

# Building Reimagined: A Dialogue between Old and New

**Michael Louw and Stella Papanicolaou (2019)**

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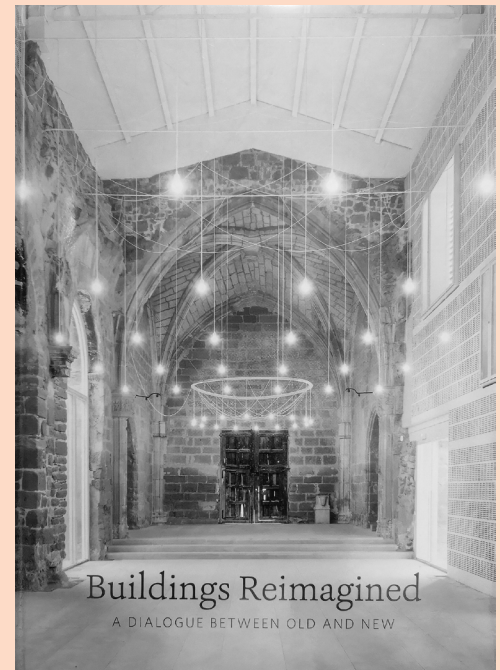
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In the architecture field, there are various conditions which generated an architecture, materials and construction, technology, and urbanization. Many former architectures had done by revered architects, such as, Antoni Gaudi whom established the architectural heritage. Some masterpiece of art and architecture would be preserved as the heritage of mankind, some had been ruined by during the past time, but some had transformed in terms of physical, building type, function, structure, etc. The reason why the architecture had changed that came from various conditions. Then, the degrees of architectural changes also came from any circumstances, such as, the value of architecture, building physical, building type, building structure, conceptual and idea, social – economic – politic issues, built environment, project requirements, etc.

Building Reimagined: A Dialogue Between Old and New focuses on the physical increasing of architecture that involves with the circumstances of building transformation or adaptive reuse. It is collected imagination designed intervention that presents a new image to the existing building and also bring value added to the architecture as well.



The book is consisted of the introduction of architecture during the emergence of modernist architecture movement which the idea of preserving historical buildings as a heritage. The fields of remained, adapted, and transformed are subjected in many case studies and projects. The design process using a variety of approaches with 5 strategies to engaged the key design of each solution: architecture as furniture,

renovation and insertion, structural modification, external juxtaposition, and reconstruction and expansion. The strategies and projects show the idea that dealing with each situation: a conversation between past and present, a balance between memory and imagination, and a dialogue between old and new.

The book also concentrates on any fields which related to 'dialogue between old and new' such as building heritage and conservation, building evidence, continuity between current and past condition, the speak of the past and history, building context and environment, the demolish options, community and urbanization, the potential of site and surrounding, sustainability reasons, global understanding, etc. Moreover, the condition of intangible has been subjected, such as the living heritage, social practice, and community tradition. And furthermore, Sustainability concerns can apply to the energy conservation, the reduction of consumer resource, and climatically moderated. In terms of building technology. The project mentioned to the adaptation in an old building must be negotiation into the existing structure and the additional structure/façade. Principles and constraints include structural stability, safety factors, suitability of old place with new programs, quality of light, architectural languages, building aesthetic and conceptual ideas, building equipment, thermal control, building systems: circulation, façade, structure, and new services.

The projects have been presented within 5 identified strategies which the best characterizes the dominant approach design. The first strategy starting from 'architecture as furniture', the small scale of intervention, which the internal juxtapositions is the small piece of insertion with the original fabric. The existing exterior fabric mostly remain to its original design / old building. The process valued and preserved external and internal facades. The projects show the way to

put new using space while the existing context was respected which represents the relationship between the freestanding insertions and the external envelope to the existing building.

The strategy 2, 'renovation and insertion' focus on an external building façade as valuable existing, and transform an interior as a new insertion. The process generally considers the link to the new approach from the new insertion with the existing conditions, such as new functions and existing structure, new interior space and existing façade, etc.

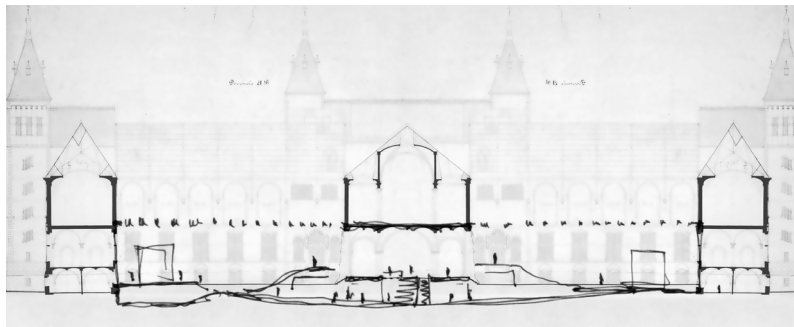
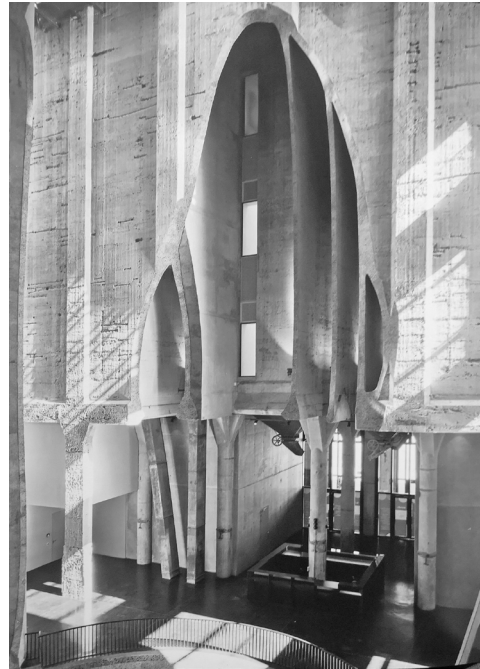


**Figure 1** The existing view of Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, South Africa, Heatherwick Studio and VDMMA (Source: Louw, M. & Papanicolaou, S. 2019, p.137)



**Figure 2** The exterior of tubular concrete form with bubble – like windows of Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, South Africa, Heatherwick Studio and VDMMA (Source: Louw, M. & Papanicolaou, S. 2019, p.137)

**Figure 3** The interior of cavernous internal atrium view of Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa, South Africa, Heatherwick Studio and VDMMA (Source: Louw, M. & Papanicolaou, S. 2019, p.138)



**Figure 4** Sketch of the walking routes between the entrance, the courtyards and the museum galleries, Rijksmuseum, Cruz y Ortiz 2001. (Source: Louw, M. & Papanicolaou, S. 2014, p.164)

**Figure 5** Design for the entrance area from the Preliminary Design, Rijksmuseum, Cruz y Ortiz 2002. (Source: Louw, M. & Papanicolaou, S. 2014, p.165)



The strategy 3, 'structural modification' explain the criteria to resolve the new intervention to take place within the existing building. The new structure makes it possible for an intervention either to break free of the constraints of the found envelope and to open up tight spaces within it, or simply to avoid the demolition of the old. According to Heatherwick Studio, VDMMA, Rick Brown Associates Architects, and Jacobs Parker Architecture & Interior Design' s work, the term refers to the old silos had modified to the iconic building of new contemporary art museum. They created the exterior of spectacular tubular concrete form with bubble – like windows, while the interior has a cavernous internal atrium with a process of internal excavation. Architect team convert packed of concrete tube into art exhibition space with the image of industrial heritage. And, also developed a carve concept of reinforced concrete tubes in the center of building. In technically, the demolition process unlocked its hidden spatial potential by subtract/remove some portions of the old silo's structure then, increased exhibition space. The structural modification explain value of the old and the new structure and generate dialogue between existing fabric and the new intervention.

The strategy 4, 'external juxtaposition', shows the new strategy which independently on the exterior and adjacent to the existing building. The project proposes the various modified solutions, and offers the most freedom for the new design to have a language quite separate from the old. Nevertheless, the case studies will present on a range of techniques to create a dialogue with the old.

The strategy 5, 'reconstruction and expansion' is probably the most radical and intrusive of all five strategies and may include a combination of the other strategies, specifically, but not exclusively, structural modification and external juxtaposition. The intervention is bolder in its interference with the historical building and with its external appearance.

The terms 'Reconstruction and Expansion', Cruz y Ortiz Arquitectos, refers to the renovation project of Rijksmuseum, which was built since 1885 by the architect Pierre J.H. Cuypers. The building had two main functions: one serves for the national museum, and the others is the gateway as a connecting portion between the existing (the north) and the new development city area (the south). In December 2002, The architects provide the intervention spaces of central hall replaces the existing exhibition areas and courtyard of the building to build the Rijksmuseum as a gateway to the urban expansion areas. In process development, the architects were faced with an intervention of an interior architect who respected more than the 85 percent the chief architect had foreseen, such as the central entrance and large parts of the museum interior. Finally, the design represented the idea between urbanization, preservation, reconstruction, space organization, user behavior, and architectural language that made Rijksmuseum become a 'unity in diversity'. (Meurs & Van Thoor, 2014).

This book also indicates subject a specific approach towards heritage preservation with strategies to achieve it through building transformation and adaptive reuse. In all the projects presented, there is an attempt to reach a dialogue between the existing context and the new proposal design. They respect and reimagine the old with courageous interventions that bring them meaningfully into the present. In many cases something of the old must be lost in order for it to exist, and the new must leave some functionality to the existing structure. This relationship between the new intervention and what has been found on site requires careful identification of the nonnegotiable features of the old that need to be retained. The conceptual design also requires to considered approach in the design of the new to maximize the transformative opportunities that be located in a creative engagement with the past. They fulfill formal explorations and challenge an imaginative design – based approach which can generate a new conversation between the existing building and the new intervention. Finally, the book explains the strategies to show the different ways to contrive the dialogue between old and new.

## Reference

- Meurs, P. & Van Thoor, M. (2014). *Rijksmuseum Amsterdam: Restoration and Transformation of a National Monument*. Netherlands: nai010 publishers.
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