



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA  
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# (inter-) Facing Space

A Forum-Based Theatre inside an Indeterminate Urban Site

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# **[Inter]facing Space: A Forum-based Theatre inside an Indeterminate Urban Site**

by

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SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE  
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UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

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**PRETORIA**

**2011**

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**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.**

The dissertation is 12 648 words long (excluding figure annotations).

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## **[Inter]Facing Space: A Forum-based Theatre Inside an Indeterminate Urban Site**

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# **Project summary**

Programme: Public Forum Theatre and Theatre School  
Site description: A derelict site located between other urban structures – situated to the immediate south of the State Theatre in the Sammy Marks precinct of Pretoria.

Client: Department of Arts and Culture (State Theatre)  
Users: Public users, marginalised groups and theatre practitioners.

Site Location: 317 Pretorius Street, Pretoria  
Address: Between the Fedhealth Forum and Momentum buildings; opposite the South African State Theatre and ABSA buildings, in the Pretoria CBD, Tshwane, South Africa

GPS Coordinates: 25°747957”S, 28°194058”E

Architectural Theoretical Premise: Forum theatre thrives on the informality of the city, and can start to inform an approach to dealing with indeterminacy in the urban fabric.

Architectural Approach: Generating a contextually sensitive theatre that connects to local features and inhabitants. Theatre provides a platform to local inhabitants to voice their opinions and collaborate in didactic, interactive theatre events.

Research filed: Heritage and cultural landscapes



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**Preface**



# Acknowledgements

In memory of Oupa, (Etienne Malherbe) who always responded to my work enthusiastically and believed in my capabilities, and who made it possible for me to embark on my personal journey as an aspiring architect.

The Lord gave us two ends to use – one to sit with and the other to think with.  
Success depends on which you choose.

Heads you win,  
Tails you lose

**Anon**



All possibilities are latent, dormant, and all those possibilities of composition are hidden for us to discover. ”

(Angelo Candalpas, n.d.)



# Abstract

The study will investigate a design intervention that attempts to respond to the condition of spatial indeterminacy in the Sammy Marks precinct of Pretoria, where this condition is heavily pronounced in the form of disused public squares, inactive edges and inner-block voids. The study suggests that developing these spaces as cultural interfaces can provide a foothold for emergent city life and cultural activities. The specific project intervention will take the form of a theatrical interface that will serve as a platform for public interactive theatre events and a theatre school. The client is the State Theatre, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works. The site of the intervention is located in close proximity to the State Theatre. An investigation of the site and its surrounding context will generate opportunities for specific intervention.



# Forum Theatre

Indeterminate  
Site

Interfaces

Creativity

Community

Place

# Culture

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