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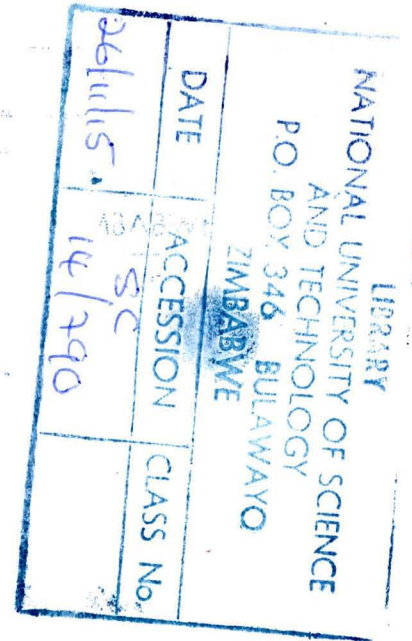
**TRAVERSING SPACE THROUGH FINISHES: EXPLORING THE
ROLE OF MATERIALS IN SPACE NAVIGATION**

PROPOSED CRATER LAKE MUSIC AND DANCE THERAPY CENTRE

by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This thesis deals with the relationship that exists between user movement and space definition. The point of emphasis is where the architect imagines the natural human motion within and outside the building and uses this to determine the definition of space in the design process. Particular attention is based on the issue of using surface finishes mainly to direct users as they traverse through space. This then becomes the relationship of space and society and the author investigated this relationship through the examination of various theories as discussed. These theories include the Space Syntax Theory, Vanishing Point Theory, Optical Flow Theory and The Language of Space Concept.

Space influences individuals by creation of circumstance of co-presence and patterns of movement. This connection is done through time and movement as well as the dependence of encounters during motion in space. Encounters which in this case depend on movement depend also on time. This brings a point of departure where space is not described according to a still 3-dimensional volume but an experience determined by movement from one point to another. There may not be any barriers to define it but a mere change in pattern, rhythm, colour, texture, order or shape can inform a user that he has stepped into a different territory and spatial experience. Different types of materials have been catalogued to advise designers on how instrumental surface finishes can be in directing human motion

The author proposed a Crater Lake Therapy Centre as a demonstration of the application of innovative solutions in the treatment and application of emerging materials as finishes to be able to create architectural spaces that facilitate and enhance user motion. This project comes as a response to the Harare Vision 2040 Workshop conducted in the year 2013 where different areas of concern within Harare were discussed. A survey and analysis of the peri-urban centres that include Chitungwiza, Hopley and Epworth was done. It is in the author's interest to address the social wellbeing of the people in Epworth amidst the social, economic and health problems that are prevalent in Epworth. The site chosen is a hub of criminal activities, social immorality and an abandoned crater lake which obviously was once a quarry. This was intentional in transforming such an abandoned and misused urban landscape into a hub of healing activities as a way of embracing the Crater Lake rather than shunning it.