04

CHAPTER 04

BACKGROUND THEORY

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces topics of investigation that served as background theory to the dissertation.

URBAN PLACE MAKING

Various publications by Julian Cooke, express a concern with the shortage of urban place-making in South Africa and the lack of what is termed by Bachelard (1964) as 'lived space'.

He further states that urban place making can be accomplished by the creation of social realm where everyday activities and rituals can inscribe meaning to place. This is also substantiated by the work of Louw, where, as explained by Cooke, necessitates the making of 'habitable' (lived) urban space (Swart 2011: 110).

"To be inside a place is to belong to it and to identify with it, and the more profoundly inside you are the stronger is this identity with the place"

-Geographer, Edward Relph (1976:49)

ARCHITECTURE OF THE EVERYDAY

'At its most basic, it is simply "real life", the "here and now"; it is "sustenance, clothing, furniture, homes, neighbourhoods, environment"- i.e. material life- but with a "dramatic attitude" and lyrical tone" (Henri Lefebvre (1947) (Harris and Berke 19917:09).

French philosopher, Henri Lefebvre, contributed to architectural debates from the 1920's to the time of his death in 1991 (ibid). He discussed themes essentially relevant to architecture and urbanism: everyday life and the nature of space (ibid), and argued that architecture rather "engages sensitively with people's everyday environments" (ibid:11). Although his writings were very specific and conscious of the conflicts and conditions of the time it emerged, it still offers critique to current architectural occurrences. According to Mcleod, what is viewed as most relevant to architecture today, is the cultural dimension of Lefebvre's writings (ibid). The "rich, complex and joyous vision of transformation" contrasts the mediocrity of the built environment today, described by Mary Mcleod as merely "the rationalisation of the technical and economic factors" (ibid).

Multiple factors such as the scale and accessibility of Pilditch Stadium, and the fact that sport has changed from a public event to a specialised event, means that a stadium is only a place of reference for athletes and sportspersons, isolating large groups of users and activities. Enhancing everyday activities on site, allows for a variety of use and users (Swart 2011: 111). Different patterns attract various groups that can engage and relate to personal and collective imagination and memory of place (Bohmer 2012:12). Allowing the site to become multifunctional in its use, creates the opportunity for a vibrant place.

THEORY OF REGENERATION

Based on the living systems theory and the work of David Bohm (the 'Level work' framework' by Krone 1992), this theory states that regeneration is not only characterised by the restoration of what is existing, but to improve what has not yet manifested on site. Therefore the process of regeneration moves above and below the line of what is existing and what is possible: by building on the latent potential in the site (Mang & Reed 2012:27).

> "Every living system engages in different levels of work, all of which are essential to the system's continuing vitality, viability and capacity for evolution. The lower level (maintain and operate) focus on the current existence of the system itself, either improving the efficiency of its performance or maintaining the effectiveness of its resources. The upper levels (improve and regenerate) introduce potential life and creativity by asking what is a system's unique role in advancing the whole" (*ibid*).

According to Mang (2009: 8), place is referred to in multiple contexts, as simultaneously signifying a geographical placement, a state of order, a position or role and the authenticity or naturalness of the distinctive quality and experience of a space.

As proposed by Mang (*ibid*: 9-14), the quality of place can be identified by the following characteristics or qualities. The current state of Pilditch Stadium is briefly discussed according to these qualities.

1. The 'interconnectedness' and "the uniqueness of its relationship to other places both spatially and as nested wholes".

Spatially Pilditch Stadium functions as a singular place; unique and dominant in its relationship with the surrounding context yet underutilised, which reduces its meaning. The site does not function as part of a larger structure or network. This can be attributed to the changing nature of the context (and suggests the re-integration of the stadium).

2. The manner in which space is transformed into place once it is bounded and made distinctive through meaning and identity.

The distinctive meaning and identity of the site is not 'bounded' by the general and local community. Specific users can identify with the meaning of place, while the general user is non-engaging.

3. The location within a larger system and the understanding of its value within that system.

The value of the site is undermined by the lack of maintenance, referring to an underappreciation of either a) the importance of Pilditch Stadium as a recreational space or b) civic space in the West.

4. The ambient field or atmospheric experience that is created by culture and energetic interactions of a place.

The ambient field or atmospheric experience of the site is that of an in-between state (in-between when the stadium is used and not used/ event and everyday). When the stadium is used, the atmospheric experience contributes to the sense of place. But when the stadium is not used, the monumental infrastructure and adjacent vacant land of the Showgrounds, fail to create connections.

5. The continuous evolving nature where spaces can become 'centres of magnetic resonance' and 'coherence' through its interrelationship with its surrounds and the simultaneous 'organizing continuum' that "helps to order this change into the potential for meaningful evolution".

The monofunctional nature of site prohibits a continuous evolving state. The scale of the Stadium contributes to issues of accessibility. When a site is inaccessible, it cannot adapt or change according to the needs of the society failing to manifest "meaningful evolution".

dyads of place

FIG. 55: Collage, Dyads of Place of Pretoria West
(Author, 2016 adapted from The Rediscov ery of Place and our human role within it, Mang 2009)

INTRODUCTION

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

The history of the Olympic games was studied to investigate how the public space surrounding stadiums changed due to the changed perception of sporting facilities and the development of urban strategies alongside the development of Olympic Parks. Four phases in the development of the Olympic Games were identified by Chalkley (1991). These four phases ranged from 1896 - 2000 and was divided among small scale interventions with minimal impact on urban environment to large scale urban improvements with substantial impact on landscape and environment.

1.
1896-1904
SMALL SCALE, POORLY ORGANIZED AND MINIMAL URBAN IMPACT

2.
1908-1932
LARGER IN SCALE, BETTER ORGANISED, INVOLVED CONSTRUCTION OF SUBSTANTIAL NEW PURPOSE BUILT SPORT FACILITIES

1.

PANATHENEAN STADIUM

ATHENS

VINCENNES VELODROME & CROIX-CATELAN STADIUM

PARIS

FRANCIS FIELD

ST.LOUIS

WHITE CITY STADIUM

LONDON

1906-1908
UNOFFICIAL

PANATHENEAN STADIUM

ATHENS

WHITE CITY STADIUM

LONDON

2.

STOCKHOLMS OLYMPIASTADION

STOCKHOLM

SYMBOL OF
THE HOST SOCIETY'S CULTURE

ANTWERP PARIS AMSTERDAM

3.
1936-1952
FACILITIES EMERGED AS FLAG–SHIP SYMBOLS, GENERALLY MODEST URBAN IMPACT

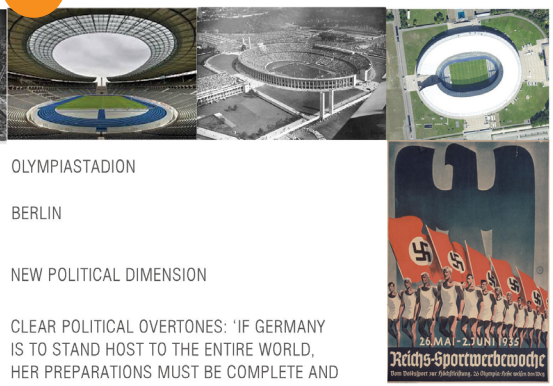
3.

MEMORIAL COLISEUM

LOS ANGELES

'AS A RESULT, THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES NOW POSSESSES SEVERAL PERMANENT SPORTS IMPROVEMENTS WHICH ARE AMONG THE DIRECT BENEITS OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES TO THE CITY'

FIRST OLYMPIC VILLAGE



OLYMPIASTADION

BERLIN

NEW POLITICAL DIMENSION

CLEAR POLITICAL OVERTONES: 'IF GERMANY IS TO STAND HOST TO THE ENTIRE WORLD, HER PREPARATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE AND MAGNI⊠CENT'

BERLIN WAS CLEANED AND DRESSED FOR A SERIES OF CULTURAL FESTIVALS

FAVOURABLE POLITICAL PROPAGANDA FOR THE REICH GOVERNMENT BY PRESENTING INTERNATIONAL VISITORS WITH AN IMAGE OF A SUCCESSFUL AND EVEN RESPECTABLE REGIME

WEMBLEY STADIUM

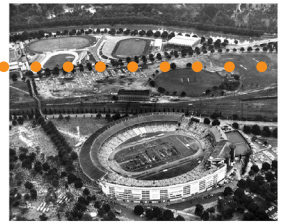
LONDON

EXISTING FACILITIES LITTLE IMPACT ON THE WIDER URBAN STRUCTURE

OLYMPIASTADION

HELSINKI

PERMANENT SELF-SUSTAINING RESIDENTIAL QUARTER AFTER THE GAMES



CRICKET GROUND

MELBOURNE

FIG. 56: Collage, History of the Olympic Games
(Author, 2016 images adapted from Google images)

4.

1960 TO 2012

LARGE-SCALE URBAN IMPROVEMENTS SUBST

ESTADIO OLÍMPICO

ROME

THE TWO CENTRES WERE LINKED BY A NEW ROAD CALLED THE OLYMPIC WAY. IN ADDITION, THE CITY DEVELOPED A NEW MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM, NEW AIRPORT FACILITIES IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT, STREET LIGHTING AND ILLUMINATION OF MONUMENTS AND NUMEROUS DECORATIVE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CITY.

4.
1960-2012
LARGE–SCALE URBAN IMPROVEMENTS, SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON THE LANDSCAPE AND URBAN ENVIRONMENT

NATIONAL OLYMPIC STADIUM

TOKYO

POLITICAL REHABILITATION OF JAPAN

NEW DEVELOPMENT FOR TOKYO WAS WEIGHTED MUCH MORE HEAVILY TOWARDS PROJECTS OTHER THAN THOSE DESIGNED FOR THE SPORTING EVENTS AND THE ATHLETES.

ESTADIO OLÍMPICO UNIVERSITARIO

MEXICO

QUESTIONED THE INVESTMENT REQUIRED

UNNECESSARY EXTRAVAGANCE

SEVERE SOCIAL PROBLEMS

VIOLENT CLASHES BETWEEN PROTESTING STUDENTS AND UNITS FROM THE POLICE AND ARMY

OLYMPIC PARK

MUNICH

CATALYST FOR URBAN RENEWAL RE-EMERGED

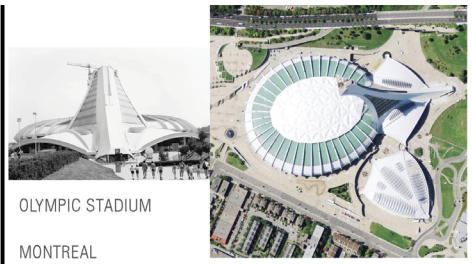
ABANDONED SECOND WORLD WAR AIRSTRIP

USED AS A DUMP AND AS A SITE FOR FAIRGROUNDS

RESTORATION AND PEDESTRIANIZATION OF THE HISTORIC QUARTER

IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

RUBBLE HILL, NYMPHENBURG CANAL AND TELEVISION TOWER



OLYMPIC STADIUM

MONTREAL

EARMARKED FOR RECREATIONAL USE MUCH EARLIER. A MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE AND BOTANICAL GARDENS HAD BEEN PROVIDED ON THE SITE DURING THE 1930S, WITH THE MAURICE RICHARD ARENA, MAISONNEUVE SPORTS CENTRE AND ATHLETIC FIELDS BEING DEVELOPED FROM PLANS IN THE 1950S

COLOSSAL, SHELL-LIKE, CANTILEVERED STRUCTURE, THE MOST STRIKING FEATURE OF WHICH WAS A COLUMN-FREE ELLIPTICAL ROOF

LUZHNIKI OLYMPIC COMPLEX

MOSCOW

INCLUDED IN THE TENTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1971)

UNDERDEVELOPED TOURIST INDUSTRY

ATTRACT FOREIGN CURRENCY

PROMOTE THE CITY AS A COSMOPOLITAN, 'FUN-LOVING CAPITAL'

.UZHNIKI OLYMPIC COMPLEX

.OS ANGELES

TOTALLY PRIVATE-SECTOR FUNDED

:XISTING SPORTS FACILITIES

.ITTLE CHANGE TO THE URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

:UBSTANTIAL COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

IOST CITIES BEGAN TO SHOW A
ENEWED INTEREST IN STAGING THE OLYMPICS.

OLYMPIC STADIUM

SEOUL

VEHICLE FOR URBAN CHANGE

IMPROVED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT, THE ENHANCEMENT OF CULTURAL FACILITIES, AN ENVIRONMENTAL BEAUTI CATION PROGRAMME AND ACTION TO ENSURE HEALTH AND HYGIENE STANDARDS THROUGHOUT THE CITY

ENCOURAGEMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

ESTADIO OLÍMPICO DE MONTJUÏC

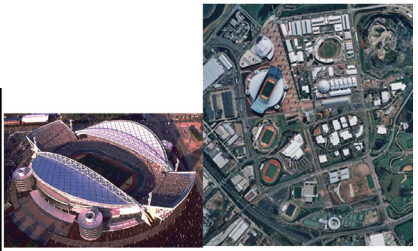
BARCELONA

'THE GAMES HAVE BEEN THE CATALYST FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE GENERAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA AND FOR LARGE SCALE PLANNING PROJECTS WHICH, BECAUSE OF THEIR LOCATION AND THEIR SIZE, WILL ALTER THE SHAPE OF THE GROWTH OF THE CITY'.

CENTENNIAL OLYMPIC STADIUM

ATLANTA

MAINLY FOCUSED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SPORTING FACILITIES AND PRODUCED ONLY MINOR CHANGE IN THE CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE



HOMEBUSH BAY,

SYDNEY

EMPHASIS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

RAISING GLOBAL AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ISSUES

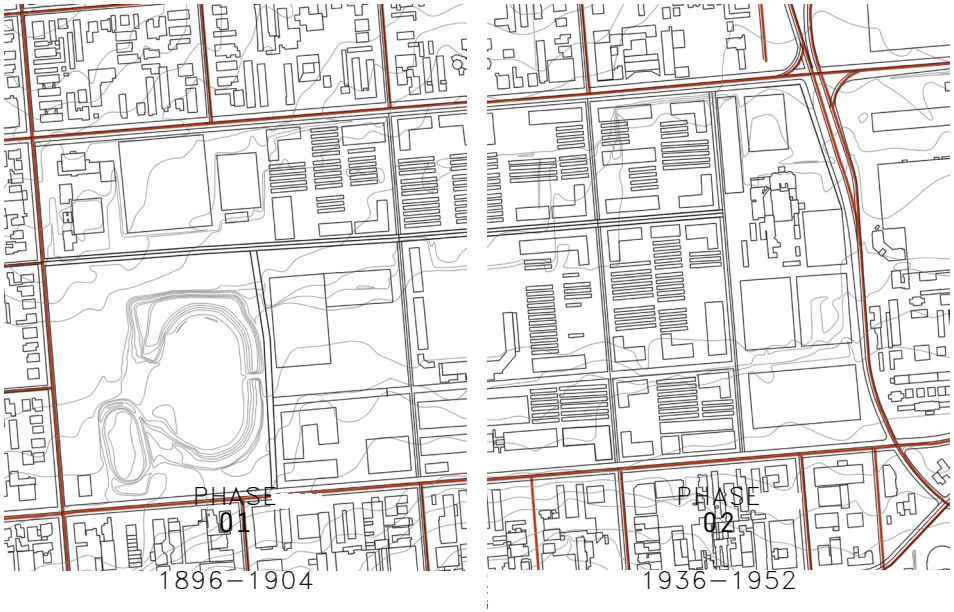


FIG. 57 A-D: Collage, Four phases of development *(Author, 2016)*

FIG. 57 E-I: Sketches, Visual Diary *(Author, 2016)*

ANCIENT GREECE: PANTENAIC STADIUM

BERLIN: URBAN PUBLIC PROCESSION

STADIUM AS A SYMBOL

OLYMPIC VILLAGE: SPECIALISED BUILDINGS

FOUR PHASES OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Investigating the four phases of urban development through the history of Olympic Games (Chalkey 1999: 374) it is clear that significant shifts in the design of the stadiums changed the way the general public could engage with the meaning and value of sport as a concept in society. The way in which the Games have evolved, now leads to sporting events driving urban 'regeneration' projects, but on a superficial level, which negates the sense of place.

Arenas of antiquity (phase 01: 1896 to 1904) were greatly influenced by the landscape of place. Sporting activities took place in the landscape and by matter of what the landscape could provide, beautifully incorporating public space and public procession (ibid: 375).

Later (phase 02: 1904 to 1932), existing stadiums proved to be too small for the growing sport, and therefore substantial new purpose built stadiums were developed to cater for different events.

From 1936 to 1956 (phase 03), the stadium emerged as an expression of a host city culture with the athletic stadium as the center piece of the event (ibid: 376). The trend to develop new stadiums and the ability to display culture soon warped to the idea that it could be choreographed and staged and took on new political dimensions (ibid: 377).

Contemporary events (phase 04) have had large urban improvements with substantial impact on the landscape and urban environment which proved the realisation of the potential of the event to galvanize urban programmes and policies (ibid).

IN A SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

Although Pilditch was not built in relation to any specific international mega event, it still contributes to the debate of post event integration of stadiums, and a local phenomenon where large infrastructure is available but underutilised. An example of this is Ellis Park in Johannesburg.

During the FIFA world cup of 2010, the existing stadium of Ellis Park, which hosted six events, was targeted for further upgrades for the event (Gunter 2011:76). Although the upgrade has altered aesthetic appeal of the site, it has negated the objective to enhance the local economy (*ibid*). As a mapping exercise, local users were asked to identify places that had been improved and how these spaces were perceived outside of when sporting events took place (*ibid*). The exercise indicated that the upgrade failed to "create a vibrant place that can be used outside of major sporting events" (*ibid*).

In order to secure a bid for major sporting events, nations will compete fiercely for the economic development sport tourism promises by creating iconic mega projects, despite the long term implications of these large interventions (Gunter 2011:77). Bulk infrastructure such a stadiums and transportation networks run the risk of becoming 'white elephants' because of representing "a prestige so dominant over function, that the project never performs satisfactorily" (Gunter 2011:77).

INTEGRATION AS PART OF THE DESIGN

The London Olympic Games

During the London Olympic Games, in addition to constructing new buildings, several existing buildings were modified to host the Games of 2012. The overall approach was to recognise the entire city as the Olympic Park, and regenerate degraded areas (such as the rowing pavilion) allowing for better integration of the facilities after the event. Buildings were designed and modified so that it could be used in different patterns, depending on the event (Shirai, 2016:32).

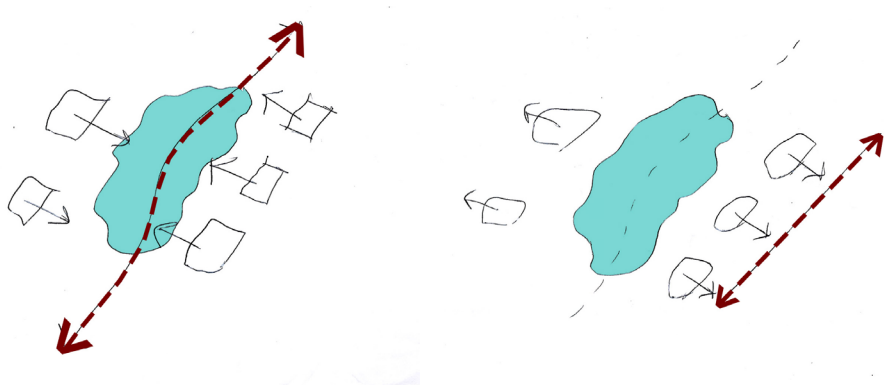


FIG. 58: Sketch, Olympic Configuration and legacy configuartion *(Author, 2016 adapted from Shirai, 2016)*

INTEGRATION AS PART OF THE DESIGN

Olympic Park in Munich

The Olympic Park in Munich was used as a catalyst for urban renewal (Chalkey 1999: 374). Constructed on an abandoned second world war airstrip, which was then used as a dump, the project called for the restoration and pedestrianization of the historic quarter (*ibid*). The olympic park was successfully integrated in the local community as a public park after the event. The olympic village was also proposed as housing for the community post event (*ibid*).

FIG. 59 A-B: Photos, Olympic Park in Munich *(Author, 2014)*

INTEGRATION AFTER THE EVENT

Other precedents have adapted large event building for commercial use post event.

Richard Rogers, Barcelona Las Arenas, Bullfighting ring

The intention of the project was to re-establish the ring as a landmark in the area. A commercial complex was proposed with retail stores, restaurants and offices on ground level and the new roof provided terraces, cafes and restaurants with a 360° view of the city.

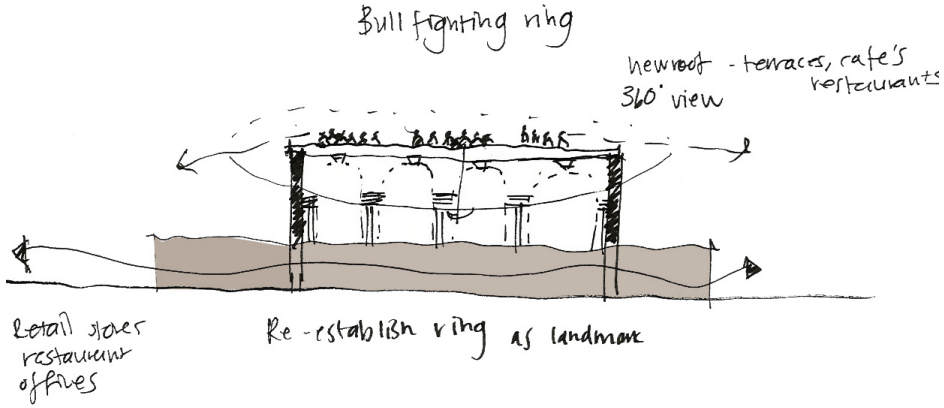


FIG. 60: Concept section *(Author, 2016 adapted from Balaguer, 2014)*