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Connecting the digitally disadvantaged - the digital bridge: a model for the enrichment and empowerment of the people of Alexandra

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Connecting the Digitally Disadvantaged _the Digital Bridge

a model for the enrichment and empowerment of the people of alexandra

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This thesis recognises that there is a technological gap, defined as the ‘digital divide’. This divide, unless addressed, increasingly limits the opportunities for progress and development of disadvantaged communities. The intention of this thesis therefore is to explore and propose how best can architecture contribute towards a solution to closing this ‘digital divide’.

This will be done by exploring the opportunities which can be accessed through a high tech skills platform equipped with multi media tools. It will be a platform that offers the opportunities for improving one’s skills and essentially becoming a learning centre for the ‘digitally disadvantaged’ citizen.

The site chosen for this thesis is located in Wynberg which borders on the township of Alexandra, it encompasses a concentrated population hub that can take advantage of the proposed facility. Following its proclamation of being a ‘native’ township 98 years ago, developments such as housing, services, schools etc. have taken place; however, never has a multi-media/learning centre been developed or been part of the plans with the specific intent to close the digital divide.

One can argue that cell phones provide internet for the people and business training facilities have been erected but basic skills development with a focus on digital competency remains lacking in Alexandra.