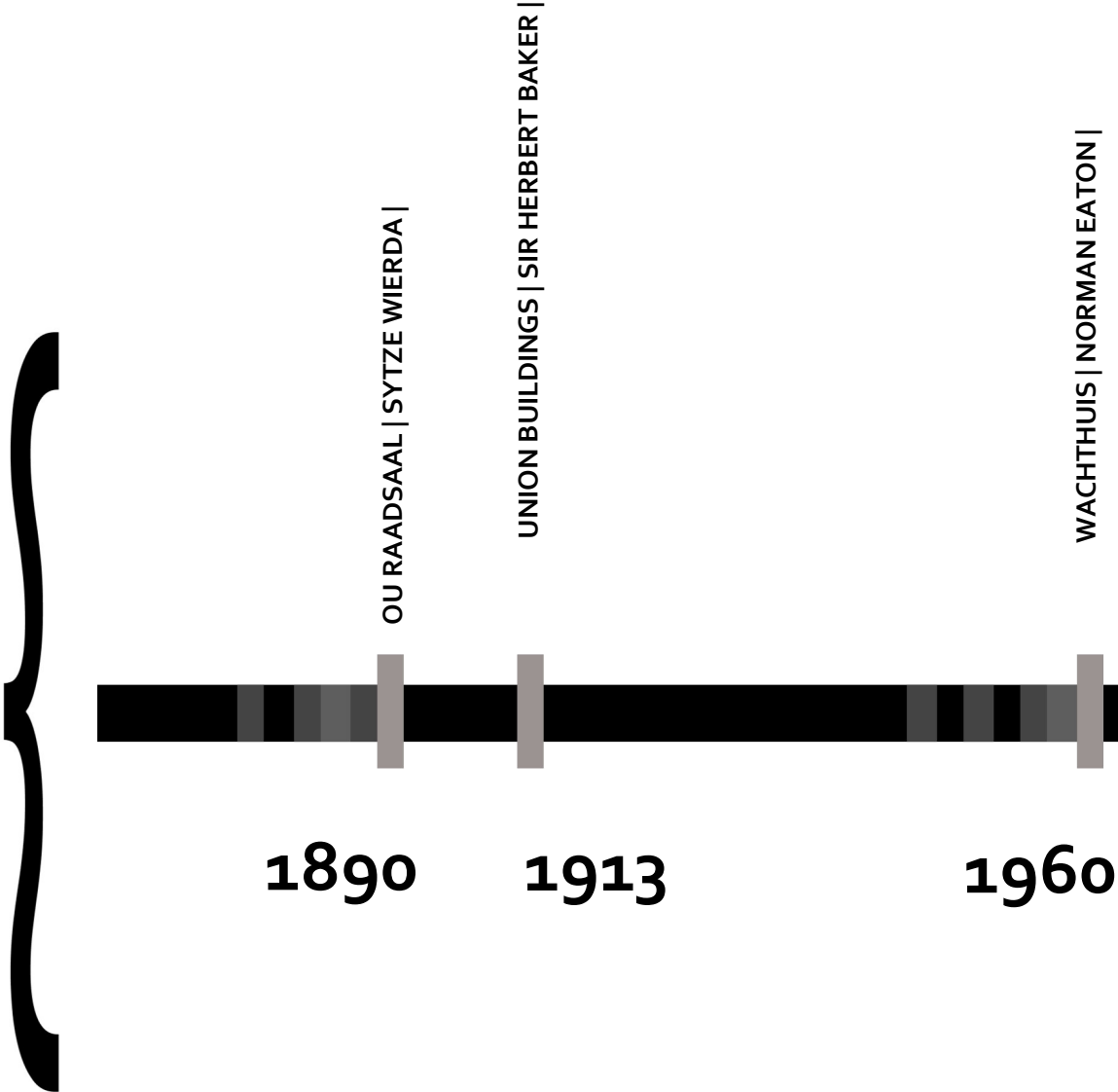




- 01– TIMELINE OF CIVIC ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA
- 02– ARCHITECTURE IN CONTEXT
- 03– CASE STUDY
- 04—SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDENTS
- 05—LOCAL PRECEDENT: GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

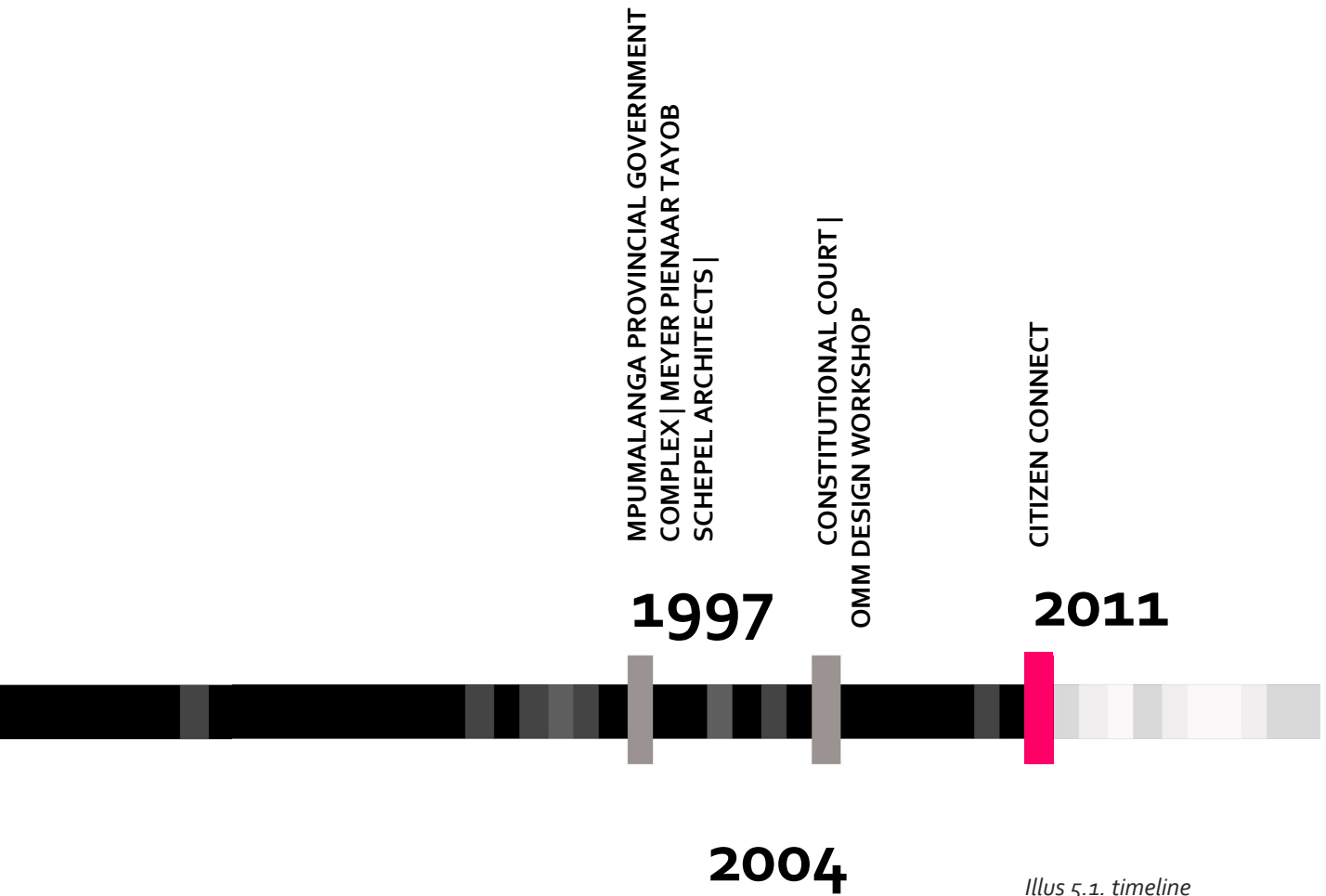
**PRECEDENT STUDIES** 

**05**



# chapter 05

## 01- TIMELINE ANALYSIS OF CIVIC ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA



*Illus 5.1. timeline*

## OU RAADSAAL

Date: **1890**

Architect: Sytze Wierda

Style: Classical

Location: Church Square, Pretoria City Centre

The Ou Raadsaal, translated from Afrikaans as the *Old Council Chambers* (Old Government Building) housed, all levels of government. Currently it houses the municipal management team offices.

Originally the building was to be two storeys but was increased to three because of President Paul Kruger's wishes that the Raadsaal not be shorter than the adjacent hotel (Visit Pretoria, 2011).

The building holds a memory on its exterior; the original hooks for tendering horses can still be seen. In 1992 a full-scale restoration to return the entire building to its former glory took place (Visit Pretoria, 2011). The Ou Raadsaal represents a [political symbol of importance](#).



*Illus 5.2:  
Aerial  
photo.*



*Illus 5.3:  
Exterior  
photo.*



*Illus 5.4:  
Interior  
photo.*



## UNION BUILDINGS

Date: 1913  
Architect: Sir Herbert Baker  
Style: English monumental  
Location: Meintjieskop, Pretoria

The planning of the Union Buildings took place during the unification of South Africa between the Boers and Britain. Pretoria was established as the new administrative capital and thus an architectural representation was required.

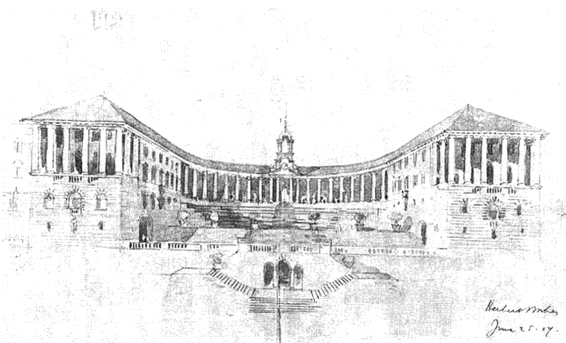
The plan comprises two office blocks on either side of the semi-circular colonnade surrounding the amphitheatre. This is symbolic of the once divided and now unified South Africa.

Baker's intentions were for the building to be grand and to express the political content of the time, and he expressed *the idea of civic and national dignity and power* (Baker, 1909:513). (Christenson, 1996)

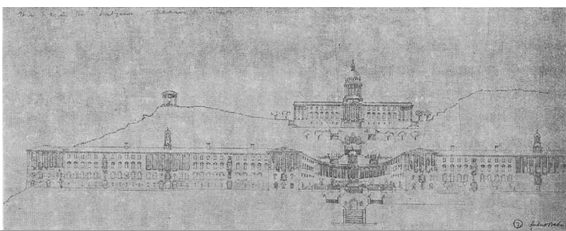
Illus 5.5:  
Aerial  
photo.



Illus 5.6:  
Baker  
water-  
colour  
sketch.



Illus 5.7:  
Baker  
sketch.



## WACHTHUIS

Date: 1960  
Architect: Norman Eaton  
Style: Pretoria Regionalism + International style  
Location: Pretoria City centre

The Wachthuis, the South African Police Headquarters, were erected on a site previously occupied by the Polley Hotel. Conventionally the design of the Police headquarters would be fortress-like but Eaton designed it with lightness and elegance. The commemoration of what once stood on the site was the naming of the new arcade to Polly's Arcade, which connects Schoeman and Pretorius Street on both sides. The characteristics of the building represent a combination of [Pretoria Regionalism](#) (in response to the landscape and climate as ideals, which deeply root the building to its place) and the [International Style](#) (comprising strip windows and concrete frame structure). There is an interest in the simplistic flexible and robust concrete structure where the mezzanine levels are suspended from the floors above and do not touch the structural concrete columns, adding to the [openness and lightness](#) of the space.

Illus 5.8:  
Aerial  
photo.



Illus 5.9:  
Exterior  
photo.



Illus 5.10:  
Interior  
photo.



## MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX

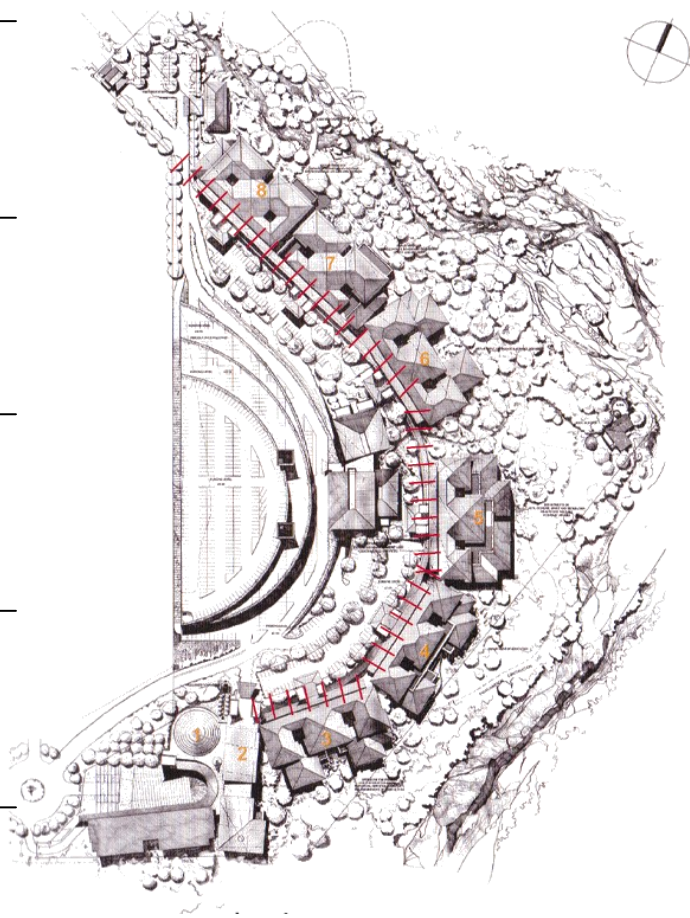
Date: 1997

Architect: Meyer Pienaar Tayob Schnepel Architects & Urban Designers

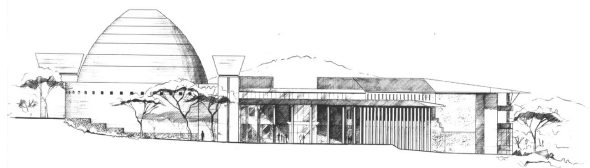
Style: Regional Identity

Location: Nelspruit, Mpumalanga

At the dawn of the new South Africa the rainbow nation as an identity needed to be established. A look towards traditional African forms was used to represent the architectural language of the Provincial Government Complex. There is a combination of **appropriate monumentality and intimacy** by combining separate buildings with a walkway spine (Joubert, 2009: 54)



*Illus 5.11. Site plan showing walkway spine*



*Illus 5.12. North-east Elevation.*



*Illus 5.13. Exterior photo.*



*Illus 5.14. Interior photo.*



## CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Date: **2004**

Architect: OMM Design Workshop

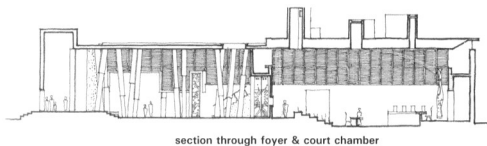
Location: Constitutional Hill, Braamfontein

The Constitutional Court is located on the Old Fort Prison of Johannesburg where Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi were once held (Viljoen, 2005:82). The design of the building [links with the surroundings through landscape design](#) whilst retaining buildings of historical significance, symbolising respect for the past.

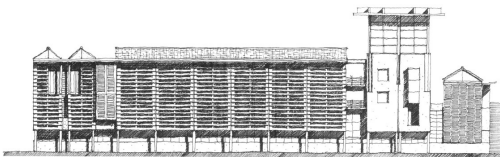
The element of craft and its associated humanness adorn the building's interior and exterior where local artists tendered for jobs such as creating mosaic-work and lighting fixtures. The western façade has a dual function for the harsh western sun and encourages public engagement. There are clear thresholds established between the public and private realm.

The Constitutional Court is an [architectural symbol of a democratic South Africa](#). *The building embodies the victory of idealism and human rights over cruelty and despair, and reflects the openness and transparency called for in the constitution* (Deckler, 2006:19).

*Illus 5.15.  
Section  
through the  
foyer &  
court cham-  
ber.*



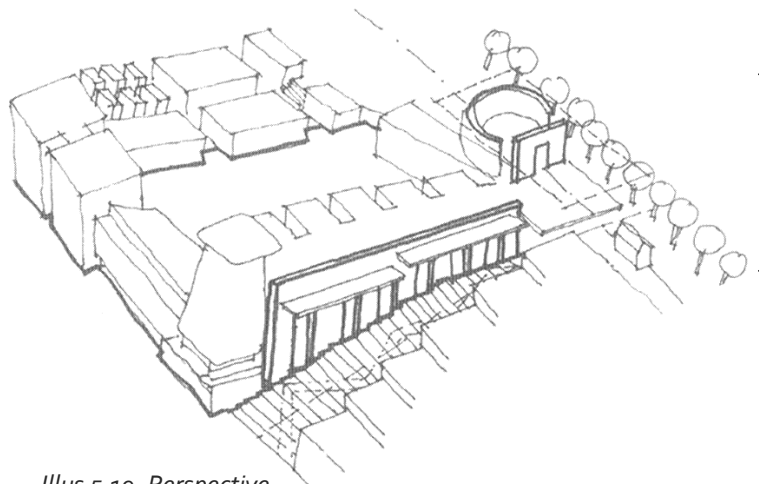
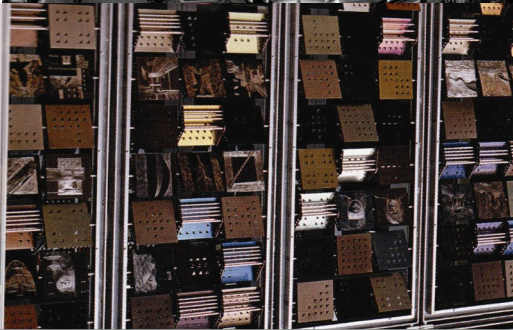
*Illus 5.16.  
North  
elevation.*



*Illus 5.17.  
Exterior  
photo.*



*Illus 5.18.  
Exterior  
photo of  
interac-  
tive wall.*



*Illus 5.19. Perspective.*

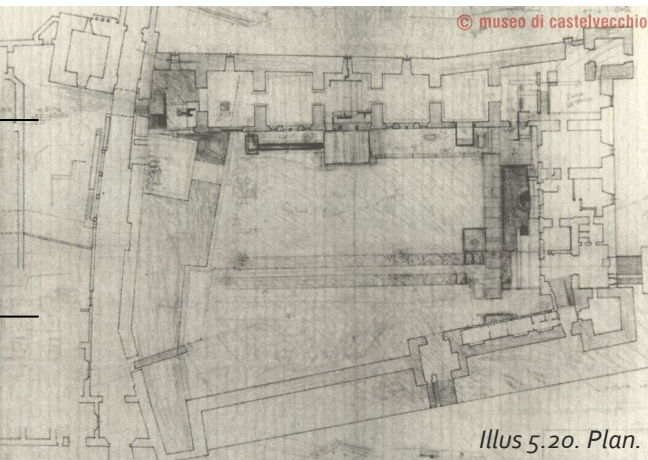
## 02. ARCHITECTURE IN CONTEXT CASTELVECCHIO MUSEUM

Architect: Carlo Scarpa

Date: 1958-61

Location: Verona, Italy

Castelvecchio is the transformation of an old castle into a museum. The contrast between the new and old is poetically and complimentarily executed. The treatment of the interior is modern with subtle hints of new elements evident on the exterior.





## DRILL HALL

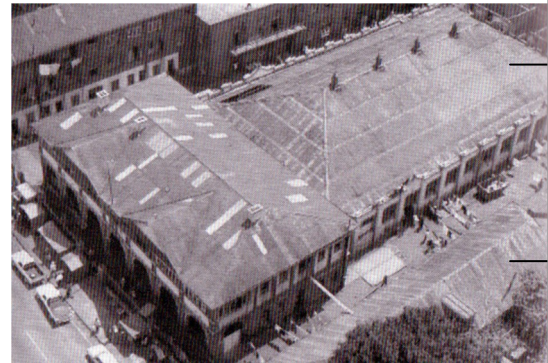
Architect: Michael Hart Architects Urban Designers

Date: 2004

Style: Neo Classical

Location: Johannesburg CBD

The drill hall is a military complex built in 1992 by the British. In 1956 it was used for the preliminary Rivonia trials. The new programme comprises an exhibition space, offices for welfare organisations and cultural facilities. The traditional military-internalised environment was to be transformed into a public space but still respect the significance of the heritage attached to the building. The use of glass fills the space with light and opens up a view to the surroundings. The final product resonates with democratic spirit. (Joubert, 2009:124 - 125)



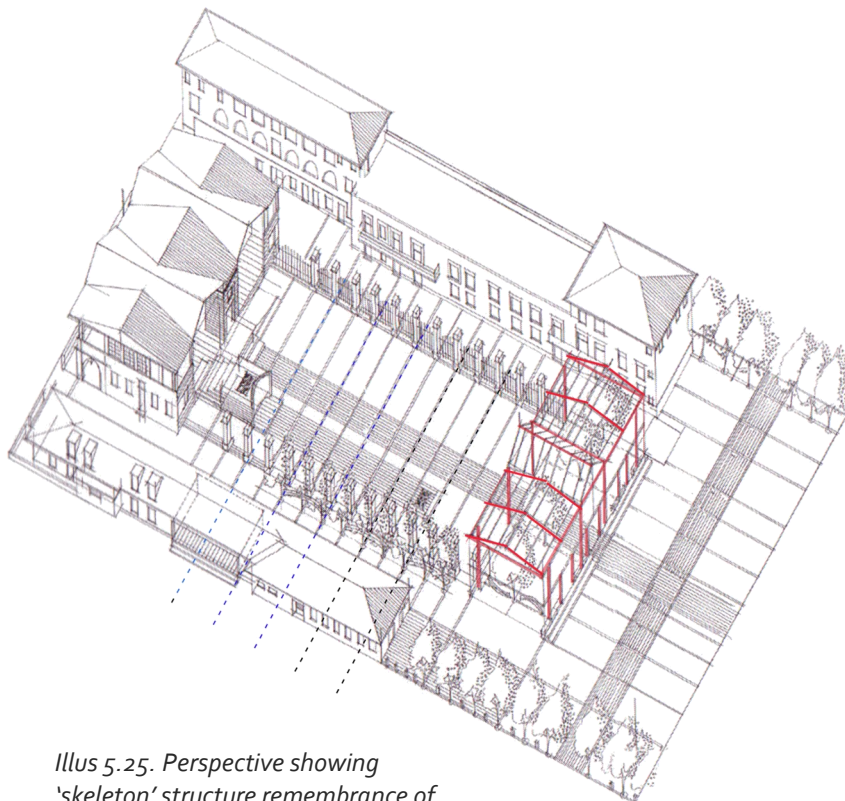
*Illus 5.26. Aerial photo of original Drill Hall.*



*Illus 5.27. Aerial photo.*



*Illus 5.28. Exterior photo.*



*Illus 5.25. Perspective showing 'skeleton' structure remembrance of the Drill Hall in red.*

## GERMISTON HOSPITAL

Architect: HLMSV Architects in association with PRISM Architects

Client: Gauteng Department of Health in liaison with the Department of Public Transport, Roads and Works.

Civil/Structural: ARYP Civil & Structural Engineers

Mechanical: IZAZI Mechanical Engineers

Electrical: TSEKEMA Electrical Engineers

Quantity Surveyors: GDP Quantity Surveyors & KDM Quantity Surveyors

Contractor: GHC Contractors

Photography: Gabriella Dias & HLMSV Architects

Date: 2010

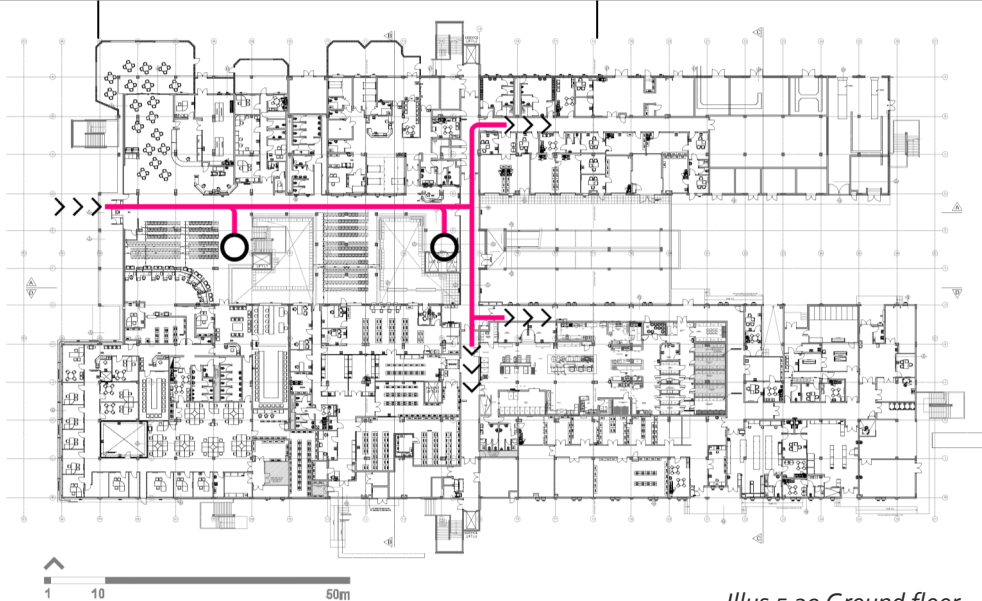
The new 300 bed hospital is a high-rise development in Germiston south, set for completion this year. The design elements are primarily to cater for all the users through a neat and legible design.

Initially the brief was to demolish the existing hospital and build a single storey facility. After a considerable amount of research, they decided it would be ideal to build a high-rise five storey development as it proved to be a sustainable alternative as well as better integrated within the urban fabric. From a programmatic point of view, a high-rise development proves for easier access between different departments by decreasing the distance between them and increasing legibility. The positive aspects of low-rise developments, such as courtyards and natural sunlight, were understood as integral elements that were to be implemented. The architects were concerned with the structural functionality as well as human needs; the efficiency of the system needed to be maximised for the recovery of the patients.

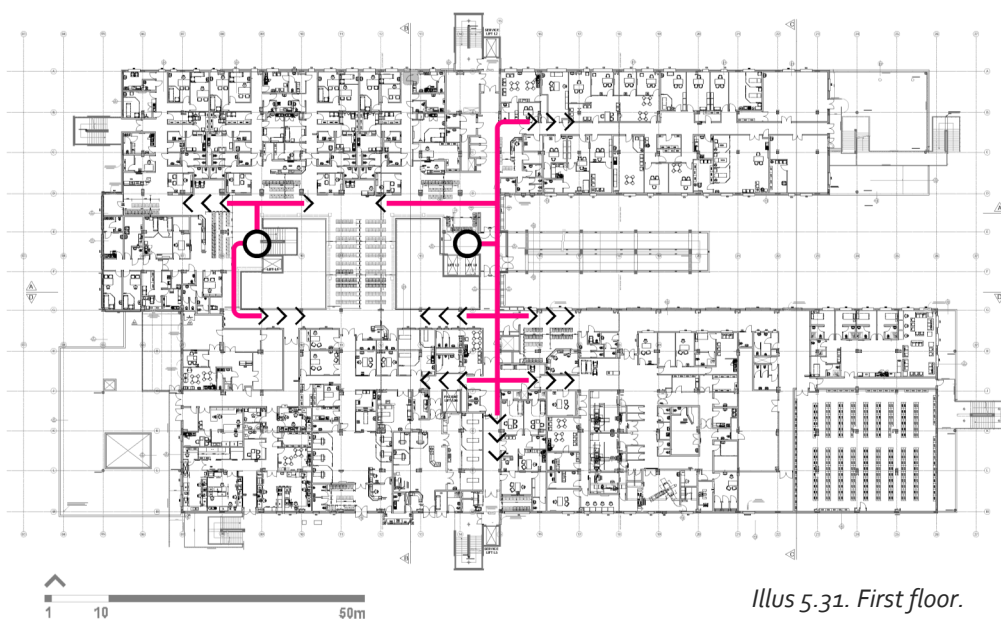
The design comprises three elements; an H-shaped plan, atrium and connection corridor. The well-defined vertical circulation elements were strategically positioned and designed to facilitate the efficient use by all the users of the building, both able and disabled.



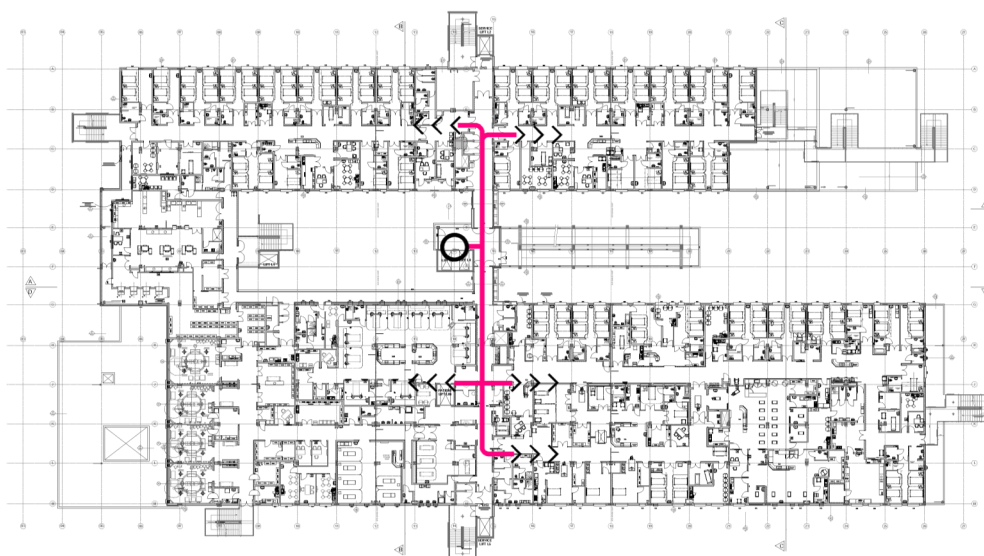




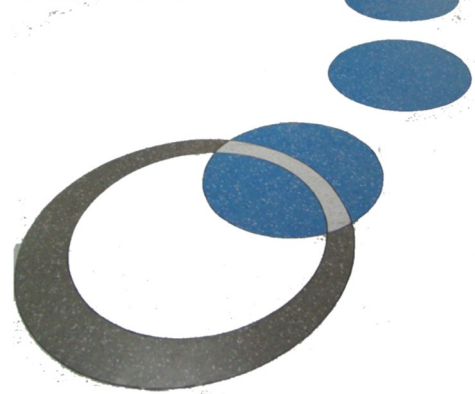
*Illus 5.30 Ground floor.*



*Illus 5.31. First floor.*



*Illus 5.32. Second floor.*



*Illus 5.33. Exterior elevation.*

*Illus 5.34. Interior photo of the double volume area.*

*Illus 5.35. Interior photo of the double volume area during construction.*

*Illus 5.36. Interior photo of the lift lobby during construction.*

*Illus 5.37. Interior photo of the atrium during construction.*

*Illus 5.38. Colour coding of the vinyl floor pattern and doors.*





*Illus 5.39. North elevation.*



*Illus 5.40. West elevation.*



*Illus 5.41. South elevation.*

The essential form giving elements of the design are two longitudinal wings, which run east-west and have a northern orientation. The wings are connected by an atrium and service corridor.

When the hospital is analysed through its sections and plans, it is evident that a pure work of rationalism and function along with healthy environments are fundamental to the success of the design. There is a clear hierarchy of the public facilities, semi-public wards and private facilities such as support services and theatres. Each department displays a thorough understanding of each functional requirement for the programme down to the crisp detailing of the finishes.

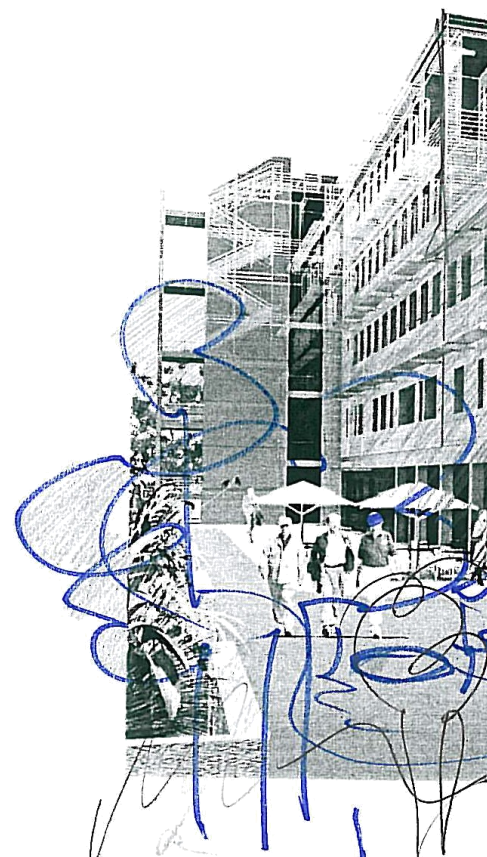
Access to the hospital via the atrium offers public facilities and a multi-purpose waiting area on the ground and first floors. Public services include Admissions, Pharmacy, Out-Patients, Allied Services, Radiology and the Emergency Unit. There is a strong visual connection provided by the atrium, which serves to orientate the user and allows for legibility.

A flow of natural sunlight fills the atrium space by artfully placed skylights, seamlessly integrated within the design. With the combination of natural sunlight and large pockets of planters rooted in the atrium, the user has a strong connection with nature, time and space. Where the department has a deeper plan, such as near Admissions, it would conventionally have no access to natural sunlight but light-wells were implemented in the design. The ambient qualities are a common thread throughout the building. The architects considered the light not only from an aesthetic and visibility point of view, but also with the understanding that light influences the way people feel, function and heal. There is an evident understanding of the theories of environmental psychology.

To further enrich the legibility of the scheme, colour is tactically designated to each department through the use of vinyl patterns on the floors, colours of the doors and signage. The user can easily navigate through the space without discrimination.

Sustainability and lifecycle costs were central in the choice of robust and timeless materials, orientation of the building as well as mechanical systems. Passive solar design principles are followed in facade design and orientation to enhance the internal climate of the building whilst reducing the load on the mechanical ventilation and cooling systems. Solar panels supply the main energy source for water heating. Windows are deep set with louvres allowing optimal comfort both in summer and winter.

Once completed, Germiston Hospital will provide all the users: patients, visitors and staff, a healthy and legible place suited to catering for the increasing demands of healthcare in South Africa. Sense of importance, dignity, connectedness, orientation, legibility, transparency and accessibility are words used to describe the architectural qualities of the design.



## 04. SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDENTS

A precedent study was conducted of South African civic architecture, through a timeline, showing that the civic buildings are artefacts that tell a story of the time. Citizen Connect, a civic building, aims at representing architecture of a democratic time; *Batho Pele*: People First.

The design intervention of Citizen Connect takes place predominantly in the Lewis & Marks building, a building with heritage significance. Therefore a precedent study was done of buildings where a sensitive design was executed between the new and old elements, and where the memory of the existing is retained.

A case study was conducted of a civic building not yet published. Lessons learnt was the ease of circulation of a multi-storey building, and way finding elements.



Illus 5.42 Perspective of the main entrance.

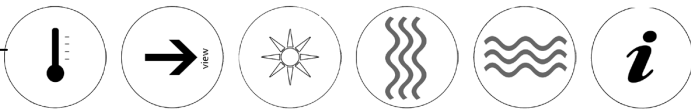
## 05. LOCAL PRECEDENT: GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Citizen Connect, having the typology similar to a government department, requires the departments in Pretoria to be analysed. The assessment criteria are based on indoor environmental quality (see *illus 5.43*) and urban quality (see *illus 4.26*), both being criteria with which Citizen Connect aims to implement as guidelines for interface architecture.

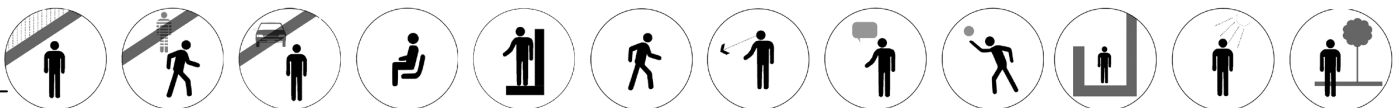
### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

#### Indoor environmental quality

Thermal comfort	External views	Daylight	Air change	Ventilation rates	Way finding
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#### Urban quality



#### Urban comfort

#### Urban opportunities

#### Urban experience

*Illus 5.43.*  
(See chapter 4, p57)



DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS  
Pretoria City Centre



Illus 5.45.

MUNICIPALITY OF TSHWANE  
Pretoria City Centre



Illus 5.46.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFIARS  
Marabastad



Illus 5.47.

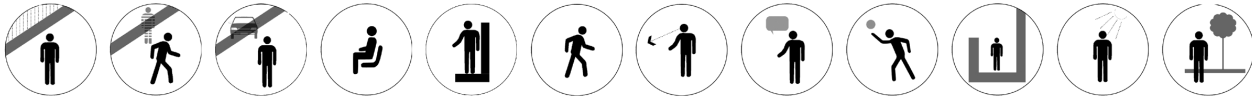
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT  
Waltloo



Indoor environmental quality



Urban quality

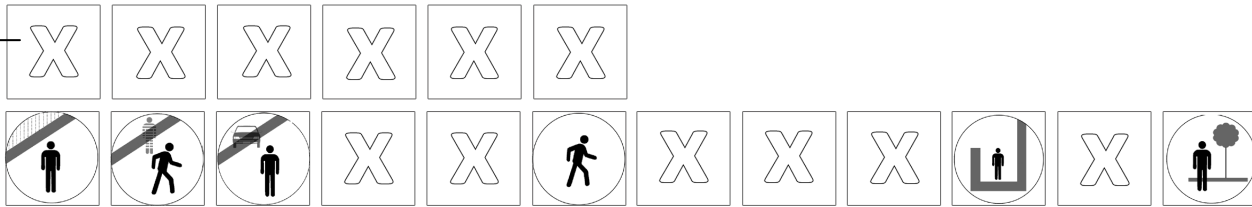


Illus 5.48.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

Pretoria City Centre

Currently the building is vacant because the Department of Home Affairs moved out of the Pretoria City Centre to Waltloo.



Illus 5.49.

MUNICIPALITY OF TSHWANE

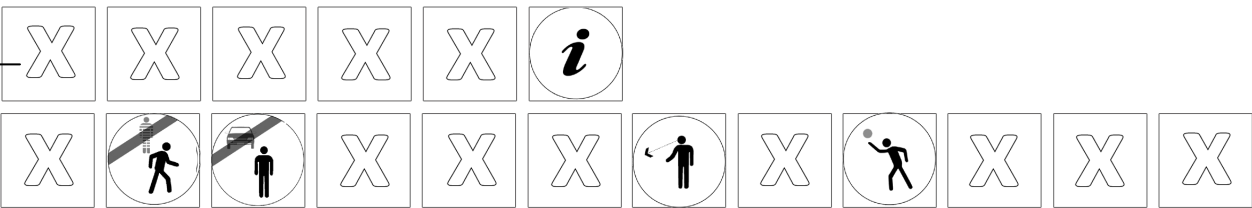
Pretoria City Centre



Illus 5.50.

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFIARS

Marabastad



Illus 5.51.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Waltloo

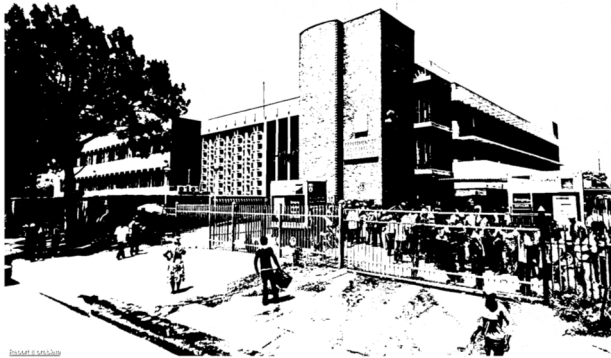


rgo.

*Illus 5.52.*



*Illus 5.53.*



*Illus 5.54.*



*Illus 5.55.*