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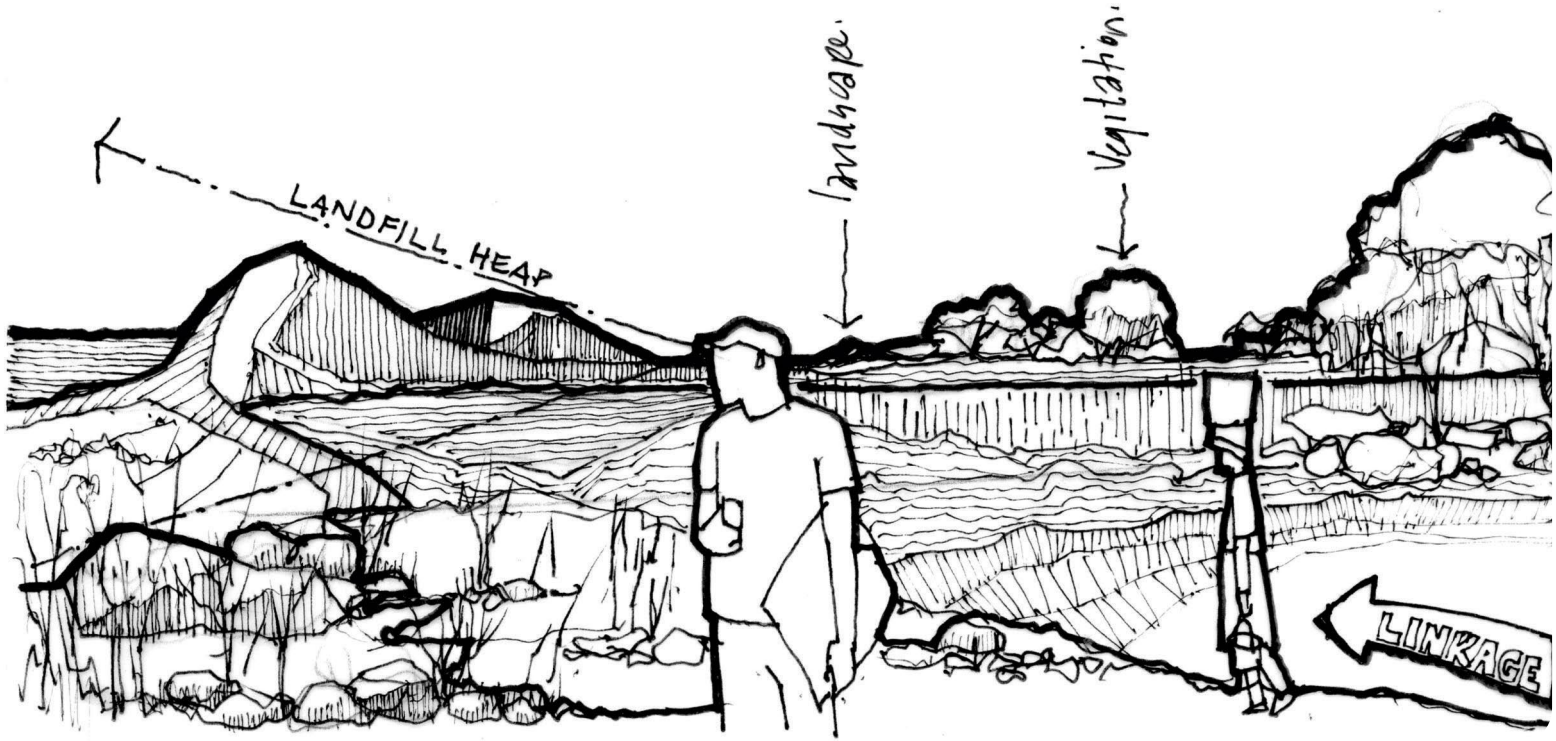

The Mamelodi YOUTH ENTERPRISE HUB

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This Masters Dissertation is submitted in partial fulfilment for the degree March (Prof)

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Abstract

The dissertation investigates the design of a Youth Enterprise Hub on the east periphery of Mamelodi, east of the Pretoria's Central Business district.

It aims to explore the potential for the restoration of social inequality within an emerging township economy in a context that has been historically deprived of any economic infrastructure.

It suggests the integration of a train station, an informal community as well landfill through the proposal of an urban vision which investigates the possibility for the bridging of socio-economic exclusion through a new industrial ethos of innovation, information access, collaboration and skills development.

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Programme: Youth Enterprise Hub and Artisan with Industrial workshops as well co-operative office space.

Site Location: Phumolong, Mamelodi East, City of Tshwane.

Address: Greenview station, Mamelodi

Coordinates: 28°24'34"E, 25°43'51"S

Clients & end-user: The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Gauteng Township Enterprise Hubs (TEHs), Master Artisan Academy SA (MAASA), informal settlers, Relaimers of waste.

Keywords: Informal Settlements, Townships, Small to Medium Enterprises (SMME's), Township Economy, Apartheid Spatial Legacy, Resilience, Social inequality

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CHAPTER 01 INTRODUCTION

1.1 **BACKGROUND**
The historical context

1.2 **NORMATIVE POSITION**

1.3 **THE PROBLEM STATEMENT**

1.4 **DISSERTATION INTENTIONS**

1.5 **DESIGN INFORMANTS**

1.6 **DELIMITATIONS**

Architecture is 'political' and must represent the demographic of South Africa (Pieterse 2014).

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1.1 BACKGROUND

Youth Unemployment in Post-Apartheid South Africa

In post-apartheid South Africa it can be argued whether we all stand an equal chance of making in life. As the young people of this country we cannot claim that we fought for liberation, and yet we are the ones who stand to benefit the most.

According (Statics South Africa [STATS SA] 2015: 1). Reporting on National and Labour Market outcomes amongst youth. Youth unemployment has been marked as a crisis and shock to the economy in the post-war era. This is common in all countries across the globe and South Africa has not been able to escape this global crisis. Over the period of 2008–2015, key labour market rates deteriorated by a larger margin among youth compared with adults, and the frustration of not finding employment has led many young people to become discouraged and exit the labour force altogether (STATS SA 2015: 2).

It is stated that 55% of the youth that are actively looking for employment have qualifications below matric level, this has been said to be a ticking time bomb as the rising number means that youth are unable to acquire the skills and experience needed in order to drive the economy forward STATS SA 2015: 2).

Fig. 1.1
Youth of 1976 during Apartheid Era.

Fig. 1.2
Youth in post apartheid South Africa

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Fig. 1.3
Children of Phumolong with reclaimed objects from landfill

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Fig. 1.4
Minister of higher Education and Training (left) Edgar Pieterse (Middle) and Cameron Sinclair.

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1.3 THE PROBLEM STATEMENT

The architectural expression related to townships remains fragmented and disjointed in relation to other urban environments, this in spite of the dynamic shifts in urban areas related to the economic growth.
The role of the Youth Enterprise Hub attempts to change this lack of expression through the investigation of the following problems.

Urban Issue

In order to understand the urban issues of Mamelodi as a Township, one has to look back and study the background of black settlements in Pretoria. During the period of 1948 to 1960 apartheid zoning was deeply entrenched it terms of spatial planning. In most cases informal settlements remain far from economic opportunities as they were systematically located in fringes. 'fringe cities'

Architectural Issue

The legacy of apartheid planning with rapid urbanisation has led to high levels of informality therefore increasing the demand for employment. It is important to recognise that urban planning and architecture cannot create jobs however the existing physical barriers continue to delay expansion, access and therefore economic growth.

The Research Questions

In to better understand the past and potential of South Africa's segmented, multi layered economy, it becomes imperative to ask the following questions:

- Is South Africa's fast paced formal economy accessible to the informal economy of a place like Phumolong? If not, what urban and architectural interventions can be implemented in order develop this condition?
- What is the potential of self-generated economic activity in an informal context lacking access to basic infrastructure and services such as electricity and transport?
- What strategies are possible in order to overcome the physical barriers that continue to hinder the development of the spatially marginalised?
- What is the potential of the railway in an informal context with an emerging informal economy?

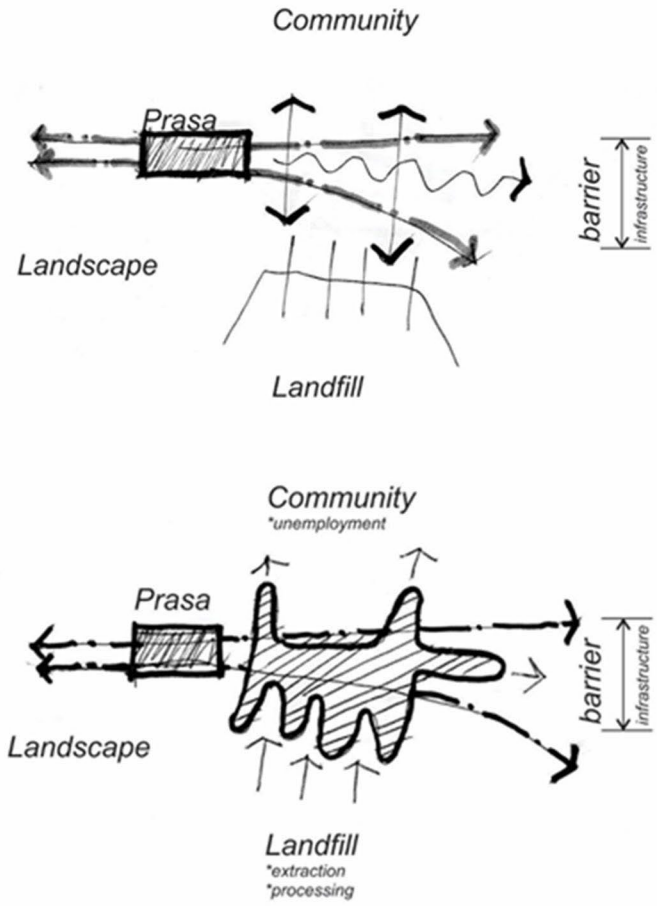

Fig. 1.6
Illustrating concept for the mediation of physical barriers

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Fig. 1.7
Women of Phumolong migrating daily to the landfill

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1.4 Dissertation Intentions

Countries everywhere are divided into two distinct spatial realms, the rural and the urban. Classic theories of development predict faster growth in the urban sector compared to rural setting. Thus causing rapid rural urban migration therefore increasing the average incomes in both places (Mahajan 2014: 1). The pattern of rising urbanisation is a world phenomenon as cities across the world are powering growth development and modernisation (Mahajan 2014: 1). In the case of South Africa and its cities the spatial realm due the apartheid spatial legacy has been disconnected to such a level that the formal economy is unable to absorb new entrants into the formal job market (Dewar and Uytenbogaardt 1991:16).

The intention of the dissertation is to study the importance of South Africa's township economy, its fast-paced growth in relation to the country's desired objective of faster growth to job creation.
Spatial transformation is necessary in order to optimise access to socio-economic opportunities of informal settlements such as the case of Phumolong, the architectural intention strives to create spaces that allow for self-generated employment through youth programmes, co-operatives and entrepreneurs.

Fig. 1.8
Waste reclaimers on Harthely landfill

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Fig. 1.9
Newly renovated GreenView Station

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1.5 DESIGN INFORMANTS

Due to the Spatial Legacy of Apartheid many people who live in townships and informal settlements remain far from economic opportunities. Firstly at regional scale the objective is to study the existing spatial development frameworks, in order to observe the present day development and economic patterns. Secondly we will study the visions of the City of Tshwane in order to align it with real world strategic objectives. Then finally we study the principles of NDPG National Development Partnership Grant in order to design and an appropriate Group Urban Vision for Phumolong, which addresses spatial inequalities of the apartheid legacy.

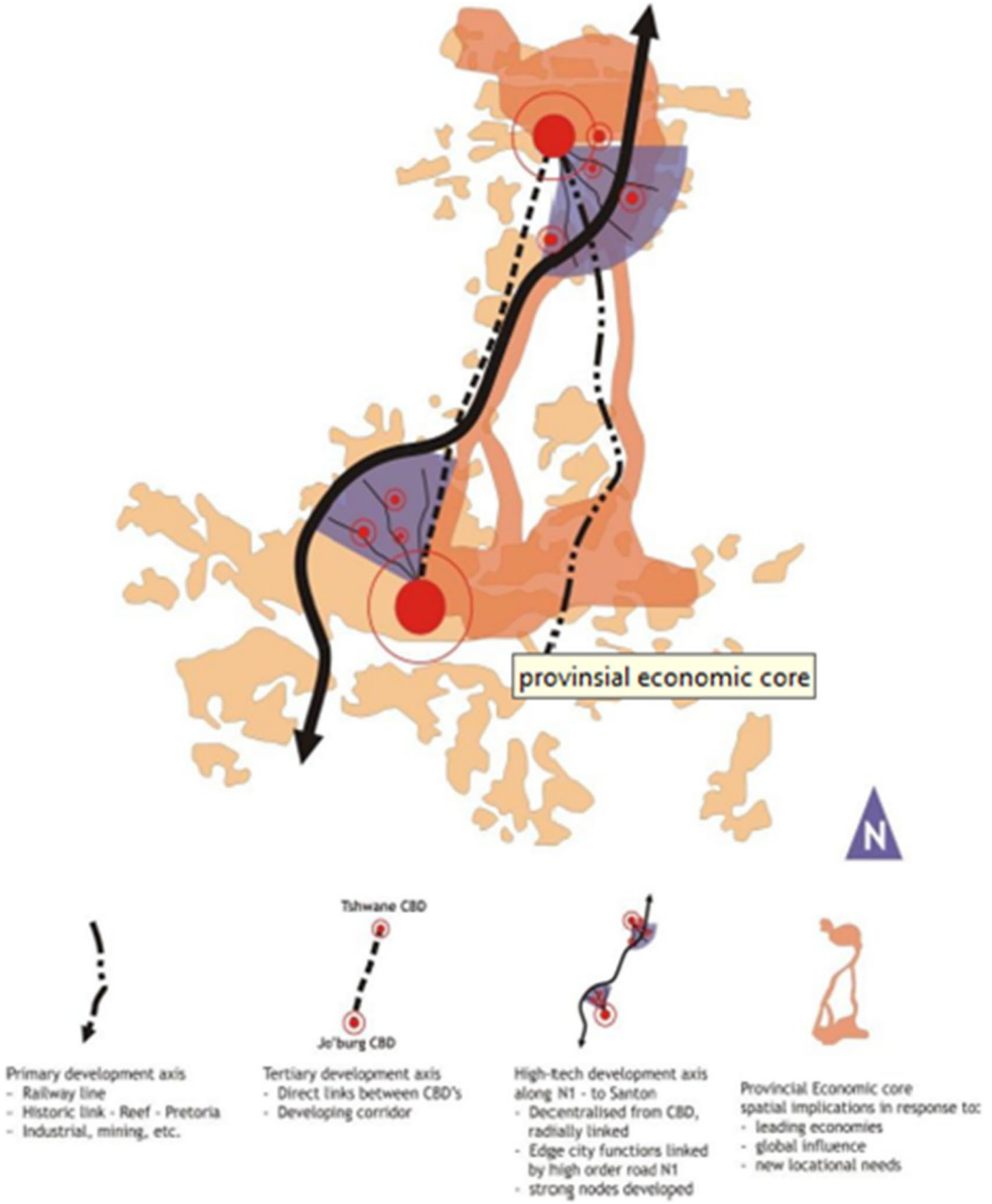

Fig. 1.10
Tshwane Johannesburg interrelationships (City of Tshwane 2012)

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1.6 DELIMITATIONS

The dissertation strives to utilise research and theory in order to generate a site-specific solution which can be utilised in any township and informal settlement affected by apartheid spatial legacy through urban policy. However it refrains from the assumption that the model or typology is the ultimate solution to the problem but rather an experimental intervention that could be a catalyst for a larger societal issues such as youth unemployment within the township and informal settlement space 21 years in post-apartheid South Africa.

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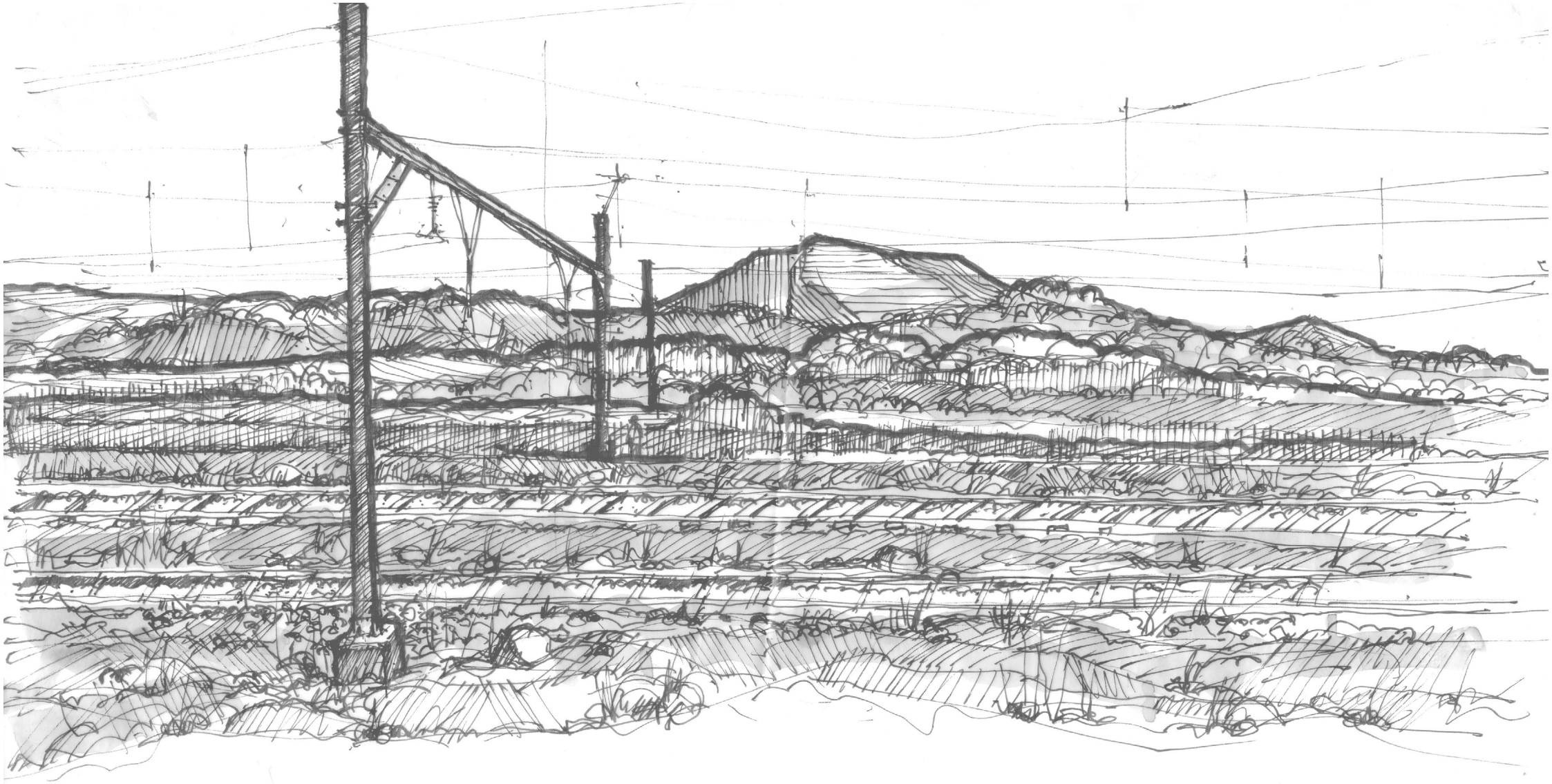

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