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Precedent studies precedent [1]

"There are ceremonies that determine space, and spaces that determine ceremonies" (Tschumi, 2000: 19). The notion of public gathering is apparent in African cultures and cannot be overlooked. South African cities, Pretoria included lack sufficient adequate public spaces and facilities that function properly, they either non-existent, inadequate or merely in a state of deterioration. These activities have patterns and tend to develop unofficially and spontaneously and bear a sense of formality and are generally more successful than most enforced interventions.

Natural gatherings of people be it city markets, transport interchanges or where there is some kind of function are inevitable and have to be emphasized in the south African context and most South African cities bear the mark of apartheid planning with large sector of society being geographically isolated from job opportunities. "...many new projects built with post-apartheid public funding work around points of mobility such as transport interchanges" (le Roux, 2003:17) in the case of herb traders the pattern is observed people tend to situate themselves where there is some kind of function, be it transport interchanges or where there is high pedestrian movement. These take place where there are bus ranks, taxi interchanges, market places.

Attention is drawn into existing scenarios, the "herb traders market, Warwick Junction Durban, omm Designworkshop Architects" the trade focused itself under the bridge where there is public circulation. The architects in partnership with the Ethekwini municipality in attempt to resolve the situation, provided the traders with a place where they felt comfortable to trade in, with a basic sheltered roof over the space they traded on, with a provision of communal toilets, and private consulting rooms for the 'inyanga's' and 'sangoma's' .

Herb Traders' Stalls:
Location: Durban
Architect: OMM Design Workshop Architects

over the railway lines remained high and dry, the vestiges of the Queen Street vehicular on ramp and the Victoria Street off-ramps to a freeway never completed, yet the need for further overhead pedestrian paths connecting the Victoria Street Bus terminus and the various taxi ranks to the city became pressing. Besides, herb traders began plying their trades by lining the pavements, there being no other space available.



fig.13



fig.14

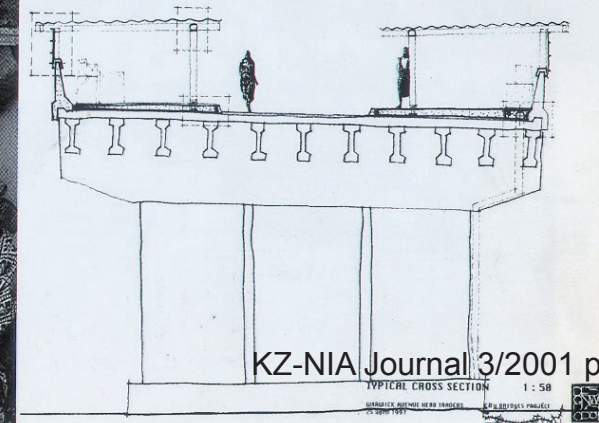


fig.15



Durban Herb Traders Market

- Lessons
- It acts a link between the freeways and the Railways lines.
 - The project allows for diversity in the functions allowed for within the spaces created. A character created within the Proposed Traditional Healers centre
 - Formalization of informal and alternative trading, to create and encourage a distinctive architectural idiom and approach that leads to interest and debate within the urban fabric



precedent [2]



fig.16

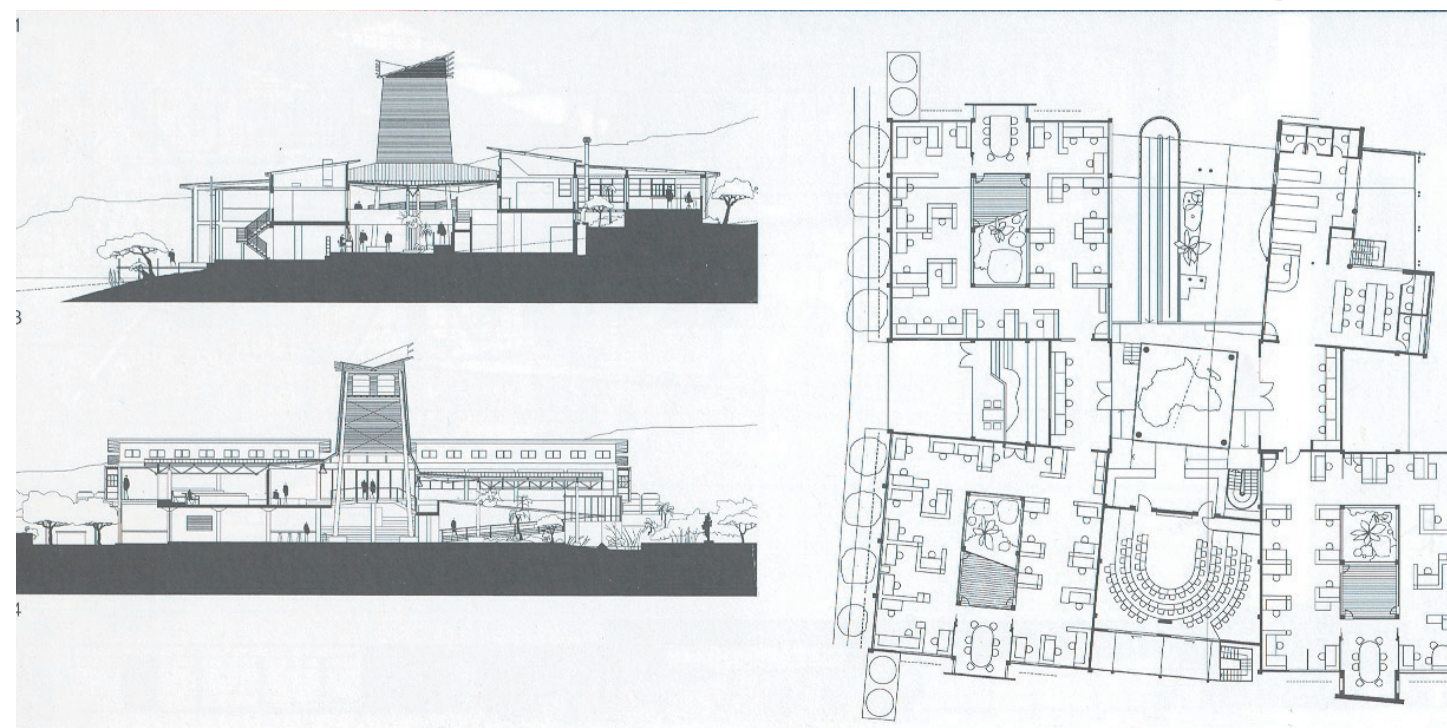


fig.17



fig.18

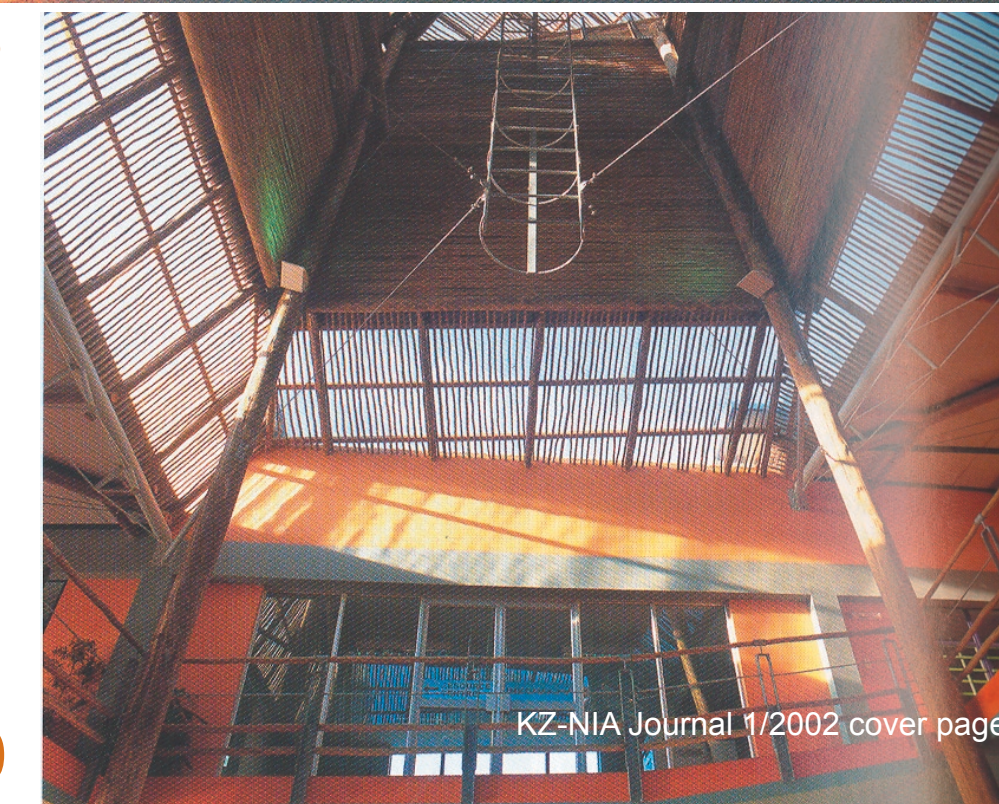


fig.19

KZ-NIA Journal 1/2002 cover page

Somkhele

Designed by East Coast Architects for the African Centre for Health and Population Studies, this centre is set on a South facing slope, four research pods cluster around a cruciform space containing social functions. A 15-meter tower acts as a thermal stack that allows the area to ventilate naturally. A strong reference point, around which communal activities are arranged, makes a bold statement to the surrounding landscapes. Within each pod, open plan offices offer maximum exposure to natural light and ventilation. Concrete frame construction is filled with steel, block work, aluminum, glass and timber display a vibrant honesty. (Atlas Phaidon Contemporary World Architecture 2005:638)

Eucalyptus, ubiquitous in the area, used to support the main tower and roof, with saplings used for shading and balustrades. Storm water collected in tanks or channeled into the adjacent wetland systems, and the gardens on site.

Lessons learnt

- The use of locally available and sustainable materials. Used to reflective the indigenous environment in which the project stands. This has been used in the proposed Traditional Healers Centre which the incorporation of timber lattes shading, and the structure
- The use of a centrally located stack and or space, as a ventilation tool within the building
- The sensitivity to the context within which the building is located
- The use of transparent roofing materials to allow for natural lighting and create a unique ambience within the building



