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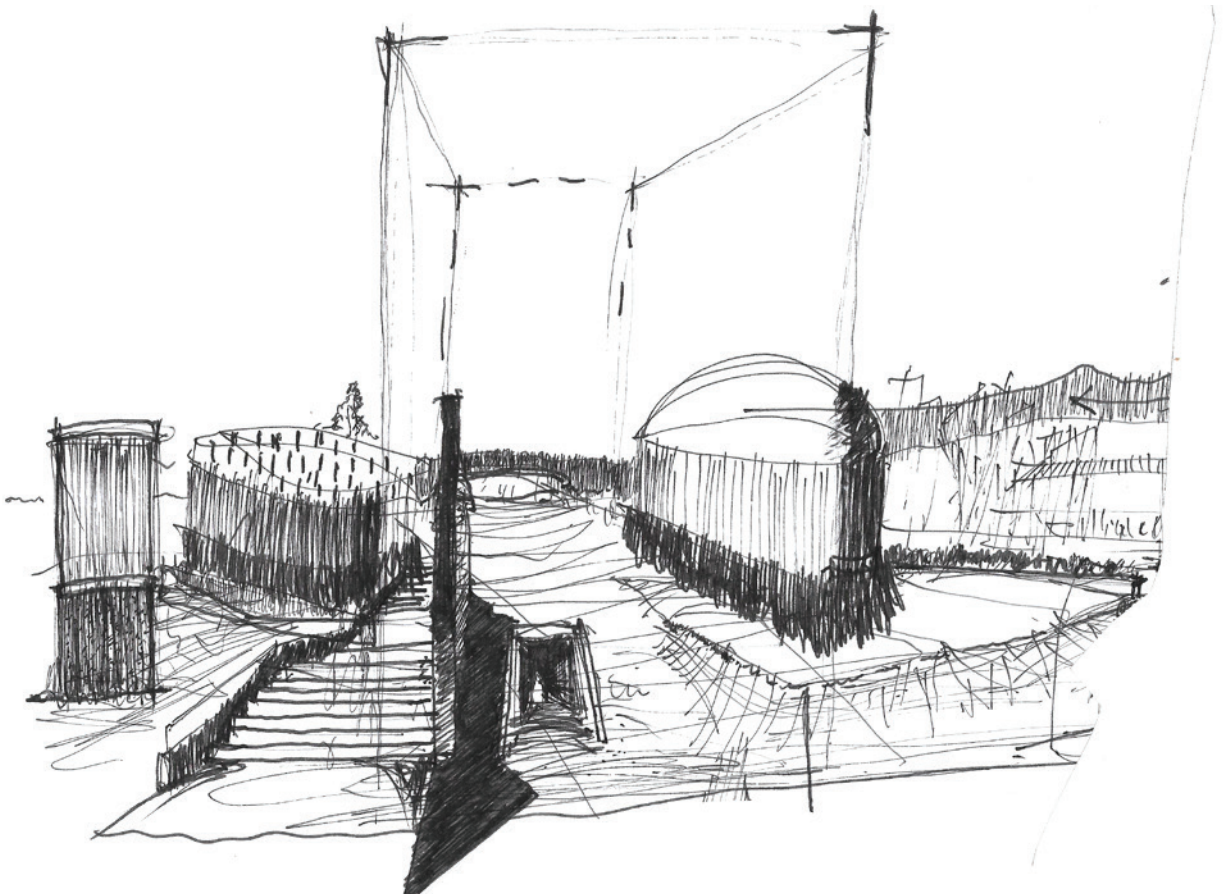
SITE ANALYSIS

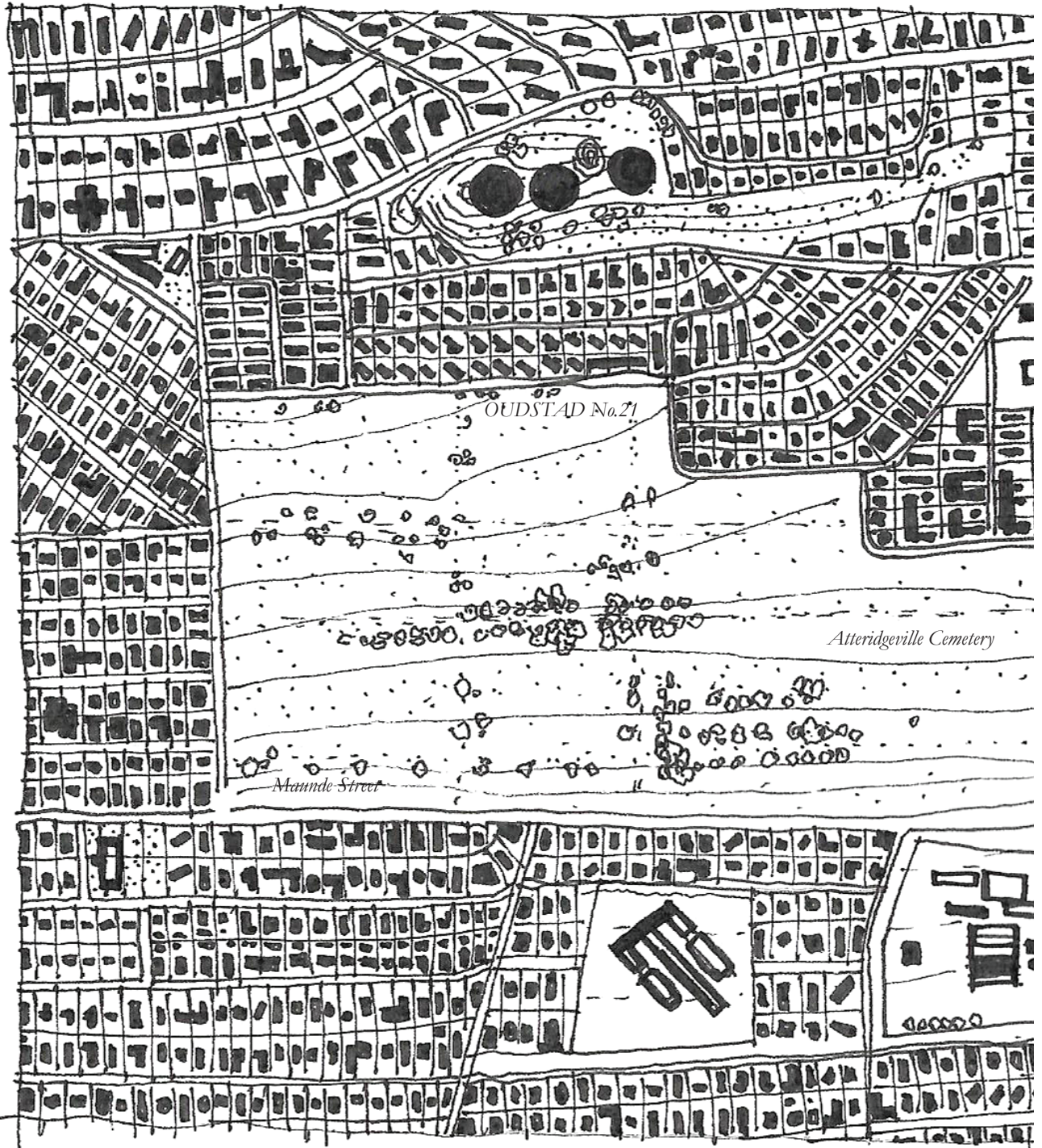
Uncover the spirit of place

Identifying the internal forces and external conditions that give the site its unique character, highlighting possibilities and understanding the qualities of space and the opportunities they provide. Sketches, history, photographs and precedents aim to uncover the spirit of the site.

Fig.35. Conceptually activating the vertical plane on site. Connection with sky. March, 2016.

OUDSTAD No. 21





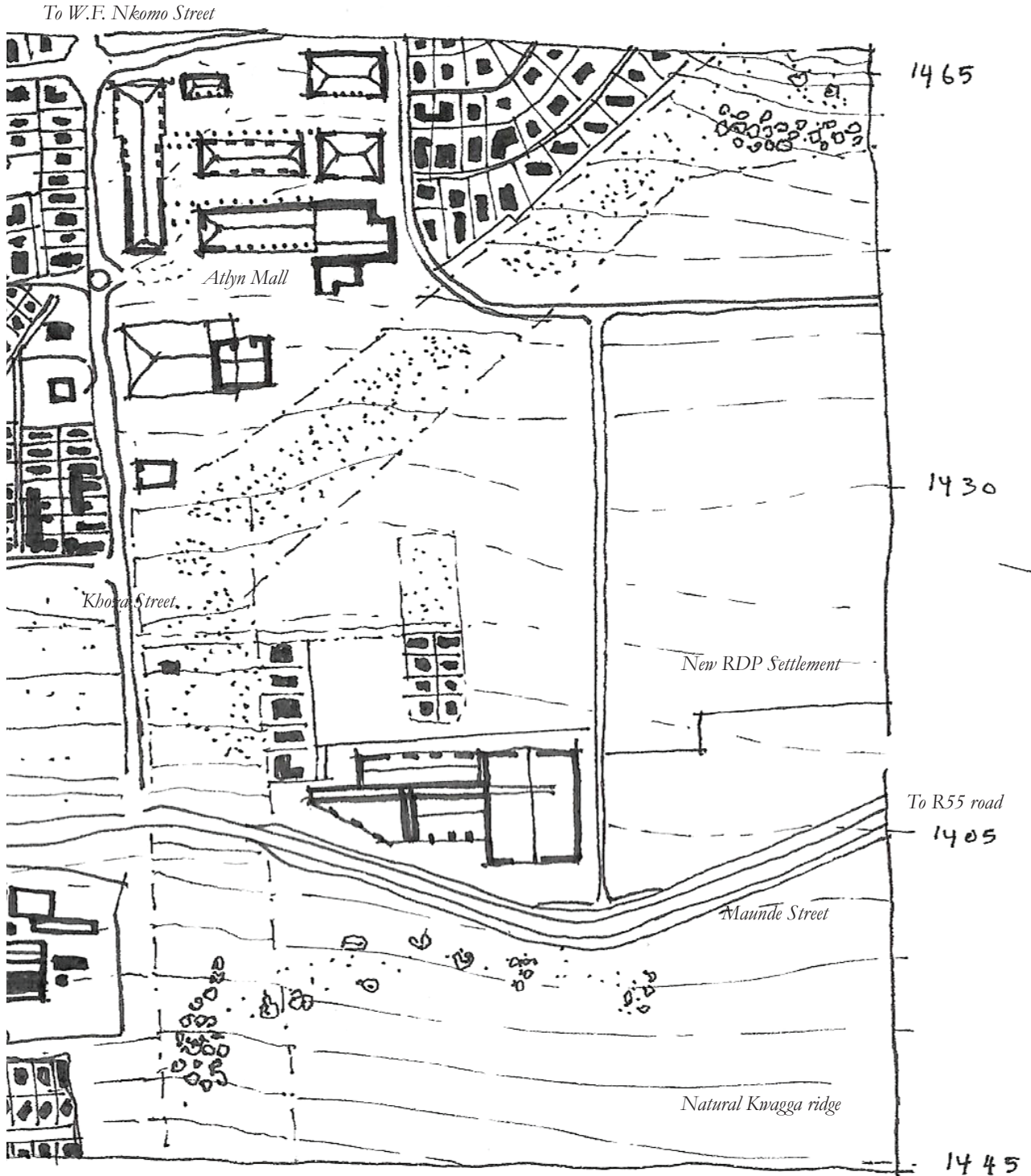


Fig.36. Noli map of site in the larger context highlighting Maunde Street, Atteridgeville Cemetery and Atlyn Mall. August, 2016.

3.1 AWARENESS OF PLACE

Defining the Genius loci

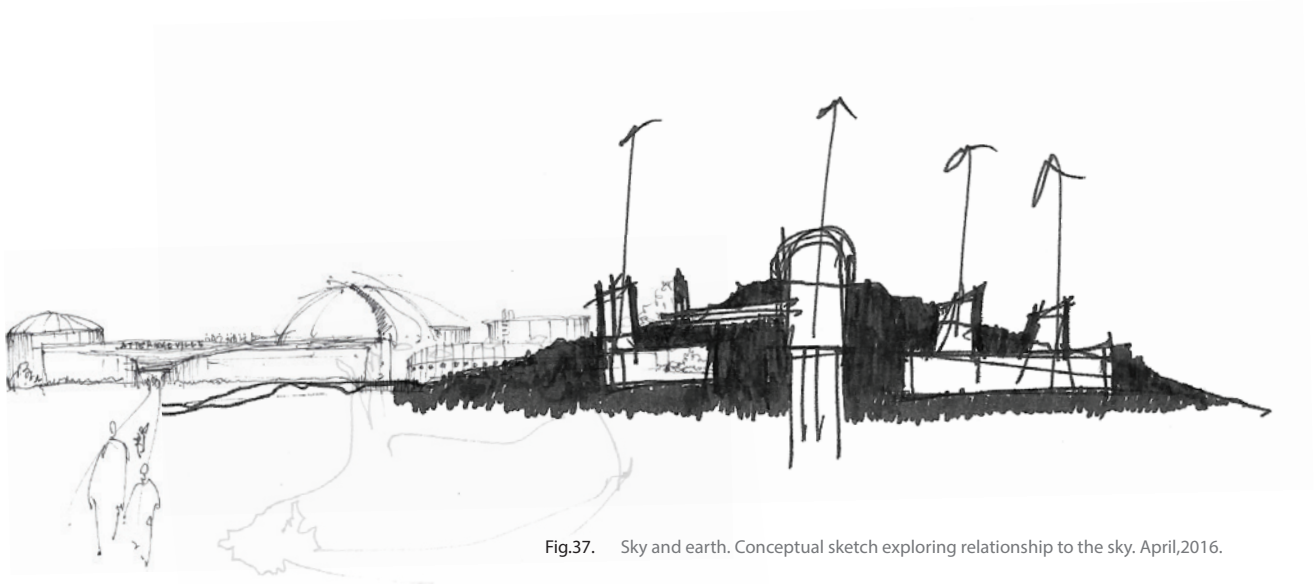


Fig.37. Sky and earth. Conceptual sketch exploring relationship to the sky. April,2016.

“Greater awareness of the negative space may help us to better respect our surroundings by realising its unevenness and how difficult it can be to architecturally frame and integrate a spirit that is far older than anything within our usual realm of reference.” Ozuzman, (2002:13)

1 » *The neighbourhood park*

Due to the gradual slope of the site, only certain activities can be accommodated. Running, jumping, hiding and child's play are encouraged. Whilst sports and picnics might prove difficult due to the constant fall. This encourages visitors to explore better options on site.

2 » *Damaged landscape*

The embankment creates two severed conditions, the first is the street condition and the second the plateau. This embankment, like a boundary wall, keeps energy out. Overcoming this barrier allows the site to be better connected to Mankopane Street.

3 » *Natural landscape*

This segment of the site is currently overgrown with grass and bushes. There is opportunity here to restore the ridge to its natural state. Introducing a demarcated movement route allows visitors to meander without destroying the restored ridge.

4 » *Visual Route*

The colloquial term for a thoroughfare is "double-up", this route allows the daily user to double-up around the apex of this hill while giving the passer-by the opportunity to appreciate the surrounding natural landscape and homes of Atteridgeville.

5 » *Barriers*

Two residential lots block the tail-piece from reaching the high street, Khoza. This barrier creates a desolate left over space on the hill. Renegotiating these barriers might aid in creating a well connected park. Drawing energy from Atlyn mall.

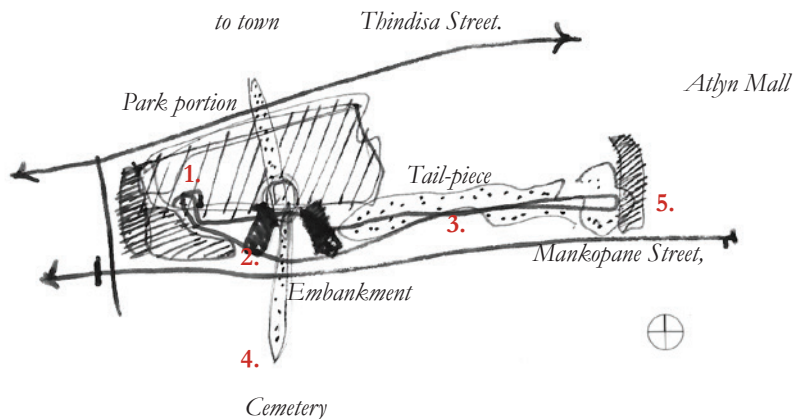


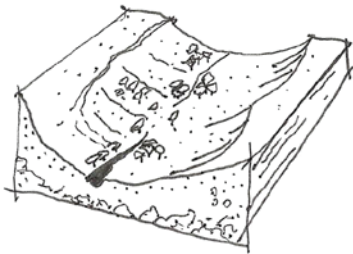
Fig.38. Zoning diagram illustrating areas of common spatial qualities. May, 2016.

3.2 CHRONOLOGICAL PROFILE

Development of site



Fig.39. The 8ML tank up-close. May, 2016.



1 » *First Nature - Pre 1936*

The hilltop was part of a larger whole - belonging to the highveld region, forming a unit in the network of articulated ridges and savannah grasslands. This is characteristic of the geographic region in which Pretoria was established (Stals 1998:42).



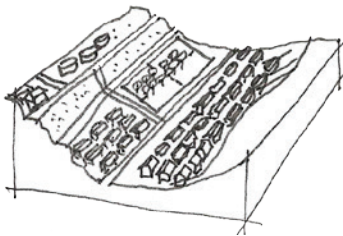
2 » *Mrs. Atteridge - 1936*

406ha are set aside to provide 3000 new homes for the relocation of African residents out of Marabastad and into Atteridgeville. A four Mega litre tank is amongst the first amenities to be provided (Stals, 1998:47). This is the first intervention on the hilltop.



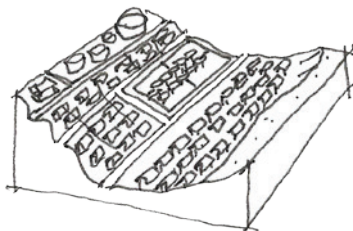
3 » *Original layout - 1939*

Atteridgeville's initial planning of 3000 plots was revised to a total of 5800 new plots. The cemetery was demarcated and laid out at the base of the hill. Water supply would not be met by the original four mega litre tank.



4 » *Reconfiguration of allocated plots - 1951 - 1953*

The plot allocation of the first 406ha had to be reconfigured to accommodate 6278 new plots (Stals, 1989:50). Two new eight mega litre tanks are erected to supply the new demand. The sum of the supply of the reservoirs now amounts to twenty mega litres.



5 » *Saulsville - Post 1953*

Having undergone numerous revisions in the planning process, the Pretoria City Council decided to introduce a 40 meter diameter tank. This tank had the capacity of all three tanks combined. The original tank was decommissioned after the completion of the twenty mega litre addition.

Fig.40. Imaginative diagram of the development of site in context

3.3 SITE STUDY

Topographical analysis

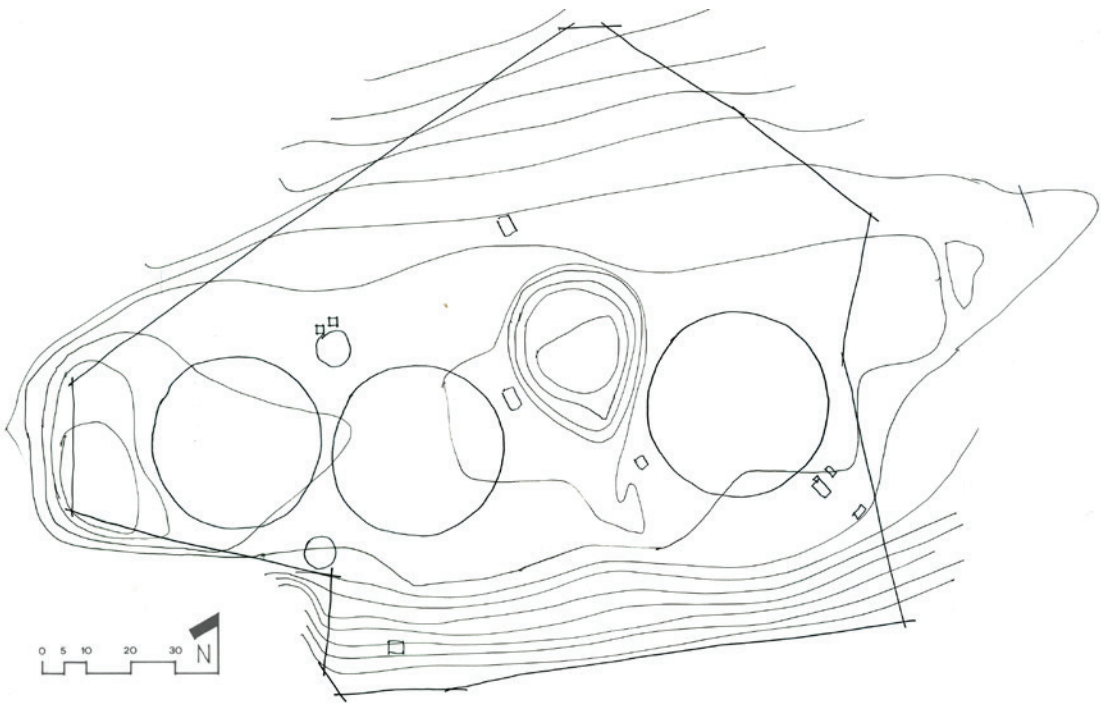
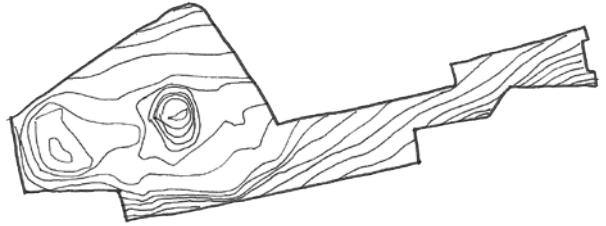


Fig.41. The contour map. The gentle slope on the north can be compared to the embankment on the south.

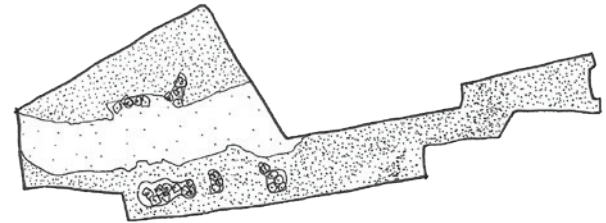
1 » *Topography*

The site has a unique plateau upon which the tanks rest on. Furthermore the submerged tank has been naturally reclaimed by the highveld. Towards the south the harsh slope is noticeable.



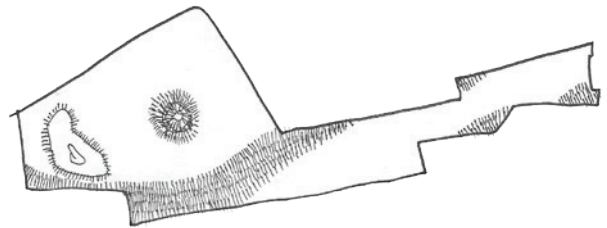
2 » *Vegetation*

With the exception of the trees planted to conceal the water tanks, the site remains in its natural state. Showing resemblance to the undisturbed ridges south of the site.



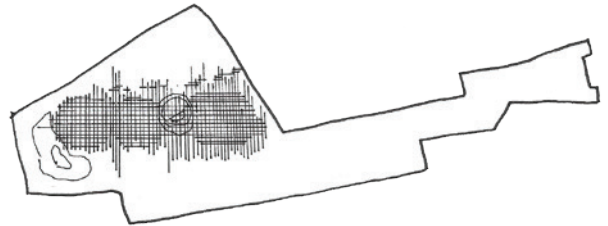
3 » *Embankment*

The large plateau created as the platform for the water reservoirs has resulted in an escarpment on the southern portion of the site. Displaying slopes reaching 1:4.5.



4 » *Ruined*

The placement of the water reservoirs has divided the site into two separate portions, the north, and south. Whilst the north invites larger crowds, the south is nestled between the residences.



5 » *Special features*

The site boasts vistas and routes of discovery. The procession and sequence of events is very much controlled by the topography and moments of rest.

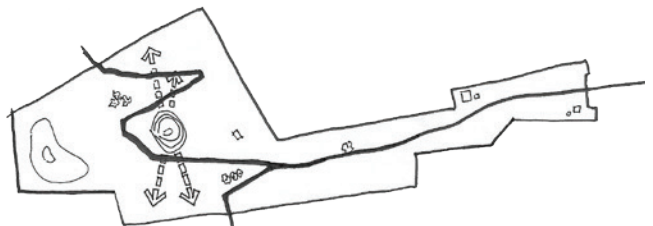


Fig.42. Understanding the conditions of the site. July, 2016. NTS

3.4 PHOTO ESSAY

Reclaim

The following collection of images serve as the conclusion to the qualitative analysis. Inviting the viewer to experience the domination of the concrete reservoirs on the ridge, and the connection to the sky and beyond, it becomes clear that Oudstad No. 21 can be categorised as a 'green island', due to its disconnection from the urban fabric.

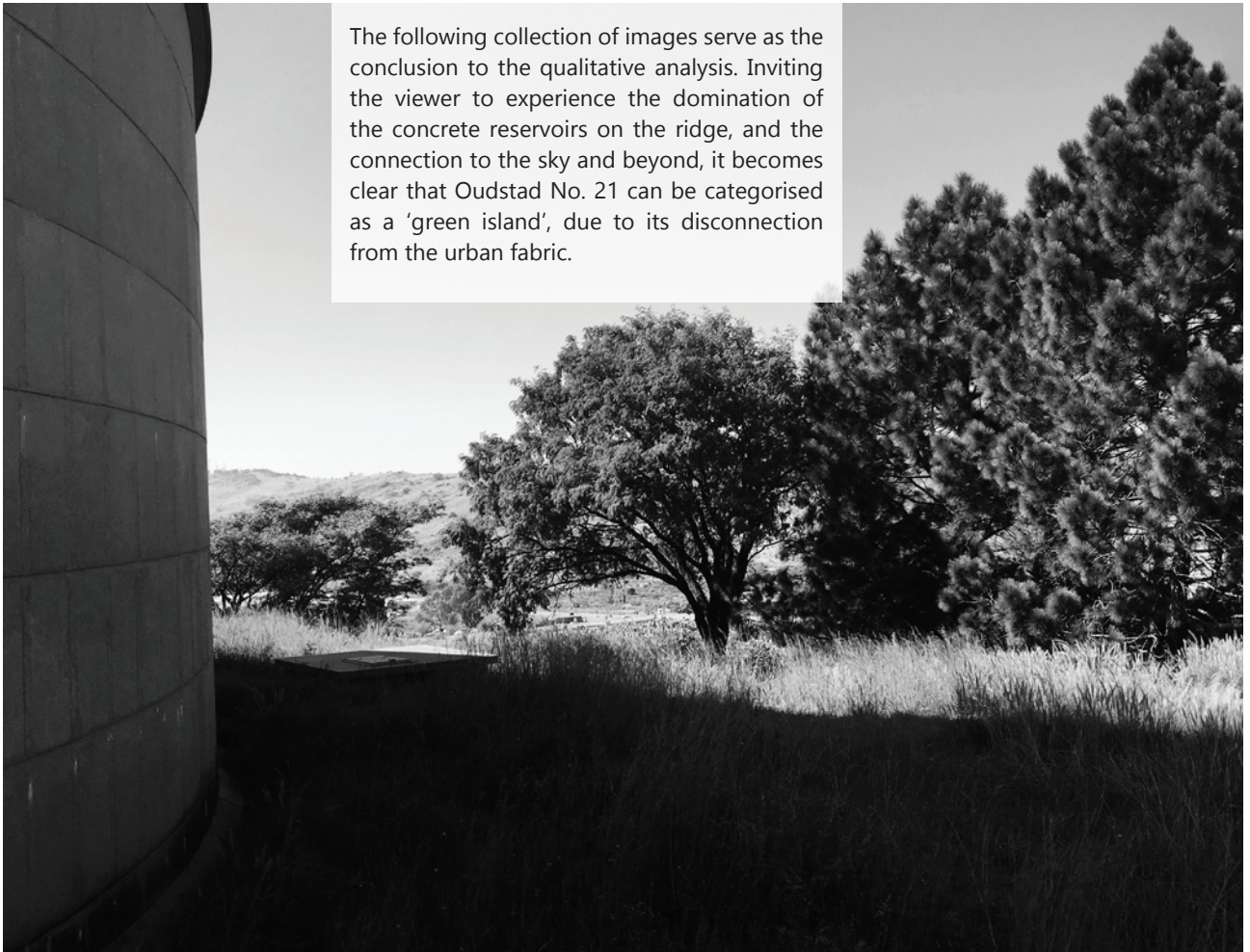




Fig.43. From the Plateau. View south, only the rooftops of the surrounding homes are visible. In the valley, the homes of greater Atteridgeville. Clear winter sky, May, 2016.



Fig.44. Passers-by on Mankopane Street. Nestled between the homes on the hill top, the site is completely hidden from its immediate context. February, 2016.



Fig.45. The hills beyond. View south over-looking the quality control tank. In the distance the Quaaqa Mountain range stretches east separating Laudium from Atteridgeville . April, 2016.



Fig.46. The 20 Mega litre tank



Fig.47. Panorama looking north towards Lotus Gardens.



Fig.48. View of the green island.



Fig.49. View towards disused buried tank.





Fig.50. Formidable. The three platonic circles stand side-by-side fortifying the site, looking east the dome of the 20ML tank can be seen in the background. April, 2016.



Fig.51. Looking North the disused tank provides another plateau which acts as a lookout point. Figure 24 shows the view north onto Lotus Gardens, dubbed 'silver lakes' due to the tin roof construction seen in recent developments. April, 2016.



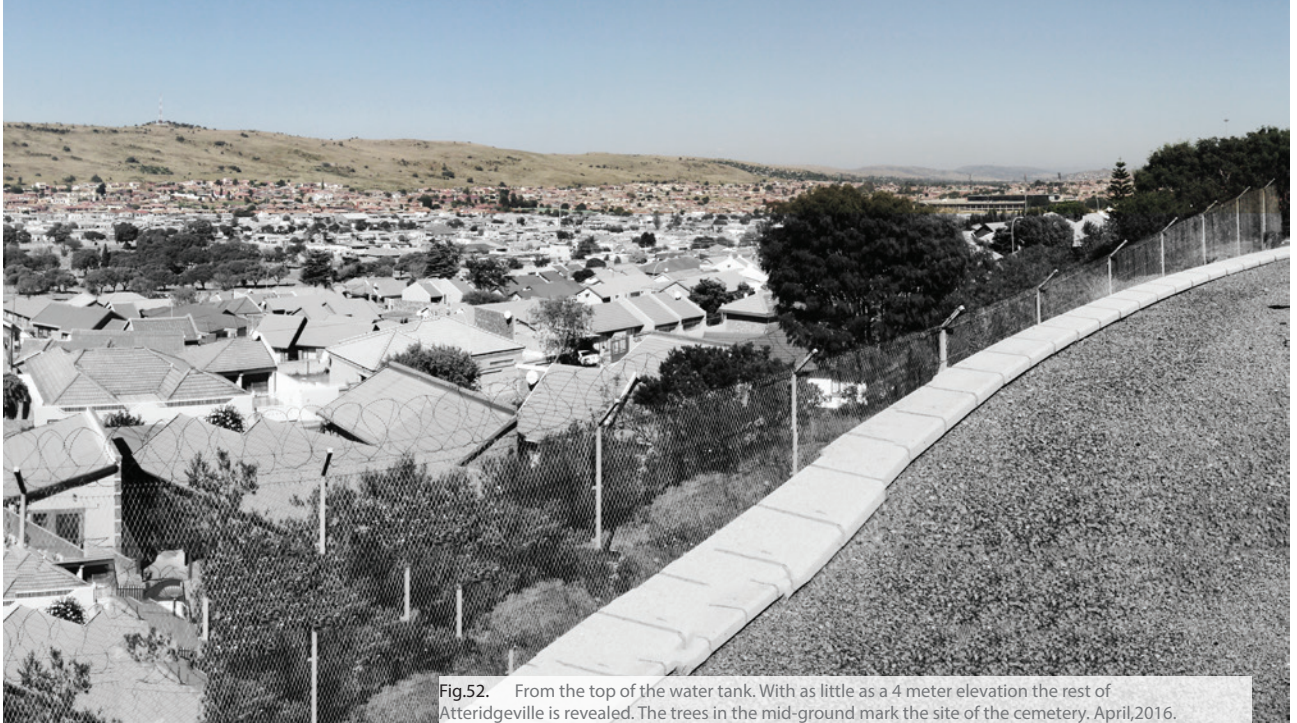
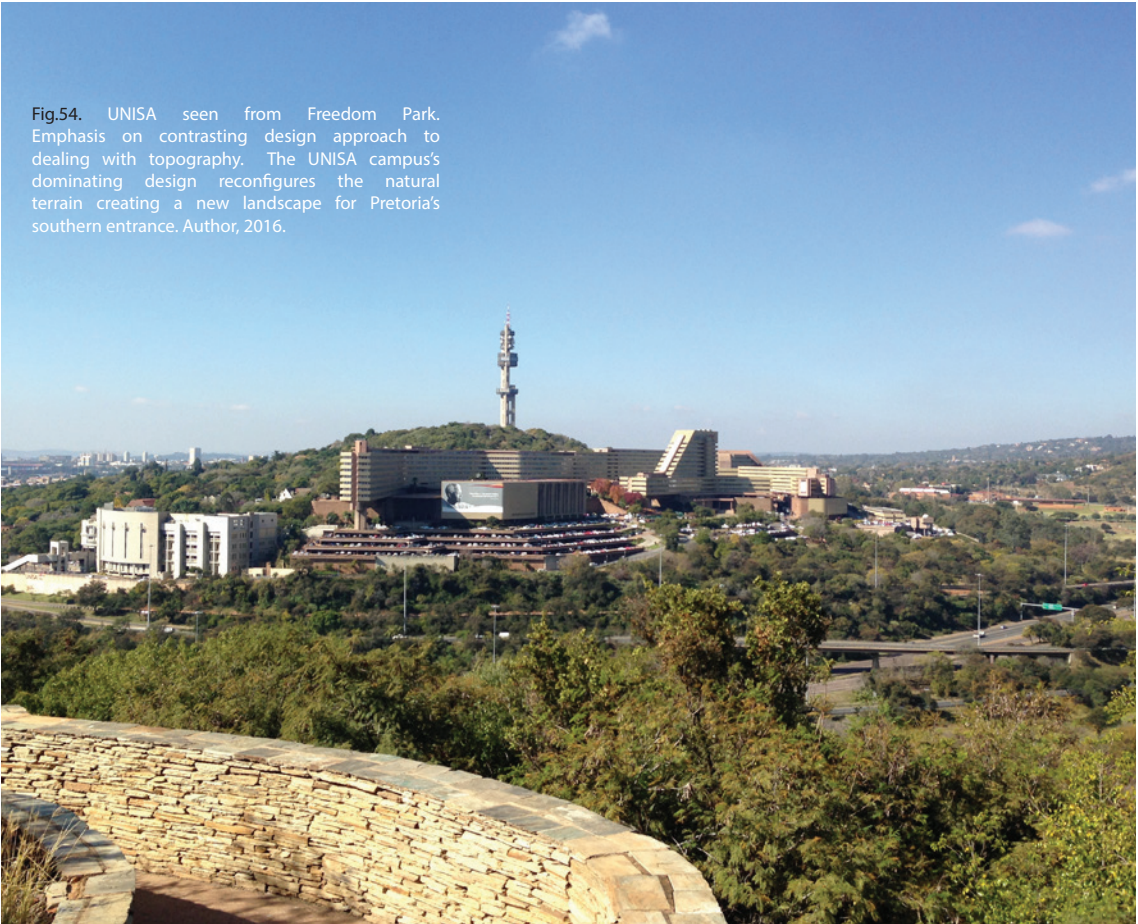


Fig.52. From the top of the water tank. With as little as a 4 meter elevation the rest of Atteridgeville is revealed. The trees in the mid-ground mark the site of the cemetery, April, 2016.



Fig.53. BFG. The gigantic tanks are softened by their round shapes. Direction and movement are guided where they bottle-neck. Foreground and background: 8ML tanks, mid-ground quality control tank. April, 2016.

Fig.54. UNISA seen from Freedom Park. Emphasis on contrasting design approach to dealing with topography. The UNISA campus's dominating design reconfigures the natural terrain creating a new landscape for Pretoria's southern entrance. Author, 2016.



GAPP, MASHABANE ROSE + MMA, 2000

FREEDOM PARK
PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

Jonathan Noble's (2016) lecture on *African Identity in Post-Apartheid Public Architecture* questions the notion of commemoration in an African context. Noble argues that the focus is on practices and rituals which are symbolic, rather than emphasising the object. He explains that the focus on form is a Western notion. Noble uses Freedom Park to illustrate an understanding of this notion. The subtle presence of architecture (the reed lights) on the Salvokop hill exemplify a dematerialisation of monumentality, contesting the monolithic structure of the Voortrekker Monument and the University of South Africa Campus seen above.

AUTHOR'S NOTES

Inspiration drawn from this project includes the approach to a significant ridge. The sensitive layering of the site merges the landscape with the architecture. Pathways meandering in the landscape create individual pockets of space that allow for contemplation while the buildings provide opportunities for collective gathering.



Fig.55. The Freedom Park. Southern Elevation, Architecture is noticeable in the Reed lights at dusk. Graham A. Young, 2012.



Fig.56. Pretoria CBD from Freedom Park. The relationship of Natural features with urban cores. Author, 2016.



Fig.57. Provision of safe environment for children. Image courtesy of Colectivo720

COLECTIVE720, 2014

ARTICULATED SITE

WATER RESERVOIR AS A PUBLIC PARK, MEDELIN, COLOMBIA

The site comprises of four municipal fresh water tanks. The project makes use of two disused tanks and maintains the function of the other two. The intervention aims to create an inclusive environment which serves the surrounding neighbourhoods while maintaining functionality of the tanks. As described by the architects, the scheme combines leisure and function in unused spaces in the city, providing relief to a dense portion of the city with a quality park environment. (Lafarge Holcim Foundation, 2016).

The scheme successfully intertwines Architecture, Landscape, Infrastructure and Urban Design, to create a civic space aimed at the local resident. This complexity is achieved by bringing energy to an otherwise overlooked site, giving back to the surrounding neighbourhoods.

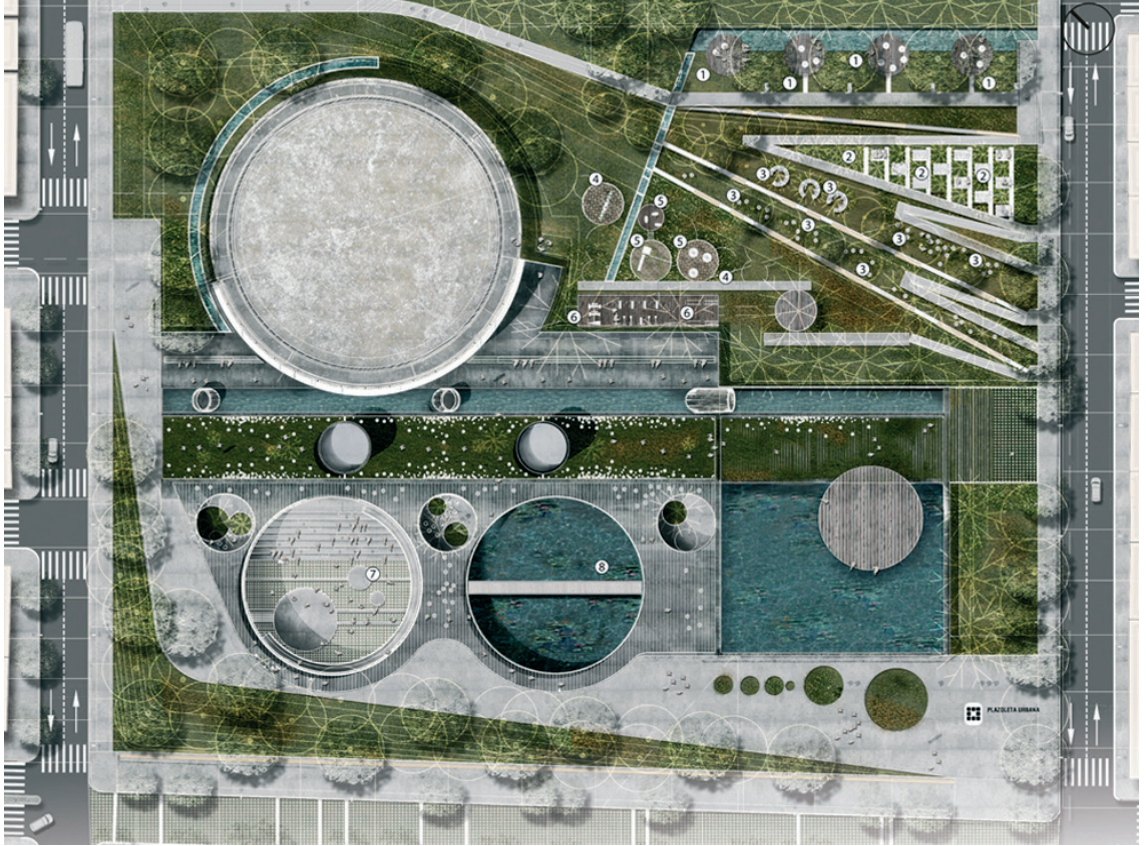


Fig.59. Maintaining functionality of the site while proposing new functions for the disused tanks. Image courtesy of Colectivo720



Fig.58. Reintegration of unused site into urban fabric. Image courtesy of Colectivo720