Introduction and Issues

Abstract of thesis

The intentions of this thesis is to review the role of photography and its impact as recorder, art and cultural medium. In the expanding arts landscape in Singapore, its place is examined, as a unique form and as a facilitator of the arts in general.

The issues investigated: a) Background of photography and existing photographic scene in Singapore, b) Use of the photo medium to facilitate the progress of the arts, c) Enhancing the current site context and its identity as the new arts district.

The site is adjacent to the current home of one the main photo clubs in Singapore and within the new Bugis arts district. It is at a junction where the arts, civic and the Orchard commercial zones meet. The site context itself is dilute and the centre establishes a strong urban nodal point for the area.

The photographic culture is the one art form that is practiced across all levels of society, but has no clear recognized home. The vehicle is a centre providing a focal point for the photography scene which goes beyond a functional programme of meeting the needs of photographers.

The design concept is generated from the stages of the photographic process leading to the centre being organized into zones grouping the spaces into creative, reference, technical, commercial.