SYNOPSIS

Under authority planning, a site in Queenstown, the first satellite New Town, will experience major demolition, where an entire old urban fabric will disappear completely and be replaced by new high-rise urban forms. The site will then take on a totally different urban character, which has no relation to the history and memory of the place of the past forty years.

The thesis argues a possibility of injecting within this tabula rasa situation, architectural interventions derived from the site’s current conditions and also conditions arising as a result of the transition. It seeks to tell the story of what is, what will happen and allows new scenarios to continue. Architecture is a story telling tool that documents a trace in time.

7 distinct areas are identified and small programmes of housing (transitional lodge), commercial exchange (shops), history (archival exhibition), nature (park), sports/movement (path), landmark (folly) and communal (gathering place) are proposed based on site conditions and narrations specific to each areas.

In effect, the thesis demonstrate how these interventions can be seen together as a distinct layer within the new urban forms as an alternative that is able to speak of the past and still provide for current needs.
Buildings have been erected without drawings, but architecture itself goes beyond the mere process of building. The complex cultural, social, and philosophical demands developed slowly over the centuries have made architecture a form of knowledge in and of itself. Just as all forms of knowledge use different modes of discourse, so there are key architectural statements that, though not necessarily built, nevertheless inform us about the state of architecture — its concerns and its polemics — more precisely than the actual buildings of their time. Piranesi's engravings of prisons, Boullee's washes of monuments, have drastically influenced architectural thought and its related practice. The same could be said about particular architectural texts and theoretical positions. This does not exclude the built realm, for small constructions of an experimental nature have occasionally played a similar role.  