Though not recognized as vehicles through which the modern day culture is carried through and evolves
the healers it can be said where the vehicles that brought about life in culture. As with a painting, the pigmentations are the vehicle through which they are brought to life, traditional
these were matured evolved and sometimes born because of traditional healers. With them came traditions and culture,
As persons entrusted with the spiritual, physical and cultural well-being of society they carried out rituals
time again into the super-natural realm that protected provided for and enriched the community.
Today the healers practice from market places and sometimes their homes. What is referred to today
This thesis proposes to create a sense of place that is symbolic of the autonomous mode of cognition. Symbolically restoring a tradition that is sometimes referred to as archaic and primitive. This symbolic thinking is consubstantial with human existence; it comes before language and discursive reason (Elster: 12).
By envisaging the study of man not only inasmuch as he is a historic being, but also as a living symbol,
In this instance the architecture then, interpenetrates building not for the simple satisfaction of the
Building elements used to create this architectural typology are key in symbolizing the traditions and
According to the WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2002-2005 traditional medicine is referred to as "Traditional Chinese medicines. Indian Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine and to various forms of indigenous medicine - if they involve the use of herbal medicine animal parts and/or minerals and/or non-pharmaceutical therapies if they are carried out primarily without the use of medication."
Today traditional South African Healers commonly referred to as Sangommas or Inganyega would fall into this category.

The column divided up into three parts:
1. The base
2. The shaft
3. The capital

The column: A symbolic representation of the tree, a source of life food and in some instances shelter. The column not only holds up the roof covering it also allows for a building skin to happen, it is fundamental to any building structure. This thesis uses the column as a symbolic representation of the characteristic nature of the medicine delivered by traditional healers. In more cases than not is a derivative from a natural source. The translation of nature through the idea of a tree is indicative of the life giving qualities that are associated with trees.

Today, as art, the pigmentations are the vehicles through which they are brought to life, traditional healers it can be said where the vehicles that brought about life in culture.
The base:
The base itself divided into two parts: the rubble foundations (krepis, usually invisible), and the stepped platform wrapped around it on which the column shaft stands (Rykwert: 171).

The column shaft:
This is symbolic of a tree trunk standing on a base and held in place by the weight that it carries. A part of the column that allows one to deconstruct the shape, feel and meaning of the column.

The capital:
The very word capital reintroduces the terminology of the body image: capitulum as a diminutive of caput, "the head" (Rykwert: 176).

The enlargement of the capital depicts the emphasis of this thesis to try and intellectualize the experience and perception that the symbolism carried into the proposed project carries. Directly interpreting into the nature of symbolism.

The transparent roof:
A connection with the divine and the super-natural. The skies traditionally considered the gateway to the afterlife. By bringing this element into the design this thesis attempts to draw the spiritual role that traditional healers sometimes play into the design of the building.

The idea of a spiritual and physical ascension further symbolized in the raising of the "entrance" building so to speak this allows for an elevation of the site in terms of perception. The raising of the building also allows an interaction of people with the site and the surrounding elements. The medium through which the site communicates with its context and vice versa. Making the building symbolic of the role that traditional healers played and are still playing in today's society.
The design philosophy centered on the concept of urbanism as an essential attitude in urban design, forming the quality conditioned public environment through the unique making of objects in the urban landscape. A holistic view of the urban environment that considers ecological, social, cultural and environmental issues. The urban environment is seen as one system comprised of the people, the place, the infrastructure, and the governance. The integration across all these components is central to the integrity of the urban system as a whole. Integration between various scales, as well as integration amongst different elements of the urban system, becomes essential. (Swanepoel, Campbell, Moffatt: 5)

As a form of catalysis, the design of multi-use space with flexibility in its structures increases the capability of all pieces of the proposed development to be adaptable to multiple uses, simultaneously and in the short and long-terms.

A sense of connectivity to its surroundings and between the various functions and activities accommodated so all its pieces are finely linked into an integrated network that is well defined.

Designing within the urban landscape

A cohesive approach to urban development has been taken and this is derived from the sequence which underpins any design decision:

- Internal circulation pattern, with emphasis on human and non-vehicular traffic. Also addressing the need for a separation between this and vehicular traffic.
- Provision for commercial, social and industrial enterprises, which would then provide work and employment opportunities.
- Induction of a form of educational facilities.
- Allowing for recreational opportunities.
- Street design and planning, to minimize costs and energy demands for construction of roads and sewers. Use of local energy sources.

Urban generation

People come to cities to experience economical, social, cultural and recreational opportunities and facilities.

- Urbanization demands increasing levels of specialization and diversity.
- The ability of an urban system to generate these opportunities is not related solely to its demographic size, or its access to resources.
- In developing countries where urban growth is rapid, the need to generate opportunities for self-generating economic activity is of particular importance. Therefore taking a facet of society, traditional medicine and beliefs as one of these opportunities allows for generation.
- Urban generation must allow people sufficient freedom to manoeuvre, to find opportunities to express their own ingenuity and creativity. This thesis attempts to introduce this with a traditional healer’s complex that combines the cultures and beliefs of South Africa’s majority into the everyday life of the city.

Through structure, function and form, an enhanced urban activity and process of urban life, allows for an easier access to the opportunities generated. Intensity, diversity and necessary complexity

On an urban level this thesis attempts to encourage the following:

- Generation of opportunities created through interaction of popular support.
- The ease of access demand diverse activities over relatively small distances.
- Specialisation, which in turn is dependant on high levels of support over relatively small areas.

Structural relationships pursued within the urban landscape

Conception of the city and increased densities. Central pre-condition for the achievement of high-performance urban environments is to compact the forms of the city, to ensure that it develops over a period of time, into a system which works well at a pedestrian scale. (Dewar and Uytenbogaardt: 43).

The compaction of the city allows for parts of the urban fabric to be able to regenerate themselves without borrowing too much in terms of densities, human traffic or the like from its surrounding areas, creating strain and pressure on them.

In compacting the urban environment there is an absence made for the city to be able to bring together to “centralise” various diverse activities within the same range allowing for the pedestrian to take precedence.

In terms of the SMME’s this compaction allows for their growth and success, as the costs of distribution are minimized. This allows for growth and creates a sustainable environment for them to operate.

The proposed Traditional Healers complex draws on this urban generation philosophy, as situated in a dense part of the city it taps into the human and social aspects of the area of Marabastad. The proposed Traditional Healers complex that then combines the cultures and beliefs of South Africa’s majority into the everyday life of the city of Pretoria.

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The proposed Traditional Healers complex draws on this urban generation philosophy, as situated in a dense part of the city it taps into the human and social aspects of the area of Marabastad.
Arguably the concept of balance is in the relationship between people, as in urban activities, this relates to urban performances – the way in which urban structures (places, spaces and channels of movements) arrange themselves. Certain structural configurations generate greater opportunities for people and enhance living to greater degrees than others. Part of this balance relates to access – ensuring relatively equitable access to urban opportunities and facilities for all urban dwellers. This thesis also attempts to promote the urban environment through the maximum positive freedom for individuals to act. The Traditional Healers complex can be seen to release the energies and talents of many people in the making of environments. Public space

A larger part of the site dedicated to the accommodation of public space. This allows for a high-pedestrian movement on the site. Making the complex on that is feasible in terms of movement. Several factors considered in the design of the public space. These include:

- Appropriateness: where the public space fits within the urban context and is usable in a manner that is both convenient and effective. Notably is that while addressing the need for a public space the need for a relationship to the human scale considered. Clearly shown in the scale of the buildings on site and in their relationship to the interlinking spaces.
- The public space suggested is one that has several layers of form and function to it. A combination of covered and uncovered spaces allows various activities to happen on the site. Commercial and social activities given a platform from which they can play out. The introduction of level changes and overhead coverings to demarcate these differences still allows for the space to function analogical or as a series of smaller spaces.
- The allowance for various activities gives the site a dynamic and multi-functional quality that lends itself to enhancing the urban fabric within which it is.