Another Night Life.

Abstract.

The aim of this project is to realize an urban and architectural

space, as well as the architectural expression for a space of resistance

and liberation particular the independent (‘Indie’) culture

found within the city of Johannesburg. The project takes into account

the principles of independent culture, the creative re-use of

aged buildings and inner city regeneration to achieve a rationale for

the deriving of an urban and architectural intervention. This is to

be an intervention to generate and induce a vibrant nightlife within

Johannesburg’s dormant inner city. The project investigates an

alternative to the consumer nature of Johannesburg’s ‘society of

the spectacle’, which has translated into consumer architecture

and inner city decay.

The extraction of ideals from a list of theorists and from architectural

precedents, both current and historical (local and international),

have been used to derive a rationale for design. In conjunction,

practical considerations from the implementation of such an initiative

have been considered. These considerations include, transport

routes; the life stages of a nightclub intervention; the site selection

processes; the immediate and existing urban environment and

the existing night entertainment spaces. The result is a socially

and economically feasible ‘night club space’ or spaces (derived from

independent culture principals) where the individuals belonging to

this independent culture can meet and interact. The execution of

the project involves a re-thinking of night club space, as an integrated,

post-work, post-Fordist, 24 hour space that goes beyond

the notion of the generic nightclub, thus creating the opportunity

for the architecture’s occupier to indulge in the unconventional in

the quest for an experience independent from the regular. The

resultant space becomes a catalyst for a new or renewed

city identity.

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