



Chapter 5:
PRAGMATICS
Defining the Programme

- *The community is the expert in their needs and should therefore be consulted (or the design should be robust and malleable enough to allow participation in its alteration and appropriation).*
- *Place should be the goal at hand. Elements of the design should be included to improve the quality of space in a manner that encourages ownership and pride from the community.*
- *A study in spaces and people may shed light on how people use spaces and what their needs are.*
- *Introduction of smaller (primary phase) interventions that inspire appropriation and use, resulting in maximum output for minimum capital investment. The human investment from the community makes the space.*
- *a place and will encourage further development in and around the area propagating long term improvements.*
- *Interventions need to be grouped in a manner that encourages their use and the likelihood of social interaction.*
- *Designing based on the required uses and not the desired form.*
- *The project will never be in completion. An effective public space is ever-changing and evolving and the architect should keep this in mind.*
- *All buildings need to support spaces in between*

(Adapted from Project for Public Spaces' *11 points on placemaking*, PPS.org, n.d.c)

5.1.2. Precedent – Plaza Hidalgo & Plaza del Centenario, Mexico City

The Plaza Hidalgo and Plaza del Centenario complex in the historic Coyoacán in Mexico City flank the Fuente de los Coyotes after which the place is named. The two Plazas are actually full-sized parks because of the series of routes that connect various green spaces, markets, municipal buildings and a historic church, Parroquia de San Juan Bautista.

The sites, as their names would imply, primarily serve as circulation, connecting an array of activities. The wide, tree-lined boulevards are edged with benches and provide a space to sit and watch the activities of passersby. The position of the site between historic sites and a still active church guarantees foot traffic on weekends as well. The flexibility of space is ascribed to the numerous foot paths (PPS.org, n.d. ii) and their ability to increase chances of interaction. The presence of public buildings provide a sense of interface for the government, and most likely the act of working in a park makes for a pleasant work environment for the officials employed there.

The result of public building, heritage sites, markets, green space and thoroughfare is a vibrant public space in which people from all walks of life occupy the same space, this increases the likelihood of interaction and exchanges.

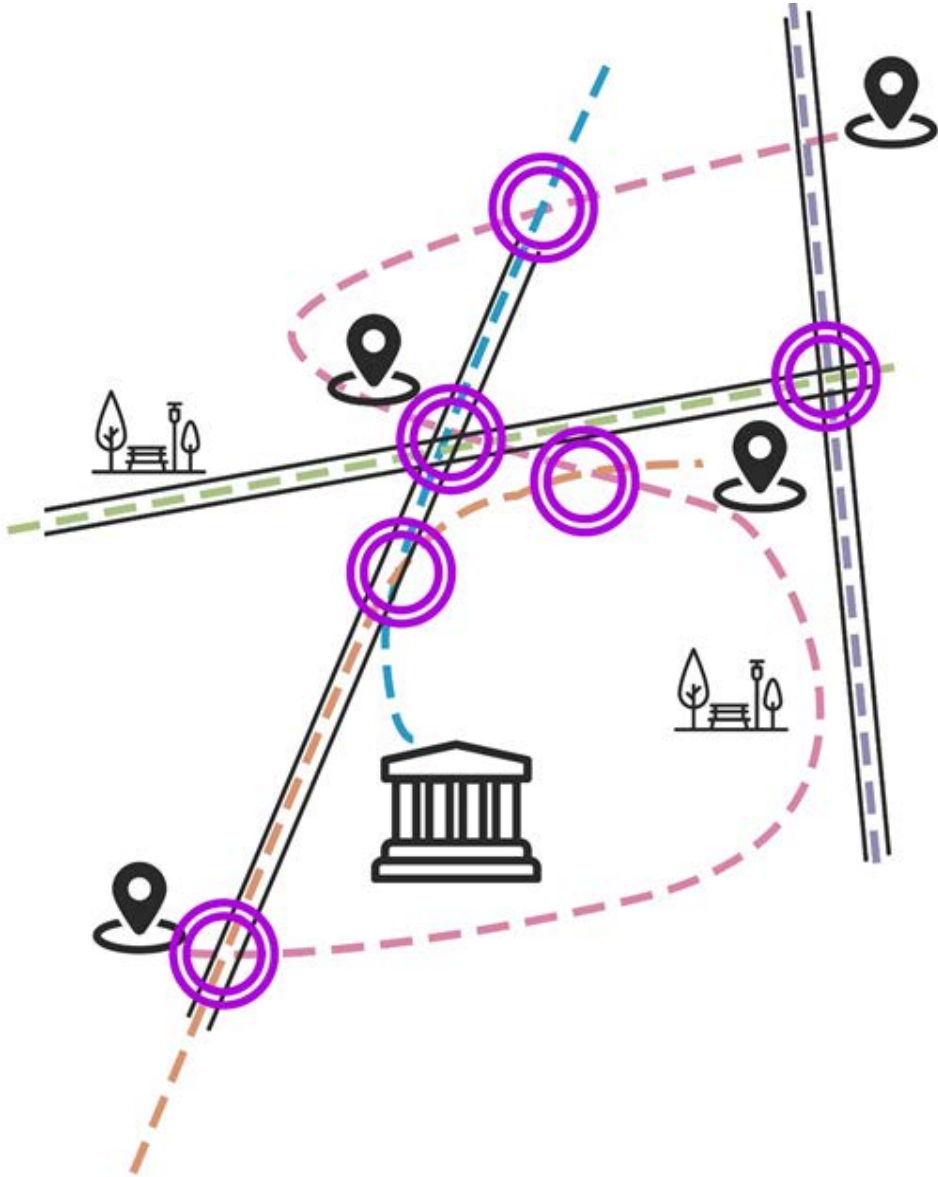


Figure 35 - The boulevard at Plaza Hidalgo is mainly a pedestrian thoroughfare along which some visitors rest on shaded benches.

Figure 36 - The Fountain of Coyotes is at the centre of the precinct acting as both beacon and meeting point. (Datter 2009)

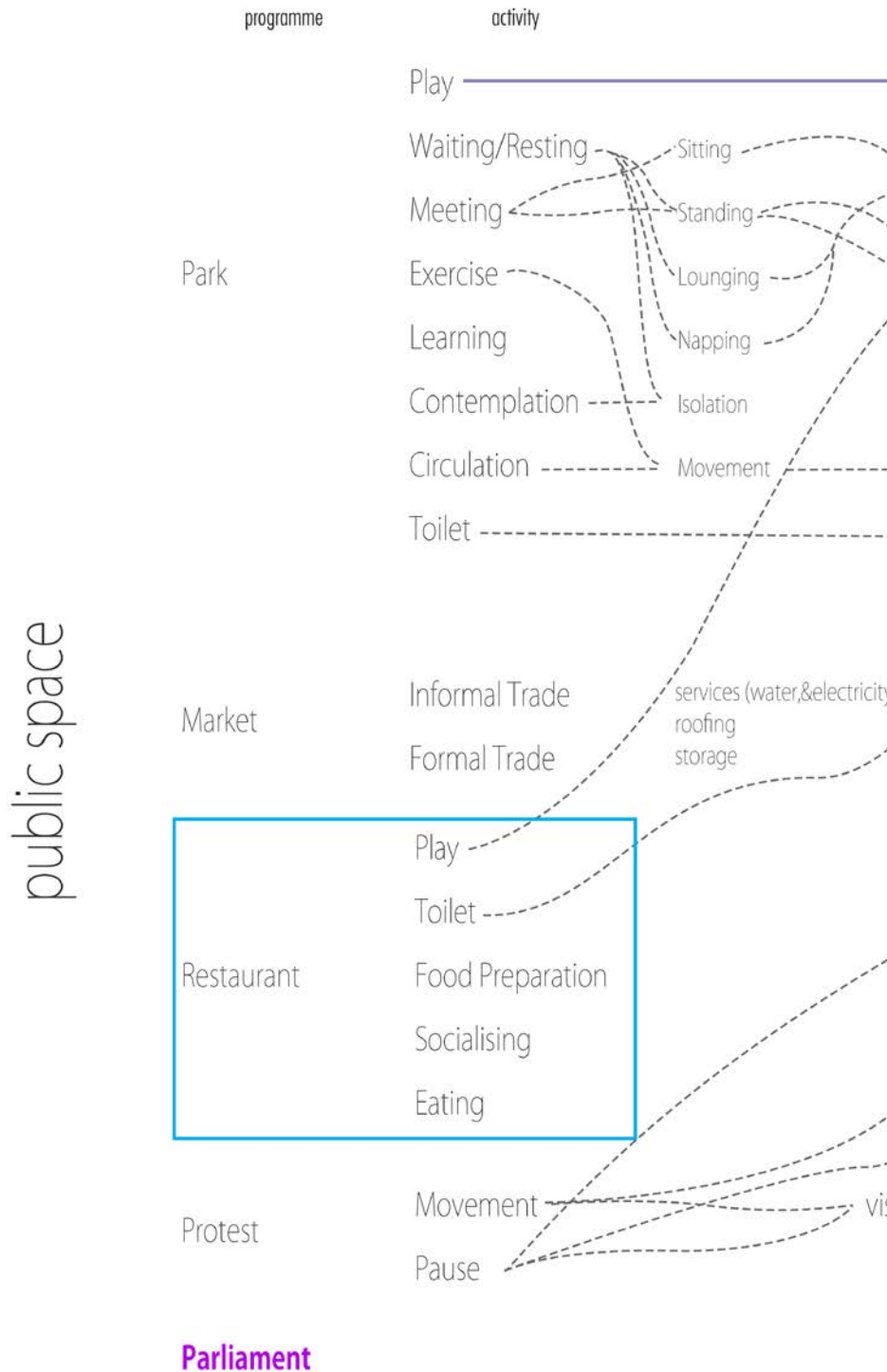
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Figure 37 - Diagram showing the increased likelihood of interactions between people because of the various destinations and activities in the park.



5.1.3. Intention for the Park

The following diagram illustrates the programmatic intentions for the park:



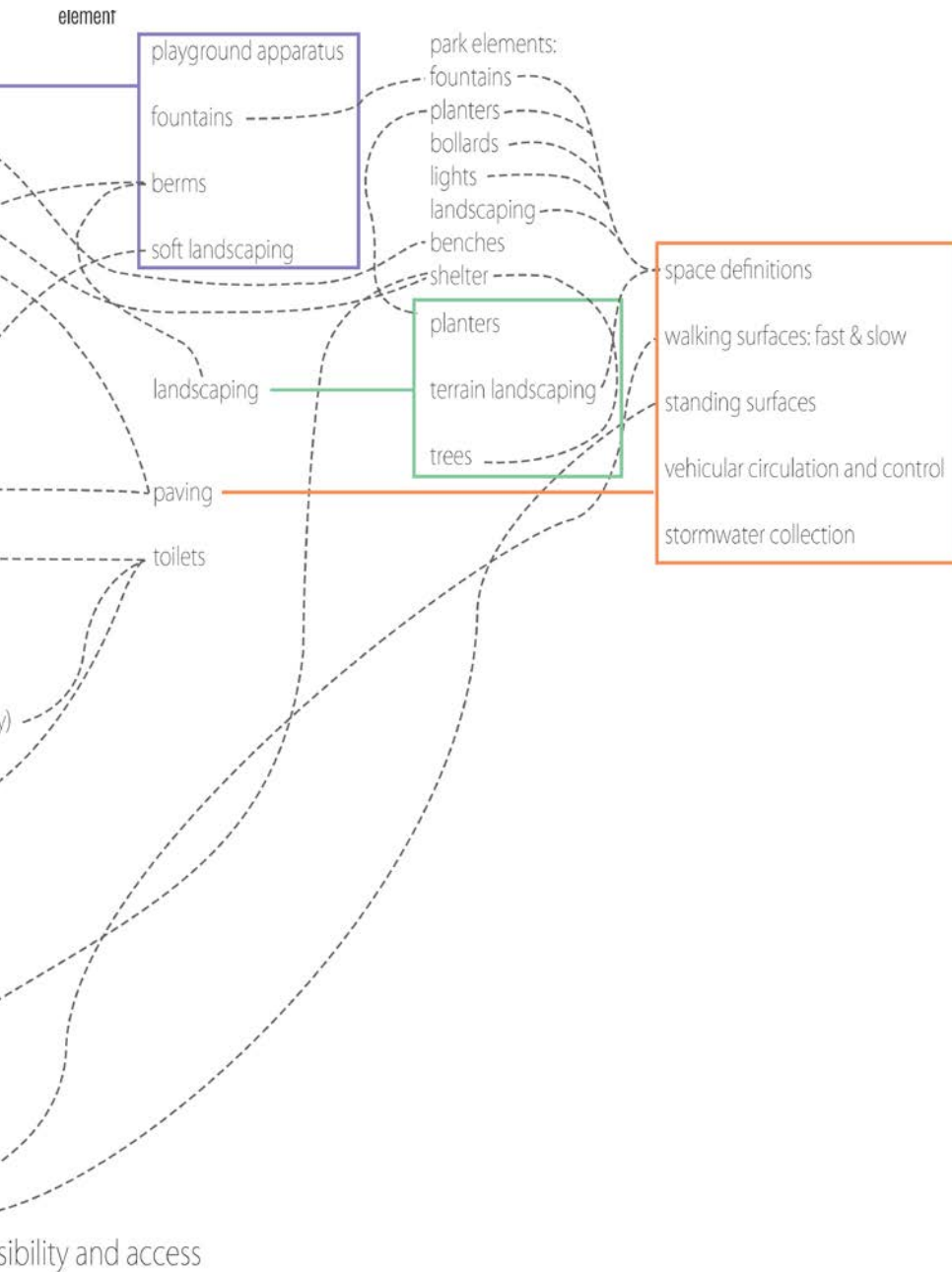


Figure 38 - Daigram illustrating the generation of the parliamentary precinct programme

5.2. Parliament

5.2.1. Parliament House, Cape Town

There is little published about the workings of parliament which leaves much of the following as speculation for the purposes of establishing programme.

The parliament of South Africa is located in a parliament precinct in the Company's Garden in Cape Town where it has been since the British Empire granted the Cape Colony right to a parliament in 1853. The initial Cape parliament was a bicameral (two houses supported by a joint administration) and had a lower and upper house. The

member of the lower house were elected by male suffrage, regardless of race. The following years saw many shifts in the structure of parliament based on rights of suffrage awarded to women, Coloureds and Indians with time. The present day parliament is also bicameral. The National Assembly is the House directly elected by the voters, while the National Council of Provinces is elected by the provinces and represents them to ensure that provincial interests are taken into account in the national sphere of



Figure 39 - Henry Freeman's original design (Cusack 2009)

Figure 40 - Parliament House shortly after completion in 1884 (n.a. 2013)

government (Parliament, n.d.).

The first parliament was housed at *Tuynhuis*, called Government House at the time but the Assembly House soon outgrew its space. From here it was relocated to Masonic Lodge of the Dutch Grand Orient designed by Louis Michel Thibault. The legislative council was housed in the Old Supreme Court Building (now known as the *Slave Lodge*), also designed by Thibault. Very soon bigger spaces

were required for both houses which saw the Public Works department commission Henry Freeman to design a domed edifice with end pavilions in an overall composite classical style (Cusack, 2009).

Because of a calculation error in the foundations, the building was thus later completed under Henry Greaves in 1884. The design saw the elimination of most of the decorative features originally included – no dome, no

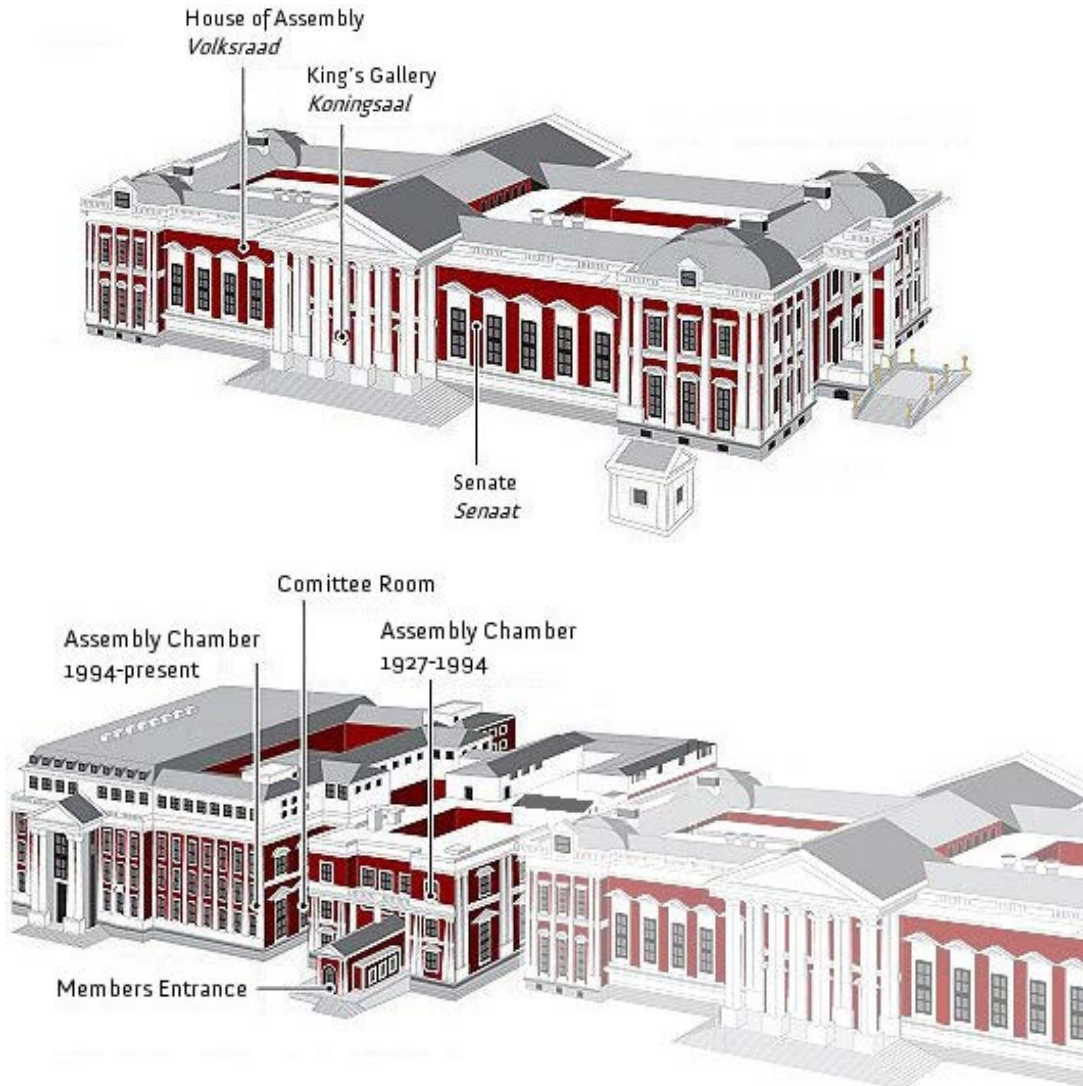


Figure 41 - Diagram illustrating the original building (Cusack 2009)

Figure 42 - Diagram illustrating the additions to the original building (Cusack 2009)

statues and no fountains (from description of photograph at Wikipedia.com (n.a. 2013)).

The building has remained the location of South African parliament until today. It has undergone numerous extensions and relocations of functions within the building. The official address for the building is in Parliament Street onto which it faces. Its rear façade sits along Government Avenue, the tree-lined lane that acts as the spine of the Gardens (Cusack 2009).

Upon entering the building one would walk through the *Koningsaal* (King's Hall) the lobby named after the royal portraits adorning its walls. The hall was later renamed the Gallery Hall once South Africa was declared a republic in 1961, upon which the portraits were relocated to a museum wing and the replaced with others. The building's symmetrical layout saw the Assembly Chamber housed to the left and the Senate to the right (Cusack 2009).

In 1920, shortly after Cape Town was declared the Union's Legislative capital, Sir Herbert Baker was commissioned to extend the building, to accommodate a bigger Assembly Hall. The old Assembly hall became a dining room. The 1980s saw another extension to accommodate the 1983 constitution calling for a tricameral system where a house for each whites, coloureds and Indians was established (Cusack 2009).

Over the years, changes have been made internally and major functions have seemed to locate more towards the new wing (Cusack 2009). The new wing is the current seat of majority of parliamentary events and houses the daily proceedings of the national assembly, South Africa's lower house. Parliament's two house are made up of 490 seats, 400 in the National Assembly and 90 in the National Council of Provinces. There are representatives from 13 parties present in parliament.

This new Assembly Chamber (housed in the new wing and (previous page) can be seen in media footage of parliamentary debates State Opening of Parliament, the President's State of the Nation address, and the during visits of foreign heads of state. Its decorative carpets, designed to give an African feel was a later decision to add to the hastily converted space which seems unsuited to its use on the most part. Cusack (2009) believes the detailing of the hall is poor and this bares testament to how *the chamber as a whole was hastily designed and quickly constructed*.

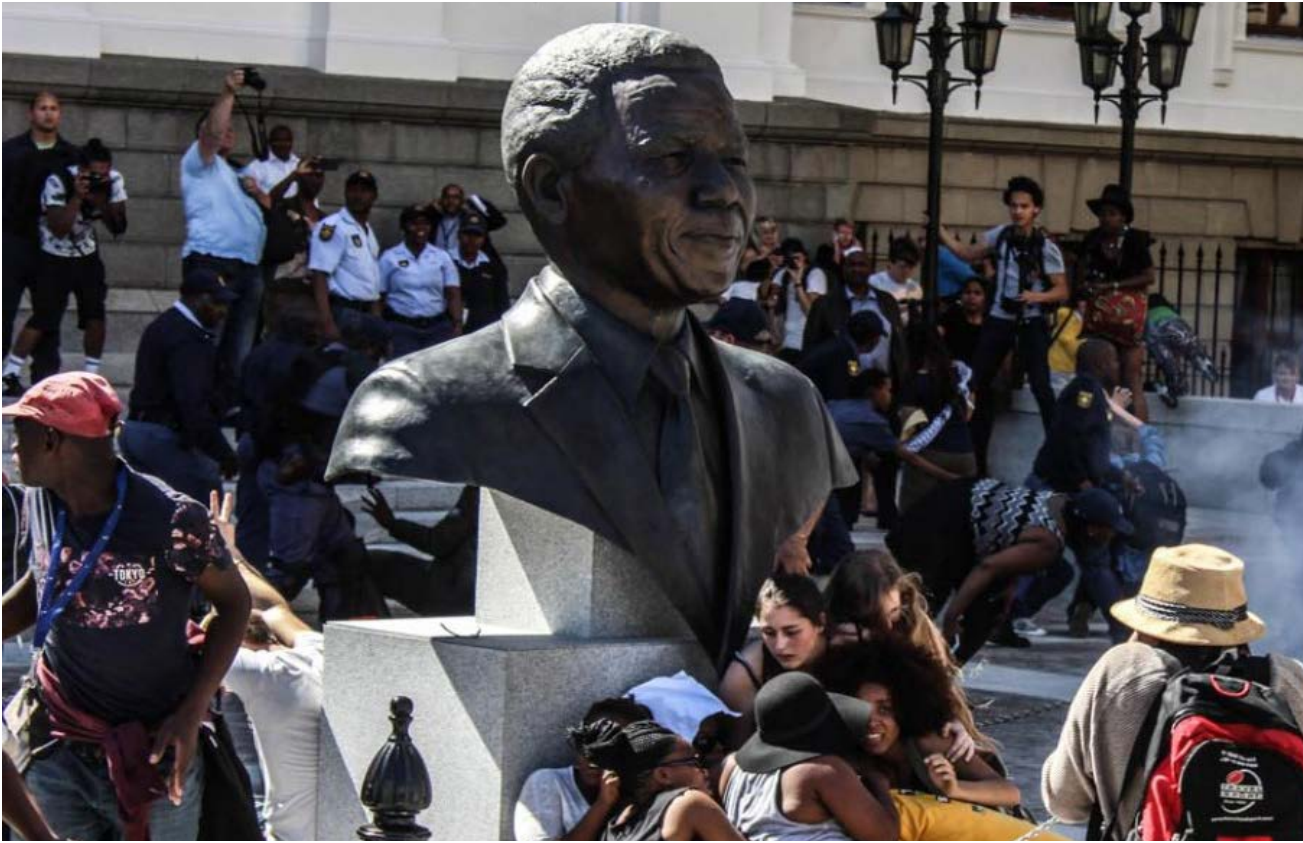
The second house, that of the National Council of Provinces has been housed in the original Senate chamber since its inception in 1997. The senate chamber was originally modelled after the chamber of lords and featured the oblong arrangement of two opposing parties. This arrangement was changed to a semi-circular one during the refurbishment shortly after the NCOP was established in 1997.



Figure 43 - Distorted view of the National Assembly chamber (Bothma, 2016)

Figure 44 - A less peaceful moment in the Assembly Chamber (Maduna 2016)

Figure 45 - The National Council of Provinces (Zhao 2010)





Outside of the building an ornate bust of Nelson Mandela welcomes visitors. It was unveiled in 2014 and the official statement from parliament read:

It is hoped that the bust will provide a place for people to gather when they visit Parliament and that it will inspire public memory about the long and bitter road we have travelled to democracy and what still remains to be achieved (News24 2014).

Figure 46 - Students use the Nelson Mandela bust as shelter during police fire outside of parliament (livemag 2015)

Figure 47 - Blade Nzimande behind the gates of the parliamentary precinct when students stormed the site in October 2015 (Bennet, 2015)..

5.3. Parliamentary Precinct, Pretoria

The scheme outlined in this document needed to address the existing parliamentary system and its spatial accommodation in order to establish a benchmark for the design. For this reason, the study summarised in

the previous section was embarked upon. Using the information gathered from this study and interpretation, the following accommodations schedule could be established.

Requirement	No. of rooms/ ppl	Size	m ²	Subtotal	Total
General Space					
Entrance	1	100	100	100	
Toilets	10	2.5	25	25	
Kitchen	1	150	150	150	
Reception Space/Restaurant/Gallery	600	1.6	960	960	
Service Yard	1	20	20	20	
Offices Open Plan Office	5	2.6	13		
Private Office	8	9	72		
Canteen	1	6	6	91	
					1346
Party Specific (Office x 8)					
Offices Lobby	8	6	48		
Open Plan Office	8	2.6	20.8		
Boardroom	8	40	320		
Canteen	8	4	32	420.8	
Toilets	10	2.5	25	25	
					445.8
National Assembly					
Lobby	400	0.2	80	80	
Toilets	10	2.5	25	25	
Offices Open Plan Office	5	2.6	13		
Private Office	2	9	18		
Canteen	1	6	6	37	
Chamber Seating	500	1.6	800		
Media	100	1.6	160		
Clerical	20	1.6	32		
Speaker/Debate	80	1	80	1072	
Circulation			50	50	
					1264
National Council of Provinces					
Lobby	90	0.1	9	9	
Toilets	6	2.5	15	15	
Offices Open Plan Office	5	2.6	13		
Private Office	2	9	18		
Canteen	1	6	6	37	
Chamber Seating	90	1.6	144		
Media	5	1.6	8		
Clerical	5	1.6	8		
Speaker/Debate	10	1	10	170	
Circulation			20	20	
					251
Total					3306.8

