

design

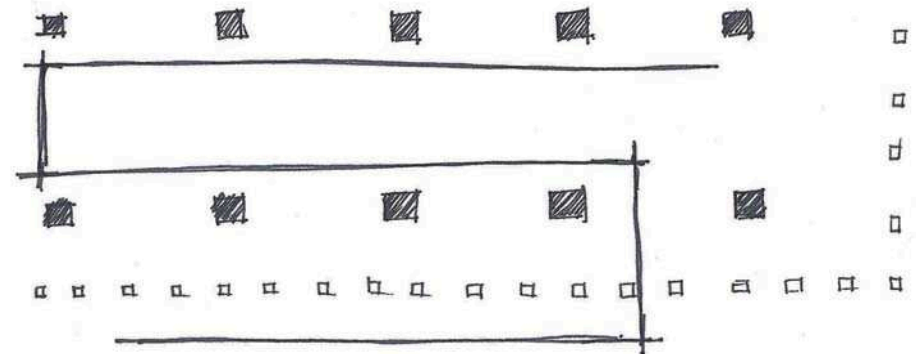
final design proposal

7 

design

Design is an opportunity to continue telling the story, not just to sum everything up

Tate Linden (COD, 2011)



illus. 7.1 Revised PARTI diagram

7.1 Introduction

This chapter is a detailed description of the final design proposal. It is structured around plan, sections, elevations and other sketches that best explain all considerations.

7.2 PARTI diagram

The revised PARTI diagram (illus. 7.1) encapsulates the essence of the building, which consists of three main elements:

- The rhythm by means of the columns
- Movement, by the ramp that extends through the building, forming the continuous link and floor plate combination
- The enfolding of the screen element that contextualises the building

7.3 Inclusive Design checker

The design approach is an exclusively inclusive approach. This approach has resulted in the scrutinising of all design decisions. These decisions were constantly evaluated and changed to conform to this approach. The design decisions were evaluated against the understanding and knowledge that is illustrated in table 7.1. These pictograms will be used to indicate the areas, elements and decisions that have inclusive merit on the design drawings.

The pictograms indicated in table 7.1 will be used to indicated elements and design decisions that have been made, evaluated and informed with inclusive design in mind.

The inclusive design responses, as listed in table 7.1, are a result of literature reviews as discussed in Chapter 2 and 3. The aim of this table is to illustrate to the reader the five categories of disabilities and impairments that have been identified, it also lists the difficulties that each category experiences and the design decisions that can assist in alleviating these challenges.



elderly
ageing



wheelchair
mobility impaired



pregnant
mother and child



blind
visually impaired



deaf
hard of hearing



monotone environments
inconsistent stairs/ ramps
overlit areas
lack of legible signage
intrusive elements, slippery surfaces



steep and long ramp lengths
stairs and step environments
cannot reach high up
uneven surfaces and bumps
intrusive elements



steep and long ramp lengths
stairs and step environments
complicated layout
lack of adequate landings
intrusive elements



overlit areas
stairs and step environments
complicated layout
lack of adequate landings
intrusive elements, slippery surfaces



noisy areas
complicated layout
difficulty in emergency situations
uneven surfaces and bumps
intrusive elements

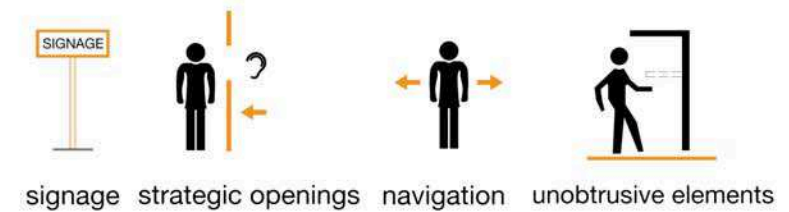
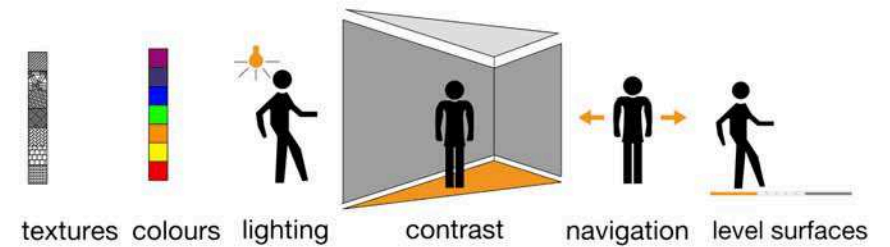
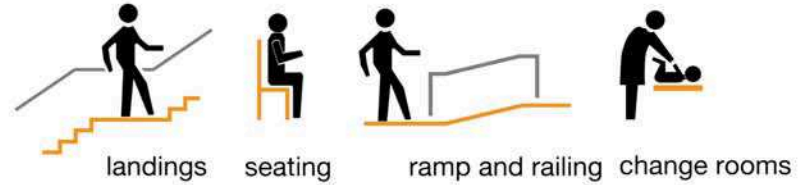
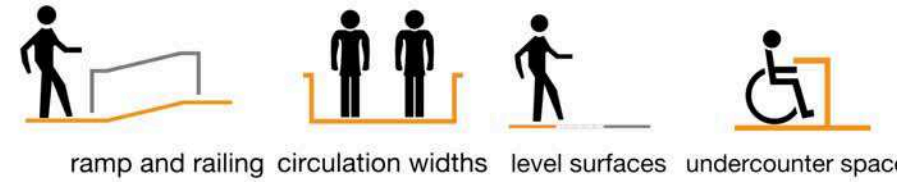
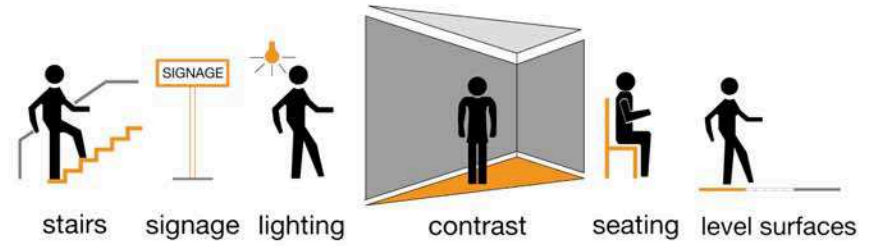


table 7.1 Inclusive Design responses with the 5 categories of disability

7.4 Plans

7.4.1 Ground floor

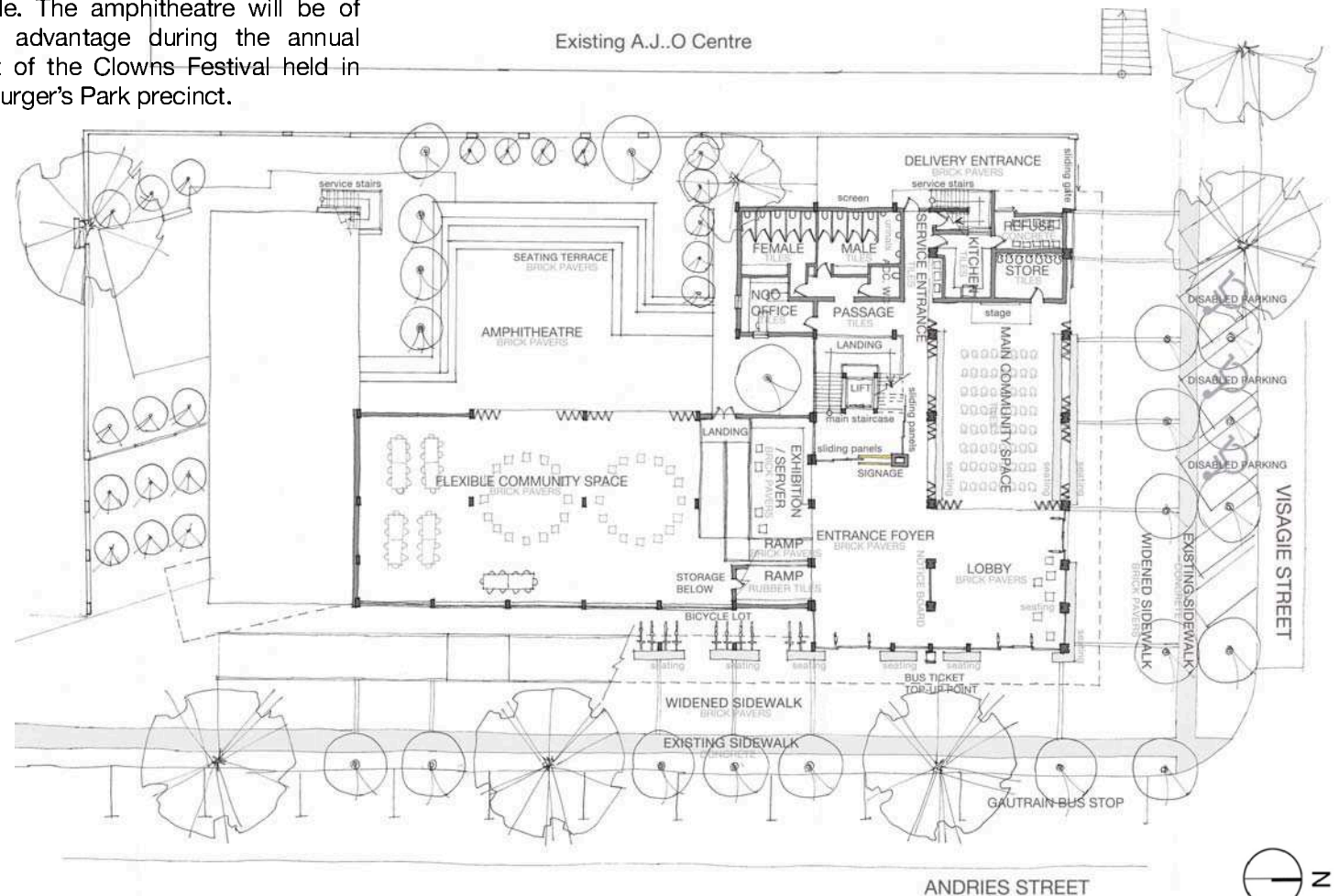
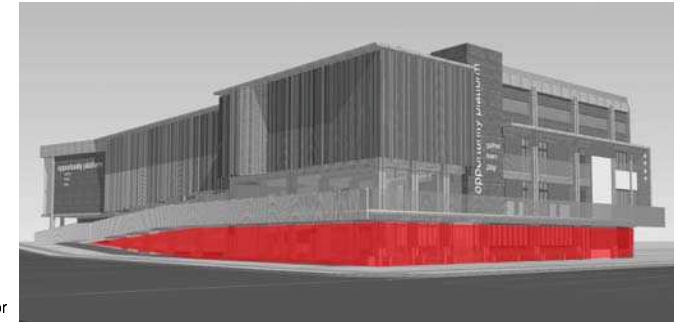
LIGHT YELLOW

Ramp widths and gradients were determined by criteria set for easy movement by the elderly and people in wheelchairs. Balustrade positions and handrail heights are according to suggested norms. All circulation widths and door widths were determined according to these norms. Signage placement are in an obvious and visible position for easy navigation, with clear typeface and high contrast. Informal seating is provided in lobby and also along the building envelope in the shelter of the ramp and balcony above. All thresholds of inside to outside and material changes are sloped and flush to avoid steps. A general notice board is also located in the foyer for public use.

Main community space for formal seated gatherings or performance gatherings, for 80-100 people, is located on this floor, with storage and a kitchen to serve it. The community space is able to open up for people to gather around, and look into and be aware of activities taking place within. The lobby space is extended with an exhibition space (that doubles as a serving counter during functions) that will advertise events and programmes of the Opportunity Platform.

The lower level informal gathering space is unprogrammed and intended for multiple smaller groups to gather for educational interaction. These activities can be extended to the amphitheatre. The amphitheatre space is intended as a formal seating arrangement that can accommodate a larger group of people. The amphitheatre will be of great advantage during the annual Feast of the Clowns Festival held in the Burger's Park precinct.

illus. 7.3 Floor legend: Ground floor



illus. 7.2 Ground floor plan 1:500

7.4.2 First floor

YELLOW

The first floor is the result of vertical movement choice that enables users to reach the upper floors by means other than the lift. The ramp extends the sidewalk and leads up to the first floor. This provides an additional inclusive access to the building and serves as a vantage point from which to observe activities below and beyond.

On this level the user is greeted by the main desk in yellow that sits in front of a red face brick wall. The face brick wall is used throughout the design as an indicator, as a place relevance, either signage or presence of staff or an entrance is located at these walls. The instruction rooms for skills development and small group gatherings are positioned in close proximity to the main desk as a means of security and control. These instruction rooms also open up to the balcony space. The lobby has Informal seating.

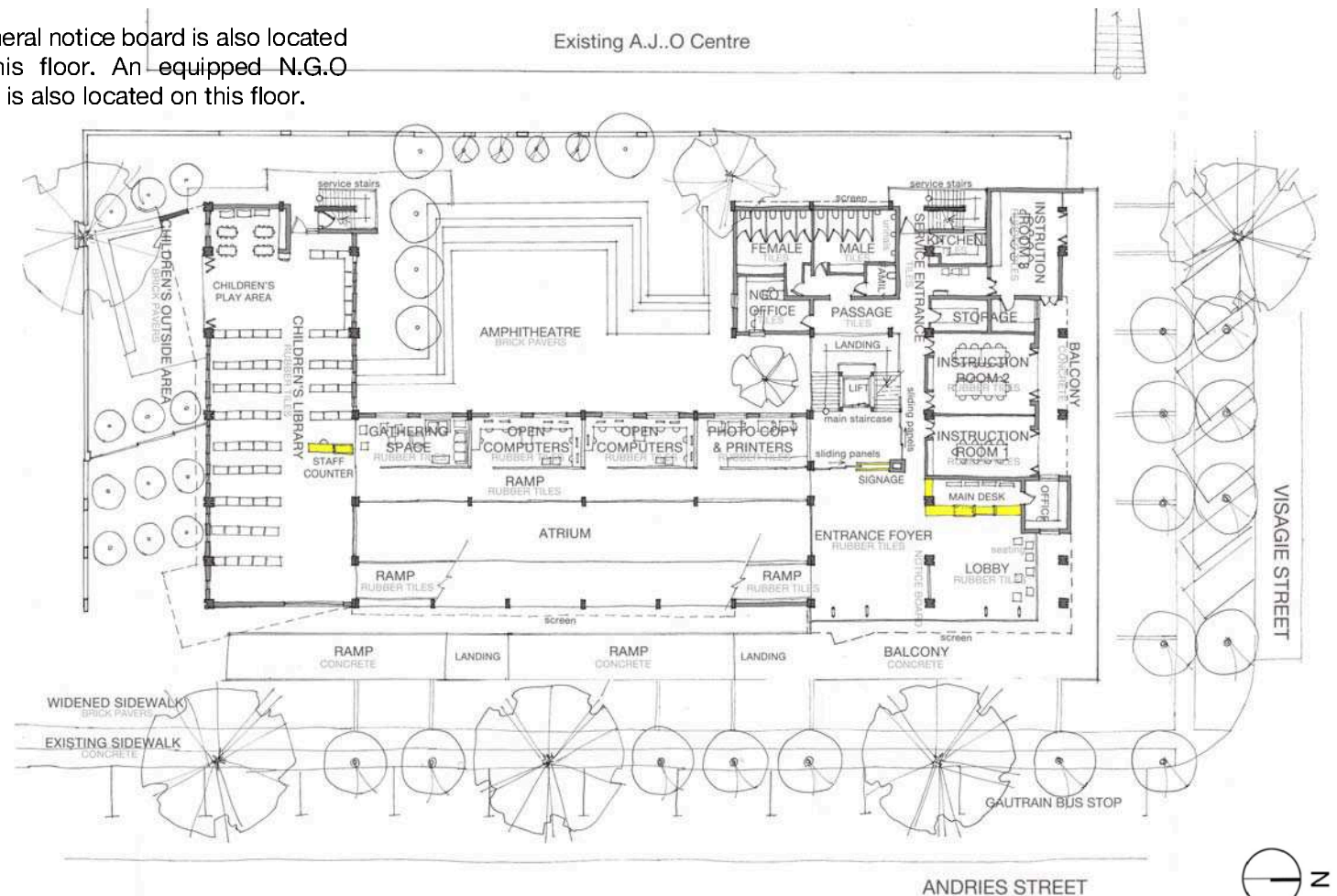
In the south wing of this level the children's library can be found, which extends to the outside to a play area on the southern periphery of the site. The children's library, as each section, has a counter and staff members dedicated to it. The play area is screened off from the street interface and amphitheatre space by movable screens that can be opened when the building becomes public in community events.

The ramp that connects the north and south wing, houses open computers, a small comfortable gathering space and photocopiers that serve the building. The ramp is placed around a central atrium that connects the floors visually for surveillance and awareness of users and activities.

A general notice board is also located on this floor. An equipped N.G.O office is also located on this floor.



illus. 7.5 Floor legend: First floor



illus. 7.4 First floor plan 1:500



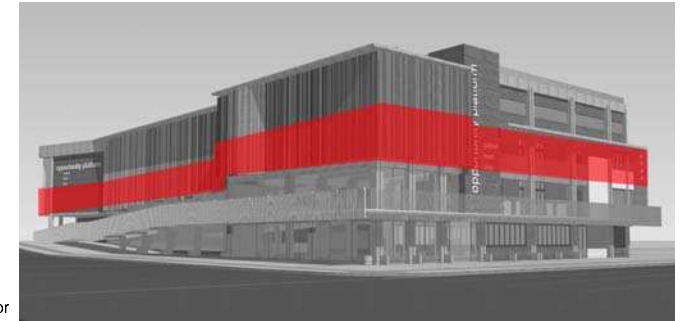
7.4.3 Second floor

ORANGE

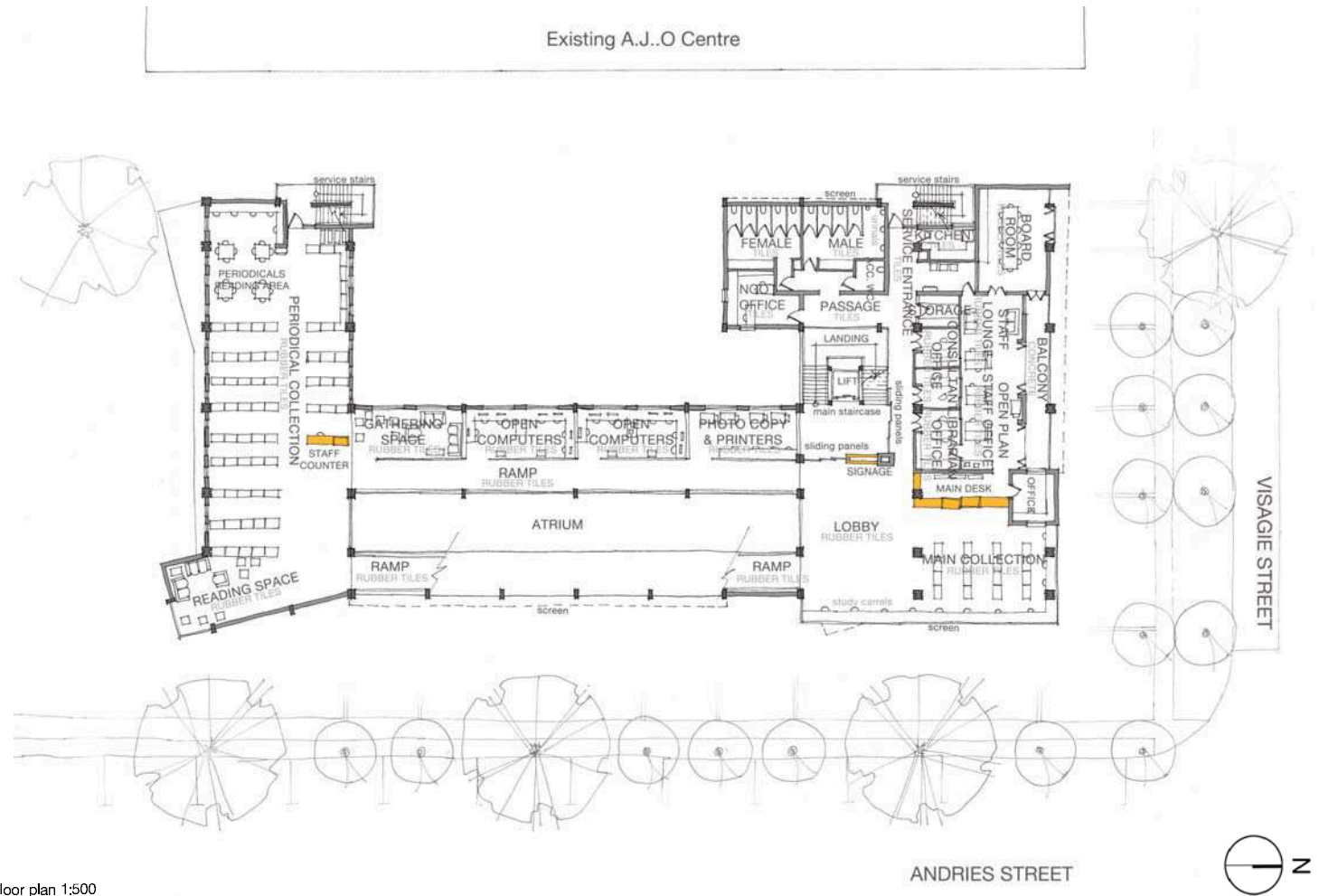
The ramp circulation continues around the central atrium and overlooks the community space below. This floor houses the periodic collection in the south wing, completed with reading space and dedicated counter with staff representative. The ramp connecting the south and north wing houses the additional functions required.

This floors' counter and signage is denoted orange and forms the start of the main library collection in the north wing. The main management offices are also located on the northern side and open up to a sunlit balcony. The staff kitchen, lounge and board room are also located here. An equipped N.G.O office is located on this floor. The main librarian office is also on this level.

This floor also has a reading space on the eastern facade with views towards Burger's Park and the B.J. Vorster Tower.



illus. 7.7 Floor legend: Second floor



illus. 7.6 First floor plan 1:500

7.4.4 Third floor

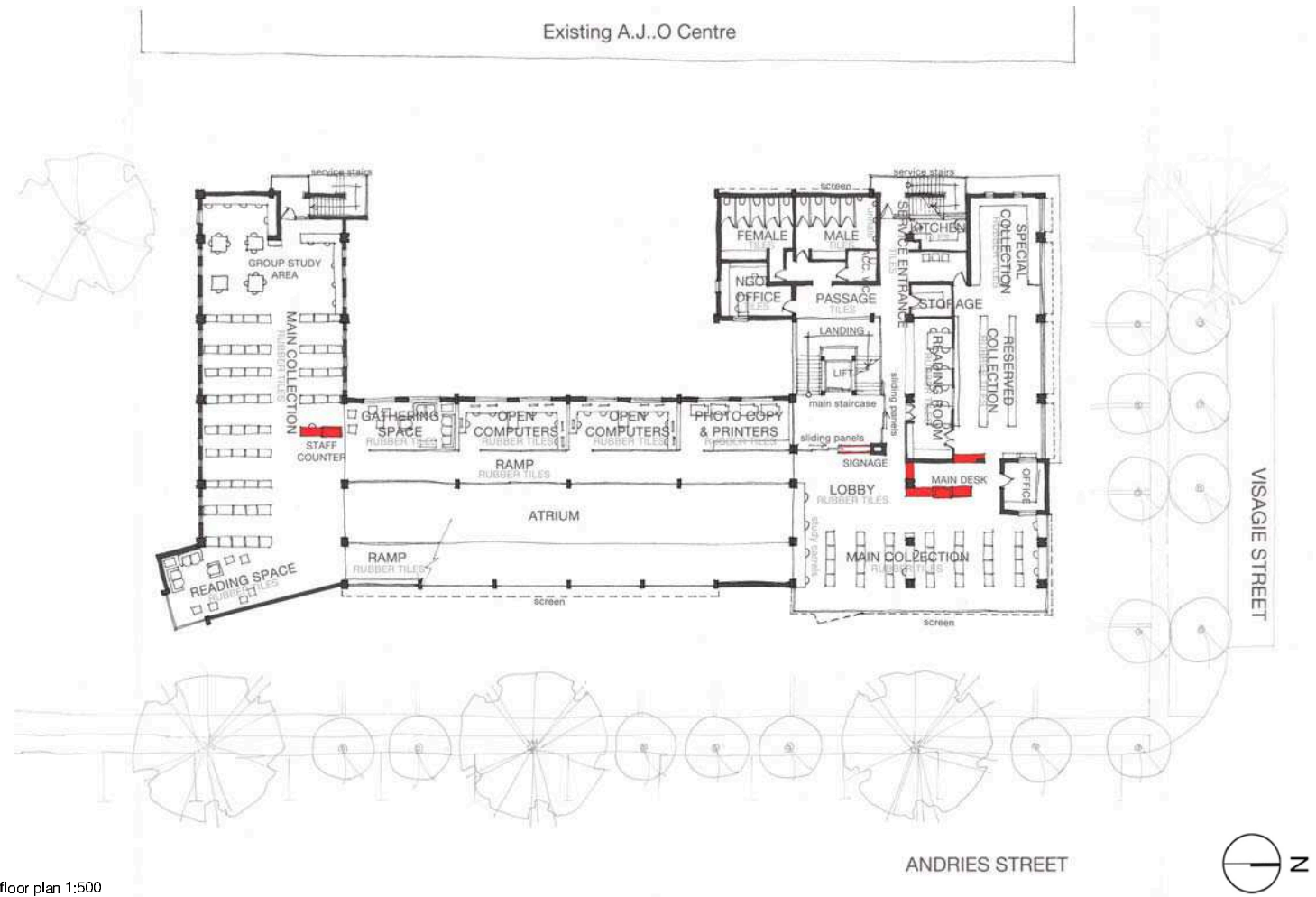
RED

The ramp circulation continues around the central atrium and terminates in the north wing of this floor. This floor houses the reserved collection in the north wing, with reading spaces. The remainder of the main collection is on this floor. The ramp connecting the south and north wing houses the additional functions required and quieter study spaces are located throughout this floor.

This floor is denoted by a red counter and signage. The counter on this floor serves the reserved collection as well as the main collection.



illus. 7.9 Floor legend: Third floor



illus. 7.8 Third floor plan 1:500

7.5 Sections

7.5.1 Longitudinal section

This section shows the atrium space and connecting levels. The floor level of the south wing and the north wing acts as the landing for the ramp circulation around the central atrium space. The signage/balustrade intent is also indicated on this drawing.

7.5.2 Cross section

The section is taken through the atrium space and it is a reflection of the possible visual and physical links between the different floor levels. This section also illustrates the possible links between the Community Gathering space and the amphitheatre in the courtyard.

The *Heteropyxis Natalensis* (Lavender Tree) trees are also visible in the courtyard along with the *Bolusanthus Speciosus* Trees (Tree Wisteria; Vanwykshout).



illus. 7.10 Longitudinal section (not to scale)



7.6 Elevations

7.6.1 East elevation

The eastern elevation is the main street facing facade of the building. Composed of mainly the vertical ceramic screen covering the curtain wall, the external ramp and balustrade, combines different scales of rhythm and identity that make up the composition. Large scale signage can be found on a bulky red face brick panel, made up of brick patterns with flush joints. The light boxes on the roof are also visible from this elevation.

The proposed *Bolusanthus Speciosus* Trees (Tree Wisteria; Vanwykshout) can be observed from this point as part of the design, as they align with columns on this facade, forming part of the rhythm of this facade. The entrance is denoted by the brick panel located at the termination of the ramp.

7.6.2 North elevation

This facade faces the street and has views of the Reserve Bank and ABSA Towers. The facade is wrapped in the extension of the ramp from the eastern side, filled in with plastered wall finish and a large scale community mosaic artwork. The vertical brick panel, constructed the same as the brick work on the eastern elevation, is a reflection of the interior, as this indicates where the main counters are located in the building. This brick work is reflected on the interior as the back drop of the main counter.



illus. 7.11 North elevation (not to scale)



illus. 7.12 East elevation (not to scale)

7.7 Perspectives

7.7.1 Corner approach

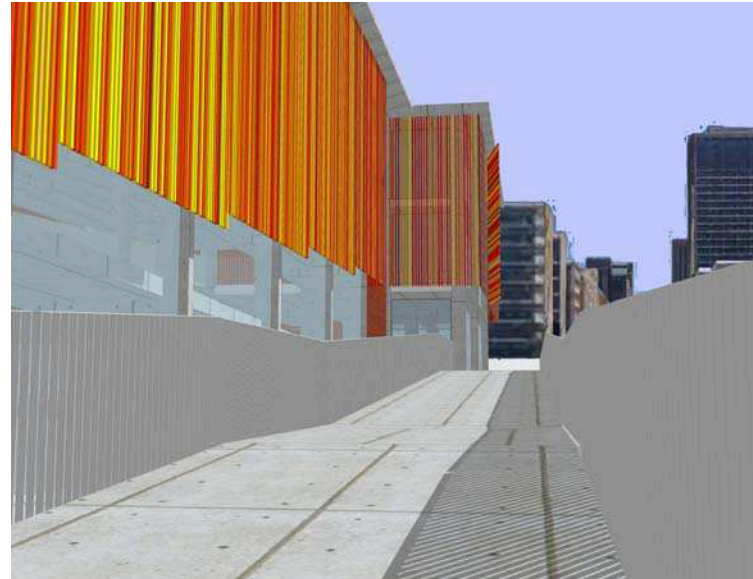
This approach is a view that will be seen by pedestrians coming from the CBD and also by vehicle users using the southbound one way of Andries Street. This approach reveals the screen, the external ramp, the community artwork, the open ground level (which allows you to see into the main community gathering space), and large signage located on the two brick panels visible from this point. Also the new Bolusanthus Speciosus Trees (Tree Wisteria; Vanwykshout) can be seen as part of the design and rhythm of the facade.



illus. 7.13 Southern approach

7.7.2 Southern approach

The approach sees the extension of the sidewalk upwards to the first level, with the Wesley Methodist church framing the other side of the street. This approach also reveals views into buildings on the eastern side, into the atrium-and-ramp volume.



illus. 7.14 Northern approach

7.7.3 Up the ramp

The ramp as an extension of sidewalk space (public realm) becomes a vantage point as you move upwards. The ramp extends to become a flat balcony space which is designed to act as gathering and meeting point. The ramp is also generously sized and can accommodate a random gathering of people.



illus. 7.15 Under the ramp



illus. 7,16 Sketch showing Corner with screen

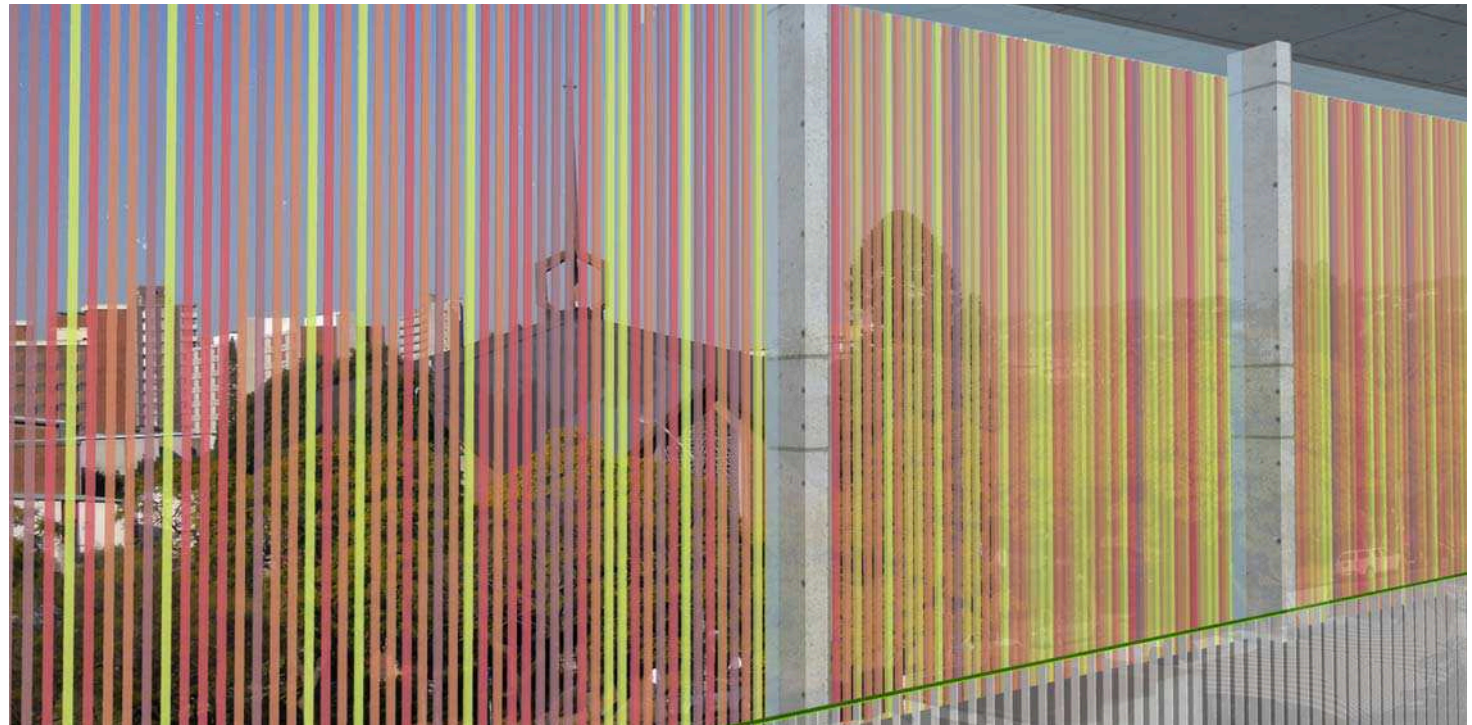
7.8 Interior

7.8.1 View from reading space towards Burger's Park and B.J. Vorster Tower

The view towards the B.J Vorster Tower is utilised by placing and orientating reading spaces towards it. The presence of objects within view, during reading, makes for good eye distraction and helps for eye fatigue and concentration span.

7.8.2 View towards Wesley church

This is an intentional directional view when using the ramp on the eastern edge of the building. The rhythm of the structure and screen filters the omni-presence of the church building across the street.



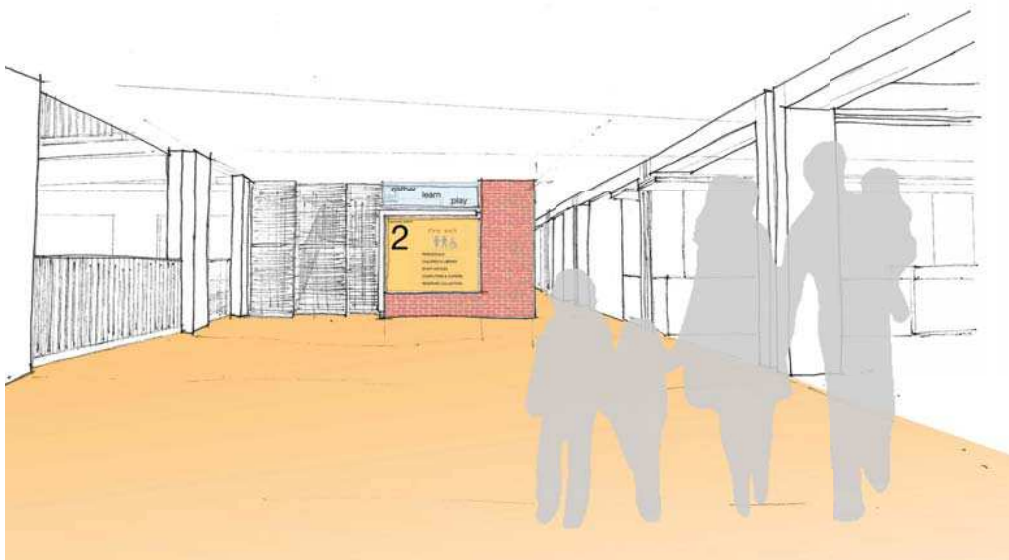
illus. 7.17 View towards Wesley Methodist Church



illus. 7.18 View towards B.J. Vorster Tower from the reading room



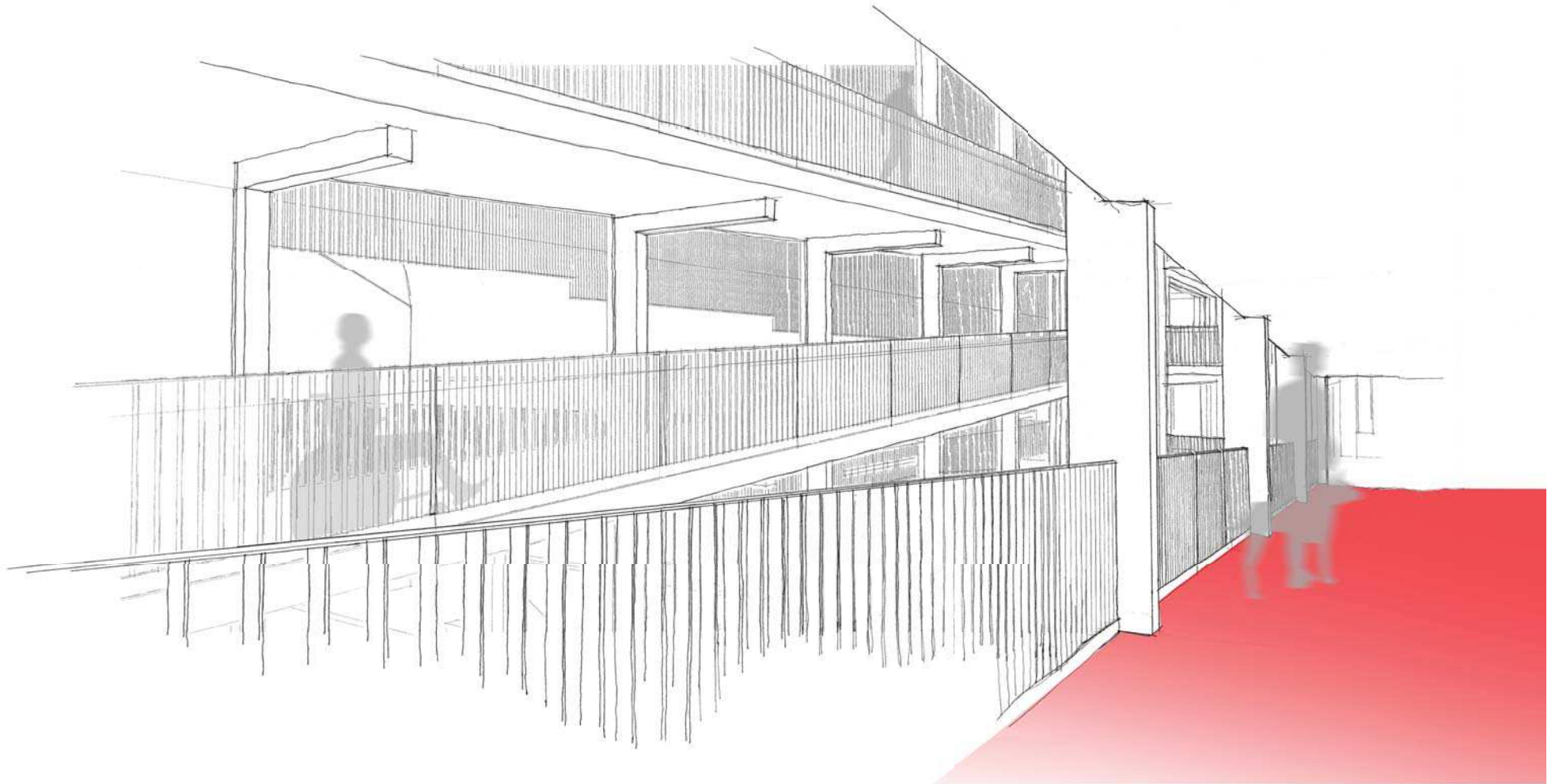
illus. 7.19 Interior view of stacks



illus. 7.20 Lobby signage



illus. 7.21 North wing service staircase and delivery entrance



illus. 7.22 View over atrium from west



illus. 7.23 Sketch showing approach from the south; Burger's Park side





illus. 7.24 Sketch showing atrium with colour ceramic screen through eastern fenestration



illus. 7.25 Sketch of ramp and atrium with filtered light from skylights