

# 2

## SITE AND CONTEXT

Mamelodi was established as a black native township in 1945. The project site is located in Mamelodi, a township located on the east of Pretoria. Mamelodi had a humble beginning with only 16 houses to support the then new factory of Eerste Fabrieke. This township has grown to become one of South Africa's largest townships (GAPP 2010: 149). Mamelodi like many townships has had a massive need for housing. In 1948 when the National Party was governing the country they supplied many townships similar to Mamelodi with large mass housing known as the NE-51/9 House prototype (figure 7).

These NE-51/9 houses are mostly found in the west side of Mamelodi, where the township was first established. The township started to grow but because of the industrial buffer zones of Watloo and Silverton on the west, the settlement went eastwards towards the Magaliesburg ridge. The settlement continued to grow towards the east past the Pienaars River, which is the divider of Mamelodi East and West.



Figure 7:NE 51/9 House developed by the CSIR (Author 2016).

The exponential growth Mamelodi experienced led to its rapid growth towards the east which the government could not keep up with. The result of this is a great number of informal settlements located on the east and northern edges of the township. This large influx of immigrants was caused by the proximity of Mamelodi to Pretoria CBD. Much like many townships located on the peripheries of the city, Mamelodi acts as a gateway for those seeking refuge and employment in the city.

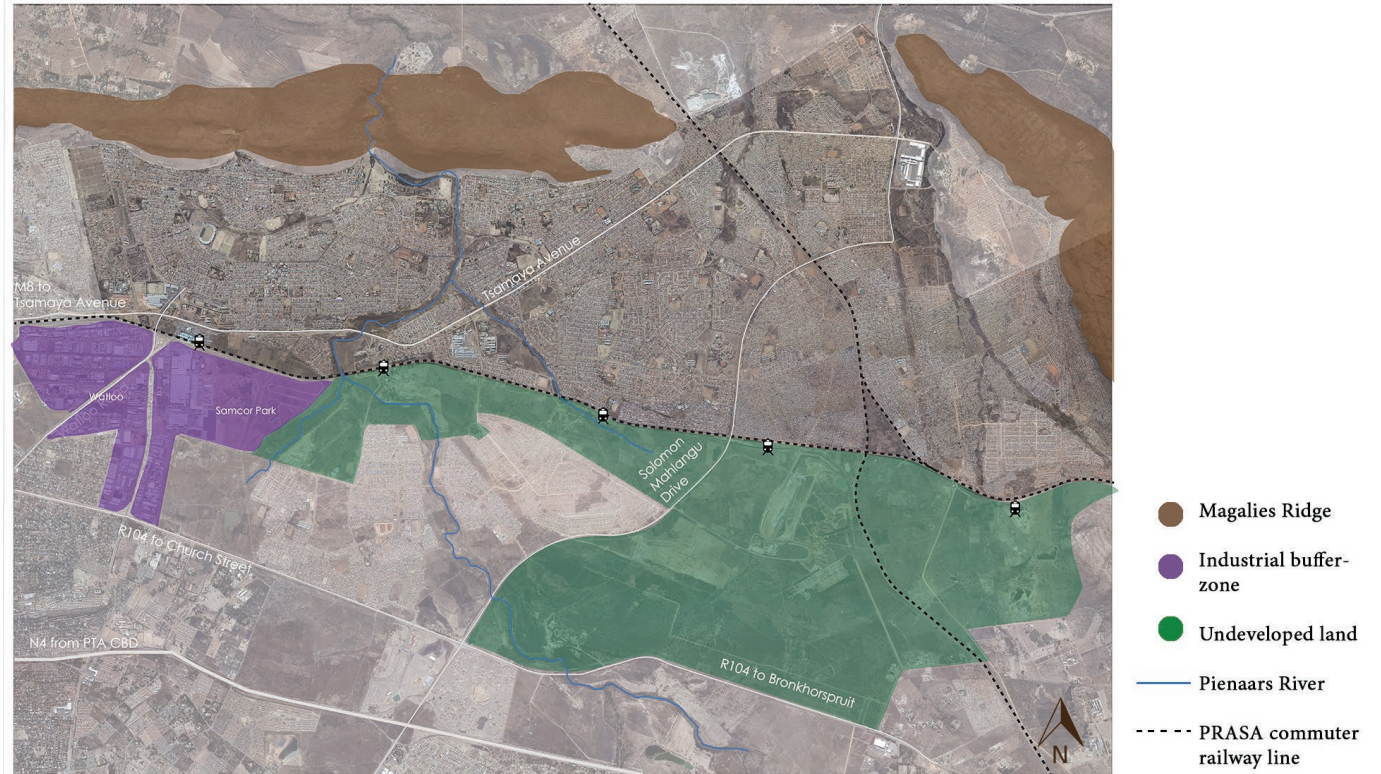


Figure 8: Buffer zones that define Mamelodi (Author 2016).

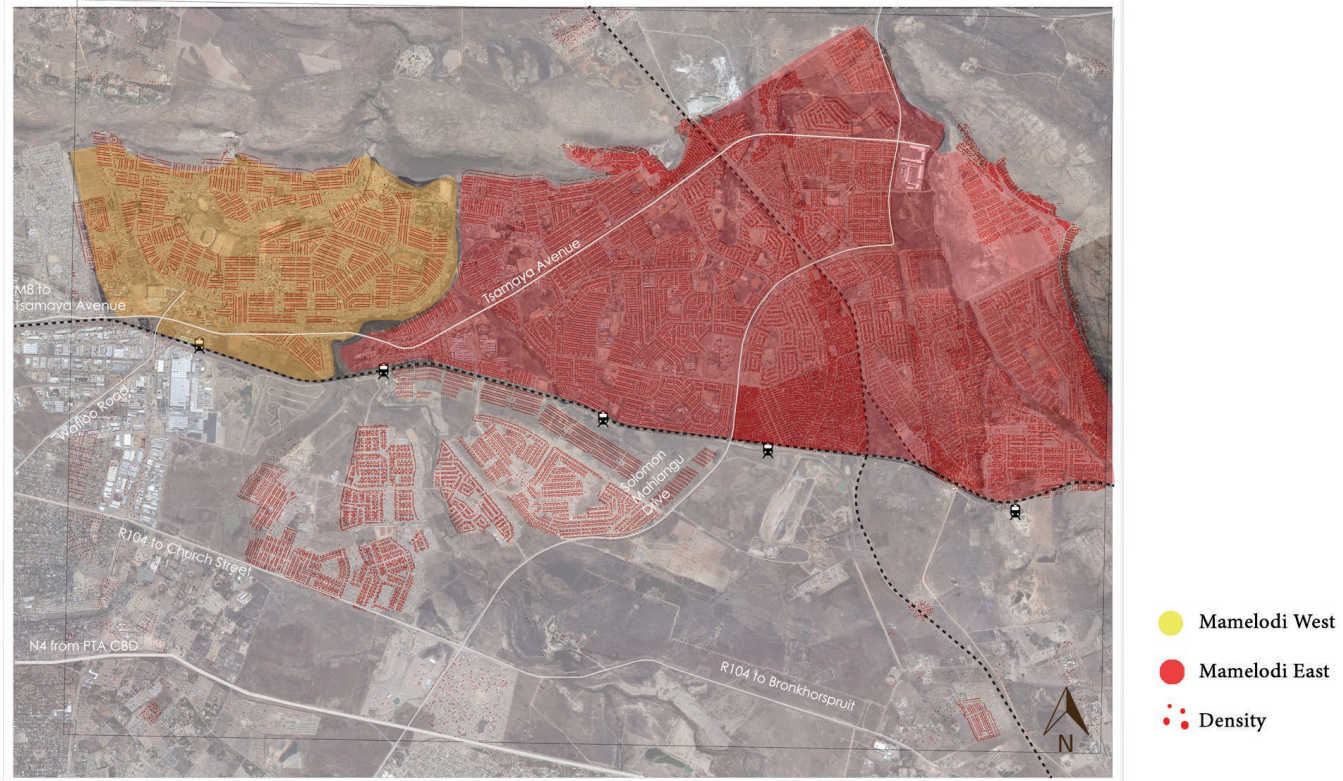


Figure 9: Density map (Author 2016).

Mamelodi grew steadily towards the east but after 1994. It grew rapidly in the east and this is where most informal settlements are located, as shown in the housing diagram, figure 10. As it is, the east is the densest portion of Mamelodi (see figure 9).

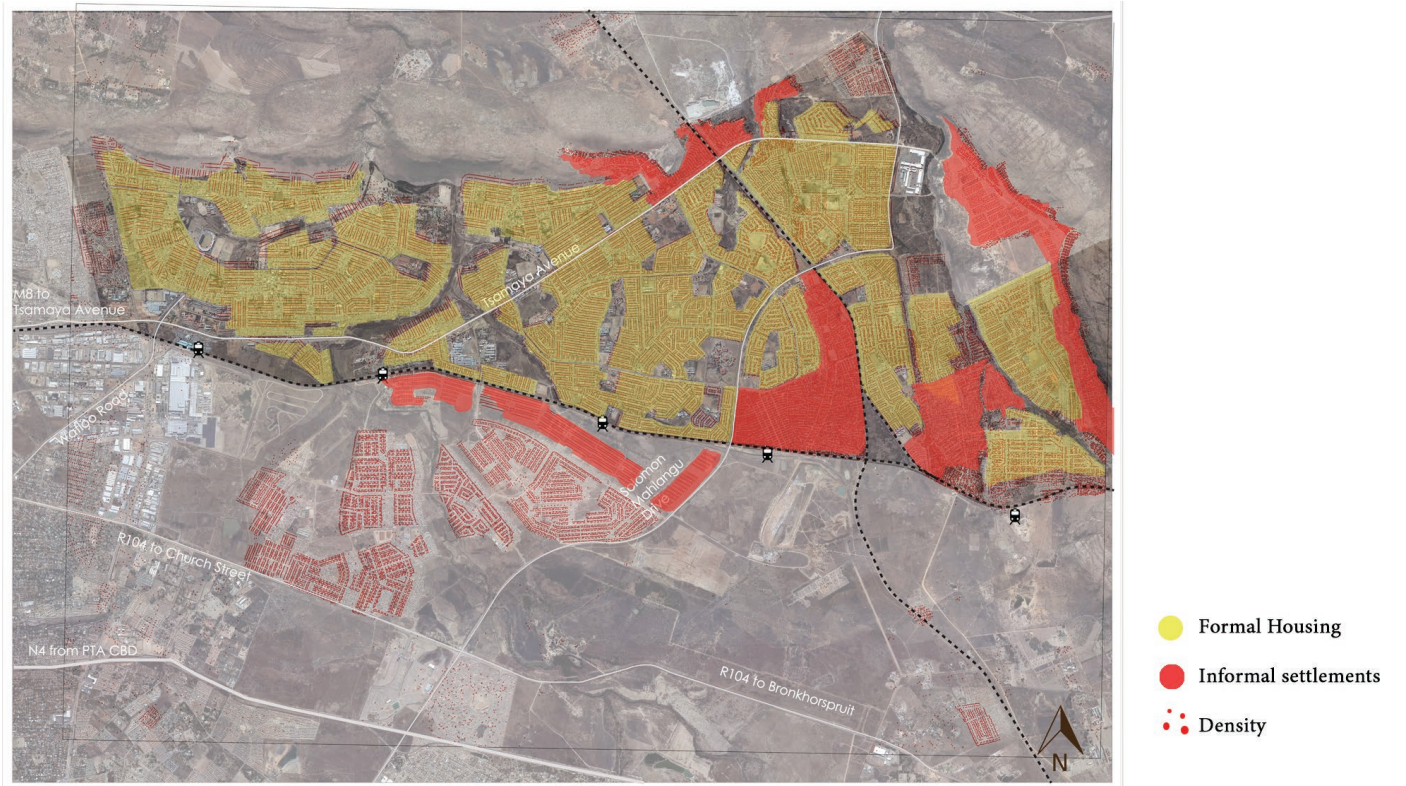


Figure 10: Formal and informal housing (Author 2016).

Post 1994 housing provision came by the Reconstructive Development Programme (RDP) introduced by the government to try and keep up with the housing needs of the community through subsidised housing. This was to cater for settlements established pre 1994 and then later those established post 1994. The programme led to the provision of mass housing schemes carried out in multiple phases across the east of Mamelodi. But unlike the provision of housing during the Apartheid era, the current provision of housing has not been supplemented by the provision of infrastructure networks to help support the growing township. The types of infrastructure that the township would need would be water and sewerage, energy and communication, roads and transportation, economic infrastructure and **public infrastructure**.

Public service infrastructure is well provided for in the west side but towards the east, it becomes less effective due to a larger population and a lack of investment into social infrastructure and more into housing. The provision of public or social infrastructure creates to a varied fabric in Mamelodi. As shown in the public amenities map, figure 11, Mamelodi west is well catered for in terms of the extent of the settlement and the number of public amenities. Mamelodi east is under serviced being the larger settlement with fewer amenities. Eastwards of the settlement there is more inadequate the provision of these services. Access to these basic services, that a community needs to grow, has been delimited and thereby reducing the quality of life that the community may have.

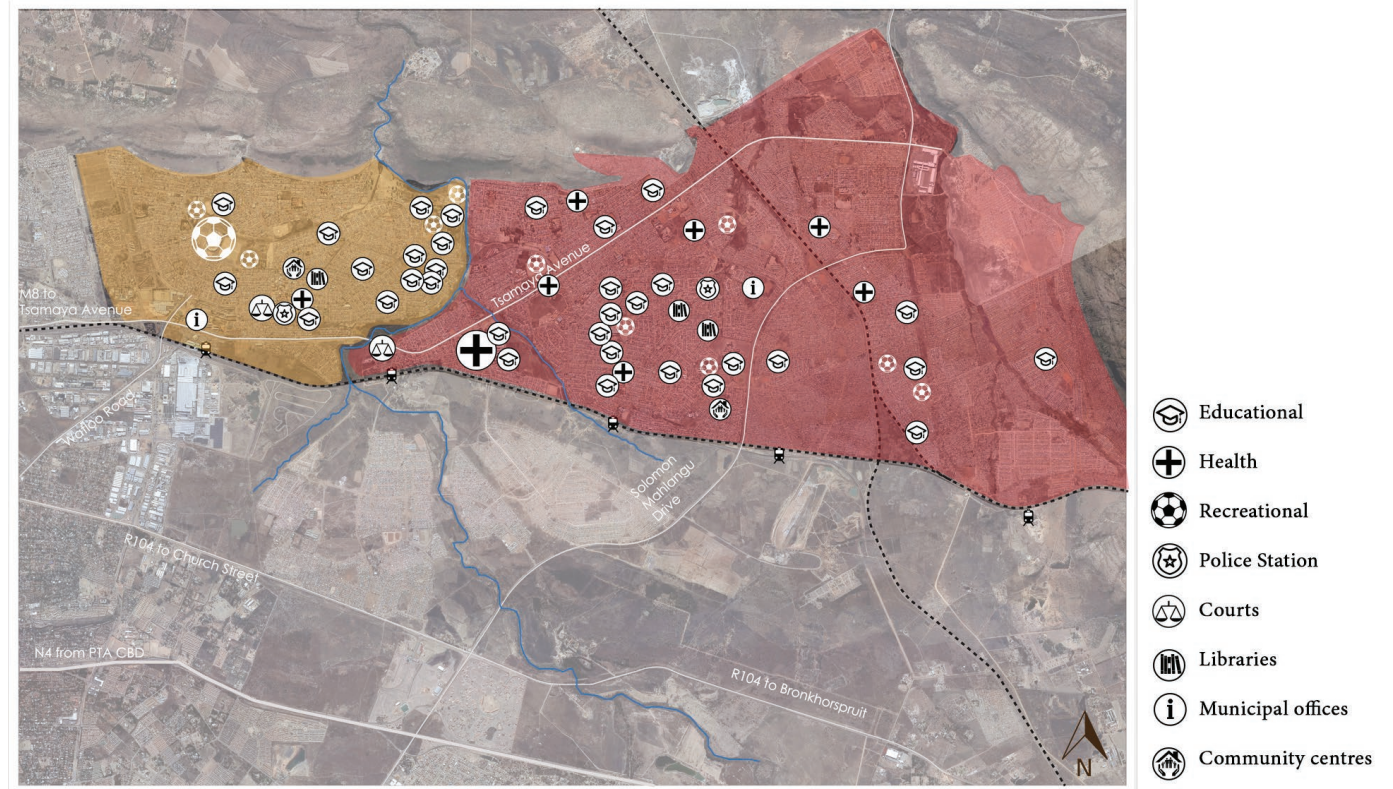


Figure 11: Public Amenities in Mamelodi (Author 2016).

## 2.1 SITE

The area of intervention is located in the Lusaka settlement (see figure 12). The settlement is located to the east of Mamelodi. It forms part of ward 10 and ward 97 of the City of Tshwane. The settlement is defined by Solomon Mahlangu drive on the northern edge and the commuter railway line on the South. On those two edges there is a large transport bus and taxi interchange on Solomon Mahlangu drive and the Pienaarspoort Train Station on the south. Hector Peterson Dr connects the site to Solomon Mahlangu drive and the greater extents of Lusaka to the east and the informal settlement of Alaska on the east periphery of the township.



Figure 12: Site location and extent of reach of the intervention (Author 2016).

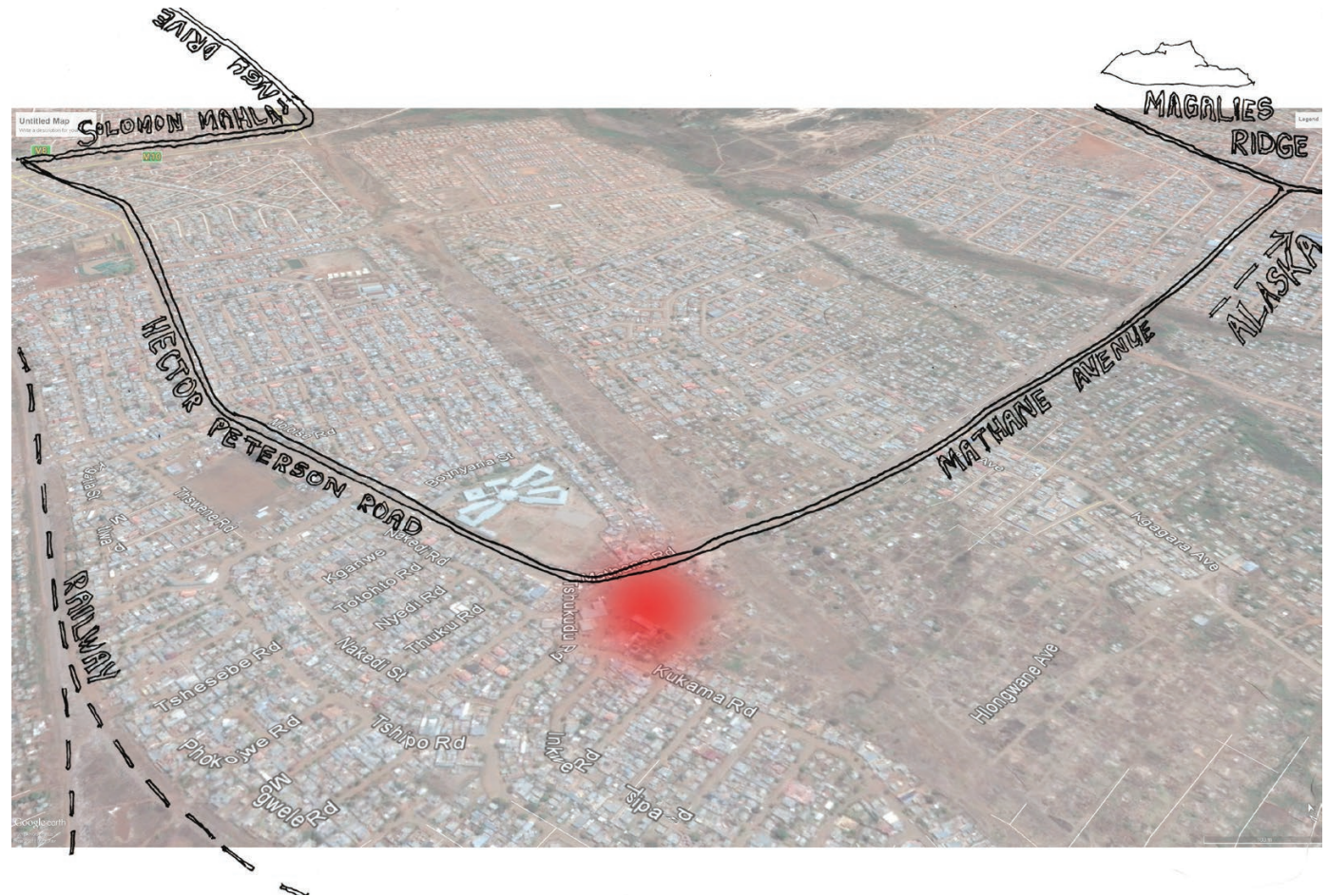


Figure 13: Site edges and constraints (Author 2016).

Lusaka is one of the first phases of the RDP housing scheme and as a result, it is made up of mass housing. Due to the high demand of housing at the time, the Lusaka also plays host to a number of informal dwellings. As a result, the settlement has a very peculiar character. This character can be summarised as a duality. The duality between the formal and informal, **permanence and temporality**.



## 2.2 ANALYSIS OF FABRIC

The dualities experienced in Lusaka leads to it being a very dynamic environment.

### 2.2.1 Movement

The highest frequency of movement on the site is along Hector Peterson Dr. This includes both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. This due to the aforementioned transport nodes located on the northern and southern borders. There is also north to south movement and this secondary movement is predominantly pedestrian traffic moving in the smaller residential pockets along and across Hector Peterson Dr. Mathane Ave. into other neighbourhoods



Figure 14: Energy flow and movement of people and vehicles (Author 2016).

### 2.2.2 The Street

Hector Peterson drive is the main road in the settlement and as such it allows for a vast amount of activities due to the high vehicular and pedestrian. The street edges can be characterised as a **linear public space** with various economic activities such as formal and informal trading, food stalls, welding and cabinet making and such like.

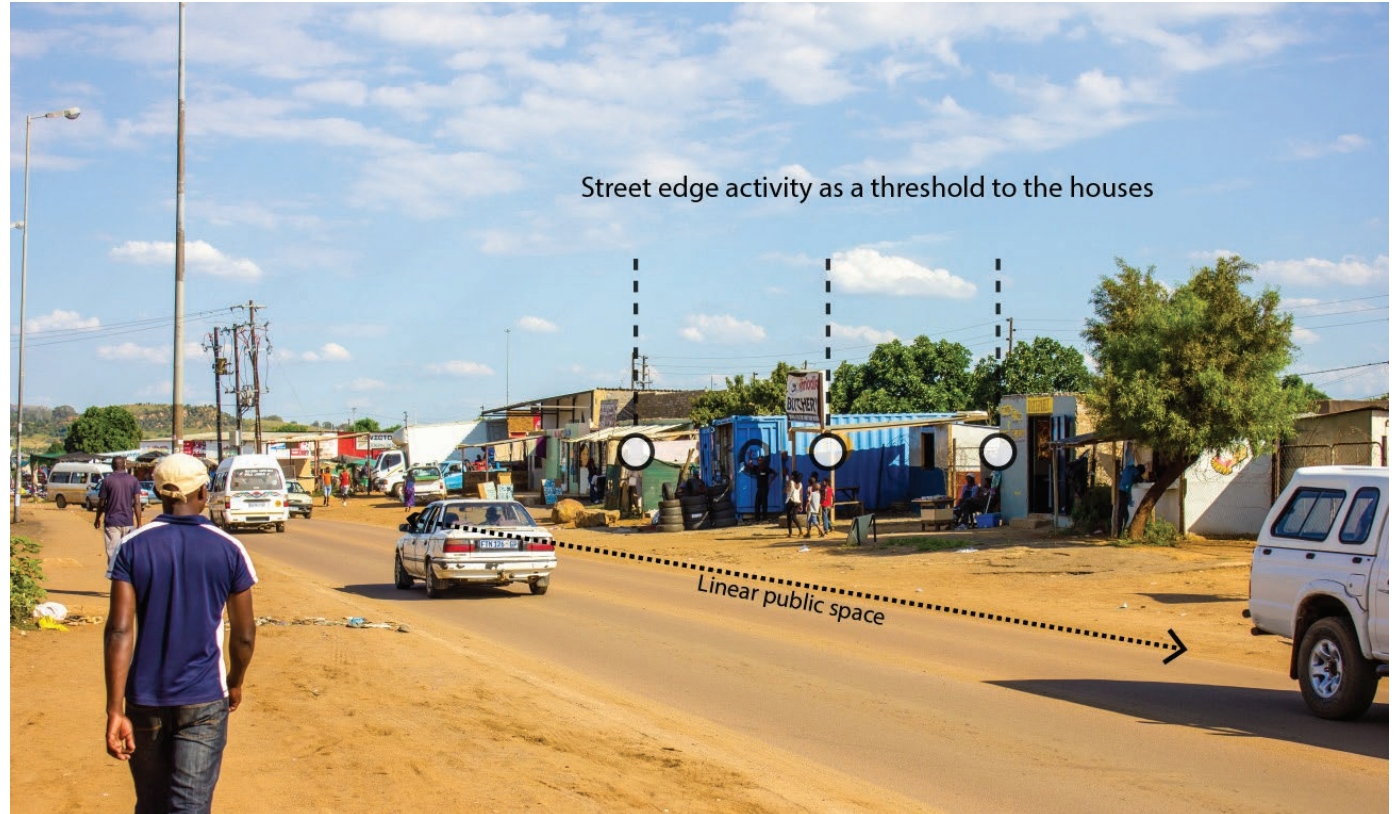


Figure 15: The street as a public space (Author 2016).

### 2.2.3 Housing

Lusaka is made up mostly of RDP houses of various phases. Small pockets of informal settlements are found around Lusaka. New shacks are still being erected across the Lusaka because of the open land around Lusaka and because Lusaka is better connected to the rest of Mamelodi as opposed to Alaska informal settlement found along the Magaliesburg Ridge. Most of the shacks located in and around Lusaka been around for years as some have been identified and recognised by the municipality and given permanent status.



Figure 16: Shacks that are marked and recognised by the municipality (Author 2016).

#### 2.2.4 Social /cultural

Religion seems to be an important component in the lives of the community as you find varied religious denomination along the main road and even deeper in Lusaka. Recreational activities also form part of their lives. These include recreational spaces provided by the school such as the sports fields found in Meetse a Bophelo Primary School but also open lots where the public plays soccer. Some of the opens lots even belong to sports clubs such a Victory Soccer Field.



Figure 17: One of few recreational spaces and religious building (Author 2016).

### 2.2.5 Architectural

Formal and informal, permanence and temporality, as characteristics of Lusaka, play an important role in defining the architectural character of the site. It is a mixture of organised growth and organic growth. Additions to existing house also vary in form, some are of the same architectural language and some are in complete contrast.

The architectural language varies from Tuscan styled houses to you simple shack dwelling. The guiding principles that seem to determine the building language is the amount of money the home owner has, their **aspiration** levels, spatial constraints and whether they see Lusaka as a place of permanence or a transitory place.



Figure 18: Movement and energy flow across the site (Hector Peterson Road (Author 2016).



Figure 19: Commercial edges of the site (Tshukudu Street) (Author 2016).



Figure 20: Architectural language as signs of aspiration (Author 2016).

