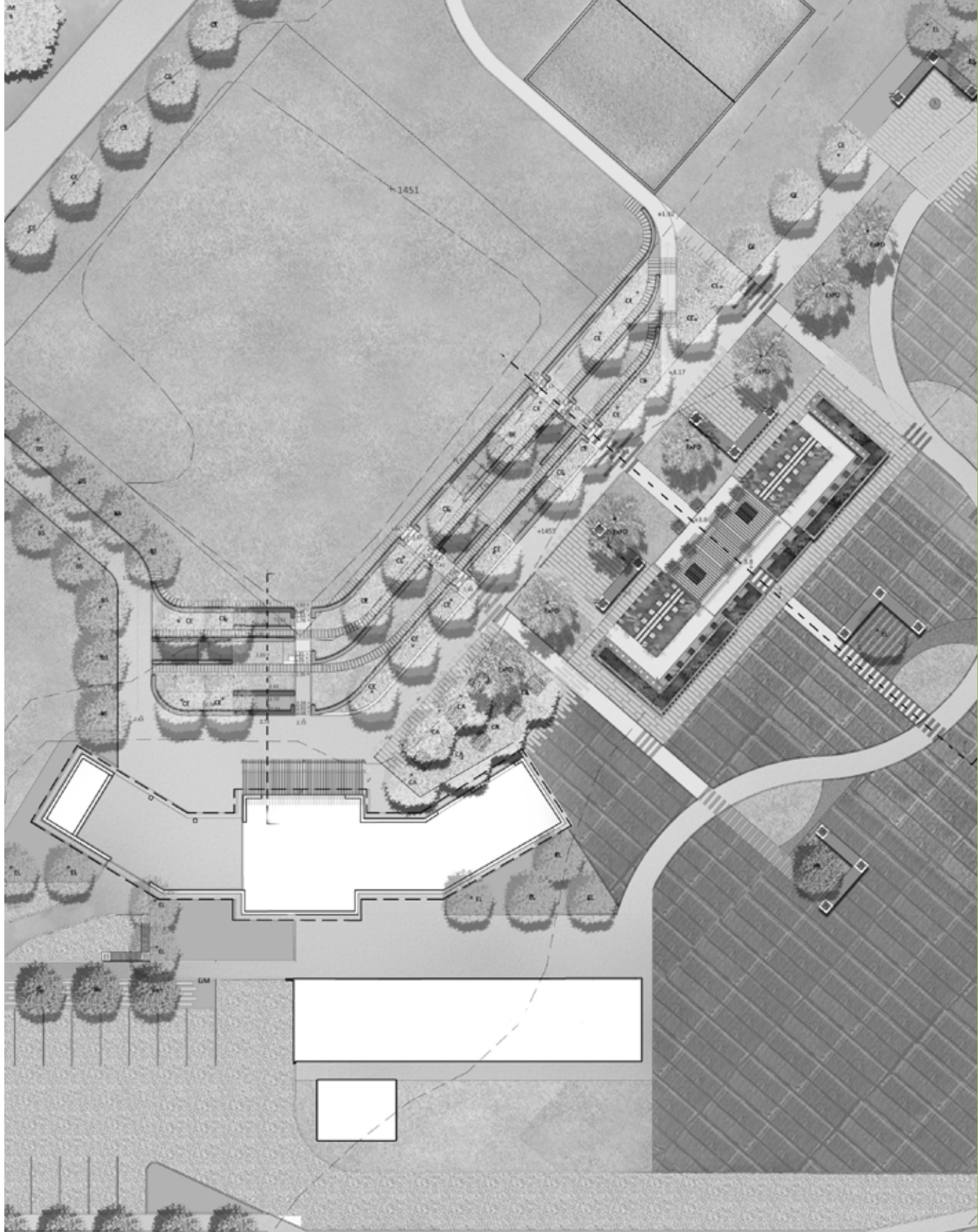


SKETCH PLAN



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8.1. INTRODUCTION

Fig. 8.2: Area to be developed as the catalyst project for which a sketch plan will be designed (Author, 2009)

The area around the existing kiosk in the social and active heart of Weskoppies as proposed in the open space framework was chosen for a detail design because of its potential to act as a catalyst for the rest of the site. This is the area where most social interaction are currently spontaneously taking place between different patients, staff and visitors. It is more or less in a central location on the site in close proximity to most sport activities. This area is also located at the furthest point of the proposed primary road and becomes its end destination. It is in an ideal position to illustrate the transition between public and semi private due to the male ward situated at the lower right corner. It will be the arrival point for public on weekends from where they will explore the rest of the site by making use of the proposed pedestrian movement system. It will also become a gathering and meeting place for the patients and staff of Weskoppies. The first cut flower fields will also be proposed in this area.



8.2. ANALYSIS (refer to fig. 8.3. & 8.4)

- The most prominent landscape feature in this area is a row of old Date palm (Phoenix canariensis) trees that suggests a strong line on the site (Fig. 8.4).
- The old jukse court is now being as a multi functional sports field .
- There is no boundary between the public area around the kiosk and the male ward in the lower right corner.
- The area in front of the kiosk gets direct northern sun with no shading provided. This makes it a uncomfortable and harsh area.
- The staff housing at the top is not visible from this public area due to dense vegetation.
- The prominent vehicular route from the entrance ends at the back of the informal parking area as shown on Fig. 8.3.

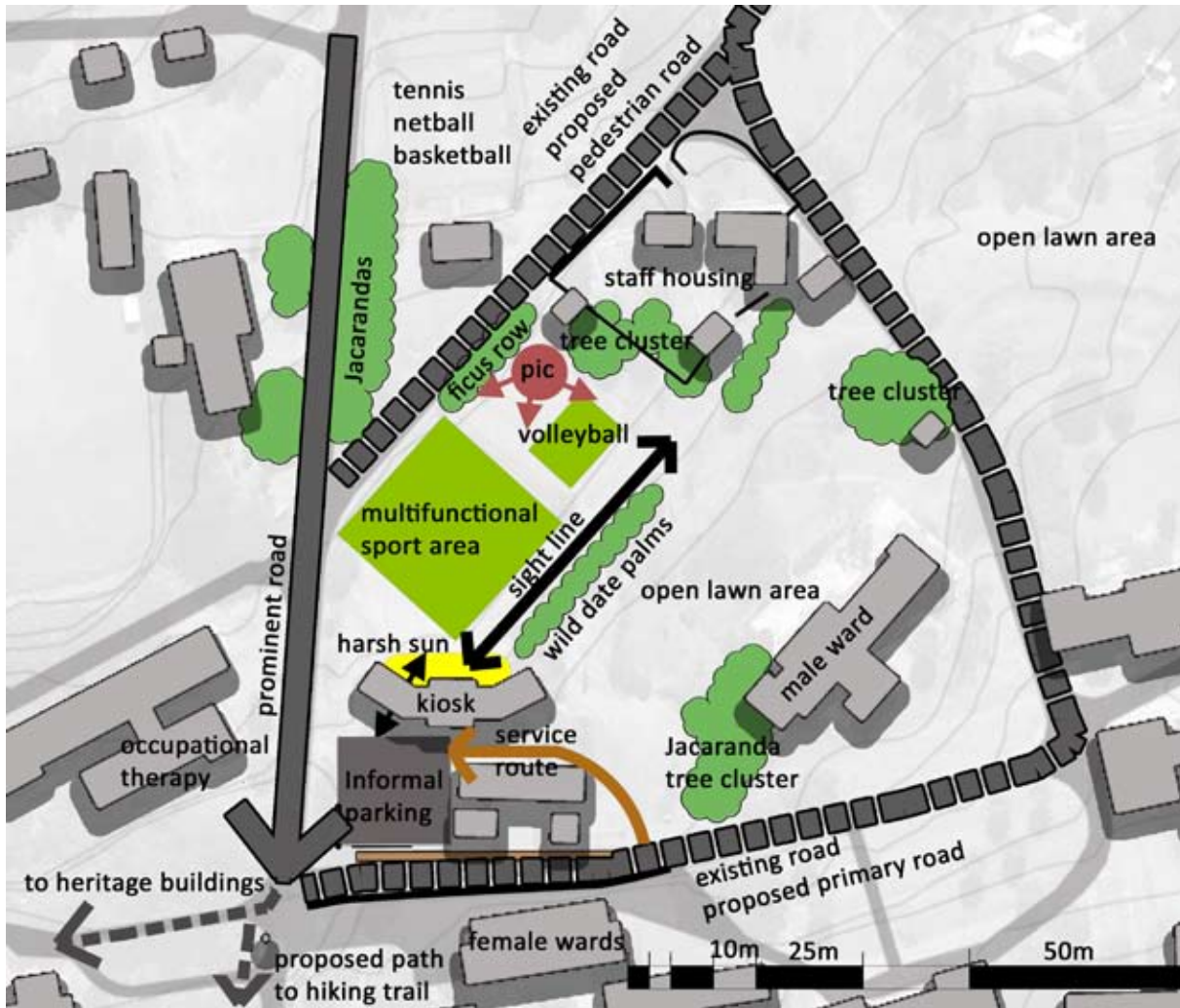


Fig. 8.3: Analysis diagram, highlighting the most prominent features (Author, 2009).



Fig. 8.4: Photographic analysis, highlighting the most prominent features (Author, 2009).

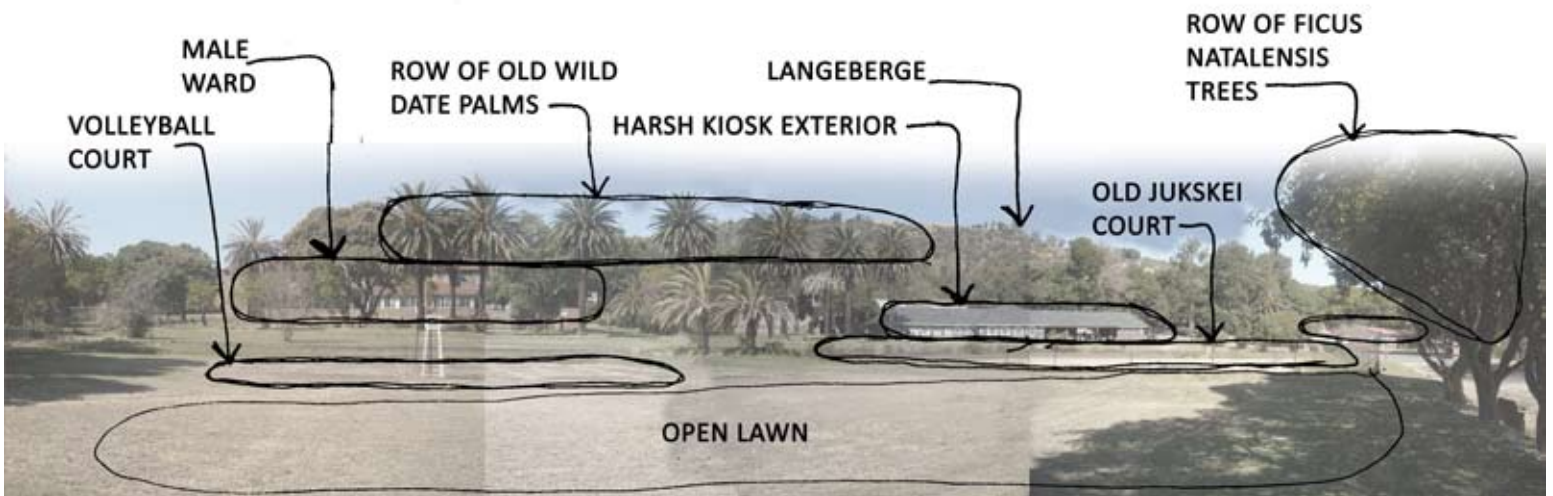


Fig. 8.5(opposite page):
Design diagram
illustrating the different
spaces, circulation and
boundaries as
accommodated in the
sketch plan
(Author, 2009).

8.3. DESIGN PROPOSAL

The area chosen for the development of a sketch plan falls within the active and social heart as proposed in the open space framework (refer to 7.6). The aim of the sketch plan is to act as a catalyst project in establishing an outdoor setting at Weskoppies with potential to enhance psychological healing. This will be achieved by providing the user with a variety of experiences and spaces that aims to satisfy the design guidelines (refer to 8.5). These include; a social kiosk exterior, a stepped seating and sleeping area around the sport field, a horticultural therapy garden and colour pockets in the flower fields. Each of these will be discussed in more depth in 8.4.

The following elements are proposed to structure the design layout (Fig. 8.5). The application of these elements, experiences and spaces is shown on the sketch plan design on the next page.

8.3.1. CIRCULAR PRIMARY WALKWAY

The circular primary walkway provides the user with a variety of experiences which includes a social kiosk exterior, a seating and sleeping space that overlooks the multifunctional sports field, a horticultural therapy garden and a flower experience. On Saturdays flowers will be sold along this route in the area around the kiosk. The crossings with the primary vehicular route will be slightly raised and paved to slow down traffic and allow safe pedestrian crossings. This road is also accessible to wheelchair users. The diagonal vehicular route will be pedestrianised to form part of this route.

8.3.2. FLOWER WALKWAY

This route is connected to the primary walkway by means of various secondary pedestrian routes. The route exposes the user to an unique experience through the flower fields of different colours and connects the colour pockets with each other. It also takes the pedestrian to the flower package room where they can observe or participate in the flower production process.

8.3.3. SECONDARY PEDESTRIAN ROUTES

The secondary pedestrian routes connects pedestrians from all over the site to the primary route. It will be narrower than the primary route (between 1.5 - 2m) and also include the walkway next to the primary vehicular route.

8.3.4. SERVICE ROUTE

A service route is located at the back of the flower packing building to accommodate the pick up and delivery trucks for the kiosk and flower packing building. The route goes through the proposed parking area to link up with the primary vehicular route at both ends.

8.3.5. VEGETATION SCREEN

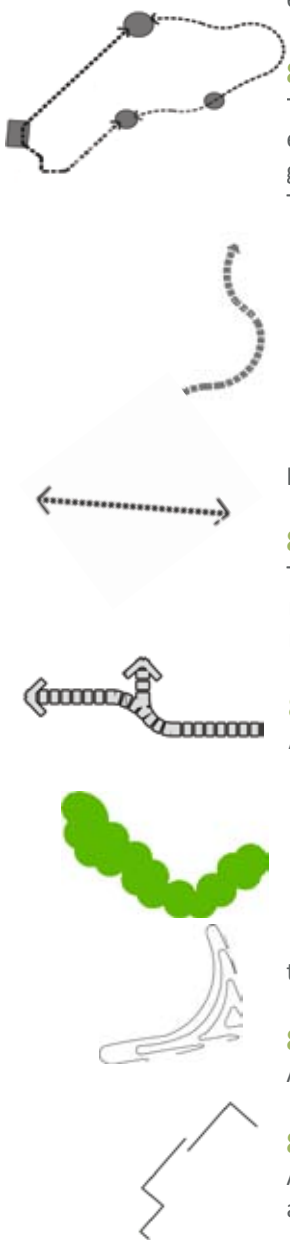
A vegetation screen consisting out of a tree forest that blocks the view from the road to the outdoor area at the male ward. The vegetation screen at the staff housing consists out of dense shrubs and trees to the public's view to the staff housing.

8.3.6. BERM

A berm acts as a further visual barrier between the road and the male ward.

8.3.7. RETAINING WALL

A retaining wall separates the semi private the outdoor room in front of the male ward. This retaining wall serves as both a physical and visual boundary.



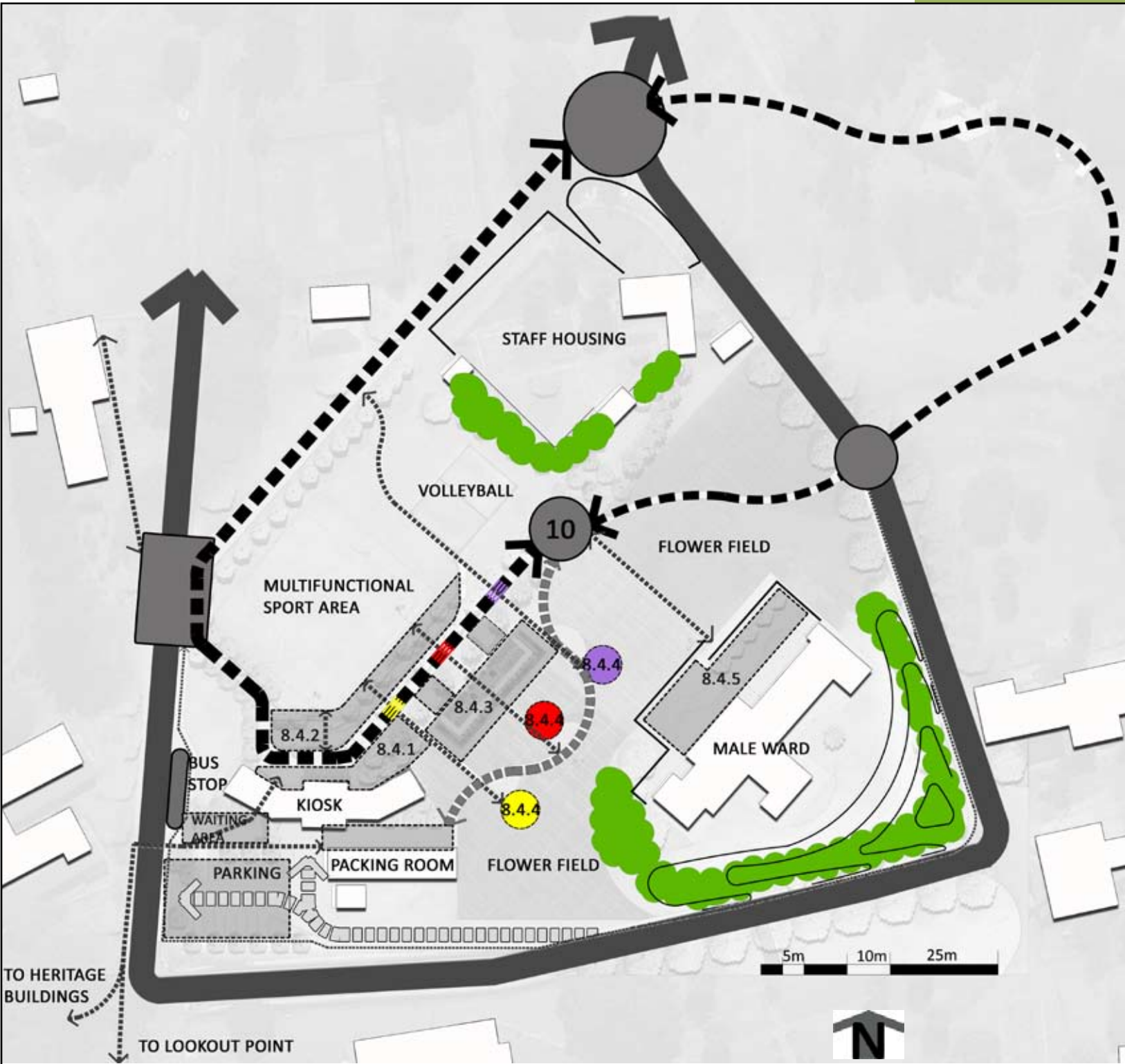


Fig. 8.6: A graphic illustration of the sketch plan showing the application of the structuring elements in 8.3 and the experiences and spaces that will be discussed in 8.4 (Author, 2009).





staff housing

staff housing

Sundial & Outdoor calendar

Freesia
Lathyrus odorata
Gypsophila elegans
Antriminum majus

Delphinium belladonna
Euryops pectinatus
Cynoglossum amabile

purple & blue pocket

C

outdoor room

stepped lawn

C

male ward

Berm

red pocket

B

Calendula officinalis
Crocosmia paniculata
Watsonia
Sparaxis elegantis

Tree cluster

Berm

SKETCH PL



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10m

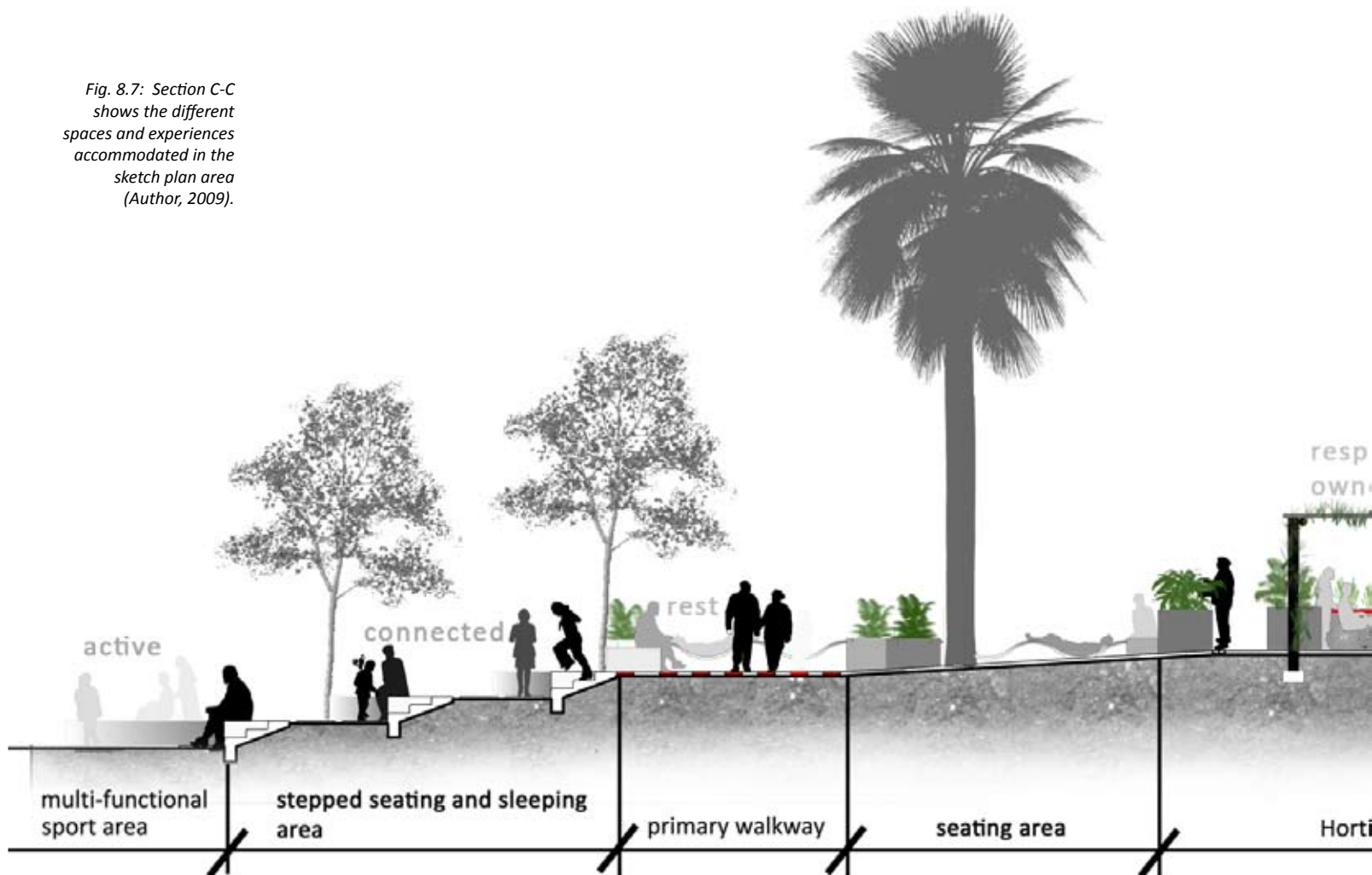
25m



8.4.SPACES AND EXPERIENCES

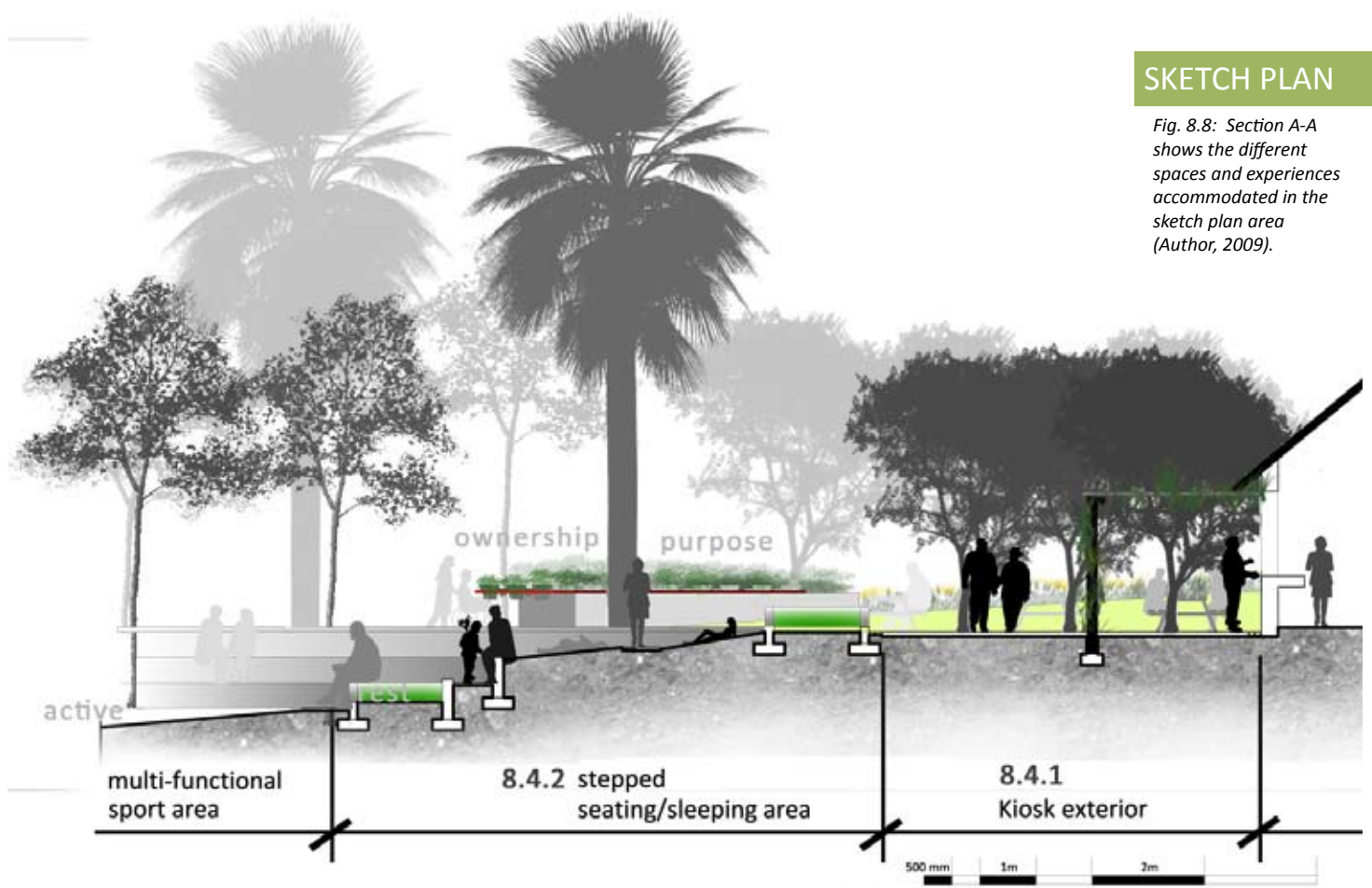
Section A-A and C-C illustrates the different spaces and experiences accommodated in the sketch plan to create an outdoor environment that enhances healing by addressing the guidelines as discussed in chapter 5 (refer to the design matrix in 8.5). These spaces includes the kiosk exterior, the stepped seating and sleeping area, the horticultural garden and the colour pockets in the flower field. Each of these spaces will be explained individually in more depth in 8.4.1 to 8.4.5. Refer to numbers in Fig 8.5, 8.7 & 8.8).

Fig. 8.7: Section C-C shows the different spaces and experiences accommodated in the sketch plan area (Author, 2009).

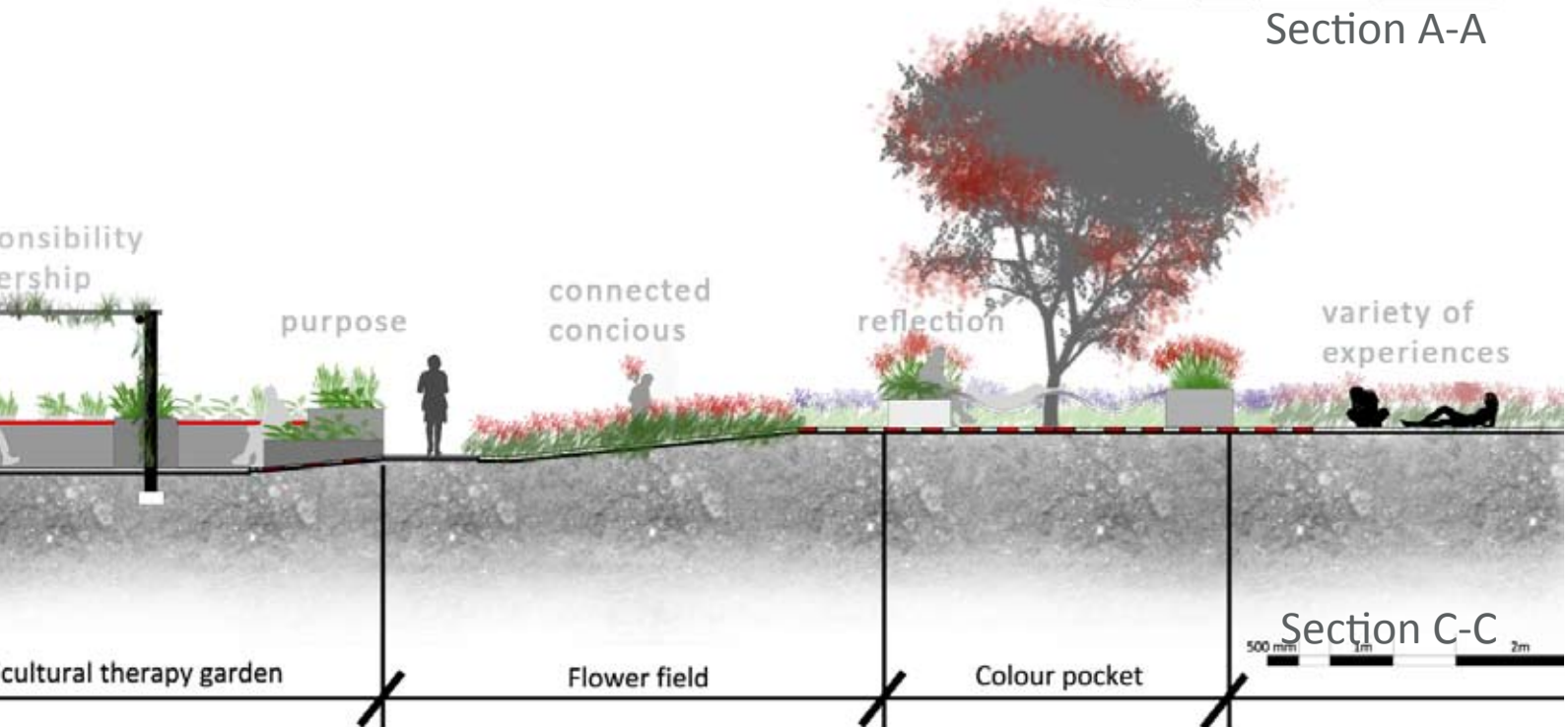


SKETCH PLAN

Fig. 8.8: Section A-A shows the different spaces and experiences accommodated in the sketch plan area (Author, 2009).



Section A-A



Section C-C

8.4.1. KIOSK EXTERIOR

The current kiosk exterior doesn't accommodate sufficient social interaction to establish a feeling of connectedness amongst patients, staff members, visitors or the public (refer to 5.6.1). A comfortable social area around the kiosk area is vital to developing this area as the active and social heart of Weskoppies as proposed in the open space framework (refer to 7.6) The building doesn't allow easy transition between the interior and exterior. The northern facade receives full sun which results in a very harsh kiosk exterior.

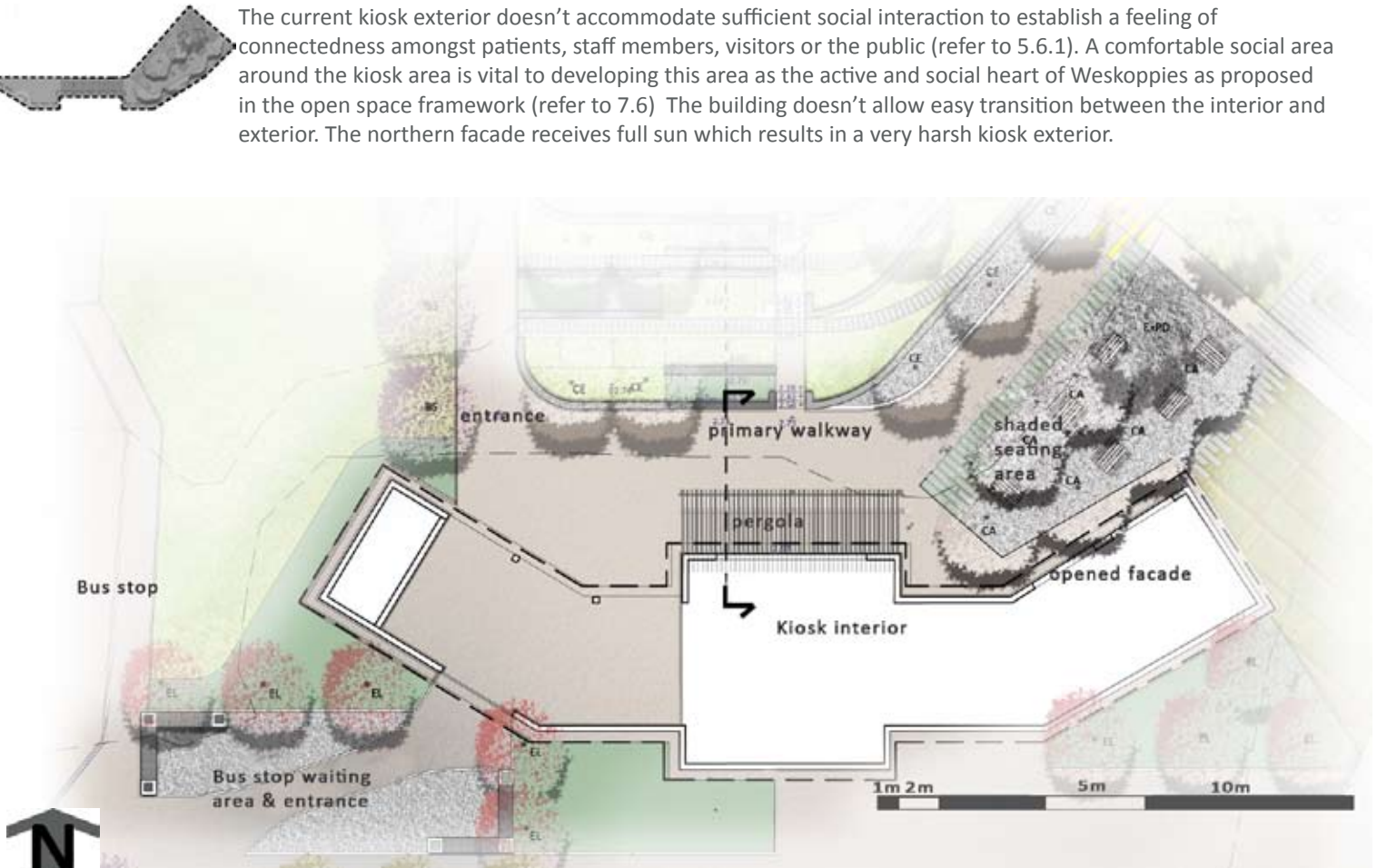
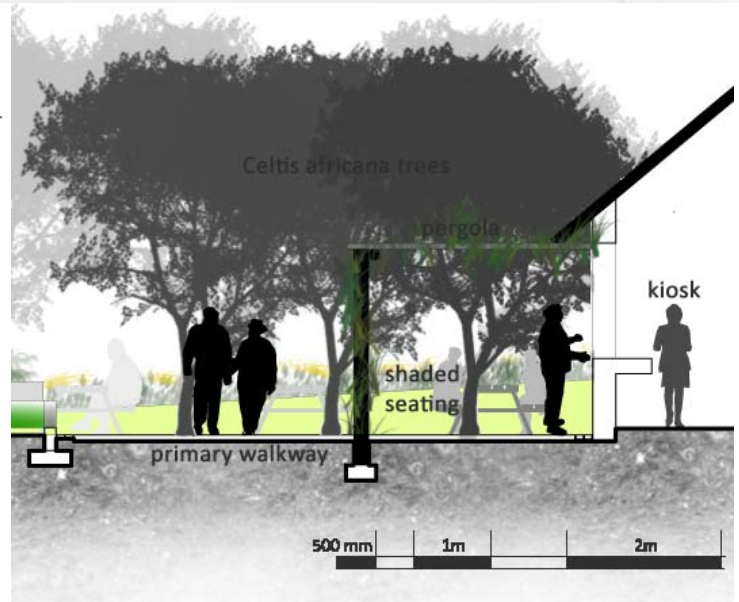


Fig. 8.9 (top): Kiosk exterior plan (Author, 2009).

Fig. 8.10 (right): Kiosk exterior section (Author, 2009).

The sketch plan design proposes opening up the northern facade to activate it and allow better transition between the interior and exterior. As indicated on the section (Fig. 8.10), people can also buy food and snacks directly from the outside of the building on the primary route. Shading at this area will be provided by means of a pergola with fragrant climbing plants that stimulates the senses (refer to 5.4.1). At the right side of the kiosk exterior the facade will be softened and shaded social seating will be provided in summer while sun will still be allowed in winter by planting *Celtis africana* trees (Fig. 8.10).





*Fig. 8.11: Kiosk exterior
3d image (Author, 2009).*

8.4.2. STEPPED SEATING AND SLEEPING AREA

The area around the multifunctional sports field in front of the kiosk doesn't have comfortable places for people to sit while watching others participate in sport activities. By observing others participating in positive outdoor activities the discouraged patient could become motivated to get involved (refer to 5.3.2). Psychiatric patients are often heavily medicated which results in drowsiness during the day (refer to 4.5.5). Therefore the outdoor environment should accommodate outdoor resting for tired patients (refer to 5.5.6).

The sketch plan proposes a stepped seating and sleeping area around the multifunctional sports field where people can sit or lie comfortably while observing others participating in sport activities. Seating is accommodated by making use of terraced lawn with retaining walls. The lawn and retaining walls are waved at some places to provide comfortable places for patients to sleep or lie on. Mosaic work with positive messages by Weskoppies patients will be encouraged on these retaining walls.

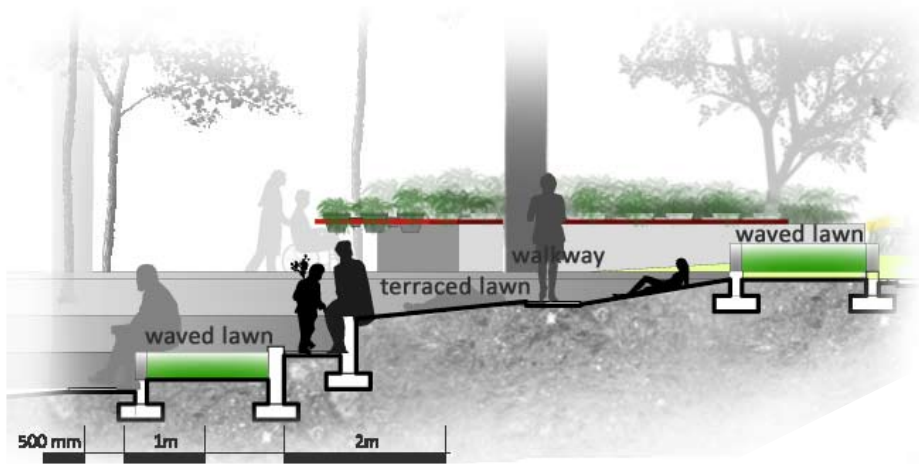
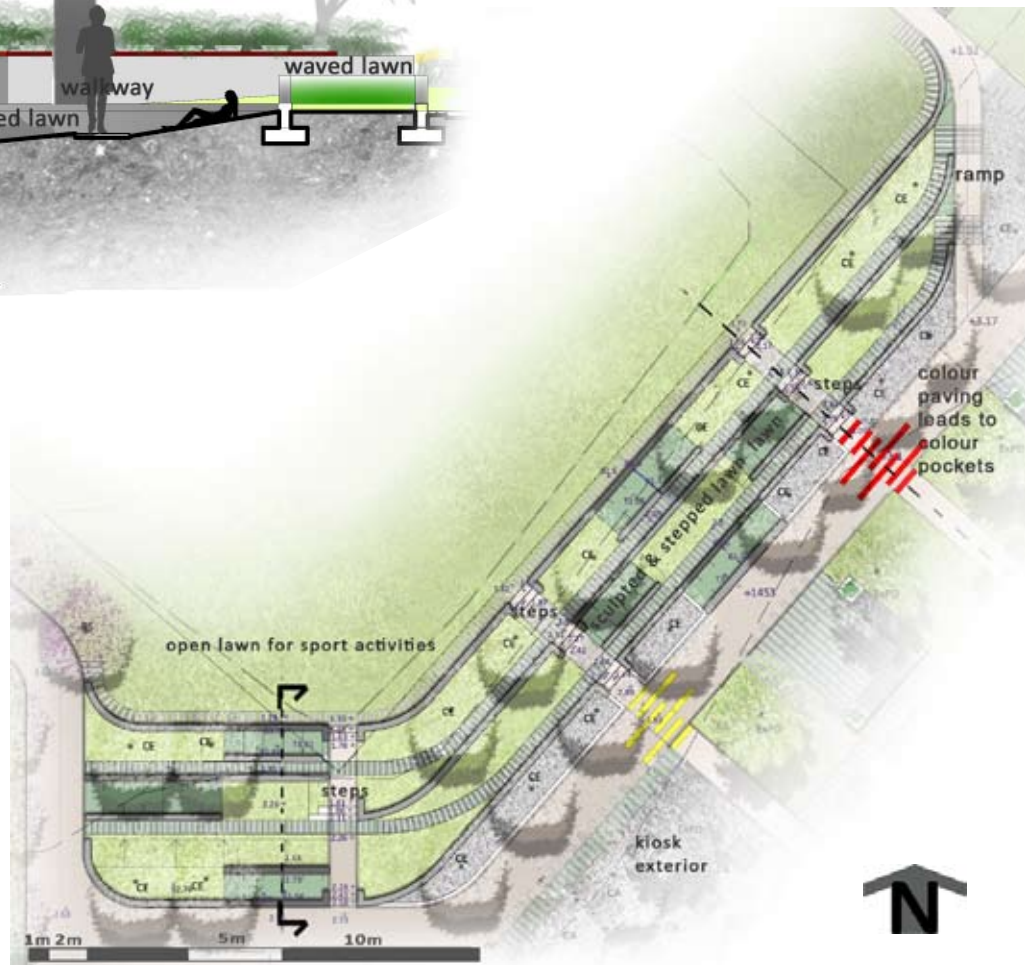


Fig. 8.12 (top): Stepped seating and sleeping area section (Author, 2009).

Fig. 8.13 (bottom): Stepped seating and sleeping area plan (Author, 2009).



*Fig. 8.14 (below):
Stepped seating and
sleeping area 3d image
(Author, 2009).*



8.4.3. HORTICULTURAL THERAPY GARDEN

In an interview with Anel de Beer (De Beer, 2009) an occupational therapist at Weskoppies she stated that there exists a need for activities that allows patients to feel that they are doing, and accomplishing something for themselves. She started an informal herb garden with ten chronic patients at Weskoppies to encourage a sense of ownership, responsibility and pride. Working with plants and seeing them grow satisfies the basic human need for contact with nature and can therefore be a fulfilling experience for the individual (refer to 5.3.4). Working and taking care of plants in groups establishes community pride and also encourages social interaction and support (refer to 5.6.1 & 5.6.2). The author proposed a formal horticultural therapy garden in the sketch plan to facilitate a horticultural therapy program as part of the occupational therapy program.

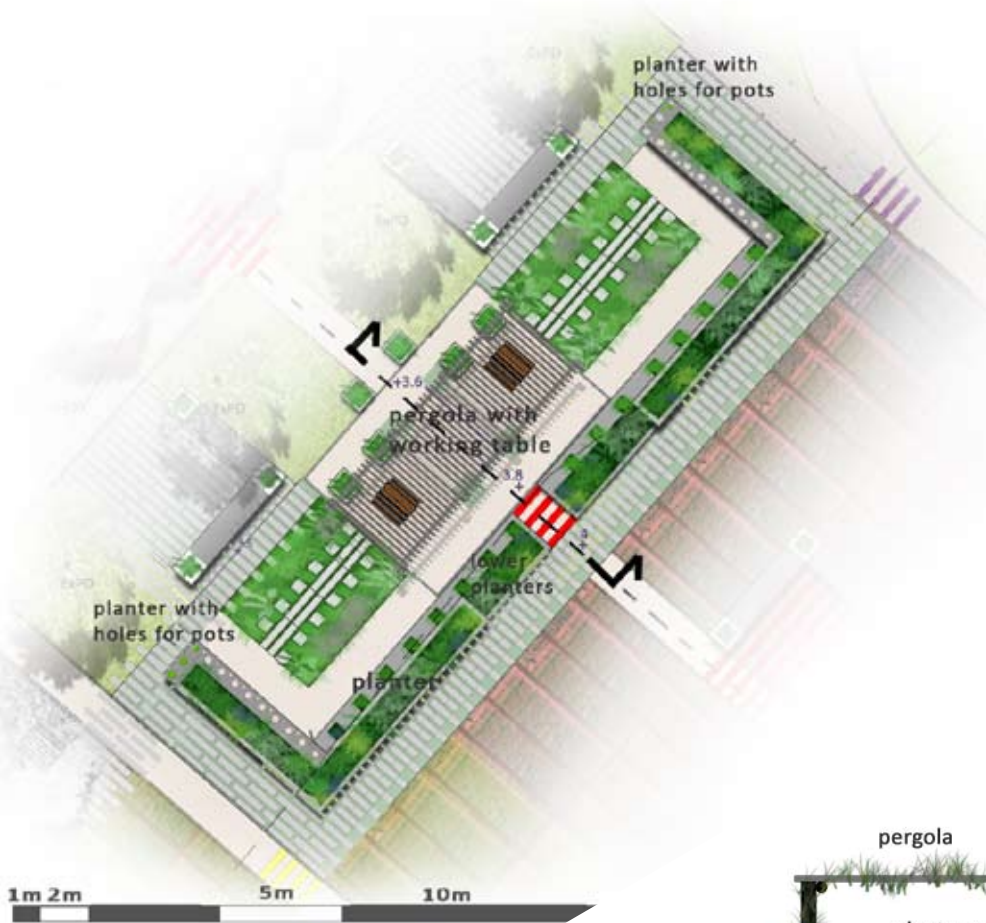
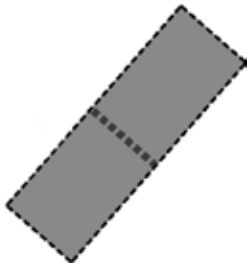


Fig. 8.15 Horticultural therapy garden plan (Author, 2009).

Herbs, vegetables and fragrant plants will be planted in this garden to maximise the sensory experience by stimulating the senses touch, smell, taste and sight. The horticultural therapy garden will include a central gathering space with working tables shaded with a pergola and fragrant climbing plants (refer to 5.4.1). The central gathering area will be enclosed with planters at various heights. The planters allow the user to experience and work with the plants at various heights. There is also an area where precast concrete slabs with holes for pots are attached to the edge of the planter. The height and depth of the concrete slabs will allow wheelchair users to comfortably work with the plants (refer to 9.3.2).

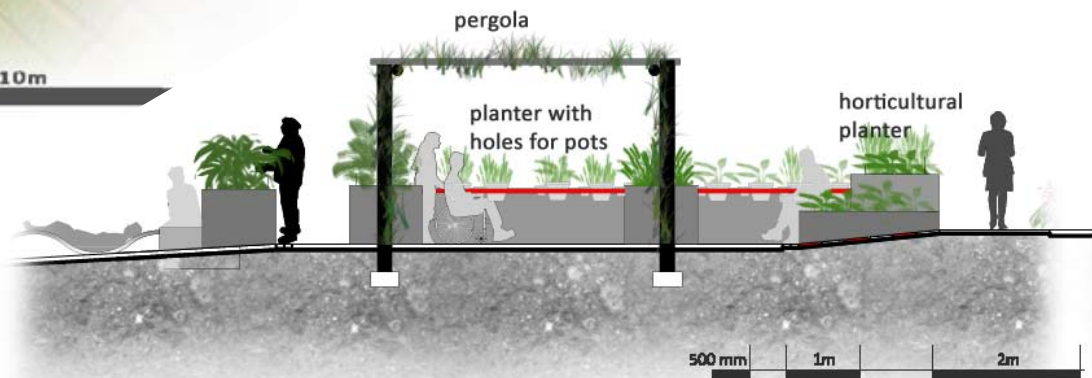


Fig. 8.16: Horticultural therapy garden section (Author, 2009).



Fig. 8.17: Horticultural therapy garden 3d image (Author, 2009).

8.4.4. COLOUR POCKETS

Patients and staff need quiet places for reflection and restoration away from the mainstream activities (refer to 5.5.1). The colourful flower fields provides an ideal setting to accommodate these places and provide the user with a unique experience.

The sketch plan proposes three colour pockets, yellow, red and blue/purple connected to each other with the flower walkway. These colours were selected because they fall within the colour range of most open air flower species (refer to 9.1.6).

These pockets could also function as a tool for staff members to analyze the moods and preferences of patients based on the colour pocket they use of on a regular basis.

Each of the pockets have a seating and waved sleeping bench (refer to 9.3.7) and a lawn area adjacent to the flower walkway. Brightly coloured strips of semi glazed ceramic tile inserts heightens the colour experience of each individual pocket.

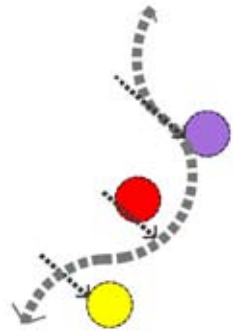


Fig. 8.18: Plan showing the different colour pockets (Author, 2009).

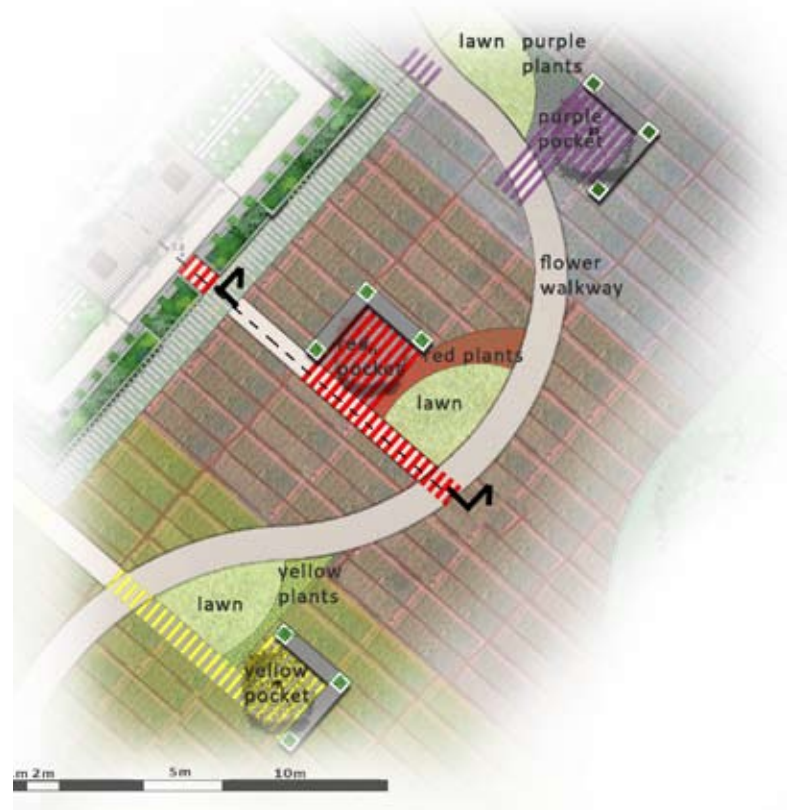
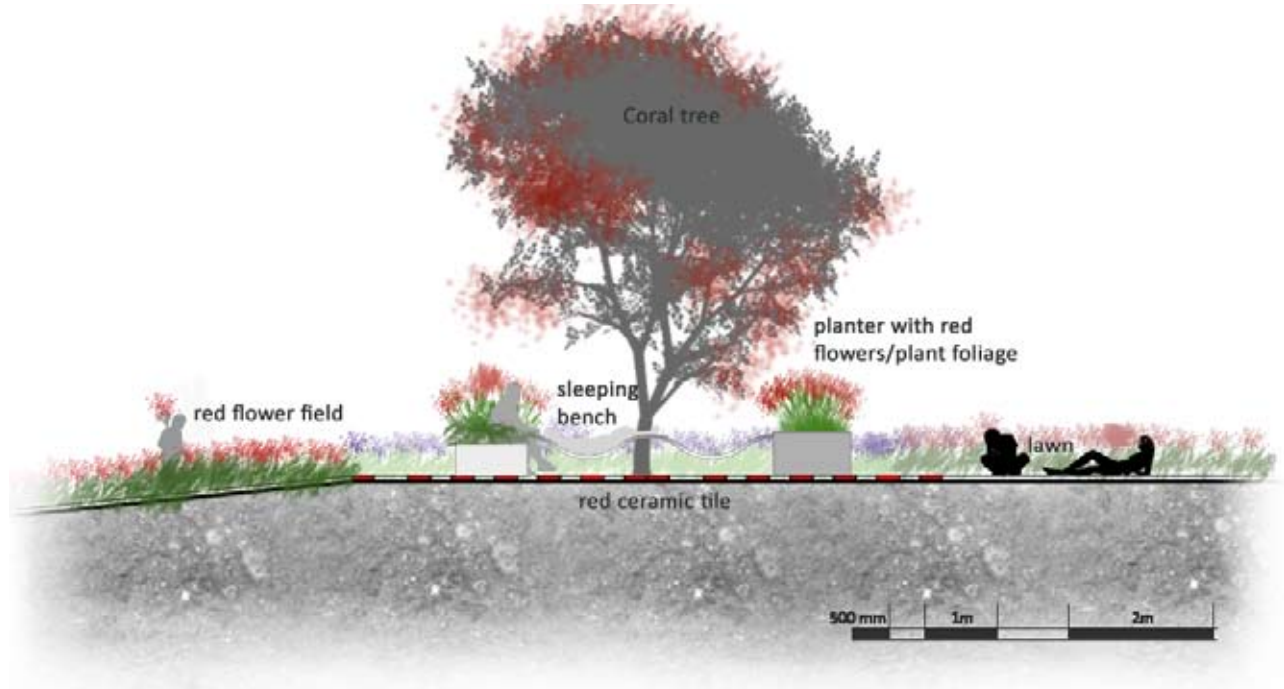
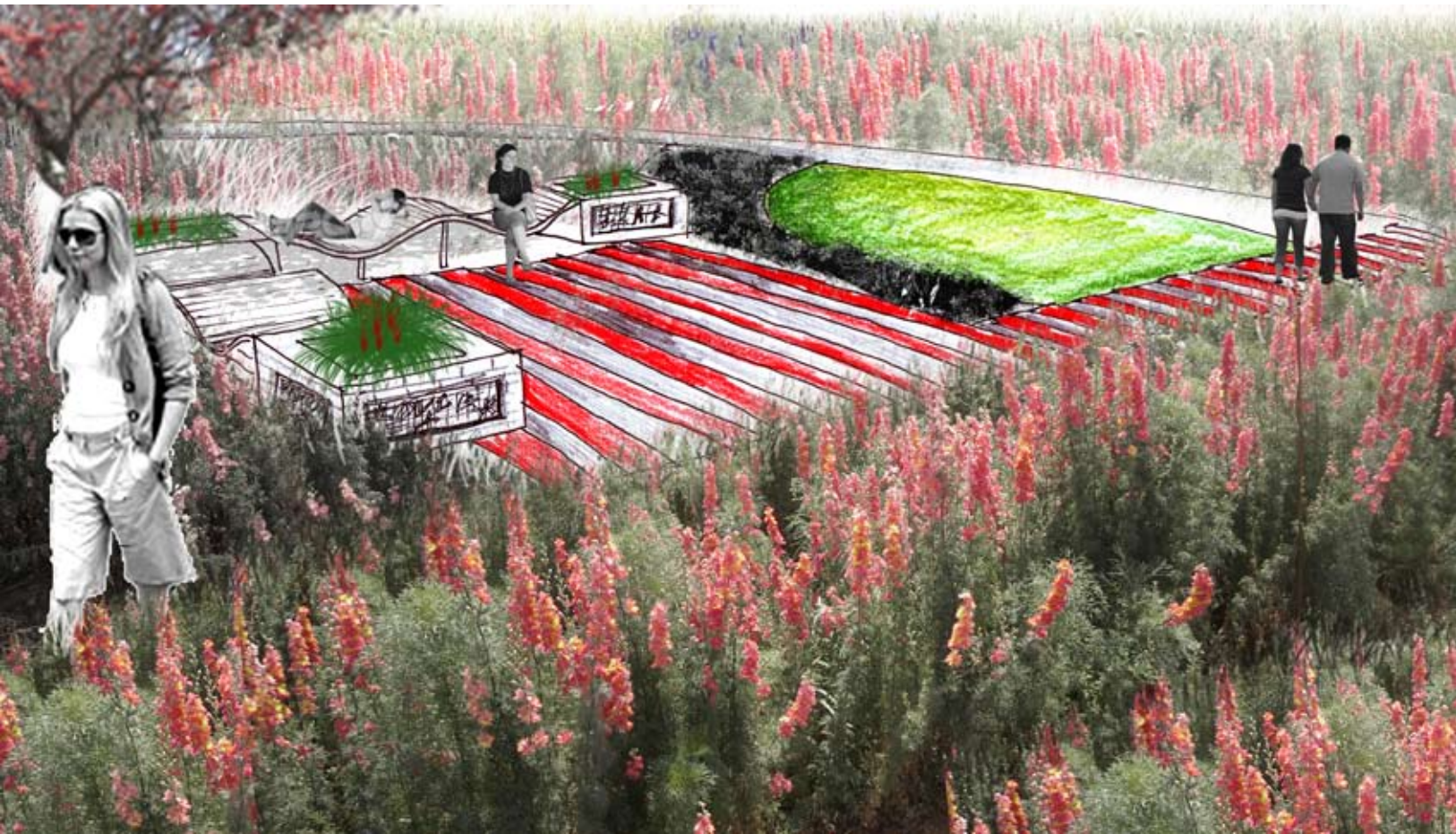


Fig. 8.19: Section through the red colour pocket (Author, 2009).





*Fig. 8.20: Colour pockets
3d image (Author, 2009).*

8.4.5. SEMI PRIVATE MALE WARD

There is currently no boundary between the area around the male ward and the public area around the kiosk. Patients need outdoor spaces where they feel safe while still enjoying the outdoors at times when they don't want to be seen by the public or patients from other wards.

Based on the framework the areas around the different wards, staff housing and other private services will be developed as semi private outdoor rooms(refer to 7.7).

The sketch plan proposes a retaining wall, combined with plants and a terraced lawn to function as a visual boundary between the public and the semi private outdoor room around the male ward. However, patients can still have a view over the public landscape from the top terrace of the outdoor room.

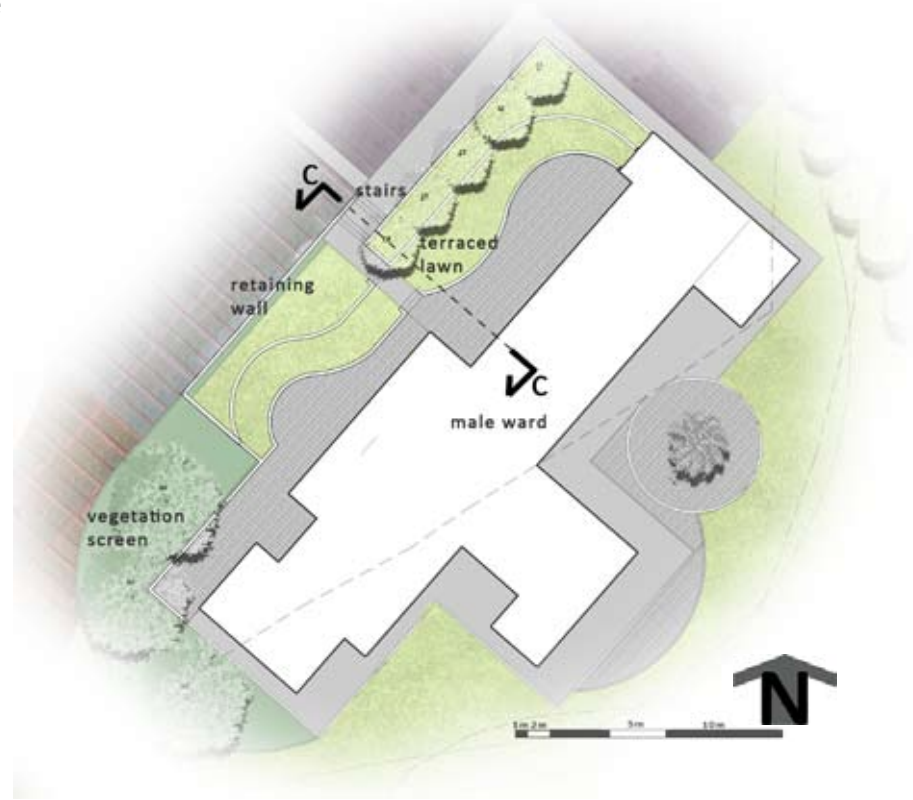


Fig. 8.21: Plan of the outdoor room at the male ward (Author, 2009).

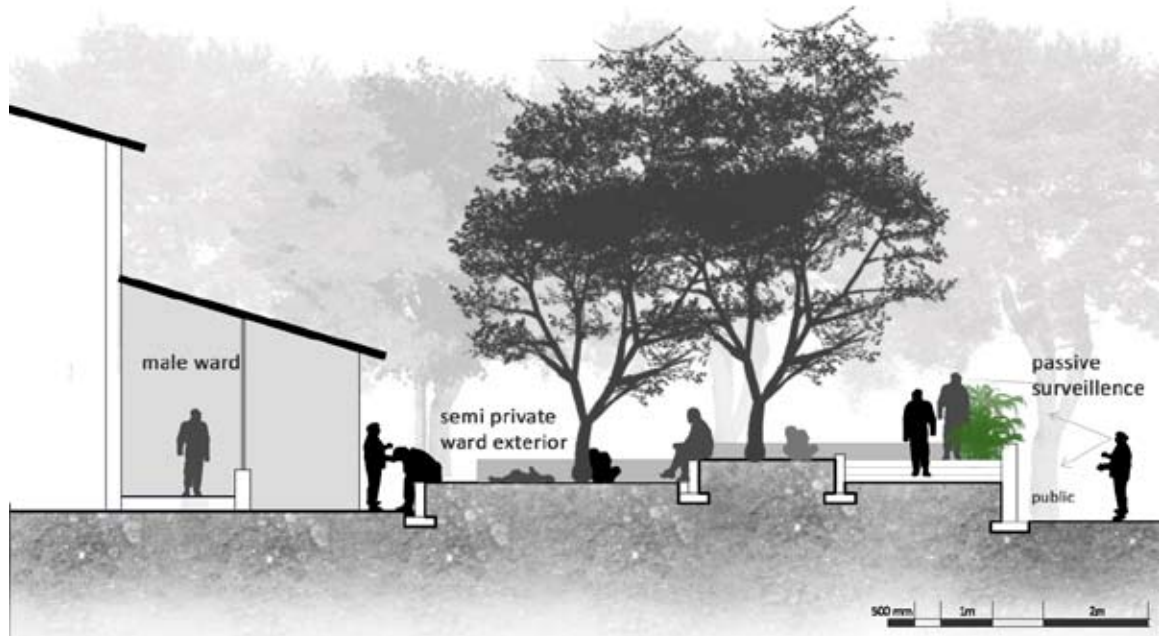


Fig. 8.22: Section of the semi private outdoor room at the male ward. Retaining walls form a visual boundary (Author, 2009).



Fig. 8.23: Male ward 3d image (Author, 2009).

8.5. CONCLUSION

Fig. 8.24: The design matrix illustrates how the sketch plan satisfies the design guidelines as set out in chapter 5 (Author, 2009).

The sketch plan area functions as a catalyst for achieving a healing outdoor experience at Weskoppies. The unique flower experience and horticultural therapy garden will draw the public to Weskoppies on Saturdays and thereby allow social integration and interaction between patients and the public counteracting the current isolation of Weskoppies and its people. During the rest of the week the area will function as the social heart of Weskoppies where patients and staff members will feel familiar and at home by being involved in the maintenance and mosaic work. A sense of ownership and pride will be achieved with patients involved in the horticultural therapy, and flower farm program. This will ultimately lead to an healing outdoor environment with a strong identity for Weskoppies. The sketch plan design matrix (Fig. 8.20) illustrates how the sketch plan design addressed the design guidelines as set out in chapter five for creating an outdoor environment with emotional healing potential.

SKETCH PLAN							
	8.3.1. CIRCULAR PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY	8.3.2. FLOWER WALKWAY	8.4.1. KIOSK EXTERIOR	8.4.2. SEATING AND SLEEPING AREA	8.4.3. HORTICULTURAL THERAPY GARDEN	8.4.4. COLOUR POCKETS	8.4.5. SEMI PRIVATE MALE WARD
DESIGN GUIDELINES							
5.2. INDEPENDENCE							
5.2.1. Independent functioning							
5.2.2. Freedom							
5.2.3. Privacy							
5.2.4. Choice and control							
5.2.5. Legibility							
5.3. PURPOSE							
5.3.1. Work opportunities							
5.3.2. Motivation							
5.3.3. Positive messages							
5.3.4. Ownership							
5.4. CONSCIOUSNESS							
5.4.1. Sensory stimulation							
5.4.2. Awareness of time							
5.4.3. Change							
5.4.4. Excitement							
5.4.5. Variety of experiences							
5.5. REST							
5.5.1. Reflection							
5.5.2. Relaxation							
5.5.3. Familiarity							
5.5.4. Security							
5.5.5. Comfort							
5.5.6. Sleep							
5.6. CONNECTEDNESS							
5.6.1. Social interaction							
5.6.2. Social support							
5.6.3. Connected to natural systems							
5.6.4. Accessible							
5.7. ACTIVE							

