Fort Commeline
FROM RUINS TO SUBSTANCE
AN UNTOLD NARRATIVE OF MAGAZINE HILL

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I am man.
Shaped, formed and crafted by the hand of God.
An entity created by a power far greater than any being will ever perceive.

Knowing only moments.
Knowing only the days perceived in minutes.
Matter among the physical form with the inherit infinite strength.
And when my time comes, I will not perish.

My form will perceive a strength and space among the spiritual.
A soul will sing among the infinite life.
An invisible space..."*

(Author, April 2017)
The Site
Fort Commeline
John Keevy Drive
Pretoria Townlands 361-Jr
Magazine Hill
South Africa
-25°7'65.92"S  28°17'43.14"E

The Client:
The Heritage Portal and SANDF

Edited by:
Gert Hendrik Jansen van Rensburg
Declaration

In accordance with Regulation 49(c) of the general Regulations (G.57) for dissertations and theses, I declare that this thesis, which I hereby submit for the degree Master of Architecture (Professional) at the University of Pretoria, is my own work and has not yet previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other tertiary institution.

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.

Signed by the Author:
Heinrich Eduard Jansen van Rensburg

Acknowledgment

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Abstract

Hidden in the southern outskirts of Pretoria city lies the ruins of what used to be one of the guardians of the South, also known as 'Fort Commeline'. This dissertation investigates and identifies the fragmented narrative among the historical landscapes of Magazine Hill and poses to address the fragile connection that exists among the historical built fabric and cultural landscape that developed and transformed through the progression of time.

It considers the existing isolation and ruination of structure within the highly contrasted continuums of memory and change as a result of time. By rehabilitating this forgotten ruin, Fort Commeline might awaken the narratives whispered of Magazine Hill (Panagos, 2006: 1-7).

The proposed program forms part of the weathered continuum aimed to re-establish the relationship between heritage of architecture and time. Hereby considering the normative of architecture towards an evolution, deterioration and revolution of the built fabric, that progresses and deteriorates, or in this case, rehabilitates itself over time (Heidegger, 1996: 41-267).

In addition, a Historical Performance Centre is proposed that would encourage contextual event architecture as a 'live museum' and would serve as network of heritage nodes. Consequently, the performance of history would result in the celebration of the normative. Serving as a mediator between man and ruin of history, restoring and reviving the relationship between the narrated architecture, that would form an inclusive construct of the layering of memory, a product restricted by time.

Keywords

Substance, character, being, disrupt, regenerative, structure, Invisible space, reuse, tectonic, poetic, normative, sustainable, response, reclaim, rehabilitate, cradle to cradle, hedonistic, rehabilitative vernacular architecture

Ekserp

Versteek in die suidelike buitewyke van Pretoria stad lê die ruïnes van wat een van die wagte van die Suide was, ook bekend as ‘Fort Commeline’. Hierdie tesis onderzoek en identifiseer die gefragmenteerde verhaal onder die historiese landskappe van Magasynheuwel en stel die delikate verband wat bestaan tussen die historiese geboue weefsel en kultuur landskap wat deur die progressie van tyd ontwikkel en verander, of in hierdie geval, wat self rehabiliteer met verloop van tyd.

Dit beskou die bestaande isolasie en versoening van struktuur binne die hoogst-kontrasterende kontinuums van geheue en veranderen as gevolg van tyd. Deur hierdie vergete ondergang te herstel, kan Fort Commeline die verhale van die verlede ontwaak en die geheimenisse wat van Magasynheuwel gesluister word, oproep.

Daarbenewens word ‘n Historiese Prestasie-sentrum voorgestel wat kontekstuele gebeurtenis-argitektuur as ‘lewe museum’ aanmoedig en as netwerk van effensidosisse dien en deur die uitwerking van die geskiedenis, tot die viering van die normatiewe lei. Dierend as ‘n bemiddelaar tussen die mens en die bouvalle van die geskiedenis, herstel en herleef die verhouding tussen die verselde argitektuur, wat ‘n inklusiewe konstruksie van die lae van herdenking sal vorm, ‘n produk wat deur tyd begrens word.

Keywords

Stof, karakter, wese, ontwerp, regeneratiewe, struktuur, onsigbare ruimte, her-gebruik, tektoniese, poëzie, normatief, volhoudbaarheid, realisie, herwinning, rehabilitasie, bron tot bron, hedonisties, rehabiliteerde volkstaal argitektuur

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