



THE WAITING PLACE

CREATING SOCIAL GATHERING SPACE

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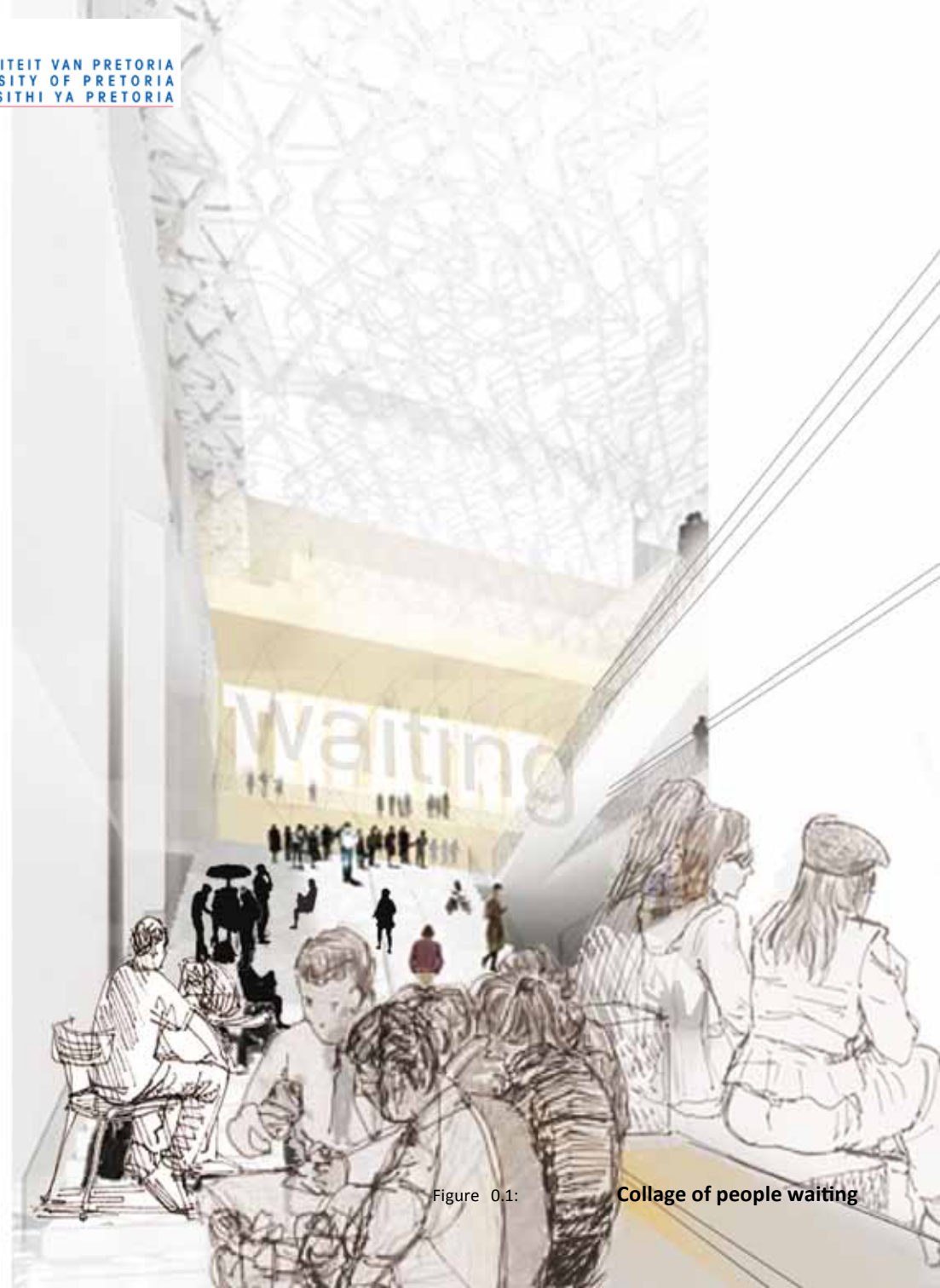


Figure 0.1:

Collage of people waiting

PROLOGUE

“Oh, The Places You’ll Go!” by Dr. Seuss, 1990

You can get so confused
that you’ll start in to race
down long wiggled roads at a break-necking pace
and going on for miles across weirdish wild space,
headed, I fear, toward a most useless place.

The waiting place...

... for people just waiting.

Waiting for a train to go
or a bus to come, or a plane to go
or the mail to come, or the rain to go
or the phone to ring, or the snow to snow
or waiting around for a Yes or No
or waiting around for their hair to grow.

Everyone is just waiting.

Waiting for the fish to bite
or waiting for wind to fly a kite
or waiting around for Friday night
or waiting, perhaps, for their Uncle Jake
or a pot to boil, or a Better Break
or a string of pearls, or a pair of pants
or a wig with curls, or Another Chance.

Everyone is just waiting.

Oh, the Places You’ll Go!

In this poem the essence of waiting and its ignored status is captured as an activity that ‘just is’. This thesis pursues an analysis of the act of waiting (seen by many as an ordinary everyday ritual) and creates scope for a new intervention. The aim is for design to become more sensitive to the waiting place as an area of importance. The intermediate nature of waiting perhaps allows for it to be overlooked, especially in architecture. Seeing that much of our day is being spent waiting, it is worth negotiating the possibility of making the experience enchanting.

“Obscured by its ordinariness as much as by its alleged uselessness, waiting seems to be universally denigrated” (Schweizer, 1998:1).

EKSERP

Hierdie verhandeling bestudeer 'n bestaande gebou wat opgegradeer moet word om by die veranderende omgewing aan te pas. Die voorgestelde projek is in die stadskonteks van Pretoria gesetel en poog om die verbygaande aard van argitektuur aan te spreek. Die hoof-fokus van die studie omskryf die konsep van 'wag', waar die stedeling tyd in die alledaagse bou-omgewing moet spandeer.

Die doel van hierdie studie is om die wagarea te ondersoek en die belangrikheid daarvan binne die alledaagse omgewing te regverdig om sodoende vas te stel watter fisiese faktore wagtendes beïnvloed. Hierdie faktore onderlê wat daarop gemik is om die fasiliteite van 'n informele vervoerstelsel, in reaksie op nuwe funksies wat bedoel is vir mense wat publieke vervoerareas gebruik. Die beginsel van 'wag' word ondersoek om 'n omgewing te skep waar die gebou die bron is van nuwe 'invul' elemente wat die gebruiker bedien. Die projek stel 'n nuwe benadering tot die wagarea, om sodoende argitektonies sosiale ruimtes te skep. Die projek fokus daarop om die wagarea as 'n ruimte te skep waar reisigers hulself kan oriënteer en verfris van daaglikse uitputtende aktiviteite.

Die voorgestelde projek spreek die behoeftes van die gebruiker aan deur die bestaande gebou aan te pas om in hul behoeftes te voorsien en sodoende groei aan te wakker.

ABSTRACT

This dissertation takes the opportunity to explore an existing building in need of change owing to changing environments. The proposed project is situated within the city context of Pretoria and aims to address the unavoidable nature of architecture, which involves the degradation of buildings over time. The main focus of this study is the concept of waiting, where the city dweller has to endure spending time in everyday surroundings in a built environment. The study attempts to understand the deeper psychological meaning of waiting better in order to provide places that are sympathetic to the waiting person.

The aim of this dissertation is to justify the importance of the waiting place and to investigate *waiting places* in everyday environments, in order to determine physical factors that influence the experience of people while waiting. These factors inform decisions to provide improved facilities within an informal transport system, while generating new functions in response to the behaviour of people in a transit environment. The principles of waiting are exploited to create an environment where the building acts as generator for new infill parts to serve the user. The project envisages a fresh approach to reunite the waiting place and architecture to create a social gathering space. The project's main goal is to consider the waiting space as one that serves as a transition place for travellers, providing the commuter with the opportunity to orientate and recover from tiring daily activities.

The proposed project addresses the needs of the city dweller by means of a renewed building intervention. The changing context required a site related function that serves the user and acts as a support system in the city, facilitating future growth.



PROLOGUE	iii
ABSTRACT	v

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures	viii
List of Tables	xi

1..... INTRODUCTION	2
1.1 OVERVIEW AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE CHAPTERS	2
1.2 DISSERTATION TOPIC	2
1.3 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT	2
1.4 INFORMATION	4
1.5 PROBLEM STATEMENT	5
1.6 GOAL AND OBJECTIVE	5
1.7 CHOSEN BUILDING	5
1.8 THE DEFINITION OF WAITING	6
1.9 TERMINOLOGY	6
2..... DESIGN TASK	8
2.1 CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE	9
2.2 RATIONALE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT	10
2.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT AND RESEARCH QUESTION	10
2.4 THE USER PROFILE	10
2.5 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	10
2.6 THE POSSIBLE CLIENT	10
2.7 DELIMITATIONS	12
2.8 LOCATION	12

3..... THEORETICAL DISCOURSE	14
3.1 PART ONE	
3.1.1 THE IRONY OF WAITING	14
3.1.2 TO DWELL UPON	14
3.1.3 TIME DURATION AND RHYTHM	17
3.1.4 DURATION, ENTROPY AND MEANING	19
3.2 PART TWO	
3.2.1 THE EMBODIMENT OF WAITING	22
3.2.2 THE WAITING OBJECT	23
3.2.3 THE WAITING PLACE	24
3.2.4 THE BODY AND WAITING	24
3.3 THE CONCEPT	26
3.4 THEORETICAL DESIGN GUIDES	26
4..... CONTEXT ANALYSIS	28
4.1 CONTEXT AND PRECINCT ANALYSIS	28
4.2 THE EXISTING FABRIC	29
4.2.1 THE IMMEDIATE CONTEXT CHARACTERISTICS	30
4.3 REGENERATION STRATEGY	31
4.4 THE PRETORIA STATION FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL	32
4.5 CONTEXT PRECEDENT	33
4.5.1 EXTRACTED INFORMATION	34
5..... SITE ANALYSIS	36
5.1 SITE DESCRIPTION	36
5.2 HISTORICAL AND FUNCTIONAL FACTORS	39
5.3 COMPOSITION AND FORM OF THE HOST BUILDING	41
5.4 BUILDING AND SIGNAGE CHARACTER	43



5.5 MATERIALS 44

5.6 SITE DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL 45

6.....CONCEPTS AND REASONING 48

6.1 ALTERATION 48

6.2 ADAPTIVE RE-USE 48

6.3 DESIGN METAPHOR 48

6.4 DESIGN STRATEGY 49

6.5 CONCEPT DEVELOPMENTS: PART ONE 51

6.5.1 MAJOR DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS 51

6.5.2 TYPES OF WAITING 52

6.5.3 AXES 53

6.5.4 ZONES 57

6.5.5 SCHEDULE OF ACCOMMODATION 58

6.5.6 CONCEPT BUILDING FRAMEWORK 59

6.5.7 CONCEPTUAL SPATIAL DESIGN 60

6.5.8 INFILL ELEMENTS 62

6.5.9 RHYTHM 62

6.6 CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT: PART TWO 63

6.6.1 PROGRAMME AND SPATIAL ARRANGEMENT 63

6.6.2 DEMOLITION 64

6.6.3 CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTH-EAST FACADE 65

6.6.4 CONCEPTUAL REASONING OF THE SOUTH EDGE CONDITION 66

6.6.5 PRELIMINARY DESIGN INTERVENTION 68

6.6.6 TECHNOLOGICAL APPROACH 71

6.6.7 CONCEPTUAL SUMMARY 74

7.....DESIGN DEVELOPMENT 76

7.1 FINAL DESIGN 76

7.1.1 DESIGN MANIFESTO 76

7.1.2 FINAL DEMOLITION 76

7.1.3 PROPOSED USE 77

7.1.4 THE USER 79

7.1.5 DESIGN INTERVENTION 81

7.1.5.1 Wall precedent 82

7.1.5.2 The Wall system 83

7.1.5.3 Staircase intervention 85

7.1.5.4 Product precedent 86

7.1.5.5 Seat and screen element 87

7.1.5.6 Balustrade 87

7.1.5.7 Key design inspiration 88

8... DESIGN AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION 90

8.1 PLANS 90

8.2 TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION 93

8.2.1 SECTION AA 93

8.2.2 STAIRCASE 98

8.2.3 SECTION CC 102

8.2.4 WALL SYSTEM 103

8.2.5 SECTION BB 109

8.2.6 BALUSTRADE 109

CONCLUSION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LIST OF REFERENCES

LIST OF FIGURES

All photographs and sketches by the author unless otherwise indicated

Chapter 00 PROLOGUE

Fig 0.1 Collage of people waiting (Edited by author)

Original images available at:

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(Accessed on 2010.10.06)

<http://janneinosaka.blogspot.com/20081001archive.html>

(Accessed on 2010.10.06)

Chapter 01 INTRODUCTION

Fig 1.1 Chapter classification

Fig 1.2 Gautrain stations

<http://www.gautrain.co.za/index.php?pid=416&ct=1>

(Accessed on 2009.11.13)

Fig 1.3 Sketch of urban transport environment (Edited by author)

Original images available at:

<http://tegneblog.blogspot.com/20090401archive.html>

(Accessed on 2010.10.06)

Fig 1.4 Aerial image of Pretoria Station precinct (Adapted from Google Earth)

Fig 1.5 Sketch of people waiting for the bus at the Pretoria bus station

Chapter 02 DESIGN TASK

Fig 2.1 Illustration of depth perception (Edited by author)

Original images available at:

<http://onarchitectureline.blogfa.com/88053.aspx>

(Accessed on 2010.04.13)

Fig 2.2 Collage illustrating the associated atmosphere of the building (Edited by author)

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(Accessed on 2009.05.18)

http://www.richardrogers.co.uk/work/all_projects/patcentre

(Accessed on 2009.04.20)

Fig 2.3 DoT logo

<http://transport.dot.gov.za>. (Accessed on 2010.10.02)

Fig 2.4 Liberty Properties logo

Fig 2.5 Collage of people waiting

Fig 2.6 Diagrammatic sketch of Africa

Fig 2.7 Diagrammatic sketch of the area surrounding Pretoria

Fig 2.8 Diagrammatic sketch of Pretoria in the greater Tshwane district

Chapter 03 THEORETICAL DISCOURSE

Fig 3.1 Photo of a graffiti wall in the existing building. 2009.03.23

Fig 3.2 Visual imitation of the lifting out of the particular (Edited by author)

Original images available at:

<http://www.gettyimages.com/detail/3434187/Premium-Archive>

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Fig 3.3 Bilateral symmetry. Williams, K. Symmetry in architecture

<http://www.mi.sanu.ac.rs/vismath/kim/index.html>.

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Fig 3.4 Orthogonal symmetry.

Williams, K. Symmetry in architecture. <http://www.mi.sanu.ac.rs/vismath/kim/index.html>. p 2.

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Fig 3.5 Sydney Opera House.

<http://www.wayfaring.info/category/continents/australia/page/9/>.

(Accessed on 2010.04.20)

Fig 3.6 Rhythmic structural pattern.

<http://www.bighugelabs.com/onblack.php?id=418209278&size=Large>.

(Accessed on 2010.04.20)

Fig 3.7 Columns in rows of succession.

http://www.richardrogers.co.uk/work/selected_works/madrid_barajas_airport/concept.

(Accessed on 2010.02.09)

Fig 3.8 Sketch imitating chaos.

Fig 3.9 Illustration depicting the experience of our environment. (Edited by author)

Original images available at:

<http://betaphilings.com/>. (Accessed on 2010.10.08)

Fig 3.10 Sculpture of three woman waiting.

<http://images.google.co.za/imgres?imgurl=http://www.downtownmesa.com/Nnamdi%>

(Accessed on 2009.11.16)

Fig 10.11 Illustration of the gaze pattern reference. (Edited by author)

Original image available at:

<http://myphotoshopbrushes.com/patterns/id/1034>.

(Accessed on 2009.11.18)

Fig 3.12 Diagram illustrating the building as a reference point.

Fig 3.13 Diagram illustrating sitting postures.

<http://www.yatzer.com/Umarmung-Japan-by-Cheungvogl>
(Accessed on 2010.10.08)

Fig 3.14 Floor couch

<http://www.yatzer.com/Umarmung-Japan-by-Cheungvogl>
(Accessed on 2010.10.08)

Fig 3.15 Quick concept idea

Fig 3.16 Design symbols

Chapter 04 CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Fig 4.1 Places of significance.

Fig 4.2 Context conditions.

Fig 4.3 Existing facilities surrounding the site.

Fig 4.4 Bosman Street linking Pretoria Station with Belle Ombre Station.

Fig 4.5 Proposed site location.

Fig 4.6 Figure ground study.

Fig 4.7 The Pretoria Framework proposal. (Seabrook & Van der Westhuizen, 2009)

Fig 4.8 Key plan.

Fig 4.9 Diagrammatic analysis of the Pretoria bus station.

Fig 4.10 Waiting shed. 2009.02.25

Fig 4.11 Kiosk seating space. 2009.02.25

Fig 4.12 Grounded kiosk. 2009.02.25

Fig 4.13 Main waiting space 2009.02.25

Fig 4.14 Balustrades serve as pause spaces. 2009.02.25

Fig 4.15 Linear Seating. 2009.02.25

Chapter 05 SITE ANALYSIS

Fig 5.1 Sketch of the immediate site context.

Fig 5.2 Movement diagram.

Fig 5.3 Surrounding activities.

Fig 5.4 Surrounding informal activities.

Fig 5.5 Diagram of the existing building conditions.

Fig 5.6 Dairy Mall article. (Sake-Rapport, 1988.05.12)

Fig 5.7 Sketch of a portion of the north facade. (Le roux & Botes, 1993:25)

Fig 5.8 Photo of a portion of the south facade.

Fig 5.9 Physical barriers.

Fig 5.10 Traces of the fire.

Fig 5.11 Commuters waiting around the building.

Fig 5.12 Photo of a portion on the south facade, 2009.

Fig 5.13 Sketch of the east corner of the building.

Fig 5.14 Composition of the ground and first floor.

Fig 5.15 Composition of the ground floor.

Fig 5.16 North facade.

Fig 5.17 South facade.

Fig 5.18 East facade.

Fig 5.19 West facade.

Fig 5.20 Built model.

Fig 5.21 View of the north facade.

Fig 5.22 View of the east facade.

Fig 5.23 Sketch of the east corner.

Fig 5.24 Signage collage. (2009.04.15)

Fig 5.25 Material palette.

Fig 5.26 Site diagram.

Chapter 06 CONCEPTS AND REASONING

Fig 6.1 Illustration motivating re-use.

Fig 6.2 Block diagram illustrating accommodation

Fig 6.3 Parasite prototype.

http://www.detail.de/rw_5_Archive_En_HoleArtikel_4711_Artikel.htm
(Accessed on 2010.02.09)

Fig 6.4 View of the Parasite structure.

<http://architecture.myninjaplease.com/?p=944>
(Accessed on 2010.02.09)

Fig 6.5 Movement diagram.

Fig 6.6 Sketches illustrating the proposed corridor.

Fig 6.7 Internal model view of Madrid-Barajas Airport.

http://www.richardrogers.co.uk/work/selected_works/madrid_barajas_airport/concept
(Accessed on 2010.02.10)

Fig 6.8 Diagrammatic sectional view of the second route.

Fig 6.9 Concept view of the south-east corner

Fig 6.10 Photo of the existing open space.

Fig 6.11 Collage depicting a market wall system. (Edited by author)

Original images available at: <http://www.efficient.ws/eco-flow-architectural-concept-by-samoo-architects/2010/02/12/>
(Accessed on 2010.10.01)

Fig 6.12 The inserted routes

Fig 6.13 Diagram of the programme.

Fig 6.14 Accommodation diagram.



Fig 6.15 Ground and first floor spatial layout.

Fig 6.16 Concept layout of the ground floor. Nts.

Fig 6.17 Concept layout of the first floor. Nts.

Fig 6.18 Concept sketch of the east facade.

Fig 6.19 Concept section.

Fig 6.20 Concept view.

Fig 6.21 Conceptual sketch of a contained unit.

Fig 6.22 Collage of an insertion. (Edited by author)

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<http://www.journalofcommerce.com/article/id33933/green>.

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Fig 6.23 Thumbnail sketches.

Fig 6.24 Sketch of a contained unit (1).

Fig 6.25 Ribbed unit.

Fig 6.26 Sketch of a contained unit (2).

Fig 6.27 Model of repeating elements.

Fig 6.28 Madrid-Barajas Airport.

http://www.richardrogers.co.uk/work/selected_works/madrid_barajas_airport/concept.

(Accessed on 2010.02.10)

Fig 6.29 Parti diagram of the routes.

Fig 6.30 Ground floor organization plan. Nts.

Fig 6.31 First floor organization plan. Nts.

Fig 6.32 Demolition on ground level.

Fig 6.33 Demolition on the first level.

Fig 6.34 Sketch and collage of the south facade.

Fig 6.35 Ground floor south edge articulation.

Fig 6.36 First floor south edge articulation.

Fig 6.37 Preliminary section.

Fig 6.38 Image depicting the activated edge.

Fig 6.39 Sketch of the interior of the proposed new building skin.

Fig 6.40 Diagram activating the building edge.

Fig 6.41 Model of the activated edge.

Fig 6.42 Curved new interface.

Fig 6.43 Sketch of the proposed interior interface.

Fig 6.44 Model of the repetitive elements.

Fig 6.45 Facade view.

Fig 6.46 Atrium ribbed frame.

Fig 6.47 Conceptual contained rib unit

Fig 6.48 Ribbed ceiling model exploration

Fig 6.49 Exploring the ceiling system

Fig 6.50 Ribbed ceiling exploration.

<http://www.greatinteriordesign.com/interior-design-rosso-restaurant-in>.

(Accessed on 2010.09.10)

Fig 6.51 Ribbed ceiling view.

<http://www.greatinteriordesign.com/interior-design-rosso-restaurant-in>.

(Accessed on 2010.09.10)

Fig 6.52 Concept design impression of the ribbed ceiling.

Fig 6.53 Concept design impression of the ribbed wall/seating element

Chapter 07 CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

Fig 7.1 Ground floor demolition

Fig 7.2 First floor demolition

Fig 7.3 Ground floor: Proposed use

Fig 7.4 First floor: Proposed use

Fig 7.5 Ways of waiting

Fig 7.6 Interventions facilitating waiting

Fig 7.7 Remaining structure

Fig 7.8 First floor interventions

Fig 7.9 Ground floor interventions

Fig 7.10 Wall house 1

<http://www.ivarhendoorn.com/photos/series/wall-house-1>

(Accessed on 2010.10.24)

Fig 7.11 Key wall system design diagram

Fig 7.12 Model exploration

Fig 7.13 Wall system internal seating

Fig 7.14 Wall system material selection

Fig 7.15 Visualisation of the wall system

Fig 7.16 Staircase material selection

Fig 7.17 Collage visualising the staircase

Fig 7.18 Staircase extending along the edges of the building

Fig 7.19 Urban seat

<http://www.deco-design.biz/designers-days-2009-leplanb-en-of/2632>

(Accessed on 2010.10.07)

Fig 7.20 Seating intervention

Fig 7.21 Balustrade

Fig 7.22 Single Line Furniture

<http://lovecoolest.com/single-line-furniture.html>

(Accessed on 2010.11.30)



Chapter 08 DESIGN AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION

- Fig 8.1 Site plan_ Proposed redevelopment plan
- Fig 8.2 Ground floor plan
- Fig 8.3 First floor plan
- Fig 8.4 Section AA
- Fig 8.5 Detail A1
- Fig 8.6 General roof structure
- Fig 8.7 Key roof design sketch
- Fig 8.8 Detail A2
- Fig 8.9 Building view 1
- Fig 8.10 Staircase detail s2
- Fig 8.11 Staircase plan_1:50
- Fig 8.12 Staircase s1
- Fig 8.13 Section SS1
- Fig 8.14 Section SS2
- Fig 8.15 Exploded staircase tread
- Fig 8.16 Section CC
- Fig 8.17 Market station render
- Fig 8.18 Active edge render 1
- Fig 8.19 Seating wall
- Fig 8.20 Detail w1
- Fig 8.21 Market wall
- Fig 8.22 Seating and market station render
- Fig 8.23 Seating view
- Fig 8.24 Seating element
- Fig 8.25 Active edge render 2
- Fig 8.26 Section BB
- Fig 8.27 Balustrade detail
- Fig 8.28 Balustrade view

LIST OF TABLES

Chapter 06 CONCEPTS AND REASONING

- Table 6.1 Types of waiting