Symbolising Pride and Culture in a Democracy Space:
Proposed KwaZulu Natal Legislature

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DECLARATION

Submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Architecture, in the Graduate Programme in Howard College, University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa.

I declare that this dissertation is my own unaided work. All citations, references and borrowed ideas have been duly acknowledged. I confirm that an external editor was not used. It is being submitted for the degree of Master of Architecture in the Faculty of Humanities, Development and Social Sciences, University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. None of the present work has been submitted previously for any degree or examination in any other University.

BONGA NTULI

Student name & Surname

17 MARCH 2011

Date

DEDICATION

Thandiwe Ntuli and Getrude Mpande__ You are no more but i feel you more and through you I have and will. Through you, i am. You will always be and are in me as i travel through this borrowed space. Until i then ...

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Abstract

KwaZulu Natal Legislature is an organization that requires office holders who can exercise authority, speak on its behalf, administer its business and serve its members and most importantly public affairs. Its functions are divided among elected officers, who are Members of Parliament, and the permanent officers and their staff who are employed for the House. Currently KwaZulu Natal (KZN) is in a transition period whereby the original legislative and administrative structures are still in place and operational. However the problem has been the recent amount of pressures of the new dispensation. The province is in a strange and unique situation whereby we have a parliament at Ulundi that operates as the original house of assembly operating designed for (black) governance and now a Pietermaritzburg High Court with its own Assembly house and administrative department both operating concurrently. The political problems that have risen are immense and have caused huge turmoil between the two leading political parties in the region that is the African National Congress (ANC) and Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP). As a result there were problems of duplication of staff between the two assembly houses, a duplication of services, resources. This situation has affected the local government's financial situation by having to split the salaries, benefits and additional expenses. The region of KwaZulu-Natal has for years been operating like three provinces in one. [Provincial task report team-The provincial administration of KwaZulu Natal, 1997].

Discussions of a single provincial legislature continue, but few issues have arisen like the acknowledgement of traditional leaders and arguments about where the provincial capital should be. Furthermore this has delayed the processes of drafting the provincial constitution.The shortage of space has recently been the major contributor to sudden urge for the need for a new legislature building. The Pietermaritzburg complex is currently being scattered along Langalibalele Street, with the debating chamber on one side and the administrative building located across the street. Further down is the office of the Premier. The sudden increase of the local government service structure has furthermore increased a definite need for the new building that will aim to address the current issues. It is therefore crucial for the Legislature Buildings to express the new socio-cultural paradigm that has emerged in KZN. [South Africa Report, 1995]

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:

KNZL   - KwaZulu Natal Legislature

PMB   - Pietermaritburg

CBD   - Central Business District

ANC   - African National Congress

IFP   - Inkatha Freedom Party

MEC   - Member of the Executive Committee

HVAC   - Heat, Ventilation and Air Cooling Systems

MSP   - Member Of The Scotish Parliament

UNESCO   -United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1.1 Introduction

The research focuses and discusses the appropriateness of symbolic architecture for the proposed by analysing both international and local examples related to a Government structure. Other important topics and theories investigated include, accessibility, democratic, identity, empowerment and vernacular Architecture. The research furthermore explores and discusses architecturally, other implications and challenges towards designing an appropriates Legislature Buildings for the KwaZulu Natal Province.

Architectural identity and influence within the community contributes towards achieving better infrastructure for the government officials to adhere to basic human needs and deliver from a suitable environment with adequate resources. The study examines the idea of empowerment that has become one of the major concepts in an attempt at empowering the public whilst creating a sense of pride and ownership. This concept further cerates a strong relationship and relevance between the public and the structure.

The findings and discussions herein collectively formulate a design generator and driver that will infrom the design of the The Legislature.The research focuses on the appropriateness of symbolic architecture for the proposed. Other important topic covered include, accessibility, democratic, identity, empowerment and vernacular Architecture. The research furthermore explores and discusses architecturally, other implications and challenges towards designing the structure.

The paper attempts to discuss and further identifies possible solutions and argues about what such a building should be influenced by. Also the purpose of its architectural identity and its influence within the community and its contribution towards achieving better infrastructure for the government officials to adhere to basic human needs and deliver from a suitable environment with adequate resources.

1.2 Motivation/ Justification Of The Study.

Natal is on the threshold of great events. The province boasts rich cultural diversity and identity. KZN experienced history that is worth sharing and the acknowledgment architecturally. This history includes the blood shed during the political wars and apartheid era. From the dark ages emerged the province bloomed into a province to be proud of and worth celebrating. A combination of the Portuguese navigators and the Nguni tribe, the British settlers and the Afrikaaners from the Cape province, later the Indians from the far east gave birth to a rich and unique province that it is today. A province worth celebrating in many ways. The paper proposes and discuses an architectural symbol that aims to embody the province's diversity. A symbol that with represent and depict the KwaZulu Natal history. Such history and culture can be depicted on public structures, architecturally. Therefore the paper discusses the appropriateness of government structure, a provincial house that will act a one many celebvratory symbols of the province, KwaZulu Legislature. [http://www.kznnorthhappenings.co.za/historykzn.htm,2008]

1.3 Definition Of The Problem, Aims And Objectives.

1.3.1 Definition Of The Problem

The legislative and administrative structures are operational but scattered throughout the province. Within the last two decades, the local govenment has recently be under pressures of the new dispensation. There is also an alarming shortage of office accommodation (space), currently which needs to be addressed. The sudden increase of the local government service structure has furthermore Increased a definite need for the new building that will aim to address the current issues. Currently there are government buildings in Durban and in Pietermaritzburg(PMB). The Buildings in PMB are scattered around the city. The Administrative offices sit on Langalibalele Dube streetowned by the telecommunications company, Telkom. [South Africa Report,1995].

Illustration 1. KwaZulu Natal Legislature, Administration building, PMB
Source: Author

Illustration 2. KwaZulu Natal Legislature, The Dedbating Chamber, PMB
Source: Author

Illustration 3. Brasil Parliament, Brasilia, Brasil
Source: [www.images.travelpod.com/ users/dancoughlin/1.1220987640. imagem_008.jpg,July 2009]

Across the street is the Debating Chamber Colonial building. Further down the street ± 800m is the Premiers office and the supporting facilities. The current location of the legislature takes away the dignity of such an important structure. The nature of the surrounding structures and activities are commercial and other mix-use activites thus making the government structure less recognisable and within the urban context. The architectural language blends with the surrounding resulting to a rather mundane and uncelebrated symbol of KZN as the paper attempts to achieve. (Illustration1)

The Kimberley legislature, The Union Buildings, The Mpumalanga Legislature, the Australia Parliament, The Brasil parliament (Illustration3), The Namibia and the Nigeria Parliament House buildings are all isolated form the urban pattern, they stand alone but located within close proximity from the major public facilities activities and access. The current Legislature has no identity, character and lacks the dignity which the other legislatures and parliament buildings mentioned above have.

Currently there are government buildings in Durban and in Pietermaritzburg(PMB). The Buildings in PMB are scattered around the city. The Administrative offices sit on Langali-galibalele Dube street owned by the tele-communications company, Telkom. [South Africa Report,1995].

Across the street is the Debating Chamber Colonial building (Illustration2). Further down the street ± 800m is the Premiers office and the supporting facilities. The current location of the legislature takes away the dignity of such an important structure.

Illustration 4. The Union Buildings, RSA
Source: [www.discreningtheworld.com/ images/wpi/Turn2od-UnionBuildings FlagBearers.jpgJuly 2009]

The nature of the surrounding structures and activities are commercial and other mix-use activites thus making the government structure less recognisable and within the urban context.The architectural language blends with the surrounding resulting to a rather mundane and uncelebrated symbol of KZN as the paper attempts to achieve.

Illustration 5. Namibia Parliament House, Namibiaa
Source: [www.img197.imageshack.us/ img197/8493/anamibia.jpg. July 2009]

Ultimately the current Legislature has no identity, character and lacks the dignity which the other legislatures and parliament above mentioned buildings have.

Illustration 6. Nigeria Parliament House, Nigeria
Source: [www.totalitsolutions.net/images/ Nigerian_Parliament_House_Abujajpg. May 2009]

1.3.2 Aims and Objectives

Government buildings are said to be un-approachable and Intimidating, sometimes they become a self sustained organ . The research aims to renounce and dispel such perceptions by creating a living organ within the built context whilst feeding off from the immediate surroundings so that it forms part of a healthy province and a fully functional body. Apart from the inadequate administration facilities, this province has suffered through political violence, found itself in a unique situation where it has more than one government assembly house. The province gave birth to world heroes like Inkosi Albert Luthuli, the founder of the ANC, also haboured the humanitarian Mahatma Gandhi to mention but a few. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ANC,2008]

Ultimately a strong, diverse and a multi-cultured province was born. In the light of current situation, it's an amazing milestone that KZN has survived its politically driven challenges with distinction. Therefore a celebratory response is seen appropriate and the paper aims to assist in achieving the following:

- A building that shall become a symbol that the community will recognise. Therefore the architectural language shall reflect the character of the province and its dynamics. A social and the rich historical background of it people and its function also as a source of hope that depicts and acknowledges its amazing history.
- The structure shall also be a part of this commitment to create a shared provincial vision and celebrate the province of KwaZulu Natal architecturally.
- To design a symbolic single representative building that reflects it culture and social context.
- To celebrate the regions diversity and its rich culture
- A symbol of struggle for freedom and recognition thereof.
- A celebration of past and present leaders, artists, poets, prophets and philosophers who were originated from KwaZulu Natal and contributed to its cultural heritage.

• A building will be open to public, who will be encouraged to visit for information access, visits to the debating chamber, for celebrations and even demonstrations.

• The architecture that recognises the symbiosis between natural and cultural landscapes.

• The architecture that recognises the symbiosis between natural and cultural landscapes.

• The building shall show appreciation of climatic and environmental factors and assert the interaction of technology.

• The building shall be inspirational and innovative.

• And lastly be welcoming and accessible but carefully secured.

1.3.3 Conclusion

The KZNL must first accommodate the needs of the society by providing appropriate health care facilities, educational and housing facilities. Of-course this can not be implemented until a single body that represents the government is built, a new structure that shall encapsulate all of the provinces needs and accentuate as a forum for democratic processes. Such a body can be achieved through the recogmnition of the objectives and aims mentioned above and more.

1.4 Setting Out The Scope

1.4.1   Delimitation Of The Research Problem

1.4.2   Definition Of The Terms

1.4.3   Stating The Assumptions

1.4.4   Working Hypothesis

1.4.5   Key Questions

1.4.1 Delimitation Of The Research Problem

Security is a major concern for such a building and has to be carefully addressed, therefore this siuggests a strict approach whereby segregation between public and officials will be eminent.[Mr M.S Mavimbela,2009]. The research examines the security requirements and ways of making clear distinction between the public and private spaces or domains of the building. The Identity, accessibility, transparency and the relation between government and the public are the main constituent elements that contributes towards achieving a successful democracy.

Access to the building can be achieved first through its appearance and secondly ease of movement within the allocated movement spaces for both public and the officials. Also the relevant depiction that the public can relate to, whilst
retaining a dignified governmental stature. Poverty, unemployment and an ailing of the society are a primary concerns of the government. This situation presents a challenge that requires an architectural response and a solution which is to be considered as one of major elements that influences the outcome of the building. This is an opportunity for architecture to contribute to the community by responding passively to these major issues. The inclusion of local labour, local available materials, local artist and schools are some of the initiatives employed which are aiming to empower and add value to these communities. These challenges are examined for translating these constituents to built form.

Another aspect investigated is the possible expansion for the future. The building needs to accommodate growth and expansion, therefore the building must be able to accommodate and allow for future expansion. Its is rather obvious that the immediate users will be the M.E.C's from the local government with the minority being the public who will occasionally visit debating chambers and social gathering spaces. Therefore this document analyses and explores the required separation between the public and the local government authorities. Also the architectural language the structure reflects shall represent neither parties but be inspired but be a reflection of the province and relate to the neutral public at large.

1.4.2   Definition Of The Terms

Legislature   -the legislative body of a country or state.

Isibaya   - A circukal fenced structure that is used to store live stock allso used for formal men's meetings and also for the burials of the elders.

iNdlunkulu   - it Is the main house withing the compound. this is where the leader of the tribe resides

'fait accompli' - a thing that has already happened or been decided before those affected hear about it, leaving them with no option but to accept

1.4.3 Stating The Assumptions

Legislature buildings are assumed to be the symbolical represantatives and manifestations of a particular reigion the structre sits while acting as the symbol of local authority and rule. It is also assumed that the architecural language should be formal. The paper will further discuss the appropriateness of the proposed structure and aims to articulate common elements to those which are assumed.

1.4.4 Working Hypothesis

It is very important for the local government house to be located within the urban context. This enables both the communities and the government officials to interact with ease, it also gives a sense of approachability and a sense of protection to the public. The government building's proximity to the public also signifies togetherness, and also acts as an educational facility for the learners. Therefore such a structure should be transparent and welcoming but most importantly serve the province through empowerment initiatives.
[Chris Abel, 2000]

1.4.5 Key Questions

- Poverty and unemployment are major concerns affecting the whole world. How architecture engages in this movement of empowering these communities, in it's fight against poverty and ultimately to add value to the public?

- Government buildings are generally intimidating in their composition and often act as an imposing figure in their surroundings especially, to the public. To the public eye, such a building becomes inaccessible and unapproachable thus creating a physical barrier between the interface of public and government. How can such a structure act for the community and bind the two bodies?

- How can a building reflect or demonstrate transparency, accountability and accessibility to the public?

- Public engagement is vital but security and movement can form a barrier between the two groups (MEC's and public). How can the building achieve a harmonious atmosphere?

- How can architecture represent the new cultural era of democracy in KwaZulu Natal and symbolically represent and identify with the province?

1.5 Research Methods And Materials

1.5.1 Research Methods

The research methodology conducted comprises of two sections, namely; the primary data collection (active) that is obtained from data collection via interviews and local case studies. The secondary data collection (passive) is made up from examining literature and subsequently making conclusions thereof. Collectively these act as a catalyst to solving key research problems. The research is conducted throughout South Africa from precedent studies and interviews.

1.5.1.1 Primary data collection

This section comprises of the interviews interviews and general discussions with relative stake holders within the government marquee and historians. The following are the guides to the collection of such data:

• Discussions with senior administration staff who will assisted with the required design brief based on the needs. Topic: "General arrangement and processes during the assembly meetings and requirements for the proposed provincial legislature building"

• Local government representatives, The Premier's. Topic "How can a provincial legislature cater for the public whilst maintaining the dignity as a provincial symbol and how can such an initiative contribute towards achieving a crime free province?"

• Interviews with architects who have experience in this nature of a structure were conducted to understand the implications and challenges an architect faces during the course of designing such a Building.

The primary research also included an analysis of the case studies conducted through visiting local examples of buildings of this nature. Hence there can be only one assembly house per province except for KZN, the area of study for the primary research is South Africa and it includes the following case study examples:

1. **The Provincial Government Complex**, Nelspruit, Architects:

Meyer Pienaar and Aziz Tayob, Schenepoel. The public empowerment initiative resulted in a simple and functional structure that responds to its contents. The holistic approach adopted to achieve a human scale for such a huge and complex building presents an opportunity to explore and apply on the process of the proposed project (KZNL).

2. **The Northern Cape Legislatue Buildings,** Kimberly,2004, Architects: Luis Ferera da Silva Architects, Winstin King Architects and Ferdi van Gass Architects. The concept behind this example is remarkable, also the decentralisation approach which is rather an interesting aspect that needs to be explored.

The following is the criteria used to the collection of such data
   1. Siting
   2. Concept
   3. Planning
   4. Construction Technology
   5. Symbolism and Architectural expression

The information obtained from this exercise contributes to the derivation of the brief and the accommodation schedule which will subsequently inform and be a guide during the design process. The main focus on this exercise is in the use of materials, the orientation of the building, the building's response to its context and finally the roloe of such architecture and its significance to the public.

1.5.5.2 Secondary data collection

This is rather passive exercise, because it comprises of an in depth literature review discussed by proficient personnel, relating to the architecture of legislature buildings. This section also discusses international precedent studies relating to the proposed

building. A critical analysis of both these forms creates a crucial bases that will influence the design process. An analysis of the different theoretical and practical ideas conducted in relation to one another.

The following is the criteria used for the collection of such data:

• the significance of the building to the public.

• the users ease movement

• the use of natural light and ventilation to create more pleasant spaces for children

• the technological advancements and materials used

• how security system operates without creating a barrier between public and the immediate users (parliamentarians)

• the building's response to local culture

The precedent studies include the following:

1. **The German Parliament at Bonn**, Germany, 1993, Architects: Behnisch & Partners

2. **Parliament House, Canberra**, Australia, 1988, Architects: Walter Burley Griffin, Mitchell guirgola & Thorp Architects,

3. **The Scottish Parliament**, Scotland, 2005, Architects: Enric Mirales and RMJM (Scotland) Limited

1.5.2 Research Materials

the research will be carried out via the following:

-Books

-Journals

-Internet

- and Newspaper articles

1.5.6 Conclusion

These findings for both forms of data collection were compared and analysed respectively to establish common or uncommon grounds that relate to architecture. This section concentrated mainly on architectural concepts and theories, which ultimately will form a single constituent of this research.

2.0 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Introduction

This chapter embodies relevant aspects about the topic by summarising the information acquired and relate them into the context. Such information underpins and re-inforces the background knowledge as it explores both design requirements and essential topics that govern the process of designing a building of this nature.

Illustration 7 A detailed doorway to a simple dome structure mostly built by women.
Source: Paul Oliver 1971, p.102

2.2 Critical Regionalism

This is an approach to architecture that strives to counter the placelessness and lack of meaning in Modern Architecture by using contextual forces to give a sense of place and meaning, [Frampton, 1983]. The term critical regionalism was first used by Alexander Tzonis and Liane Lefaivre and later more famously by Kenneth Frampton. Frampton discussed his views in "Towards a Critical Regionalism: Six points of resistance.Frampton evokes Paul Ricoeur's question of "how to become modern and to return to sources; how to revive an old, dormant civilization and take part in universal civilization".Where he suggests that a critical regionalism should adopt modern architecture critically for its universal progressive qualities but at the same time should value responses particular to the [context. Chris Abel, 2000]
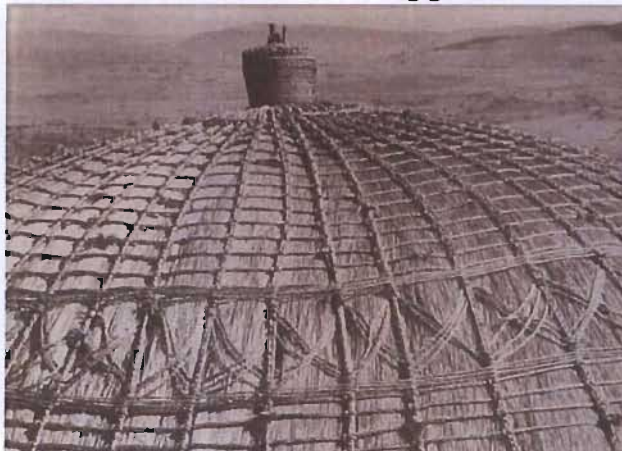
Illustration 8.   Decorative patterns climaxing at apex of the hut
Source: Paul Oliver 1971, p.102

Illustration 9. The Chapel of the Bagsvaerd Church with an atrium as the symbolical source of light and ventilartion

Source: [www.www.about.com, March, 2008]
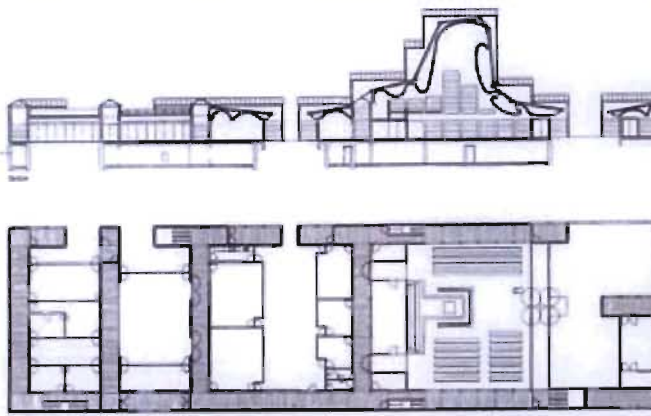
Illustration 10. Typical plan and section of the Bagsvaerd Church

Source: [www.www.about.com, March, 2008]

Emphasis should be on culture, topography, climate, light, tectonic form rather than scenography and the tactile sense rather than the visual. Frampton briefly discusses two examples: Jørn Utzon and Alvar Aalto. Utzon's Bagsvaerd Church built in1973-76 [Illustration 9&10], near Copenhagen is a self-conscious synthesis between universal civilization and world culture. This is revealed by the rational, modular, neutral and economic. Partly prefabricated concrete shell of the interior, signifying with its manipulation of light sacred space and 'multiple cross-cultural references'. Which Frampton sees no precedent from the Western culture, but rather in the Chinese pagoda roof. In the case of Aalto, Frampton discusses the redbrick Säynätsalo Town Hall built in 1952 [Illustration 13.],

, in which he argues that one finds a resistance to the domination of universal technology, as well as vision by means of the tactile qualities of the building's materials; for instance, in 'feeling' the friction of the brick floor of the stairs to the springy wooden-floored council chamber. Also most importantly, critical regionalism need not directly draw from the building's context but from elements that can be stripped of their context and used in unique rather than familiar ways. Here the aim is to make aware of a disruption and a loss of place that is already a 'fait accompli' through reflection and self-evaluation. Critical regionalism must not be mistaken for regionalism. Regionalism tries to achieve a one-to-one correspondence with vernacular architecture in a conscious way without consciously partaking in the universal.

[Kenneth Frampton, 1995]

The dissertation aims at employing this approach (critical regionalism), mainly for the international relevance whilst very much relating to its context both culturally and socially. It can be argued that the following architects have used such an approach in some of their relative works: Ken Yeang, William S.W. Lim, Tay Kheng Soon, Alvar Aalto, Jorn Utzon, Studio Granda, Mario Botta, B.V.Doshi, Charles Correa, Alvaro Siza, Rafael Moneo, Geoffrey Bawa, Raj Rewal, Tadao Ando, Mack Scogin / Merrill Elam, , Juhani Pallasmaa, and Tan Hock Beng. [Kenneth Frampton, 1995]

Illustration 11. The Säynätsalo Town Hall, a combination of natural materials, brick and timber complimented with the transparency in glass panels.
Source: [www.www.about.com, March, 2008]

2.3 Symbolism

Symbolism is the applied use of symbols to buildings: iconic representations that carry particular conventional meanings. The term "symbolism" is often limited to use in contrast to "representationalism": defining the general directions of a linear spectrum - where in all symbolic concepts can be viewed in relation, and where changes in context may imply systemic changes to individual and collective definitions of symbols. [Egenter, 1982] The dissertation employs "Symbolism" to refer to a way of choosing representative symbols in line with abstract rather than literal properties, allowing for the broader interpretation of a carried meaning than more literal concept-representations allow. [Charles Jencks, 1985].

This symbolic element, manifested in the iconography of the building's decoration language, creates a magnetic field thus becomes a magnet and focus. Such an approach may created concerns, how can a language employed form the early nineteenth century be relevant in the contemporary language?

Through application of advanced materials, technology and construction technique, such a concept can be successfully addressed. A religion can be described as a language of concepts related to human spirituality. Symbolism hence is an important aspect of most religions. In this research the "Architecture Religion" is identified and applied to address and identify the region from which the proposed building shall be born. Most importantly to create a building that shall translate, reflect and depict the history and the socio-culture of the region. [Charles Jencks, 1985]

2.4 Conclusion

The points of view discussed and explored are aimed to serve as the foundation for the conceptual interpretation that will assists during the process of designing the new KZNL. The study clearly shows that there are different approaches towards achieving one common goal, which is to design and ultimately build the KZNL. Symbolism may drive towards symbolical depiction of local and regional elements via the building with Critical Regionalism suggesting a universal architectural language whilst conscious about the relating element. Symbolism. Both the above prove to have a common ground through their awareness of the context and culture.

Both these theories are embodied within the Democratic architecture that is aiming to respond to the local culture, needs and materials available hence Responsive architecture. The proposed KZNL aims to employ the theoretical perspectives and implements then onto to the design process in conjunction with the findings discussed on 3.2 therefore creating a balance that will ultimately give birth to a metamorphosed living organ.

2.5 DEMOCRATIC ARCHITECTURE

2.5.1 Introduction

This chapter embodies relevant aspects about the topic by summarising the information acquired and relate them into the context. Such information underpins and re-inforces the background knowledge as it explores both design requirements and essential topics that govern the process of designing a building of this nature.

The late nineteenth century was the great time for consolidation of social institutions in architecture, when traditions were being established at the height of European power. A century later things got more difficult when the communities went from distrust to cynicism, and often both oppressed by the institutions and alienated by the architectural representations of their power. Parliamentary buildings are meant to attract notice naturally, the grander the structure, the stronger the public and provincial or national interest and reaction to them. Such a structure represents a province and ultimately a nation at large, it represents a tradition, stability and expresses authority. [Goodsell, C.T, 1988]

This representative icon embodies and image of the state and commands presence. It is fair to say that such a building or a body often evoke ideals of national identity and also pride. Ivor Indyk refers calls it 'the discourse of power'. A commanding presence, splendour and majestic structures traditionally symbolise authority and supremacy in their context. Traditionally these kind of structures purposely and clearly project in the grandest fashion, especially those in the Nineteenth Century in South America and Europe. Public buildings are mostly interpreted representations and statements. . Goodsell suggests that we must take conscious and unconscious factors into account when judging the architecture of legislative buildings. He also claims that "... the impact of parliamentary architecture on political culture is essentially mediated by national elites." [Goodsell, C.T, 1988]. We are aware how much influence or dictatorship did politicians had towards the architectural language on government buildings. It is important to understand that architecture is merely an expression of a particular point of view, which does not make the early nineteenth century inappropriate nor

acceptable but can be understood as the manifestation of a particular rule and its culture from which history can be learnt and growth architectural development can developed. 'The Word in Stone' by Robert R. Taylor, and Albert Speer, documents the complex role of architecture under the National Socialist regime. It can be said that for the success of democratic architecture relies in the way in which transparency and accountability are interpreted and realised lying in the hands of architect(s). leaving the inputs of politicians (clients) almost non-existence. It is assumed, however that politicians or Parliamentarians decisions are firm in their own opinions. Parliamentarians merely provide the architect with a brief and the accommodation schedule which cast significant light on some important matters and the general parameters within which the architect is directed to operate. South Africa is a democracy practising country, a country that strives to equally represent its citizens.

[Robert R. Taylor, and Albert Speer, 1974]

The client body (Parliamentarians Committee) will influence the architectural language, suggesting symbolical meaning the architect may be aware of but as the neutral, architects are often entrusted with a task of interpreting the social culture and tradition into built form and creating a public user friendly environment. A factor today which makes design of parliamentary buildings more complex, is that of security. It is a challenging exercise which single handedly distinguishes parliament building design from any other building occupation. Designing such structure that represents the greater public than the occupant, it is rather a controversial topic to incorporate with democracy. This creates a challenge towards achieving a democratic space. What is democracy space? A space for freedom of speech and act are obvious elements that be identified. A democratic space can not exist in a security controlled environment like a parliament building.

A gunman was apprehended in the Senate chamber in Washington. In Germany, the Baader-Mainhof terrorist gang kidnapped a judge in the 1970s. Security of public figures became an urgent matter of high priority as it still is today. It is hard challenge to balance the desire of a democratic space and maintain a secured space.

[Goodsell, C.T, 1988]

The thorny question of what is democratic architecture has been much debated without many firm conclusions. The architecture of dictatorship is much easier to recognise. [Prof. Dr. Mohammad Tajuddin,2007]

"Government building should not emulate any past civilization and their architecture, federal buildings should make no specific ethnic reference. Democratic architecture is the keyword. Putrajaya in Malaysia is a good example of autocratic architecture in a democratic country. The architectural language used in Putrajaya is very 'imperial' as opposed to the 'business as usual' architecture of the Parliament building" - Frank Lloyd Wright.
[www.blog.miragestudio7.com/building-democracy-architecture/733/,2008]

Illustration 12. Reichstag Dome's public gallery above the hamber
Source: [www.Reichstagdomeberlinbyfoster1.com, February 2008]
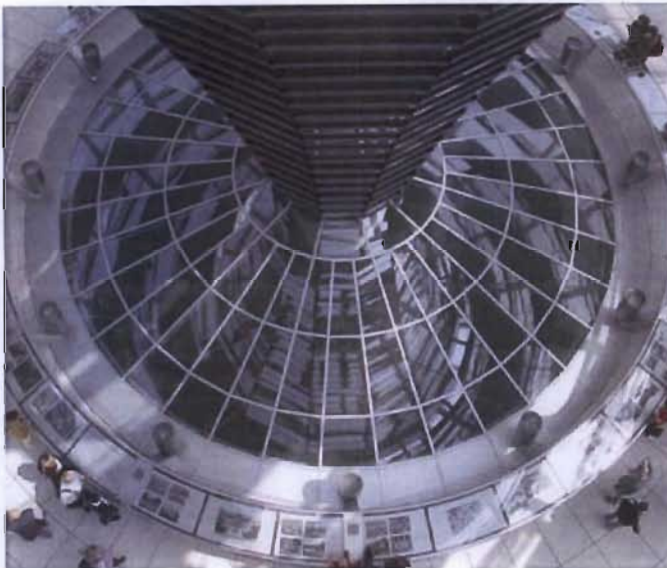
Illustration 13. Reichstag Dome's public gallery looking down at the Chamber with soundproof, safety glass panels
Source: [www.Reichstagdomeberlinbyfoster1.com,February 2008]

Frank got arrested one day after he he made about the Prime Ministers Office Putrajaya, Malaysia. The Prime ministers offices(Putrajaya) emulates the architecture of aristocratic or autocratic regimes of the past. The architecture of this nature acts as a symbol of dominance, power and a specific culture which isolates itself from the context and most importantly form the global language of architecture hence referred to as non democratic.
[www.blog.miragestudio7.com/building-democracy-architecture/733/,2008]

Illustration 14 Putrajya Building in Malaysia a literal symbol of the country's culture with the use of domed towers. and the verticality of the window panes with columns emerge thereof.

Source: [www.hotelrservation.com.my/tour/images/putrajaya.jpg, February 2008]

[Illustration 14] The Putrajaya offices emulates the architecture of autocratic regimes of the past. The architecture of this nature acts as a symbol of dominance, power and a specific culture which isolates itself from the context and most importantly form the global language of architecture hence referred to as non democratic. Charles T. Goodsell proposes four types of political meaning distinguishable in Government buildings.

2.5.2 The presentational meaning of the building. This statement can be interpreted as form of articulating building elements through materials and artefacts which can be associated with history and culture of the province, in this case KwaZulu Natal. This articulation exercise to such a building may be very sensitive or need a neutral point of perspective to execute, without conflicting with political parties harboured by the building. [Goodsel CT, 1988]

2.5.3 He also refers to the indexial meaning. This is where the underlying political values and relationships, including the allocation of authority and power, are revealed indirectly by architectural and design features. Although authority and power together may be imposing to the public. It is essential to communicate with the public in a dignified manner. [Goodsel CT, 1988]

2.5.4 The behavioural – he refers to the manner in which practices in the composition are conditioned by the physical setting, but that shall not be a binding exercise. [Goodsel CT, 1988]

2.5.5 The metaphorical meaning of the institution. This is the perceived symbolic midpoint of the building as the representation of the Government body. It is very true

and important for such a building to have such a meaning. The building becomes a shrine within the context and shall be iconic with relevant meaning. These findings suggests that a building of this nature should reflect its context and culture without isolating itself from the global language of architecture. This type of architecture must relate to the public and attempt to portray the new ideals of democracy, which lays the reins of governance in the people's hands. The New German Parliament is Bonn takes a step forward towards achieving this issue. [Goodsel CT, 1988]

2.6 ARCHITECTURE AND IDENTITY

Chris Abel, discusses the issues of science and technology development in the architectural environment. His concern is architecture's inability to respond to new technologies and/or production methods. 'Post industrialisation' emerges from these concerns, due to the need of mass production which will entail new approaches to design and manufacture, including those applicable to the building industry. Although initiatives to modernise the industry, has seen little improvement so far. Architects and builders have not been able to master and translate the industrialisation fundamentals into the built environment. This failure could be contributed by the ultimate criteria 'performance' which can never be compromised, hence there are some builders who still apply traditional methods of construction as opposed to those of the 'post-industrialisation'. [Chris Abel, 2000]

Sustainable architecture has been part of the post modernism movement with the last century. his initiative largely promotes locally available materials that can withstand local climatic conditions. It also comprises the employment of user friendly features whereby the building's end user can operate without relying on the technological advancement of the structure. Energy saving methods are key to such an effort. Even how building products are made is very important. These points mentioned above are one of many factors why architecture has not been as technological advanced compared to other industrial sectors. Of-course there has been a lot of discoveries of alternative materials that can replace the traditionally applied materials like iron which can be replaced with steel, aluminium to zincalume, from plane concrete to polymer concrete.

These are technological advancements which were carefully investigated, tested and eventually approved as suitable to be applied in their relevant functions. This dissertation also intends to utilise on the technological advancement but largely focused on the availability of materials and the ease of their application on site.

As the project strives to empower the public, it is very important that the building process employs semi-skilled labour with a highly skilled mentor thus fulfilling the vision as part of the high skilled team within the construction site.

2.7 Responsive Architecture

Sir Norman Foster is widely known for modern architecture which we normally associate with factory production methods. He Is also known as the 'Hi-tech' architect, he is architect, he is assumed to be using Modernist preferences for universal solutions that Post-modernists today eschew. Of course this can be true if one can only recognise his early work and ignore the Hong Kong and Shangai Bank some of his later work. The Bank's Second Age Technology may be global, but the structural expressionismand spatial qualities are distinctly Pacific, if not precisely local. Lightweight floating floors and delicate transparent screens against a massive, aggressive supporting structure. His work suggests a convincing resolution of what are usually considered opposing architectural tendencies, and are the outcome of a more general shift from the use of ready-made components towards a craft-orientated approach more suited to responsive architecture. Like that of the master of the modern tools of industry, Renzo Piano, Foster repeatedly emphasised the importance of process in the art and craft of making architecture, as much as any end product. [Kenneth Frampton, 1995]

This shift can in turn be interpreted , at a higher level, as part of a new, more balanced Modernist philosophy, which allows the architect to pay due respect to what is particular to a place and regional environment. And also making the most of the technological culture all industrialised countries now share. The dissertation aims to explore this approach in relevance to the KwaZulu Natal's socio-cultural dynamics and employ it towards the design of KZNL. This presents an opportunity to employ locals for the indigenous skills and expertise.

And also making the most of the technological culture all industrialised countries now share.

2.8 Architecture of Empowerment

" *The architecture of empowerment is about challenging architects to do more than build for the poor ... It invites them to rethink the premises of the process of design as much as the process of building. It challenges them to shed their assumed omnipotence and to become enablers for the poor*" Muhamad Yunus The top 20 per cent of the world's population receive about 83 per cent of the world's income, whilst the 80 per cent of the world live only on 17 per cent. The bottom 20 per cent, being the poorest share a mere 1.4 per cent. The situation at the present is deteriorating. The top 20 per cent were thirty times as rich as the bottom 20 per cent by the year 1960 and by 1992 they are sixty times as rich. [UNDP, Human Development Report, 1992].

The cities are witnessing the increasing economic transformation along with the alarming climb of the unemployment rate. Billions of human beings are living in conditions which can be referred to as those beneath human beings living condition. Such transformations shall be responded to and the responsibility as architects would be tor respond not through our capacities as architects but rather as the public service providers who together with other public figures towards empowering primarily the poor and subsequently empower them. It is said that the poor are expected to adjust to the ever changing conditions and surroundings provided to them by the demanding social dynamics which favours the rich. The current inexistence of significant community links and the lack of concern for the various communities needs contribute to the empowering of such communities .

The statement above posses citizens of the world. A challenge that can be seen as an opportunity to make a difference by creating architecture of empowerment to the communities and more specifically the poor. Traditionally an architect is seen as the creative brain in the built environment, thus embedded in the exercise of the individuality that divorces itself from the empowerment of the public. [Carol Pateman,1970]

The following are therefore relavant topics which attempt to address the topic in discussion.

2.8.2 Reaching the poorest: The Urban World

These are more relevant concept topics for the discussion which will assist and lead towards the design and ultimately the construction of the Legislature Buildings of KwaZulu Natal and were selected for the discussion.

2.8.1 Revitalising the City Centre

Central areas of many cities in the developing countries are facing challenges. Some cities have historical buildings and spaces that have become either vandalised or run-down making them a dwelling place for poor migrants. Also rapidly becoming il-legal street hawker's ideal business places. This behaviour can be easily witnessed in the Islamic and the Indian towns, which have narrow streets and are crowded with street vendors and hawkers. Locally in Kwazulu Natal, South Africa the city centres like Pietermaritzburg and Durban are witnessing similar challenges.

[Ismail Serageldin,1997]

The architectural structures and urban heritage easily become victims of vandalism mostly caused by the homeless. Such behaviour cases decay to the city and destroys the atmosphere of security thus causing formal businesses to relocate for more suitable site to practice. It is therefore advisable for the proposed historical structure to be located within the city's outskirts and be accessible by both the communities. Inturn the cities will be revitalised and will again a a responsibilty for public movement and urban regeneration as it sits closely to the government building.

[Ismail Serageldin,1997]

2.10 Reaching the poorest: The Urban World

Traditionally an architect is seen as the creative brain in the built environment, thus embedded in the exercise of the individuality that divorces itself from the empower-ment of the public. The great architects of the past including Frank Lloyd Wright,

Le Corbusier Oscar Niemeyer always considered themselves as the creative artists. They would never design whatever the client wanted. These architects never tried to change the world but to improve the existing built environment. Paul Mikula, a South African architect has always been passionate about the idea of bringing change and empowering the local and poor communities. His projects included a housing development project that held on site training workshops. The owners to be were trained how to build a typical dwelling, by so doing they assisted in building the houses on site and eventually occupy them as their homes.

The exercise created a sense of ownership, responsibility and more importantly pride to the communities, who are now empowered. As Architects it is our responsibility to be the creative minds like Le Corbusier but be responsible like the Paul Mikula's of today. This dissertation will assist in creating a more responsible building that will include the communities who will in turn be empowered via their participation in the construction of a building of such importance. The design approach shall therefore be consciously aware of the intended beneficiaries, the communities.

Therefore the architecture must be functional, responding to the needs of clients, that way it shall separate itself from a sculpture. This architecture for the proposed KZNL shall be that of empowerment . The architecture that encourages the public's incremental inputs, that makes a building become more of a process than as a product. The KwaZulu Natal must feel like the masters of the immediate surroundings, they must feel that they have a strong foundation from which they can build a better future for themselves and their generations. [Ismail Serageldin, 1997]

2.11 Vernacular architecture

This unconventional exercise is practised by the unskilled labour, who erected structures based on their particular needs and environment. As architects and contributors to the crisis, it is our responsibility to explore ways and solutions to reduce the consumption of energy through 'green' design approach, which includes the application of locally sourced materials, environmentally responsive buildings, and sustainable design of buildings. It is essential to explore vernacular because the architecture was born thereof. According to a 1991 estimate, the building industry consumes fifty percent of all energy in the world. [Christopher Bay, 1992].

As architects and contributors to the crisis, it is our responsibility to explore ways and responsive buildings, and sustainable design of buildings. It is essential to explore vernacular because the architecture was born thereof. In the early years of human existence, builders utilised on the available materials and expressed their culture through rich and detailed decorations and skills manifested on the particular structure erected. Also the aesthetics an decoration follow function. [Illustration 4].

These energy efficient materials used especially in Africa and south America were normally tree logs or to erect the structure, grass for the roof and mud bricks for walls. The dissertation aims to explore this approach in relevance to the KwaZulu Natal resources. [Illustration 5] The positioning of openings and size, the roof overhangs and sheltered areas were considered to achieve a comfortable space. The dissertation aims to explore this approach in relevance to the KwaZulu Natal's sociocultural dynamics and employ it towards the design of KZNL.

This presents an opportunity to employ locals for the indigenous skills and expertise. Vernacular is associated with: primitive architecture, indigenous architecture, anonymous architecture; folk, popular, rural, or traditional architecture; architecture without architects; or even, "non-pedigree" architecture. The terms mentioned may suggest a exclusivity but it was discovered that at least 90

Illustration 15. Papua New Guinea. A pointed roof hut to allow water to run-off, wit the suspended base to allow rain water to run below without destroy ing the structure.
Source: [www.vernaculararchitecture.com. March, 2008]

Illustration 16. Typical Mexican dwelling, with adequate window openings and flat roof to trap rainwater and channel to the storage tanks and covered veranda
Source: [www.vernaculararchitecture.com. March, 2008]

a exclusivity but it was discovered that at least 90 percent of the world's architecture is estimated to be vernacular, only five to ten percent having been designed by architects. [Rapoport, 1969]

Example: **Typical Zulu Compound and Dwelling**

The material standards of performance are impressive, considering the fact that they were/are built by the untutored Zulu. The Zulus have succeeded in evolving one of the comfortable and cosiest, best ventilated types of habitations ever conceived by a primitive man. Although it can be suspect to ideals of functional efficiency and economy of construction. The Zulu hut is considered to be at the forefront of the architectural design. (Bryant,1964).

[Illustration 17&18] The organic form is apparent to all Zulu village and even throughout some parts of Africa. There is a very strong sense of hierarchy which is successfully expressed dominance and power.
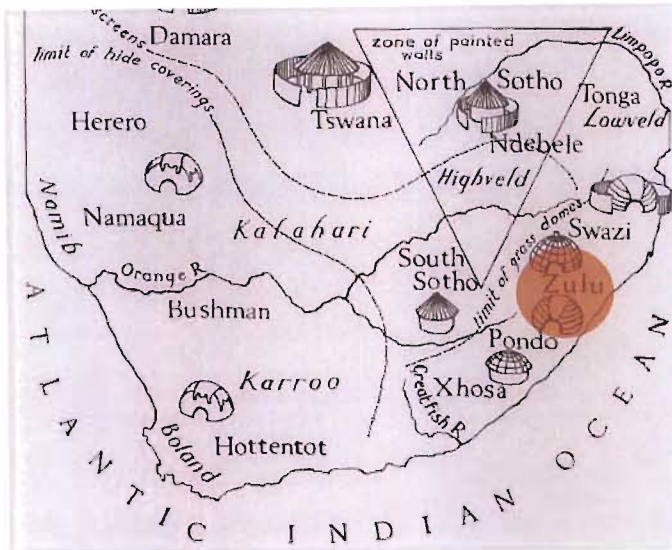
Illustration 17. Map of South Africa Showing Indigenous Tribes and Relative Building Types
Source: Paul Oliver 1971, p.96
Edited by Author
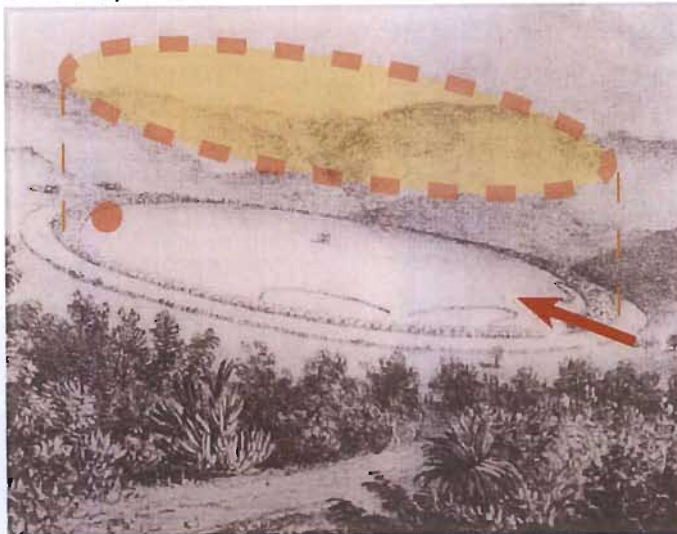
Illustration 18. Typical Zulu Village or Compound, Huts built around the Kraal (isbaya) in a circular form. Arrow showing the main entrance point.
Source: Paul Oliver 1971, p.99
● The Leader's Hut (iNdlunkulu),
Edited by Author

The organisation and aesthetic resources are directed towards planning and ordering of the environment. This successful arrangement accommodated ritual and domestic activities. The Zulus successfully formalised a homely environment as a home, via a circle, which could also be understood as the circle of friends and the circle of admirers. The aesthetic content of a design is based on a simple theme theme and can only be expressed in the detailing and finishing of such a structure. [Paul Oliver 1971]

[Illustration 8] Kraals are enormous and positioned at the heart of a compound and are several in number. The kraal called isIBaya utilises on the circular space created by the surrounding dwellings. Primarily a kraal is used for live stock storage, cattle, sheep, goats etc. The livestock is kept

in smaller enclosures within the kraal in close proximity of the herder's huts. The central remaining enclosure is used for the exclusive ceremonial parades and also a space of holding talks with the members of the compound (the Community). The central space is also used for the training of the warriors. The upper section of the circular compound opposite the main entrance gate is there is the King's or leader's hut with the surrounding wives huts. This area is separated from the rest of the compound's by strong fences and doors kept by the sentinels. [Paul Oliver, 1971]

Illustration 19. Typical Zulu Village or Compound, showing the fencing around for security

Edited by Author
Source: Paul Oliver 1971, p.100
huts around the kraal
Communal space (kraal)
Entrance point

This structure is vital for the design approach of the KZNL hence it relates to the culture and is has a symbolic meaning of unity and security. It also will assist in identifying the regional language through the simplicity and grandness of thedesign, and finally circular form as the design theme.

2.12 **Accessibility**

Architects have a responsibility to strive and accommodate the disabled and promote integration between both able and the disabled. Access is one of the primary concerns for the building of this nature, and must be achievable by both the disabled and the able occupants of the building without segregation. The transparency of the building to the public can be obtained through providing controlled educational facilities e.g. Museums, exhibition rooms, an amphitheatre, public "open days" etc. This initiative creates a relationship between the two parties involved, the public and the government. [Selwyn Goldsmith:1976]

This subjects also covers the issue of adequate parking. Such an exercise can always influence the structure thus the best solution is to allocate such and amenity beneath the building as it occupies the majority of the land provided. Therefore such a solutions will be appropriate towards the proposed. These supporting amenities create a more democratic space by suggesting an equal use without aggresivley seperating the end users.

2.6 Conclusion

The points of view discussed and explored are aimed to serve as the foundation for the conceptual interpretation that will assists during the process of designing the new KZNL. The study clearly shows that there are different approaches towards achieving one common goal, which is to design an ultimately build the KZNL. Symbolism may initiate symbolical elements to the building with Critical Regionalism suggesting a universal architectural language whilst conscious about the relating element.

Symbolism. Both the above prove to have a common ground through their awareness of the context and culture. Both these theories are embodied within the Democratic architecture that is aiming to respond to the local culture, needs and materials available hence Responsive architecture. The proposed KZNL aims to employ the theoretical perspectives and implements then onto to the design process in conjunction with the findings discussed on 3.2 therefore creating a balance that will ultimately give birth to a metamorphosed living organ.

3. Background

This is an analytical study of how such a building can be successfully expressed architecturally with both form and the technology employed. The apropreiatenes of a structure within its context and reponse to local cultural dynamics. A variety of buildings will be studied and explored In this section. These will be the most successful to the least successful buildings of this type and shall consist the following characteristics:

- The building shall be the house which has power of making laws
- Architecture that represents local culture
- A pleasant working environment
- A design which allows flexibility and expansion for the future
- A design that acknowledges and responds to natural environment and order of site and context of urban connections.
- A scheme that does not compromise security at all
- A building that stands as a symbol that reflect the province as a whole.
- A building that foster an egalitarian relationship between the MP's and the public without compromising the privacy and limits of all non public facilities.

This study helps identifying the relationships between different facilities and functions, also will assist in articulating basic principles and common ideas by comparing different buildings of this nature. Furthermore the buildings are compared to local case studies in chapter five whereby an ultimate outcome will be a crucial informant towards deriving essential requirements required to help inform the design of the KZNL. Also a critical analysis is discussed on the relevant building's response to the region and its involvement and without imposing it self within its context.

3.1 Chosen Precedents

3.1.1 **Parliament at Bonn**, Germany (1993) Behnisch & partners
This example is chosen to analyse theory of accessibility, transparency and the intervention of the existing parliament building by a modern structure and discuss the implications thereof.

3.1.2 **Parliament House in Canberra**, Australia (1988) Walter Burley
Griffin, Mitchell Guirgola, Thorp Architects, Richard G. Thorp
& Romaldo Guirgola- This parliament is chosen mainly to explore
its response to its environment, urban response and complexity relevant
to the architecture of Australia.

3.1.3 **The Scottish Parliament**, Scotland, 2004, Enric Mirales
The building aims to conceive a poetic union between the Scottish
landscape, its people, its culture and the city of Edinburgh.
[Enric Mirales,2004]
The section discuses the culture and symbolism as the language and a
reflection of the Scottish culture.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Parliament at Bonn, Germany (1993) Behnisch & partners

3.1.1 Introduction

The idea of integrating Architecture and democracy has always been created a platform for debate. The rebuilding of West Germany after World War II demonstrates the tensions between the more elitist concept of architecture and the populist notion of democracy. Architecture "for the people'" has been tried in the capital of Bonn with little success. This chosen precedent analyses the intervention on the existing parliament building by a modern structure. It also further discusses how dictatorship architecture can be transformed whilst representing democracy, and the implications thereof. [October 2001, Casabella, No 693]

Bonn was chosen as the provisional German Capital in 1949, with the return to Berlin expected after re unification. It was finally decided that the site would be located on the banks of the Rhine in the southern suburbs, against placing the building at the city centre. The site was also chosen with the development of an administrativezone in mind. In 1972 Behnisch & Partners won a competition for the new national parliament. Witte's Academy was used for administration and a chamber was built to the design of Hans Schwippert's Extensions in the 1950's, which were hastily constructed and lacked elegance, as well as blocking out vital views towards the Rhine. Therefore the existing structure was to be demolished, due to inadequate chamber space and another building on the same spot, integrating the new with the existing office accommodation. [October 2001, Casabella, No 693]

3.1.2 Siting

The rather reticent, understated monumentality of the pavilion-like structure of the main entrance echoes the Miesian. Modernist tradition whilst at the same time acknowledging and paying homage to every aspect of its context, the river, the

slope, the approach and the existing structures. The Behnisch intervention is nestled between the two existing buildings, the Witte Academy to the northwest and Schwippert's wing to the south-east. It consists of the main entrance and lobby leading towards the chamber itself.

The main approach to the site from the south or southeast has resulted in a non-axial approach to the chamber, which aligns itself with the river and Witte's academy. The descent reverses the traditional notion of the ascent from the external public domain to the most important part of the building the chamber, as is the case in the Berlin Reichstag and the British House of Commons, and thus this reversal of the traditional serves to question the overwhelming monumentality of the past in subordination of the individual, and suggests rather, a return to a natural order of things.

3.1.3 Concept

The design is a deliberate attempt in every way to create a building which makes the legislative process open and approachable. Visual connections between government proceedings and the public affirm the concept that: "Everything which divides has been reduced as far as possible" (Behnisch) The idea of democratic openness and the transparency of Parliament's operations were the main drivers for the development. Also, the architect preferred relaxed, open buildings with a view of the Rhine. [October 2001, Casabella, No 693]

As is usual with such public buildings, a certain percentage of the costs was allotted to works of art. Those chosen for the Reichstag project are very much of the contemporary avant garde 'high art' and 'cerebral' kind which is not out of place in Berlin with its modernist traditions. They reflect a certain contemporary taste, it is interesting what the taste will be in another two decades. [October 2001, Casabella, No 693]

Whose taste they reflect may well be that of the architects rather than the clients. Sir Norman Foster and his colleagues were closely involved in their commissioning.

Key:
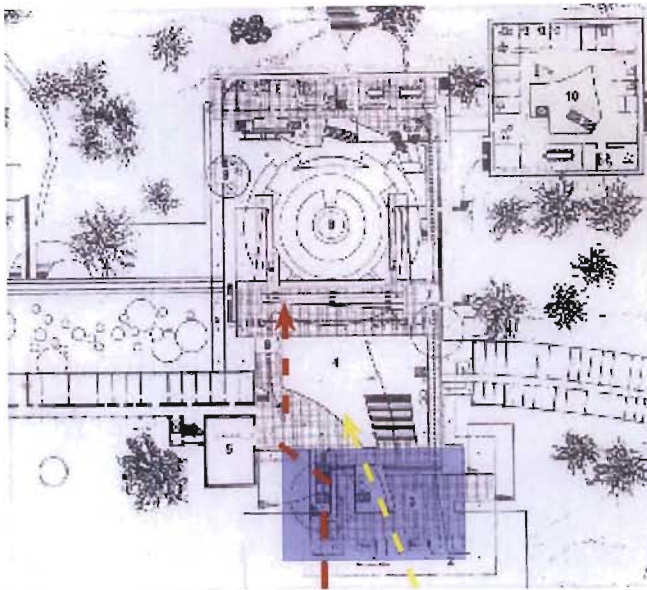
- ▮ President's Annexe
- ▮ Debating Chamber Below
- ▮ Foyer
- ▮ Restaurant Below
- ▮ Main Entrance
- – ➤ Members entrance to chamber
- ▪▪▪▪➤ Public's entrance point

Illustration 20. Part-Ground Floor of the Bonn Parliament's Chamber
Source: Casabella 693,2001,p12.
Edited by Author
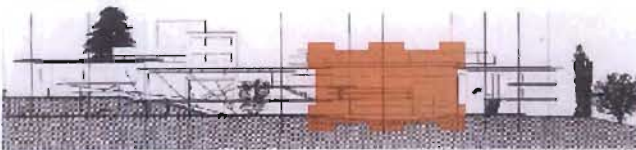
Illustration 21. Cross Section Through Chamber, showing sunken chamber, creating larger volume without projecting beyong the main building envelope
Source: Casabella 693,2001,p12.
Edited by Author

Not all the artists are from Germany and this international selection reflects the desire of the clients to go beyond a purely national image in the architecture and in the building's decoration and out fitting. German crafts in the form of ceramics and textiles, to which ordinary citizens might be expected to relate easily, are not widely used. [October 2001, Casabella, No 693]

3.1.4 Planning

[Illustration 14&16] The block plan identifies the Behnisch interventions Between Parliament Square and the river bank lies the building and Parliamentary chamber, two pavilions projecting on alternate sides. These meet between the old buildings, Witte's Academy to northwest, and Schwippert's wing to southeast. By the eastern corner of the chamber next to the river lies a further pavilion are squares at elite building, which contains parliamentary offices. [Illustration 16]

West of the chamber is a new restaurant for MPs, tucked into the corner of the old academy. Northeast of the site plan, the building is bounded by the curving bank of the Rhine and to southwest by a main road. This substantial piece of land, some three blocks deep, has a grid and most of It is buildings-oriented on the main road. [October 2001, Casabella, No 693]

This substantial piece of land, some three blocks deep, has a grid and most of It is buildings-oriented on the main road.

The resulting skew and the fact that all the parliamentary offices lie to the south side, result in the main approach to the Parliament being from the south or south-east, vehicles arriving also from the right down Heussallee. Had the approach been axial, it would have made sense to align the two approximately square pavilions of lobby and chamber, but instead the entrance and lobby are shifted rightward with respect to the chamber. This generates the skewed course of the main internal route which is of crucial importance for internal planning. The shift can also be interpreted as a response to the two existing buildings the corner of Witte's academy on the left, and Schwippert's office wing on the right, which are not in line. [October 2001, Casabella, No 693]

Key:
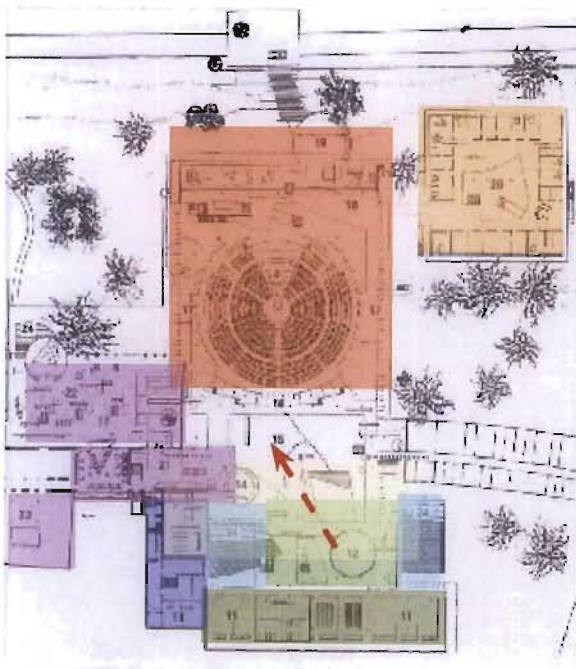
■ President's Annexe Hall
■ The Debating Chamber
■ Lobby
■ Drawing room
■ Lecture Theatre
■ Pool
■ Radio and television
■ restaurant And Kitchen
▪▪▪▶ Entrance to Chamber by MP's

Illustration 22. Part-Lower Ground Floor, Bonn Parliament's Chamber

Source: Casabella 693,2001,p12. Edited by Author

The double displacement in both axes can be read as a pin-wheel arrangement bringing internal routes to an implied circle rather than a focal point. The lateral displacement of lobby and chamber is a radical move with many consequences. Its other side to the Rhine, and to the riverside promenade returning to the city centre. The contrast is not unlike that of traditional street front versus garden front, but it is much more. Parliament must present itself to the long-distance river view while the view of the river is the climax of the route through the building, seen from within the chamber itself, but most fully enjoyed from the presidential area's upper rooms, which directly face it. In the transition from city to river, the treatment of the section, too, is important.

Progress through the building follows the diminishing layers of the river banks and that of the main floor is always at ground level. [October 2001, Casabella, No 693]

3.1.5 Construction Technology

A technical innovation allows more accurate articulation of political parties than hith-er to for the grouping of seats can vary from government to governments; eats are movable, allowing a isle positions to be shifted. The floor of the chamber steps gently down towards the middle, a slight echo of the Greek theatre, adding to the sense of focus and improving sight lines. All except the outer most benches are provided with microphones in the hope that members might speak from their places rather than walking to the rostrum. [October 2001, Casabella, No 693]

Judging by the limited use seen last autumn, however the old habit may prove hard to break. The circular chamber in Behnisch's plan of 1976 had circular seating also for the observers' gallery but as built, the gallery follows the rectangular edge of the chamber on three sides. This seems odd in the plans, but in practice it works well. The press and public have no part in the proceedings and it would be symbolically wrong to include them in the circle of elected members. The chamber's structure is all on top and also the south oriented system of motorised louvres used for solar control. All that appears beneath is a flat ceiling finished with a shiny surface reflecting landscape beyond a shimmering plane. [October 2001, Casabella, No 693]

Towards the middle the continuous surface gives way to perforations then breaks into a form of coffering in translucent material an arrangement devised by lighting special-ist Christian , which diffuses the light from the glazing above. The effect is surprising and rather magical. From the ceiling hang constellations of omni directional loudspeakers lightened visually by enclosure in acrylic boxes a technical solution in harmony with the intended lightness and transparency.
[October 2001, Casabella, No 693]

constellations of omni directional loudspeakers lightened visually by enclosure in acrylic boxes a technical solution in harmony with the intended lightness and transparency.

3.1.6 Symbolism and Architectural expression

The Chamber's interior creates continuity from the landscape outside. The descent towards the river is all the more effective for its unexpected reversal of the upward tendency, the rise from the common world to an exalted place which is found in most parliament buildings including Westminster and the Berlin Reichstag. Chancellors and ministers are placed within the circle along with the other members. The Parliamentary President (is the Speaker not to be confused with the Federal President) who controls proceedings is also within the circle, but on axis and in a slightly raised box-like desk with administrators and assistants. The rostrum stands in front in a central position, completing the innermost circle.
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reichstag_(building),2009]

The change in geometry produces the necessary social detachment but it also liberates the circle from its containing volume, making it clear that the seating has its own reason, independent of the surrounding structure. With a truly central focus and equal participation perhaps no backdrop would be necessary and even the major axis could be abandoned but parliament has always had its insignia and insisted on its Adlerwand, the grey eagle on a cinema screen-like wall, which brings the chamber to its climax and terminates the route. Behnisch is personally ambivalent about this, but the decision was not his, it was a matter for the politicians. A more progressive arrangement would have been to open the end of the chamber, like the sides, to the Rhine. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reichstag_(building),2009]

3.1.7 Conclusion

This building epitomizes the modern perception of government and its function, translating it into built form. The modernist glass pavilion physically represents universal systems to which modern government aspires. Symbolic metaphors of parency, linking this with the idea of open government, are carefully exploited.

The integration of the new chamber with the existing, white architecture of the Weimar years has produced an extremely rich, contextual mix, imbuing the place with a sense of history and continuity, which would less likely have occupied with the total erasure of the original buildings on the site. A modern language is adopted which is more universal in nature. The two different architectural styles manifest an architectural development, draws contrast and expose the architecture of dictatorship from that of the democratic. Therefore this issue of dealing with the past is pertinent to the scope of this dissertation.

Parliament House in Canberra (1988) Romaldo Giurgola.

4.1 Introduction

In 1978, a two-stage competition was announced, for which the Authority consulted the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, together with the National Capital Development Commission. The competition winner was the US based Italian architect, Romaldo Giurgola. Construction began in 1981, and the House was intended to be ready by Australia Day, 26 January 1988, the 200th anniversary of European settlement in Australia.[Architecture Australia, 1988]

4.2 Siting

The people in the various states did not want the Commonwealth Government to stay in Melbourne. Sydney also was impossible because Melbourne people wouldn't allow it. Neither Sydney nor Melbourne favoured the other state capitals. So, it was agreed that the best location would be somewhere in NSW at-least 100 miles from Sydney. The Capital also had to be away from the coast, well out of the 50-mile range of battle-ships with their guns. Politicians travelled around looking at possible sites. Many country towns were considered but finally the rather desolate Canberra site was chosen. [Architecture Australia, 1988]
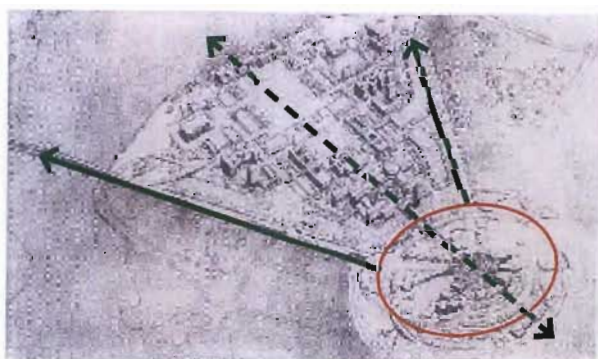
Ilustration 23.   An ititial urban design sketch, The Parliasment Site made the origin point for the whole development
Source: Architecture Australia, 1988, p.35
Edited by Author

The key criteria for the chosen site was the following:

*   a healthy, cool climate without snow.

*   possibilities for an adequate water supply.

Ilustration 25. Aerial Photograph of Parliament in Canberra showing the Parliament's urban context,a typical Ebenhezer Howar's City Planning model

Source: [www.wikipedia/parliamenthouse canberra.com, March 2008]

Edited by Author

• and also the fact that the site was seen by many as appropriate for "a bush capital in no man's land"- A place far away from lines of communication [Architecture Australia, 1988]

4.3 Concept

The concept grew out of the circular form of the site and the interpretation of the Griffin plan [Illustration 20]. The building completes the Parliamentary Triangle and creates both a powerful and legible heart to the city and symbolically for the continent.

The plan consists of two inverted semi circles as arcs curving away from each other respond and link with the radial roads. The concept was for the Parliament House to be freely open to the public, and the sweeping lawns leading up to the entrances were intended to symbolize humbleness and accessibility. [Architecture Australia, 1988]

The designer sunk most of the building under Capital Hill and capping the edifice with an enormous spire topped by a large Australian flag. The building is sunken so as to allow the public to walk over to engender in some people a sense that the building belongs to them, they should and can participate actively in the democratic process. The public cannot reach the apex however for security reasons, hence there is an access hatch used as the skylight. The facades, however, deliberately echoed the designs of the Old Parliament House, so that there is a family resemblance despite the massive difference in scale. The design of the site is in the shape of two boomerangs enclosed within a circle. [Architecture Australia, 1988]

Much of the building is buried beneath Capital Hill, but the meeting chambers and accommodation for parliamentarians are free-standing within the boomerang-shaped arms. The historic building was preserved, and it now houses a parliamentary museum and part of the National Portrait Gallery. It is now listed as a nation-building icon for the Centenary of Federation.

Guirgola had derived three primary principles that subsequently formed the basis for the design of the Canberra Parliament Complex:

- the buildings are not a simple material objects, but rather that buildings should be understood as concepts related to the making of the place.

- The buildings as ideas or concepts con taining meanings which are given particular forms of expression by the architects, engineer's, builders and trades men involved during the construction of the structure. The process therefore provides an opportunity of establishing relationships amongst these people and their endeavours towards achieving a complete structure.

- The goal of each building project is to knit together into one concept all of those attendant meanings, thereby making possible for the building's future users and visitors a sense of unity and togetherness.

[Architecture Australia, 1988]
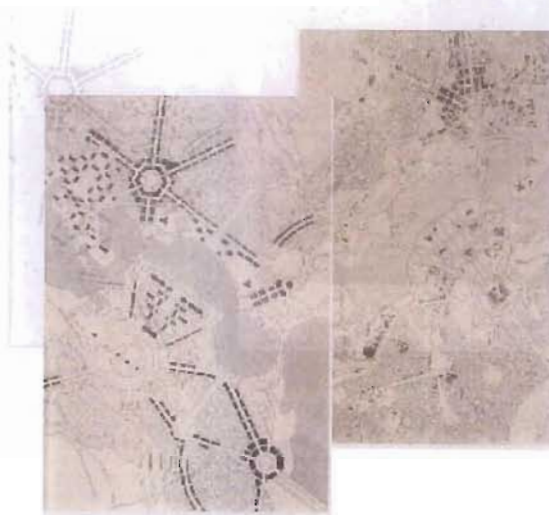
illustration 26. An Urban Design Study with a figure ground study.
Source: Architecture Australia, 1988, p.34
Edited by Author

4.4 Planning

Canberra as a capital was designed based on Walter Griffin's urban planning. The Griffin plan was responding to Australia's grand scale of the mountains and the local topography. Griffin's plan faced the Molonglo River surrounded by the hills aback. His concept was derived form the hills, which were seen as the upper galleries, the lowers lopes the auditorium, and in the valley is the man-made lake was to be the arena. The slopes to the south of the of the lake formed a terraced stage for a triangular group of government structure culminating in the 'Capitol' an assembly building for the people placed on a hill above parliament, which was situated on the lower part called Camp Hill. Capital Hill represented the heart of the city and of Australia itself, with four roads radiating out in the principle directions.

[Architecture Australia, 1988]

Ilustration 27. Conceptual sketches defining the bisecting boomerang wings. The flag being a symbolic element
Source: Architecture Australia, 1988, p.34

The building has 4,700 rooms. The main objective was to maintain the clarity of the functional zones. The building has a simple layout with basic lines from a distant standpoint, however when closely observed the layout appears to be complex made up of supporting facilities. Also the boomerang arches are very eminent separating the chambers and defining the common square and the axis thereof [Illustration 29]. The plan is resolved into three parts, the Senate and the House of Representatives on either side of the central shared common space, clearly defined by the boomerang arch walls. Within the building there are four functional zones with their own underground parking with distinct formal entrances:

[Architecture Australia, 1988]

Ilustration 28. Aerial image with radiated axis across the artificial river
Source: Architecture Australia, 1989, p.26
Edited by Author

- Public and ceremonial facilities
- Representative's chamber and offices
- Senate Chamber and offices, including the supporting parliamentary functions.

Various other axes were set up, the most significant of which is the land axis running through the centre of the Parliamentary Triangle and on to the War Memorial and the peak of the mountain, three kilometres away. Mitchell Giurgola and Thorp cleverly designed a geometrical of the plan that corresponded to the rather complex requirements of the Griffin Plan. The plan is note worthy for its clarity of intention and rationality. Following the curved lines of the two sides of the parliamentary complexes artificially reconstructing the hill. This allows the public to look out from the summit onto the lake, land axis and city centre. Thus keeping with the original, natural landscape and also acknowledge Griffin's policy of not building on the hills. Looking down onto the Parliament House the great diagonal ramps and curving walls unify the clusters of low-rise buildings around the courtyards into a monumental landscape composition readable from a considerable distance. The notion of the public walking over the building is also symbolic of the democratic subordination of parliament, and the idea that the building belongs to the people. The ground floor foyer and the first floor foyer from the main entrance area to the

galleries of the chambers are open to the public. The remainder of the three floors are reserved for the members and the media, with a restricted access for the executives. [Architecture Australia, 1988]

KEY:
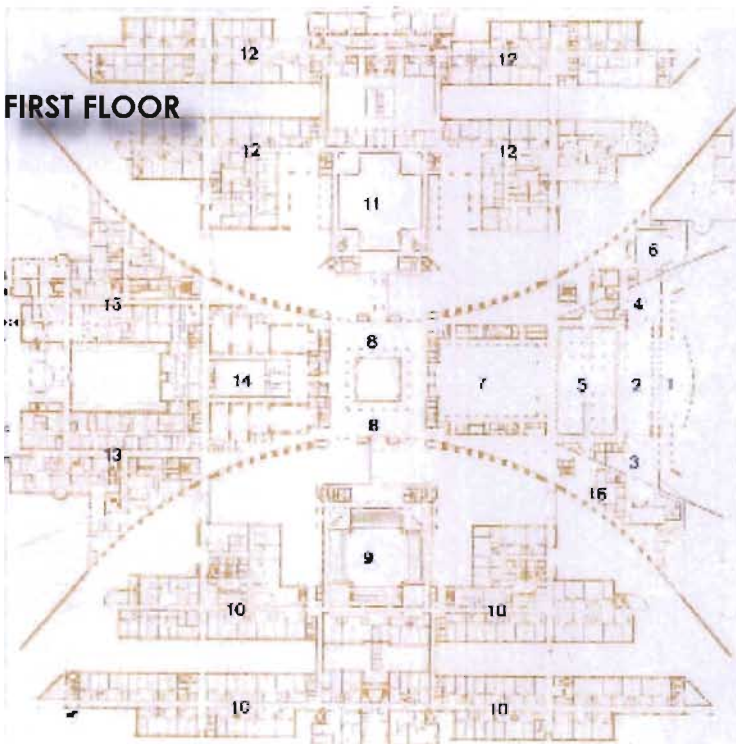
First Floor
1. Void over Great Veranda
2. Public terrace and pergola
3. Public cafeteria
4. Public viewing room
5. Foyer at gallery level
6. Theatrette
7. Public gallery hall
8. Public galleries to Member's hall
9. House of representatives Chamber
10. House of representatives office
11. Senate Chamber, VIP gallery
12. Senate office and support facilities
13. Ministerial offices
14. main Committee room
15. Committee rooms
16. Public post office
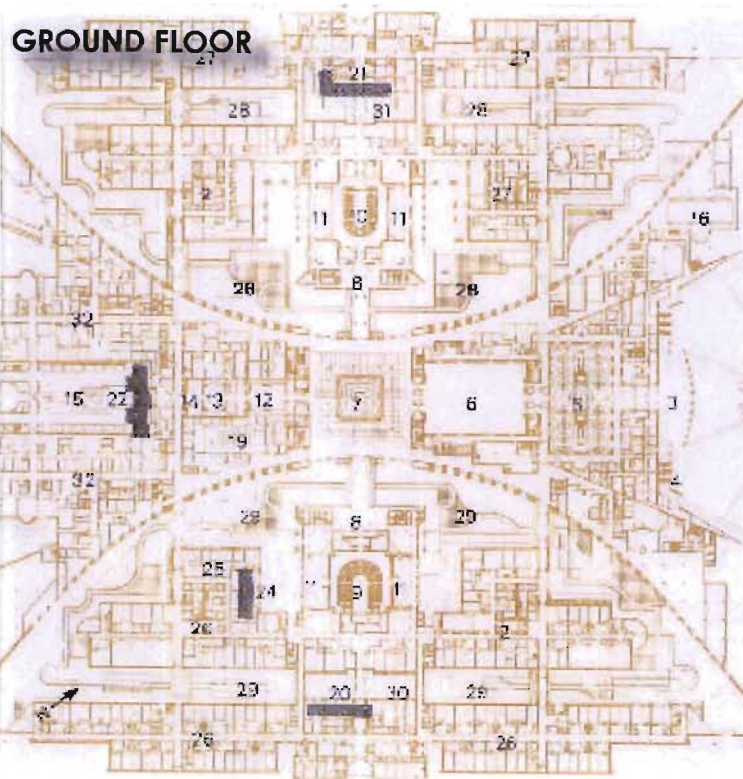
Ground Floor
1. Forecourt
2. Water sculpture
3. Great Veranda
4. Staircase from public parking
5. Foyer
6. Reception hall
7. Members Hall
8. Vestibule to Chambers
9. House of representatives Chamber
10. Senate Chamber
11. Lobbies Cabinet Suite
12. Cabinet room
13. Cabinet sitting room
14. Cabinet waiting room
15. Executive Courtyard
16. Swimming pool
17. House of Representative entrance
18. Senate entrance
19. Library and reading room
20. Speaker of the house
21. President of the Senate's Suite
22. Prime Minister's suite
23. Executive Entrance
24. Leader of Opposition's suite
25. Shadow Ministry offices and party Room
26. House of representatives
27. Senate offices
28. Senate courtyard
29. House of representative courtyard
30. Speaker's Courtyard
31. President's Courtyard
32. Ministerial offices

Illustration 29. Typical First and Ground Floor plans
Source: Architecture Australia, 1988, p.42

49
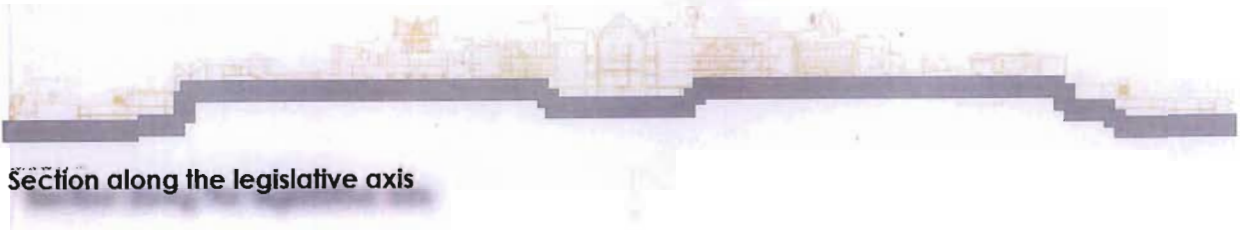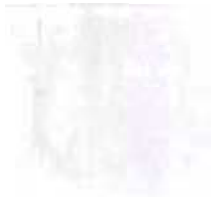
Section along the legislative axis

Section along land axis

Illustration 30. Typical Longitudinal Sections
Source: Architecture Australia, 1988, p.44
Edited by Author

Ilustration 31. View from the edge of site
Source: Architecture Australia, December,
                1988, p. 83

Ilustration 32. View from the public green space
                above the structure
Source: Architecture Australia, 1988, p.83

The ground floor foyer and the first floor foyer from the main entrance area to the galleries of the chambers are open to the public. The remainder of the three floors are reserved for the members and the media, with a restricted access for the executives.

[Architecture Review,October,1998]

The architects have tried to maximize the visual links between the first floor public areas and the ground floor parliamentary areas. Thus the public can overlook the Member's hall, the vestibules outside the chambers and many of the courtyards. The architecture of the principal areas consists of discrete, top-lit rooms surrounded by what Guirgola refers to as the

Illustration 33. Part interior
 space and finishes
Source: Architectural
 resource package 03:
 Australian parliament
 house, 1988, p.03

the ambulatory spaces. The major axes are laid out in a Beaux-Arts Classical manner, the sequence of ceremonial rooms on a transverse legislative axis centred on the member's hall. The offices surrounding each chamber are laid out, around courtyards with long straight corridors with transverse corridor that links to the Ceremonial axis. [Architecture Review,1998]

4.5 Construction Technology

Being a natural material with great warmth, beauty and versatility, timber was the obvious choice for the finishing of much of the interior of Parliament House. Timber was chosen for both practical and aesthetic reasons [Illustration 26]. Native hardwood were used in solid sections in hard-wearing areas such as floors, skirtings and railings, and on surfaces that came into human contact such as handrails and doors. Brush Box, the same timber used for the flooring of the Sydney Opera House, was chosen for its hardness and density to floor the major circulation areas. In other areas timber was used as a veneer, for economic reasons. The use of timbers from all over Australia also played a role in expressing a national identity and character in the building. [Architecture Review,998]

Within the colour scheme the timbers were chosen to both reflect the natural colours of the landscape but also to interpret the traditional Westminster colours of red and green for the upper and lower houses of parliament. For the green of the House of Representatives, Grey Box and Turpentine were used. These last two timbers had not normally been used as veneers, and research was carried out to overcome splitting and warping while drying. [Architecture Review,1998]

This led to whole new industry applications for these timbers, Jarrah. Jarrah timber, recycled from a 100 year old wool store in Western Australia, was used for a pergola on the public terrace and for a series of public and private outdoor trellises and verandahs. Distinguished by its spectacular use of timber, the Members' Hall lies at the very centre of the Parliament House complex, between the Senate and the House of Representatives. Urban Design intervention, the plan for Canberra building had to relate to the Griffin Land Axis and the major approach roads to Capital Hill. It had to have both a physical and a formal connection with Canberra as a whole, despite being isolated within two ring roads [Illustration 26&28]. The flooring of the hall is rich geometric patterns of parquetry, in the centre, and Brush Box strip flooring in the circulation spaces around the edge. [Architecture Australia, 1988]

The concrete masonry columns around the edge of the member's hall are clad in 22mm thick solid strips of Turpentine mounted on a steel stiffener ring, which in turn is bolted to the column [Illustration 33]. The steel and timber cladding unit has control joints both vertically and horizontally to allow for differential movement in the timber. In the Members Hall, and in most other major internal spaces, the masonry walls are clad in modular, prefabricated timber panels. By having the panels fully shop fabricated off site, a consistently high quality of finishing was achieved. This also allowed for various services to be installed in the panels while still in the workshop.
[Architecture Australia, 1988]

The panels were too big to be clad in one single veneer, so rather than match continuous runs of a single species, as was done with the ceiling of the Sydney Opera House. The architects chose to use 2 or 3 different species in each panel. This enabled a gradual development of the colour scheme throughout the building. In the Members Hall, the panels were made up of veneers of Turpentine, Grey Box and White Birch. Each panel consists of a dimensionally stable manufactured board backed by a timber frame and edged on the all sides by solid timber. The panels were then hung onto a secondary timber frame mounted directly to the concrete structure.
[Architecture Australia, 1988]
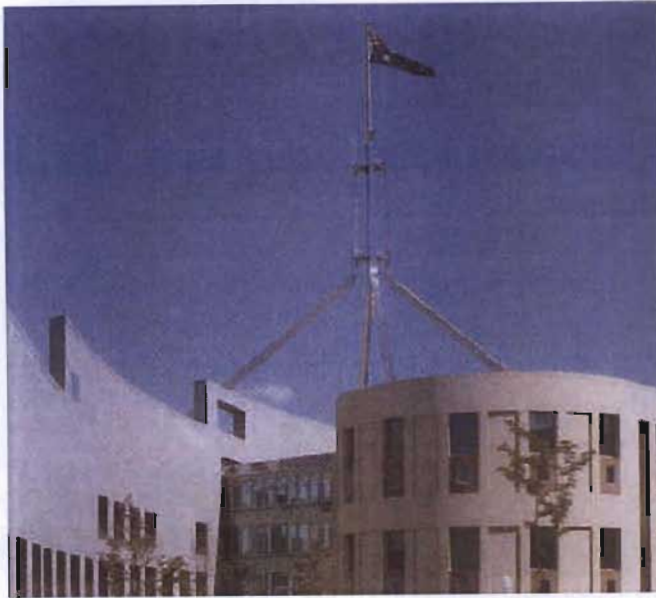
Illustration 34. View of natural colour finished by the use of concrete tile cladding to walls

Source: Architecture Australia, 1989, p.26

The hall balustrades were constructed in a similar way to the panels, with the top of the balustrade and the seat solid timber and the vertical faces veneers on manufactured board. The ceiling to the members hall and many of the other large public spaces in Parliament House are solid slats of Silver Ash mounted a few millimetres apart to help absorb sound and reduce the echoing effect in the hall which indicated a proposed land bridge linking the Parliament House with the Land Axis.

It was also desirable that the Parliament House complete and form a climax to the proposed pyramidal composition of government buildings, following the reinstatement of the Land Axis as the major urban design feature. In this respect, it was clear that it would have to be readable from a great distance. [Architecture Review,1998]

4.6 Symbolism and Architectural expression

The new parliament sits aloft behind the old parliament house which now used as the provincial parliament house and a museum. The parliament complex is form by three major elements: the two legislative areas and a forum area between them. The light weight structured steel that supports the flag, the pinnacle of Parliament House and is an easily recognizable symbol of national government unity and engagement. Positioned above the chambers and also an attempt to express the bicameral system of governance. An architectural fenestration and simple and clean finishing to the facades. A series of peforrated screen walls relate to the existing now a provincial parliament house. The flag towering above the complex is a unifying symbol of the nation. It is positioned in the middle of the two chambers thus providing a single visual synthesis for the parliamentary system [Illustration 34&35].[Architecture Review,1998]

4.7 Conclusion

The building is isolated and situated at an impersonal place and it is also enormous. The competition requirements stipulated that the building should be more than functional: it must be a symbol of nationhood and commitment to the democratic process of government and it must relate sensitively to its total environment. I believe that this is an outstanding building as far as its urban response and relation to its context is concerned, which the Australians can be proud of.

Illustration 35. Architecture Australia, 1988,
Entrance view from the old
Parliament building
Source: Architecture Australia, 1988, p.83

However I am not convinced that the building is a national symbol, nor a reflection of Australian culture in any form. The architects derived their concepts only from an urban context perspective that inspired the form.

There is no cultural relevance manifested by the building nor symbolical meanings which may relate to the region or a country as a whole. This therefore suggests that the complex was conceived from the outside in, instead of the inside out and was entirely governed by the Griffin's urban layout. The building should express the aspirations of the nation and symbolise virtuous political principles. The only eminent symbolic gesture is the Australian flag atop of the building. The site is exposed to Canberra's harsh climate. There is no form of shelter from wind, rain, or snow for the public approaching. In addition, the building is sunk below ground and being located at the summit of a steep rise means the site is exposed to runoff water form the mountain, and therefore may require expensive solutions to avoid moisture from seeping into the building.

Also this means that there is less natural ventilation than mechanical, which again posses questions of it's responsibility towards sustainability. The building's underground nature isolated the parliamentarians and the public which is a negative aspect for a national building that should translate transparency. Clearly again the architects are questioned for their negligence and their responsibility. Architects create these organs meticulously, dress them beautifully and equip them with relevant survival tools (to sustain itself) and finally let live. The building is almost entirely air-conditioned. Natural ventilation can be acquired mainly through movement routes which are defined by the curved (boomerang walls).

The building inaccessible, this is due to its proximity to the pedestrians and the main thoroughfares. The idea of building below ground and allowing the public to walk above as a symbol of public's dominance is inappropriate. The Government building is the house of laws, the place where opposing political parties come to and together conduct the country's progress, the heartbeat of the country. The building of this magnitude must be the most celebrated not stumbled over. The building of this nature should proudly announce its dominance without imposing itself to the public. It should be a visible symbol of the country, visible to non-citizens and immediately comprehend the country's culture. Overall, a disappointing complex as far as sustainability and its cultural relevance is concerned.

The building does not in any form represent Australia but has successfully responded to its nature. It must be mentioned however that Griffin's urban intervention is an important initiative which must be acknowledged and implemented during a process of designing a building of this nature. Urban intervention symbolizes the buildings responsibility to the surroundings and addresses issues and providing the solutions thereof. The exercise addresses the urban issues and provides with possible solutions and therefore it is important that the KZNL employs the approach to ultimately achieve a holistic development which responds both to its context and local socio-cultural dynamics. These findings have collectively formulated a footprint for the proposed new KZNL and help towards achieving a responsible government building.

5.0 The Scottish Parliament, Scotland, 2004, Enric Mirales

5.1 Introduction

The Scottish Parliament Building is the home of the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood, within the UNESCO World Heritage Site in central Edinburgh [Illustration 36]. Scottish Office announced that an international competition would be held to find a designer for a new building to house the Parliament. On 6 July 1998, it was declared that the design of Enric Miralles was chosen, with work being awarded to EMBT/RMJM

(Scotland) Ltd, a Spanish-Scottish joint venture design company, specifically created for the project. The construction of the building commenced in June 1999 and the Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) held their first debate in the new building in September, 2004. The formal opening by Queen Elizabeth took place on October 9, 2004. Enric Miralles, the Catalan architect who

designed the building, died before its completion, in September, 2004. The formal opening by Queen Elizabeth took place on October 9, 2004. Enric Miralles, the Catalan architect who designed the building, died before its completion.

[Architectural Record, 2005]

Illustration 36. Central Edinburgh City, Home to the Scottish Parliament
Source: **Architectural Record, February 2005, p.98**

5.2 Siting

Before the award of the project a site was chosen, comprising an area of 1.6 ha, with a perimeter of 480 m. The Scottish Parliament building is located 1 km east of Edinburgh city centre on the edge of the Old Town, [Illustration 37]. The large site previously housed the headquarters of the Scottish and Newcastle brewery, which were demolished to make way for the building. The boundary of the site is marked by the Canongate stretch of the Royal Mile on its northern side, Horse Wynd on its eastern side, where the public entrance to the building is, and Reid's Close on its western side. Reid's Close connects the Canongate and Holyrood Road on the southwestern side of the complex. The south eastern side of the complex is bounded by the 'Our Dynamic Earth' visitor attraction which opened in July 1999, and Queen's Drive which fringes the slopes of the Salisbury Crags. In the immediate vicinity of the building is the Palace of Holyrood house, which is bordered by the broad expanse of Holyrood Park. To the south of the parliamentary complex are the steep slopes of the Salisbury Crags and Arthur's Seat. The Holyrood and

1.Salisbury Crags, 2.CaltonHill, 3.Holyrood Palace, 4.Parliament, 5.Royal Mile, 6.Edinburgh Castle
Illustration 37. Architectural Record, February 2005,

Illustration 38 Computerised image, demonstrating the Parliament building's sitting between existing structure
Source: www.edinburgharchitecture. co.uk/scottish_parliament.htm April 2008

Dumbiedykes areas, to the west of the site, have been extensively redeveloped since 1998, with new retail, hotel and office developments, including Barclay House, the new offices of The Scotsman Publications Ltd. [Architectural Record, 2005]

5.3 The Concept

"We don't want to forget that the Scottish Parliament will be in Edinburgh, but will belong to Scotland, to the Scottish land. The Parliament should be able to reflect the land it represents. The building should arise from the sloping base of Arthur's Seat and arrive into the city almost surging out of the rock." [Enric Miralles,1998]

1.Public Entrance, 2.Plaza, 3.Pond 4.Press Tower, 5.Debating Chamber, 6.Tower one, 7.Tower two, 8.Tower three, 9.Tower four, 10.Tower five, Cannongate Bldg. 11.Main Staircase, 12.MSPs' Entrance, 13.Lobby, 14.Garden, 15.Queensbery House, 16.MSP building, 17.Turf roof, 18.Carpark and vehicular entrance, 19.Landscaped park
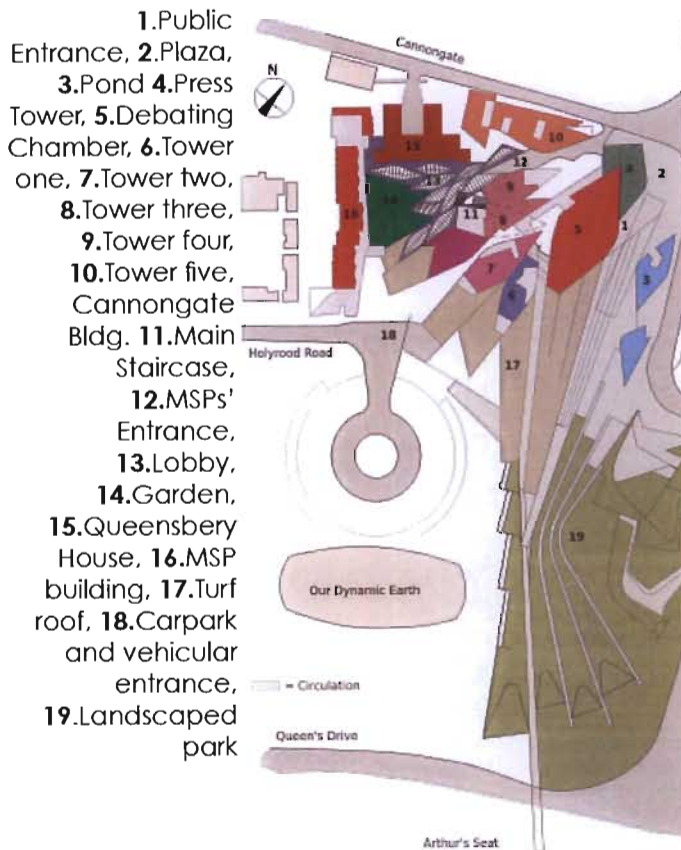
Illustration 39 Typical Site Plan of the Parliament Building
Source: www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Parliament_Building. March 2008

Miralles's main idea was to design a parliament building that would represent and present a national identity by displacing the question of identity into the landscape of Scotland. His other ideas included slotting the building into the land "in the form of a gathering situation: an amphitheatre, coming out from Arthur's Seat." This is where the building would reflect a dialogue between the landscape and the act of people sitting. The main idea was to open the building and its public spaces, not only for Edinburgh but to a more general concept of the Scottish landscape. Miralles intended to use the parliament to help build the end of Canongate, not just another building on the street. It should reinforce the existing qualities of the site and its surroundings. In a subtle game of cross views and political implications. Elsewhere in the public area beneath the debating chamber, the curved concrete vaults carry various stylised Saltires. Here the architect intends another metaphor; by setting the debating chamber directly above the public area, he seeks to remind MSPs whilst sitting in the chamber that their power derives from the people below them.

[Enric Miralles,1998]

Illustration 40. Rocks embedded in to concrete structure basement walls as part of the nature awareness and integration exercise

Source: Architectural Record, February 2005, p.100

5.4 Planning
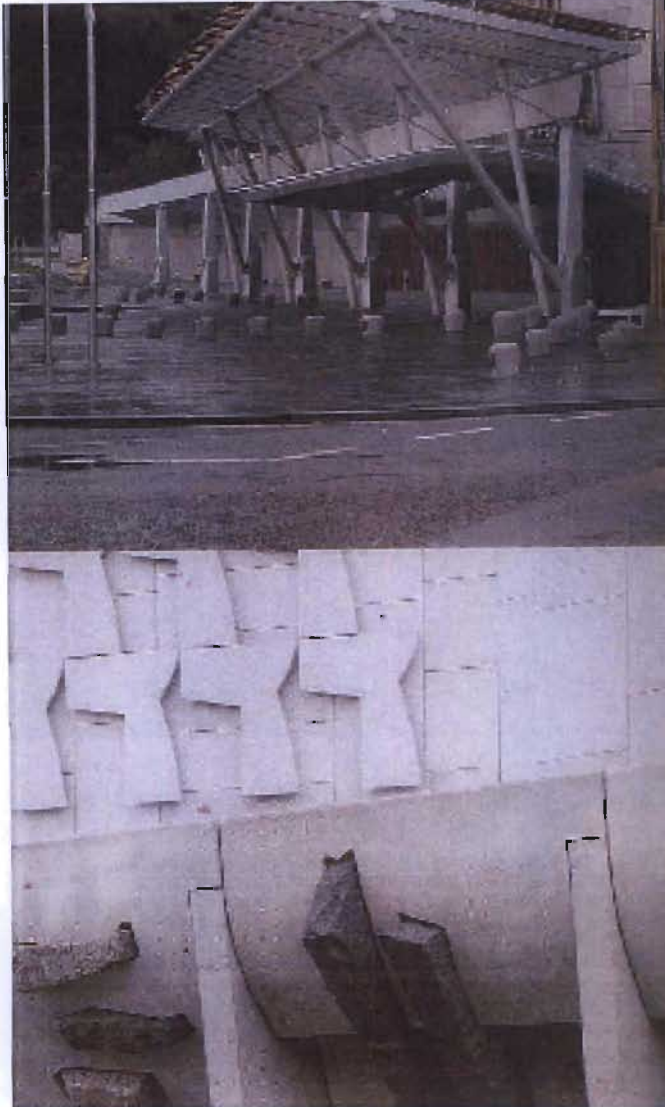
As a consequence the building has many features connected to nature and land, such as the leaf shaped motifs of the roof in the Garden Lobby of the building, and the large windows of the debating chamber, committee rooms and the Tower Buildings which face the broad expanse of Holyrood Park, Arthur's Seat and the Salisbury Crags [Ilustration 38]. Inside the buildings[Ilustration 39&40], the connection to the land is reinforced by the use of Scottish rock such as gneiss and granite in the flooring and walls, and the use of oak and sycamore in the construction of the furniture. [Architectural Record, 2005]

Ultimately a nonhierarchical, organic group of low-level buildings emerge which were intended to allow views of, and blend in with the surrounding craggy surroundings and symbolise the connection between nature and the Scottish people. The Scottish Parliament Building was designed with a number of sustainability features in mind. The decision to build the Parliament on a brownfield site and its proximity to hubs of public transport are seen as sustainable, environmentally friendly features. A minimum of 80% of the electricity purchased for the building is required to come from renewable sources and solar panels on the Canongate Building are used for heating water in the complex. A high level of insulation was used to keep the building warm during the winter months. This approach, however, brings with it the potential problem of overheating during the summer due to solar heat gains through the glazing, body heat and the use of computers and electric lighting. [Architectural Record, 2005]

Standard solutions to the problem usually involve using energy intensive HVAC systems. The Scottish Parliament Building, however, reduces the requirements for such systems to only 20% of the accommodation by a variety of strategies. Natural ventilation is used wherever possible. A computerised management system senses the temperature in different parts of the Parliament and automatically opens windows to keep the building cool. During summer months, the building opens the windows at night when it is unoccupied and permits the heavy concrete floors and structure to cool and rid themselves of heat absorbed during the day. This then helps to keep the building temperature low during the day by absorbing the excess heat from the glazing, occupants and electrical equipment. [Architectural Record, 2005]

Illustration 41 Chamber's Interior finished with
a warm timber wall panelling
Source: www.edinburgharchitecture.
co.uk/scottish_parliament.htm
April 2008

Illustration 42. Below the Chamber is the public Hall
Source: www.edinburgharchitecture.
co.uk/scottish_parliament.htm
April 2008

Some of the concrete floors are further cooled by water from 25 meters deep bore-holes beneath the parliamentary campus which also provide water for the toilet facilities. The building achieves the highest rating in the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM). The debating chamber contains a shallow elliptical horseshoe of seating for the MSPs, with the governing party or parties sitting in the middle of the semicircle and opposition parties on either side, similar to other European legislatures. Such a layout is intended to blur political divisions and principally reflects the desire to encourage consensus amongst elected members [illustration 43]
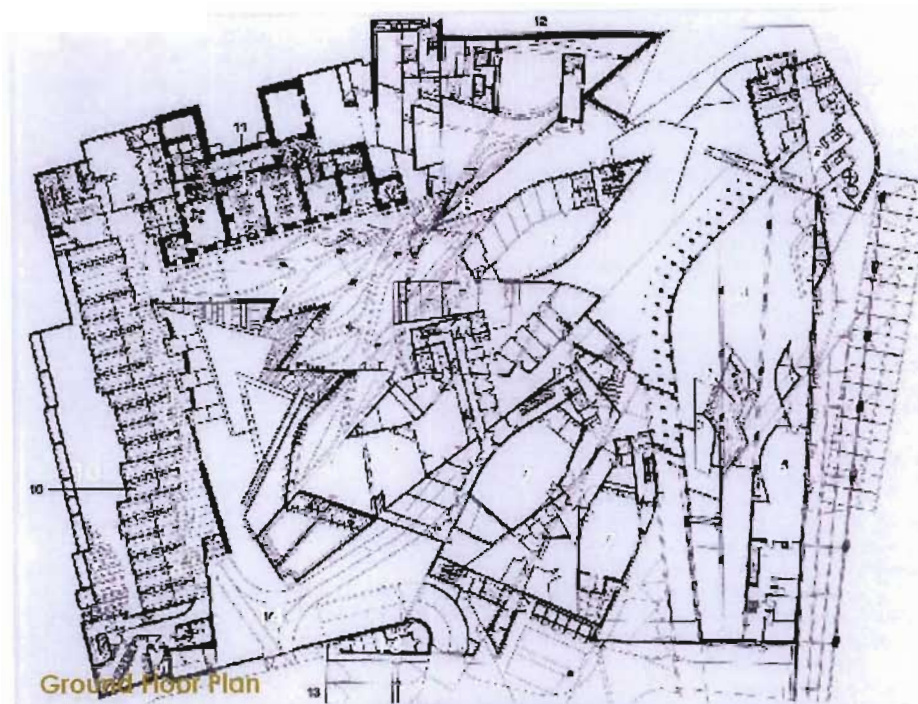
1.public entrance,
2.security,
3.reception
4.exhibitions,
5.shop,
6.cafe,
7.tower,
8.members' entrance,
9.members' concourse
10.members'office
block,
11.Queensberry House,
12.Canongate Wall,
13.service entrance,
14.parking entrance
15.offices,
16.Gym,
17.members'garden,
18.Dewar Libary,
19.press room,
20.press conference
room,
21. debating chamber,
22. bridge,
23. committee room,
24.dining room,
25.bar,
26.lounge
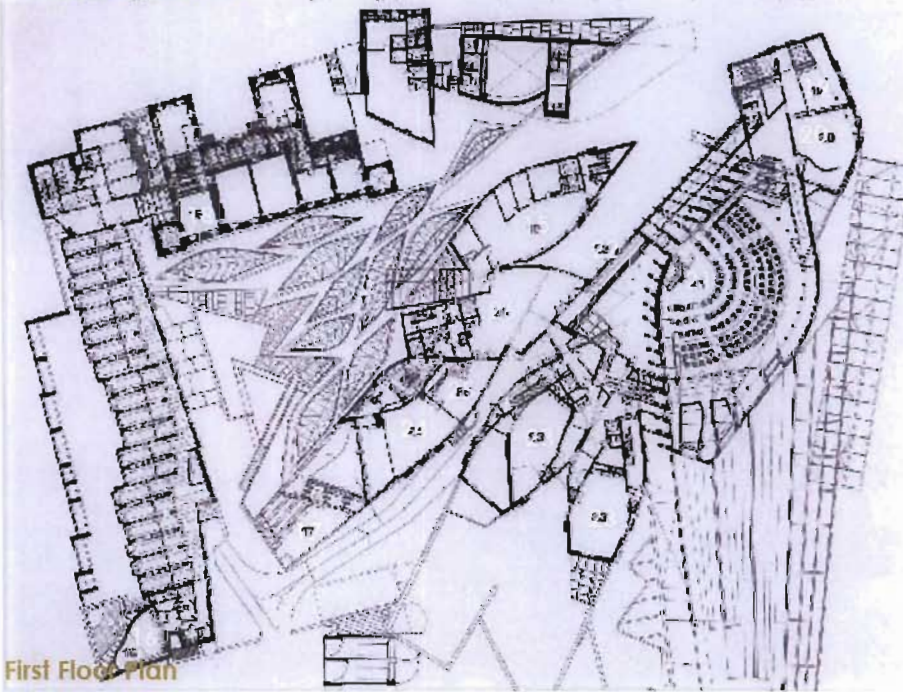
Illustration 43 . Typical Floor Plans showing it's organic form and
the existing adjacent structures
Source: RIBA Journal, Oct 2004, p.34 &35
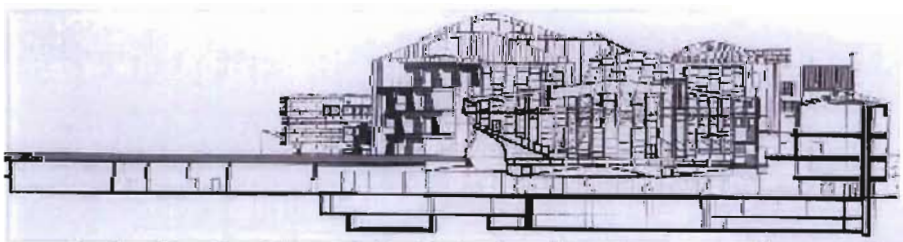
Longitudinal Section Through the Debating Chamber

Illustration 44. Typical Section Through parliament Building
Source: RIBA 2004, p.32 &34
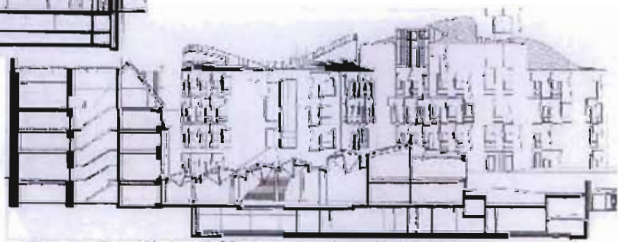
Cross Section Offices and Public Hall

This is in contrast to the "adversarial" layout reminiscent of other Westminster style national legislatures, including the House of Commons, where government and opposition sit apart and facing one another. There are 131 desks and chairs on the floor of the chamber for all the elected members of the Scottish Parliament and members of the Scottish Government. Galleries above the main floor can accommodate a total of 255 members of the public, 18 guests and 34 members of the press. The Garden Lobby is at the centre of the parliamentary complex and connects the debating chamber, committee rooms and administrative offices of the Tower Buildings, with Queensberry House and the MSP building. The Garden Lobby is the place where official events as well as television interviews normally take place and it is used as an open social space for MSPs and parliamentary staff. [RIBA Journal,2004]

5.5 Construction Technology

The most notable feature of the chamber is the roof. The roof is supported by a structure of laminated oak beams joined with a total of 112 stainless steel connectors each slightly different, which in turn are suspended on steel rods from the walls [illustration 38]. Such a structure enables the debating chamber to span over 30 meters without any supporting columns. In entering the chamber, MSPs pass under a stone lintel—the Arniston Stone—that was once part of the pre-1707 Parliament building, Parliament House. [RIBA Journal,2004]

The use of the Arniston Stone in the structure of the debating chamber symbolises the connection between the historical Parliament of Scotland and the present day Scottish Parliament. [RIBA Journal,2004]

Illustration 45. Timber roof structure to the Debating Chamber
Source: www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Scottish_Parliament_Building. com
April 2008

Cut into the western wall of the debating chamber are laminated glass panels, of different shapes, intended to give a human dimension to the chamber. At night, light is shone through the glass panels and is projected onto the MSPs' desks to create the impression that the chamber is never unoccupied. Natural light diffuses into the chamber and is provided with glass fins that run down from light spaces in the ceiling. Glimpses out of the chamber are given to the landscape and city beyond, intentionally, to visually connect the MSPs to Scotland. The necessities of a modern parliament, banks of light, cameras, electronic voting and the MSPs' console have all been transformed into works of craft and art, displaying the sweeping curves and leaf motifs that inform the rest of the building. Such is the level of craftsmanship, a result of the union of Miralles' inventive designs, superb detailing by RMJM and excellent craftsmanship in execution. [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Parliament_Building, 2008]

Illustration 46. Symbolic Expression on the windows to exterior walls

Source: www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Scottish_Parliament_Building April 2008

Jencks was prompted to state that the Parliament is an arts and crafts building, designed with high-tech flair. On 2 March 2006, a beam in the roof of the debating chamber swung loose from its hinges during a debate, resulting in the evacuation of the debating chamber and the suspension of parliamentary business. Parliament moved to other premises while the whole roof structure was inspected and remedial works were carried out. The structural engineers, Arup, stated that the problem with the collapsed beam was entirely due to the failure of one bolt and the absence of another. There was no design fault. The engineers concluded, in a report to MSPs, that the damage is likely to have been done during construction work on the chamber roof, in the latter phases of the project. [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Parliament_Building, 2008]

The report also indicated that whilst one of the bolts was missing, the other was broken and had damaged threads commensurate with being over tightened or jammed, which twisted the head off, or came close to doing so. The main feature of the Garden Lobby are the roof-lights, which when viewed from above resemble leaves or the early Christian "vesica" shape and allow natural light into the building. The roof lights are made from stainless steel and the glass-work is covered by a lattice of solid oak struts. The route through the Garden Lobby up the main staircase to the debating chamber has been described as "one of the great processional routes in contemporary architecture." Beneath the Canongate Building facade is the Canongate Wall, constructed from a variety of indigenous Scottish rocks such as Lewisian gneiss, Torridonian sandstone and Easdale slate. The stones are set into large concrete casts, each one inscribed with a quotation [illustration 40] [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Parliament_Building, 2008]

Illustration 47 Parliament Facade with trigger panels to windows
Source: www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Parliament_Building
April 2008

5.6 Symbolism and Architectural Expression

The Scottish culture is also reflected in the building and particularly on some of the building's elevations. There are a series of trigger panels that are constructed out of timber or granite [illustration 46&47]. These features have been said to represent anvils, hair dryers, guns, question marks or even the hammer and sickle. The Architect used ambiguous forms with multiple meanings to evoke an icon of Scottish culture, The architectural critic Charles Jencks finds this a particularly apt metaphor for balanced movement and democratic debate and also notes the irony that Miralles too was skating on ice with his designs for the building. There is a wide variety of artwork and sculptures in the Scottish Parliament ranging from specially commissioned pieces to official gifts from overseas parliamentary delegations.

[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Parliament_Building, 2008]

The intention of including artwork and sculptures in the building reinforces the desire of Miralles that the project should reflect the nature of Scotland, particularly its land and people. [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scottish_Parliament_Building, 2008]

5.7 Conclusion

The Scottish parliament building is very unique and is a model for most of the new parliament buildings of the post modernism era. The building is scultptural, symbolic literally and most importantly positioned within the public's reach. The common court below the chamber suggests transparency of the building, symbolically links both parliamentarians and the public whilst literally and effectively separating them without a hint of segregation. It must be mentioned however that the extensive use of symbolical features detaches the building from the international architectural language. A parliament building should maintain democratic image, an image that manifests the power of the government, a civil building that announces authority within the context. However the Scottish Parliament has not been able to achieve these attributes. The building can easily be mistaken for a museum or any public related facility.

The organic planning is very conceptual and impractical, the sharp corners practically presents an opportunity to collect dust and merely useless. The organic planning suggests endless movement with smooth edges to common lobby. The whole planning is modern and has the attributes of a high-tech building. The section, however converses in a rather primitive architectural language, very traditional. Sections of the hipped roof matches the existing structure. Of course it is vital to acknowledge the context and respond thereof, but this building has interpreted these principles literally hence the confusion in the overall building language and representation. The building is very strange in appearance and has no sense of relevance to its use as a government building and lacks dignity.

This building is undoubtedly a typical model for a modern Parliament building and with nos hesitation it shall influence process of the designing of the KZNL. The building has very strong concepts, it cleverly sat between historical buildings and responds very well with the existing structure in terms of movement and its cultural relevance which an important element for a public/government building. The building has successfully merged both the public and the parliamentarians to one body without compromising with security. A controversial language for a government building but it can be understood that the building is more of a public structure than a government building.

This is due to its well announced common foyer, the main element. The common foyer is an intermediate element that determines the overall appearance of the building which can not afford to be strictly civil nor formal, hence the rather public friendly appearance and more abstract than a typical or tradition government building. The building's has largely influenced the design approach for achieving a responsive KZNL building through it's sense responsibility to the public and culture.

Background

The obliterating spread of the new modernism has in many way cast a shadow on a the aproach that highlited the principles of local consciousness and traditions. Much of which is left without proper recognition. Alva Alto managed to find a platform where regionalism can exist within the parameters of modernism. While regionalism reflects the culture of the times it has laways been the ingridient to most of the architectural sytles. Regionalism is in the modern period seen as a tool applicable for conceptualisation and abstraction while mordenism seen as an aproach for practicaloity, thus refered to for formal ideas.
[Suha Ozkan, 1984]

Regionalsim is seen as a fundamental with its attention to the sensitive subjects but also have no intentions of developing the art. Even though the cultures evolve regionalism will always be relevant. Mordenism is a family of progressive architecture but can not last while marking its impact along the architecural timelinem due to the evolving cultures. It therefore can not stay relevant over the years but inspires can inspire the architecural movement and act as the reflective element inwhich a new language shall be born. [Paul Rudolf, 1985]

The great architects, Frank Llloyd Wright's and Le Corbusier's designs were strongly influenced by the site and the environment and great buildings are still relevant and for most parts are models to a modern language. Mies on the other hand showed no regionalism characteristics. Regionalism is often applied into service for political or religoius purposes. This is due to the sensitivity of the exercise and to avoid relating to either stakeholders of groups of organisations. It is thus important that the two aproaches must not be seperated. Together they address different important parameters and create a strong driver for an adaptive responsible and timeless structure wich in turn becomes sustainable.

Illustration 48. Part map of the Provinces of South africa:
Source: www.agriwriters.org/images/map.jpg
            January 2008
Edited by Author

Legislature, Kimberly, 2004, Kevin Johnson Luis Ferreira da Silva and Clara da Almeida in association with Winston King Architects and Ferdi van Gass Architects

Northern Cape Province

6.1 Introduction

As part of a post-1994 national commitment, the Northern Cape Province was selected to benefit from a national grant for the construction of legislative buildings. The project was aimed at developing communities socially, economically and culturally, by expressing of the provinces cultural and historic heritages. The proposed complex was to become a symbol of pride. In 1998 a national competition was finalized and awarded the project to the appointed architects. The government required a building that expresses a clear relationship between power, space and identity. [KZNIA 01,1997]

6.2 Siting

The chosen site is located between Galeshelwe area and that of West End in Kimberly to create a link between the two neighbourhoods. The building is adjacently located to Galeshewe, a township in Kimberly. The main ideas for the siting were to celebratory merge the disadvantaged communities being the Galeshwe with the
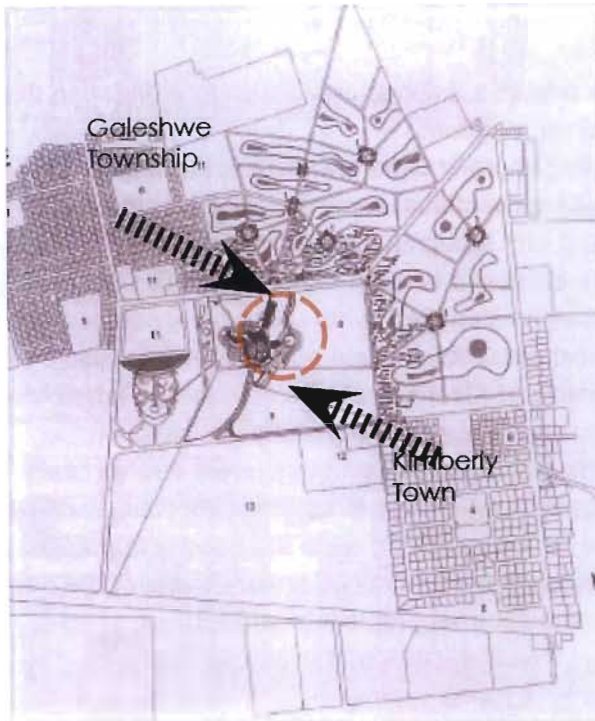
Illustration 49   Location Map of the Northern
                 Cape Legislature
Source: Digest of S.A. Architecture
                 2004/2005, p.141

North-End suburb. The initiative was an attempt, architecturally addresses and contest the issue the apartheid's segregated planning. As noble as the intentions were, the exercise is compromised by the security's imperatives of post occupancy. The intentions of the strategy were compromised by the security imperatives of post-occupancy. [KZNIA 01,1997]

6.3 The Concept

Various components were randomly distributed on the site, with the few most important groupings positioned around a common space- the Patlelo, with some ad –hoc positioned supporting buildings which turn to shy away from the pragmatic operational considerations. The forms of buildings were intended to be a reminiscent of bone fragments and rocks, which assisted towards achieving an individual response for each building. The concept was also to challenge the necessity for uniformity of architectural language and also to allow multiple disconnections to create the norm.
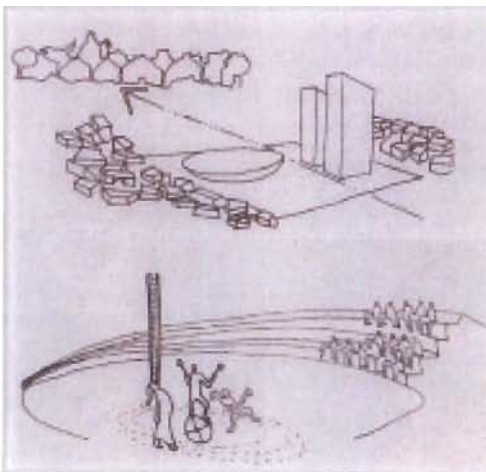
Illustration 50.   Conceptual Generators
Source: Digest of S.A. Architecture
                   2004/2005, p.141

The pivotal role of the complex is to allow public access and openness hence the fragmentation of various buildings throughout the site was to be open to the public. The openness encourages visits by the public, either for information, celebration, demonstrations, and visits for the assembly sessions. [KZNIA 01,1997]

6.4 Planning

Illustration 51. Aerial Photograph of the Legislature
Source: Architect & Builder, May/June 2003 p.51

The multiple disconnections allowed buildings to be grouped according to their functions and relationships against each other. The power relations produced by the distribution of these buildings over the site have been organised to afford a networked architectural part is that destabilizes the conventional vertical hierarchy. Consequently, a horizon of encounters permits the visitor, through their use or the particularity of occasion, to inform and determine a particular order to the building complex. Space is, therefore, open to a certain negotiation enabling the privileging of temporal relations. The life link between these derated communities was traced across the land [Illustration 45]: from the entrance, through the Patlelo, alongside the east side of the Assembly then on to the west face of the administration and finally out on the north fence edging Galeshewe. [KZNIA 01,1997]

Spatial vocabulary along this line is expressed with extreme entrance furrow versus the open patlelo space, the monumental wall of the Assembly harbouring small hawkers niches the cool shading of the massive west-facing sun screen. The Premier's Offices its front elevation overlooks the Patlelo in an all-embracing form symbolizing its role on behalf of the people. This theme, the responsibility of government to the people, is extended in the main facade artwork and parodied on the path to the support building. The side screens offer extra privacy, while the internal orthogonal layout has for relief a double-volume with ponds and weir. The Member's Offices, or Mogokolodi the conventional passage with offices on either side is manipulated into a deep curvature so that the end is never in sight. There is a second secretive passage for internal party circulation without an outsider being aware. The office fin walls are partly expressed in dry wall for embedded flexibility, assisting the changing needs of political parties. [Digest of S.A. Architecture, 2004/2005]
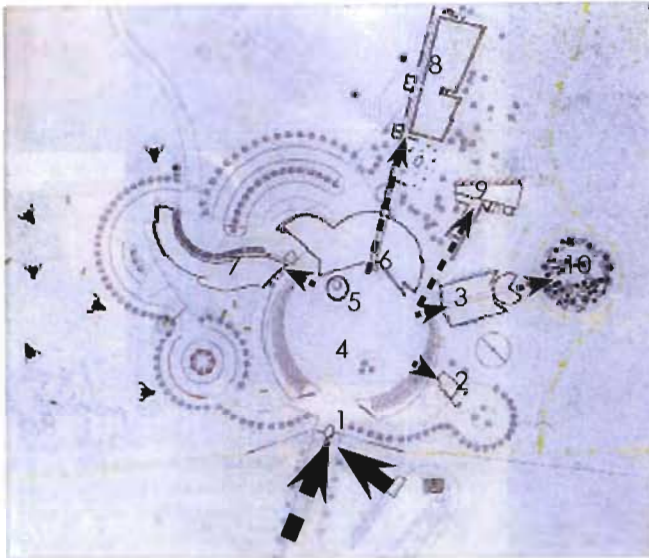
1. The Gate House 2. Mound 3. Assembly 4. Patlelo
5. Tower 6. The Premiers Offices 7. Members Offices
8. The Legislature Offices 9. Tram and Ablutions
10. Heroes Mile

Illustration 52. Typical layout of the buildings
on site

Source: Architect & Builder, May/June 2003
p.51

The Legislature Offices The segmented roof resembles the carapace of a dung beetle and extends unto the east facade to form a sun shield. The west facade fly-over is jointly a sunscreen and expression of the pedestrian link. Deep office layouts have maximum flexibility and natural light through the use of a warehouse-type structure and clerestory lighting. Other structures, The Gatehouse, the Goods Delivery Building, the Ablution and Tram sheds. They all reflect their pragmatic functions. The Heroes Mile A series of Heads built along a meandering path, were envisaged to celebrate ordinary Heroes by telling the stories of heroic acts by ordinary people They would also support screens covered in shade growth. These spots would become points for contemplation or relaxation. [Digest of S.A. Architecture, 2004/2005]

6.5 Construction Technology

Due to a local small contractors empowerment initiative, low-technology construction was suitably employed. Therefore the exercise presented an opportunity to employ and further develop labour intensive construction techniques and innovative approaches to material usage. Thus achieving new architectural form that and creative applications of various materials.

Illustration 53. Corrugated Iron Sheeting, common brick and reinforced
concrete are the primary materials applied during construction
Source: Digest of S.A. Architecture
2004/2005, p.141

6.6 Symbolism and Architectural Expression

Aesthetically, the buildings presents a new architectural language that solely depended on the level of creativity by the contactors who applied an unconventional approach to the construction of the complex due to the limitation of skilled labour. The exercise may be creating another architectural language that may later be recognised and identified with the local language.

Illustration 54. Reinforced concrete symbolic cones with tower in the background, reiterating the organic form employed as the concept
Source: Digest of S.A. Architecture 2004/2005, p.141

The complexes iconography contests the conventions of these building types, without resorting to a neo-conservative post-modernism that weakly mimics a past tradition. A special artist-in-residence programme has further integrated and empowered local community members through their participation. The surfaces, colours, textures, and sculptural elements are part of the building fabric. The Art elements contribute to an image of a complex of buildings that in their exterior and interior treatment speak of their context the surrounding landscape, and the social and historical memory of the people. The technology used for art is an adaptation of the builder's craft. Some is architect's art, some is artist's art. Some art is familiar like the murals depicting the offerings at the Chamber entrance other art is uncomfortable, and disparate. But it is all part of the language of body adornment. The method of artists procurement resonates a different era. [Digest of S.A. Architecture, 2004/2005]

6.7 Conclusion

The building's has largely influenced the design approach for achieving a responsive KZNL building through it's sense responsibility to the public and culture.

The idea of segregating the buildings and spread all around the site may be interpreted as a division within the government hierarchy within the complex. The idea also contribute towards weakening security within the complex. The inclusion of local small contractors and artists has immensely contributed towards achieving such a unique complex that relates to no architectural language nor identity. This is due to limited advanced technological skill during the construction. This implementation is vital for such a building hence it echoes democracy and both cultural and historical awareness. An overall impression is that of democracy mirrored by the complex which will be implemented on during the design of the KZNL.

Background

"Man's creations were natural when built of the materials offered by the landscape."
Hassan Fathy

It is rather essential that we revisit the basic principles of survival and longevity. Man has always used the elements or the resources exposed to him for anything. Man built form natural and locally sourced materials. Man used specially stones either to cut or to express their art. Their

creations were natural and responsible to their environments. They had to learn how to manipulate and carve tree to make structures, furniture, artefacts, weapons and tools for different purposes. They learnt how to manipulate clay, carve stones and start fire. These methods challenged and inspired man to explore more and stretch their limits within the limited resources. The invasion of the industrialism dented and crippled the improving art of man made creation and progress. The high energy-intensive tools have affected ma's creative capacity and contribution to fabrication of objects. [Hassan Fathy,1986]

Industrialisation has affected the language and the art of architecture negatively and no longer depend on the environment. This exercise is well favoured mostly due to the efficiency and cost implications but does not necessarily address and respond to the context. The exercise give birth to structures that are unsustainable some that do not acknowledge the culture and the environment of the area thus becoming aliens with no relevance and significant meaning within their context.

"The lesser the challenge for man to imprint his genius, the less artistic is the product."
Hassan Fathy, 1994.

The Legislature Building of Mpumalanga,

Nelspruit (1998), Meyer Pienaar, Aziz Tayob & Schnepel

7.1 Introduction

The Mpumalanga Legislature Building complex consists of two building components.

•   the legislative wing which accommodates the legislative chamber and the supporting administration and

•   an administrative wing accommodating six administrative office blocks   f o r the relative local government departments. The complex is situated at the Riverside Park site in a decentralised area linking Nelspruit to White River and the proposed international airport. Nearby is the Lowveld Botanical Gardens, Riverside Mall and the Emnotweni casino. The building is strategically and harmoniously positioned top embrace the entire Riverside Par whilst facing the famous botanical garden. This project was an initiative aimed to be a model for reconstruction and development, an opportunity for the creation of jobs, growth and promotion for the emerging small businesses. Ultimately promoting a sustainable economic development for the local contractors and artists mostly of the disadvantaged communities who underwent a comprehensive training and development programme conducted by the accredited institutions. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

7.2 Siting

An environmental impact study was carried out to establish an environmental boundary to protect the forest on the river banks. The complex blends in with the surrounding building developments at Riverside Park which includes the Riverside Mall and Emnothweni Casino. [Illustration 48] The building complex also relates to the surrounding environment constituting a river-line forest and citrus farming. The buildings within the complex are aligned along the contour lines of the sloping site facing the forest. This positioning of buildings is economical hence it does not act against but with nature. It also creates a soft and an obeying edge to the Crocodile and Nel rivers and the lush botanical gardens. The forest also forms part of the complex through its organic integration into the landscape surrounding the administration buildings. The Administration buildings facing the forest ultimately act as the transition between the natural environment and the rest of the Riverside park development. [Planning, 174 ,2001]
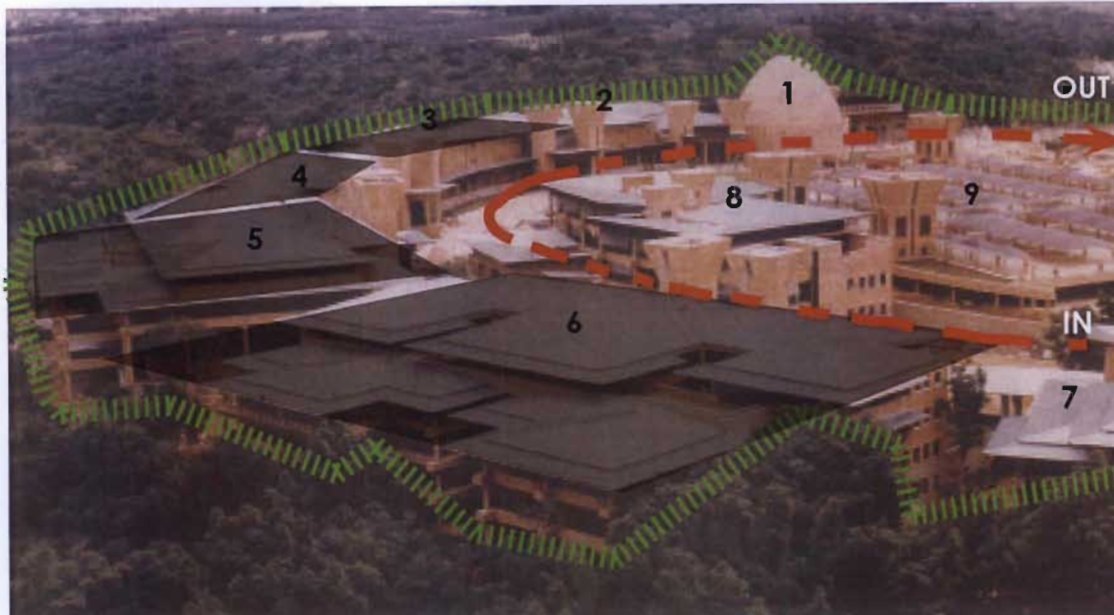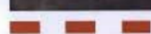
▬ ▬ ▬ Internal thoroughfare
▓▓▓ Department Buildings
|||||||||| Complex and Botanic Garden Boundary

Illustration 55. Siting of the complex and indicating vehicular circulation
Source: Planning, 174 ,March/ April, 2001, p.47
Edited by Author

7.3 Design Concept

The Mpumalanga Province is one of the few provinces that does not have its own identifiable group or culture like KwaZulu Natal, whose culture is the largely of the Zulu speaking group, especially in the rural areas. The main concept behind the architecture was to create a building complex and the environment that represents a multi-cultural nation or province of the Mpumalanga in a unique way. Inspired by the modern and international quality of architecture to represent the progressiveness of the Legislature whilst manifesting the African traditions through innovative use of forms, patterns, textures and colours. Also literally recognizing river-line, the forest and harmoniously interact and become one organ. Few African elements are repeated continuously throughout the complex. Earth finishes have been introduced in different textures, nuances and contrasts throughout to achieve a warm identity. The creative use of 'grass' woven fabrics compliments the finishes, innovatively. Applied to create different types of screens for ceilings and other special screens thus achieving an individual and a unique finish. The 'reed' structures were also used in the form of timber posts decoratively for many vertical elements to create light and shadow.

[Planning, 174 ,2001]

Typical Section Through The Chamber
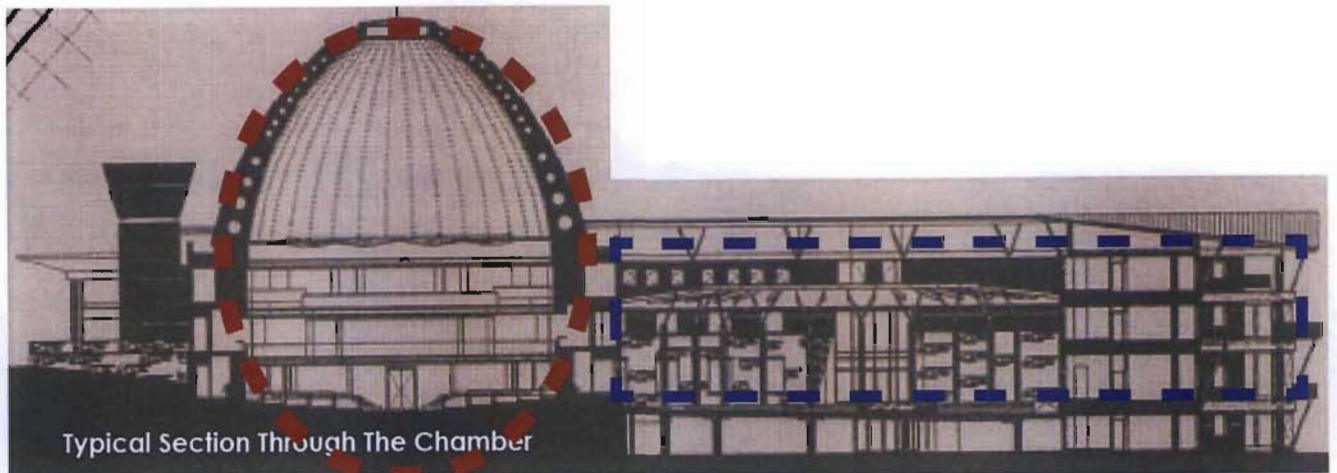
Illustration 56. Typical Section through Debating Chamber

Source: Planning, 174 March/April, 2001, p.48

Edited by Author

7.4 Planning

The space planning fairly resolved although there the Chamber's dome dominates, the whole complex has a rather a mundane treatment to facades which can be mistaken for a typical office complex next door. Sadly, the chamber's positioning seems to have been inspired by the initial idea of building along the contours. The chamber is the nucleus within the whole development. A more central position would announce its importance and its function to both the end user and the public. The enormous parking sadly dominates the common space shared by the buildings. The main idea was for the end user to easily access the complex hence centralized, however public parking is situated far away from the entrance point, approximately 500m. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

[Illustration 55] The Chamber is suitably located at the beginning of the complex curve that faces the rive-line and the public parking area terminated the complex's curve. The cellular planning achieves sense of security and surveillance. Security is one of the major aspects to such a development however the Mpumalanga Legislature suggests a different perspective to the subject. The planning around the site has no sense of oneness between the buildings. The layout promotes individualism, a negative approach especially for a government building that is suppose to announce democracy and teamwork. On the other hand its individualism approach is efficient and hazardous friendly in case of fire, only the fire source will be affected and not the whole development. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

MPs parking area is totally covered be-
neath the shaded bays centrally positioned
to the complex. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

7.5 Construction Technology

The structure is built from face-brick sourced
locally and also steel sheeting applied for
roofing [Illustration 58]. The chamber has a
28m high dome brickwork structure, which
created an enormous challenge for the
structural engineers and the building con-
tractors. This however proved to be a time
consuming exercise. Amongst other chal-
lenges, acoustics to the dome were one
of major concerns. Waterproofing a dome
has never been a problem, but using brick-
work was probably not a good idea hence
it requires frequent maintenance.

Timber decks and link bridges, the roof
features, cobbled brick towers and gran-
ite were all obtained locally. The facebrick
walls were teamed up with concrete
surfaces finished with tinted plaster.
The lower band of the buildings and
retaining walls were built from granite
rocks, which were also sourced local-
ly. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

Office of the secretary
Administration
Speakers office
Media and Records
Debating Chamber

Illustration 57. Typical planning layout of First Floor
Source: Planning, 174, March/ April, 2001,
                p.48
Edited by Author

Illustration 58. Linking bridges and timber deck:
                Simplicity of structure and practical
                response to local climate
Source: Planning, 174, March/ April, 2001, p.49

The facades facing the rive-line forest are protected by the overhanging roof projections, in order to engage to the landscape. The lightweight sheet metal has 3 meter overhangs to protect the building and its occupants from the sun. Public areas are decorated with natural stone mosaics with cut stone tiled floors while carpeting and slating is used at private spaces. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

7.6 Symbolism and Architectural Expression

The dome of the debating chamber announces a powerful symbol and image for the Province. The chamber with a multi volume spaces designed to express its function, a space that accentuate democratic power and authority. Its enormous chamber towers above all the surrounding buildings. It's size and volumes symbolises the chamber's magnitude, dominance and power. [Illustration 49] A communal political space where individualism is destroyed and democracy conquers and dominates.

Illustration 59. Depiction to interior of Chamber
Source: Planning, 174, March/ April, 2001, p.51

The circular shape is a typical mnemonic of a traditional African dwelling with a modern structural technology. This African theme as carried through to the interior as well. Internal walls are finished with a combination of timber wall panelling and decorative, storytelling paintings all around the chamber [Illustration 52&53]. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

• Political icons, religious and social leaders as well as orators were together used to translate the region's history, political involvement and achievements which is depicted on the walls between the timber panelling. The artwork on the walls was created through the embroidery skills as well as mastered traditional craft techniques by the local women who were guided through the design process and executed on their own. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

The idea was to empower the local women and ultimately empower the local communities and give a sense of ownership and transparency to the public. A woven stain less steel fabric floats below the ceiling to reflect and diffuse the natural light projecting through and visually lowers the height of the dome structure. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

Ilustration 60. Interior of Chamber
Source: Typical Section through Debating
               Chamber
Source: Planning, 174 ,March/ April, 2001,
               p.50

7.7 Conclusion

There are few positive aspects that were observed and implemented during the design stages of the complex.

• Siting -the complex acknowledges the topography and obliges by positioning the buildings along the contours thus proving to be a saving exercise, financially.

• The building's positioning enables the contractors to simultaneously work on site therefore saving time.

• The simplicity of the building technology is suitable for the medium size contractors and ideal for the empowerment of the local developing contractors.

• The services are effectively and centrally located for the easy access for inspection and servicing. The development was very successful in terms of its practicality and its initiative for empowering the local communities. Its response to the context is one of its strongest attributes and shall be noted and incorporated towards the designing of the new KZNL. The climatic response is noticeable, the use of steel sheetting with deep eaves, solid facades towards the west with few openings. The development boasts functionality, manifests a simple detail to building and yet a civil overall image.

It must be mention that its simplicity could have been sacrificed to achieve a more distinct and a symbolic image that proclaims its stature within the Riverside Park and the region at large.The cellular with linkage bridges that projects to lush greenery collectively become a single body sharing a common space. The architects achieved a harmonious development, well planed and fully practical with livable spaces. The architects could have been more adventurous during the initial approach to create a unique development that truly reflects African architecture. It is my responsibility as an architect to acknowledge the international language but strive to reflect the regional and socio-cultural dynamics in built form.

Therefore the Mpumalanga Legislature Building complex was not able to reflect its region literally, which is an important aspect to such a development, but it did however effectively empower the communities through the on-site training sessions which enabled them to apply the acquired skills well beyond the construction of the legislature. Overall, the complex is a working machine with linkage hinges that could have been a reflection of Mpumalanga. There was a lot of emphasis on the practicality, simplicity and its responsibility to the environment that it successfully addressed and manifested throughout the site.

8 .1 Introduction

It is eminent that the study examples have expressed progression as far as the language and the responsibilities of the government buildings are concerned. The examples demonstrate the need for a more responsive architecture that distinguishes history and relates with the communities, the architecture that rebukes dictatorship architecture and strives for equal representation (democracy). Also it must be noted that neither of the examples discussed reflect the classical style that was notable with its large volumes that reduced human scale and impose itself to the end users.

8.2 Concept

Both the Kimberly and the Nelspruit Legislature Buildings have attempted to address the issue of the public involvement into a government building through the application of local materials and low construction technology. Kimberly Legislature's idea of segregation of buildings throughout the site has exposed the idea of free movement as unsuccessful. Leading to a compact building that embodies all the necessary accommodation spaces like the Nelspruit Legislature that successfully epitomizes democracy through the construction technology, its urban response and finally the hierarchical arrangement.

8.3 Siting and accessibility

Historically, government buildings were commonly located away from the public reach. Therefore security and safety to the users would be easily achieved. Most importantly the government buildings were symbols of power and dominance and dignity, normally towering above the land hence they were commonly located on the hills or at a location where the building can overlook the land. The Canberra Parliament is a classic example located atop the land below the hill and overlooking the development below, although public access was initiated but it remains unachievable due to the fact that the building is positioned far away from the public zone.

In contrast to that is the Scottish Parliament located within the city allowing easy access by both the public and the Parliamentarians to integrate within a single body. Bonn parliament is can be referred to as the dictatorship-to-democracy manifestation, as the complex consist of both Modern and Classical architecture. Bonn is also sited within the public zone which allows for public access, therefore effectively translate the idea of accessibility and transparency by its sitting and its Modern language. An overall impression suggests that achievable access by both the public and the Parliamentarians must influence the siting of a Parliament building whilst retaining its dignity.

The Kimberly Legislature successfully connects the two communities, Galeshwe and the North-West neighbourhoods of Kimberly. The complex becomes and intersection point or a meeting space for both communities. The concept can be applied for the proposed KZNL also but in this case the complex shall strive to become and intersection for various communities through it's engagement with the local communities. Public engagement can be achieved by allowing for public exhibitions, demonstrations and controlled visitations for the debating sessions.

8.4 Planning

Security is essential. The original parliament building of in Canberra was located away from the urban context. The later was located further than its predecessor but an urban development was initiated aimed at reaching out to the communities, which unfortunately is not entirely effective. The traditional parliament buildings were cleverly located, it was purposely intended that the public would not gain access easily. The idea was effective from that perspective, however due to the need or fair governance, democracy suggests a common idea, reachable and direction therefore achieving safety and security has become more trickier to maintain and to initiate. It must be mentioned that however difficult achieving security may be compared to traditional government buildings, security is still the main driver to such a structure. Control is a common denominator, constant and visual surveillance and clear open

corridors and spaces can improve security within such a structure. More government are being exposed to terrorism due to its proximity to the public, therefore the issue is more sensitive and must be addressed delicately. The environment influences the outcome of the any building from which the site is decided. It is vital to consider all the elements the climate will impose to the proposed structure.

The Canberra Parliament is exposed to harsh weather and has little responsive elements besides the landscaping initiative that does little to improve the problem due to its proximity to the mountain and lack of natural protective features like trees and surrounding buildings. Therefore Canberra Parliament unsuccessfully addressed the issue. The Scottish Parliament, in contrast to Canberra's is protected from harsh weather conditions by the neighbouring buildings and as a structure has responsive features like louvres to windows that help prevent extreme v-ray projections.

Planning and security are a critically important for such a building. It is disappointing that much of the planning is compromised by the security requirements that restrict the designer's expression and translation of ideas. Kimberly Legislature's planning is unsuccessful but very much responsible in-terms of public access. The Nelspruit Legislature's cell arrangement was almost conforming to its topography. Such response can only be a positive element that will be noted and applied for the KZNL,but it must be remembered that the cellular arrangement isolates a particular building from its neighbours. Similar top the kimberly's, they both lack a sense of togetherness and unity and ultimately lack character.

8.5 Symbolism and Architectural expression

Due to the emphasis of employing democratic architecture, the examples studied have a common language, a modern language that literally translate the idea of transparency through its use of safety glass facades and clear structures. The Scottish Parliament's legislature's regional architecture is well articulated and is very much a representation of the region. The architectural language was expressed in a modern way, that of which can be recognised as democratic, hence it literally relates with

an international eye and yet inspired by the local culture and history. Therefore this study suggests a more global language, which can be derived from the regional architecture and communicate in a global modern architectural language. The use of local materials and labour and culture must not confine the literal architectural outcome of the building but the symbolical meanings.

Democratic architecture and critical regionalism is eminent from both the Mpumalanga and Kimberly Legislature stuctures. The low technology technique has been employed, giving an opportunity for a new architectural language that can be recognized as the language of African architecture. The low technology presented a platform for the local constructors to further improve their skills and explore with the possible solutions. Employing such an approach can only help contributing towards empowering locals and give a sense of ownership, and pride to the public.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The research carried out clearly stipulates the importance of democracy, an exercise that suggests fair and equal representation, an architecture that allows for access for both the public and the Parliamentarians. The research also promotes idea of creating visual linkages through transparent structures and the involvement of the public during the constructions of such a government building. The public's involvement during the construction is a single most important aspect towards achieving a democratic building, hence it will be built by both the public and the professional contractors and finally be occupied by the government personnel, a complete contribution for all concerned. It also important for such a building shall not manifest a particular political party nor a language that relates to a particular racial group.

Symbolism is fundamental for such a building type. The building is a representation of the province of KwaZulu Natal, therefore the building shall manifest a symbolical meaning relating to the province and not to a particular race. Symbolism shall most importantly be in line of abstract than literal, this is to establish a common architectural language with the strangers to the region who can immediately identify with type of architecture applied to the building. Critical regionalism refers to the acknowledgement and the application of the local resources like the case in the Nelspruit Legislature Buildings.

The idea suggests using local materials and a responsible architecture that responds to the local climate and respecting the environment. Security, the sole concern for any government building. It must be noted that although security dictates most of the movement within the building and to some extent can limit the public access into particular areas. The building aesthetics cannot be compromised in any way, but maintain safe and secure environment. Such a building must allow for public access and articulate public movement form that of the Parliamentarians.

10.1 Introduction

A Parliament is a place where Ministers, Governors and Members of the Government meet in order to govern the province. A meeting place, a place where the communities issues are addressed and adhered to. The parliament is a symbol of power of the province and its dynamic. It is also a reflection of the local public's socio-culture. The administration facilities shall be distributed around the province to ensure a sense of contribution and belonging for all the regions within the KwaZulu Natal umbrella. The building is large in scale, therefore special considerations need to be addressed, as far as accommodation schedule is concerned. The proposed building however will allow for flexibility and anticipate expansion. This chapter aims to derive a brief from the discussed requirements and adequate space requirements. [Goodsel CT, 1988]

10.2 Client requirements

The Government of KwaZulu Natal is the client and the requirements were formulated via a research, which includes reports, interviews held with the Parliamentary public affairs personnel and also through recommendations. The Client has established few key factors from which the building should follow:

Symbolism- An iconic building that manifests the provinces socio-culture and character. The parliament must be a provincial, functional user-friendly symbol. The architectural language should depict the cultural, social and historical background. A symbolic element shall be moistly mirrored by the nucleus of the complex- the Chamber.

Security- The dichotomy between the public and private is a major aspect for such a building, and should be evident without making the occupants aware of the separation between them. The Parliamentarians shall have a separate entrance from the public and visitors. The chamber shall also separate the Parliamentarians movement from those of the public or media. This allows maintain security via separate security mediums.

Circulation- The movement of the users through the building. The efficiency of the building can be achieved through adequate movement and a conscious natural responsive building. The size and spacing will influence the outcome and the character of the building. It is required that the building must have spacious corridors and medium volumes to relate to humans scale.

Flexibility- The building must also be able to accommodate different needs at unexpected moment. The ability to extend the building or to change the existing accommodation at any particular moment is fundamentally important.

10.3 Building Functions and Requirements

The following elements were collected via literature studies and mainly from the Parliamentarian Public Personnel. They collectively form a schedule of accommodation. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

- Forecourt
- Main Entrance Chamber
- The Assembly Chamber
- Sergeant at Arms
- Speaker and Parliamentary Staff
- Library
- Research Department
- Paper's Office
- Hansard
- Committee Rooms
- Caucus
- Ministers, Governors Offices
- Parliamentary Facilities
- Service Areas
- Parking

Forecourt

The forecourt creates a formal space and identifies the entry point of the complex. It also accommodates major parades and assemblies. Therefore the surface should be flat and hardened to accommodate all types of activities. There shall be no vehicular access but only pedestrians and should not visually be seen, hence they might destruct the proceedings (Opening of the Parliament).

The main Entrance Hall

The entrance hall feeds from the Forecourt and must be generous in space and volume to accentuate the magnitude of the building's role to the government. Its also shall serve as the public ceremonial entry point. There shall be secondary entrances to achieve privacy and a more secured movement of the V.IPs and Ministers and Governors. The Entrance hall should be a source of direction and orientation by providing an information point, a point of arrival and departure. The hall shall be able to accommodate large groups of people e.g. Schools, and large public groups. Adjacent to the hall shall be the following:

Information centre -	Providing with information, distributing pamphlets
Control room -	This room will be used as the main control room, the main surveillance house, hence positioned at entrance hall.
Audio Visual room-	The room will be used for lectures with raked seating and will be used for slide and film shows
Press room-	house for the press preparing or the debating session as they are also not allowed to enter the private premises of the building.
Banking-	Although there is not much money on premises but this facility helps for withdrawals for the public, deposits, travelling for both the parliamentarians.
Post Facilities-	The proximity of such facility allows for the user to collect of submit relevant postage without having to travel elsewhere to collect or to drop off an item.

[Planning, 174 ,2001]

The Assembly Chamber

Easily the focal point of the complex, therefore is treated as the theatre of interpolictical and democracy play. It is important that the Chamber does not impose itself to the public through it high volumes as it was the norm during the classical period. The Chamber will translate the province's rich cultures and history in built form. A forecourt is essential for circulation and to be able to separate the public from the parliamentarian movements. The Chamber must be high-tech built, literally transparent and well lit to create visual interaction with the public outside. The galleries where the public and the press is seated is elevated from the main parliamentarian floor with separate ablutions and escape routes. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

The Chamber shall also have a control point, to conduct and monitor movement and following must be noted:

- Since the Chamber does not allow for seating expansion, therefore a maximum of 130 MP's in a non-hierarchical democratic arrangement is required.
- Gallery seating benches for approximately 150-250 members of the public with at least two entrances.
- Separately accessed section of the gallery to seat approximately 60 people for VIP's. Ambassadors and invited guests, the King, etc.
- a media gallery, on the same level as the public's but with separated access and a soundproofed room to conduct their recording with a translation box to seat 5 to 8 people, with a clear view of the main floor.

Sergeant at Arms

This facility is the house of security for the complex and should be located at the main entrance point. This point shall monitor the complex's proceedings and to ensure safety, and the following accommodation is required:

- an office for the sergeant at arms with a strong room and a reception space
- an office for the counsel of parliament with secretary and reception space and a reception space
- two secretary offices, Deputy secretary, Under Secretary and Assistant Secretary.
- One committee office for the Secretaries
- Typing are for max 5 people

Library

This must be located within the proximity of all the parliamentarians, for easy access. The library shall accommodate a general collection of 60 000 volumes maximum. The library shall consist of a variety of information and literature including legal Parliamentary documentation. Archives and records are kept here and shall allow for expansion.

The layout shall be able to accommodate the following:
- Reading space with tables and desks, a screened study space with tables and a newspaper section with racks.
- An enclosed reading room for 10 persons maximum .
- A print room for binding, photocopying, repairs, despatch, acquisitions, cataloguing and general storage.
- A Librarian's office with a typist in close proximity.
- A control desk for issuing and receiving and a lobby space to store personal belongings.
- An enclosed space for archives and records.

Research department

This department is a reference area for the parliamentarians to assist enrich them with relevant knowledge which will assist for debating sessions. Such facility shall be linked to the library for the relevance of its use. This space shall consist of 5 small

offices, a typist, receptionist, a counter and a records storage space .

Papers Office

The Papers Office shall be located near the library and is used by members and staff for draft Bills inspection.

Hansard

The printed records of debates held in the debating Chamber are stored here. The hansard shall be located adjacent to the Chamber due to
frequent movement by the reporters who will be recording the proceedings, it shall also house the following:

> The Editor
>
> The Deputy Editor
>
> Chief reporter
>
> Five reporters
>
> Two indexing staff
>
> Two General secretaries

Individual offices for the Editor, the Deputy Editor and Chief Reporter and a general soundproof cubicles for the indexing staff and a reception area

Committee rooms

These rooms are used by the selected or standing Committees members who deal with a detail legislation. Selected Committees are usually less than 15 members whilst standing Committees can comprise of 15 to 50 members. These rooms should be centrally located for ease of accessibility

Caucus room

A room to accommodate 100 people and should be sound proofed. This room shall be used by the ruling party which will use the space for internal debate and discussions of the party's policies and strategies.

Ministers, Governors & Members Offices

The Ministers and Governors mostly split the occupancy by the using the Chamber half of the day and then the office for the remainder. Therefore their offices must be located near the Chamber. Access to these offices shall be strictly private with direct access by the public. The users shall gain direct access to their offices from outside the building with constant police surveillance at the entrance points of each room. These offices shall consist of adjoining cloaks and a toilet facility, a reception room and a Secretary's office.

Parliamentary Facilities

Some of these facilities are neutral, hence they can be accessed by both the Parliamentarians and the public. They bridge the gap between the two types of users. These facilities include an exhibition space, a restaurant, an open amphitheatre space for the demonstrations and a multipurpose hall. While the parliamentarians have their own cafeteria, a gymnasium, a children's declare facility, a members lounge and a dining room. space for the demonstrations and a multipurpose hall. While the parliamentarians have their own cafeteria, a gymnasium, a children's day care facility, a members lounge and a dining room.

Service Areas

The service areas include storages facilities for the committee rooms, dining area, and general service rooms, which include the following:

- Mechanical, Electrical and Communication services.
- toilets and wash-rooms for the Parliamentarians,
- toilets required for public.
- cleaning and related storages rooms.
- rest rooms and locker rooms for cleaning staff.
- MP's and dignitaries drivers rest room.
- and an office for deliveries, dispatch and collection

Parking

Parking space shall be cleverly located so as to allow pedestrian movement and be located in proximity of the entrance point. An undercover parking facility shall be provided the Parliamentarians with reserved bays for the Speaker, Prime Minister, the President and Ministers and also a private helicopter landing spot shall be within a secured and secluded area. Public parking need not be covered and shall accommodate approximately 240 cars and 5 buses. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

PABX

PABX is the main equipment maintenance room which should have vehicular access.

Sound and Television

Air-conditioning

As part of a sustainable building initiative, all occupied rooms shall have natural and also mechanical means of ventilation.

Fire detection and Prevention

Active and passive systems shall be installed. Fire escape routes shall also be incorporated in the design of the legislature.

10.4 Site Requirements

The section analyses the fundamental elements that will influence the selection of an appropriate site needed and support the decision thereof. Selecting a site for the Legislature is very sensitive hence the building has to reflect dignity, mirror the government's dominance whilst unimposing to the public. A successful local example is a combination of the Nelspruit Legislature, whose location on the out skirt of the city centre, sitting on the edge of the botanical garden. Located in a quite area with less traffic and noise pollution and that of Kimberly, which links the two different communities and becomes a celebratory site. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

Both these examples suggest for a neutral location, a location where neither the political nor the public groups will be favoured. Therefore the following criteria was formulated and applied in choosing the appropriate site:

- The site must be positioned within the central area for the KwaZulu Natal Public to easily reach the premises.
- Accessibility, the public shall be able to gain access to the building complex.
- A location with a historical background- the location shall be of historical relevance to the governance of the KwaZulu Natal
- Climatic conditions must be ideal and friendly.
- The geotechnical conditions of the site shall be sound to avoid unnecessary building costs. [Planning, 174 ,2001]

10.5 Site selection

There are two possible locations that can house the KwaZulu Natal Legislature Buildings- Pietermaritzburg and Durban. Currently Pietermaritzburg is the capital of KwaZulu Natal, former capital of Natal while Ulundi was the capital of KwaZulu. Ulundi was predominantly an I.F.P region where other political parties were extinguished violently. Ulundi is not suitable to accommodate such a complex and sensitive building, therefore inconsiderable. Durban on the other hand has the capabilities of habouring the Government Building. The City of Durban is a metropolitan city of the KwaZulu Natal Province, therefore is easily accessible, it is also a business hub thus generating larger revenue than any other local city.

Illustration 61. KwaZulu Natal Map, Durban highlighted
Source: www.kznlegislature.gov.za January 2008
Edited by Author

10.5.1 The Workshop Parking Lot - Durban

A site is located at the heart of the city, adjacent to the Gugu Dlamini Park, behind The Workshop in the CBD. Also located across is the Municipality building - Ethekwini Water Department also flanked by the Durban exhibition centre and the Albert Luthuli International Conference Centre. The vacant site allows for both public and private access. The site is approximately 1km away from the bus terminals and 500m fro the taxi rank. The site also boasts civil context in the presence of the Municipal Buildings and a multi cultural facility and a sporting facility in the presence of the Sahara Kings Mead Cricket Stadium.

KEY:

- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Proposed Site
- Durban Exhibition Centre
- Albert Luthuli Intenational Conference Centre
- The Workshop- Shopping Centre
- Existing parking lot
- Green space
- Cricket Stadium
- Bus/ Taxi rank Space
- Durban Beach front
- Hotel

Ilustration 62. Analysis sketch of the Durban Site
Source: Google Earth, january 2008
Edited by author

10.5.2 The Harry Gwala Stadium – Pietermaritzburg

A site (formerly known as Jan Smuts Stadium) is located at the outskirt of the city, atop of Alexandra Park and bisects two streets, princess Margaret Avenue and Queen Victoria street. Adjacent to the site is the educational facilities, to the East of the site is Alexander Secondary School and the Maritzburg College to the west of the proposed site. The site is also sited across the Pietermaritzburg main Police station, south-eat is the University of KwaZulu Natal (PMB Campus) and also located 5 minutes from the Oribi Airport. Currently the site has been under used as soccer stadium precinct, consisting of the 3 soccer fields. The stadium has fallen victim of vandalism and abuse. The existing structure is not well maintained and the walls are falling over. The ablutions have become graffiti victims. The site is in a quite environment suitable nature of the government building.

The site is located approximately 2km away from the CBD making it accessible either via public or private transport. The site is also located on the edge of the uMsunduzi river 5km away from the N3 highway. The site give the proposed building an opportunity of utilizing on the existing facilities in context and an urban design response that will positively link the facilities and create a single precinct.

10.6 The Selected site:

The Harry Gwala Stadium – Pietermaritzburg, (PMB)

Considering the status of the city and the international trends. Pietermaritzburg City's status as the Capital City of KwaZulu Natal makes the site more appropriate. The international trend, suggests a central location for such a building, The few examples include the Canberra Parliament's, the Brasil's Brasilia, the U.S.A's White House, and our own Pretoria City who's predecessor, Cape Town is located on the edge of the country. These examples are all located at the heart of their respective countries. Brasil initially had Salvador as the Capital later moved to Rio de Janeiro and finally moved it to Brasilia. The site is accessible for education purposes, by the public due to its close proximity to the CBD. The site is also located in an educational precinct therefore a quite area, free from noise pollution. Pietermaritzburg is the first city in KwaZulu Natal.

Illustration 63. KwaZulu Natal Map:Petermaritzburg highlighted
Source: www.kznlegislature.gov.za, January 2008
Edited by Author

KEY:
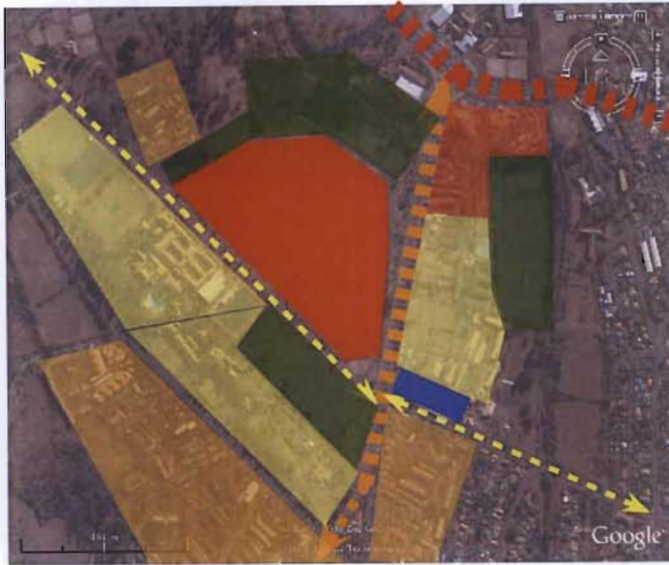
- ▮▮▮ Primary Roads
- - - ➤ Secondary Roads
- Proposed Site
- Edu- cational Facilities (Schools)
- Green Space
- Recreation Zone
- Police Station
- Residential Zone

Illustration 64. Analysis sketch of the PMB Site
Source: Google Earth, January 2008
Edited by Author

Currently, PMB is the legal educational and law capital. This can be supported by the existence of the Provincial High Court and the AMAFA headquarters. It is also the first colonial city therefore possesses early colonial and traditional rich and summarises PMB as a symbol of development. The climate is satisfactory with an average temperature of 18 – 27 degrees in winter and 25 – 35 in summer. The site has a sound geotechnical history and suitably located atop of the uMsunduzi River to achieve pleasant views for the MP's. The Alexander Park, bottom of the appointed site will be a major contributing element in creating a visual and a symbolical linkage and relationship between the public and the Parliamentarians. I therefore propose the relocation of the existing Harry Gwala Stadium to the Alexander Park, which consists of sporting facilities including Olympics swimming pool arena and adjacent is the uMsunduzi River used for the Dusi marathon race.

10.7 Urban Design_ Aim

Flanked by the educational facilities and a Police station. An urban design intervention shall aim at combining all the facilities in context and develop the current urban aesthetics into a single body. The aim is to create a visual, a common link between the adjacent facilities and allow adequate public movement within precinct. Ultimately to create a common point to be shared by all the neighbouring structures.

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Mr M.S. Mavimbela, Sergeant-At-Arm, Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature.

Mr Aziz Tayob, Architect - Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature.

Mr R. Choromanski, CNN architects, Earth Lab Architects.

Wiseman Nxumalo - Communication Manager, KwaZulu Natal Legislature

Appendix A - **Interview Schedule**

The interview questionnaire will be conducted with relevant key informants, like architects, the Parliamentarians, and general public.

The following topics will be covered In the interviews

- The current situation of duplication of the Legislative Office
- The role of a local government
- The relationship between the local government and the community
- The historical background of KwaZulu Natal
- The shortfalls of existing government facilities
- The necessary key functions In a Legislature Building
- The accommodation and hierarchical structure
- The main constraints to designing such a building, and suggestions as to how to encounter them.

Key Questions to be covered during the interviews with relevant representatives.

1. Why should there be a local government building (legislative assembly)?

2. Currently KwaZulu Natal does not have a legislative building. There are offices in Durban, Pietermaritzburg and Ulundi, how has that affected the Government's progress and service delivery to the public?

3. The building carries the emblem of the province and single handedly harbours the local leaders, and finally represents KwaZulu Natal culture. What are key attributes that can embody all the factors to a single built environment?

4. The building has a strict policy for safety and security. What are the Prerequisites?

5. The government practices democracy, how can such a strong and important exercise be visually translated to built structure?

6. What special considerations should be made when designing such a building?

7. Local political parties play an important role governance of the province they should be recognized and acknowledged.

How can such a sensitive building depict a political contribution architecturally?

8. It is very important that the building should stand as symbol within its context therefore needs a suitable site with relevance. What is the suitable location for the proposed topic?

9. Public engagement is vital but security and movement can form a barrier between the two groups (MEC's and public). How can the building achieve a harmonious atmosphere?

10. How can architecture represent the new cultural era of democracy in KwaZulu Natal and represent a symbol that identifies with the province?

11. Democratic architecture is the primary driving theory towards designing government buildings in a modern international architecture language. What is democratic architecture?

12. How can democracy be reflected to the proposed legislature?13.   The Debating Chamber is the nucleus of the complex, circulation and sitting is crucial, what are requirements thereof?

14. How often do the debating sessions take place?

15. The building shall be a symbol of KwaZulu Natal architecturally, how can that be achieved without disconnecting from the international modern language of architecture?

16. Transparency in such a building is important hence it gives a sense of visual connection and interaction. How can that be achieved architecturally?

17. How does such a building encourage the public's participation/involvement?
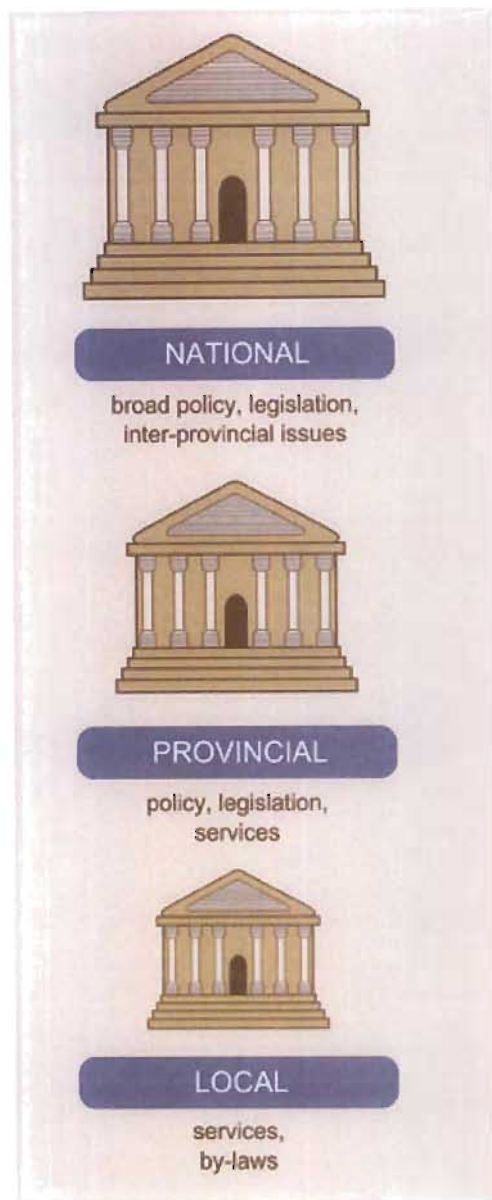
ill.Diagramatic structure of the government:
www.kznlegislature.gov.za
(accessed: 29 January 2008)

The Structure

The Republic of South Africa consists of three structures of government:

- National
- Provincial and
- Local governments.

It is also divided into nine provinces, each having its own provincial legislature.

National Government

The National is the highest authority in law-making. The National Assembly shares its legislative authority with provincial legislatures.

Provincial Government

Provincial governments obey to the laws and policies from the Government, but also develop their own laws and policies for the local government and can later pass their policies to the National Authority should the policy require the National Government to approve or to implement it nationally.

Local Government

Local governments made up from municipalities summoned to provide quality service and democratic governance for local communities and to promote social and economic development.

Provincial Legislature Process

Draft Policy

Draft policy is set out for public comment in the form of a Green Paper or White Paper.

Draft Legistration (Bill)

If the policy suggests that new legislation is needed, a law is drafted. This draft legislation is known as a Bill.

State Law Advisors

The draft Legislation is approved by State Law Advisors

Cabinet

The Bill is sent to the Cabinet for approval.

Revision Process

If Cabinet does not approve the Bill, it is sent back to the Department from which it originated. It would then have to be revised and resubmitted to Cabinet for approval.

Publication of Bill

Once approved, the Bill is referred to the Speaker and Published in the Provincial Gazette. It is accompanied by a memorandum setting out the objectives of the Bill, the institutions consulted and calling on interested people and organisations to make submissions on the Bill. The public has 21 days to make their input.

Portfoilio Committee

The Bill is referred to the relevant Portfolio Committee for debate. The Committee may call for public hearings and obtain input from members of the public and interest groups.

House Debate

The Bill is then referred back to the House for debate. Amendments recommended by the Portfolio Committee are also debated.

Vote

Finally, the House votes on the Bill.

Publication of Act

The Act is published in the Provincial Gazette. It comes into force on the date stated in it on a date set by the Premier, or on the date of its publication in the Gazette.

ill.Structure of the Legislature Process:
www.kznlegislature.gov.za
(accessed: 29 January 2008)

Premier's Assent

Once adopted by the House, the Bill is sent to the Premier for his assent and signature.

Act

From the stage onwards, the Bill becomes an Act of Parliament and is enforceable.
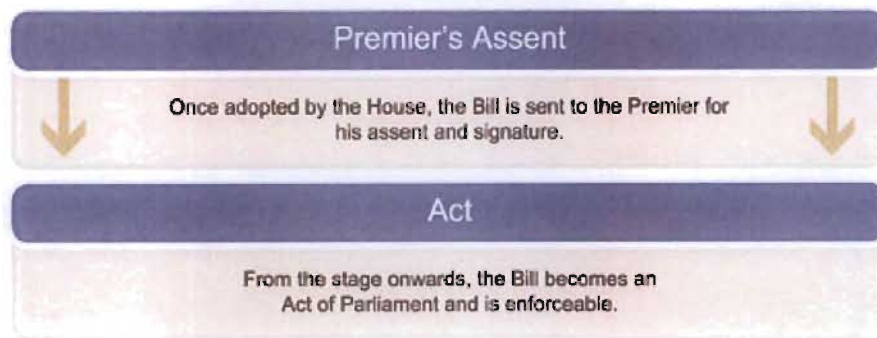
Members of the Provincial Legislature

The members of the Legislature are made up of a different political party members. The political party that wins the national and local elections get the most seats. These party members then become Members of the Provincial Legislature.

The KZN Legislature   Structures and Functions

ELECTED OFFICERS

Speaker — Presiding officer of the House, also a Member of the House. Responsible for the control and conduct of proceedings. Has a casting vote when there is no clear majority in a vote. Has the power to control debate and the conduct of Members in the Chamber. Required to be neutral in a debate and to ensure fair play among the parties.

Deputy Speaker — Serves in the absence of the Speaker.

Leader of the House — Co-ordinates activities and business of the House. Link between the Legislature and the Executive. Advises the House on matters of procedure and order.

Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of Committees — Takes the Chair when the House is in Committee of the Whole House. This is when the full House debates in the free format of a committee meeting.

Chief Whips of the Parties — In consultation with the Leader of the House, responsible for arranging all business on the Order Paper.

Chairpersons of Portfolio & Standing Committees — These committees oversee government departments, scrutinise and make recommendations on draft legislation from government departments, initiate legislation and hear evidence. Meetings of committees are generally open to the public. The public may also make submissions to a committee on proposed legislation or policy matters.

Whips

Ordinary Members — A member of the Provincial Legislature / KwaZulu-Natal Parliament represents a political party which has been allocated seats in the House based upon proportional representation and provincial election performance.

PERMANENT OFFICERS

Secretary of the Legislature

Deputy Secretary of the Legislature — The Secretary is the most senior employee of the Legislature. Accounts directly to the Legislature and Accounting Officer of the Legislature and is the custodian of its records. Responsible for procedural services in the House, provides professional and administrative support, manages the staff and programmes of the Legislature.

Directorates

Staff — Directorates: Administration, Legal Services, House Proceedings, Committees. Sub-Directorate: Communication Services

ill.Members of the Provincial Legislature
www.kznlegislature.gov.za
(accessed: 29 January 2008)

The Mace

The Mace

The Mace was constructed out of the inner part of the Russet Willow - *imbondwemnyama*, and *Khamnus Zeyheriumnini* or *umcaka*. These woods had a special significance as implements of Royal Justice at the King's Court in olden times.

At the crown of the Mace is a typical Zulu hut which is symbolic of the birth place of Zulu culture and customs.

Below the hut is the mystical coil, a symbol of unity of the nation.

The beerpot and the beast head of *inyonikayiphumuli* - a special white breed of the King's cattle, are symbols of traditional hospitality and generosity of the Kings and the people of the region.

The traditional grain basket - *isilulu*, the axe - *isizenze*, and the knob stick - *iwisa*, are symbolic reminders of leaders and of their origins, and to keep the nation's silos full to protect the integrity of the nation.

The polished head ring - *isicoco*, is the symbol of maturity, wisdom, dignity, respect and wise councelling.

The four white ostrich feathers are adornments favoured by Zulu regiments of old.

The broad-bladed short assegai used by regiments of King Shaka is the symbol of discipline and strength. On these symbols rest all the other attributes depicted on the Mace.

ill.The Mace
www.kznlegislature.gov.za
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