

# Engaging homelessness

Facilitating change through architectural intervention.

University of Cape Town

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# Abstract

This dissertation engages with the issue of homelessness in the City of Cape Town. It makes use of existing literature and research on homelessness to frame the severity of the issue. Furthermore, it surfaces the lived experience of homelessness through first-hand accounts of living on the street, highlighting the challenges faced and survival strategies implemented by homeless individuals.

The response focuses in part to meet the immediate needs of homeless individuals by creating a safe zone in which the activities of the home can be carried out. Furthermore, the intent is to engage with the homeless population across a range of thresholds, allowing them the autonomy to filter into a newly facilitated network that works with existing infrastructure to guide individuals on a journey off the street.

The Dissertation culminates in a speculative design project near the fringe of Cape Town's CBD. The project deals with an undeveloped parcel of land, as well as the addition to and alterations of an existing Salvation Army building.

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# Preface

This dissertation is driven by a personal interest in the issue of homelessness and a desire to find solutions to assist some of the most vulnerable members of society. This interest arose in 2015 through an interaction with a family who had lost their home due to a fire, and lacking the needed support structure, had ended up on the streets.

They had been unable to find a shelter that would accept them as a family, and were afraid of approaching other shelters as they had been told that their child would be taken away from them. My wife and I contacted numerous shelters in an attempt to help, but our efforts were unsuccessful. We were referred in circles to inappropriate shelters, and were even unable to find a place that would allow the mother and daughter to remain together. If we, as individuals with resources and networks could not locate shelter, one can only imagine the difficulty of doing so without such means.

# Introduction

Homelessness is a major issue both globally and locally (Cross, Seager, Erasmus, Ward & Donovan, 2010). In the city of Cape Town alone, there are an estimated eight thousand homeless individuals, with only 34% of these residing in shelters (Hendricks, Gideon, Mwhakanazi, Rodrigues & van Wyk, 2015). The issue of homelessness is extremely complex. There are a multitude of factors contributing to the problem that vary by context and individual. Homelessness is more than just a financial issue, but a social, spatial, physical, psychological, and public one as well, and in seeking solutions, all these aspects need to be taken into account.

Many organisations exist within the City to address homelessness, however there is an evident lack of communication and co-operation between the various role-players, resulting in a multitude of individuals lacking success in their attempts to find aid. Attending to this disconnect is key to working toward a solution, and forms part of my architectural proposal.

Through my research, I aimed to learn by engaging with individuals both on the street, and those in the process of reintegrating into society, in order to understand the lived experience of homelessness, as well as avenues that have proven to be successful in aiding individuals to leave the streets. My research has revealed that an effective solution is not to attempt to create a facility that works in isolation, catering for all the needs of the homeless, but rather one that works to encourage collaboration between an existing network of role-players through utilizing and upgrading existing infrastructure.

My Architectural investigation therefore involves engaging with homeless individuals through various thresholds that address the diverse needs of the homeless population. At the primary level of providing for the basic and immediate needs of individuals, and from there ultimately aiming to create a point of communication between the broader network of role-players thus acting as a port of filtration into this network.

My speculative design proposal is located on the fringe of the CBD amongst an interesting mix of establishments. It involves tying an existing Salvation Army structure to an adjoining parcel of undeveloped land, creating a zone in which homeless individuals are engaged at various levels. The primary level of engagement involves the creation of autonomous public space in which homeless individuals find a sense of legitimacy in the public realm. This space addresses some of the immediate needs of homeless individuals as highlighted by the research. The second level of engagement deals with the facilitation of a network, and the referral of homeless individuals into this network. The third level of engagement addresses healing from the physical and psychological challenges that come as a result of homelessness and may present themselves as barriers to leaving the street. This is done by means of catering for Counselling and occupational therapy. The more intimate levels of engagement are set back from the public space, using the existing infrastructure of the Salvation army building by means of addition and alteration.

# Framing homelessness

## Defining Homelessness

The definition I choose to use when referring to the “homeless” is, in the simplest form, individuals who sleep in the open (on the streets) at least one night a week. The term excludes individuals living in informal settlements or shack dwellings on the outskirts of the city.

There are several generally accepted categories of homeless individuals in Cape Town, these are:

Street person:	A person that regularly sleeps on the street.
Chronic street person:	A person who has been on the street for more than five years.
Day stroller:	A person that has access to accommodation, but sleeps on the street occasionally.
Gangsters/ ex-convict:	A person that is regularly in and out of prison.
Job Seeker:	An unemployed person venturing onto the street regularly to find work, and may occasionally sleep on the street.
Foreign National:	Foreign nationals (refugees/ job seekers) sleeping on the street as they lack support or are illegally in the country.
Street Born:	A person who has been born on the street.

# Overview

## Understanding the extent

In South Africa, the extent of homelessness is perpetuated by the high levels of inequality and poverty present. A 2015 count of homeless individuals tallied the City of Cape Town’s homeless population at upwards of 7300 people (Hendricks et al., 2015), however, this is a conservative figure and the actual number is likely to be much higher. In the country as a whole an estimated 100 000 - 200 000 people are homeless (Cross et al., 2010). This number increased from 0.02 to 0.22 percent of the population between 1996 and 2001, and shows no sign of decreasing in the future (Kok, Cross & Roux, 2010). A great contributor to this large population is unemployment. South Africa’s unemployment rate is one of the highest in the world, with 29,3% of the country’s urban dwellers living without jobs (Kingdon & Knight, 2004). Hence, without an income, many citizens cannot afford housing. Of the homeless population, surveys have shown that only 9% are living in shelters (Kok et al., 2010), (34% in Cape Town). Shelters provide the stepping stone between homelessness and employment and it is unlikely that one will be able to move out of homelessness without utilizing a shelter or being enrolled in a program to assist them first.

Research suggests that homing the chronically homeless or engaging in initiatives to alleviate homelessness is a potentially less costly endeavour than having homeless on the street (Gaetz, 2012). Homeless individuals cost the city millions annually in the form of ambulance call outs, hospitalization costs, incarceration and legal fees, as well as repeat drug rehabilitation efforts and numerous other costs that come as a result of the conditions on the streets (Gaetz, 2012). One of the biggest issues affecting people living on the streets is health. In comparison to the ‘homed’ public, homeless individuals are 29 times more likely to have hepatitis C, 5 times more likely to have heart disease, 4 times more likely to have respiratory issues and 3 times more likely to have arthritis, (Gaetz, 2012) and twice as likely to have Tuberculosis (Seager, Tamasane, 2008) (HIV figures unaccounted for). Individuals suffering from these ailments rely heavily on health services for treatment and are much more likely than the general public to make use of health services regularly. In a study including over 1000 homeless participants, more than 25% reported having



### **Policy on homelessness**

A number of By-laws exist in the city of Cape Town that further perpetuate the sense of illegitimacy of the homeless in the public realm, (Open by-laws South Africa, 2007.) These are as follows:

No person shall, in a public place:

- Urinate or defecate, except in a toilet.
- Bath or wash himself or herself, except in a public bath or shower.
- Perform any sexual act.
- Appear in the nude.
- Consume any liquor or drugs.
- Be drunk or be under the influence of drugs.
- Start or keep a fire.
- Sleep or camp overnight or erect any shelter.

Although these may seem reasonable laws for maintaining a sense of order in the public realm, if the space for these activities is not provided to those in need, these by-laws negate the ability for individuals to conduct life outside of the legitimate home. The City managed public toilets only operate between 08h00 and 18h00 daily, closing at night for safety.

Despite the implementation of the aforementioned by-laws, the city has also developed a policy for dealing with the issue of homelessness. Their mission includes; fostering the social upliftment, health and well-being of people living on the street, ensuring that street people are handled sensitively by law enforcement, promoting a collective handling of responsibilities between stakeholders working with street people, making government resources available for street people's rehabilitation, minimising the potential for those at risk of becoming homeless, consulting street people to aid in finding solutions, and ensuring the safety of people residing on the streets (Street people Policy, 2013). However, law enforcement on the homeless has been reported to be harsh. In September 2016, the City admitted to the law enforcement approach not being successful, and has begun exploring alternate approaches. The plan is to implement temporary shelter and sleeping spaces, referred to as "safe spaces" across the city. These are intended to be more approachable spaces, in which the attitude toward by-laws may be less stringent.

### **The lived experience**

Homeless individuals are almost constantly existing in the public, space and yet are often discounted as legitimate users of public space and are treated as "the other" in the only space they have available to them. (Mitchell, 2003). The unfortunate reality of homelessness is that, by lacking a home, there is a lack of space in which to conduct the private activities of the home. The public realm therefore becomes the place for ablutions, sleep, fellowship, intimacy etc. Activities that, in private, are considered as legitimate, however become illegitimate when carried out in public. (Mitchell, 2003). Furthermore, these illegitimated activities become criminalized, leaving homeless individuals in a position wherein, by criminalizing their basic needs, their existence on the streets is regarded a crime. Rather than addressing the reasons why people may end up sleeping on the streets, or attempting to eliminate homelessness, the focus shifts to eliminating the homeless from the public realm. A situation is created in which a significant number of citizens cannot simply be, because there is no place for them to be. (Mitchell, 2003)

Home is the most secure environment for the inhabitant. It is a truly personal space and a vessel for the occupant's identity. Home is a place of comfort and safety. The home should be solid and stable, offering certainty and protection against the unknown outside. For physical, as well as psychological comfort, the home creates a clear threshold between the inside and outside world. (Hill, 2006)

Individuals living on the streets lack this home, and therefore lack the most basic of amenities to cater for even their most basic needs. They face the unfortunate dilemma of finding ways to conduct their private activities in the public realm.

Below I discuss the major themes that arose from my research and interactions with homeless individuals. These are supplemented by first hand photographs and accounts of individuals on the journey of reintegration into society. The men go by pseudonyms Keith, Robin, and Matthew and their information is sourced from an Honours Thesis on Homelessness from the UCT Psychology department (Black, 2016). In order to obtain their full narratives, please [See appendix B].

### **Shelter & Safety**

There is great variance in the ways in which homeless individuals find shelter, factors such as mobility, job opportunity, funds, seasons, time available and connections have an impact on the type of shelter chosen.

Shelters can be as simple as cardboard boxes or benches, and range to small shacks, tents, and vacant homes. The level of permanence of the shelter most commonly depends on the length of time an individual has been/ expects to be on the street.

Individuals described feeling unsafe and uncertain when sleeping in the open as they were unsure who could be trusted. One of the Individuals I spoke to on the street was part of a group of homeless men and women who stayed together for security. They would often sleep in view of houses to provide a sense of safety, with the hope that someone would come to their aid in the event of an emergency. He described the anxiety of lying awake in fear, and explained that himself and his friends had turned to alcohol to give them courage, and allow them to fall asleep. One of the women in the group explained the necessity of being in a group with men, as she and most of the women she knew on the street had been sexually assaulted numerous times.



Figure 2

“This is what sleeping outside was like before I moved into the shelter: it was very cold, it wasn’t safe so I couldn’t sleep well, sometimes the police would come and chase me away, or my own friends would steal my things while I was asleep. In the day I had to carry all my belongings with me, especially my bedding, I didn’t have anywhere to put them or a place that was my own. If my things were taken, I had to try and find more blankets before the next night, otherwise I only had cardboard to sleep on.”

### **Storage**

In the above excerpt, Keith touches on the struggle it was to keep his belongings safe. For the majority of homeless individuals, everything they own is on the streets with them. This includes important documents such as ID books which are difficult to replace. It is extremely difficult for them to be carrying their belongings continuously as they are generally quite mobile throughout the day. They seek places such as manholes and dustbins to store/hide their belongings. Robin describes, how whilst on the street he had to keep a backpack on him at all times, and celebrates that now he has a locker of his own at the shelter he stays in.



Figure 3

“Before I had to live out of a backpack. Now I have my own personal space where I can store my clothing and toiletries. I have a laundry to wash my clothes in rather than have to throw clothes away when dirty. Keeping my locker neat and tidy is part of taking pride in what I have.”

### **Bathing & Ablutions**

The place of ablution often varies according to the available water sources, the preferred source being legitimate ablution facilities. Public ablutions are commonly used, however, the facilities run by the City only operate in the day, and the homeless are often refused access/ chased away from them. This results in them performing their ablutions in the public realm. Alleyways and nooks out of the public eye are most commonly used. The issue is particularly difficult for women as they lack access to sanitary towels and are forced to make do with whatever materials they have available. For bathing, they are forced to rely on rivers and water features. This presents a challenge in winter, and often has an adverse effect on health. Below, Robin explains that he would heat up water in a tin can over a fire in the morning to wash himself. Now that he is in a shelter, he celebrates the joy of being able to shower.



Figure 4

“Before, it was very unpleasant to clean yourself because of the weather conditions and cold water in the rivers, or I had to make effort for warm water. I would make a fire in the forest and use that to heat water in a large tin. This was very time consuming. Everything took time and effort... Now I have the privilege of standing under a warm shower, now I don't have to go out of my way to get clean. Life is good!”

### **Laundry**

Like bathing, washing clothes is a difficult, but necessary task for homeless individuals. They usually have very few items of clothing, which therefore need to be washed frequently. Similar locations are used for washing clothes as those used for bathing.

Keith also shares his experience of bathing and washing his clothing in the cold Liesbeeck river.



Figure 5

“The river was my laundry room, my bathroom and my shower, it was ridiculously cold but it was the only thing we had to keep clean. There were days when it was too cold to clean, but if you didn’t then you gonna start smelling and pick up lice.”

### **Income**

Giving those coming off the street an opportunity to earn their own income, or fund their stay at the shelter is useful as it allows them to regain a sense of responsibility and autonomy. For example, OBSID (Observatory Improvement District) paid these participants below a stipend of which some of the money went to the Loaves and Fishes shelter where they were staying. The individuals found it to be incredibly empowering as they had little opportunity to work whilst on the streets.



Figure 6

“This is me working. I love what I am doing, especially in my area, most of the residents say good morning to me, a lady comes out on her morning jog; “Good morning, Keith! How are you doing? Thank-you for keeping our streets clean”. I didn’t have that before. I worked as a car guard before (while he was homeless) and not everyone respected me, I felt like they chose not to see me. Now that I’m working I’m not invisible anymore.”

### **Integration**

Moving from the psychological and physical space of being on the streets back into society is not an easy change. Many people have become so accustomed to the lifestyle of the street that integrating into what society deems as normal life can take time. One needs to remember that a homeless person often ended up on the streets due to the failing of societal support structures, thus getting them to trust and be a part of society again is far more complicated than just handing them a job and a place to stay. Social workers know this fact well, and thus programs are put in place to create a step by step process.

As an example of this, Loaves and Fishes shelter gives residents the opportunity to take part in a life skills and reunification program, which aids them in their relationships with their families and co-workers as well as teaching them how to overcome difficulties such as conflict resolution.

Keith shows an image of his certificate after graduating from the Brightstar program. Family members were invited to this event. Giving people an opportunity to do something which they can succeed in and be proud of is a very effective way of helping them gain confidence to re-enter society. An important part of reintegration is to ensure that people are upskilled so that they are able to find jobs once they are back in society.



Figure 7

“This is a photo of my graduation from the Brightstar Life Skills Program.”

### Healing

It is important to remember that a homeless person was most likely to experience trauma which resulted in them ending up on the streets, and once on the streets, the way of life itself is traumatic. Hence, a very important part of the reintegration process is allowing people to be in an environment where they can heal.

Most shelters offer counselling services. Loaves and Fishes shelter also have an exercise program which participants reported to have helped them whilst overcoming addiction.

Other modes of healing are simpler. Participants spoke of the impact that being in a positive communal space of the shelter had on them, and an example of this is described by Robin in Figure 8.

Another of the participants spoke of how empowering it was to volunteer in the nightly soup kitchen at the shelter. Having people who are living in a shelter helping those on the street empowers the volunteers, but also inspires and encourages those on the street to make changes for themselves.



Figure 8

“Living on the streets, when I got angry there was no one to talk to, we weren’t spiritually strong so instead I went to use drugs to suppress my negative emotions, drugs just put me in a positive vibe, then I would stay awake the whole night, getting up to no good. Being at the pool table takes me out of the bad space, I start to socialise with my friends. I start positive conversations with other people, this helps absorb the negative energy and put me in a good space.”

### Interacting with the city

In an attempt to understand how individuals living on the street resolved the aforementioned challenges, I engaged in conversations with homeless individuals residing in my area of interest. The following are snippets of the lives of some of these individuals, highlighting their substitutes for elements of the home, on the street. Figure 9 represents the movements of these individuals, and shows where some of the substitute activities were observed. For the purpose of anonymity, identifiable information has been excluded.

#### Lady 1

- Sleeps with a small group of people on Glynn street for safety.
- Always keeps her belongings with her.
- Uses toilets in the Company Gardens when available, or finds a hidden space.
- Eats at the Service Dining Rooms, (a soup kitchen in town) or shares with friends.
- Occasionally begs on Roeland and Buitenkant street.
- Makes use of water collected from the ablution facilities to bathe.

#### Man 2

- Lives on empty plot in temporary shelter with companion. (has since been evicted).
- Has a good relationship with surrounding businesses.
- Receives meals from businesses.
- Earns an income by making and selling wooden boxes.
- Makes use of a local business's toilets.
- Occasionally eats at the Service Dining rooms.
- Keeps belongings in shelter with companion who chose not to interact.

#### Man 1

- Sleeps with a small group of people on Glynn street.
- Uses toilets in Company Gardens and Gardens centre.
- Walks the streets with a cart, collecting recycling from bins to sell to Harrington Buy Back Centre.
- Buys food to share, or eats at the Service Dining Rooms.
- Makes use of water collected from ablution facilities to bathe.
- Carries belongings, or leaves them with lady 1.

#### Man 3

- Sleeps near Buitenkant street or in company gardens.
- Stores belongings in a man-hole
- Walks to Rose street on week days in search of labour work.
- Uses Company gardens and Greenmarket square toilets.
- Uses income for food and alcohol.
- Occasionally guards cars when he has the opportunity.
- Visits various soup kitchens including Service Dining Rooms and Bread 4 Life.



Figure 9

### Pathways off the street

The City of Cape Town's research outlines five stages leading to successfully exiting the streets (Hendricks et al, 2015). These stages are helpful to understand as they give insight into the needs of individuals at varying stages of leaving the street, and inform the architectural interventions necessary to engage with individuals at these various stages. They are as follows:

#### “Precipitating factors”

These are the factors that first instigate the desire to find an alternative to life on the streets. Dissatisfaction with the tediousness of life on the street is a common instigator.

#### “Courage to change”

This stage is the initial turning point that involves making the conscious decision to leave the streets. This often involves admitting to having an issue or addiction and desiring freedom from it. It is of utmost importance that the right help is found once this decision has been made so as to ease the temptation of reverting back to life on the street. Providing an intermediary space of engagement would help encourage the desire to change and make change accessible.

#### “Securing help”

This is the beginning of re-establishing a support structure. This may be family, friends, organisations, government initiatives or work programs that make returning to the streets a less enticing option. Receiving psychological and physical support at this point drastically aids the process. The space for such support to be facilitated and accessible is important for a successful intervention.

#### “Transitioning from the street”

This stage involves a disengagement from life on the street. It is often necessary for the individual to extract themselves from the context in which they were staying, thus relocation is recommended. It is important that the individual finds the right support that can aid their specific circumstances, as ineffective support can be detrimental to the exiting process. This support is most commonly in the form of enrolling in a program or shelter. Therefore, it is necessary to provide a space for assessment and referral into an appropriate program, suited to the individual.

#### “Changing routine”

The individual's routine must undergo reformation. This requires a disconnect from the activities performed on the street, and a focus on the future. An individual at this stage should be engaging in employment opportunities, education and living in a transitional shelter.

#### “Successful exiting”

The culmination of these steps result in the successful exiting of life on the street. It is a long journey of re-establishing self reliance and control, and often involves numerous parties of support (Hendricks et al, 2015).

### Facilitating a network

In order for the aforementioned process to be successful, collaboration amongst existing role-players in the field of homelessness is necessary. There is a call for the upgrading of existing resources and infrastructure as a means of strengthening the systems that are already in place rather than replacing them, (De Beer, Vally, 2015). In the City of Cape Town, it is being recommended that the City leads an initiative to branch out to all organisations involved in homelessness and plan collectively for reducing the prevalence of homelessness, (Hendricks et al, 2015).

My proposal therefore, is to supplement the existing network of organisations through means of creating a central point of referral that is linked to and receives information from all the role-players in the field of homelessness. This will streamline the process of placing individuals in the relevant shelter or program according to their needs, and avoid the issue faced by individuals of being turned away by shelters that are full without being given an alternative, accessible option.

Figure 10 highlights the location of existing organisations involved in the alleviation of homelessness in the City., many of which operate in isolation.

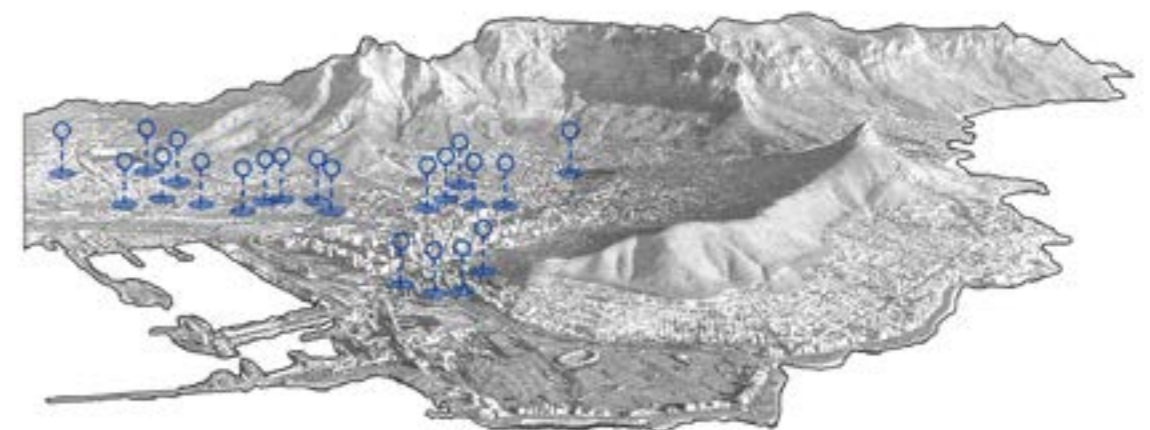


Figure 10

### Existing solutions

There are numerous organisations involved in dealing with homelessness scattered throughout Cape Town. It is important to know how these existing organisations operate to understand what resources are available as well as what is lacking. The primary focus of these organisations vary, and therefore what may be an appropriate place to seek help for one individual may not be for another. A selection of organisations were profiled [Appendix A] to highlight the varying degrees of support available.

Shelters are generally divided into three tiers, The Haven Night Shelter network is an example of first tier shelters. These can be considered the first point of entry into the shelter system. They are primarily used as a form of immediate relief from the street, offering a range of services, including the immediate needs (shelter, meals, ablutions) as well as Rehabilitation, Social Welfare Services, Family reunification services, Physical Care and Support.

Second tier shelters, for example, Loaves and Fishes focus on individuals that have proven to be committed to leaving the streets, and aim to give them the grounding to do so. These shelters generally require individuals to stay for a longer period, and incorporate opportunities to learn skills and earn an income through internal or external programs. Unlike some first tier shelters, they charge a monthly fee for their services, (often earned through the work programs provided).

Third tier shelters such as the Carpenter's Shop aim to be the final step before fully reintegrating into society. They offer an element of independence and require a degree of self sufficiency. Individuals stay for long periods and receive job training and employment opportunities.

Additionally, non-shelter organisations such as U-turn Homeless Ministries exist. These do not operate as shelters, but aim to provide services to the homeless to aid them in exiting the streets. U-turn for example offers clothing and meals to the homeless as a means of establishing a connection with the individuals. Their main focus however is the rehabilitation of these individuals through occupational therapy and up-skilling programs.



Figure 11

# Siting an intervention

Figure 12 refers to the process of exploring the city in search of an appropriate site to begin testing the idea of engaging homelessness through a speculative architectural design. One that would allow me to work with existing infrastructure and facilitate a network, as well as engage with homeless individuals on varying levels.

The path shown depicts the route I walked through the city, following a section correlating with the focus of the sCapes design research studio. This journey revealed to me the spread and number of homeless individuals across the city, and the extent of the issue. Various sites were earmarked for their proximity to gatherings of homeless individuals and surrounding organisations as well as their state of disuse. I deemed the Hope street site to be the most appropriate for the following reasons:

### Context

The site is located amongst a unique mix of establishments, including; churches, NGOs, workshops, schools, small businesses, and most noticeably “back of house” government facilities such as car storage garages and parking lots, leaving the immediate area almost void of activity in the evening aside from the homeless individuals inhabiting the streets. Of particular interest is the presence of NGOs in the surrounding areas that deal with the issues faced by the homeless.

### Support

As previously mentioned, a support system is integral to the process of exiting of the streets. The proximity of the site to NGO’s and salvation army offer an opportunity to tap into a network of existing resources and role players in the realm of homelessness.

### Land use

The open portion of land is owned by the City of Cape Town, and, when the lock is broken, functions illegally as a parking lot run by one of the homeless individuals living in the area. The land is un-zoned, unused and has not been earmarked for development or improvement by the city. The potential to link to, or work within the salvation army also exists. The existing building does not use the full extent of its site and has zoning rights to extend.

### Scale

The combination of the pieces of land are an appropriate scale for the implementation of small interventions to work with the existing infrastructure as well as create new public space.

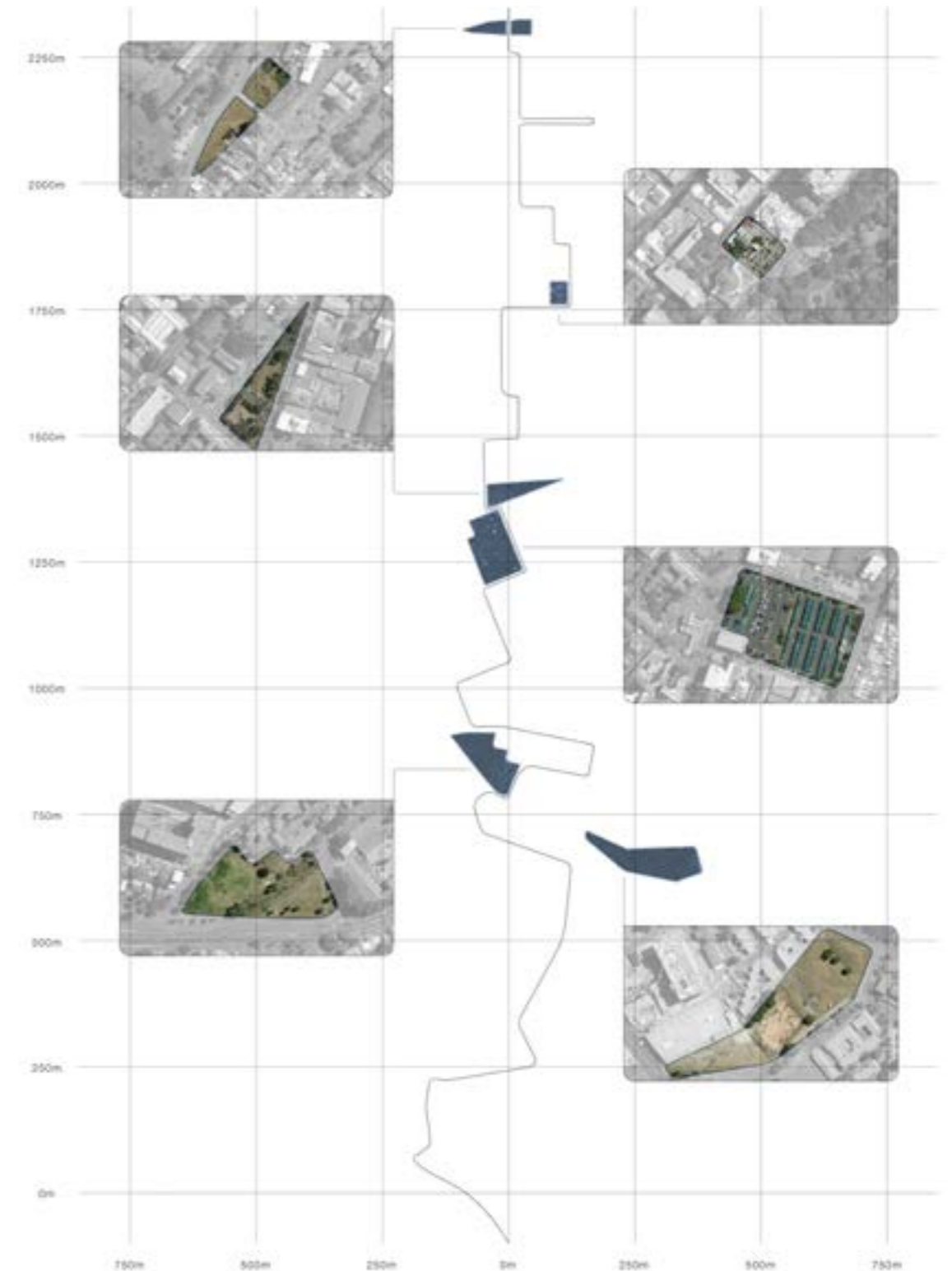


Figure 12

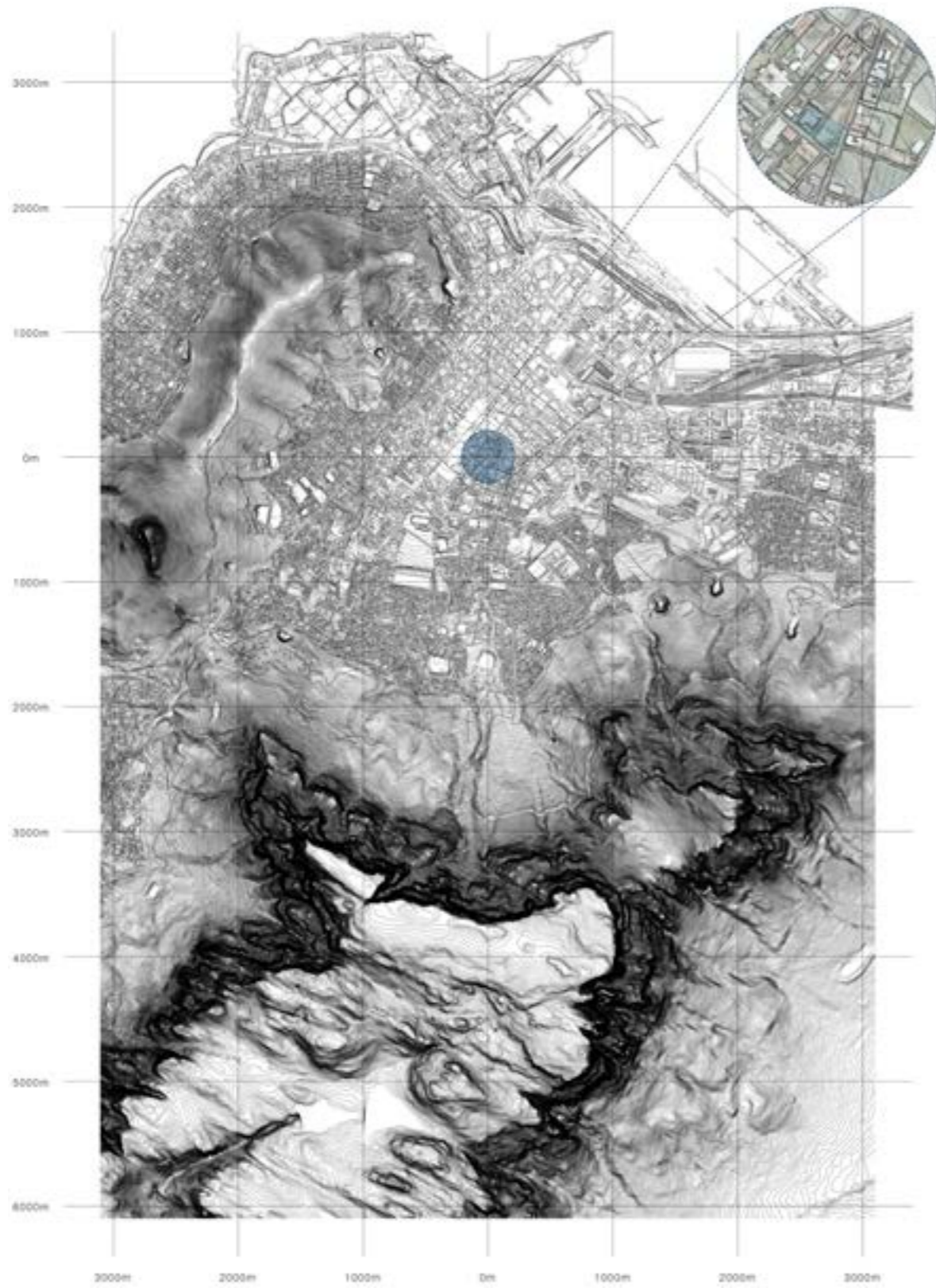


Figure 13

The site is located centrally in the city bowl. The blue ringed area falls within the ward with the highest rates of homelessness in the City.

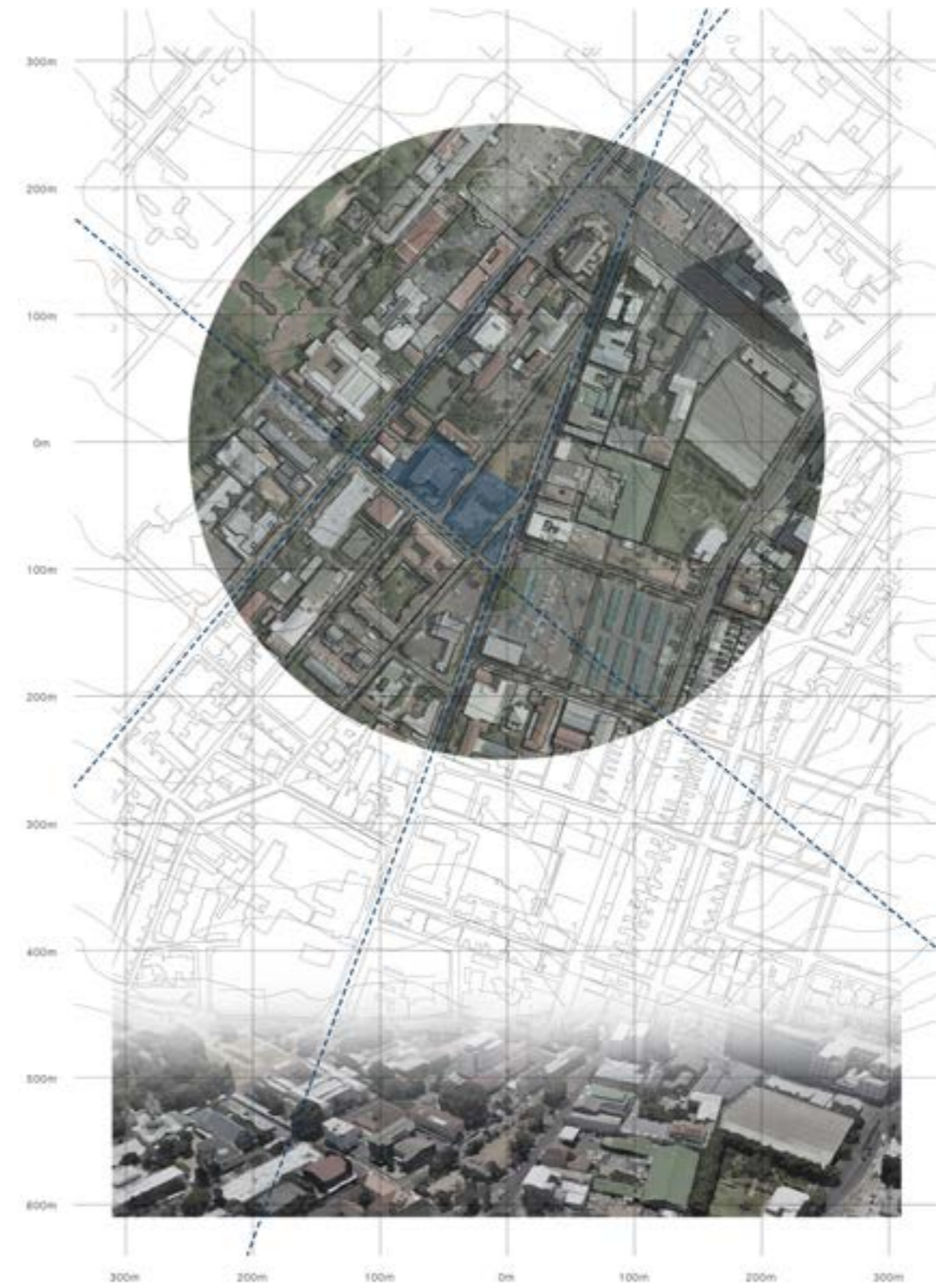


Figure 14

The blue highlighted zone is the initial zone of interest, which includes a functioning park. The actual zone of interest ends at the park boundary.



Figure 15

- 
**Homelessness**
  - Embrace Dignity
  - The Carpenter's Shop
  - Street People's Forum
  
- 
**Trades**
  - Canterbury Car Service
  - 1 Stop Auto House
  - Monaco Auto Services
  - Auto Bumper & Dash
  - CK Coachworks Express
  - Maxwoods Framers & Guilders
  - James Mudge Furniture
  - White Rabbit Wash House
  - West coast paper traders
  - Gardens Nursery
  - Hope street marketers
  
- 
**Education**
  - City Varsity
  - Gardens Commercial High School
  - St Mary's Primary School
  - Good Hope Seminary High School
  - French High School
  
- 
**Religious**
  - Bened Cere Church
  - Cathedral of St. Mary
  - Roman Catholic Metro Archdiocese
  - Jesus friends fellowship
  - Harrington Street Congregational
  - Dominican Convents
  
- 
**Healthcare**
  - Hope St Dental Clinic
  - Robbie Nurock Day Hospital
  
- 
**Parking**
  - Government motor transport
  - Government Parking

Figure 15 highlights the types of establishments present in the immediate context surrounding the site of interest.

Site sun diagram

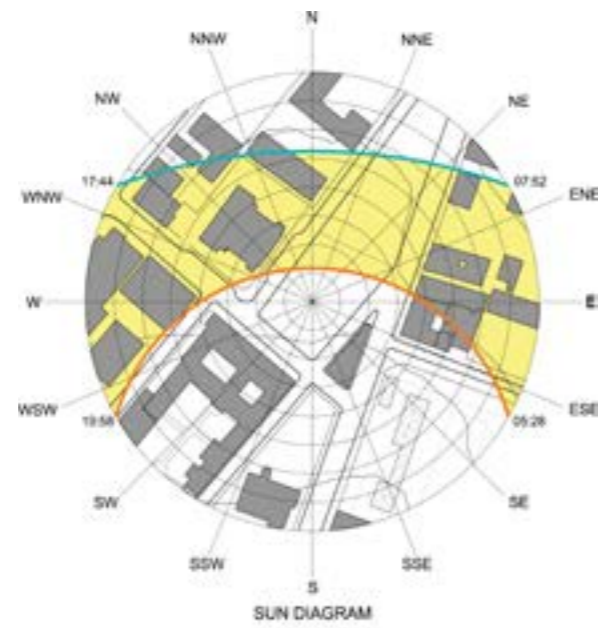


Figure 16

The prevailing summer wind is the South Easter. The addition of the small triangular building as shown would aid in calming wind funnelling down Hope street.

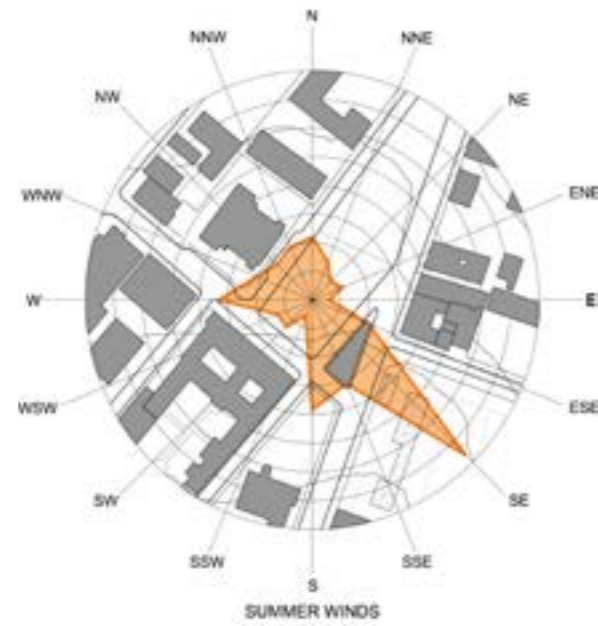


Figure 17

The prevailing winter wind is the North Wester, this should be taken into consideration when designing the external spaces.

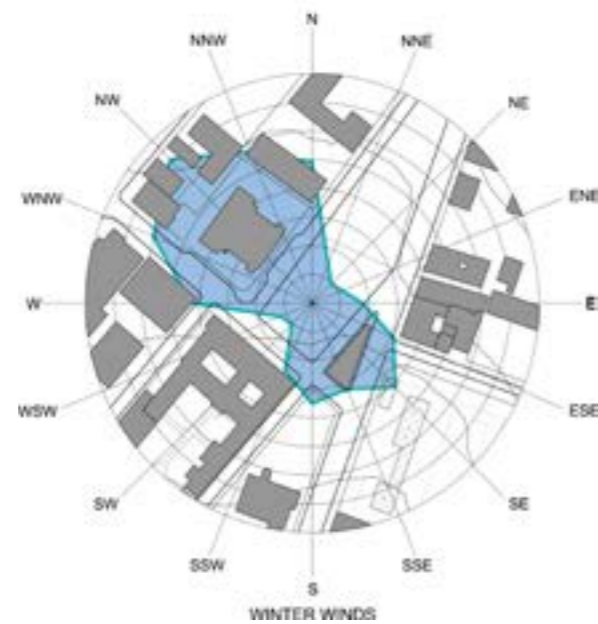


Figure 18

Existing vegetation

Figure 19 & 20



**Red river gum**  
 Status: Invasive species  
 Average Height: 30m  
 Root impact: Destructive



**Sugar gum**  
 Status: Invasive species  
 Average Height: 15m  
 Root impact: Destructive

Figure 21 & 22



**Hibiscus**  
 Status: Invasive species  
 Average Height: 2.5m  
 Root impact: None



**London plane**  
 Status: Invasive species  
 Average Height: 15m  
 Root impact: Destructive

Figure 23 & 24



**Golden wattle**  
 Status: Invasive species  
 Average Height: 8m  
 Root impact: Minor



**Sago palm**  
 Status: Invasive species  
 Average Height: 8m  
 Root impact: Minor

Figure 25

**Recommendation:**

**White Karee**  
 Status: Indigenous  
 Average Height: 8m  
 Root impact: Minor

**Fynbos variations**  
 Status: Indigenous  
 Average Height: Varies  
 Root impact: None



Site photographs

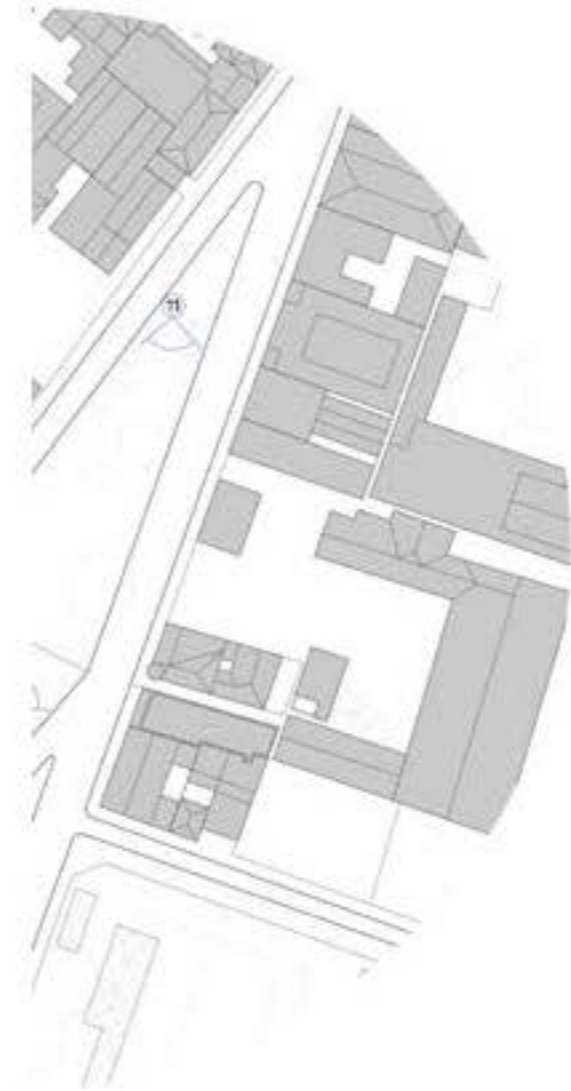




Figure 27 - East



Figure 28 - West



Figure 29 - North



Figure 30 - South

The Salvation army citadel corps building on the site continues the Salvation Army architectural style. It is a simple face brick and concrete structure constructed in 1969-71. The building sits centrally on the site, leaving much room for expansion within the site boundaries if necessary.

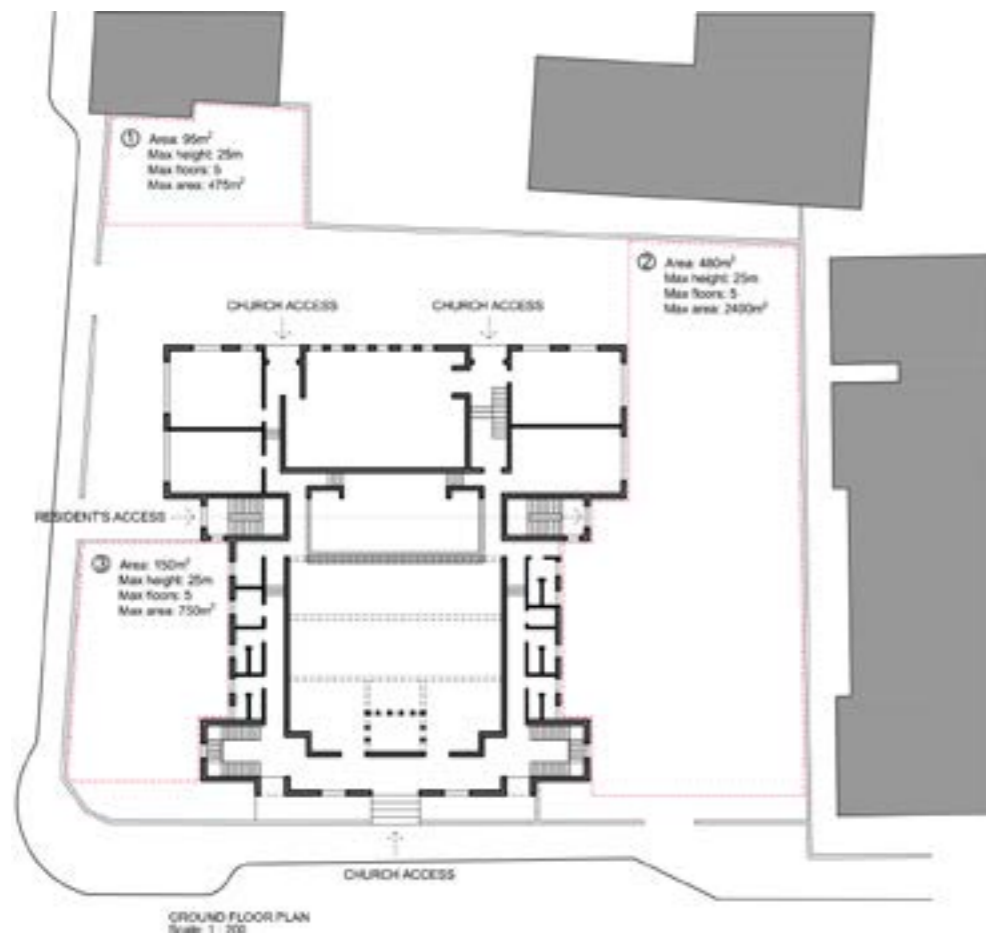


Figure 31

The existing building has the potential to expand into the three areas shown in figure 31, allowing for minor additions aimed at working with the existing architecture to enhance the building's functionality.

The ground floor currently functions primarily as a church twice a week. In addition to this, it includes Salvation army office space. Primary access to the ground floor is through the North West and South East sides of the building. The ground floor includes a large double volume hall and stage, a minor hall, office space, and ablutions.

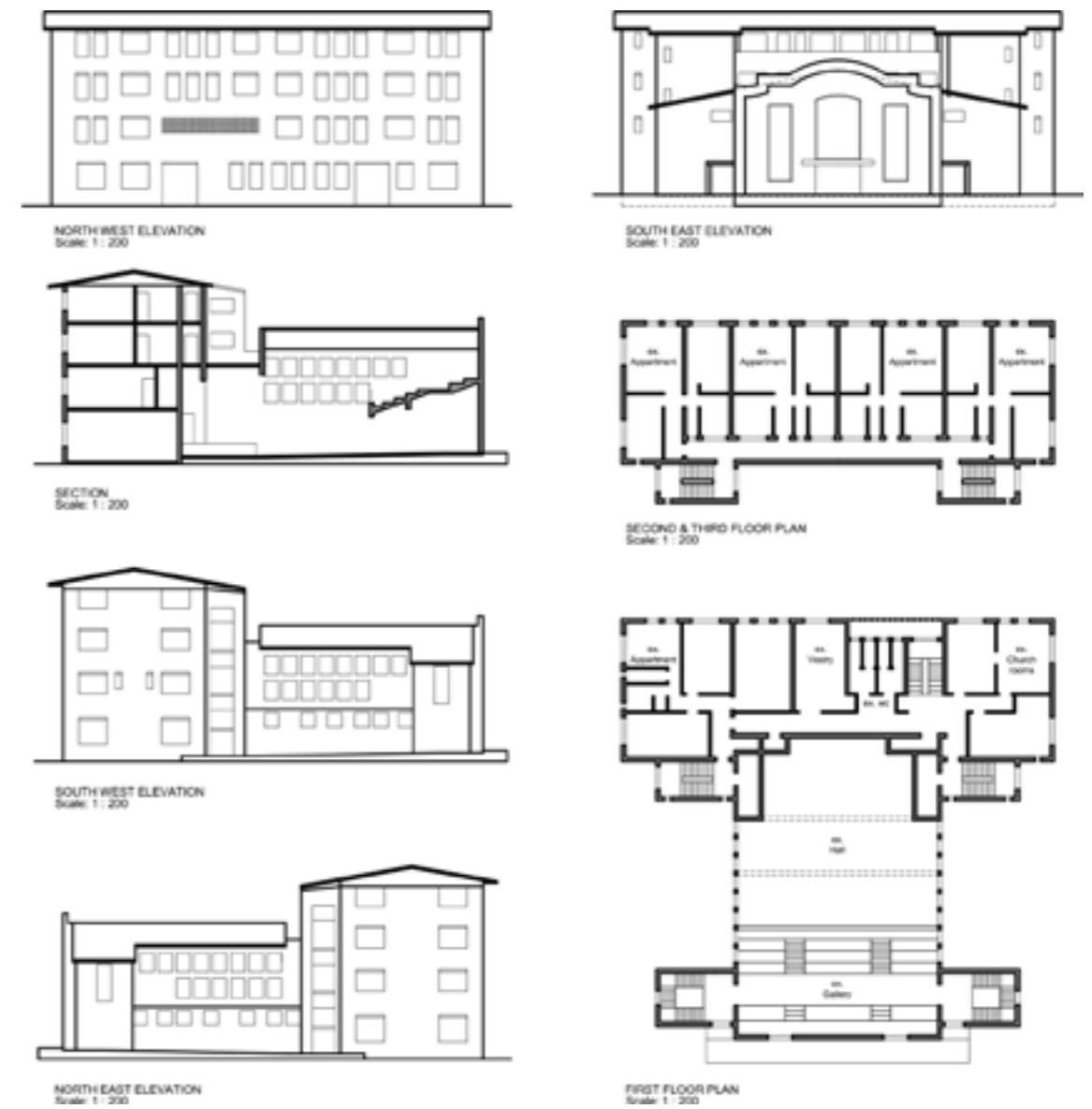


Figure 32

The first floor includes private rooms for the church and church staff, a single apartment for staff, storage space, and staff ablutions.

The third and fourth floors have four 1 bedroom apartments, primarily aimed at housing pensioners, or congregates in need. Access to these apartments is separate to that of the church building, with access to stairwells on the North East and South West sides of the building.



Figure 33 - Existing salvation army building 3D

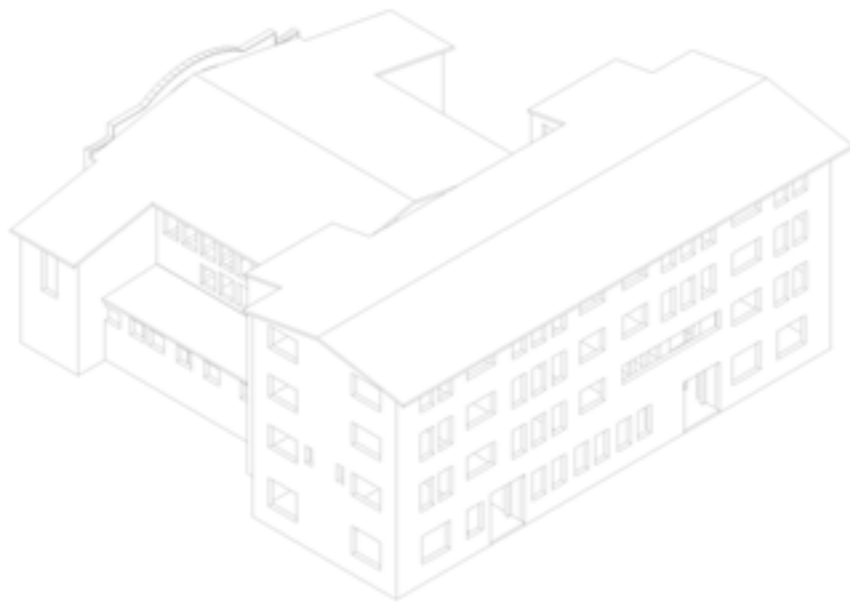


Figure 34 - Existing salvation army building 3D

Site potential

Figure 35

Existing Salvation Army building on site without additions.

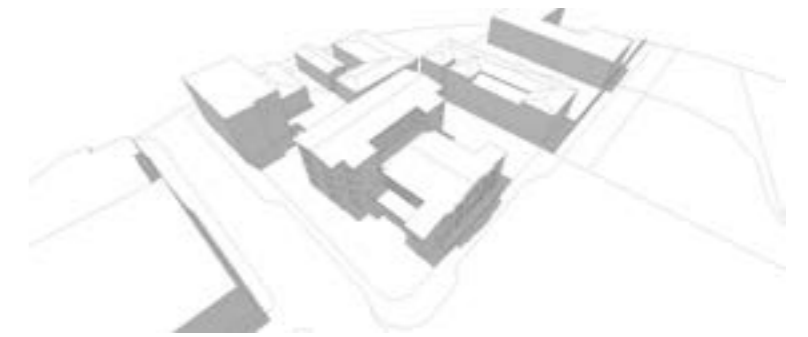


Figure 36

Small scale interventions into spaces surrounding existing building.



Figure 37

Medium scale interventions adding to existing building and surrounds.



Figure 38

Large scale intervention extending existing building and maximising bulk.



# Engaging Homelessness

The design proposal for engaging homelessness can be broken down into 3 sections; primary engagement, referral, and healing. All dealing with different aspects of the lived experience of homelessness as highlighted in the aforementioned themes.



Figure 39

## 1 Primary engagement

This deals with the first point of engagement and contact with homeless individuals, by providing for their immediate needs. This engagement would potentially be an example of the type of interventions that the City is planning on implementing, known as “safe spaces”. The following are addressed in this section.

### 1 Safety

Safety is achieved through the stationing of a watchman on the site to act as a figure of security. This requires the implementation of a space to accommodate the watchman that is visible across the site, but is not an imposing presence.

### 2 Shelter

As a part of the city’s proposed network of “safe spaces” the highlighted platforms within the public square incorporate elements that offer low level, immediate relief from exposure. The spaces serve as temporary and emergency respite from the streets.

### 3 Storage

In addition to offering space for respite, the platforms also includes lockable storage elements.

### Ablutions

### 4 Food

The public building would be run by an organisation which operates as a diner during the day, serving lunch and coffee to the surrounding businesses. Income from the diner will be used to supplement an evening soup kitchen for the homeless. Vegetables for the diner will be grown within the above mentioned platforms. Previously homeless individuals who are now in shelters and are further along in their reintegration into society will be trained and employed by the diner, thus creating a way to earn a small income and up-skill them.

### 5 Washing

Adjoining the Salvation army building is a washing block that will operate during daylight hours. It will simply house basins for washing, and drying space overhead.



Figure 40

## 2 Referral

### Integrating

Individuals using the safe spaces, will have the opportunity to have their needs assessed and be referred to an appropriate shelter or rehabilitation program (6).

The referral program will network with a number of different shelters and rehabilitation centres and attempt to send an individual to the one most suited to their needs.

Importantly, individuals using the space are given complete autonomy over whether they take part in the referral program and can utilise the safe space regardless of their choice. The option of referral will also always be available but not enforced

Second and third tier shelters often offer programs which allow their residents to earn an income or at least pay towards their accommodation in the shelter. Once referred, participants can take part in this work. This is an important part of up-skilling and gaining responsibility over one's life, making it easier to reintegrate into society.



Figure 41

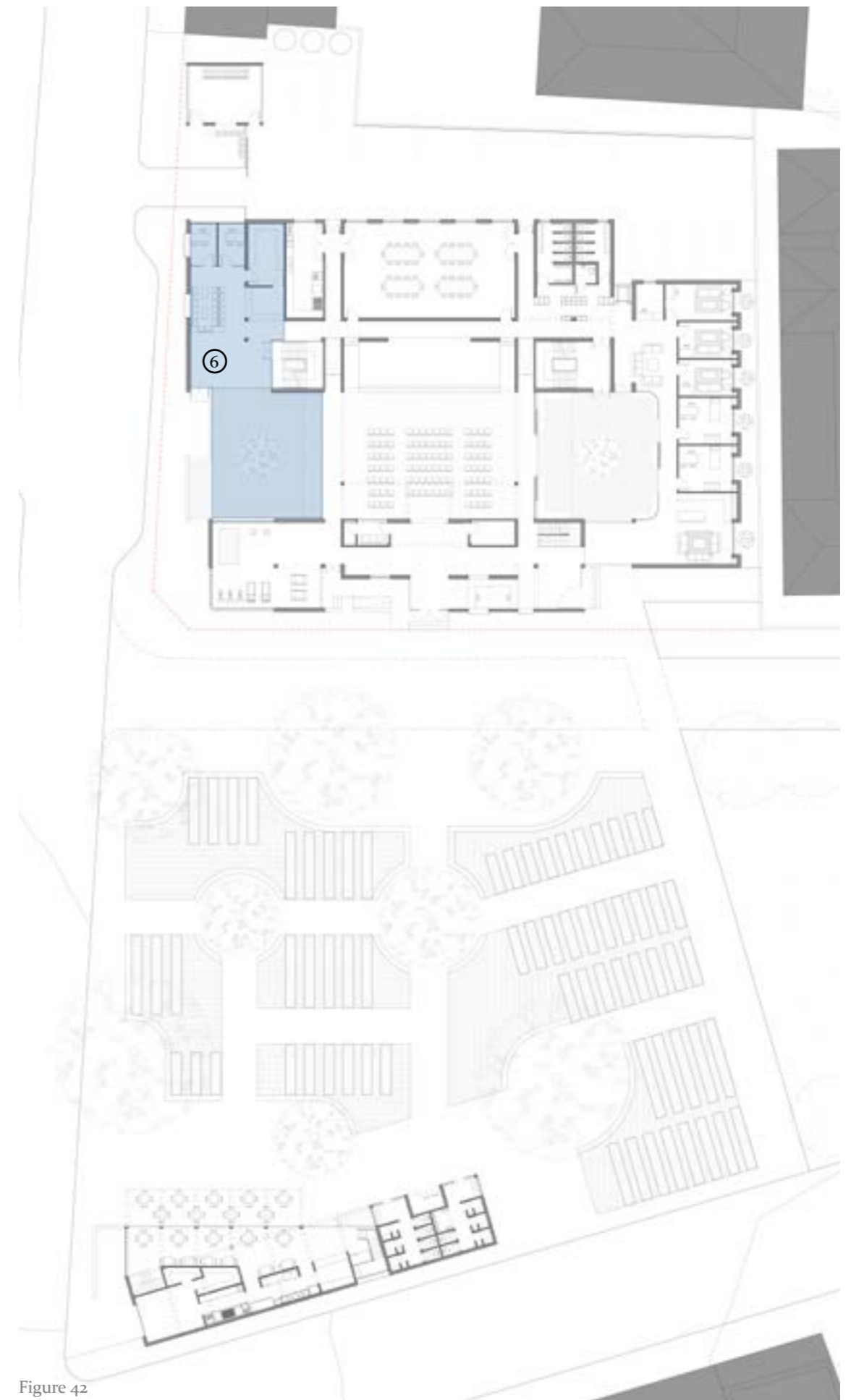


Figure 42

### 3 Healing

Research has revealed that counselling and Occupational Therapy are both effective tools for aiding individuals in leaving the street. The additions to the Salvation Army building will house these services (7).

These additions are inward focussing and intimate spaces, set away from busier, more public portion of the building, with the exception of a light activity room (8). The counselling and occupational therapy rooms circulate around an intimate courtyard(9). Elements of the courtyard surrounds are permeable, yet obscured, allowing for an amount of vision through them, whilst maintaining privacy.



Figure 43



Figure 44



Figure 45

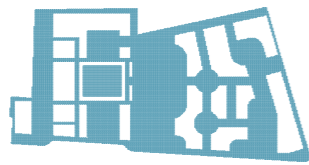
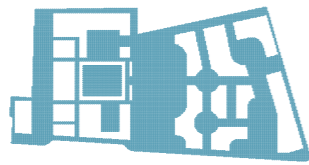
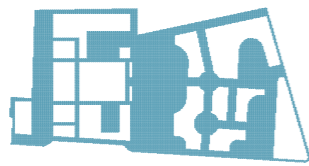


Figure 46

### Surface

Here I experiment with nolli diagrams to define the public-private thresholds. I attempt to pull the public space through means of surface treatment into the more intimate spaces within the building in order to indicate these spaces as being accessible to all and an extension of the safe space. The surface acts as an element of continuity that ties the entire scheme together. The surface material remains constant, however a shift in function is indicated through a change in material treatment.

Figure 49 illustrates this change in treatment. (1) Highlighting right of way or important routes is defined by a change of direction of the material. (2) A change in function is shown through a change in material scale. (3) Intersecting vegetation marks a boundary or point of rest. (4) A change to roughness as a means of slowing vehicular movement. (5) Extruding surface elements to create a boundary. (6) A clear break to indicate the end of a zone.

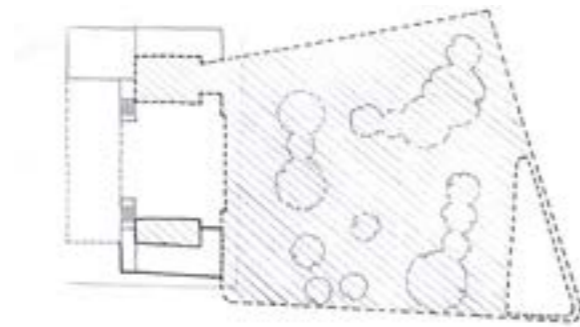


Figure 47

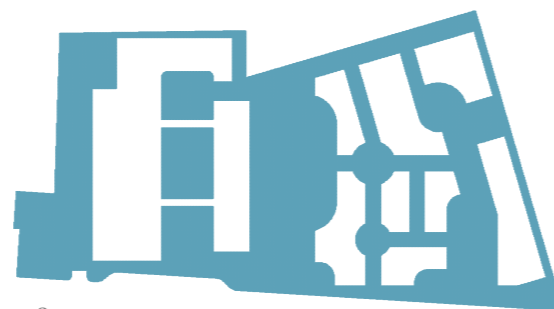


Figure 48

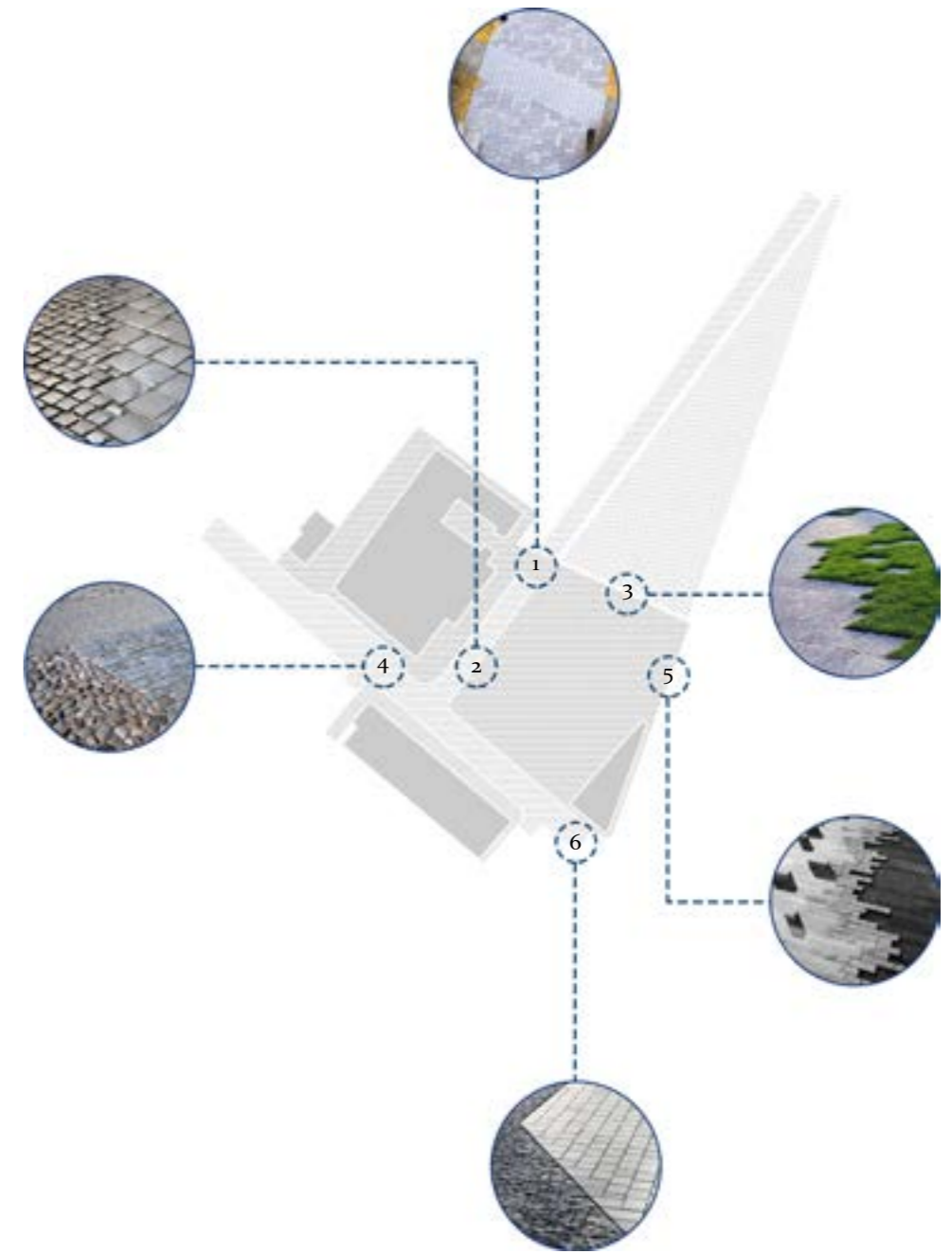


Figure 49

### Dealing with existing infrastructure

Part of my proposal deals with working within the confines of the existing Salvation Army site and building. Using a structure that is already in place is hugely advantageous from a cost and feasibility perspective. Programs addressing the social issue of homelessness rely heavily on donations and the small portion of government funding allocated to them. For my intervention to be feasible, using a structure that is already in place is not only helpful, but necessary if it is to be attainable. Furthermore, part of the Salvation Army's mission is to relieve poverty (The Salvation Army, 2015). Thus, the issue of homelessness should already fall within their scope of mission. Instead of creating another homeless program that works in isolation, facilitating a network within existing infrastructure through the use of architectural intervention is a more practical, realistic and therefore more effective solution.

Working with an existing structure, though advantageous, does have challenges which need to be addressed. The salvation army is associated with the Christian faith. The religious association of the building may make it seem repelling if individuals seeking help assume that acceptance of the Christian faith is a prerequisite for receiving aid. On the contrary, Christian Doctrine on helping the poor does not discriminate between those who share their religion. However, the building's representation of this through its domineering, institutional façade, makes it intimidating to approach. Considering that homeless individuals may have an aversion to approaching an institutional structure, ensuring that the building appears approachable is essential. Additions will therefore not continue in the Salvation Army theme of mass face-brick. The additions do however need to respect the integrity and character of the building as it falls within a heritage protection zone. Therefore, a method of addition that pulls off, or punctures existing forms lightly will be used as shown in figure 50.

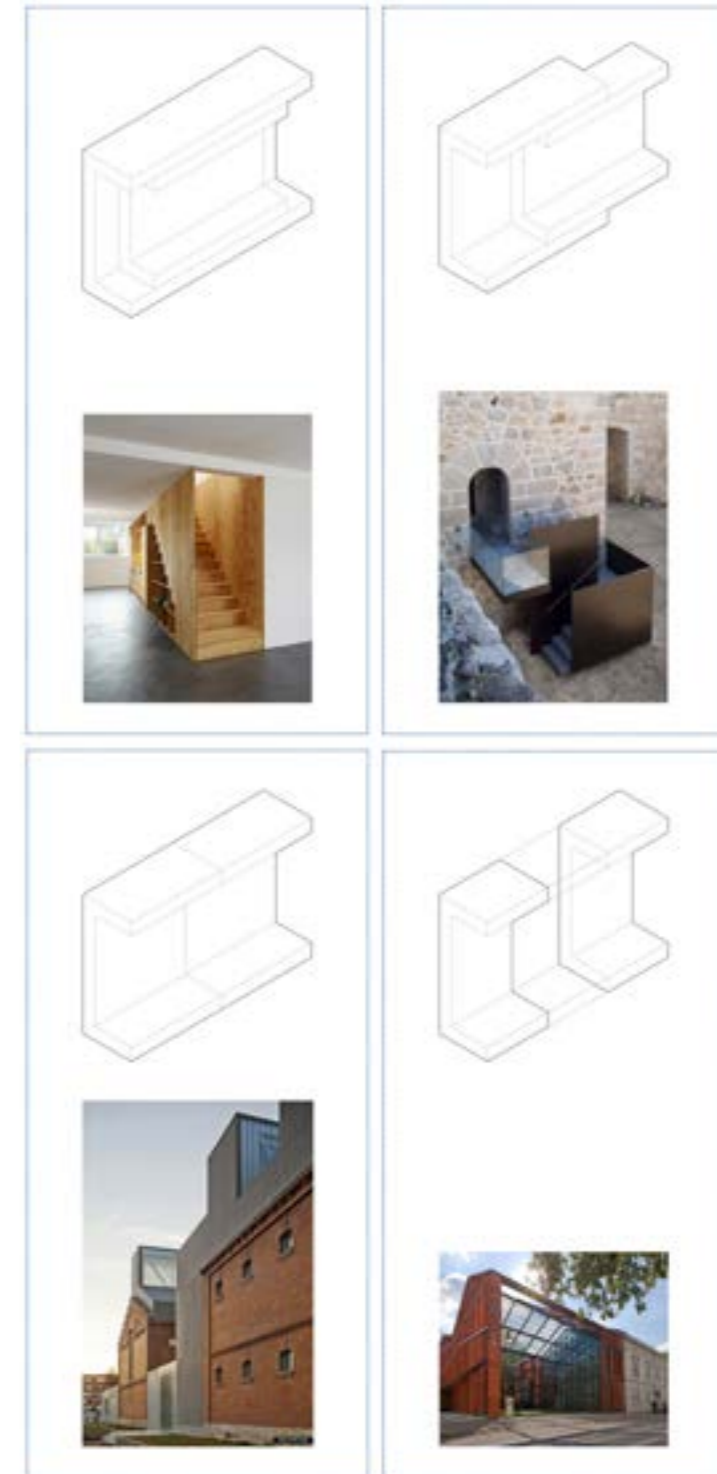


Figure 50

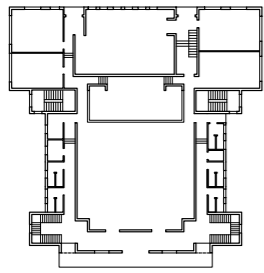


Figure 51

### Breaking a mass

The Existing salvation army building is an inward focusing mass of face-brick. The main hall lacks a connection to the outside, and only receives light from high level windows. Furthermore, the existing staircases do not comply with fire and accessibility regulations. I am therefore proposing that the ablutions that flank the main hall and the existing staircases be removed, as indicated in figure 52.

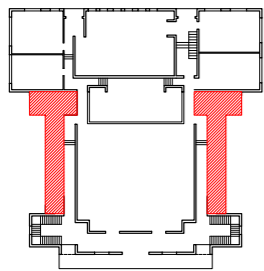


Figure 52

The removal of the ablutions open the main hall to the external spaces, allowing for light and sight into the space, as well as permeability through the entire building, as depicted in figure 53.

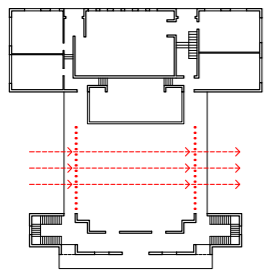


Figure 53

Additions are then made by pulling planes off the existing building, creating new threshold layers and enclosing space as needed, as indicated in figure 54. The additions on the left create an open courtyard space, accessible from street to serve the referrals portion of the building. The additions on the right enclose around a courtyard forming intimate space for the counselling and occupational therapy.

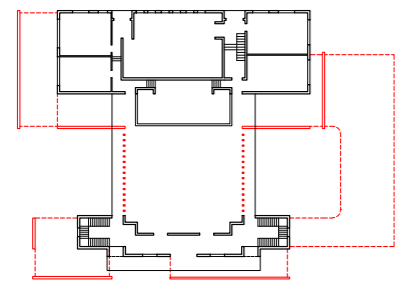


Figure 54

The elevation process sketches on the adjacent page were part of a process of attempting to break the mass of the existing building whilst simultaneously respecting its character. I aimed to achieve this by continuing on existing forms and planes, and pulling them off the existing facade, or effectively, setting the original facade back and diminishing the face-brick mass.



Figure 55

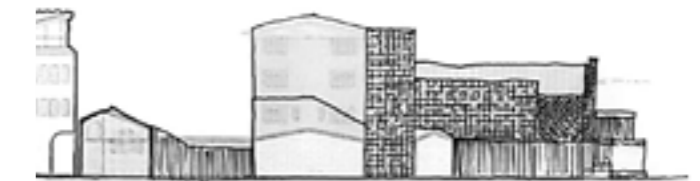
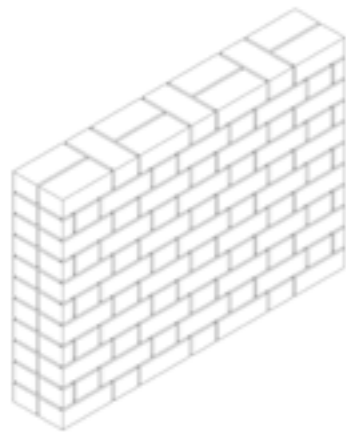


Figure 56



**Materiality**

The above additions need to allow for permeability from the outside thus increasing a sense of transparency and approachability, whilst simultaneously maintaining a sense of privacy from within.

To achieve this, the following materials are used; Externally, I make use of grey block-work laid in Stretcher bond. This laying pattern allows for perforation to be built into the block-work, to allow for permeability where needed (Figure 57). Furthermore, this material creates a contrast between the new addition and the existing face brick which succeeds in diminishing the mass of the existing brickwork, and allowing the richness of the red face brick to come through in highlights rather than the whole façade. Figure 58 portrays the desired effect.

On the internal courtyard, light timber screening is used in conjunction with glazing to create a warmth and softness to the internal spaces. This warmth and softness will be further perpetuated through the use of planted seating. Figure 59 illustrates the material variations, and shows how openings and closure are achieved. Where there is need for permeability as well as closure from the elements, glazing is implemented behind the screening device.

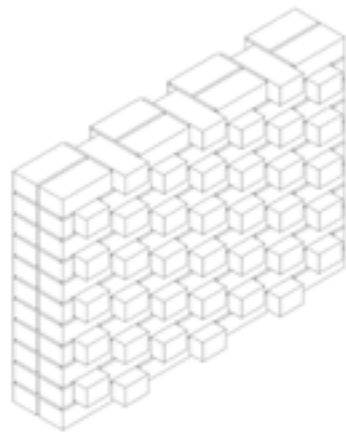


Figure 57



Figure 58

Face brick

Perforated brick

Timber

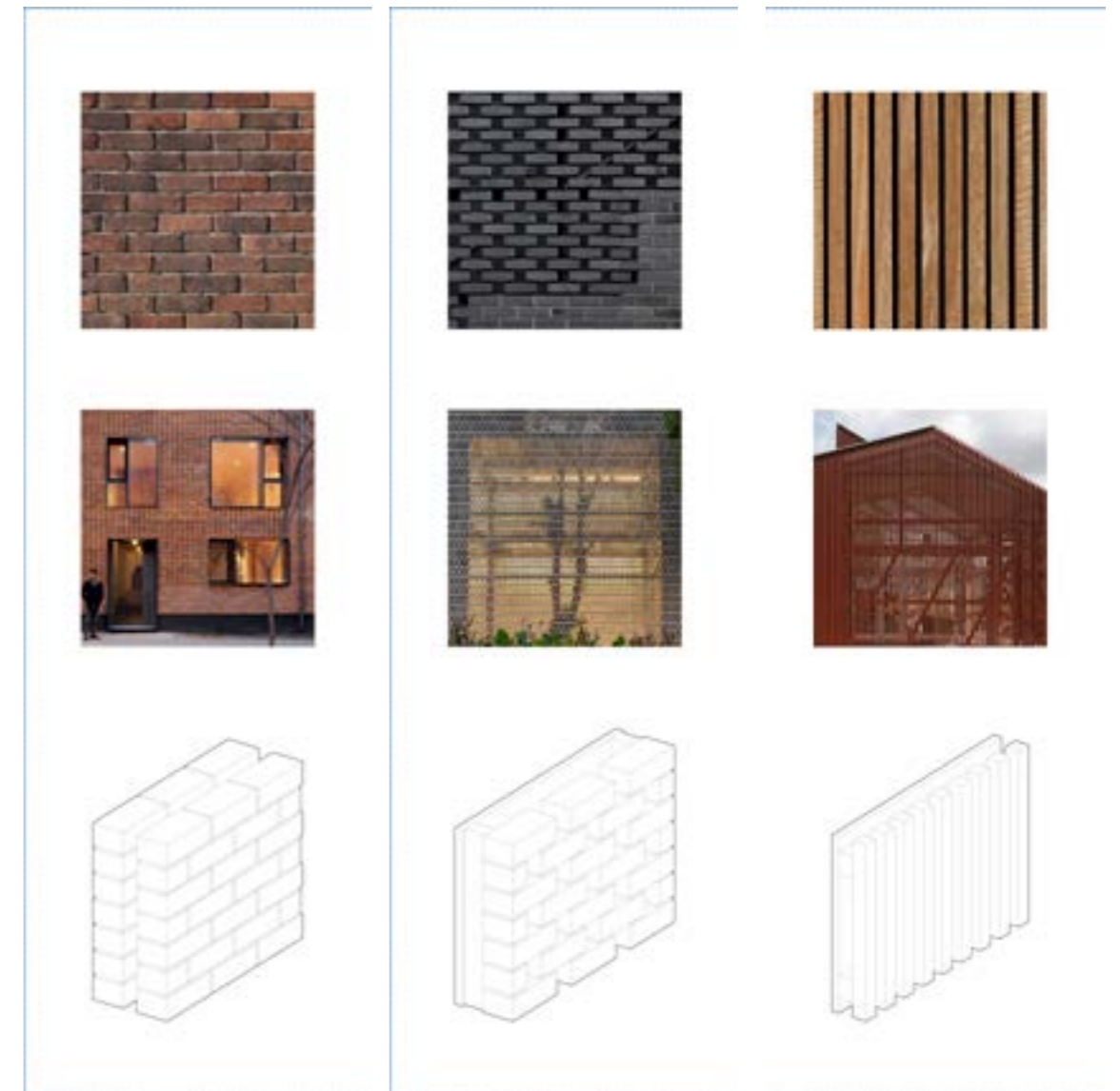


Figure 59

### “Safe spaces”

As previously mentioned, the City of Cape town is exploring the idea of creating a series of “safe spaces” throughout the city. These are spaces that offer homeless individuals a respite from the challenges of the street, whilst meeting some of their immediate needs. These spaces however have the opportunity to function as more than just open air shelters, they form a space in which the homeless are legitimized, and force the acknowledgement of the homeless by the surrounding population.

Krystof Wodiczko addresses lack of interaction between the homeless and “legitimate” users of public space, in which the homeless are seen almost as objects, or part of the city’s architecture, and not as individuals. He regards public space as a “site of enactment”, belonging to no one, yet something we are all a part of and can bring meaning to, and that the interaction is a question of recognising each other (Phillips, 2003).

I aim to encourage this recognition and shared use of space through the implementation of interventions that have proven to create this environment in other parts of Cape Town. These include; the “Public space” intervention on regent road in Sea Point by GAPP architects. The simple implementation of some street furniture and a free wifi connection has encouraged users of all social groups to utilize the space and interact with or near each other. A similar occurrence takes place on the Sea Point promenade, and Greenpoint Park, with the implementation of outdoor gym equipment. It is a common occurrence to see a homeless individual partaking in exercise alongside other users.

I am proposing the creation of platforms that function on multiple levels. Primarily as public furniture in a public space. The platforms incorporate foldable seating that can be used as emergency shelter, and lockable hatches for the storage of goods. Furthermore, the platforms will house space for growing vegetables for the adjacent soup kitchen and Diner. Figures 56-58 portray some of these ideas.

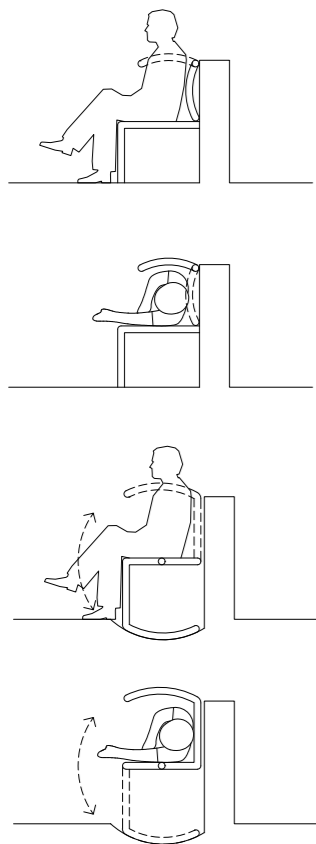


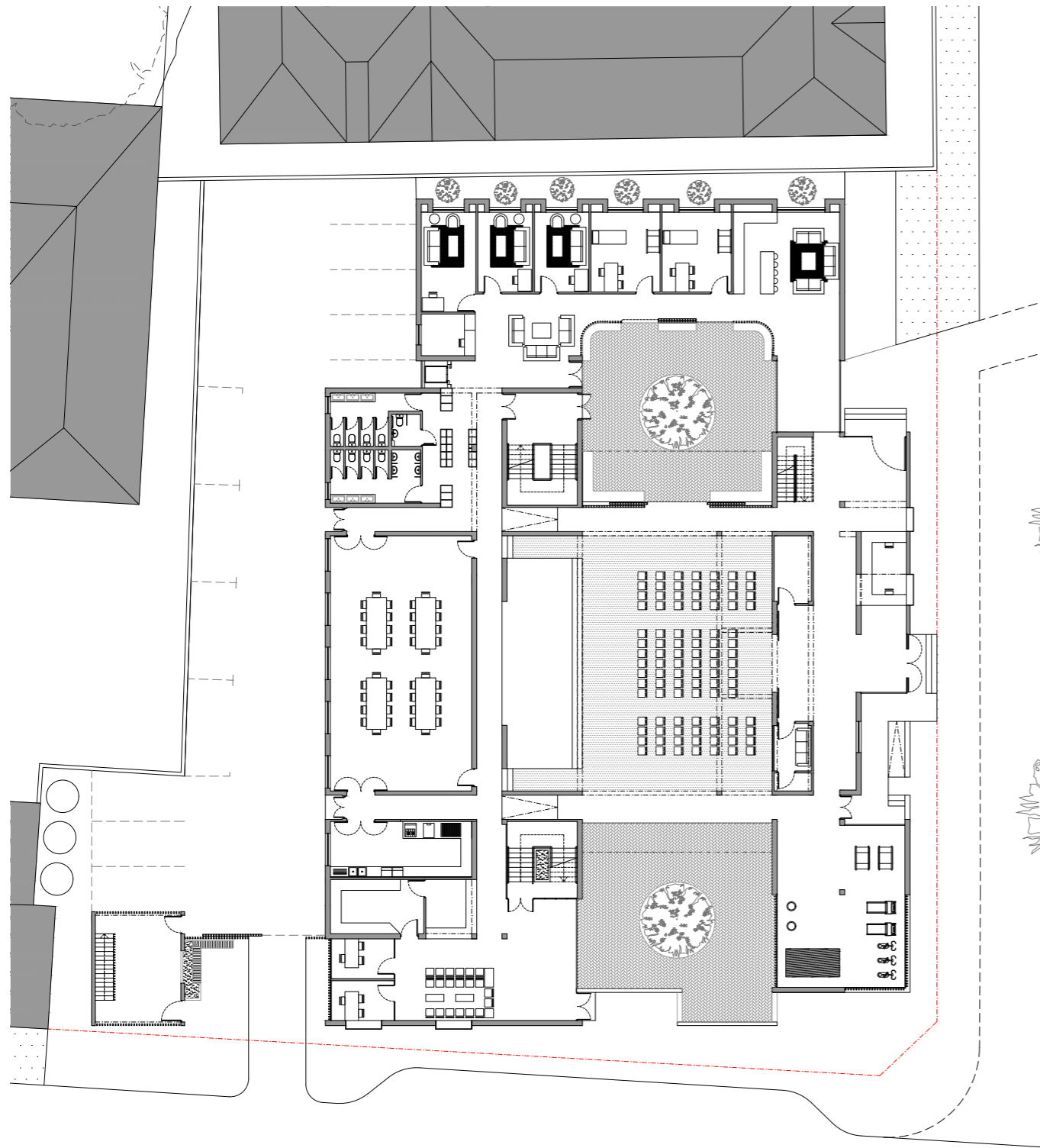
Figure 56



Figure 57



Figure 58



**Design development drawings**

Various degrees of engagement are allowed for across the ground floor of the site. I am creating varied points of entry, allowing users to approach the building as they desire. Courtyard spaces within the building are an extension of the public space surface.

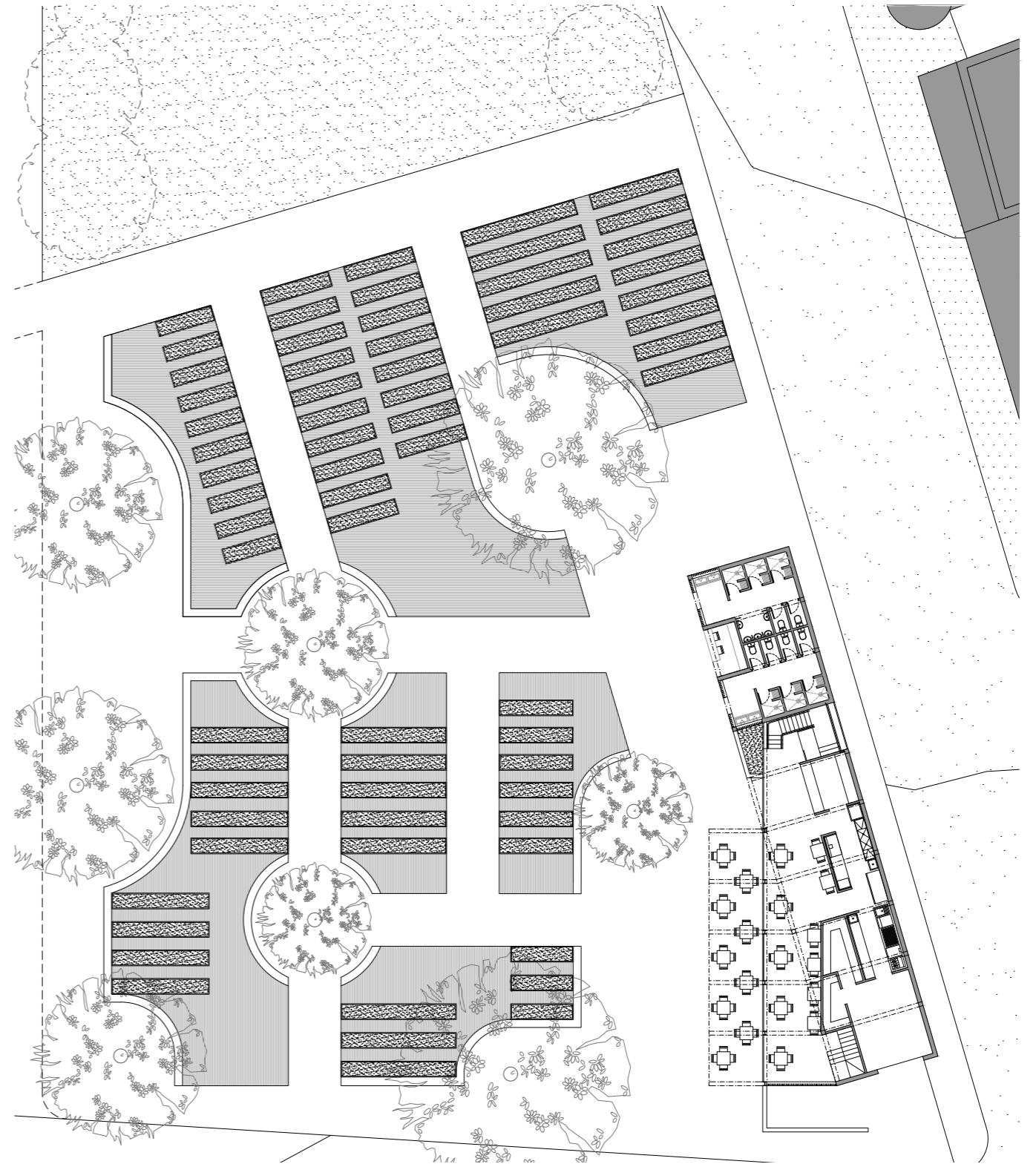


Figure 59

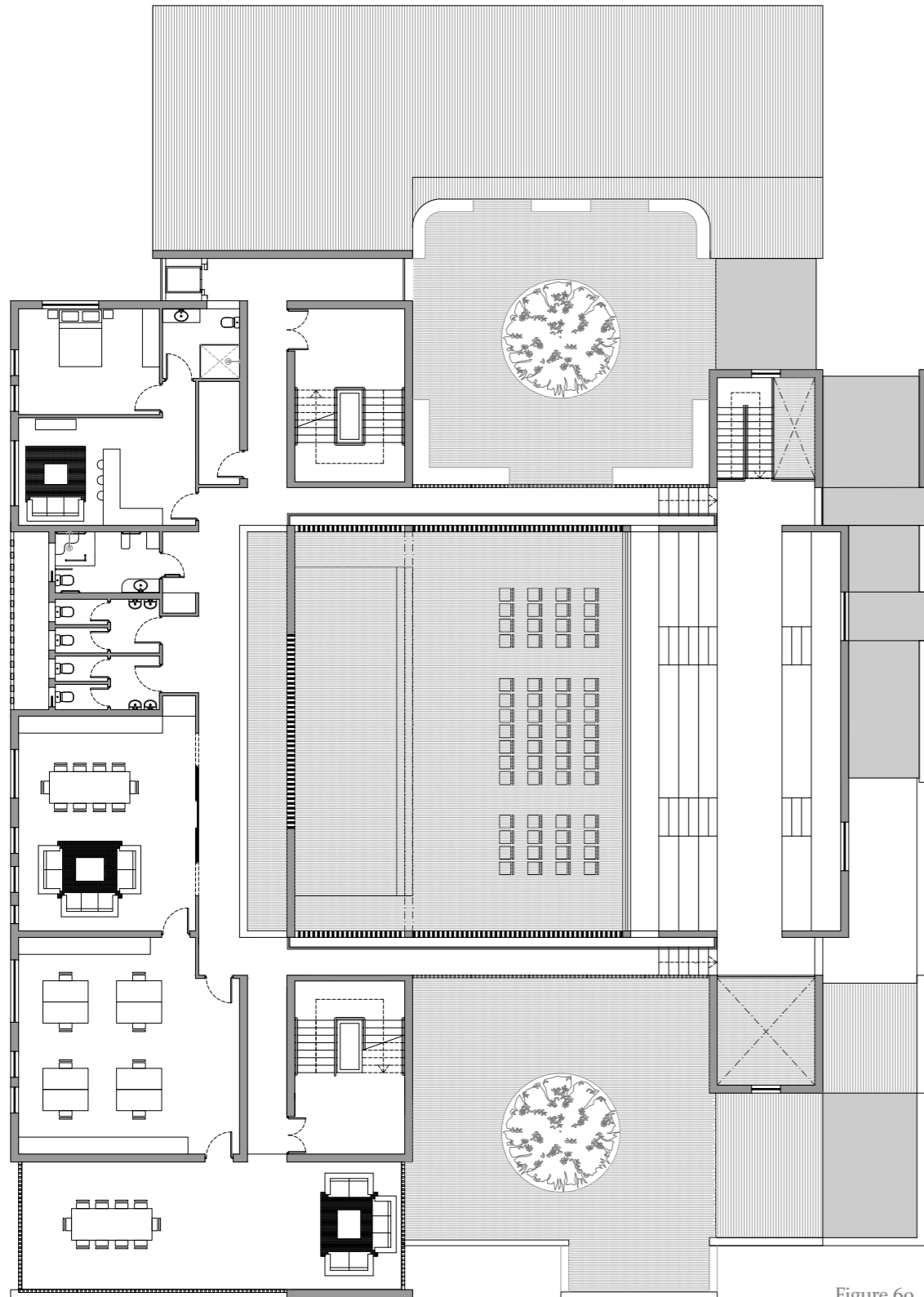


Figure 60

**First floor plan**

I have made minor adjustments to the existing first floor to create space for church and administration staff. These adjustments include providing office space, a staff room, a meeting and prayer room, and accommodation for the live-in minder of the building.

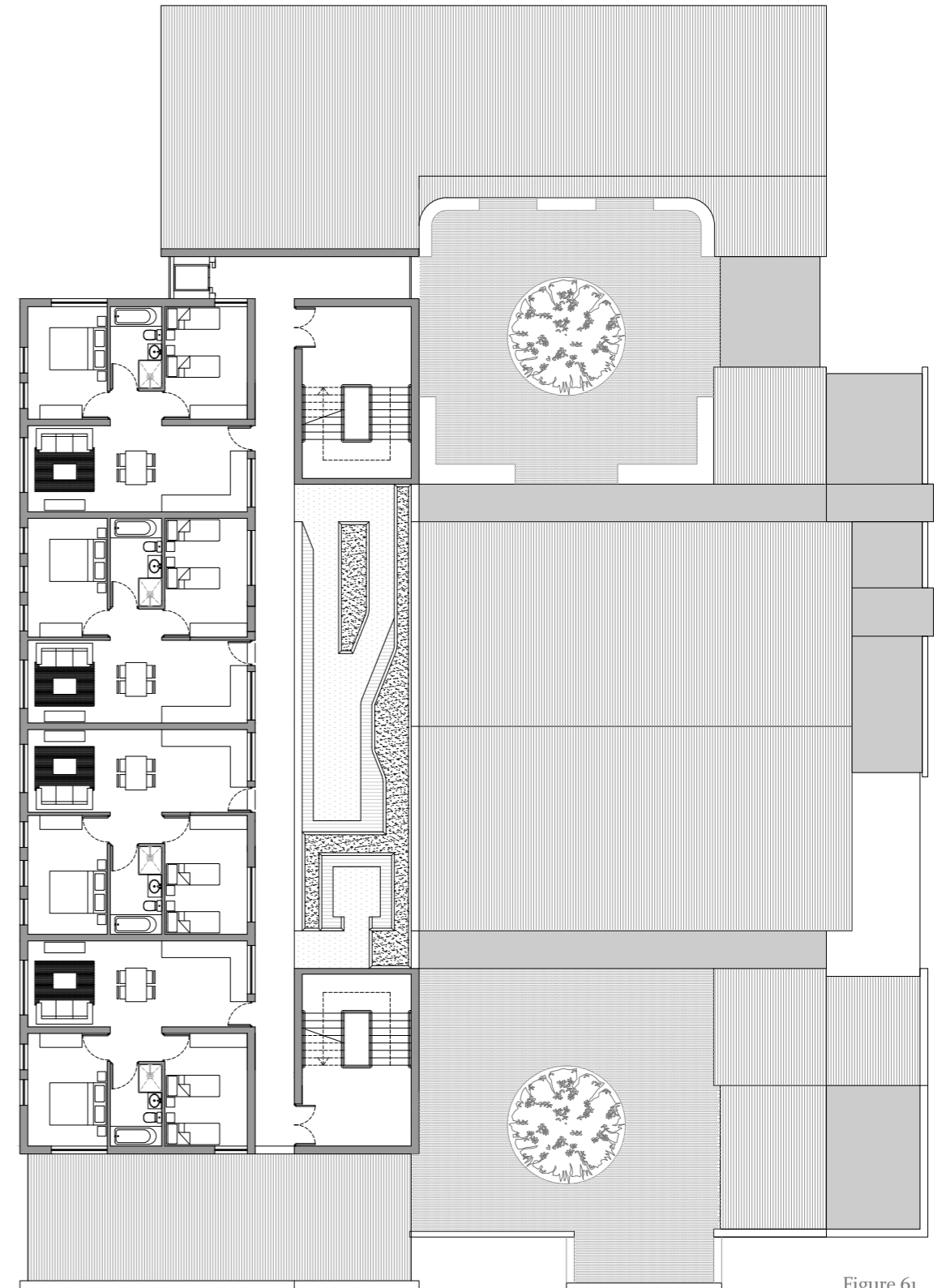


Figure 61

**Second & third floor plan**

On the second and third floors, I have restructured the existing one bedroom apartments into two bedroom apartments by means of minor adjustments. These spaces become emergency housing for families at risk of falling into a state of homelessness. They will also have access to an intimate balcony garden.

**Section**

The Section through the Courtyards and hall show the varying degrees of intimacy across the building as well as permeability from the street through the public spaces. Various layers of screening allow the more intimate spaces to be obscured whilst still remaining visible.



Figure 62



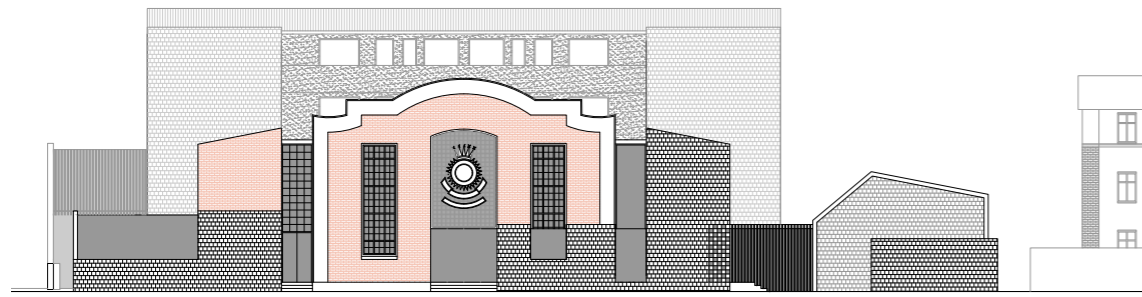


Figure 63

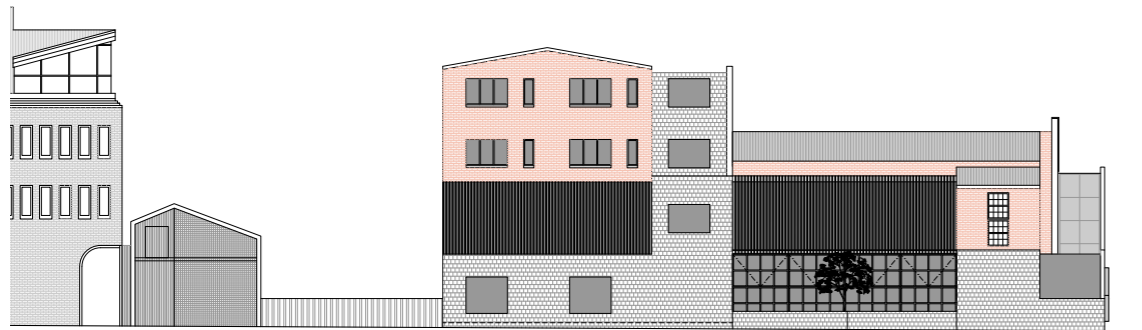


Figure 64

### Elevations

The elevations illustrate the intended de-scaling of the face-brick mass of the building, and attempt to highlight the richness thereof in portions.

## Conclusion

Homelessness is a complicated and multifaceted issue, and engaging it requires interventions that address all these different facets. The extent of the issue is too large to attempt to address in isolation, and the current measures in place are not sufficient to meet the needs of the homeless population. This issue is further perpetuated by the lack of collaboration between existing role-players. A holistic approach is needed whereby homeless organisations collaborate to form a network of infrastructure that communicates to achieve a common goal. Furthermore, it is necessary that the immediate needs of those on the street are met for the sake of these individuals and of the City. Thus implementing “safe spaces” is of paramount importance as, not only will it meet basic needs, but it will also create the space to engage with homeless individuals, and encourage them to begin a journey of reintegration. It is therefore necessary that these “safe spaces” do not operate in isolation, but act as a point of referral into a larger network of existing organisations with programs in place to facilitate the process of leaving the streets.

In my response to these issues, I chose a site that is situated within the existing context of a part of the city that ‘houses’ many the City’s homeless. I aimed to address the need by making use of neglected space and existing infrastructure to allow for various points of engagement. This involved creating a primary point of contact with homeless individuals, which provided for their basic needs that were not attainable whilst on the streets. The contact took the form of safe spaces, that provided them with security, a soup kitchen and a place to store their belongings. In addition to this, my design included counselling and occupational therapy rooms creating an accessible opportunity for individuals to address their psychological and physical healing needs. Furthermore, the area was designed to facilitate a network and point of contact between existing homeless organisations and thus a space where individuals can be referred to programs and shelters most suited to their needs.

Working with the existing salvation army building presented a challenge of both preserving the building’s integrity whilst simultaneously diminishing its domineering presence. This was dealt with through a process of removing the superfluous elements and adding in a manner that allows for permeability, and encourages approach.

The idea of addressing the issue of homelessness emerged from a personal motivation after realising the flaws in the existing system. I understood that an architectural intervention could have the potential to impact on this system, and aid in alleviating homelessness.

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## List of Figures

Figure 1

City of Cape Town - Hendricks, L., Gideon, C., Mwhakanazi, T., Rodriguez, M. and van Wyk, K. (2015). Investigating homelessness within the City of Cape Town - Learning Brief 1: Executive Summary, Project Background and Report Format. City of Cape Town: Directorate of Social Development and Early Childhood Development.

Figures 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Anonymous Participants, Source:

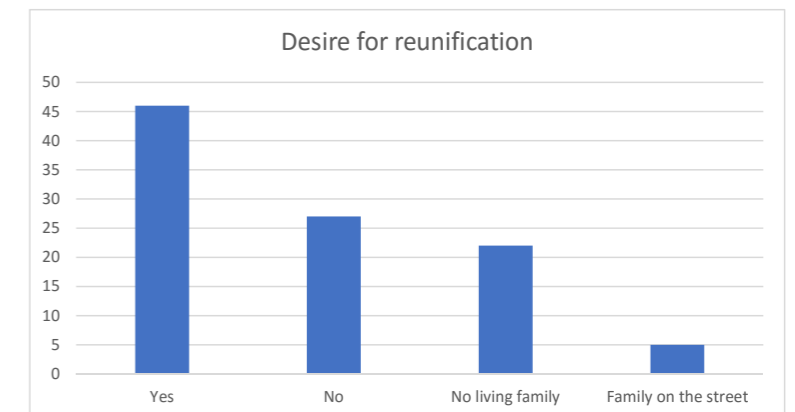
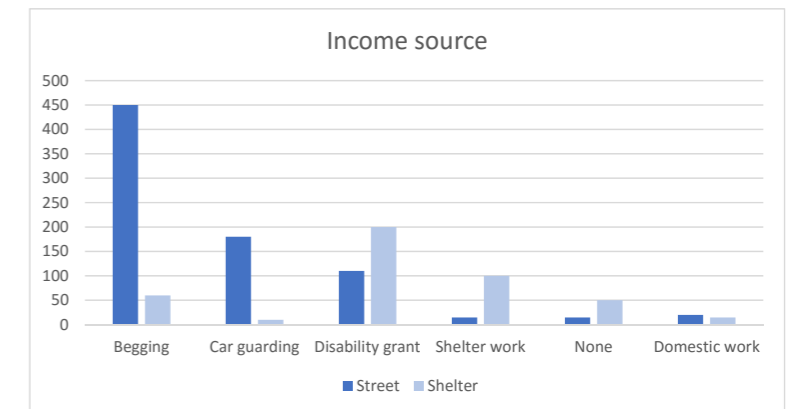
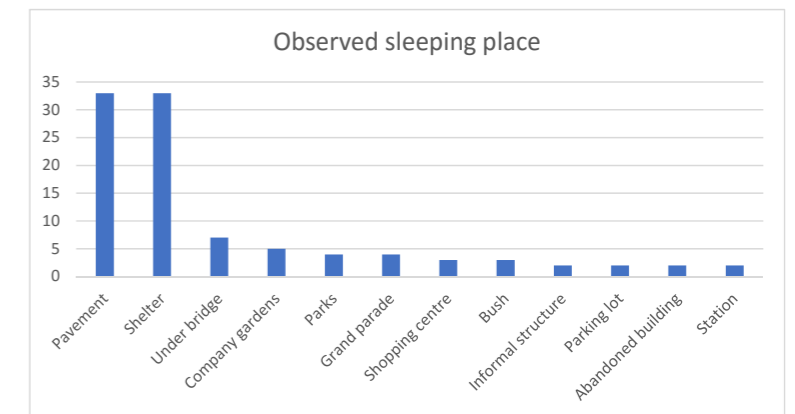
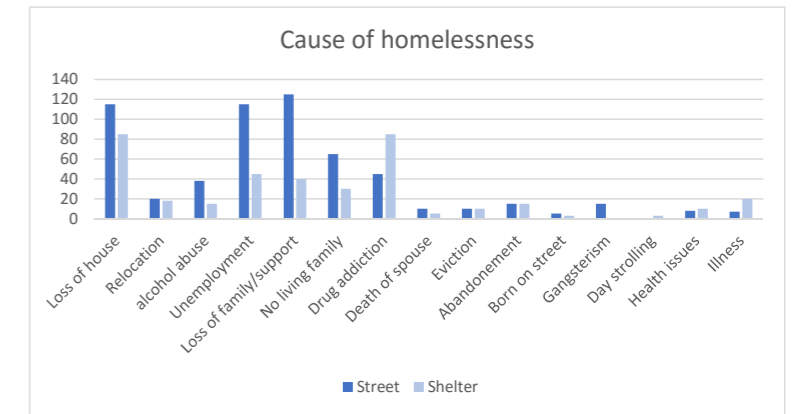
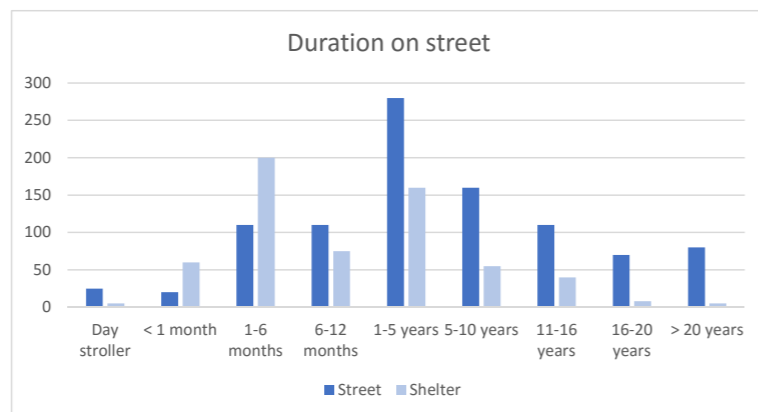
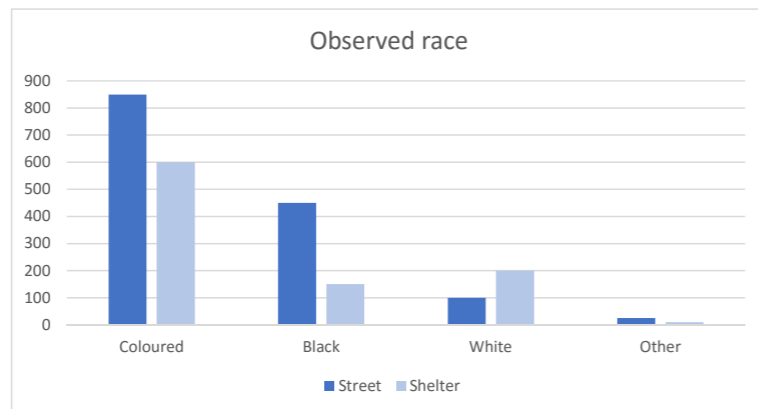
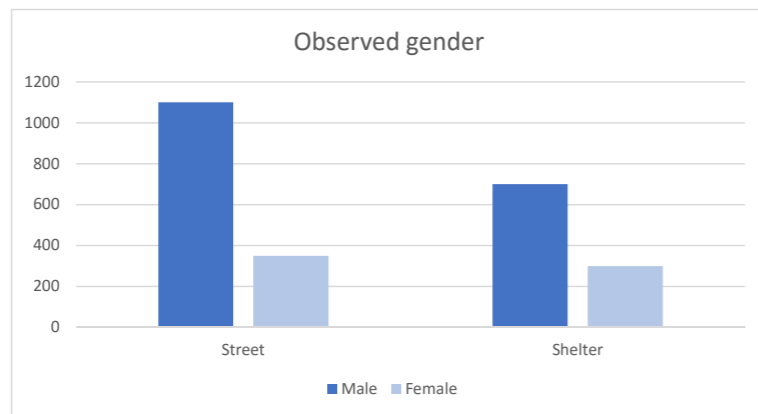
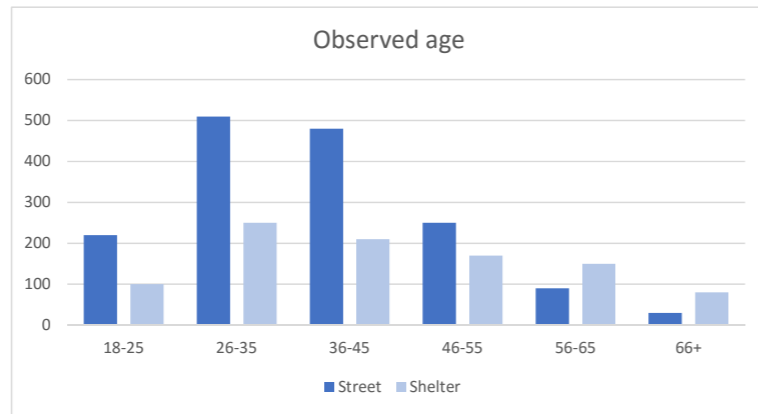
Black, K., 2016. Exploring the lived experiences of homelessness in a Cape Town suburb. University of Cape Town. Cape Town

Figures 9-64

By Author

# Appendices

## Appendix A



## Appendix B

### **Narratives**

The following narratives are photo-stories told by individuals on the journey of leaving the streets. They represent some of the issues faced by the thousands of people living on the streets of Cape Town. (Black, 2016)

The photostory method gives insight into the lives of the individuals from their own perspective. The three individuals that partook in the study were all on the journey of exiting the street through the Loaves and Fishes shelter and upskilling program.

Keith's story



“This is what sleeping outside was like before I moved into the shelter: it was very cold, it wasn't safe so I couldn't sleep well, sometimes the police would come and chase me away, or my own friends would steal my things while I was asleep. In the day I had to carry all my belongings with me, especially my bedding, I didn't have anywhere to put them or a place that was my own. If my things were taken, I had to try and find more blankets before the next night, otherwise I only had cardboard to sleep on.”



“The river was my laundry room, my bathroom and my shower, it was ridiculously cold but it was the only thing we had to keep clean. There were days when it was too cold to clean, but if you didn't then you gonna start smelling and pick up lice.”



“It wasn't easy to find food when I lived on the streets. This was one of the best meals I had and I am very thankful to the soup kitchens, there were a lot of them but we had to walk far everyday to find them.”



“This is me working. I love what I am doing, especially in my area, most of the residents say good morning me, a lady comes out on her morning jog; “Good morning Keith! How are you doing? Thank-you for keeping our streets clean”. I didn't have that before. I worked as a car guard before and not everyone respected me, I felt like they chose not to see me. Now that I'm working I'm not invisible anymore.”



“Now in the shelter, I have my own warm bed. I don't need to worry about my things getting stolen and I have a locker to keep my things in. I have a place to call home.”



“Now when I finish working, I go straight to the shower. The water is lekker en warm. There's soap, a face towel and a towel which makes a hell of a difference. I can put lotion on, use underarm spray and put on clean clothes after the shower.”



“And now, it's just a walk downstairs. I have a table and a knife and fork to use. I am eating with my family and it feels like home.”



“In the time I was sleeping outside, I used to go to the soup kitchen, I was in the queue waiting for a meal. Now I'm a part of the crew serving the meal. People in the queue are surprised to see me there. I am not invisible anymore, now I am being seen. I chose to help here everyday after work, because I want to help these homeless people because I was one of them. I even have to serve one of my friends who is sleeping outside.”



“This is a photo of my graduation from the Brightstar Life Skills Program.”



“This picture is from a tour that we took to the waterfront and the ship called Logos Hope. I met some new friends from overseas, I had supper on the boat and we went on a tour of the boat. I wouldn't have had experiences like this when I was living on the streets.”

Robin's story



“This is where I live now, not so long ago I didn’t have a roof over my head, now this is where I find a sense of belonging. This is where I learned to love myself. I have future plans now, I don’t live for the day anymore, I can think about where I’ve come from, where I am and focus on where I’m headed.”



“I have my own bed space and my own personal space, before I didn’t have ownership of a place to sleep, most of the time I had to look for a place to sleep, especially in winter time when all the dry spaces are already taken by others sleeping on the streets. Now I have my own warm bed. I no longer have to have sleepless nights, staying awake a few days due to bad weather conditions. Now I don’t need to travel everywhere with what I sleep on.”



“Before I had to live out of a backpack. Now I have my own personal space where I can store my clothing and toiletries. I have a laundry to wash my clothes in rather than have to throw clothes away when dirty. Keeping my locker neat and tidy is part of taking pride in what I have.”



“Before, it was very unpleasant to clean yourself because of the weather conditions and cold water in the rivers, or I had to make effort for warm water. I would make a fire in the forest and use that to heat water in a large tin. This was very time consuming. Everything took time and effort... getting food, money and drugs. Now I have the privilege of standing under a warm shower, now I don’t have to go out of my way to get clean. Life is good!”



“Grooming was one of the things I neglected. My beard wasn’t that thick, it was only once in a while. Having to shave my beard, I had to use a broken mirror, a “borrowed” razor blade and a piece of soap. Now I have shaving cream, and a mirror and my own razor blades. I take pride in how I look now.”



“Living on the streets, when I got angry there was no one to talk to, we weren’t spiritually strong so instead I went to use drugs to suppress my negative emotions, drugs just put me in a positive vibe, then I would stay awake the whole night, getting up to no good. Being at the pool table takes me out of the bad space, I start to socialise with my friends. I start positive conversations with other people, this helps absorb the negative energy and put me in a good space.”



“When waking up getting something to eat took time and effort. Waking up in the morning, what came to my mind was money, food, drugs. So now, this for me is a privilege... being able to sit in a dining room, having three meals a day. Now that I have a full belly I am focused and happy, and concentrated on good things. Life is good!”



“This is where I work, once upon a time I was unemployed and homeless, how I earned an income was gaining by violence. Breaking into cars, things like that, taking real chances. I just didn’t care. I wasn’t worried with consequences, I just had guts and when I was high I was even worse. So now my mind is occupied with positive things, I’m drug free, I work for my money now, I sweat for it. This makes me feel good about myself. It’s a motivation for me, but I’m not satisfied yet, I want to go further than this because I feel that I have potential.



“I took this photo to represent how I don’t have a problem with these guys anymore. I used to be a bad citizen, I’m an ex offender. I used to isolate myself from the people around me. There were times when I hadn’t even done anything, I was just paranoid all the time. Being a good citizen, they are there for my safety now. And I respect these guys.”



“This is Jubilee Church. This is where I go every Sunday, to get a reminder of who is greater than all my things that I’m going through. I love the praise and worship. It fills me with positive energy, it makes me just want to be good, to focus on things that are positive. Being in active addiction, church wasn’t my thing.”

Matthew's story



“This is my bed at Loaves and Fishes. It’s a safe, warm place, very comfortable. I do a lot of reading of my bible and chilling here. I also read a lot of novels.”



“This is my dorm, I got on well with everyone, and everyone got on well with me. We all had duties to do. My duties in the dorm were to sweep out the dorm, mop the floor and empty the bin. We all had to make our own beds.”



“This is outside of the New Apostolic Church in Observatory. My bed was cardboard. Many a night, I slept there, without blankets. You don’t want to carry your bedding 24/7 so you hide it but people seem to know the hiding spots. But there were also times that I had bedding, when the church found out that I was sleeping there. On more than one occasion, members of the congregation would bring me food from their homes, genuinely home cooked meals, which I was more than grateful for. Being outside like that, is cold, wet, dangerous, and very depressing...”



“This is the entrance to the church. I grew up in the faith. My late parents, my late wife, we are all New Apostolic. This is my home so to speak, in terms of being in church. Here definitely, the word of God is being preached, and the love of Jesus. The priestly ministry are working to try and get me into an old age home, that has a frail care. I’m so glad for this because it is better than dying on the street.”



“This is the village green. It’s where you would find me on Sundays. Not just because of the free cooked meal, but once church is over on a Sunday morning at 10, I have nowhere else to go, the libraries are closed, and at that point in time, I did not have a roof over my head. Every Sunday at one o’clock we receive a home cooked meal. It’s never the same it varies from Sunday to Sunday. It’s clean and healthy food, it’s filling, and it’s something that all of us there appreciate.”



“When I walked into the social issues office one morning, it was explained to me, “Matthew we now have this job shadowing program, you will get paid a stipend” It was explained to me what my duties would be. For the first month and a half I was cleaning the streets. From there I was moved up to the office. This photo is from the front of the office. The duties there were filing, admin, working on the computer. There’s no amount of words that can explain the appreciation that I have for them.”



“This photo is a reminder of what I once had. I had it for many many years. When my wife got seriously ill, to the point that she became bed ridden, my salary could not afford private nursing care. I had to make a choice between my work and my wife. The car we were driving, was a Honda Ballade, we had to sell it to afford medication and doctor’s bills.”



“She’s at peace now, not a day goes by that I do not miss her. I used to spend a lot of Saturday afternoons at the graveyard, sitting cleaning the grave, spending many hours there. Telling her how much I miss her, how much I love her. But she is at peace now, the pain and suffering is over.”



“This is Groote Schuur Hospital. My wife was admitted to that hospital so many times that I lost count. They would keep her for a week until she was stable and then discharge her, but then her body would give in again and I would have to rush her back and they would re-admit. I was also diagnosed at Groote Schuur Hospital, when I got ill on the streets. My illness is cancer, I had my chemo, radiation, and X-rays there. I was put on a drip and lay there for 18 days. It was one of the most depressing times of my life. Chances are that I will end up there again.”



“This is Observatory Junior School, I used to sleep here on the stoep and my mattress was cardboard. The lady who works there woke me up every morning, invites me inside and gives me two cups of coffee. I burst into tears the first time we spoke. We are of the same New Apostolic Faith, we only found that out as we got to know each other better.”

## Appendix C

### Existing solutions

There are countless organisations involved in dealing with homelessness scattered throughout Cape Town. It is important to understand how these existing organisations operate to understand the resources that are available as well as those that are lacking. The following are profiles of some of the existing organisations in Cape Town. Their primary focuses are varied, and therefore what may be an appropriate place to seek help for one individual may not be for another.

Name:	<b>The Haven Night Shelter.</b>
Description:	Part of a network of shelters that aim to provide immediate, temporary shelter from the streets in the form of a bed in a single sex dormitory.
Shelter tier:	First tier - immediate/ emergency shelter.
Target group:	Adults only, must be sober and without the possession of narcotics or alcohol.
Services:	Rehabilitation, Social Welfare Services, Family reunification services, Physical Care and Support.
Cost:	R12 per night or R360 per month. Or Haven passports earned through helping with daily chores such as gardening or vegetable peeling.
Employment:	Haven Passport Program.
Major influence:	Providing immediate relief from the streets.
Name:	<b>Loaves and Fishes Shelter.</b>
Description:	A place for the destitute to plan and begin their journey of renewal through shelter, life skills and job skills. as well as referral to further help.
Shelter tier:	Second tier - medium term residence.
Target group:	Adults between 25-65 years.
Services:	The renewal Program- Helps one identify and treat the root causes of the problem such as drug or alcohol addiction. The program up-skills people by coaching life and job skills. Provides a soup kitchen for those staying on the street
Cost:	R1250 per month.
Employment:	Partners with U-turn ragging program and Observatory Improvement District (OBSID) work programs.
Major influence:	Providing stable accommodation and a sense of home, as well as work and up-skilling opportunities.

Name:	<b>The Carpenter's Shop.</b>
Description:	NPO with a range of services for the homeless and vulnerable people.
Shelter tier:	Third tier - medium term residence.
Target group:	Recently employed men that are on the path to reintegrating into society.
Services:	Shelter for 40 men, Social Care Services, Ablution and Laundry facility (R20per week). Access to both Primary and Specialised health care which includes: advisory services, counselling, screening tests, limited treatment. Skills development, and Vocational training which includes: Job readiness, life skills, computer literacy, financial literacy, and intensive social care.
Cost:	R250 per week or R1000 per month.
Employment:	Car Washing, providing people with employment and a minimum income of R3500 per month.
Major influence:	Providing a stepping stone and place of stability and dignity for those in the reintegration process.

Name:	<b>U-turn Homeless Ministries.</b>
Description:	An NGO, aiming to rehabilitate the homeless back into society by addressing their spiritual, physical and emotional needs.
Shelter tier:	Not a shelter.
Target group:	Adults of all ages.
Services:	Provides meals and clothing for the homeless. Whilst doing so, creates a point of contact whereby the homeless are gently urged to start their reintegration journey. From there they are put into contact with shelters and/or rehabilitation centres. U-turn also provides up-skilling programmes such as computer literacy classes and Occupational Therapy.
Cost:	No cost, income via public sponsorship. (voucher sales)
Employment:	U-turn ragging program, or employment at one of the U-turn thrift stores. Job placement assistance.
Major influence:	Providing a holistic outlook and approach to the homeless problem and helping the homeless through the whole journey from leaving the streets to reintegrating with society.

Name: **The Zanokhanyo Network**

Description: NPO that aims to link the unemployed to employment opportunities.

Shelter tier: Not a shelter.

Target group: Adults from all backgrounds regardless of education or skill level.

Services: Providing skills needed for employment through their Job readiness program, encouraging personal and spiritual growth, connecting to networks of employment opportunities. CV writing and interview skills, computer literacy, career guidance, counselling and support groups.

Cost: Varies.

Employment: Links to external employment opportunities

Major influence: Empowering individuals by unearthing their skills, up-skilling, and linking them to employment opportunities.

Name: **MES**

Description: An organisation which aims to empower those who are destitute and help them to live sustainable lives.

Shelter tier: First tier to third tier.

Target group: All homeless and unemployed individuals.

Services: Taking the individual through a multifaceted program starting with prevention and intake, moving to intervention and then to sustainable exit, a holistic, rather than one ended approach, aiding a person in all aspects. services include; Spiritual enrichment, outreach and social relief, skills development and job placement, occupational therapy services, and a social work program.

Cost: Sliding scale according to income.

Employment: Internal employment opportunities and links to external employment.

Major influence: Dealing with a full set of issues faced by homeless individuals in all circumstances. Facilities that are able to deal with a range of needs.

## Appendix D

### **Recommendations from existing research**

Research into homelessness in South Africa has not been extensive, and therefore more investigation and insight is needed. Existing research has however highlighted many areas of concern for dealing with the issue. Many of these areas have architectural implications, and need to be considered when designing to meet the needs of homeless individuals. The following points are the common recommendations from existing research.

- Approaches need to be people centred and understand the real needs of individuals by engaging with the homeless.
- Existing assessment centres need to be upgraded to cater for a wider range of individuals and deal with a range of risk factors.
- Explore the possibility of a city led initiative to branch out to all shelters and organisations that deal with street people and work together to plan for reducing the prevalence of homelessness.
- An increased understanding of homeless people groups and how best to cater for each group.
- Approaches need to be proactive rather than reactive.
- Challenge the stigma surrounding homelessness and allow for a better public opinion of homeless individuals.
- Focus on reintegration and reunification as a goal
- Consider street people's privacy
- Cost benefit analysis of housing vs programming
- Deal with issues of mental health assessment and counselling with particular regard to trauma counselling.
- Interventions focused on exit strategies with particular regard to family reunification and social reintegration through family and individual counselling.
- An approach that will combine psycho-social- spiritual, physical, material, economic and housing or spatial aspects of people's well-being and reintegration.
- Collaboration to unlock different forms of knowledge, and different pools of resources and skill sets, in order to work for the greater good.

- Appreciate and work with existing infrastructure. Build upon existing resources and systems to strengthen rather than replace programs.
- Appreciate the importance of the narratives of the homeless, use information and experiential knowledge to address the multiple facets of the issue.
- Reorganisation of existing infrastructure to accommodate for resource sharing.

**Appendix E**

**A typical day**

The typical day may differ drastically from person to person, however, many daily activities do align. The following “typical day” is a combination of existing research and casual interviews with homeless individuals.

**05:00**

- Waking up, packing goods
- Vacating sleeping place
- Hiding possessions
- Heating up water to wash / finding ablution facility
- Seeking something warm, tea/coffee

**07:00**

- “Skarreling”
- Begging
- Looking for work
- Waste picking
- Recycling

**16:00**

- Resting
- Entering shelters
- Begging

**18:00**

- Grouping together
- Finding a meal
- Eating at a soup kitchen
- Eating at a shelter

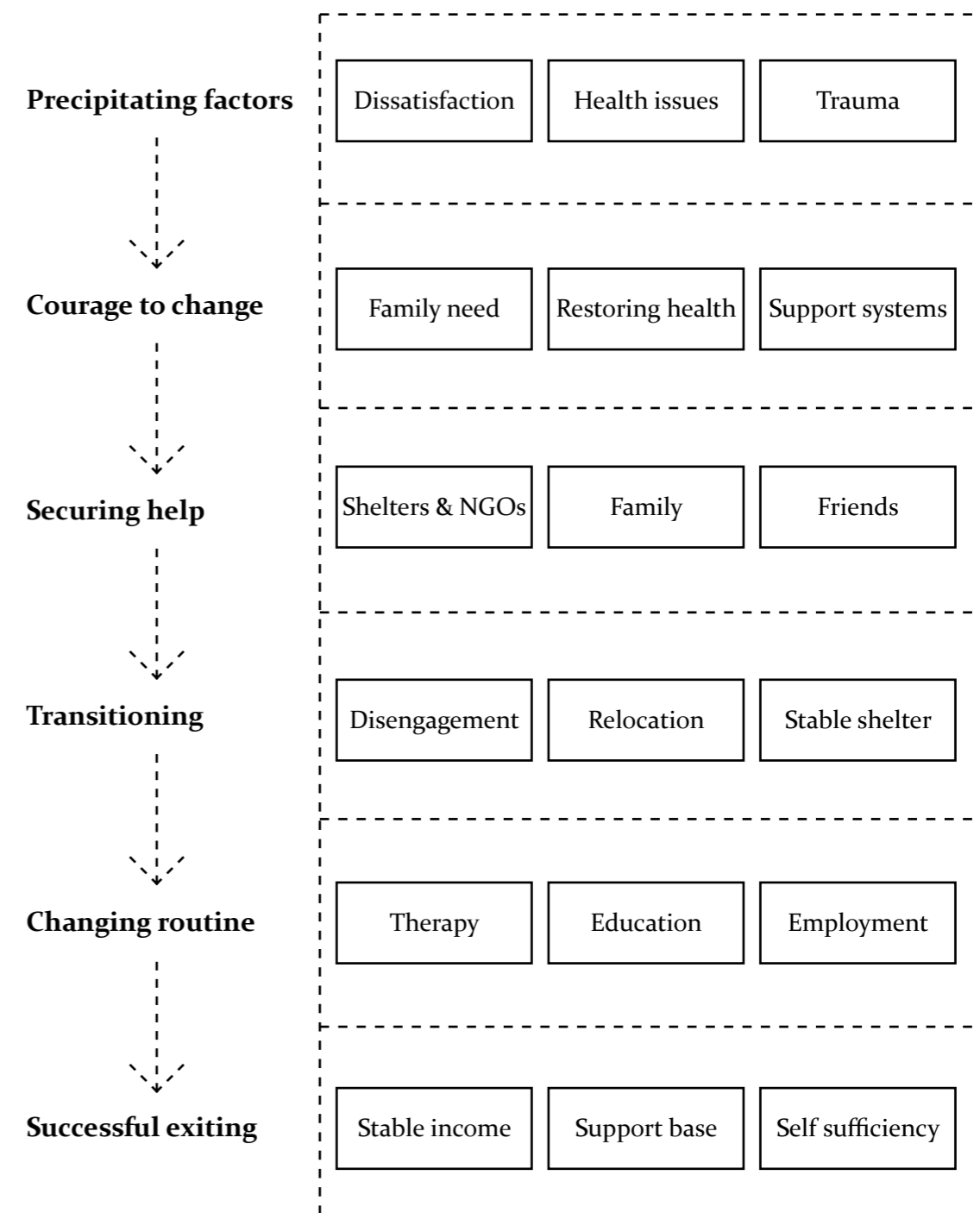
**21:00**

- Finding a place to sleep
- Drinking alcohol for warmth/ bravery
- Drug use
- Socialising

**23:00**

- Sleeping

**Appendix F**



Application for Approval of Ethics in Research (EiR) Projects  
Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of Cape Town

## APPLICATION FORM


**Please Note:**

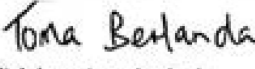

Any person planning to undertake research in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment (EBE) at the University of Cape Town is required to complete this form **before** collecting or analysing data. The objective of submitting this application *prior* to embarking on research is to ensure that the highest ethical standards in research, conducted under the auspices of the EBE Faculty, are met. Please ensure that you have read, and understood the **EBE Ethics in Research Handbook** (available from the UCT EBE, Research Ethics website) prior to completing this application form: <http://www.ebe.uct.ac.za/usr/ebe/research/ethics.pdf>

APPLICANT'S DETAILS	
Name of principal researcher, student or external applicant	Christopher Louw
Department	Architecture Planning and Geomatics
Preferred email address of applicant:	clouw10@gmail.com
If a Student	Your Degree: e.g., MSc, PhD, etc.,
	Name of Supervisor (if supervised):
If this is a research contract, indicate the source of funding/sponsorship	Click here to enter text.
Project Title	<b>Approaching Homelessness:</b> Surfacing alternative approaches to dealing with the issue of homelessness in the city of Cape Town

**I hereby undertake to carry out my research in such a way that:**

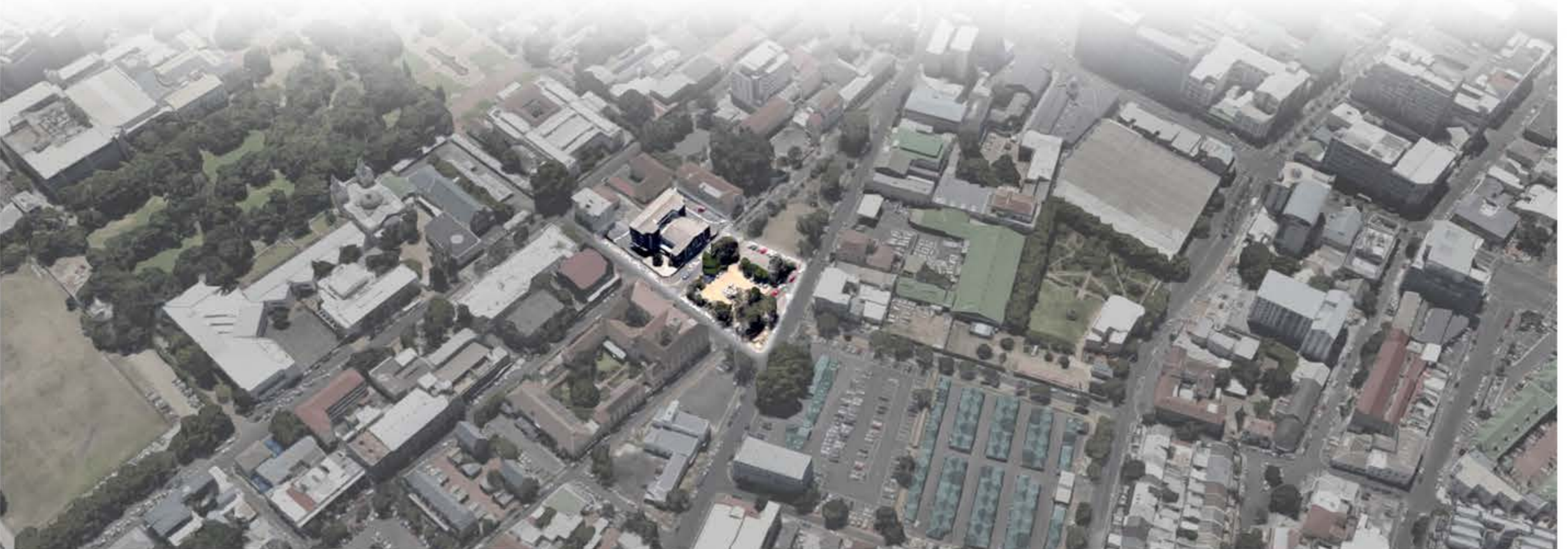
- there is no apparent legal objection to the nature or the method of research; and
- the research will not compromise staff or students or the other responsibilities of the University;
- the stated objective will be achieved, and the findings will have a high degree of validity;
- limitations and alternative interpretations will be considered;
- the findings could be subject to peer review and publicly available; and
- I will comply with the conventions of copyright and avoid any practice that would constitute plagiarism.

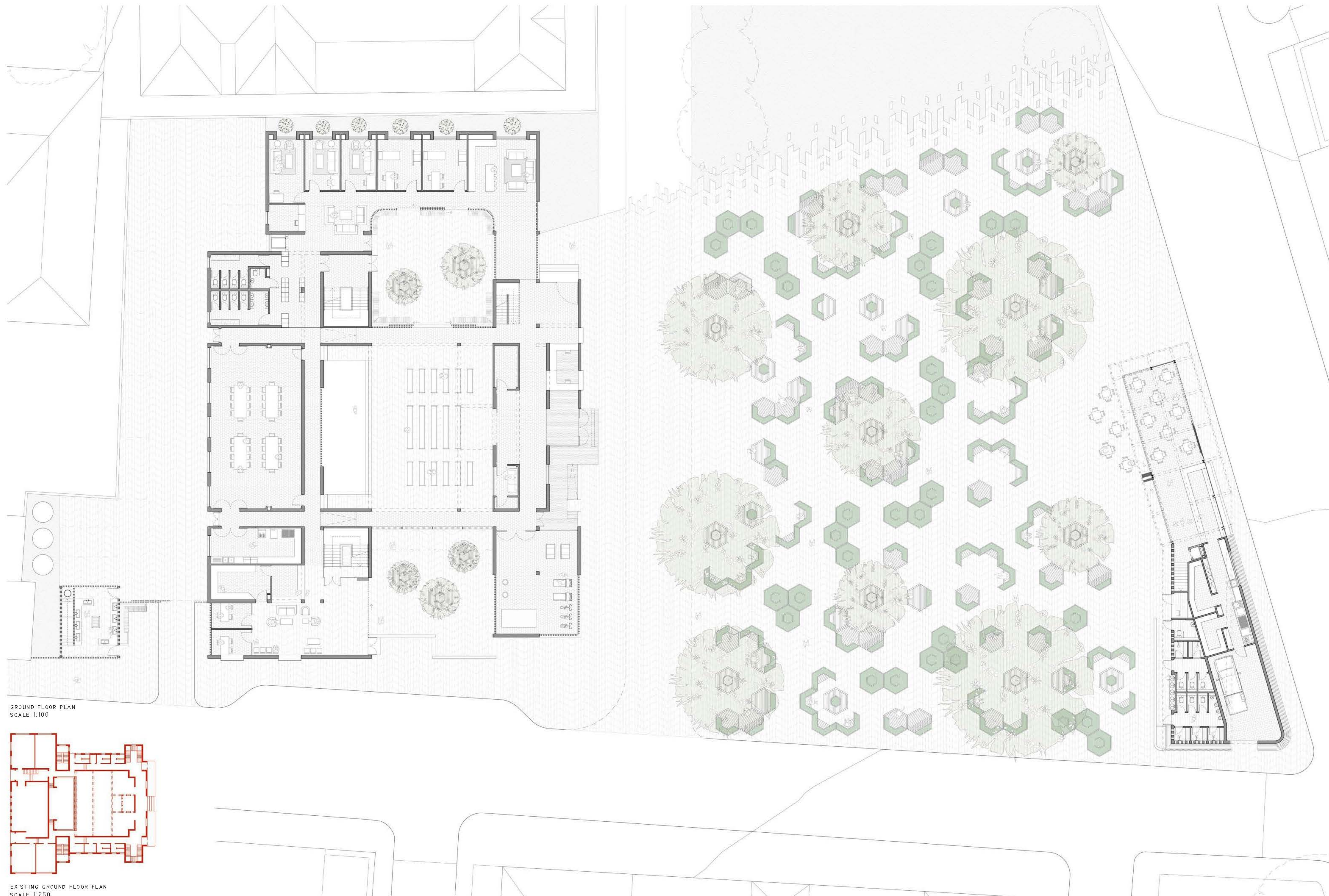
SIGNED BY	Full name	Signature	Date
Principal Researcher/ Student/External applicant	Christopher Louw		03 Apr 2017

APPLICATION APPROVED BY	Full name	Date
Supervisor (where applicable)	Assoc Prof. Nic Coetzer	05 Apr 2017
HOD (or delegated nominee) Final authority for all applicants who have answered NO to all questions in Section 1; and for all Undergraduate research (Including Honours).	 Click here to enter text.	6/4/17 Click here to enter a date.
Chair : Faculty EIR Committee For applicants other than undergraduate students who have answered YES to any of the above questions.	 Click here to enter text.	23/7/2017 Click here to enter a date.

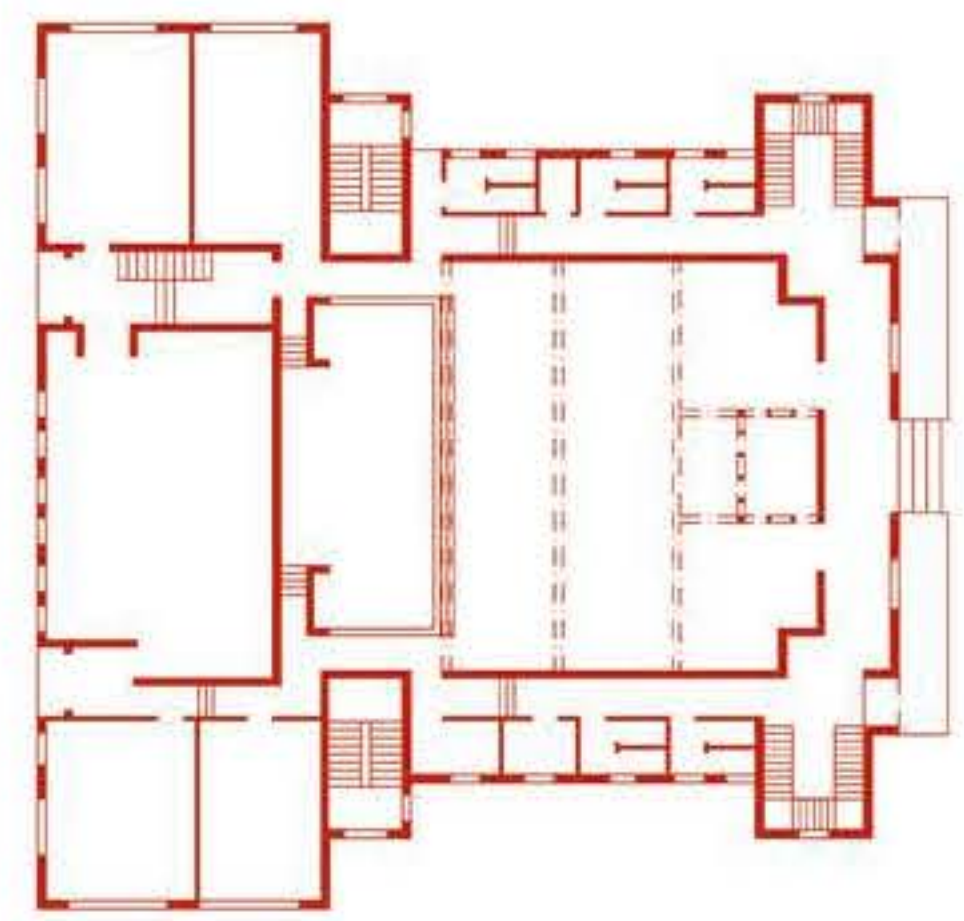


SITE PLAN  
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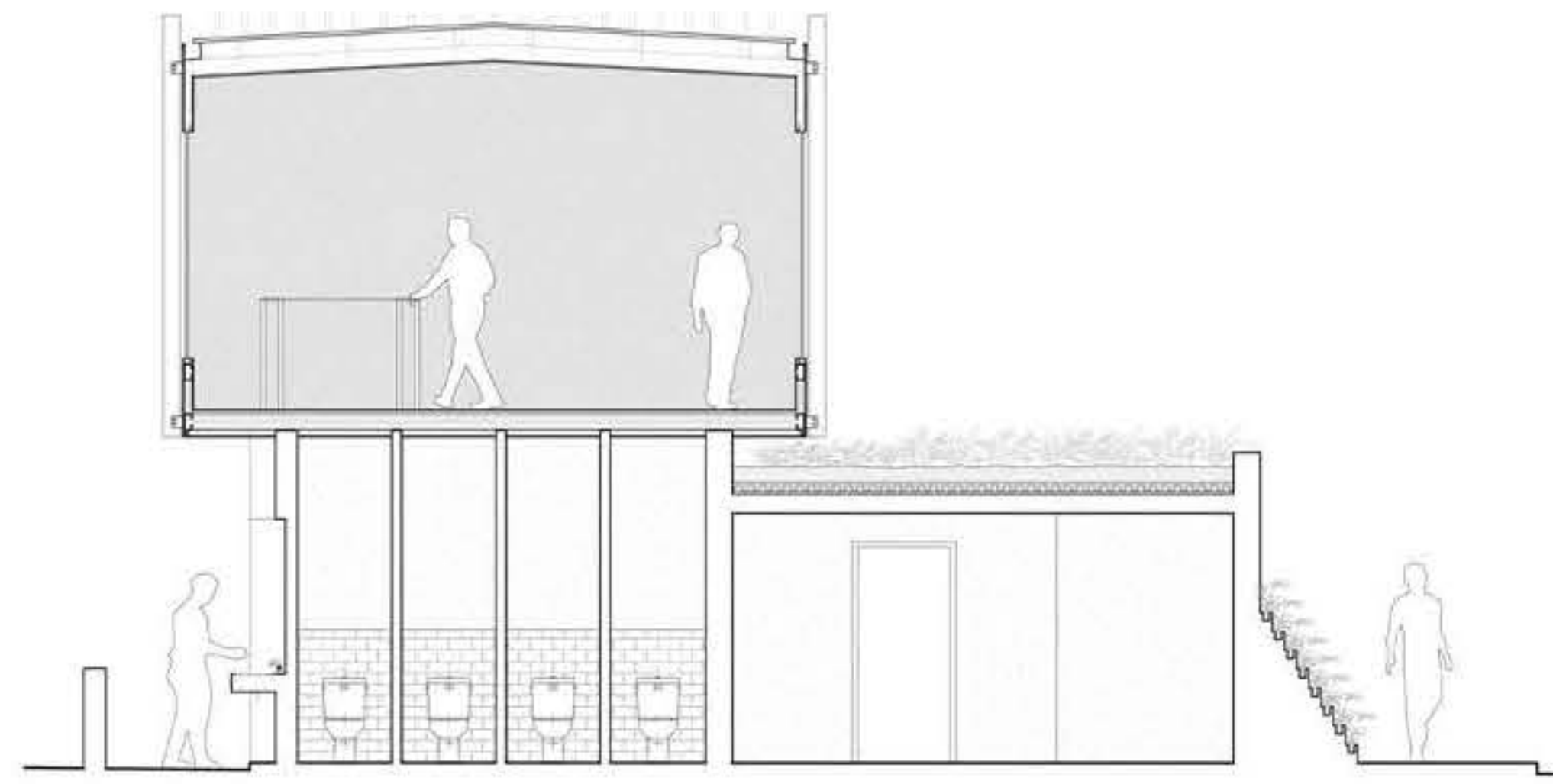




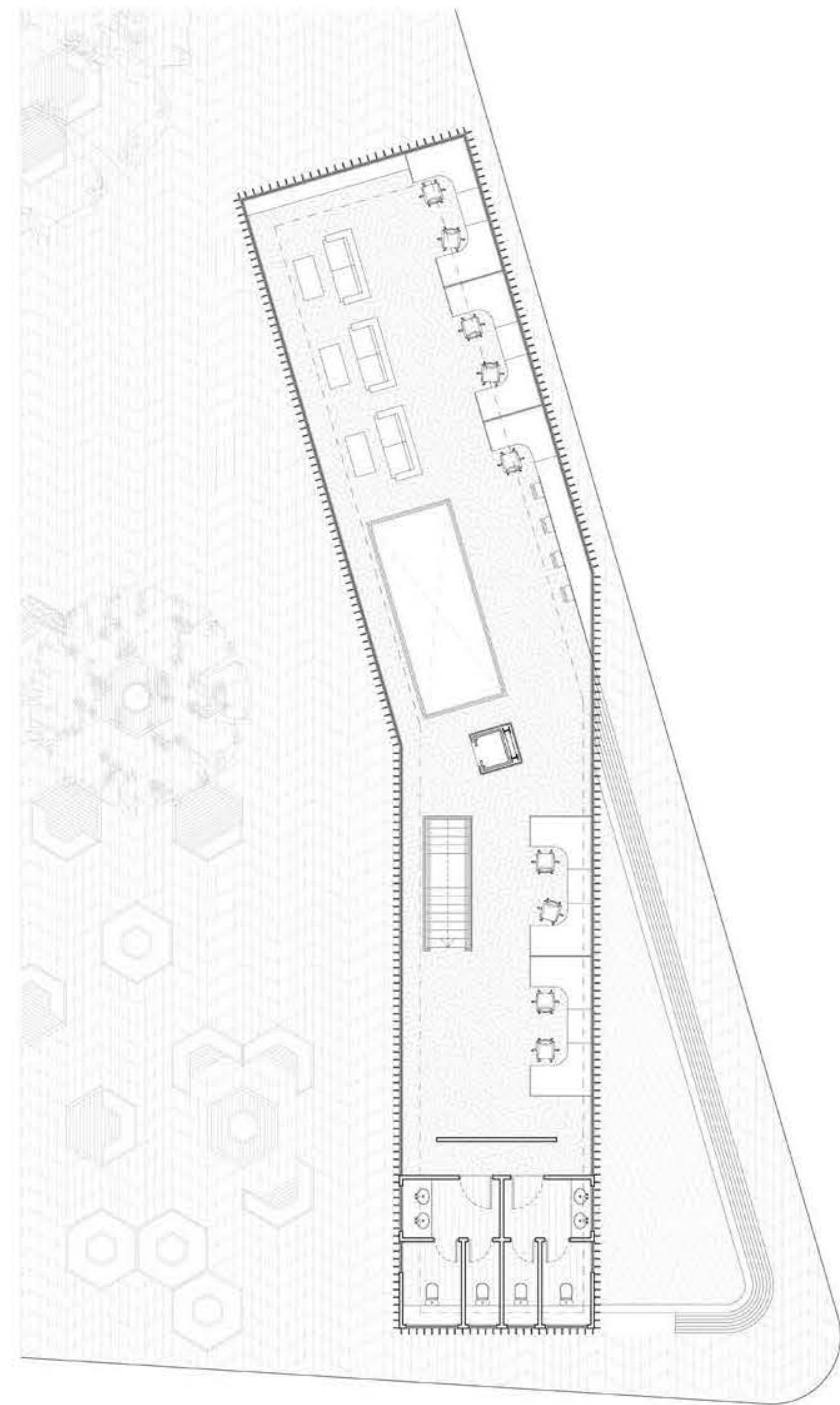
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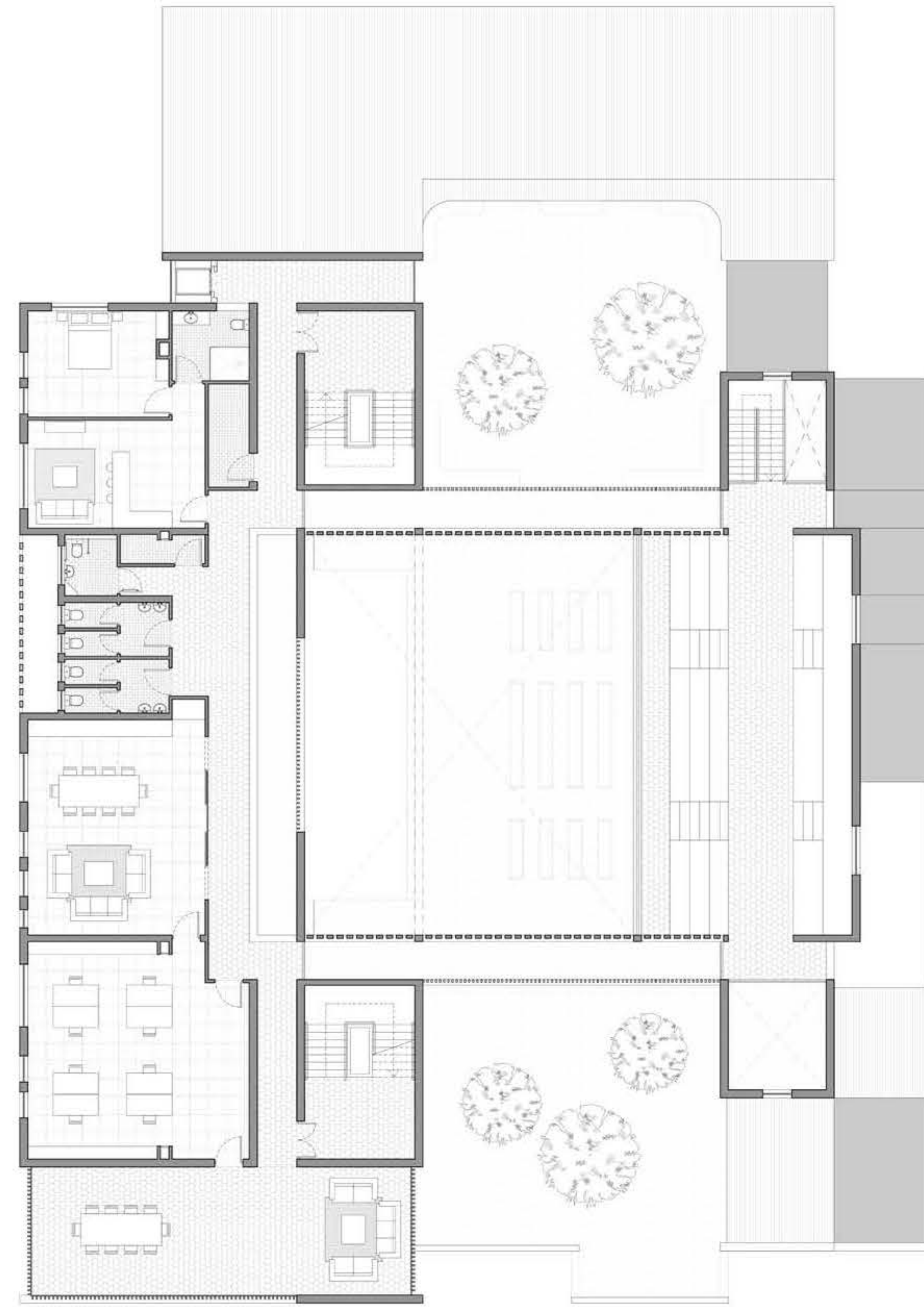
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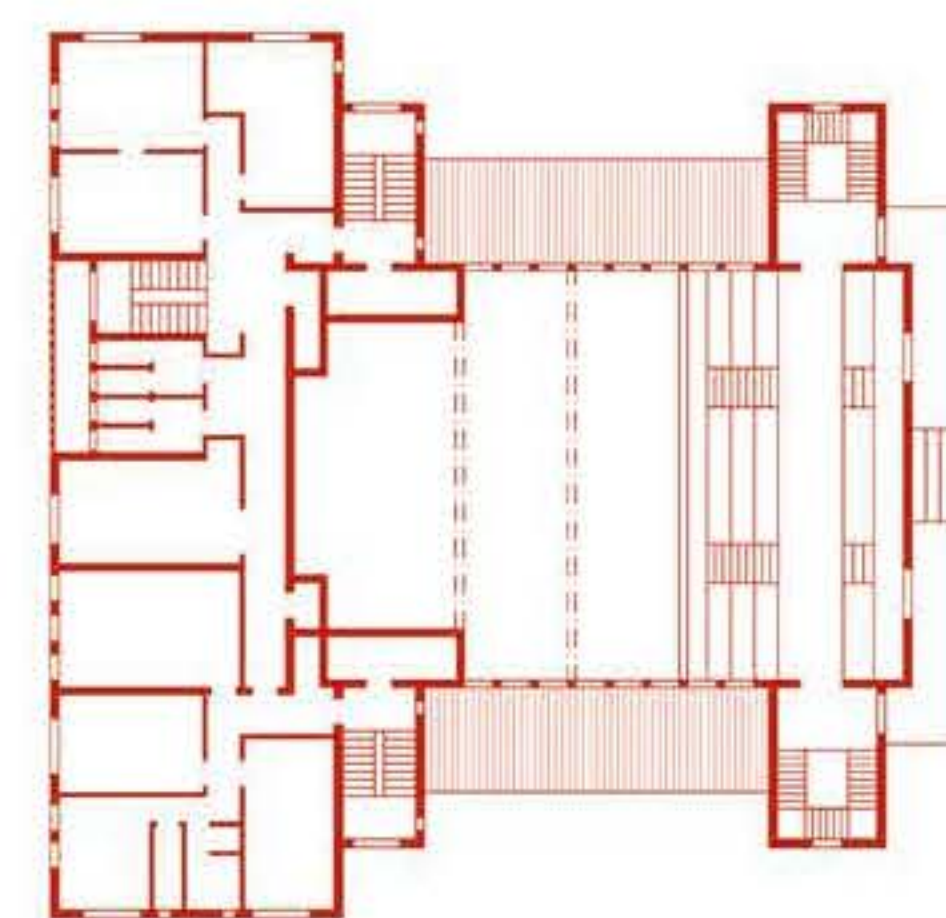
SECTION  
SCALE 1:50



FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1:100



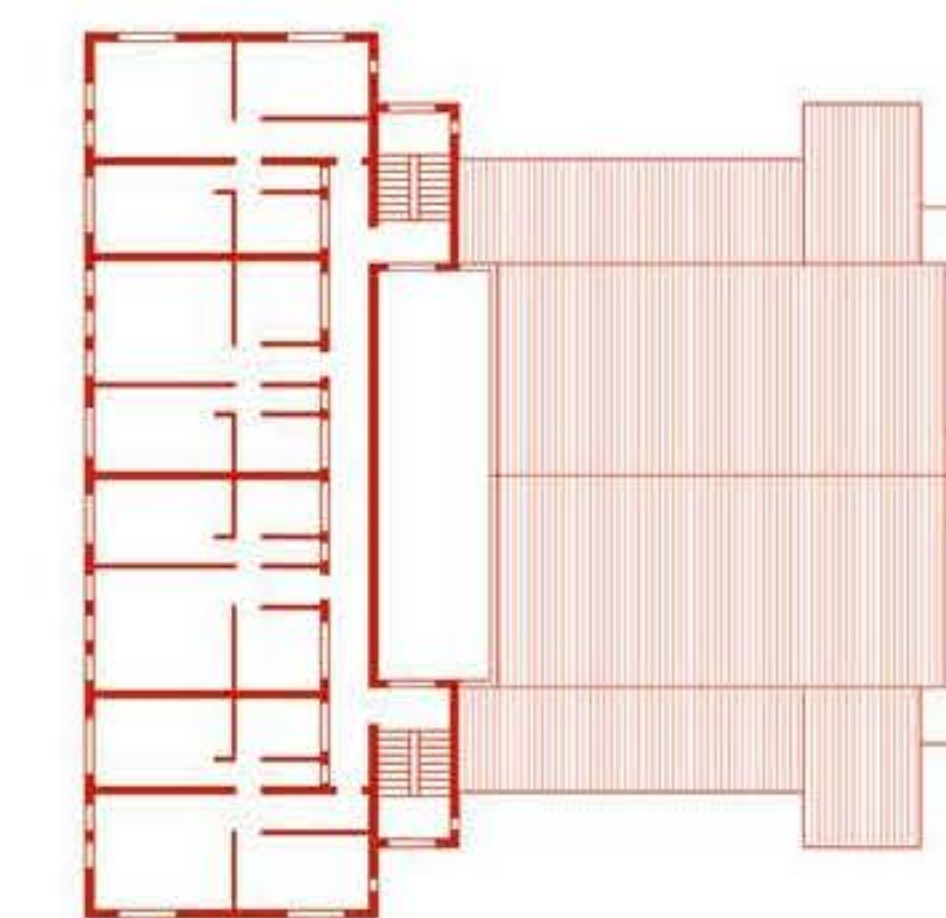
FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1:100



EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1:250



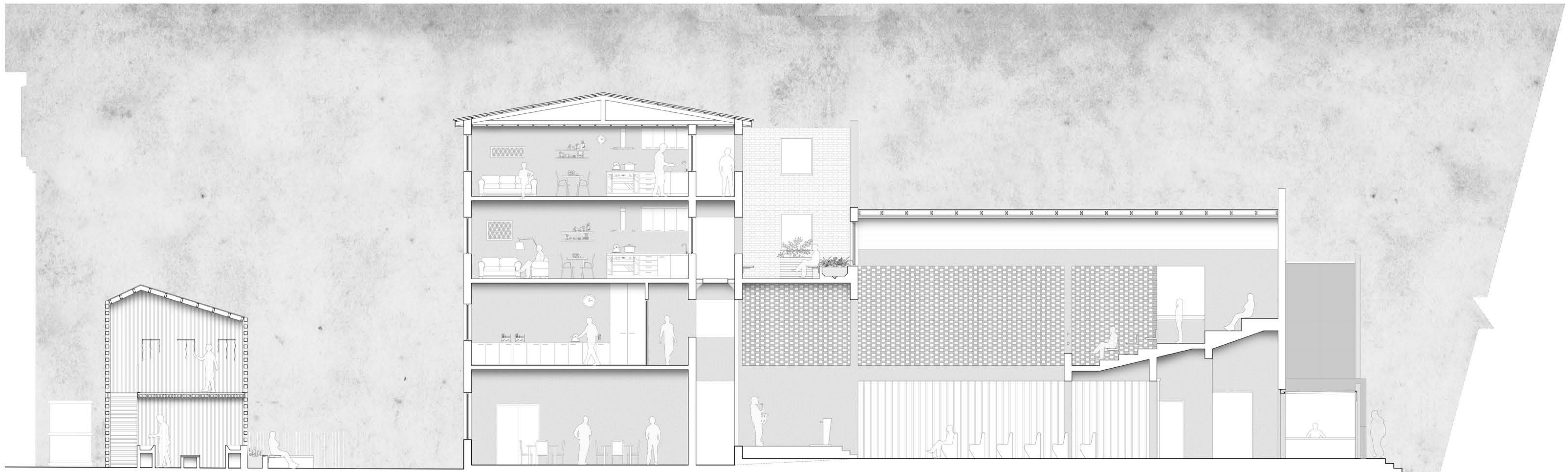
SECOND & THIRD FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1:100



EXISTING SECOND & THIRD FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1:250

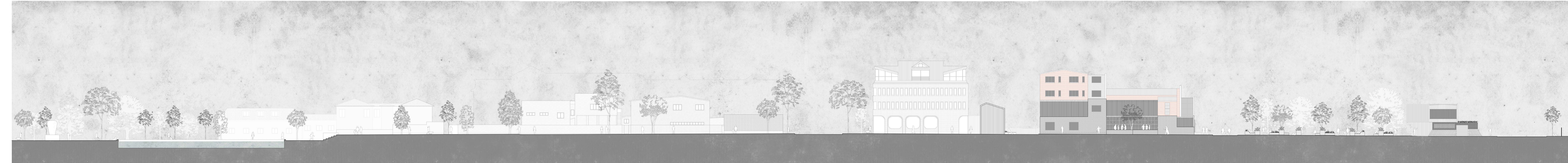


TRANSVERSE SECTION  
SCALE 1:50



LONGITUDINAL SECTION  
SCALE 1:50





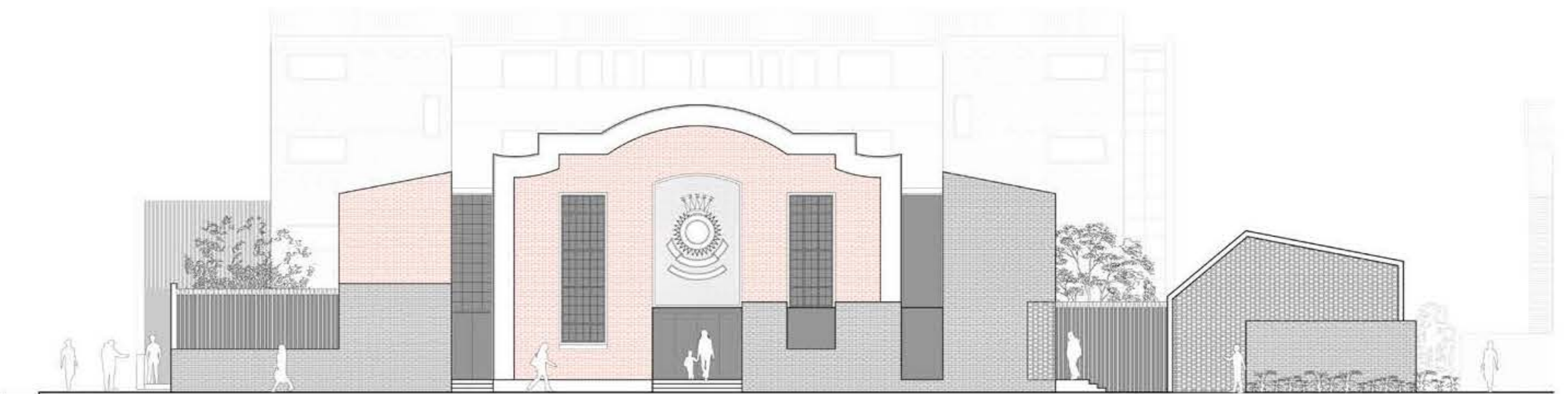
SOUTH WEST ELEVATION  
SCALE: 1:100



COURTYARD PERSPECTIVE



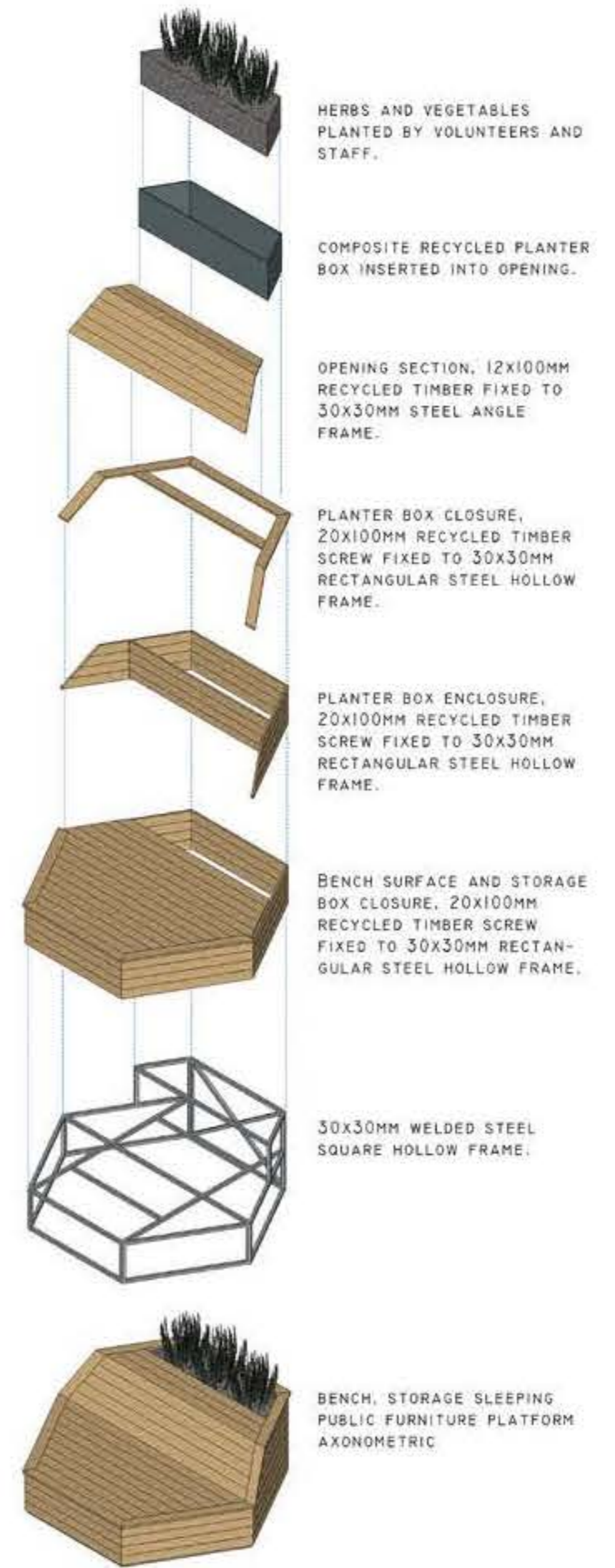
PERSPECTIVE FROM PUBLIC SPACE



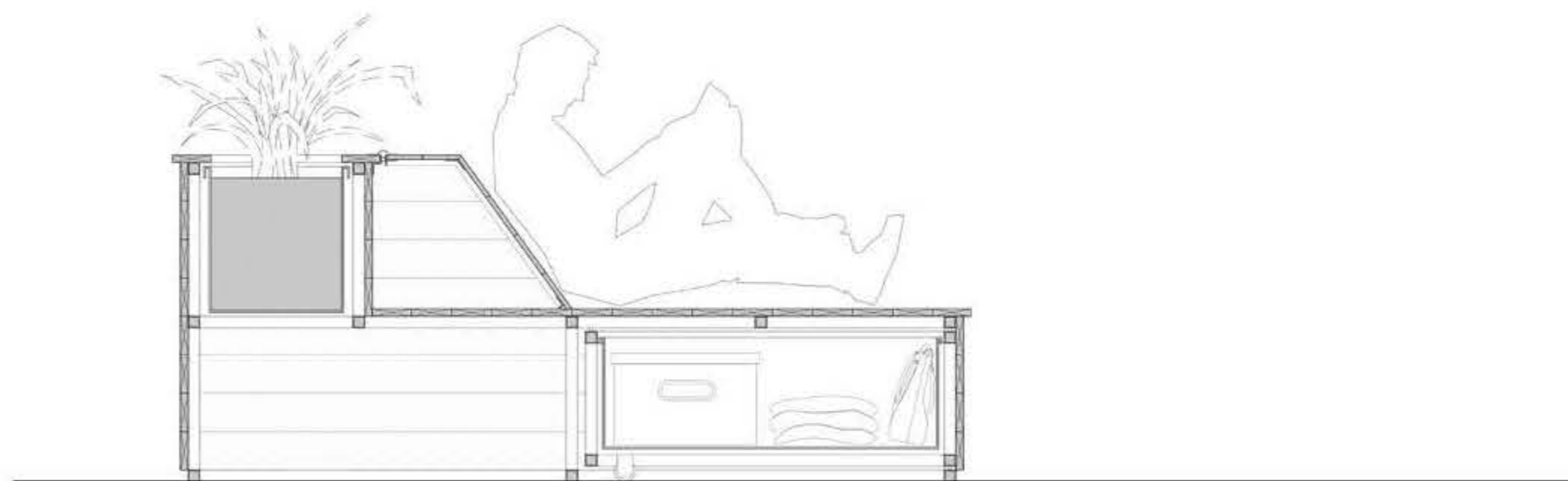
SOUTH EAST ELEVATION  
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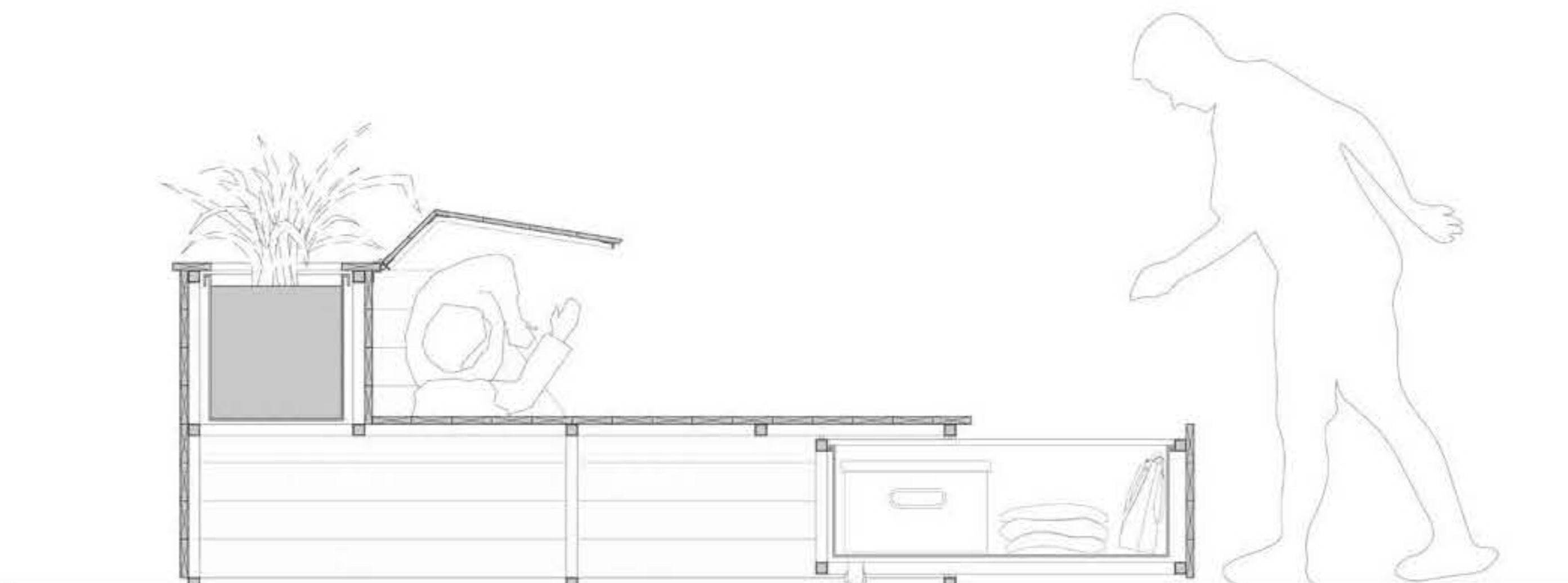
GENERIC LAYOUT SURROUNDING EXISTING TREE



- HERBS AND VEGETABLES PLANTED BY VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF.
- COMPOSITE RECYCLED PLANTER BOX INSERTED INTO OPENING.
- OPENING SECTION, 12X100MM RECYCLED TIMBER FIXED TO 30X30MM STEEL ANGLE FRAME.
- PLANTER BOX CLOSURE, 20X100MM RECYCLED TIMBER SCREW FIXED TO 30X30MM RECTANGULAR STEEL HOLLOW FRAME.
- PLANTER BOX ENCLOSURE, 20X100MM RECYCLED TIMBER SCREW FIXED TO 30X30MM RECTANGULAR STEEL HOLLOW FRAME.
- BENCH SURFACE AND STORAGE BOX CLOSURE, 20X100MM RECYCLED TIMBER SCREW FIXED TO 30X30MM RECTANGULAR STEEL HOLLOW FRAME.
- 30X30MM WELDED STEEL SQUARE HOLLOW FRAME.
- BENCH, STORAGE SLEEPING PUBLIC FURNITURE PLATFORM AXONOMETRIC



SECTION THROUGH BENCH SCALE: 1:10



SECTION THROUGH BENCH SCALE: 1:10

