ABSTRACT

The thesis deals with the glorification of football, a popular sport in Singapore that invokes tremendous passion. It investigates how architecture can create an image for the sport through design in enhancing a football via urban and programmatic strategies. These aims are especially important as football in Singapore is undergoing a crucial transition. First, the advent of professionalism in team sport and second, the implementation of Goal 2010 project which targets a Singapore team in the World Cup. This thesis therefore takes the opportunity to design a facility that caters for the expected growth of the sport for soccer enthusiasts - staunch supporters and new converts alike, aspiring footballers and soccer administrators. The facility will also provide a platform for promoting greater awareness of the sport amongst the public.

The chosen site is synonymous with Singapore football, being the location of Jalan Besar Stadium. The new facility that replaces it can thus tap on the existing potential of its locality, multi-faceted use, cultural and historical significance. It will house the headquarters of the Football Association of Singapore, training centre for the national teams and a 10,000 capacity all-seater football stadium. It will also accommodate new facilities like the football museum, library and archives, the convention and exposition centre that will help to foster a strong football culture.

The design concept is a rhythmic series of vertical elements circumventing the entire complex. The façade is partitioned by structural walls to blend with the urban streetscape of shophouses. They also act as visual cues that define, direct and draw the public into the various zones along the activity spine. The overall image resonates a sense of monumentality in celebrating a public sporting icon.