

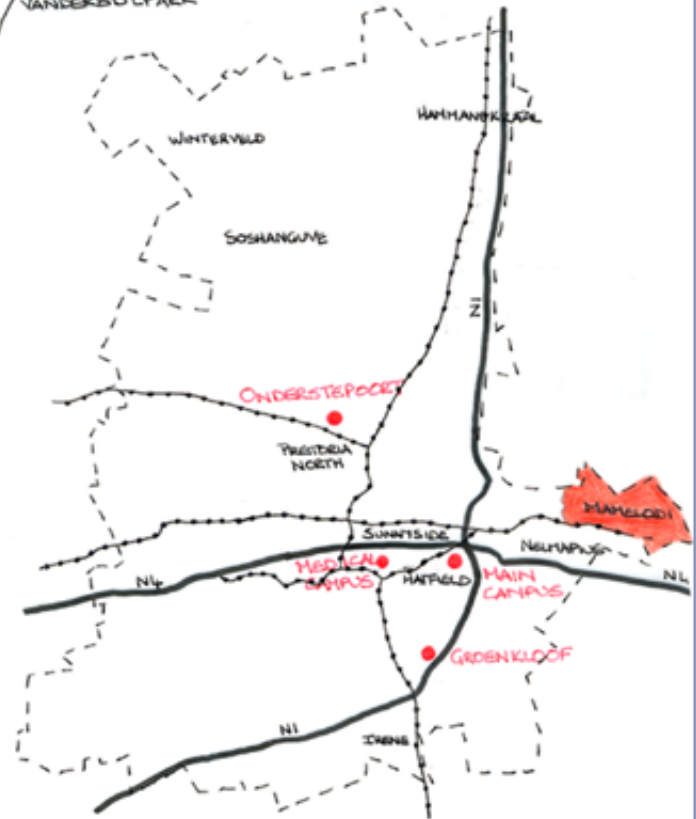
Figure 54:
Mamelodi within its greater
context (Author, 2008)



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chapter 4

Figure 55:
Location of Mamelodi within
Tshwane (Author, 2008)



Part 1: The Context



Figure 56:
The greater Mamelodi area (Author, 2008)

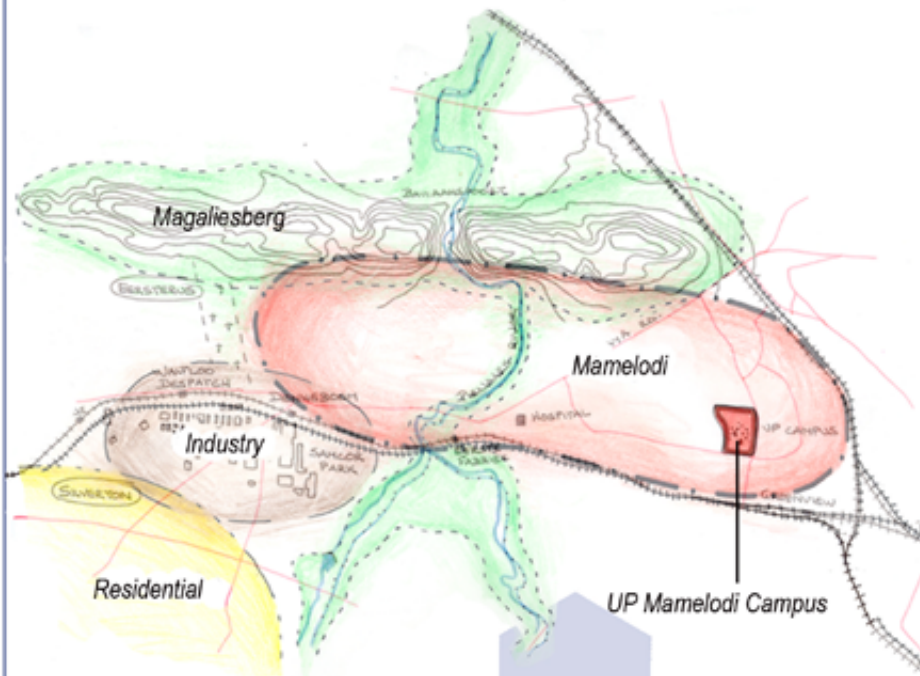


Figure 57:
Zoning - Mamelodi and its surrounds (Author, 2008)

As discussed previously, Mamelodi is an urban landscape situated 20 kilometers east of the Tshwane City Centre. It is a dynamic, vibrant, multi-cultural community set at the foot of the majestic Magaliesberg Mountains. This physical barrier forms the northern and eastern borders of Mamelodi, while the Pretoria-Witbank highway creates the southern border.

A tributary of the Apies River, called the Moretele, divides Mamelodi into two distinct halves, and a significant portion of Mamelodi's green open spaces can be found along its banks.

Tsamaya road - the main road cutting diagonally across Mamelodi, along which much of the township's business and light industry can be found, lies along the old trade route to Sekhukhuneland. The railway line running along the southern edge of Mamelodi is a reminder of President Paul Kruger's struggle to gain independence from Britain through access to the Maputo harbour 110 years ago (van der Waal, 2000:1).

Mamelodi has a rich history of cultural diversity, complex social and economic relations, as well as its spirited political dynamics, mainly brought about by historical policies.



The History...

Mamelodi was originally a large farm called Vlakfontein, and its name was officially changed in 1962 to Mamelodi which means "Mother of Melodies". It is widely believed that this name originated from President Paul Kruger who was known to the Bantu by his name 'father of whistling' or 'man who can imitate bird'. Mamelodi lives up to this name, as it saw the formation of an original and unique jazz style called Molombo Jazz (Mamelodi Tourism Brochure, [S.a.]).

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The Pretoria City Council bought Vlakfontein farm in 1945 to provide accommodation for the cities labourers. In 1950, the apartheid policy and Group Areas Act saw people being forcibly removed from their houses and relocated to Mamelodi, where in 1953 the first official housing units were built, and it was formally proclaimed a 'township'. Development began west of the Moretele River but was halted in 1968 in line with the apartheid regime, due to the fact that there were too many people moving into the area. Development only began again in the late 1980's and spread over the river into the east (van der Waal, 2000).

The Vista University Campus, as it was previously known, was built in 1980 and served as an intellectual centre during the move towards a democratic government (van der Waal, 2000). It was officially incorporated into the University of Pretoria on 2 January 2004 (University of Pretoria, 2008).



Figure 58:
Some of the first housing units built in Mamelodi, c. 1956 (van der Waal Collection, Africana Section, UP library)



Figure 59:
Historic Mamelodi - photograph of residents, c. 1960 (van der Waal Collection, Africana Section, UP library)

Figure 60:
Historic Mamelodi - photograph of residents, c. 1960 (van der Waal Collection, Africana Section, UP library)

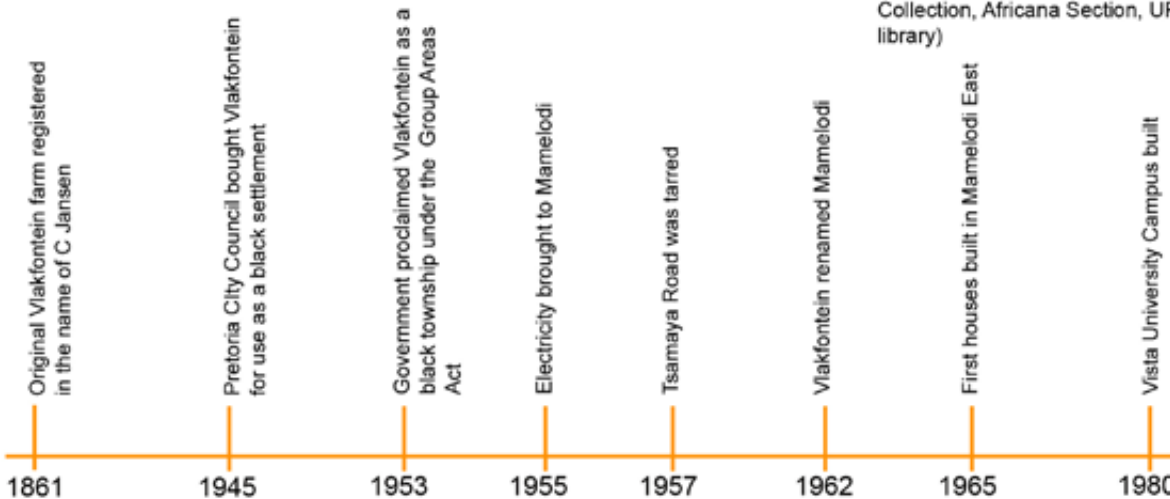


Figure 61:
Timeline of significant events (van der Waal, 2000)

Employment:

unemployed



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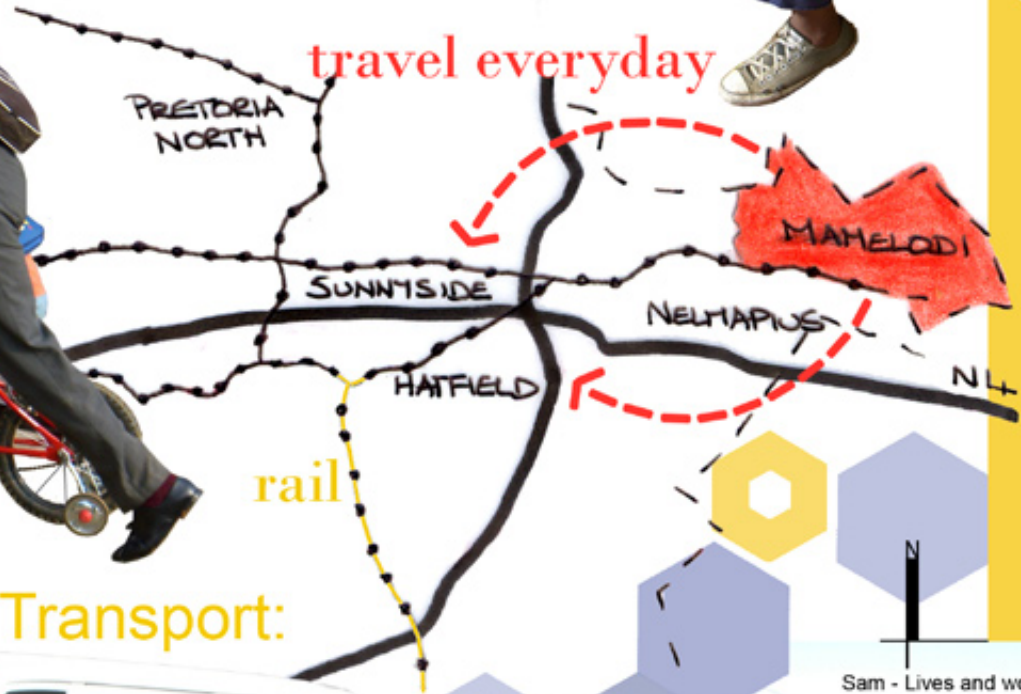
Figure 62a:
Informal trade along street edge (Author, 2007)

shebeens
taxi's
informal: vegetable vendors

informal:

travel everyday

by foot



rail

Methods of Transport:



taxi



Figure 62b:
Sam - Lives and works as a carpenter
in Mamelodi (Author, 2007)

Figure 63:
Formal housing - Mamelodi (Author, 2008)



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Formal residential

Semi-formal residential

Figure 64:
University forms the buffer zone
between different economic
classes (Author, 2008)

Informal residential

Figure 65:
Informal housing - Mamelodi (Author, 2008)



Figure 66:
Semi-formal housing - Mamelodi (Author, 2008)



- Business and retail
- Community facility
(places of public worship,
sport, instruction & recreation)
- Residential / Community
facility
- Undetermined
- Public open space



Figure 67:

Aerial photo of UP Mamelodi campus and surrounds (University of Pretoria, 2008)

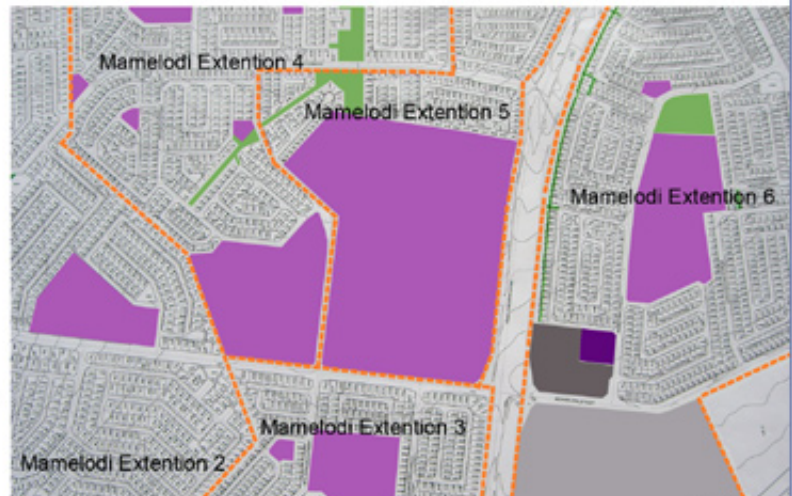


Figure 68:

Municipal zoning of areas adjacent to the UP Mamelodi campus
(Council map, digitally manipulated by author, 2008)

Biome: Rocky Highveld Grassland

This is a transitional type of biome lying between the typical grasslands of the high inland plateau, and the bushveld of the lower inland plateau. It is found mainly between 1500 – 1600m in altitude, also known as Bankenveld, which is a fire maintained grassland (Low & Rebello, 1996:39).

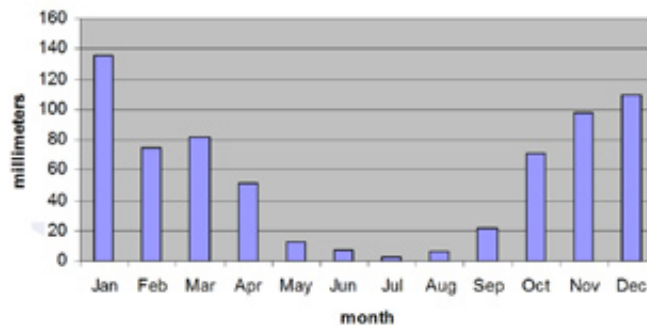
Soil type:

Mamelodi is situated mainly on the sedimentary shale deposit on the Magaliesberg Group, Pretoria Series of the Transvaal System. The soil comprises mainly of weathered shale which tends to become clayey under wet conditions (Le Roux, Louw & Nel, 1980:5).

Summers are long, hot and dry, and even though there are frequent thunderstorms, water is still considered a precious resource. Winters are short and mild with little to no rain, and frost is therefore rarely a problem. The clayey soil found in this area ensures that not too much water will be 'lost' to infiltration, and the vegetation commonly occurring here has a low - moderate water consumption.



Precipitation



Average Temperatures

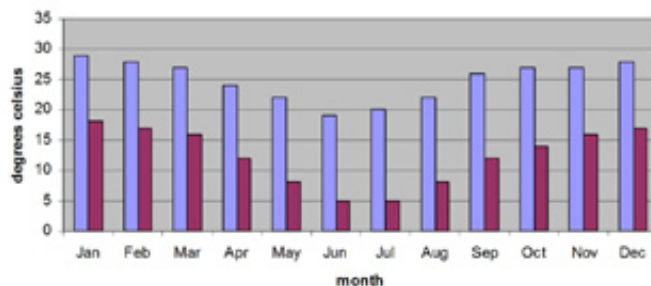


Figure 69, 70, 71 & 72: *Cussonia* sp.; *Rhus* Karee alongside a large poplar growing inside the stormwater channel; *Acacia xanthophloea* and *Acacia sieberiana* - all photographed on the UP Mamelodi campus (Author, 2008). Other vegetation found on site: *Combretum* sp, *Dombeya rotundifolia*, *Celtis africana* and various other *Acacia* species

Figure 73 & 74: Precipitation & Average Temperatures in Mamelodi (Author, 2008)



Figure 75: Students relaxing under the shade of an *Acacia karroo* on the UP Mamelodi campus (Author, 2008)

Part 3: The Site

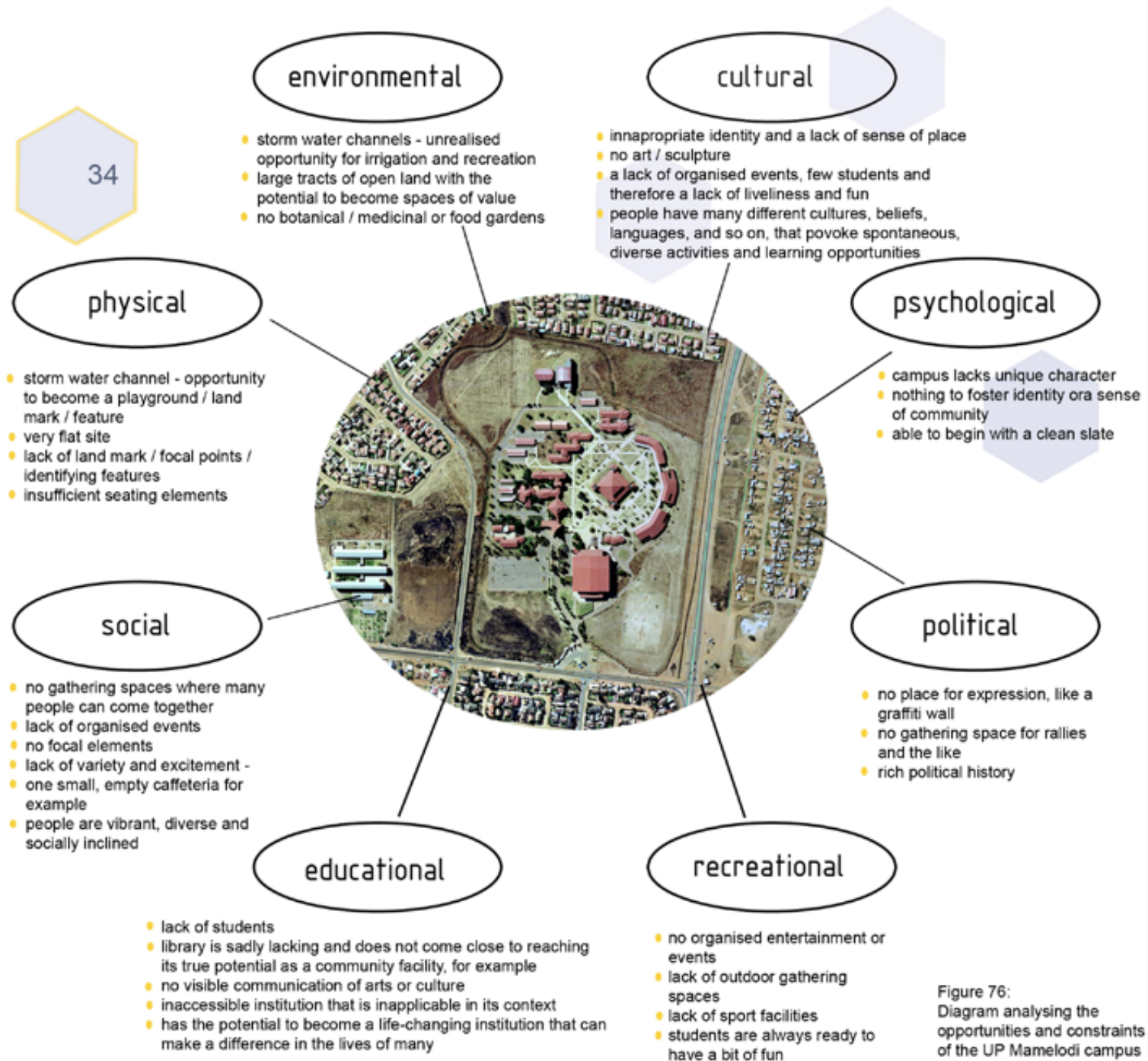


Figure 76:
Diagram analysing the opportunities and constraints of the UP Mamelodi campus (Author, 2008)

existing



Northern edge of University - People living directly adjacent to boundary fence throw rubbish over onto University property



Figure 77: Informal vendors located at the entrance to the University and along Hans Strydom Road (Author, 2008)

Eastern edge of University - Open land on both sides of Hans Strydom Road - very busy road, some retail happening along the edge - retain and enhance this. University turns its back on the road and closes itself off - solution? Concrete-lined storm water channel running the length of the campus

Western edge of University - High school across the road - create a link? Large open un-surveyed stretch of land, with a natural storm water channel running along its edge



Figure 79: On weekdays, throngs of school children move along the University's southern edge (Author, 2008)

Southern edge of University - Entrance to the campus, busy mornings. Major pedestrian route for children on their way to & from school. Formal residential edge - many people, passive surveillance, etc.



Figure 78: Gladys - lives opposite the University entrance and rents rooms out to students (Author, 2008)



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Figure 80: Aerial photo of UP Mamelodi campus (University of Pretoria, 2008)



Existing fences,
entrances and
circulation

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Figure 81:
Intimidating double wire + palisade fence
surrounding the campus (Author, 2008)



Figure 82:
The palisade fence and open
buffer zone are not a welcoming
site (Author, 2008)

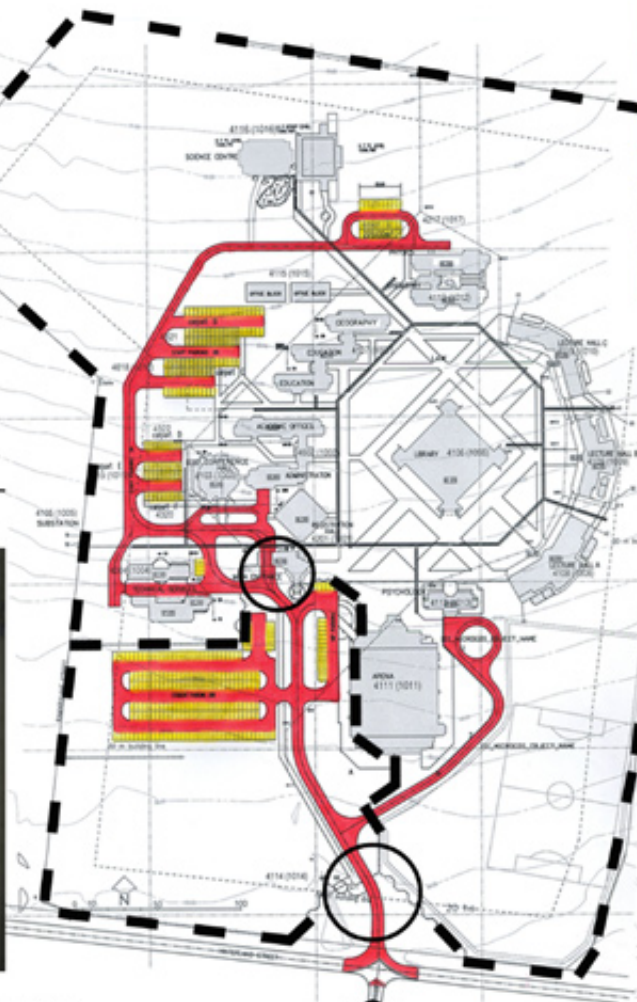


Figure 83b:
View of the University from Hans Strydom Road
(Author, 2008)
All but the roofs are obscured by the palisade fence

- Entrance to University
- - - Palisade fence
- Vehicular circulation
- Parking
- Pedestrian circulation



Figure 83a:
The entrance to the campus is walled off and secured
by a guarded boom gate. There are no seating /
waiting areas and trees are non-existent (Author, 2008)

Existing hydrology

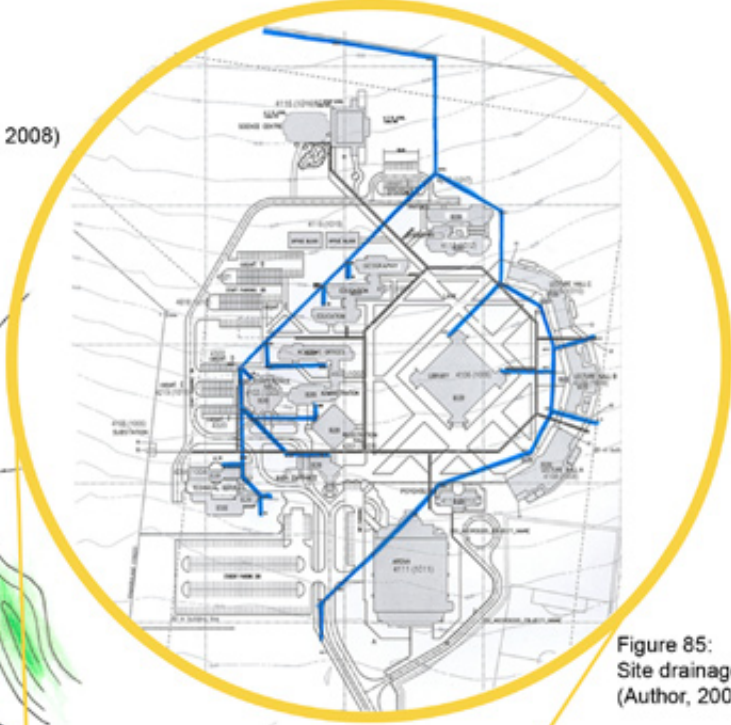
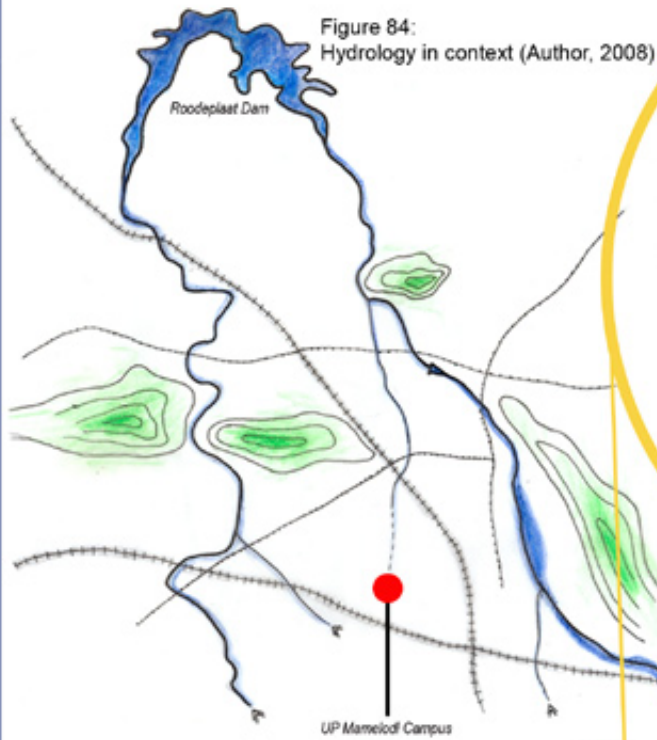


Figure 86:
Storm water runs in a vegetation-lined permeable channel on the eastern side (Author, 2008)



Figure 87:
Channelled water on site (Author, 2008)

Figure 88:
Storm water runs in a concrete-lined channel on the western side of the campus (Author, 2008)



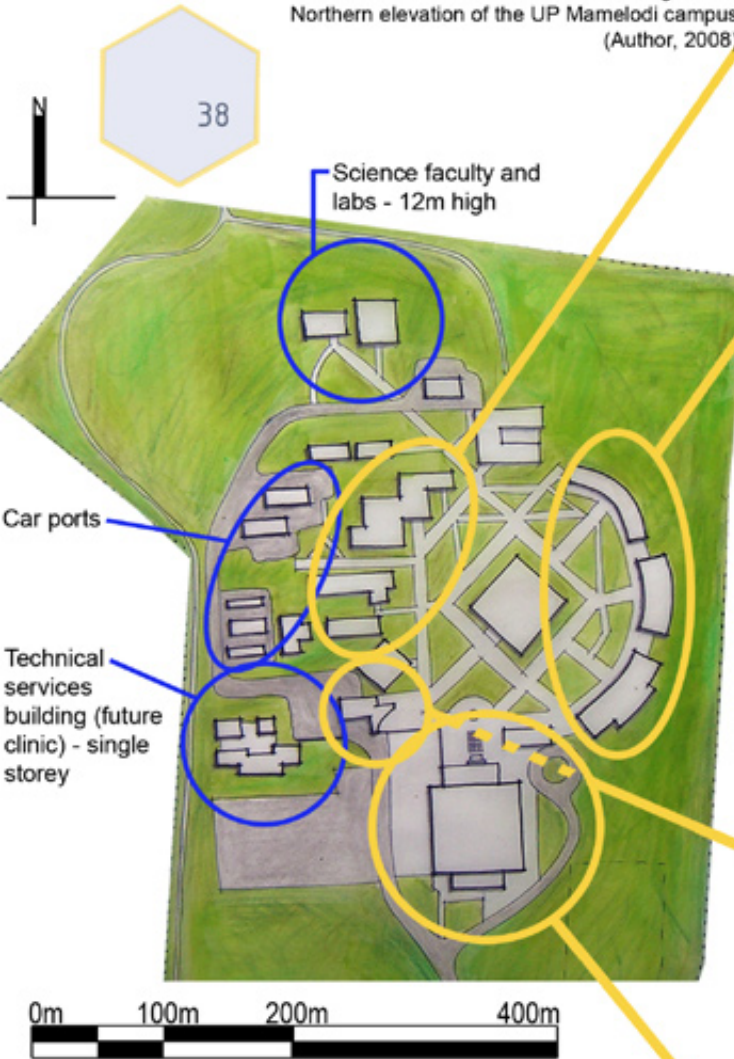
Figure 89:
Northern elevation of the UP Mamelodi campus
(Author, 2008)



Various faculty buildings, not being used optimally (offices are empty, courses have been discontinued, and so on - 6 - 9m high



Lecture halls, presently in use - single storey



Landmark entrance building - 15m at its highest point



Arena - used by University for sport and large gatherings, as well as the cafeteria. Used by the community for special functions like weddings, etc - 12m high

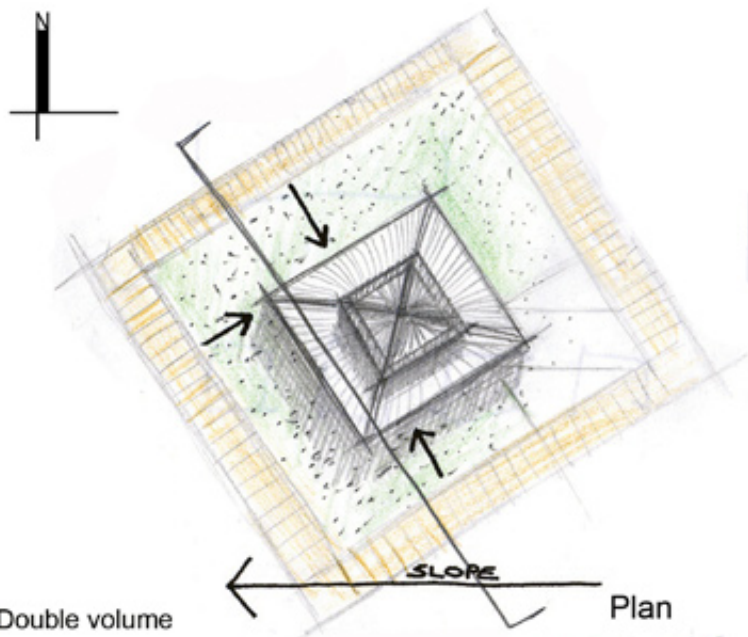


Figure 90:
Southern elevation of the UP Mamelodi campus (Author, 2008)



Figure 99:
Diagrammatic drawing of the campus (Author, 2008)

Existing library within restrictive laager formation - square visually impermeable structure dominating the existing rigid, geometric arrangement. Inaccessible to the public.



Double volume

Study area

Secure book area



Section

Figure 102:
Vertically exaggerated, diagrammatic plan & section of library building (Author, 2008)

Figure 103:
Situated in the centre of a ring of buildings, the library is visually dominant (Author, 2008)



Figure 100:
Interior view of the library building (Author, 2008)



Figure 101:
The library building is almost completely visually impermeable (Author, 2008)



Having analysed the site and having identified both the challenges that need to be addressed, and the opportunities that will inform the future design proposal, as well as the theoretical premise on which to base this proposal, we can now move on to the design specifics.

The design brief, as well as the successes and failures of pertinent precedents, serve to create a reliable point of departure from which to proceed.

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Part 4: Brief

Mission:

- Maximise opportunities for **all people**
- Teach, empower and stimulate creative thought
- Build community spirit
- Provide spaces in which feelings of pride and local identity are fostered
- Encourage mutually beneficial relationships between people and their natural environment
- Promote sustainable development

The **U.P. Mamelodi Campus** offers the ideal place in which to explore and address these goals...

“ If you are thinking a year ahead, sow seed.
If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant trees.
If you are thinking one hundred years ahead,
educate the people ”

Chinese Proverb (Thompson & Sorvig, 2000:287).





Figure 104 & 105: Community-owned food gardens (Author, 2008)

Ivory Park Food Gardens, Johannesburg

The Ivory Park urban eco-village is run by a host of co-operatives, with members growing and selling vegetables, fixing and selling bicycles, recycling waste, running eco-tours and sewing clothes. A construction **co-operative made up of local community members** is in the process of building the village's first homes. Project founder, Annie Sugrue defines the eco-village as **a place "where people work, play, grow their own food and generate their own energy"**. She also explains however, that the village does not function as an "island", but strives to **work in partnership with the broader Ivory Park community** (Russouw, 2004). This is a prime example of what the University should become - a facilitator that encourages and oversees the running of small businesses by local community members; a facility that provides education at a grass roots level.

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Chapter 4: Analysis





 Figure 106:
 Cabbage plantation with
 irrigation (Author, 2008)


 Figure 107:
 Informal market just outside
 food garden for the sale of
 produce (Author, 2008)


- Bold, sculptural, robust place making elements
- Vast, open and relatively unused
- No evidence of community involvement
- Sand soccer field with footpath straight through it
- Water used as element running throughout park – areas of neglect & lack of maintenance
- 3-4 children's play spaces – pre-made standard elements
- Standard element tying park together – concrete sculptures and benches

Dorothy Nyembe Park VS



Figure 108:
Bold, sculptural focal elements (Author, 2008)



Figure 109:
Soccer field used as a walk-through (Author, 2008)



Figure 110:
Water course - littered and eroded (Author, 2008)



Figure 111:
Amphitheatre (Author, 2008)



Figure 112:
Neglect and degradation (Author, 2008)



Figure 113:
Standardised play elements (Author, 2008)

- Sculptural qualities not as immediately striking
- Smaller spaces, more enclosed and better utilised
- Community art and involvement evident – creating pride and local identity
- Grass soccer field in use
- Water used as element running through park – better maintained
- Children’s play areas not as standard and unimaginative
- Standard element tying park together – balustrades, bridges and fences



Figure 114:
Family picnic under a large shady tree
(Author, 2008)



Figure 115:
Soccer on a Sunday afternoon
(Author, 2008)



Figure 116:
Gum-pole play structure
(ILASA Merit Awards, 2005)



Figure 117:
Bridges can become sculptural elements
(Author, 2008)



Figure 118:
Community-designed mosaic
(Author, 2008)



Figure 119:
Community participation
(ILASA Merit Awards, 2005)

Thokoza Park



Figure 120:
Skills transfer enables people to
find gainful employment (ILASA
Merit Awards, 2005)

