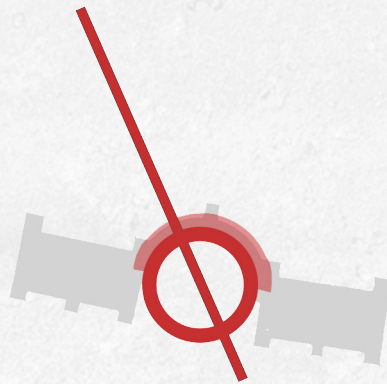


PART THREE

INITIATION SCHOOL



DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Key concepts
General approach
Concept
Syntactic analysis of approach to design
Initial sketch drawings
Evolution of the plan
Designing the structure

The chapter discusses the concept and the postulated idea of the confrontation of power and the generation of the new power.

The design exploration is discussed as a response to the informants extracted from the previous chapter and theoretical discourse put forth.

Key concepts

Several key informants have been established that guide the conceptual, urban and design approaches which are integral parts of the overall proposed design.

Project intentions

The Union Buildings is arguably the most iconic piece of colonial architecture present in South Africa. The architecture is also representative of political ideals set at the time of the conception of the Union Buildings. Current democratic ideals have not been upheld within the current time and political climate. The intentions are the exploration of an identity of democratic ideals to be manifested into the architecture.

The Union Buildings was formed on a void. The architecture aims to fill this void and turn it into a positive usable space. This leads to the idea of the collective identity being represented within the building. The concept of the third space emerges which focuses attention on the ‘marginalised identities’ and their interaction with the Union Buildings.

The idea of a circle acts a strong metaphor in the conception of the space. Not only does it represent an African identity, but can be seen as a neutral space in which one can be able to use as a focal point. The idea of the hut in primitive huts is a focal point for the horizon, and the horizon was not one directional but saw itself transcend in all angles.

Theoretical stance

The theoretical investigation explores the concept of the third space. The architecture should be able to intervene within fortified walls that have been constructed by politicians to safeguard themselves and their ideologies, and to create new levels of interaction that assist in the creation of a new democratic identity.

The creation of the new identity implies a new set of ideals that encourage a post democratic architecture. The identified networks encourage the design of the political school.

INITIATION SCHOOL

Site and context

The site of the proposed intervention is key to the conceptual intentions explored. The Union Buildings represents the highest idea of power, represented in the site location and symmetrical axis that cuts the two wings of the building.

The site is rich in heritage value and historical significance. The architecture should aim to reinforce these ideals of history and value while still aiming to maintain the new architectural concept and design intentions of the disruption of the power.

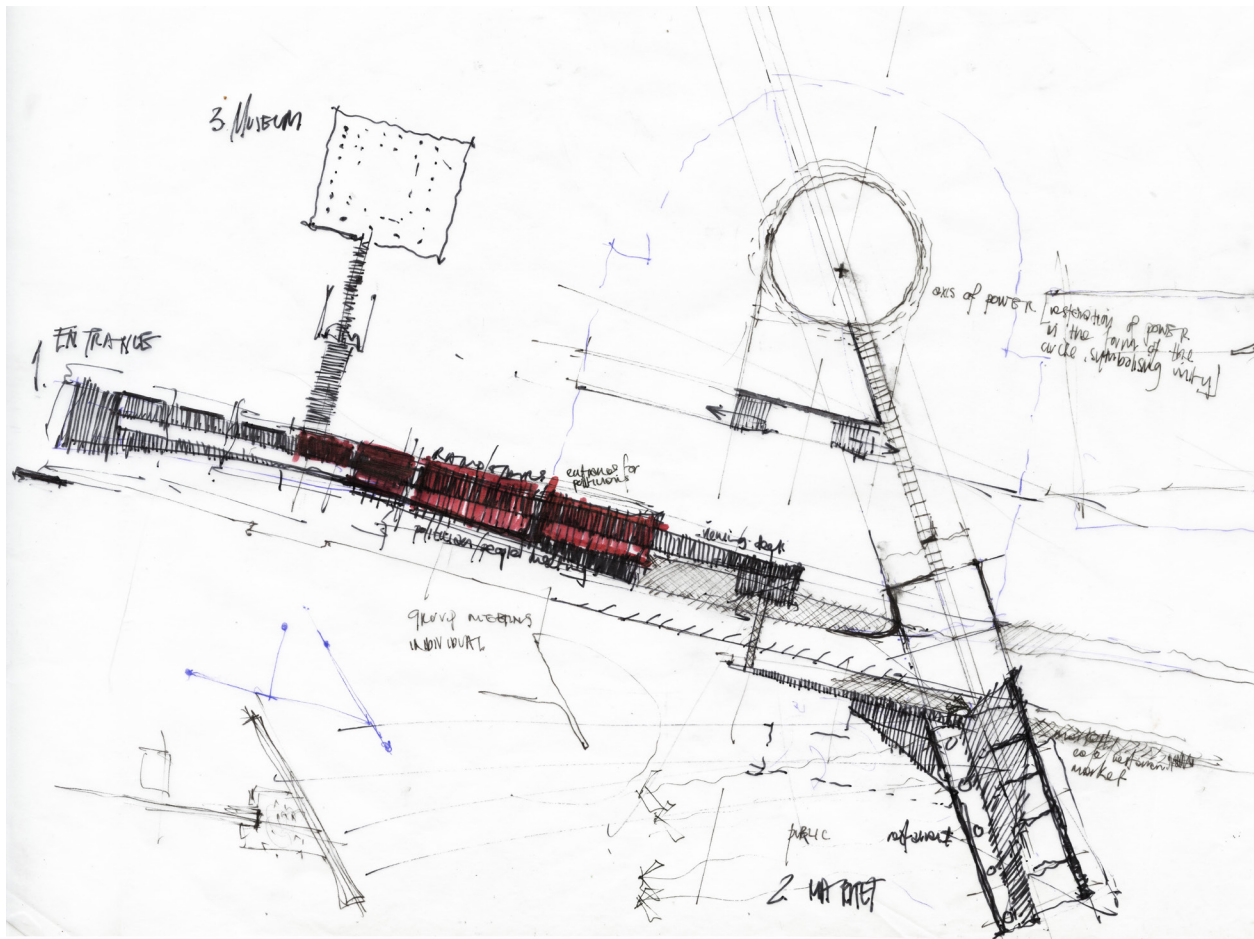


Figure 5.1: Conceptual diagram of architectural intention (Author, 2015)

Urban framework

The design needs to respond to the spatial framework and urban vision which intends to create a connection between the city and the Union Buildings precinct, to establish a connection between the inhabitants of the city.

The architectural intervention is sited on the amphitheatre of the Union Buildings below the level of the amphitheatre as well as the public road at the existing entrance of the Union Buildings. The proposed intervention should be able to allow for public interaction with the politicians and in the process to gain insight on the grounds of the Union Buildings.

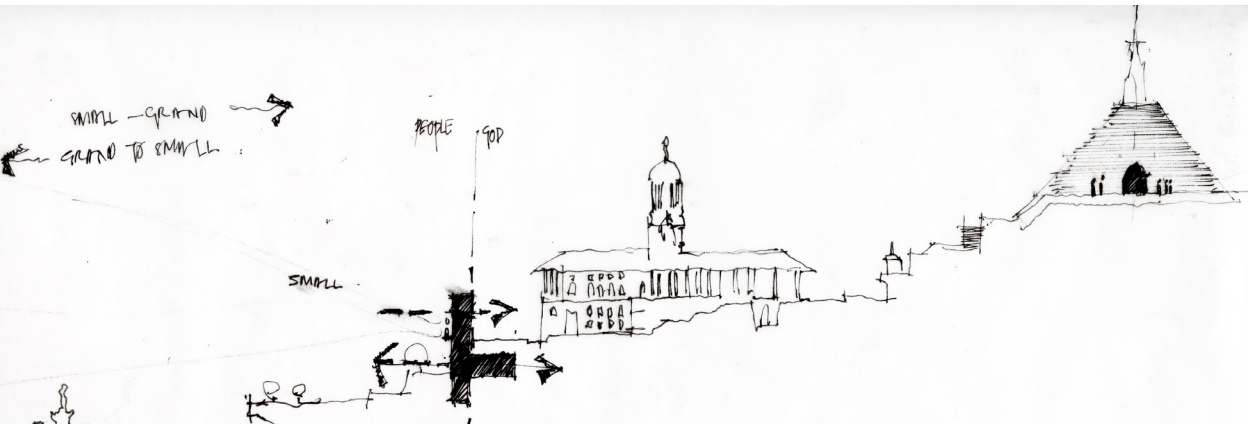


Figure 5.2: Conceptual diagram of proposed intervention. The image highlights the point of interaction between public and politicians (Author, 2015)

Programmatic informants

Different levels of public interaction will need to be maintained throughout the whole buildings to maintain visual connection throughout with all identified networks.

General approach

The Union and the Othering

The Union Buildings was designed as the unification of the British imperialism and the Boer Republics, this notion of unifying is depicted both on plan and in elevation. The building is separated into two wings with a central amphitheatre space, which adds light to the space, as the occupation of the Union Buildings lies on its southern side. The new concept of the union unifies the

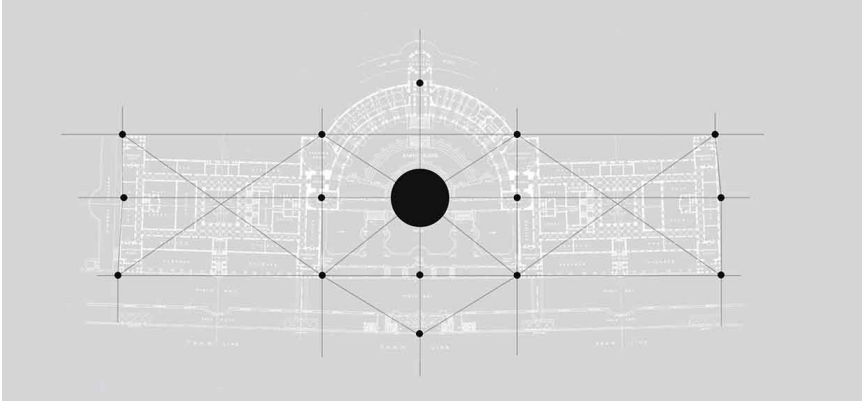


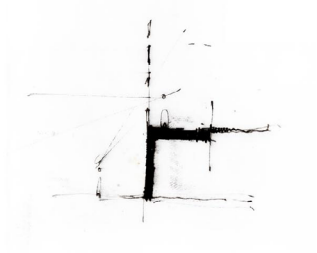
Figure 5.3: Othering. An illustration of the third face of power. The plan layout of the Union Buildings showing a thirding process in which the plan is realised as thirds

repressed groups to form the collective within a changing society; these repressed groups are commemorated within a third space, or third symbolising element. This othering is explored on plan to grid the plan in thirds, for the inclusivity of the third defining element. By othering a new spatial layering is realised which gives opportunity for intervention. By taking the existing plan and thirding it, the real and the imagined forms a new typology.

Occupying the third space

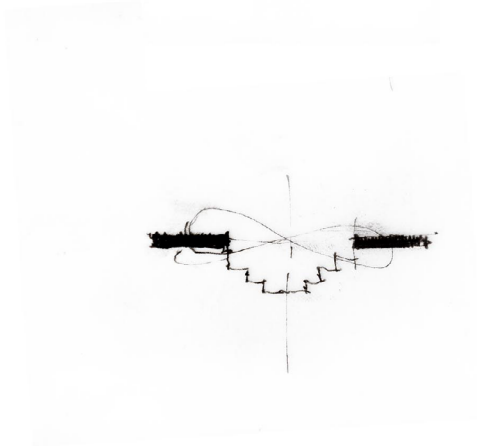
The first and second power of the Union Buildings have been commemorated, there needs to exist a third face of power that forms the collective. The third face of power [the repressed group, the other] is thus a means to find tolerance for change within the precinct. The boundary wall was thus observed as the element that introduces the third space to bridge the gap.

Figure 5.4: Connecting the tissue. Approach in the design intervention (Author, 2015) Right



The Boundary

*The transitional state,
liminal space or rites of
passage*



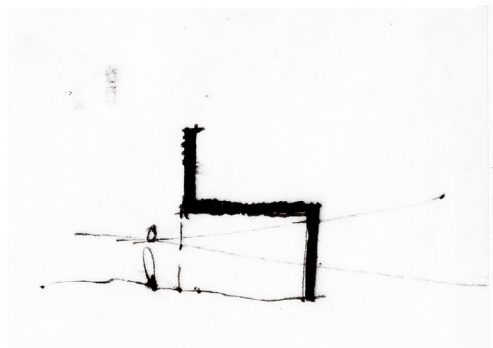
Connecting the tissue

*Zone of blurring
between different theories
and practices*



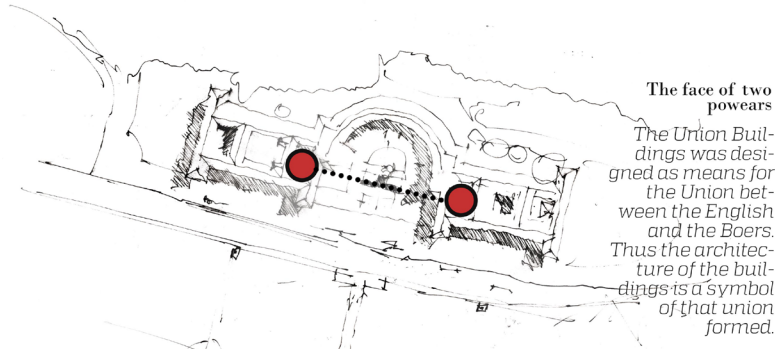
Inversion of the oppressor and oppressed

*Imprisoning the politician
and liberating the people*



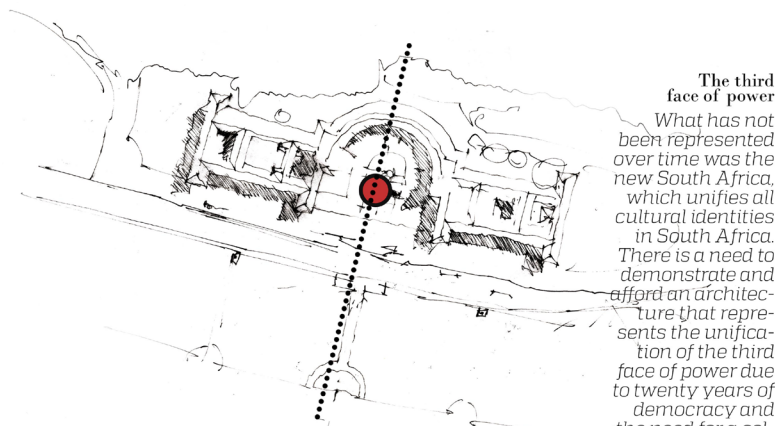
Third space

Subject meets object



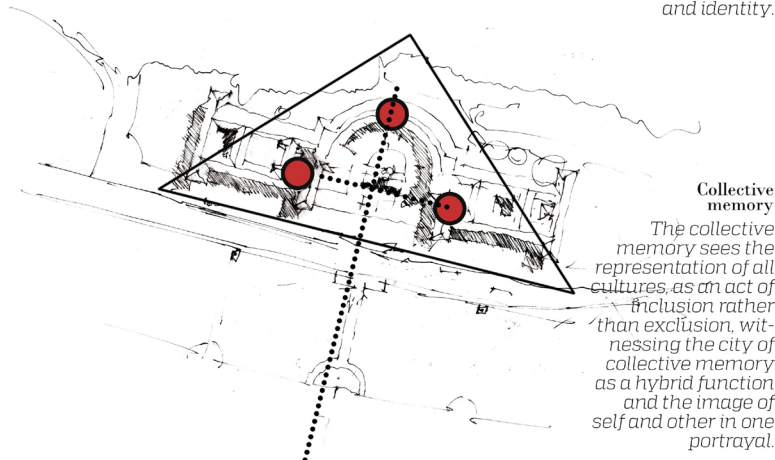
The face of two powears

The Union Buildings was designed as means for the Union between the English and the Boers. Thus the architecture of the buildings is a symbol of that union formed.



The third face of power

What has not been represented over time was the new South Africa, which unifies all cultural identities in South Africa. There is a need to demonstrate and afford an architecture that represents the unification of the third face of power due to twenty years of democracy and the need for a collective memory and identity.



Collective memory

The collective memory sees the representation of all cultures, as an act of inclusion rather than exclusion, witnessing the city of collective memory as a hybrid function and the image of self and other in one portrayal.

Figure 5.5 First second and third face of power (Author, 2015)

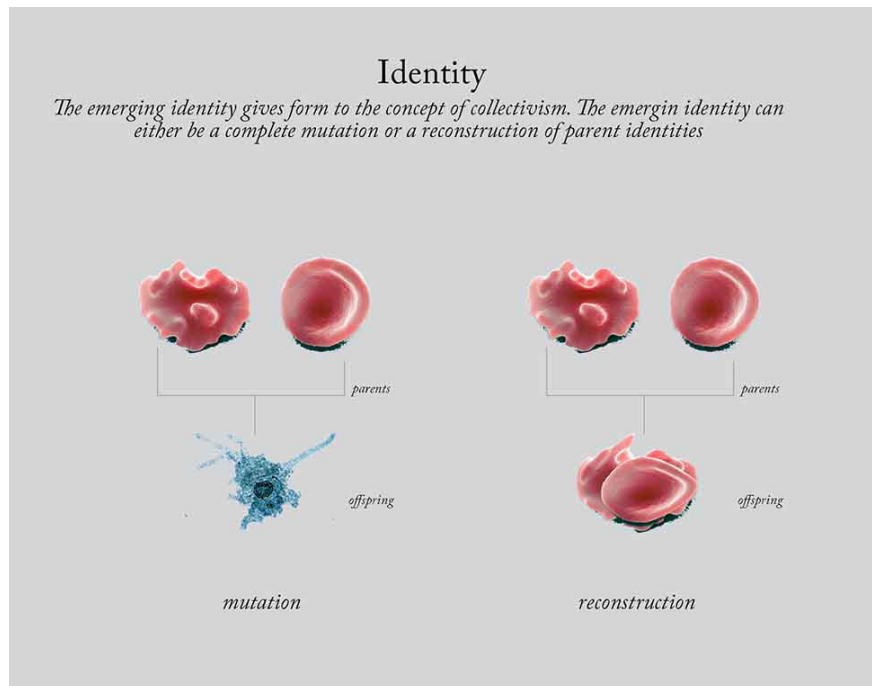


Figure 5.6 Identity. Analysis of mutation identity vs reconstruction of identity (Author, 2015)

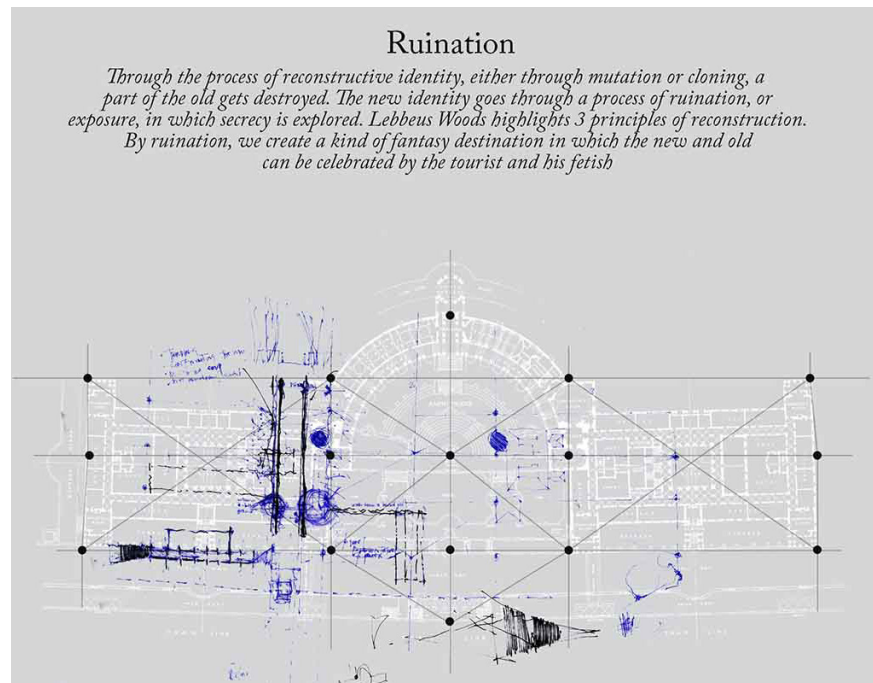


Figure 5.7 Ruination to feed the fetish of the tourist, assisting in understanding relationship between old and new structure and allowing for scarring of architecture (Author, 2015)

Counter-monument

The statism of monuments vs dynamism poses an interesting relationship. The static nature of monuments confronts the nation state with its own crimes. The counter monument aims at building more inclusive post national political identities



Figure 5.8 Counter monument. A move from static monuments to a dynamic interaction with structure (Author, 2015)

Concept

The historical narrative of the site and its heritage significance have informed the conceptual development of the design. The change in political ideologies and their representative image have informed the conceptual approach to the design, leading to the corruption and dissemination of the absolute power possessed by the grandeur and symmetry of the Union Buildings. The concept is thus a generation of the new order of power. This is represented by the image below in which the Union Building's symmetry is deflected to create a submerged walk-through below the Union Buildings that interrogates the existing building.

The project anticipates future condition in which governmental institutions' fortified walls can be broken down. The harsh change in historical narratives and finally with the proposed intervention have to be symbolised harshly to represent the change in political ideologies. In order to generate a new form of power, there needs to exist a relationship between the old structure and new structure to represent the harsh change through the three stages of the rites of passage; separation liminal and incorporation.

The architecture aims to firmly root itself in place and create a new identity for the Union Building. The deflection of the axis is governed by a philosophical, historic, geometric and pragmatic reasoning.

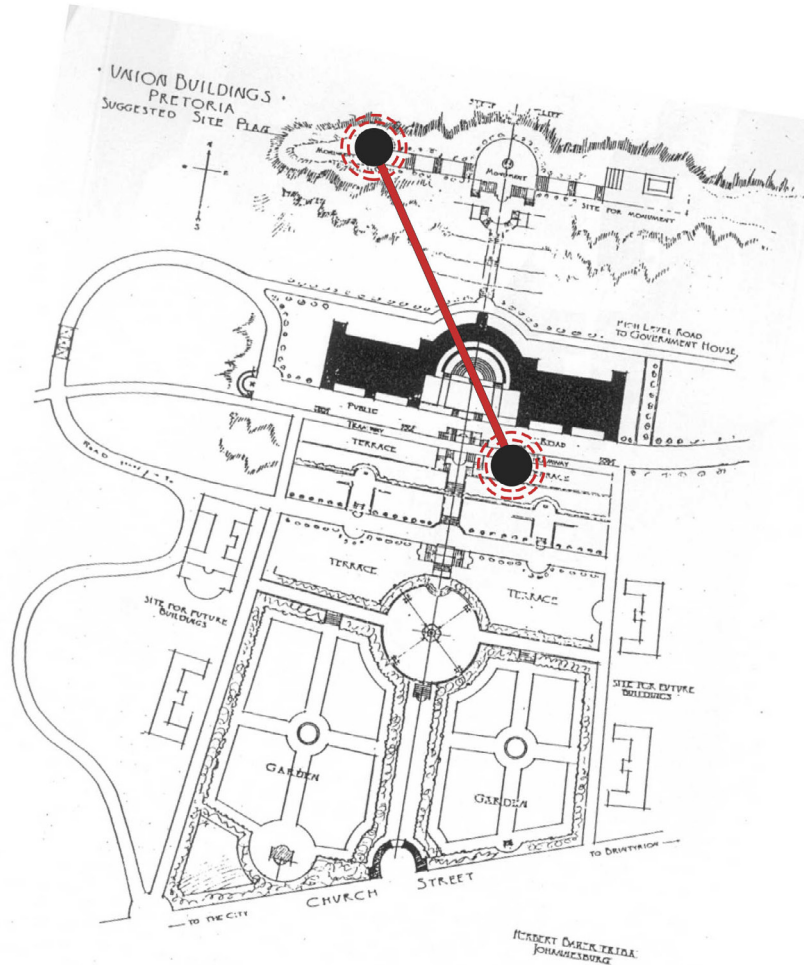
Figure 5.9 Design concept(- Author, 2015) Right

INITIATION SCHOOL

The axis mundi relates to connection between Heaven and Earth. It expresses a point of connection between the two polarities. The axis mundi functions as the world centre. The central space (amphitheatre) of the Union Buildings acts as the axis mundi that connects the Temple of Peace (appropriated to People's Tower in the group urban framework) and the entrance of the political school at the southern end. It can also be seen as the connector between the profane and the sacred. The deflected axis connects the front to Temple of Peace, which, as Herbert Baker had planned, was symbolic of the idea of peace in the three great wars of the twentieth century (Artefacts.co.za, 2015).

The Temple of Peace would have been seen as a funerary temple, where the important people would be laid to rest. The new axis revitalises this notion by placing the axis directly at where the temple would be placed. It is of the strong opinion of the author that Herbert Baker's plans be acknowledged, considered and appropriated to the zeitgeist of the time.

The second reasoning lies within the geometry of the Union Buildings and the defamiliari-



SOURCE: Cultmatrix HIA, 2001

Figure 5.10 Justification of pathway with connection point to the Temple of Peace (Author, 2015)

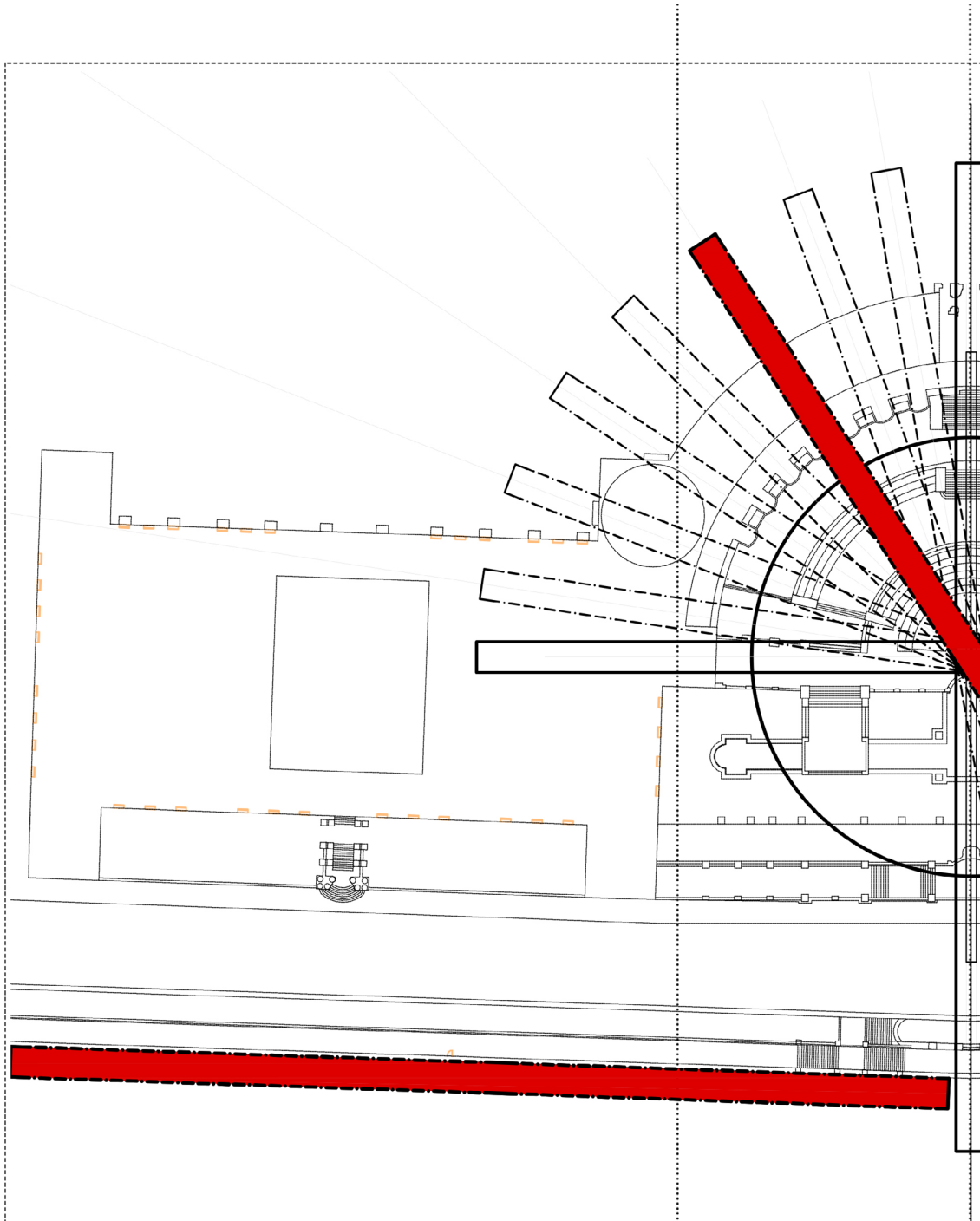
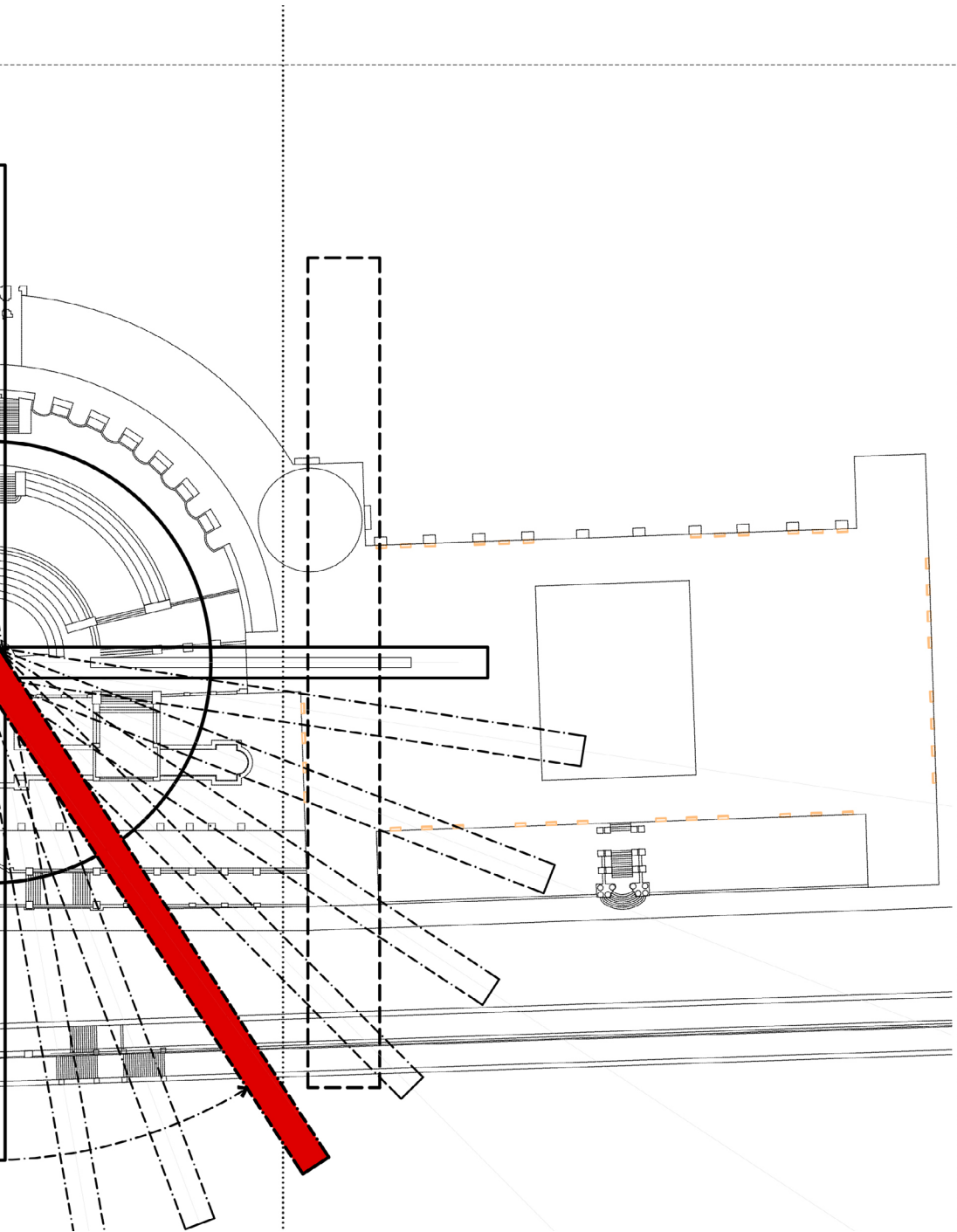


Figure 5.12: The angle of deflection explaining the disruption of power with regards to maximum deflection as being horizontal and vertical (Author, 2015)



INITIATION SCHOOL

The fragmentation deals with the new wall being positioned within the structure, which forms part of the archive space as well as the viewing platform that overlooks the city. Thereafter a meeting space with landscaped seating placed along the wall, where archives can be documented, and where

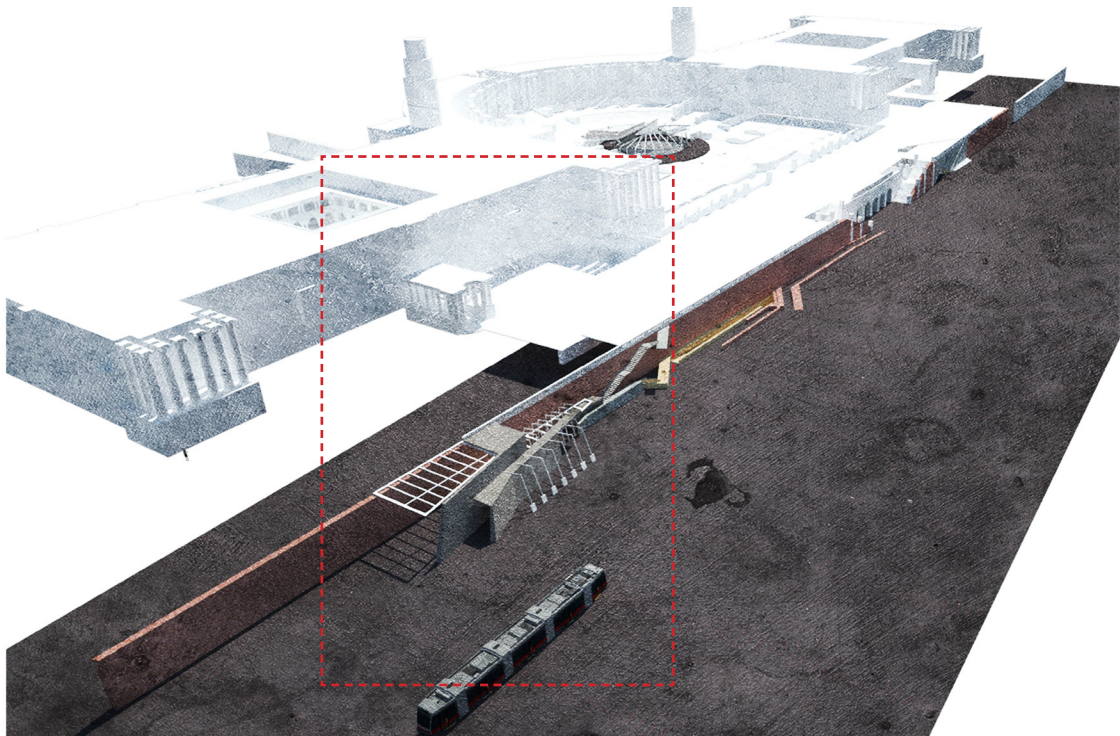


Figure 5.14: Outside condition (Author, 2015)

public can wait to enter into the political initiation school.

The confrontation is the final condition in which the entire structure is penetrated. This condition allows for a sacred transcendence into a bottom structure, in which the school is placed. The secrecy of the Union Buildings is made transparent in so doing. The entrance is realised by a harsh entryway through the disruption of the wall and the creation of a new.

Figure 5.13: Aerial view of old tram line that ran on the public road at the Union Buildings (National archives) Left

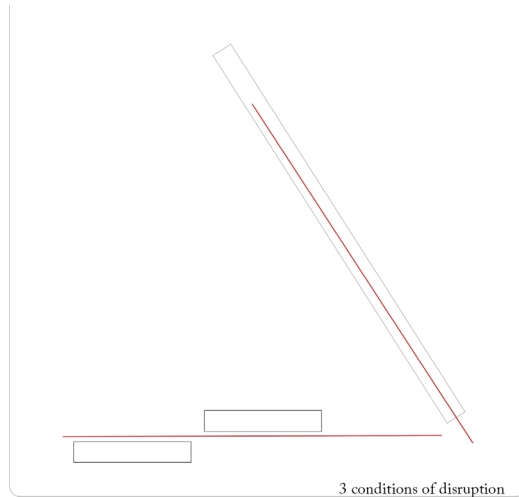
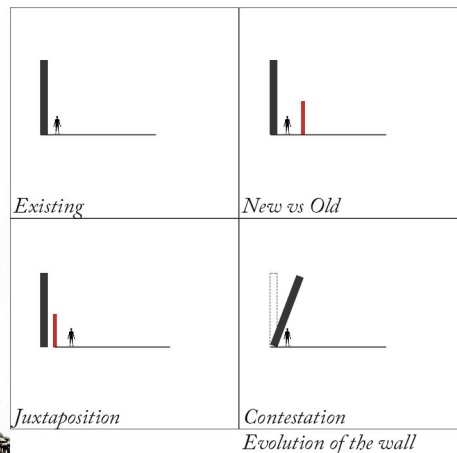


Figure 5.15: Three sets of conditions that exist for the proposed programme (Author, 2015)

Figure 5.16: Inference with the wall to describe the conditions placed for new structure proposed (Author, 2015)



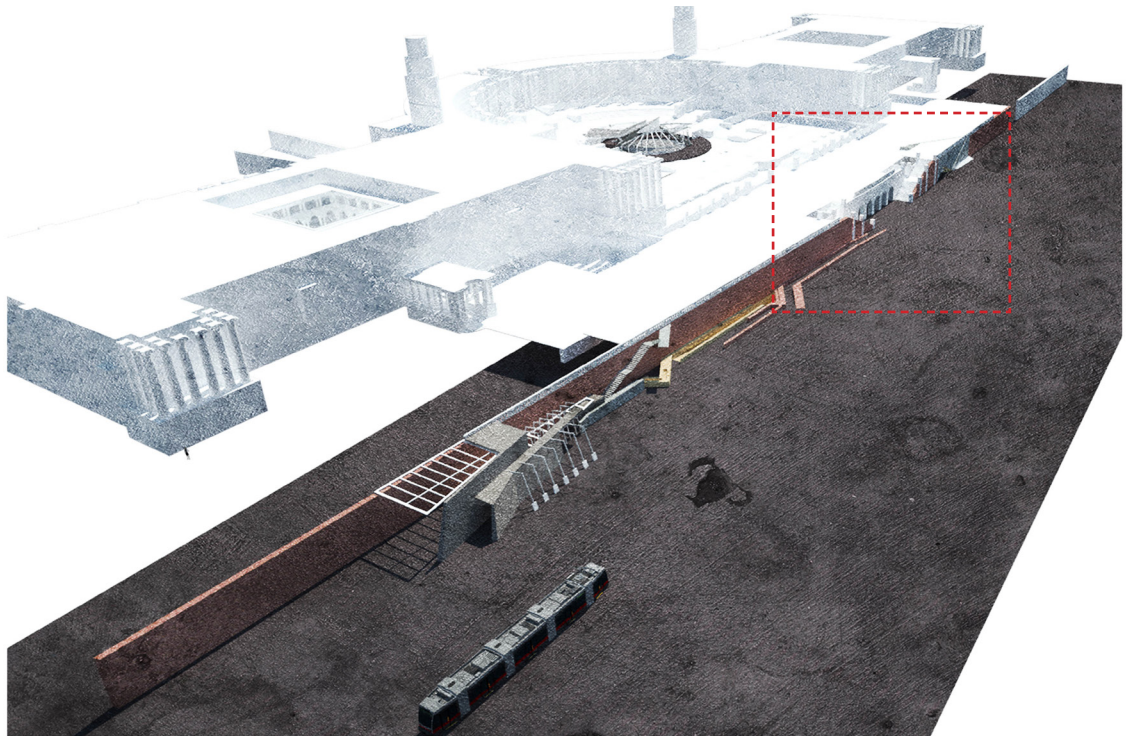
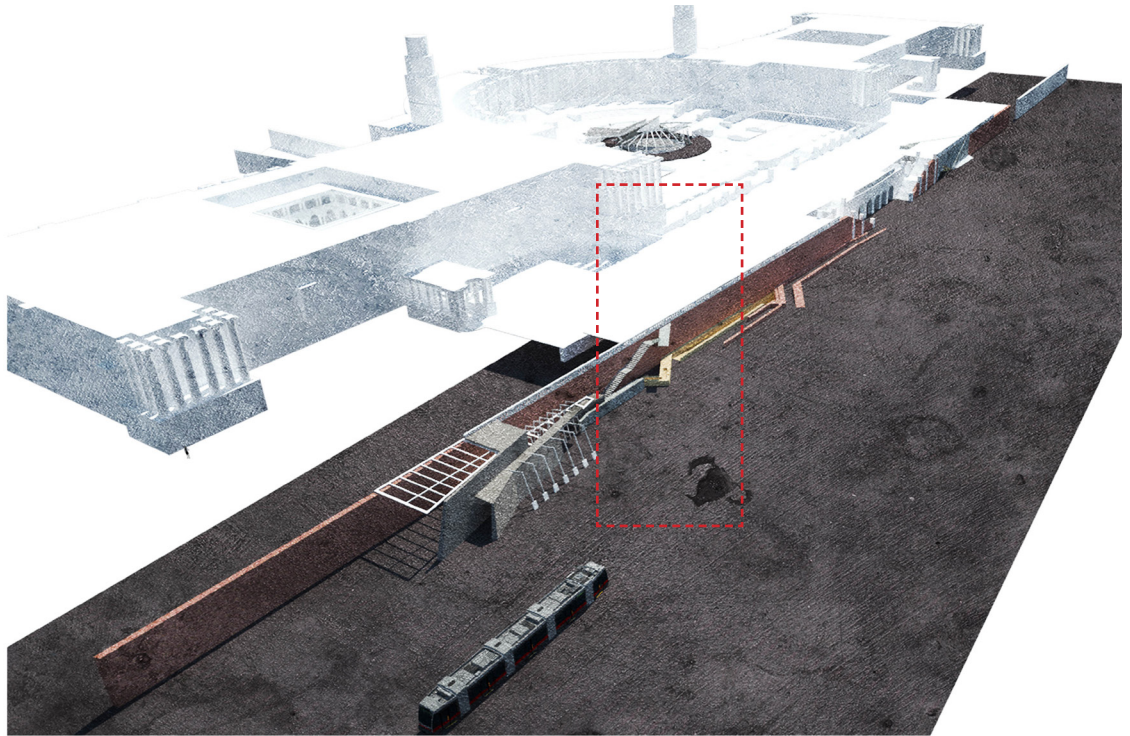
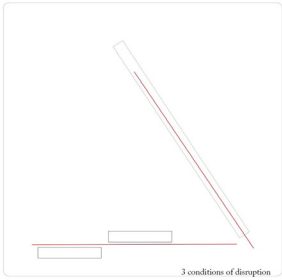


Figure 5.17: The fragmentation (Author, 2015)



Figure 5.18: Disruption of the wall (Author, 2015)

Figure 5.19: Disruption of the sandstone wall. Relationship between the old and new, represented through a harsh threshold between outside and inside (Author, 2015)



OVERVIEW PLAN
Intentions in architecture

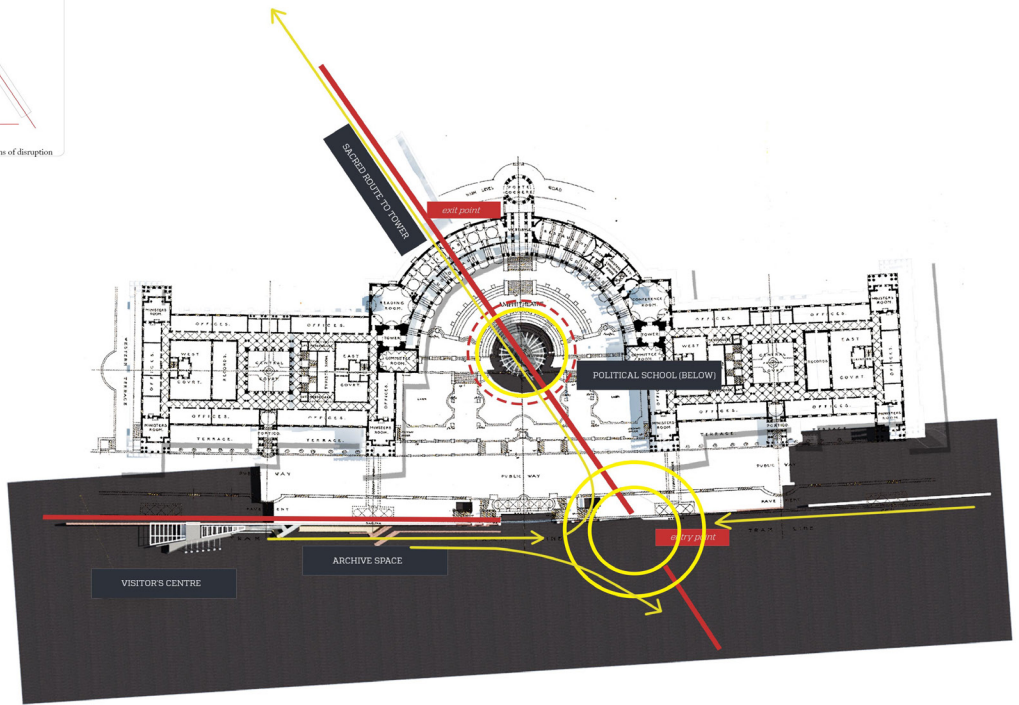


Figure 5.20: Radial, linear and circular movement of spaces (Author, 2015)

Syntactic analysis of new approach to design

The scheme tackles three levels of spatial planning which are antitheses to the hierarchical nature of the approach to Union Buildings. The linear plan form is employed to give commentary on the stagnant nature of the boundary wall which is used as a fortifying mechanism, to break down its purpose by populating it with social spaces.

The radial form creates a focal point that consists of linear forms that extend outwards to create a centrally located core element in a radiating manner (Ching, 2015; 70). The radial focal point is not the main focus of the scheme, but creates a centrality of the visitor's centre, market and entrance to political school. The convergence of the lines is non defined but allows features of the site to be realised. The convergence point can be seen as the meeting of all narratives; the politician, the citizen, the foreigner and the tourist.

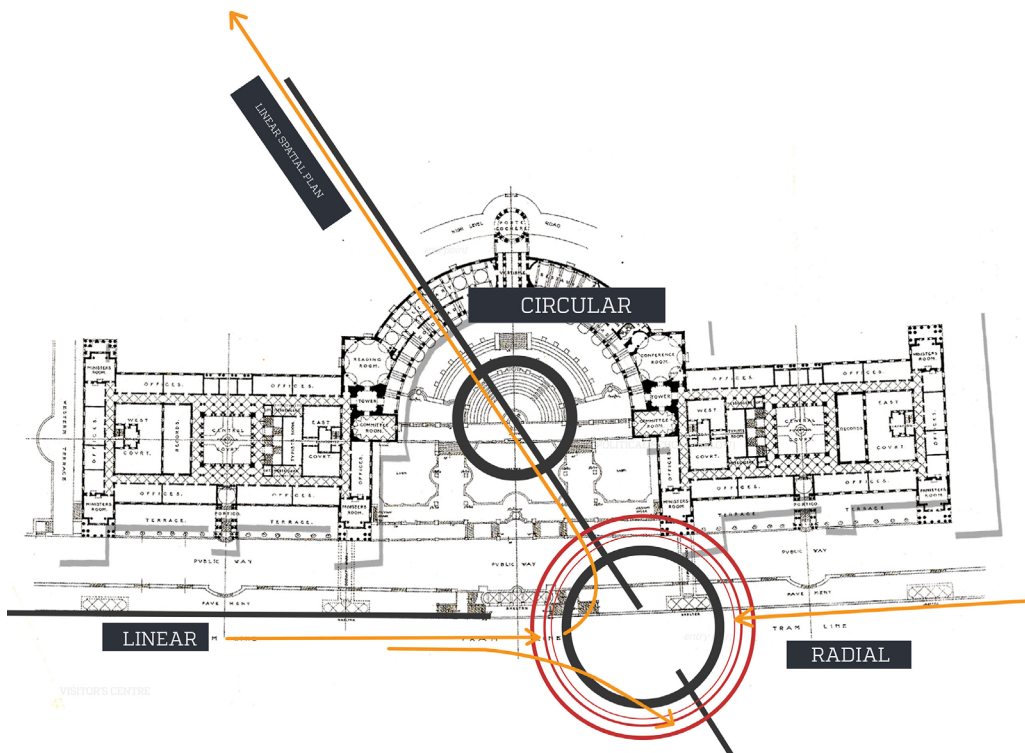
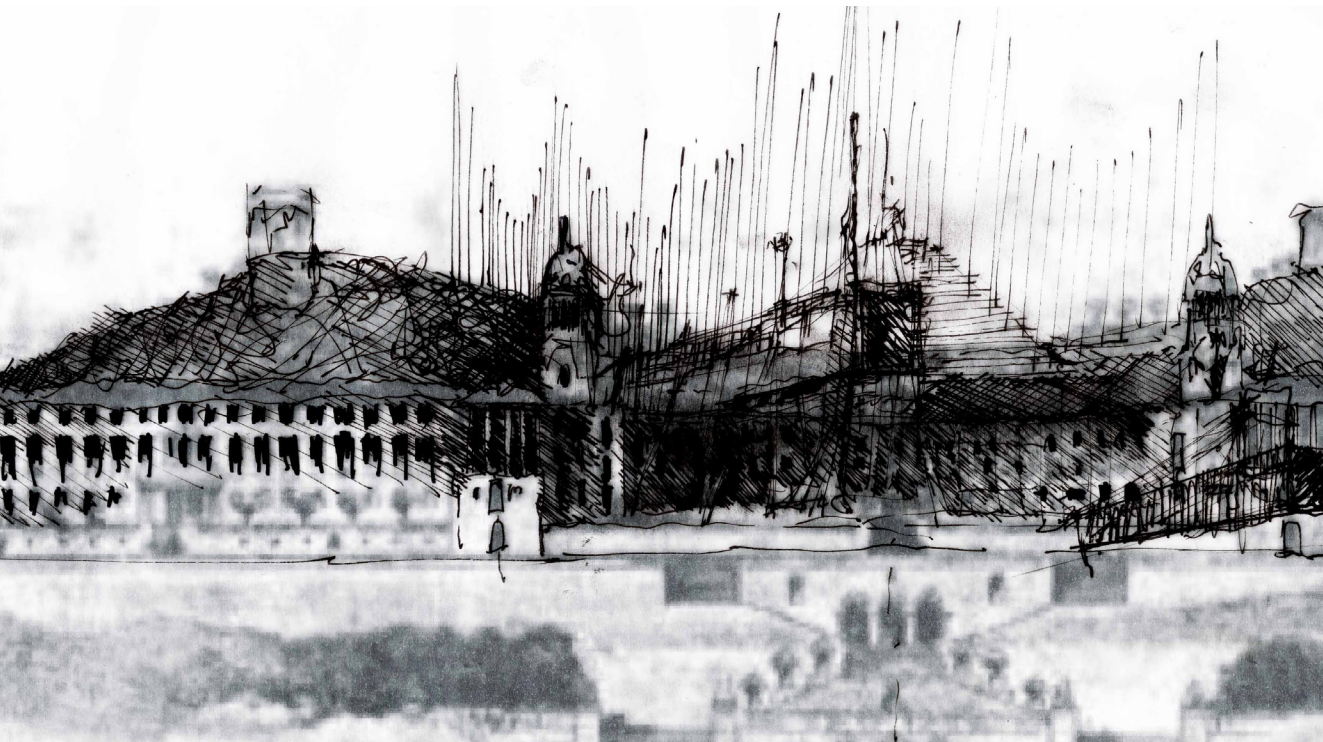


Figure 5.21: Illustration of radial linear and circular employed, as compared to the hierarchical nature of the approach to Union Buildings (Author, 2015)

INITIATION SCHOOL

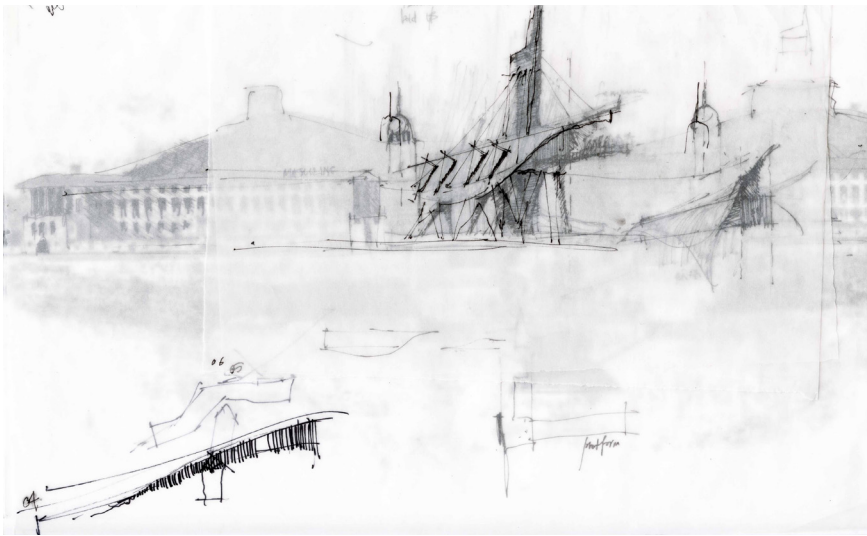
The circular or centralised form is the culmination of the experience, in which a balanced form is represented as a response to the existing amphitheatre plan layout but also to create a balanced form. The main programme is placed at the centre of the centralised plan, as means to highlight the dominance of the point in space which carries with it connotations of sacredness or honorary spaces that commemorate political and public figures at large.

*Figure 5.22:
Sketch of first
design. The
building canti-
levers over the
building (Au-
thor, 2015)*

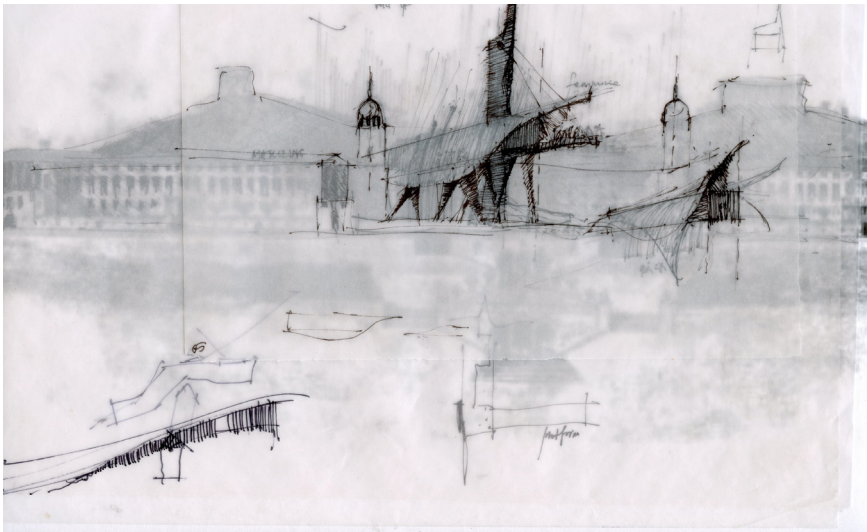


Initial sketch drawings

INITIATION SCHOOL



*Figure 5.23:
Initial sketches
highlighting the
linear design that
hovers over the
Union Building
(June 2015)
(Author, 2015)*



*Figure 5.24:
Second iteration
(June 2015)
(Author, 2015)*

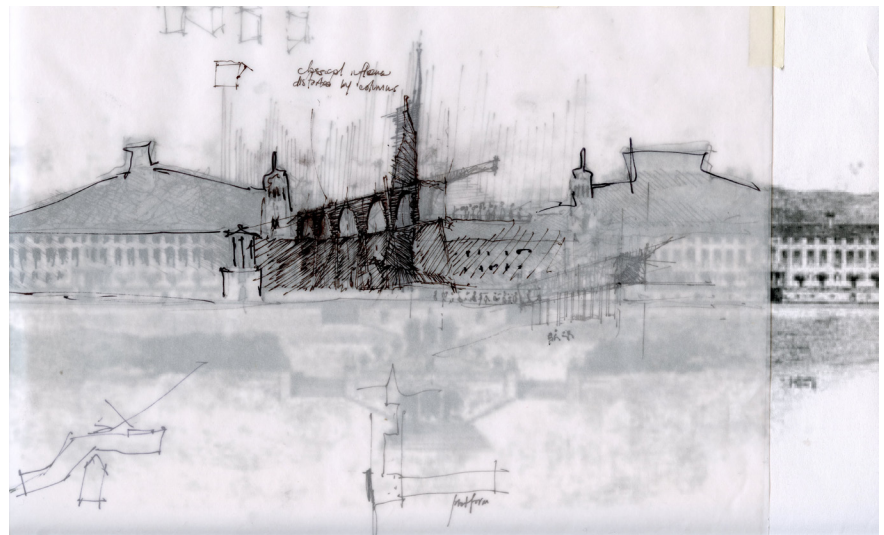


Figure 5.25:
Exploring masculinity in design with proposed intervention above Union Buildings (Author, 2015)

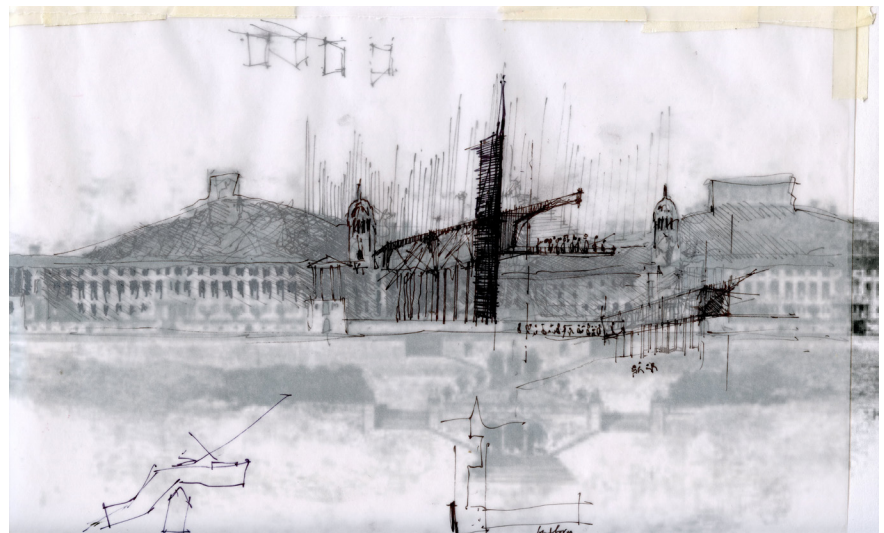


Figure 5.26:
Exploration of masculine structure to create tension between the old and new structure (Author, 2015)

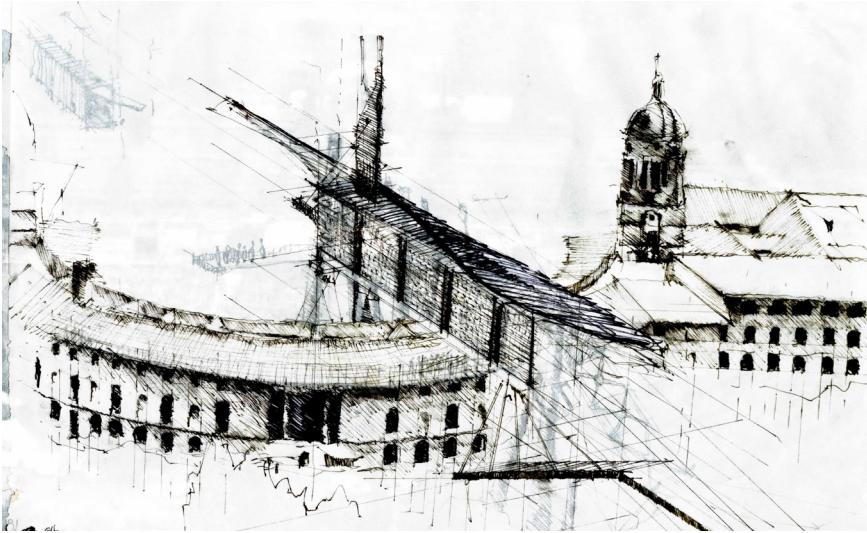


Figure 5.27: Exploration of initial idea (Author, 2015)

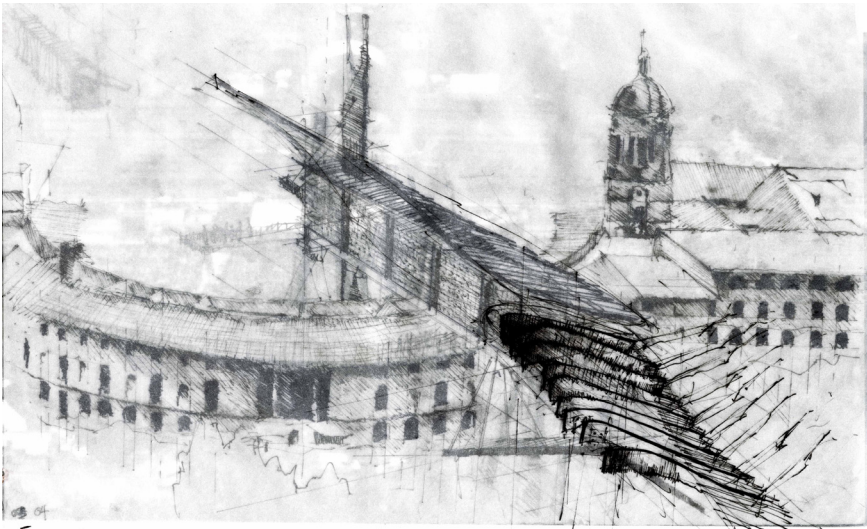
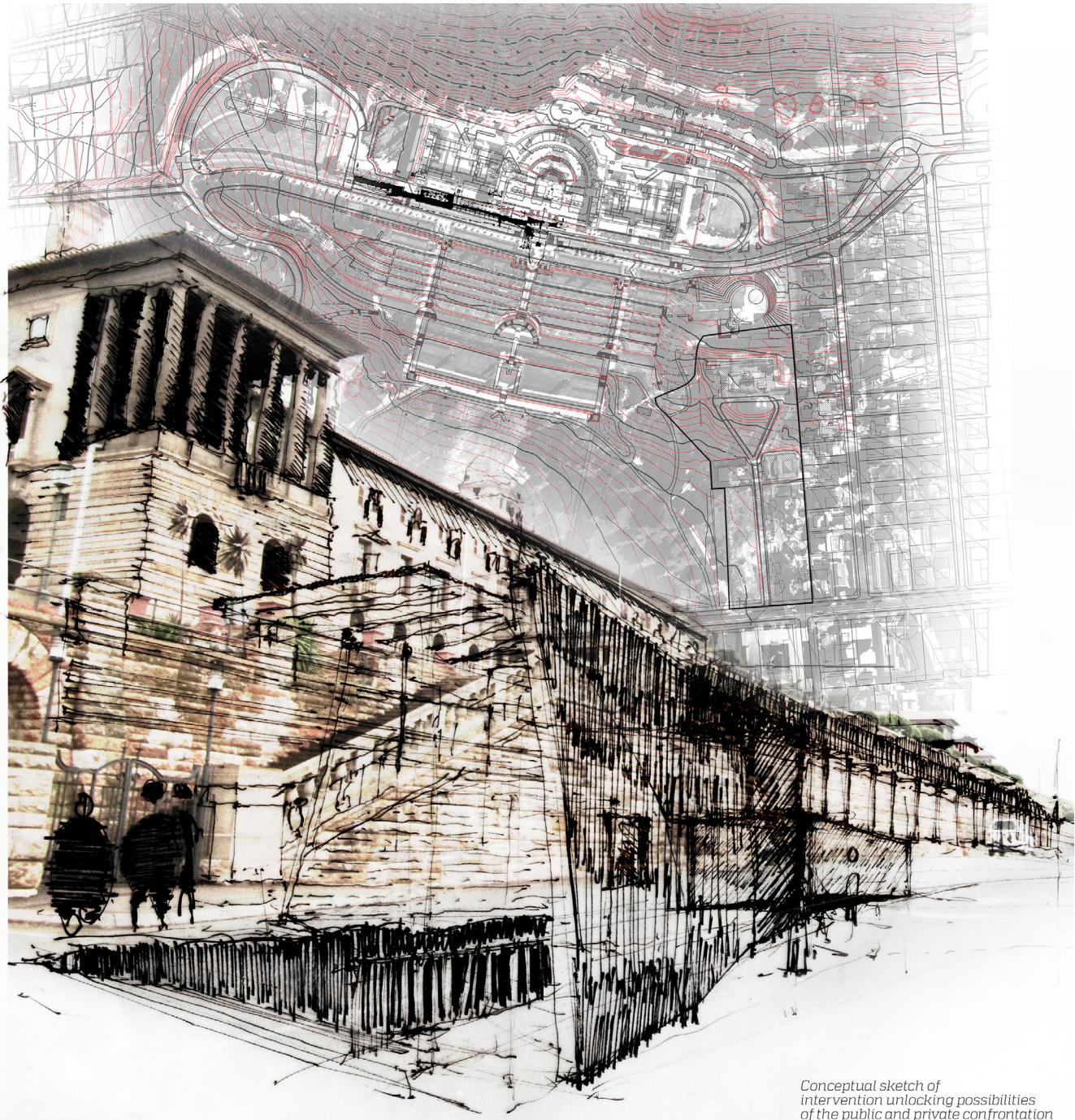
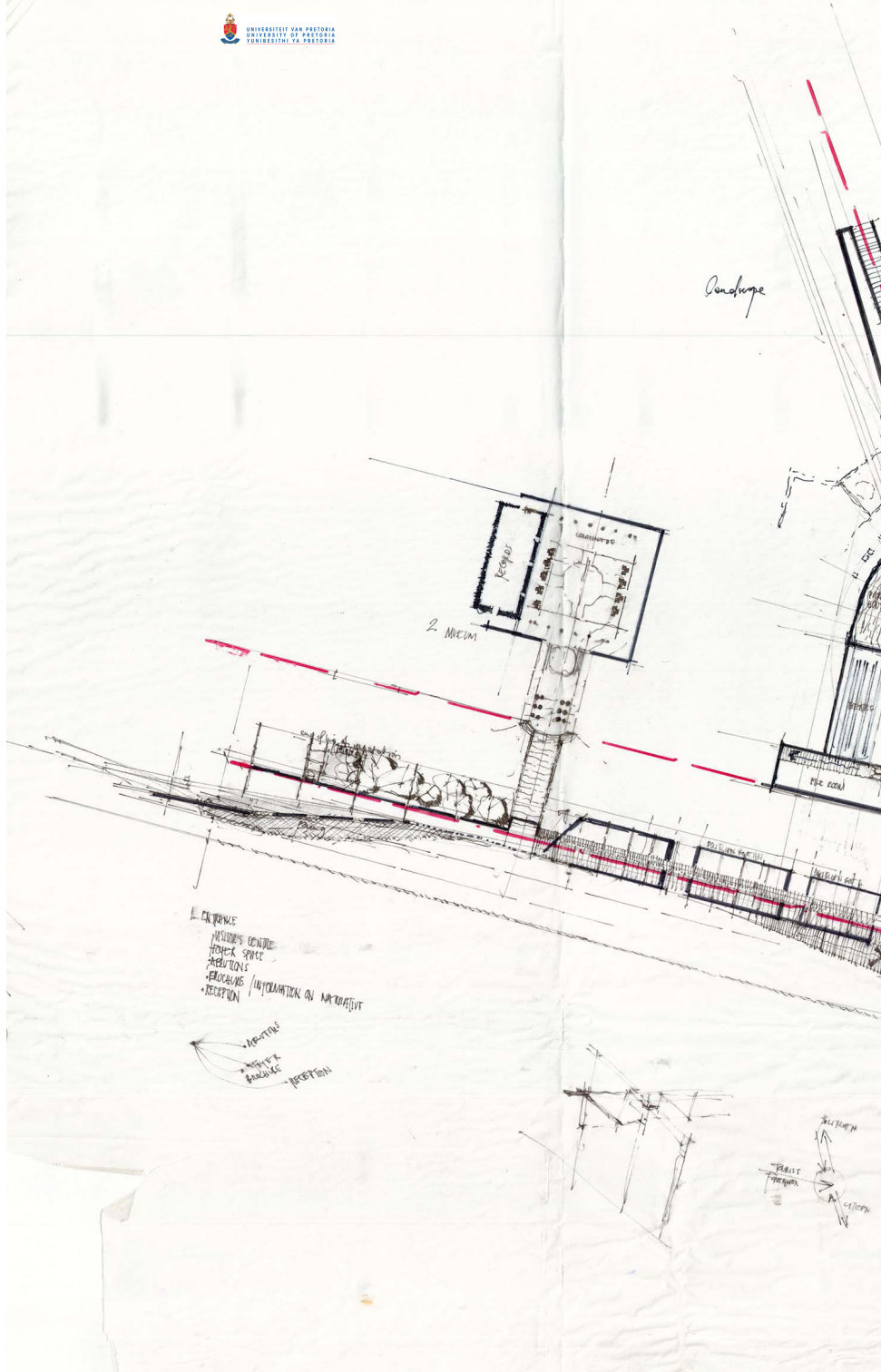


Figure 5.29: Conceptual sketch of intervention unlocking possibilities of the public vs private confrontation (Author, 2015) Right

Figure 5.28: Exploration of initial idea. Sketch taken from back of Union Buildings (Author, 2015)



*Conceptual sketch of
intervention unlocking possibilities
of the public and private confrontation*



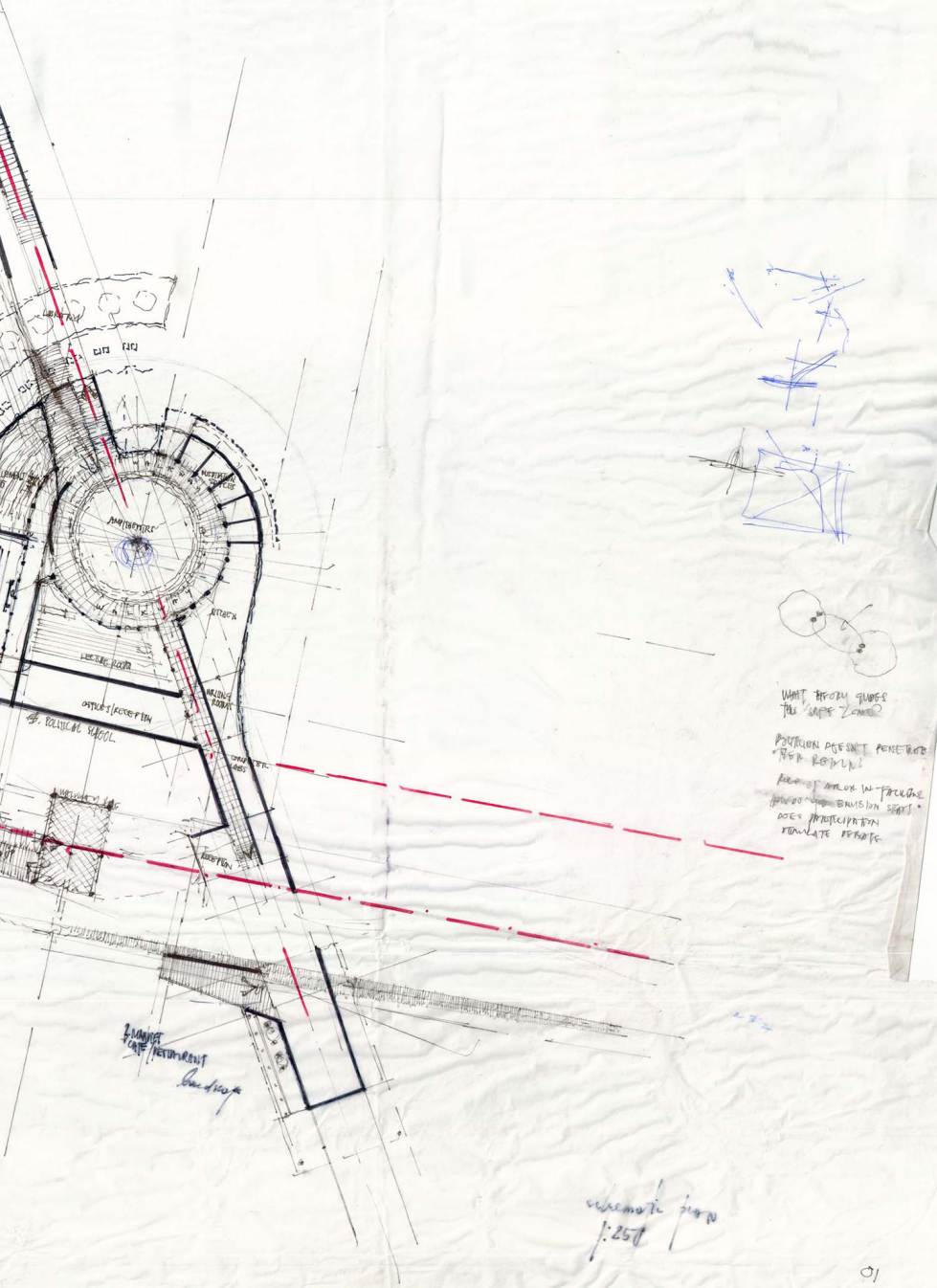
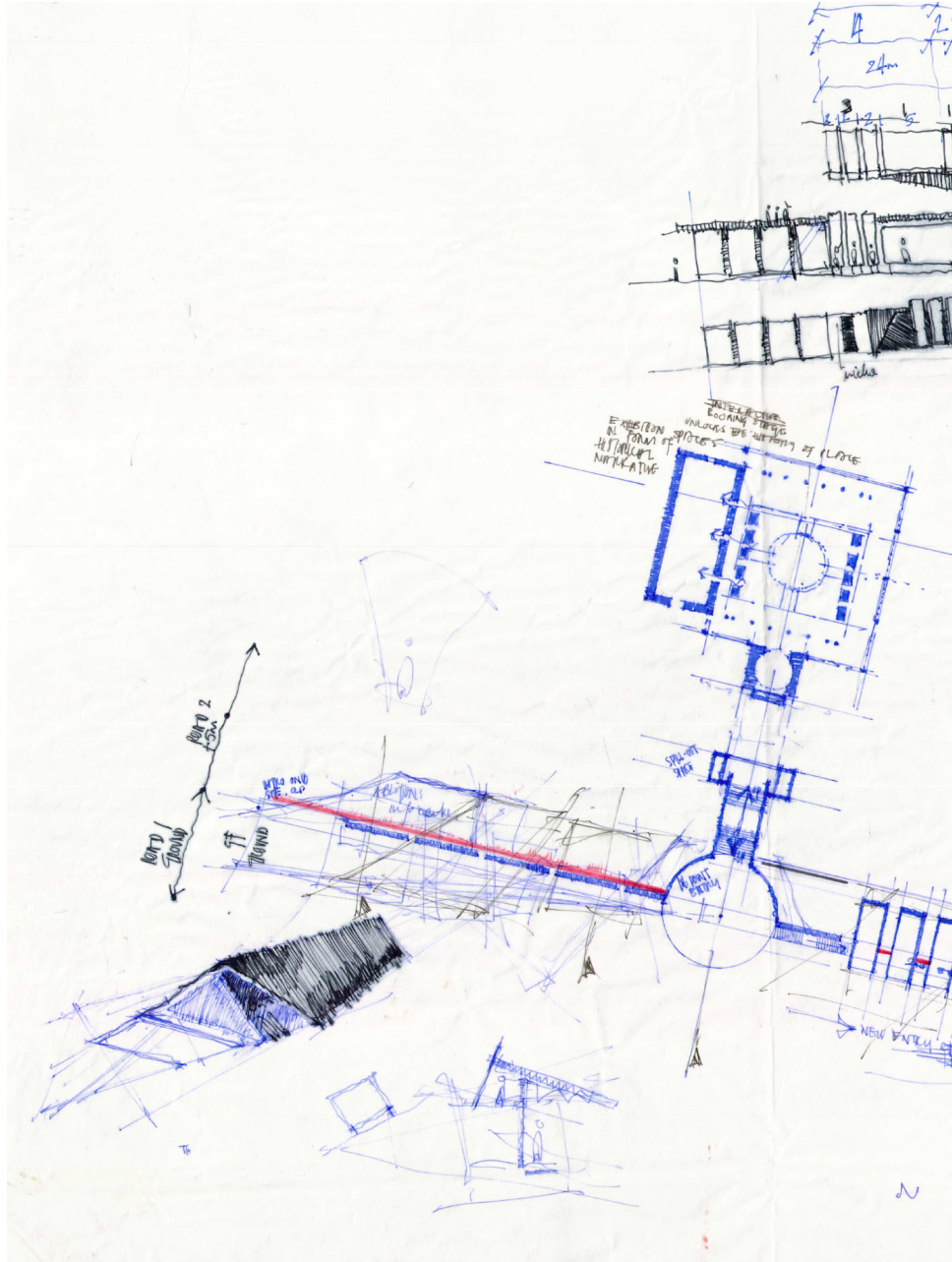


Figure 5.30: Sketch plan of proposed intervention highlighting the visitors's centre, the politician school and the market space. The red dotted lines indicate the existing walls of the Union Buildings. N.B The drawing is a sketch plan and brought all levels to one drawing to understand the relationship of above ground space and below ground space (Author, 2015)



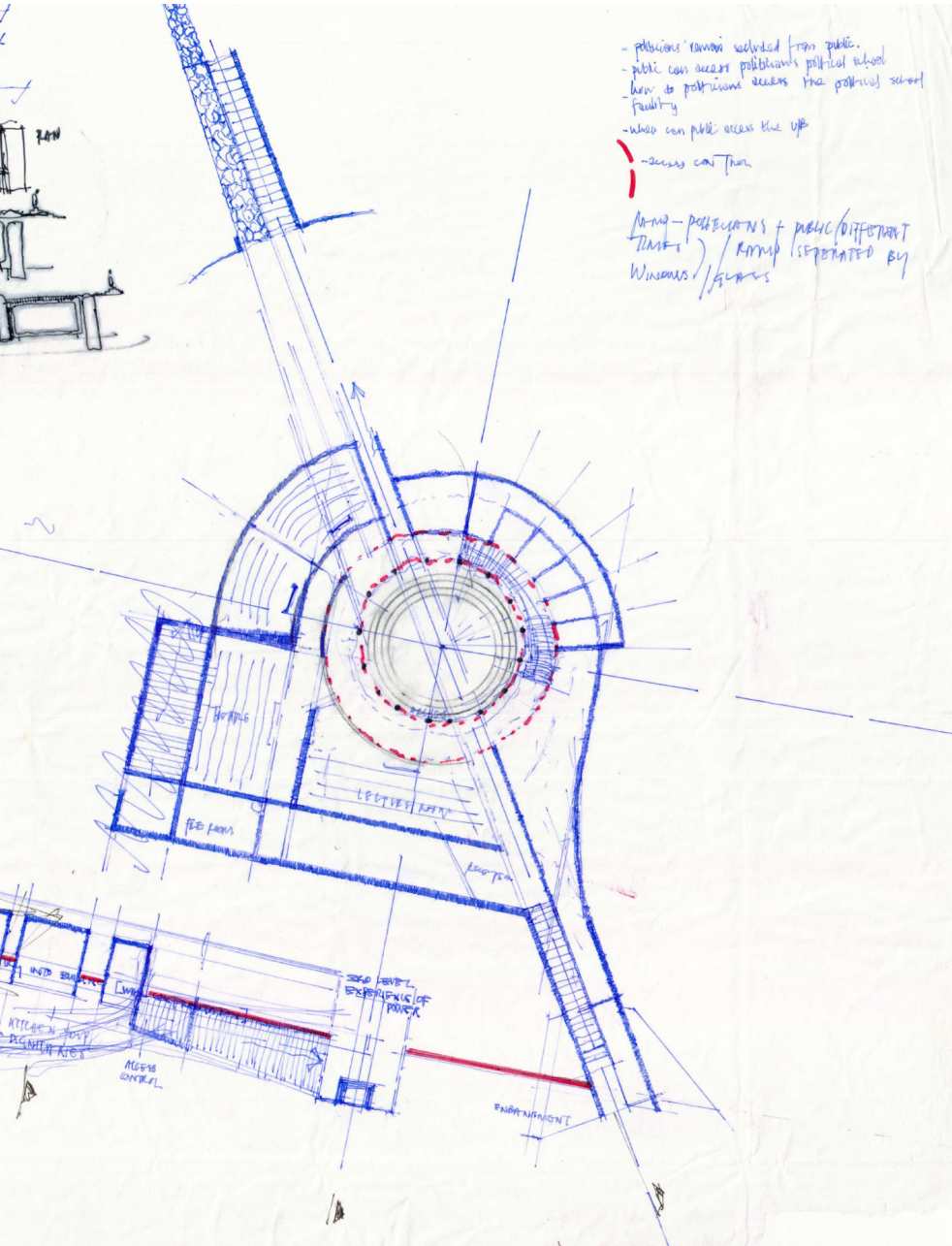
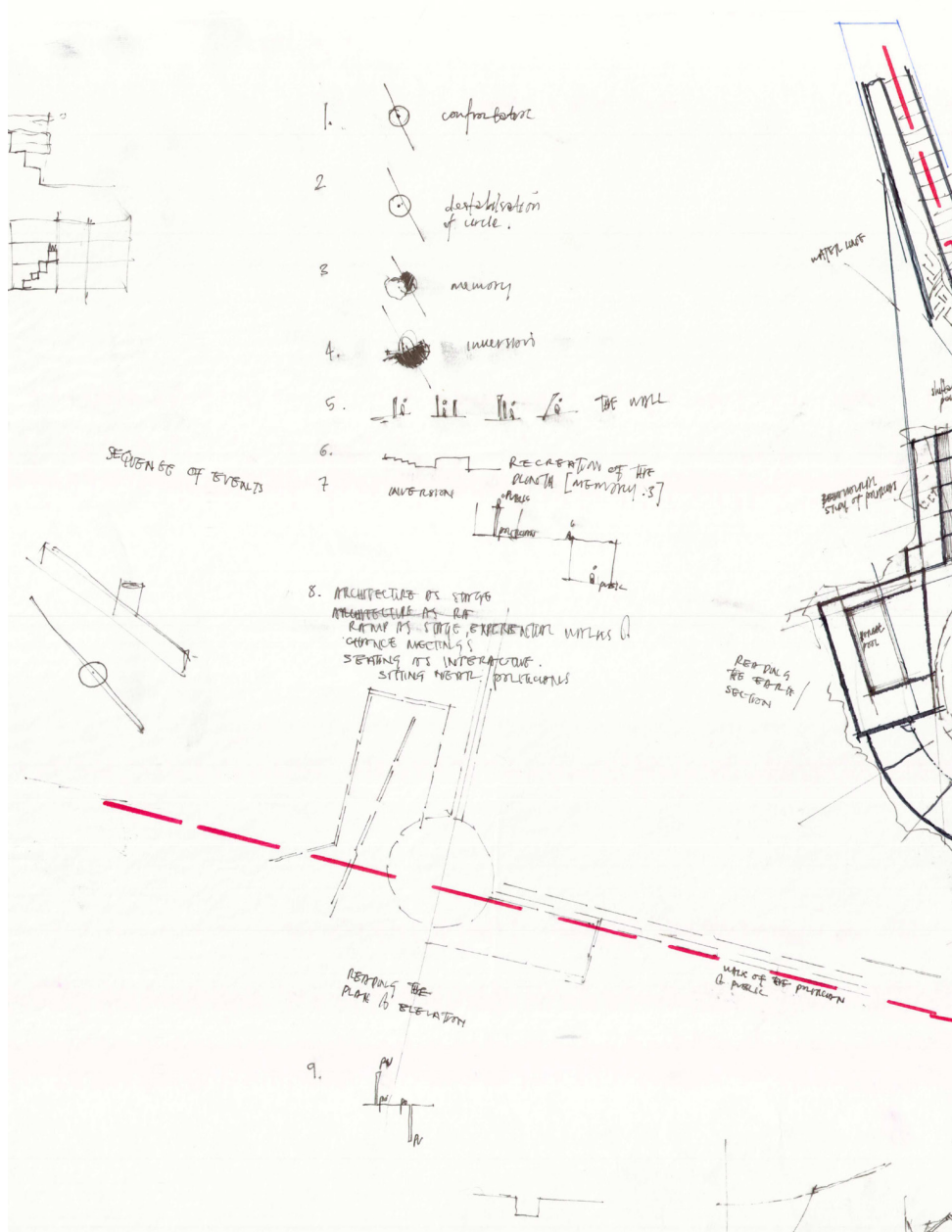


Figure 5.31: A series of boxes aligned against the wall. The three conditions weren't as apparent and the plan of the politician not coinciding with the Union Buildings plan (Author, 2015)



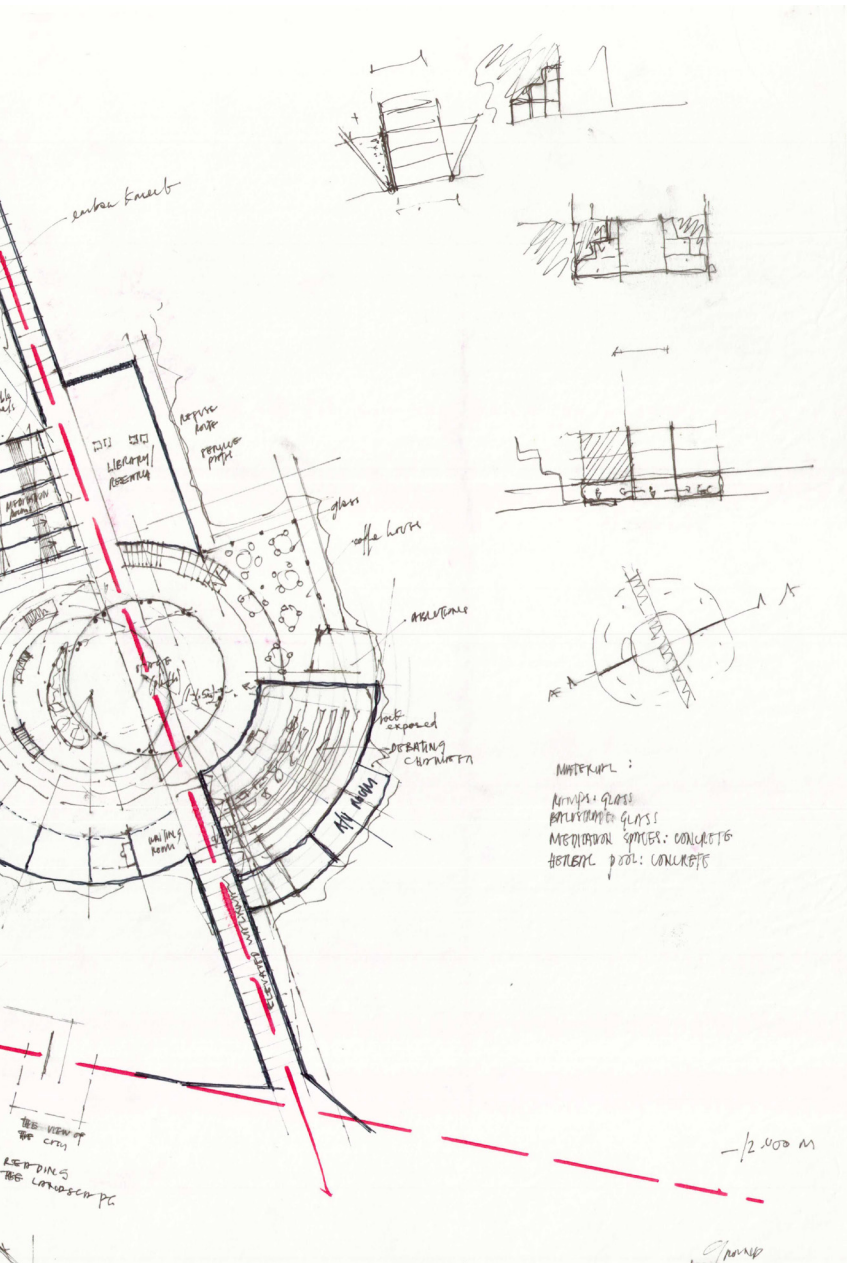


Figure 5.32: The centre of the political school became a focal point, in which the plinth is reinstated and a path crafted in the centre to interrupt the idea of a stage, to make commentary on the centre (Author, 2015)

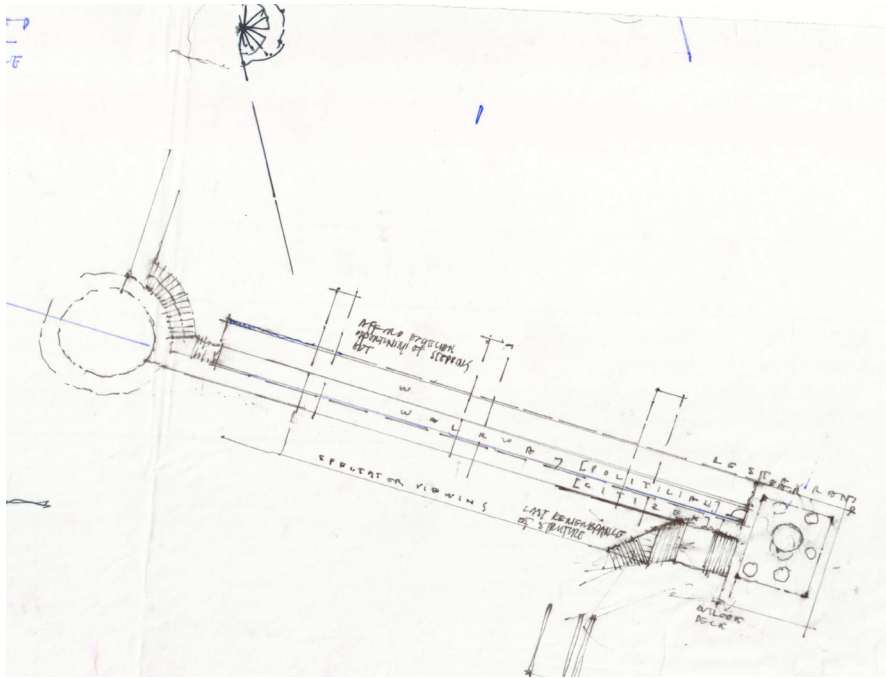


Figure 5.33: Sketch plans of visitor's centre (Author, 2015)

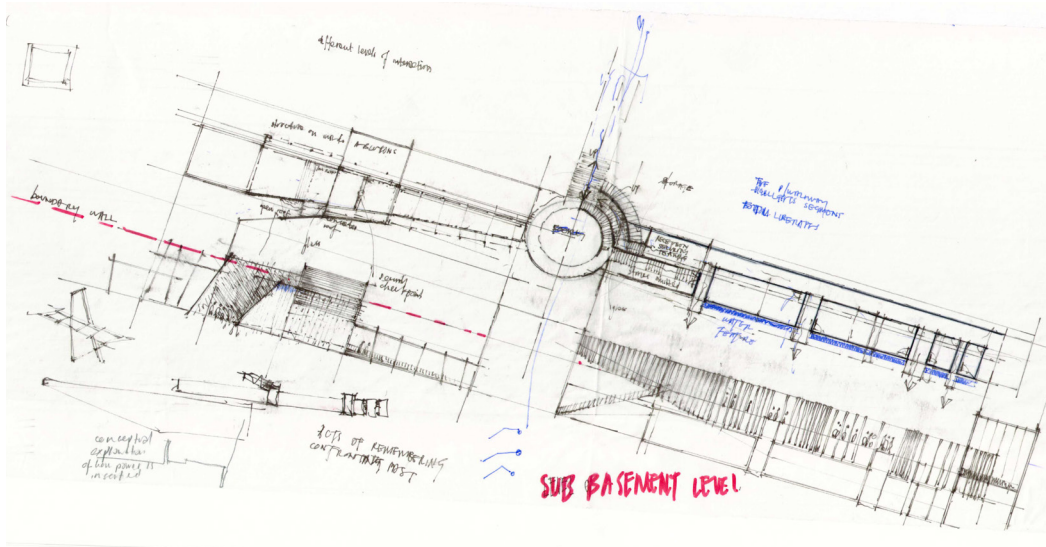


Figure 5.34: Further exploration of visitors centre. The circle was a threshold before entering into the main structure. This ideas was scrapped (Author, 2015)

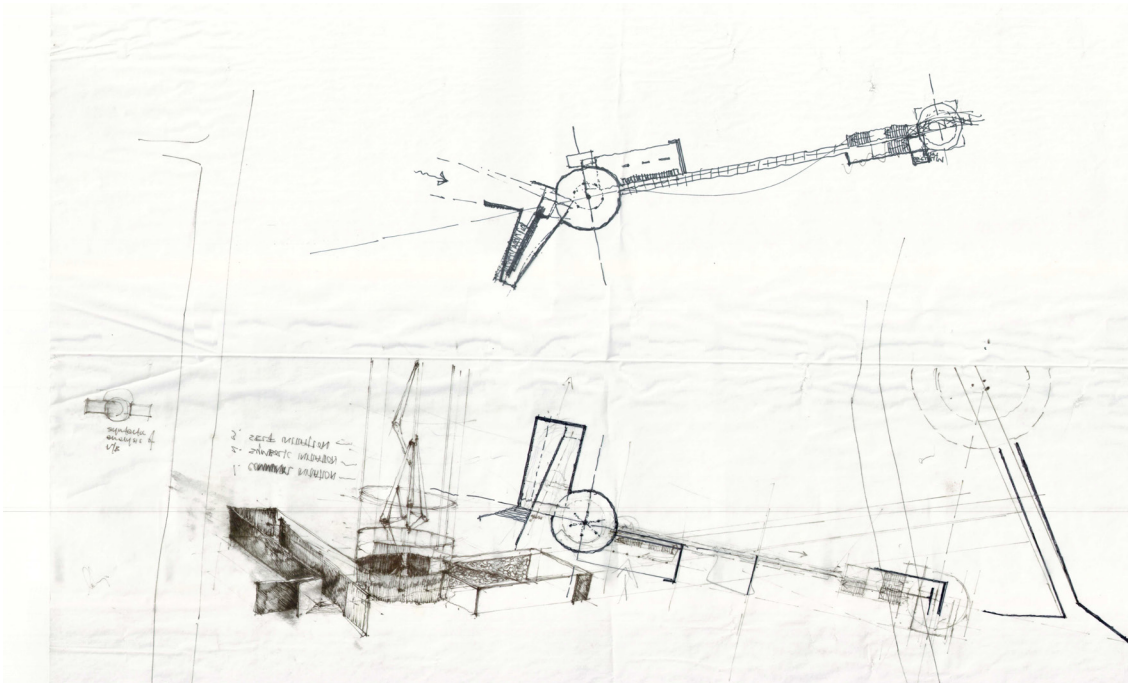


Figure 5.35: Exploration of Visitors' centre. The aim was to play with the experience of the user to be able to experience the wall by different levels of interaction (Author, 2015)

INITIATION SCHOOL

Designing the structure

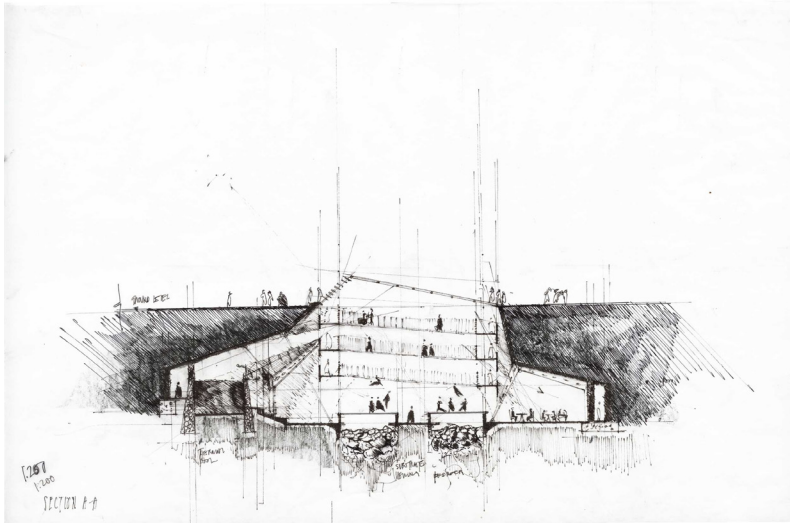


Figure 5.36: Section displaying underground structure with the plinth and a walkway placed in the middle (Author, 2015)

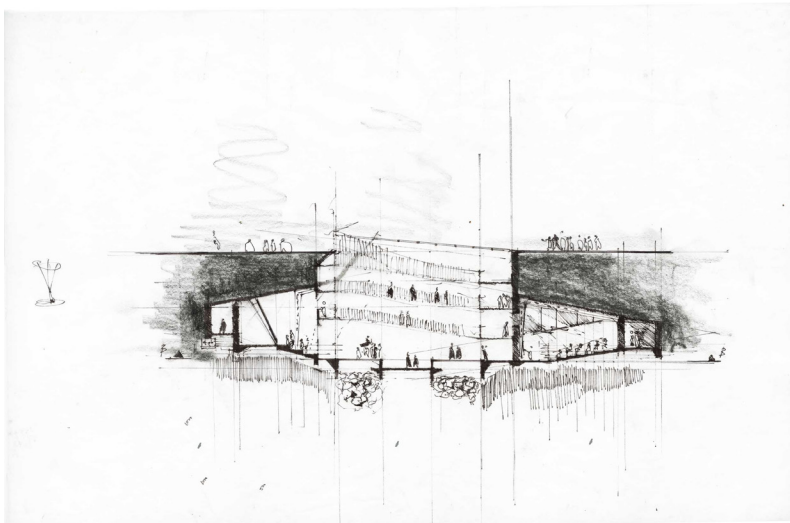


Figure 5.37: Further exploration of form, in attempt of holding up structure while still be able to carry its own weight

SECTION A-A

New Axis

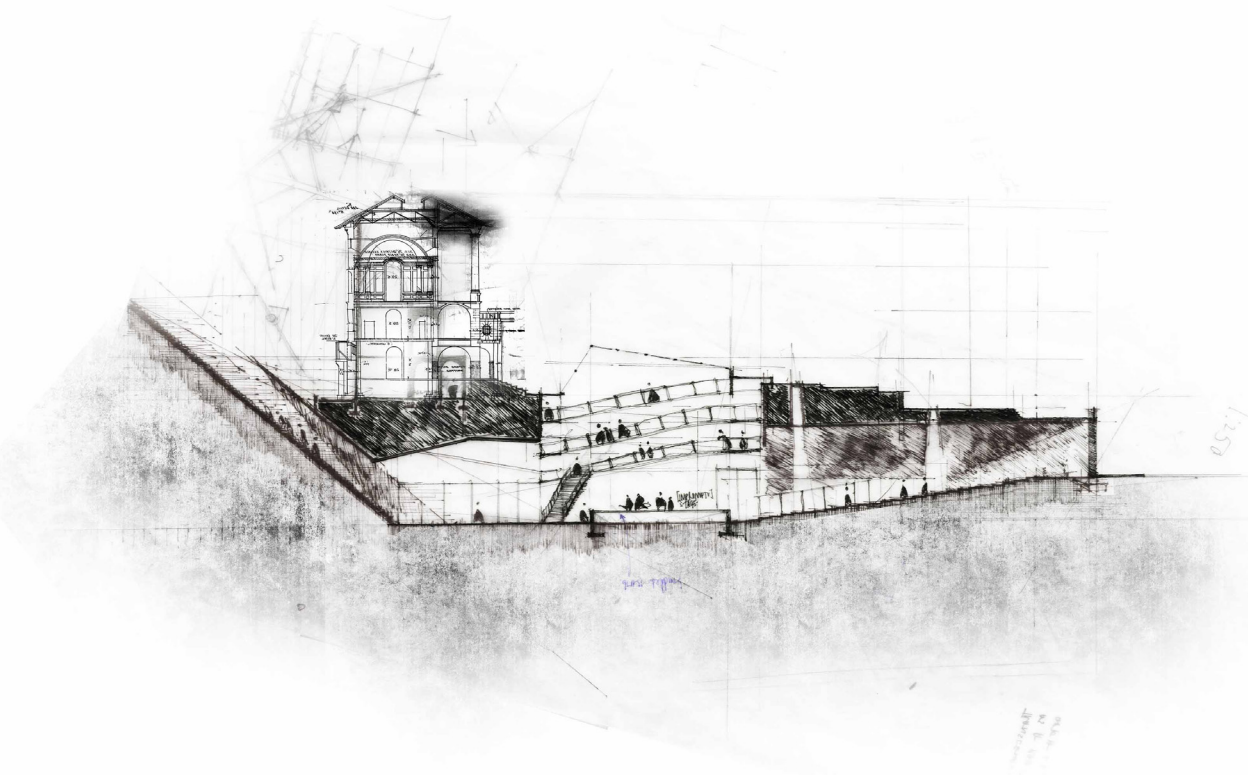
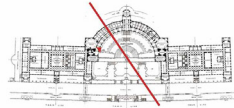


Figure 5.38: Section with Union Buildings to give context. The site is excavated below the Union Buildings to create a pathway right across the bottom of the building (Author, 2015)

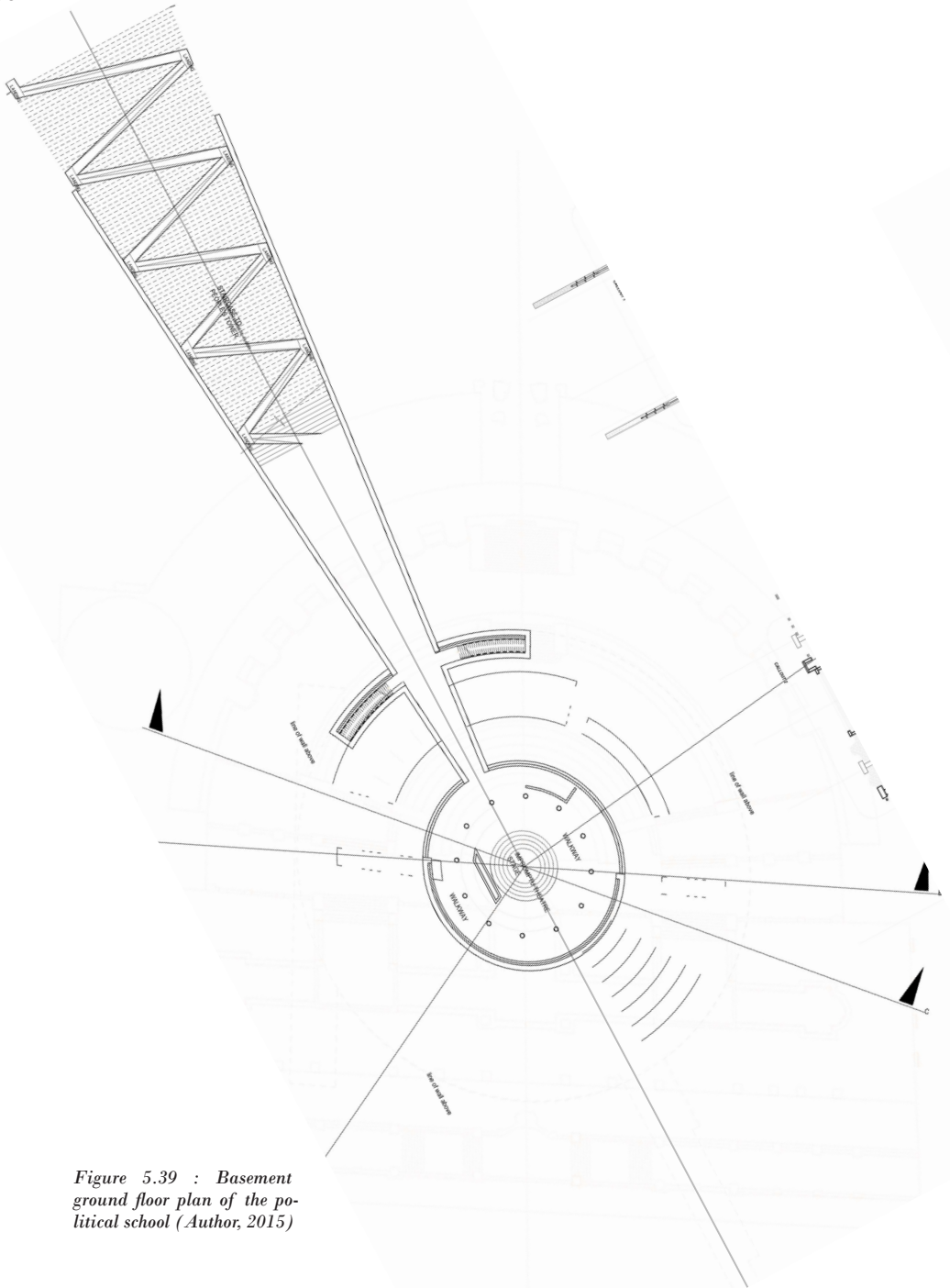


Figure 5.39 : Basement ground floor plan of the political school (Author, 2015)

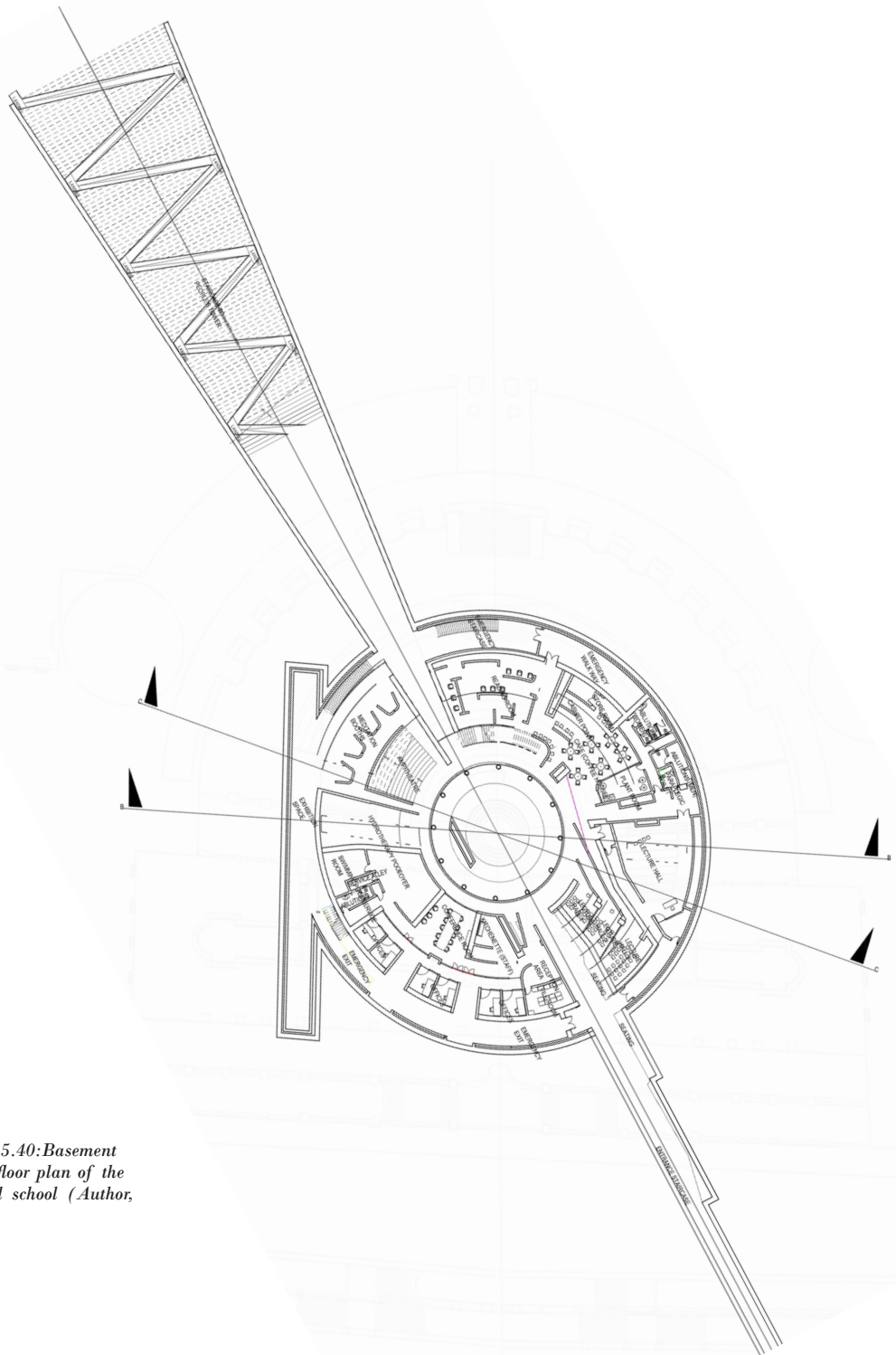


Figure 5.40: Basement second floor plan of the political school (Author, 2015)

INITIATION SCHOOL

The Basement ground floor plan serves as the theatre stage, which is a concentric circle. The stage is used as a platform for politicians to descend from the ramp and be part of the public as well as act for the public in an impromptu style theatre. The ramp becomes an important element in the procession, as it transports the politicians from the top of the amphitheatre to the level of the stage. The ramp itself becomes a stage.

Even though the ground basement floor serves as a gathering space, it also the exit to the back of the Union Buildings, with an opening staircase that widens in length as one proceeds further up.

The basement second floor plan consists of a perfect circle, which is pierced with an access way in the centre. The access way on the narrow path is accessed from this level, which is also the public's entrance. The circle is round in form and has a second incision of a rectangular box, in which lies the exhibition space. The intent behind this was to adhere to the strict circular plan of the amphitheatre and the box is reflective of the old rectangular geometry of the Union Buildings. The rectangular box is an exhibition space clad in sandstone to highlight the change from old structure to the new.

The layout of the plan is contained within the circle, while the spatial planning on the inside walls is disrupted so as to create chaos within the order. The circulation on towards the city is kept free for circulation routes up and down.

The new roof structure of the political school is placed at the level of the am-

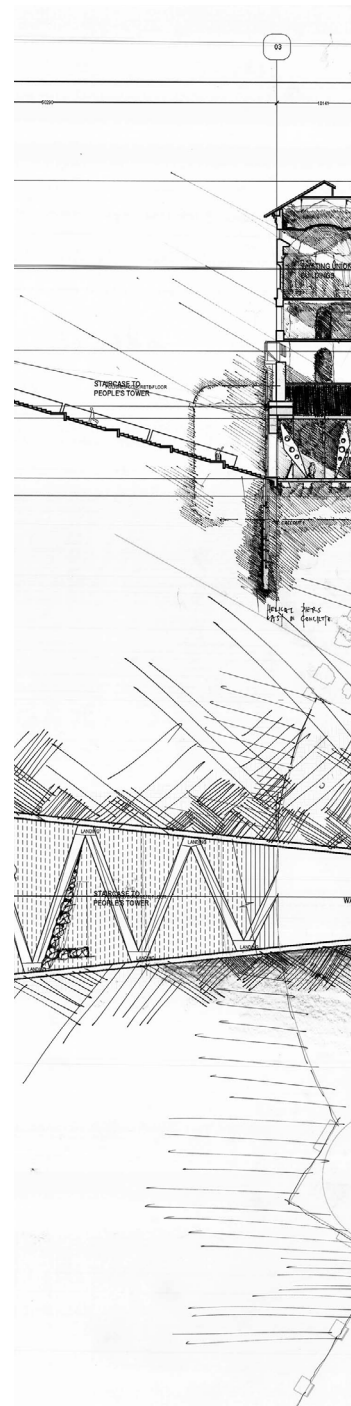
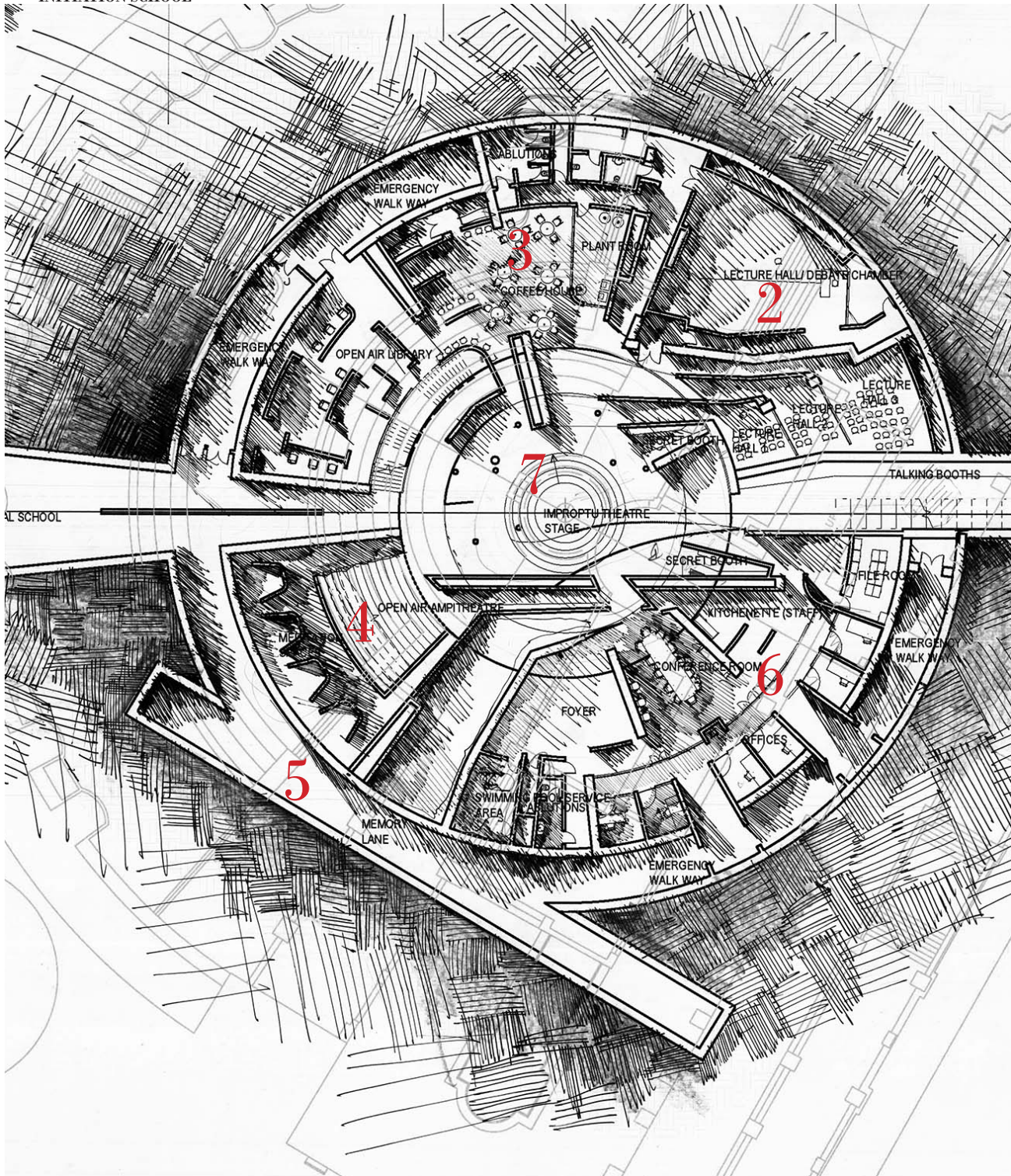
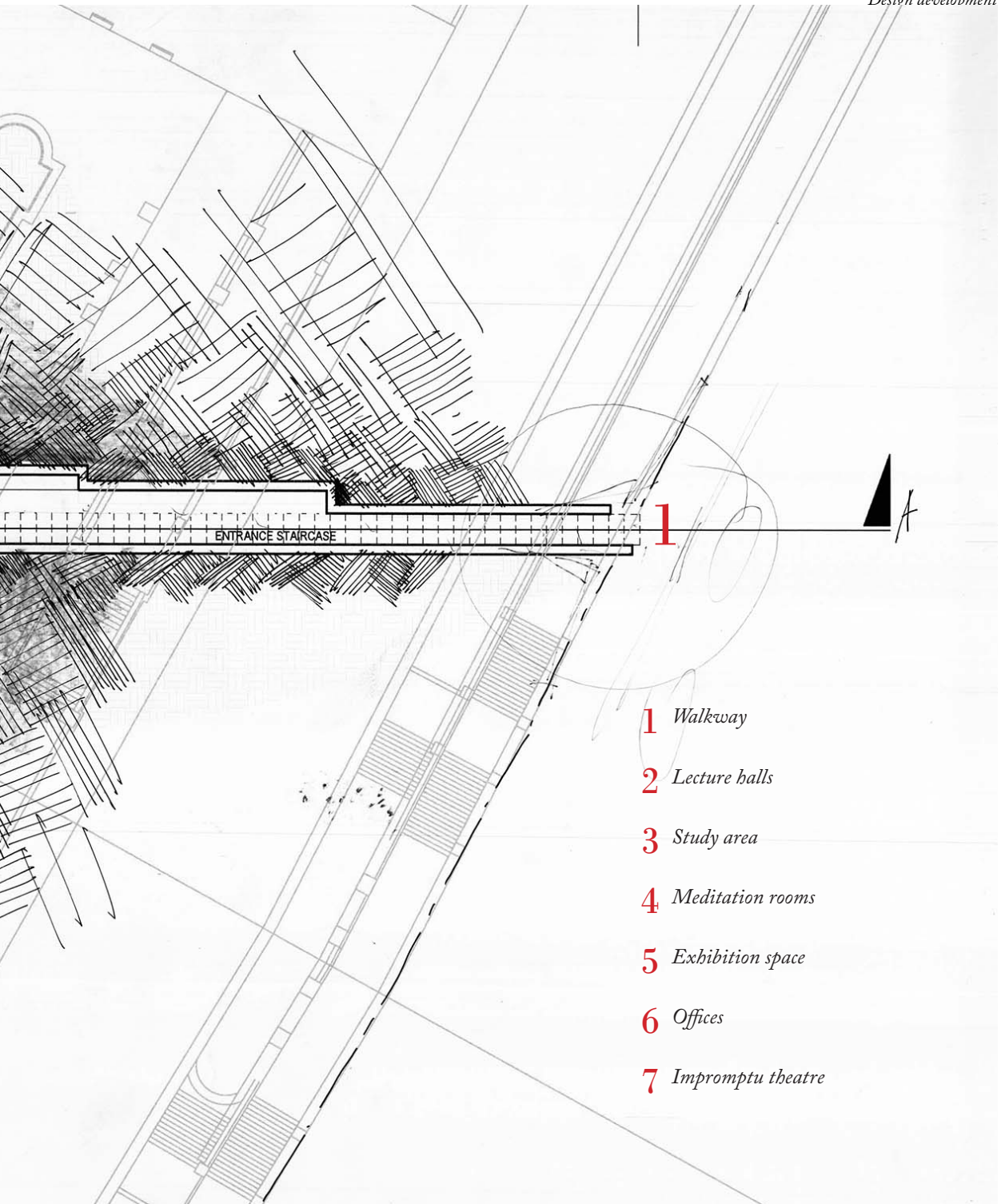


Figure 5.41: Plan vs section (Author, 2015)

INITIATION SCHOOL







phitheatre. This is the access route for the politicians. The roof typology is aimed to resemble that of the existing Union Buildings, while creating directionality through the tapering of the roof.

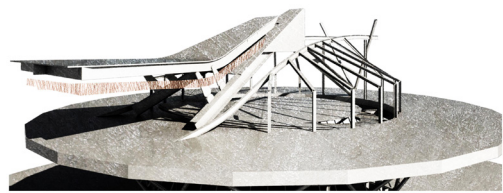


Figure 5.42
3D Roof
design om
context (*Author, 2015*)
Left

Figure
5.43, 5.44,
5.45 Roof
design (*Author, 2015*)
Above