

Jozi Play (Museum)

preserving the place of play



ABSTRACT

PLAY

This thesis studies the place and nature of the concept of play in society through the exploration of objects and spaces that stimulate, encourage or deter the notion of play. Nominated spaces that will ideally contribute to the study of play are reviewed, focusing in particular on areas within the local context of Johannesburg where a notion of play takes or could inherently take place. But in order to draw an understanding and a cognitive inspiration, toys are reviewed as objects of play. Toys are studied with the intention of identifying the role it encompasses and the integrity of the notion of play, with a focus on local toy design and manufacture in relation to the international market.

ARCHITECTURAL TYPOLOGY

The typology of the proposed building is a space which encourages different types of play across various age groups of children with the intention of engaging children to grow through the stimulating effects of play through activities and making. The propagated architectural typology thus relies on, but is naturally not limited to, the building being classed as a museum typology. The intended typological response is an astute marriage of a museum typology and an interactive play centre typology. The intention is thus not to remain bound by the confines of a museum typology, but rather explores an alternative or progressive response to a museum typology.

AIMS

The basic aims of this study reflect the nature and intent of the notion of play and the ideal environment where play can effectively manifest. But being of an architectural nature; the aims thus have to be clearly bound to the ultimate analysis of space and the potential an existing space may have to propagate an ideal environment for social development; particularly that of a child, through play. The questions regarding the nature of toys as objects of play are reviewed as instigating factors towards the understanding of their intent to stimulate play. A thorough study and dissection of relevant spaces and places are effected through an architectural and contextual analysis. The objectives of the study are thus based on defining and acknowledging the current context of the toy industry in South Africa, with specific reference to the micro context of Johannesburg. But perhaps the dominant intention in this study is the creation of a space that is a stimulating incubator for play whilst still acknowledging the architectural typology as a constant influence in the context in which it will exist.