ABSTRACT

'Spaces and Schizophrenia' examines the relationship between a user and his surroundings. The user in this case, because of his illness, has a unique perception of the world. Insight into this world could lead to a study of architecture from a lateral perspective. This dissertation explores the delicate balance between a schizophrenic's inner self and external environment.

Through theoretical research on perception, I understand why people with schizophrenia behave a certain way. Consequently environmental triggers as well as healing elements are identified. The relevance of these elements is then understood through case studies of local mental healthcare facilities. A range of facilities catering to different socio-economic groups is chosen. These facilities are also diverse in terms of their approach to mental health care infrastructure. Qualitative data from these places is collected in the form of observations, photographic evidence and interviews. Interviews are taken from all stakeholders’ involved mental healthcare professionals, patients and an Architect. All the resulting, first hand and second information, is then compared and contrasted. Lateral thinking in architecture is identified as a possible tool for the evolution of the field. The resulting analysis not only helps to understand the schizophrenic and his space but also space in general.