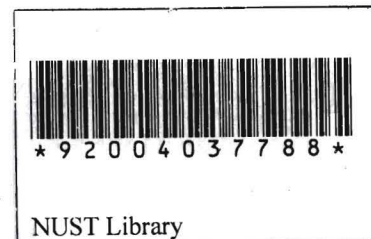


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**DEVELOPMENT OF CONTEXTUALISED BUILT  
ENVIRONMENTS  
THE PROPOSED ASCOT BUSINESS PARK**

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**A Thesis Submitted to  
The Department of Architecture  
In Partial Fulfilment for the  
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Degree**

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# ABSTRACT

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Built environments all over the world have been infected with universal qualities in architecture stemming from the era of modernism. The result has been a generalized language of expression in building aesthetics and built forms that are inappropriately adapted to local climate and topography as well as popular culture. This study is based on the observed effects of avant-garde movements in architecture which even though they have been universally accepted as progressive in nature have served to erode the contextual content of buildings. Those buildings which however have tried to capture contextual issues have done so in kitschy and mundane ways.

By highlighting the problems with *avant-gardism*, an *arriere-garde* approach seems the logical solution in the development of contextualized built environments. This approach has led to kitschy and inappropriate architectural solutions under the guise of cultural sensitivity. It is thus also acknowledged that a total departure from the progressive qualities of modernism is not the solution but a balanced application of both *arriere-garde* and the *avant-garde* is therefore required in order to properly synthesize between universal civilisation and local culture in the built environments of today. Through this study the researcher explores an *arriere-garde* approach to building design by tracing the very elements that contribute to creating a sense place through various theories.

The relevance of the theories brought to light during the study will be practically tested for their applicability in the design of the proposed Ascot Business Park.