

Concept Design



158

FIGURE 262 : First concept sketch.

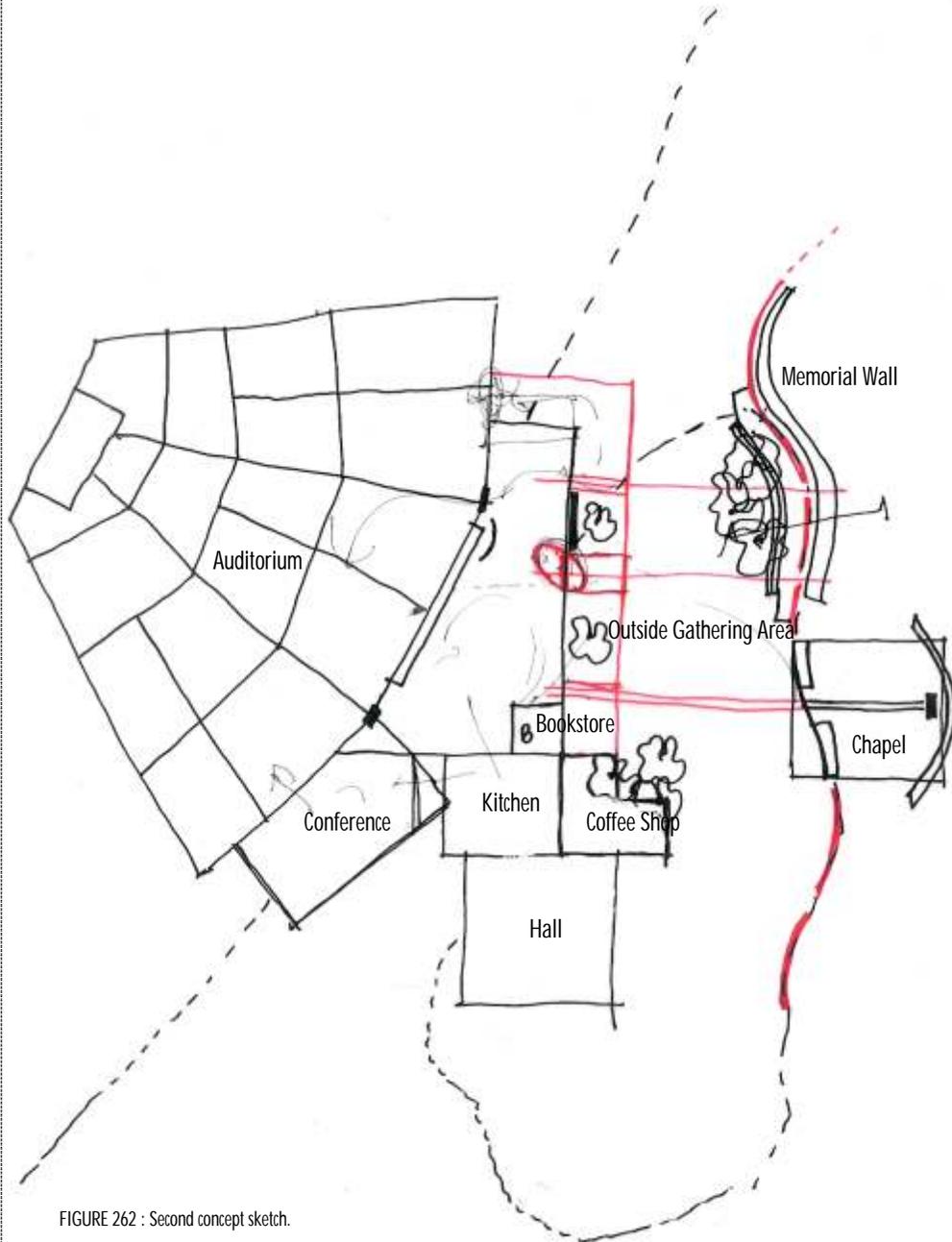


FIGURE 262 : Second concept sketch.

The first concepts are shown here. The Auditorium is positioned to fall with the contours. This positions the Foyer and main entrances on the highest part of the site. All the other facilities extend from this level area. The placing of the Memorial Wall and Chapel on the other side creates a divided space in between. This space becomes very important in establishing a religious atmosphere. This in between space should drag and direct the users to move through into the Foyer. The users would have the best views of the surroundings from this open space. The Memorial wall is used on the eastern side creating more privacy. The placement of the Chapel will enable a view across the Biblical garden in an easterly direction.

The Coffee Shop lives onto the open space and has direct access from outside as well as from the Foyer. The Hall is next to the kitchen and Coffee Shop to act as an overflow or as a venue for functions.

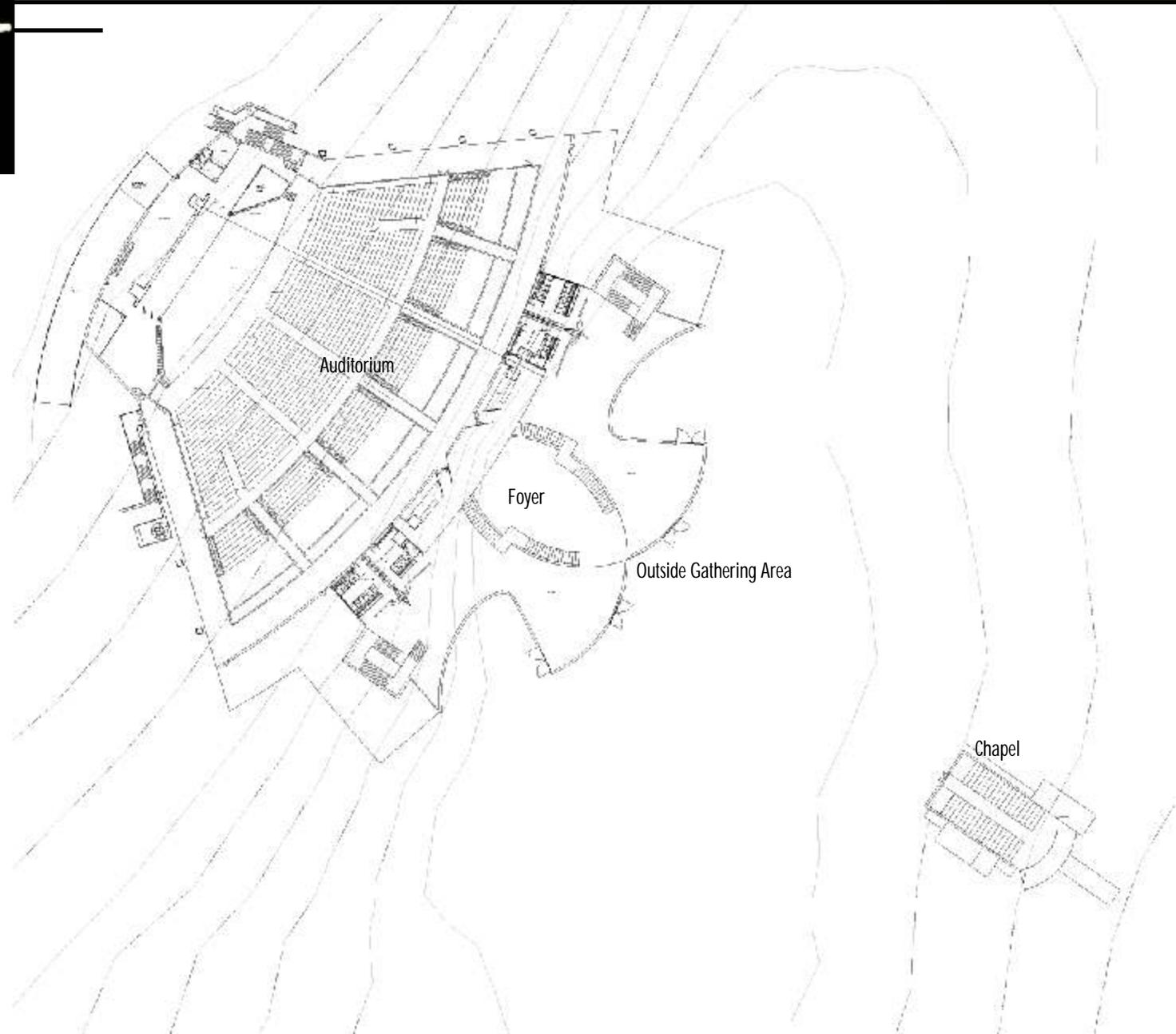
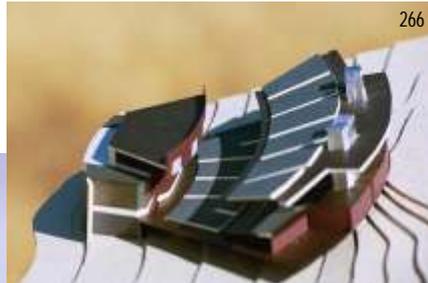


Figure 264: Plan scale 1:1000



265



266

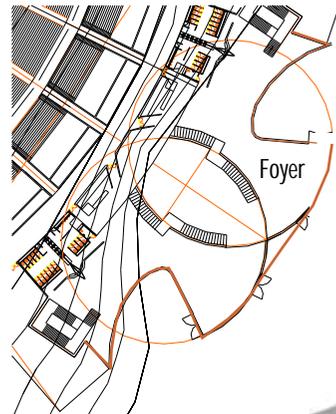


Figure 270: Plan showing overlapping circles.

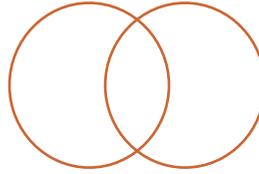
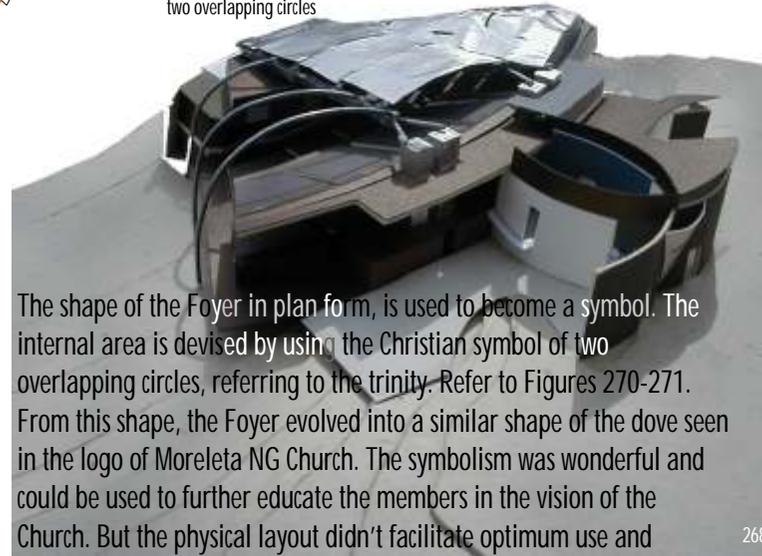


Figure 271: Trinity represented by two overlapping circles



Figure 272: Logo with Dove.



268

The Auditorium is developed mainly from pragmatic design principles. The shape, layout and circulation is determined by: sight lines; the number of seats; access for the disabled; enough ablution facilities, adequate circulation and emergency escape routes. Refer to 'The Accommodation Schedule' p118. The challenge is to have all 10 000 people as close to the stage as possible while maintaining good sight lines on the sides. Because the Auditorium space is so tremendously big, it is very hard to create an atmosphere of worship and intimacy. Thus it is in the design and experience of the Foyer that these ambiances will be found. The designer realized that the exterior spaces, surrounding the Auditorium and Foyer, provide ample opportunities for creating the desired effects. It will then be the spatial experience of the Foyer and surrounding external areas preparing the user for the activity.

The shape of the Foyer in plan form, is used to become a symbol. The internal area is devised by using the Christian symbol of two overlapping circles, referring to the trinity. Refer to Figures 270-271. From this shape, the Foyer evolved into a similar shape of the dove seen in the logo of Moreleta NG Church. The symbolism was wonderful and could be used to further educate the members in the vision of the Church. But the physical layout didn't facilitate optimum use and movement. Other facilities such as the Kitchen, Hall and Coffee Shop could not be fused into this rigid form. The comments on this design included the opinion that it reminded more of a Roman Catholic Church than a Protestant building. People will seldom read a plan in such a manner as to recognize a certain symbolic shape in a building of this scale. Needless to say, the design and layout of the Foyer were reconsidered.



267



269

Figures 265-269: Photographs of Auditorium concept model

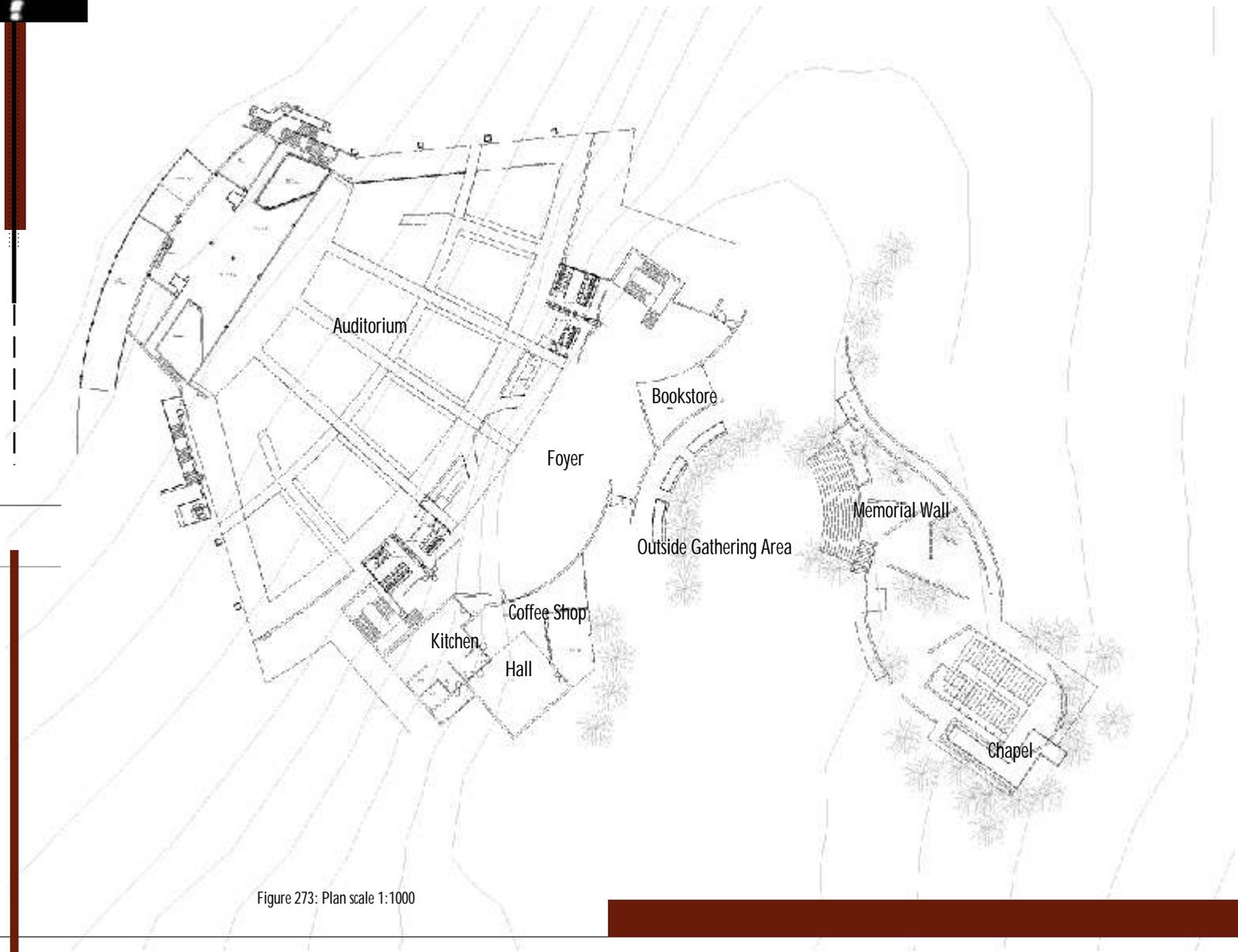


Figure 273: Plan scale 1:1000

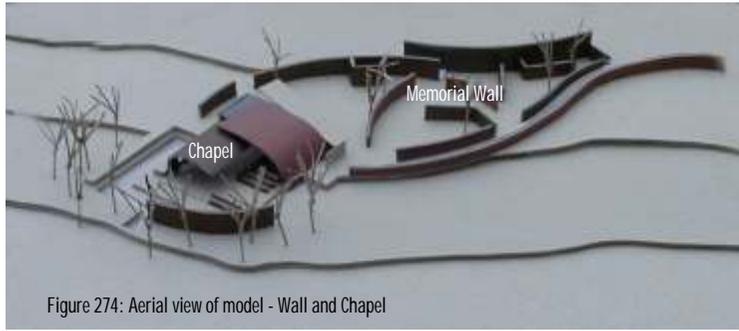


Figure 274: Aerial view of model - Wall and Chapel

The Auditorium remains the same as in the previous design development. There is however a suggestion that the whole building is lowered by 6 meters. This will enable two thirds of the 10 000 people to walk directly into the Auditorium. Only one third will have to ascend with stairs to the upper gallery. This will greatly enhance the effectiveness of escape routes and evacuation. (Refer to the enlarged drawings accompanying this document.)

The Foyer responds to the Memorial Wall and Chapel in creating an outside gathering area. This shape allows for the inclusion of the Kitchen, Coffee Shop, Hall and Bookstore. However, critics feel that there is a clash between pragmatic and intuitive design with the Auditorium and the Memorial Wall and Chapel design. The Foyer has to become the link, the midway between the two very different design approaches. There is still room for improvement.

The project has become very extensive and complex. The Auditorium and Stage have been developed up to the present level. It requires a team of professional consultants to resume the finalization and perfection of the various elements such as acoustics, sound, noise control, fire design and ventilation. Some of these aspects will be discussed later in this document.

For the technical resolution, the focus will be on the Memorial Wall, Chapel and garden.



Figure 276: Perspective view on the model, looking North

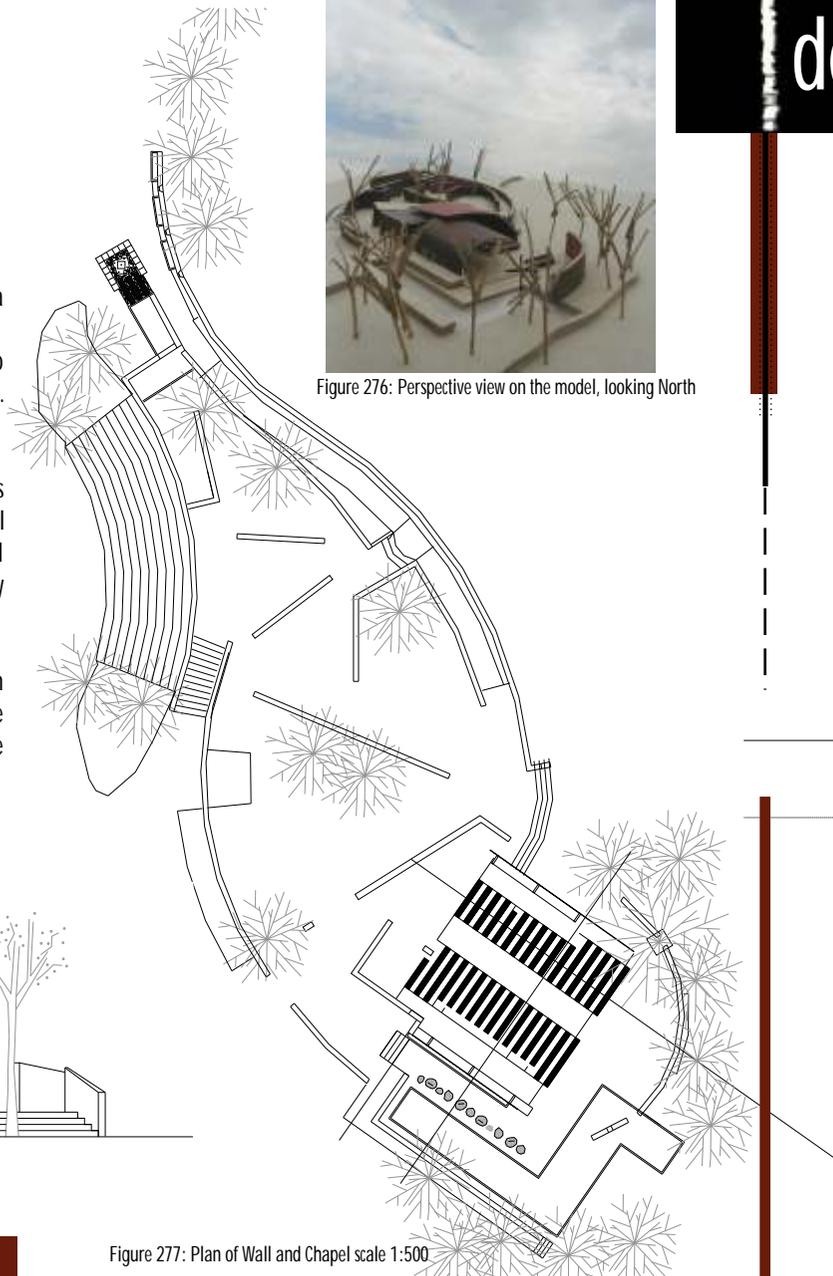


Figure 277: Plan of Wall and Chapel scale 1:500

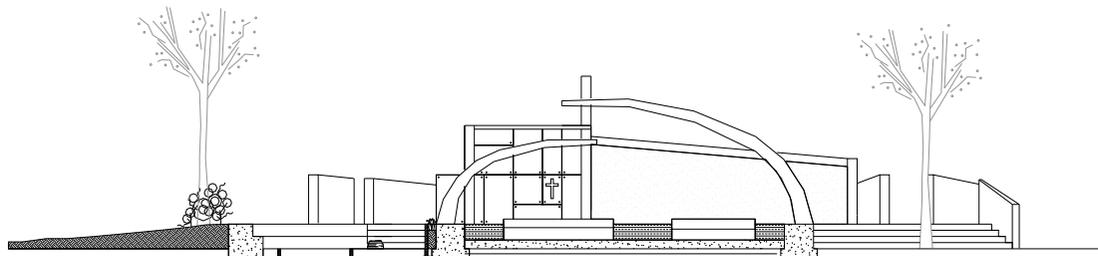


Figure 275 : Preliminary Section of Chapel, not to scale



FIGURE 278 : Plan scale 1:1000

The congregation has raised the need for a Memorial Wall and Chapel.

The Memorial Wall replaces a cemetery. Its purpose is to facilitate remembrance of deceased loved ones and to provide a space where the person's ash can be placed. It will become a place where the living will commemorate the dead, thus it is a place that should suit the needs of the living.

The Chapel will be used for weddings, funerals and memorial services. But it is not only a space for the use of groups or ceremonies. It is also a space that provides shelter for the individual, whether physical or emotional.

The Wall and Chapel intertwine with one another. Life can not be separated from death. All around the Wall and Chapel is a planted landscape with biblical plants. This garden allows for various different activities. Individuals or groups can walk along the pathways, sit on the grass or rocks, listen to the running water or be part of activities around the amphi theater. The walk through the garden to the Wall or Chapel must be calming and soothing to any person.



279



280

Nature is the best medicine for city dwellers. The purpose of this garden is to bring an experience of nature into the lives of the users. The garden becomes a healing garden. Natural materials like stone, pebbles and timber are used.



281