Synopsis

This thesis aims to deal with some of the negative social impacts of information technology. One of the direst issues is that the conveniences brought in by the technology, such as the internet and the mobile phone, is detaching people for real-world situations. For example, people spend more hours hooked onto the internet, engaging in cyber-chats and e-shopping instead of going to town to meet up with friends and do street shopping. A lot of modern buildings fail to take such social issues into consideration by blindly adopting the most advance ways of living with such technology. The project thus aims to create an architecture that allows people to live and work with in a way that promotes good physical interaction with other people and our external environment, regardless of the advancement in technology.

The vehicle chosen is the Technopreneur Incubator. It is basically a building that houses and supports high technology start-ups, similar to the way a science park houses research oriented companies. It is proposed to be located on a run-down industrial land at the border of a housing estate near the National University.

The programme of the building can be divided into three parts, namely the incubator units, the support block and a public atrium. The strategy here is to enhance social and environmental interaction as people flow between these three zones. The building will also form a gateway and a bridge between the surrounding urban estate and a new science park that is to be develop by the government on an adjacent plot. The main interaction space is in the central atrium that will serve as a showcase to the tenants and the public, a showcase on the way building technology is used in an eco-friendly and social enhancing way. The technopreneurs will likewise be inspired to develop products and services that inherit such characteristics.