drawing by an inner-city fifth grader depicts a future city governed by the police and containing huge highways which isolate each function.

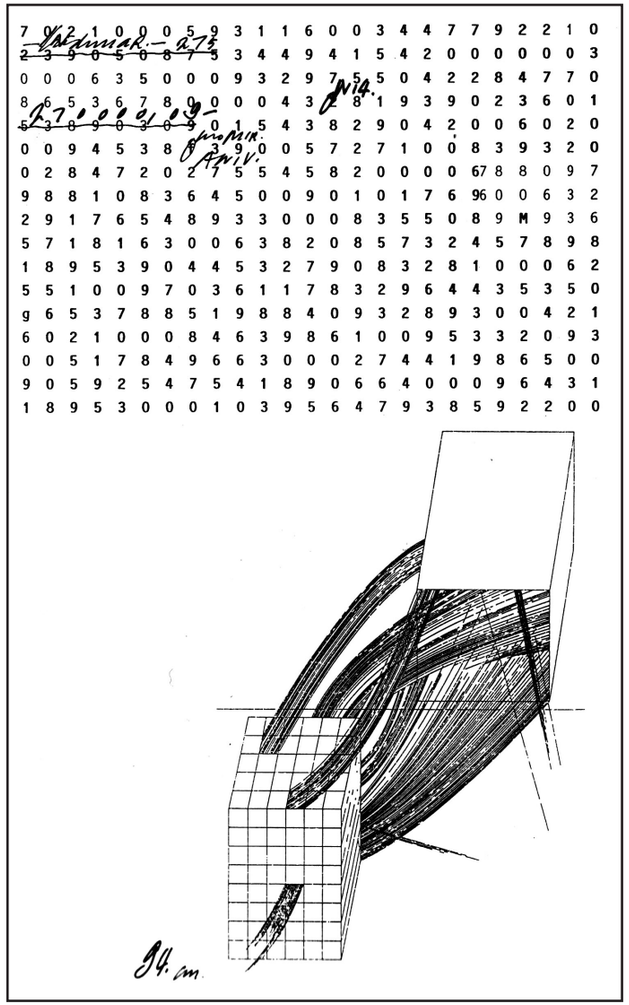

Figure 6

The flow of energy in space is an architecture of change: one thing affects another in ways that cannot be exactly predicted. Artwork by Lebbeus Woods.

Introduction

"In the urban, everything is calculable, quantifiable, programmable; everything, that is, except the drama that results from the co-presence and re-presentation of the elements calculated, quantified, and programmed." (Lefebvre 2003:119)

This statement highlights the necessity of the un-programmable coexistence of the programmable for the functioning of a complex urban environment. The Pretoria of today exists as isolated instances encapsulated by impenetrable boundaries. Fortified activities separated by roads and fences. Citizens are channeled through designated transport routes (pedestrian or vehicular) to be dispatched at their desired destination as quickly as possible, causing the city to become "further fragmented, dispersed and divided." (Bremner 1998: 14) Efficiency is paramount, and has resulted in an urban life of monotony. As Baudelaire has stated, probably the worst enemy of contemporary existence is boredom and habit.

The two images on the adjacent page (Figure 5 & 6) serve well to introduce the intentions of this dissertation, and will be referred back to throughout. It is important to note that this dissertation will attempt to aim somewhere between the following two polemics.

The first envisions an imagined 'future city' which can be likened to the Pretoria of today. The drawing, done by an American 5th Grade inner-city learner, depicts remote islands of programmed functions governed by the police and separated by enormous roads. The second image, an artwork by Lebbeus Woods, can perhaps be seen as the 'future city's' antithesis. It depicts the unpredictable free flowing of energy through space, which relates to the vital urban complexity mentioned above.