

B_PREPARATION_Part 1

INVESTIGATION OF THE PROBLEM'S DIMENSIONS

The First Stage of the Creative Process, according to Wallas (1926) is Preparation. The Preparation process prescribes an investigation and analysis of the Problem to be

solved, providing the individual with the knowledge and tools to develop an innovative and relevant solution.

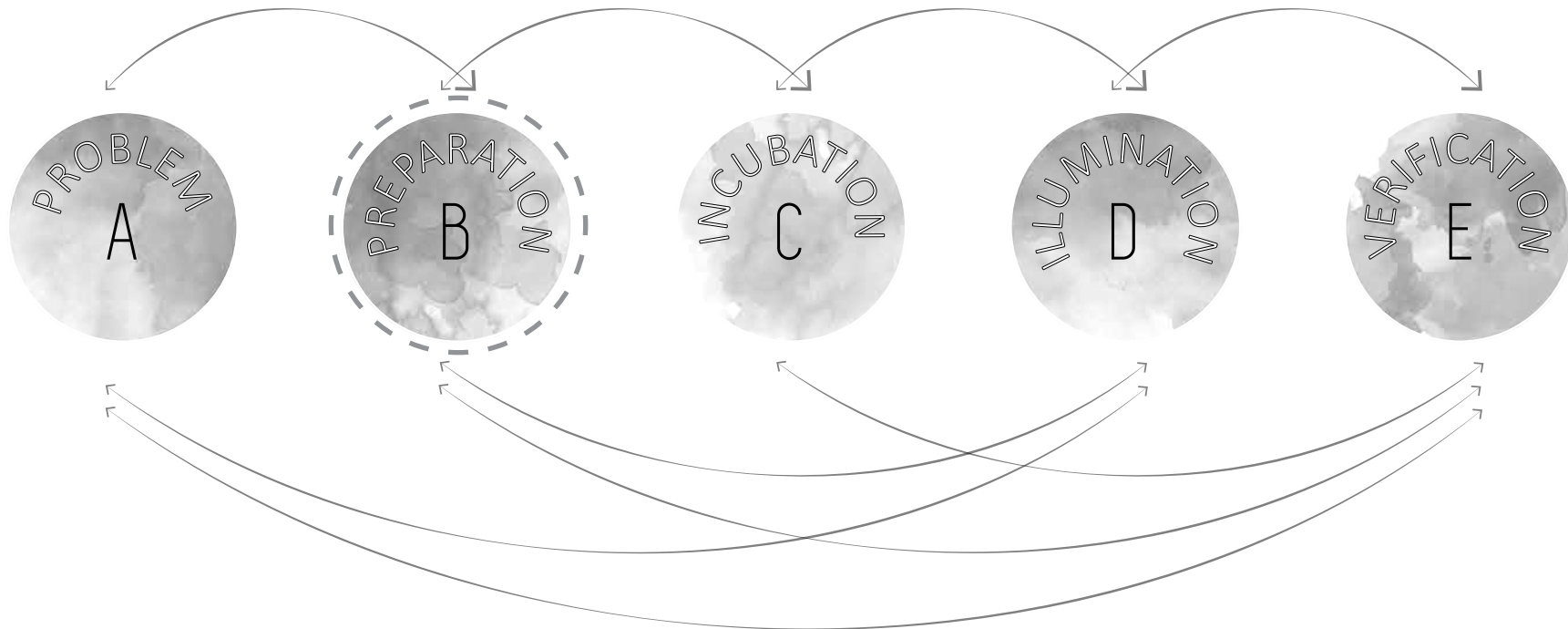


Figure 0.2
(Author, 2016)



Figure 2.1
Jaco van den Heever (2012), *Of Dreams and Nightmares*

CHAPTER 02

URBAN ANALYSIS

Chapter 2, the Urban Analysis, will explore the macro-context of Johannesburg including its history and an analysis of its intrinsic characteristics. The narrative of Johannesburg's development from a mining town to a cosmopolitan city will be told. The role of Joubert Park within the story of Johannesburg is explored in a micro-analysis of the qualities of the Park. The changing identity of the space will be investigated, as well as an in depth assessment of its spatial qualities. Conclusions will be drawn from the analysis of contextual influences, including the physical, historical, social, economic, and cultural attributes of the site.

2.1_INTRODUCING JOHANNESBURG: THE CITY OF GOLD

2.1.1_NARRATIVE

Johannesburg, Jozi, Joburg, eGoli, a dynamic city with a heritage like no other, my birthplace, my home. My city is far from perfect: crime, homelessness, corruption, and xenophobia, but look beyond that – it is so much more: an amalgamation of cultures and contradictions. See the silhouette of a burgeoning city against the pink sunset sky. Hear the bustling people hurrying along the streets and the music of performers bringing life to mundane everyday rituals. Experience the varied tastes of my city, where all people and cultures bring their foods to the mix. Smell the blossoming trees in the air and when autumn comes, feel the crisp leaves beneath your feet. It is a vibrant place, a city that is difficult to grasp, but captivates you. This is my city, alive with limitless possibility, if only we strive to understand it, to embrace it, to drive Johannesburg forward towards a bright future.



Figure 2.2
Jaco van den Heever (2012), *Shape of a City*

2.1.2_BACKGROUND

'The city of Johannesburg, South Africa, is a multi-layered landscape of intersecting, overlapping and conflicting geographies, places and identities. Until recently, these were shaped, almost exclusively, by geological and political conditions, replaced today by the dynamic of unbridled economic forces (Bremner 2010:172).'

In July 1886, George Harrison's gold discovery on the Witwatersrand transformed the 'Uitvalgrond', previously unclaimed farm land, into a bustling mining camp. Within one month, 3000 people had inhabited the area, a number which grew exponentially, reaching over 100,000 by 1895 (South African History Online, 2016). What was

initially predicted to be a temporary settlement rapidly became the economic hub of sub-Saharan Africa known as Johannesburg: The City of Gold.

Johannesburg was built on the foundations of economy, wealth, and opportunity. It is an unlikely city, its very existence threatened from the start by its isolation from other urban centres, trade routes, and major waterways. Despite these challenges, Johannesburg has maintained its status as a leading business hub of Africa, remaining a beacon of opportunity for people travelling to the city in search of bettering their lives, and an important interface between political, economic, and cultural networks. Johannesburg is regard-

ed as a symbol of African Modernity, embodying the dream of economic success and as gateway into cosmopolitan cities of the world (Pinther, et al., 2012).

Today, Johannesburg is the provincial capital of Gauteng, South Africa's wealthiest province, and has a population of over 4.5 million people. Contemporary Johannesburg is a reflection of its complex development and history, which has shaped its spatial condition. Johannesburg originated as a colonial settlement, following the traditions and architectural fashions of Europe, but has since transformed into a cosmopolitan African city, which is fragmented and, to some extent, fiercely contested (Pinther,

et al., 2012). The last thirty years have witnessed the transformation of Johannesburg's inner city from a white district into a Pan-African hub, but the area remains marked by the policies of apartheid, a regime which segregated people according to race, undermining and exploiting those considered 'non-white'. Consequently, current urban development and social discussions focus on the renegotiation of spaces: their use and significance. Cook (2011) explains that space was a fundamental element in the development of the colonial and apartheid state, therefore architectural skills ought to be leading the dismantling and reshaping of the urban condition in South Africa and its cities. This disserta-

tion aims to generate architecture which facilitates this transformation and supports unity, prosperity, and freedom of expression.

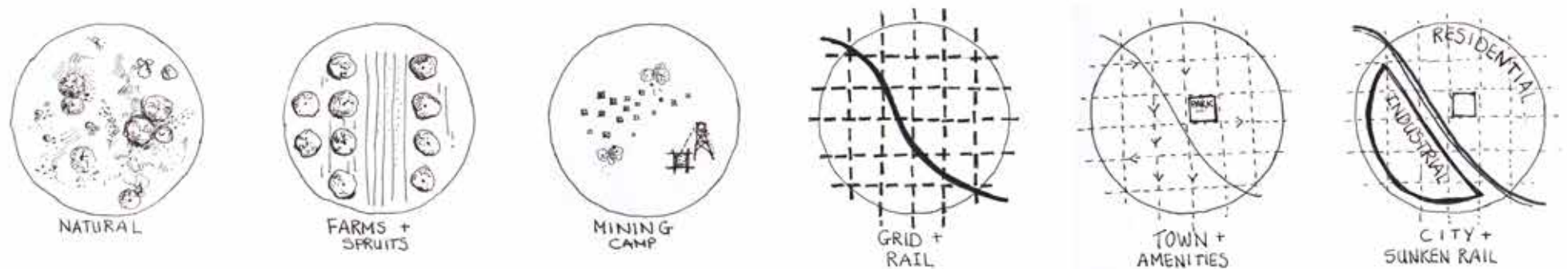


Figure 2.3
The transformation of Johannesburg's landscape (Author, 2016)



Figure 2.4
Locating Johannesburg's precinct landmarks
(Author, 2016, adapted from Google Earth Pro, 2016)

2.1.3_SITE LOCATION

The subject of the urban analysis is the inner-city of Johannesburg, with a focus on Joubert Park, which lies at its centre (Figure 2.5). The Urban Analysis aims to understand the Joubert Park Precinct on a macro and micro scale in relation to its context.



2.1.4_THE JOUBERT PARK GROUP (JPG)

The Joubert Park Group (JPG) is a unit of University of Pretoria architecture Masters students whose 2016 dissertation interventions are based within the Joubert Park Precinct: Lisa Verseput (author), Jade Swanepoel, and Ilhaam Tayob. The JPG conducted a thorough site analysis to understand the dimensions of the site. The site investigation considered the tangible and intangible qualities of the area on a macro and micro scale. This inspired a cognisant urban vision for the precinct in which individual architectural interventions are rooted.

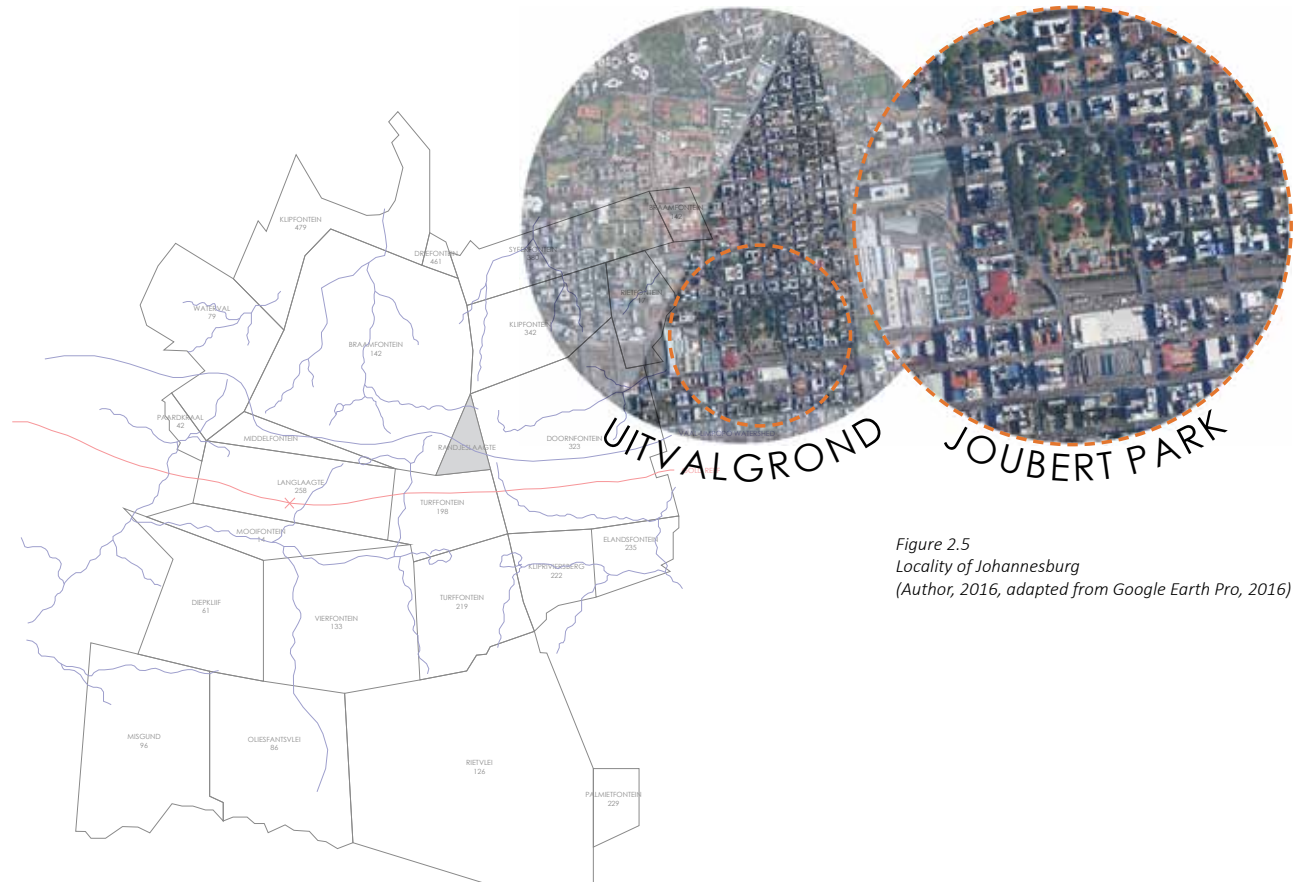


Figure 2.5
Locality of Johannesburg
(Author, 2016, adapted from Google Earth Pro, 2016)

2.2_INVESTIGATING JOHANNESBURG

2.2.1_PREHISTORY OF JOHANNESBURG

The Johannesburg region's identity was tied to the wealth of gold long before the gold rush of 1886. The indigenous residents of the sub-Limpopo region used gold in the manufacture of artefacts from as early as 1050, during the Kingdom of Mapungubwe (South African History Online, 2016). Dutch immigrants moving through the Transvaal during the 19th century prioritised survival rather than prospecting for mineral wealth and the potential threat posed by a public discovery of gold to their new-found independence was recognised. For some time, it was regarded a punishable offence to make public any discovery of min-

eral deposits (South African History Online, 2016). The area was divided into farms, with one triangle of forgotten land left out of the equation: the *uitvalgrond*.

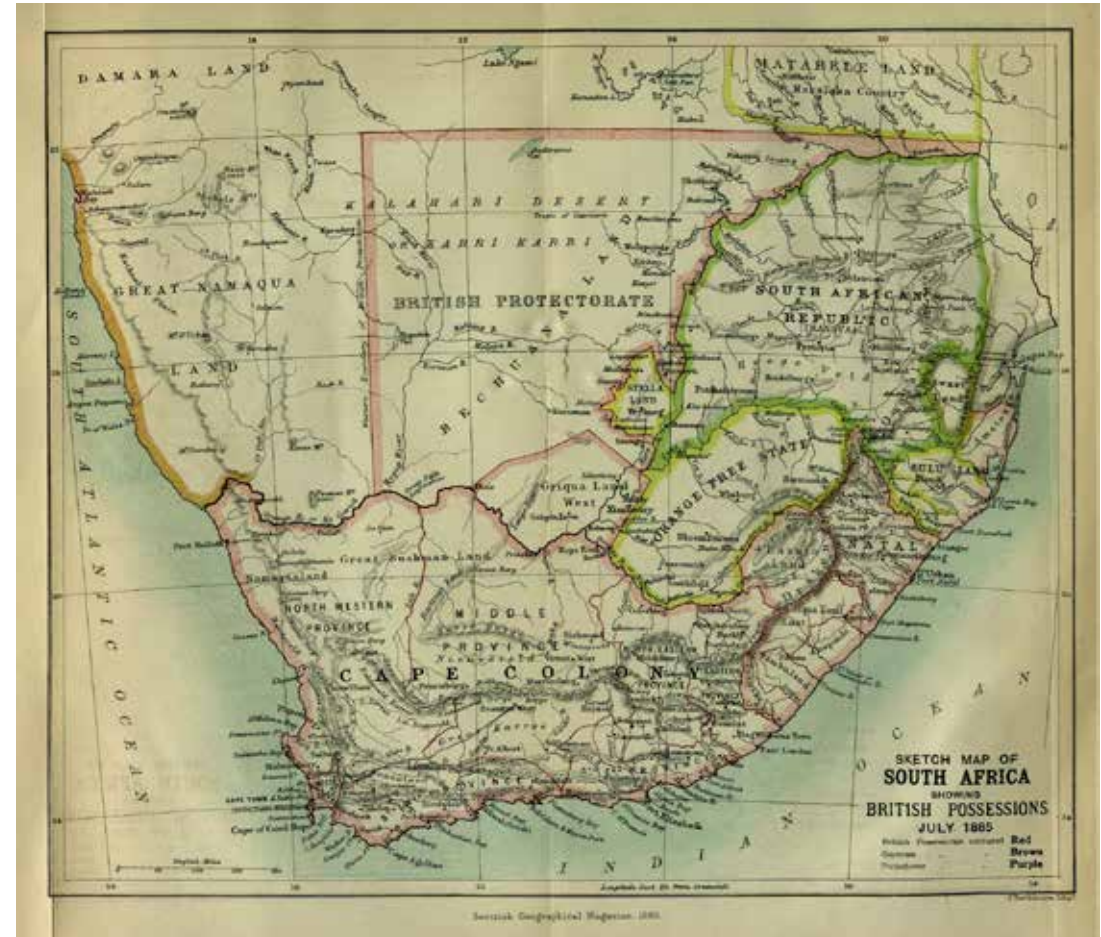


Figure 2.6
Map of South Africa (1885) prior to the discovery of gold and establishment of Johannesburg
(The Apartheid Museum, 2016)

2.2.2_ THE ORIGIN OF JOHANNESBURG: THE MINING CAMP

Rumours of gold in the Transvaal filtered through to the outside world and the economic advantages of the situation overcame isolationist objections, and licences to prospect were issued. In early April 1886, while hiking along the ridges of Langlaagte farm, a man by the name of George Harrison made an incredible discovery: a rich gold deposit that sparked gold fever in the area (South African History Online, 2016). In October, the unowned farm Randjeslaagte, the uitvalgrond, was officially declared a mining camp by the name of Johannesburg, to accommodate the large influx of people. Plots were subdivided and sold on auction as a temporary solution. The

central district was typical of 20th century mining camp planning, designed with impermanence in mind. As previous gold discoveries in the Transvaal proved to have short working periods, Johannesburg was predicted as a temporary, short-lived settlement. Unpredictably, the reef proved to run deep and wide, giving Johannesburg an uncertain life span.



Figure 2.7
Locating the gold reef (Yellow bands)
(Author, 2016, adapted from Pieterse, 2015)

2.2.3_THE EXPONENTIAL GROWTH OF JOHANNESBURG

People from all over the world flocked to Johannesburg in search of wealth. The area's rich gold ore, favourable climate, and most importantly, available unskilled labour, rendered it a modern day El Dorado. Johannesburg's phenomenal growth is evident in its transformation from the tented camp of April 1886 to a shimmering settlement of impermanent corrugated iron structures in September 1886, to a fully-fledged town of permanent multi-storey brick buildings in 1890 (South African History Online, 2016). In under a decade, Johannesburg's phenomenal population had grown to over 102 000 people of all races. By 1900, Johannesburg was the largest city in Southern Africa and its principal centre of industry, commerce, and finance.

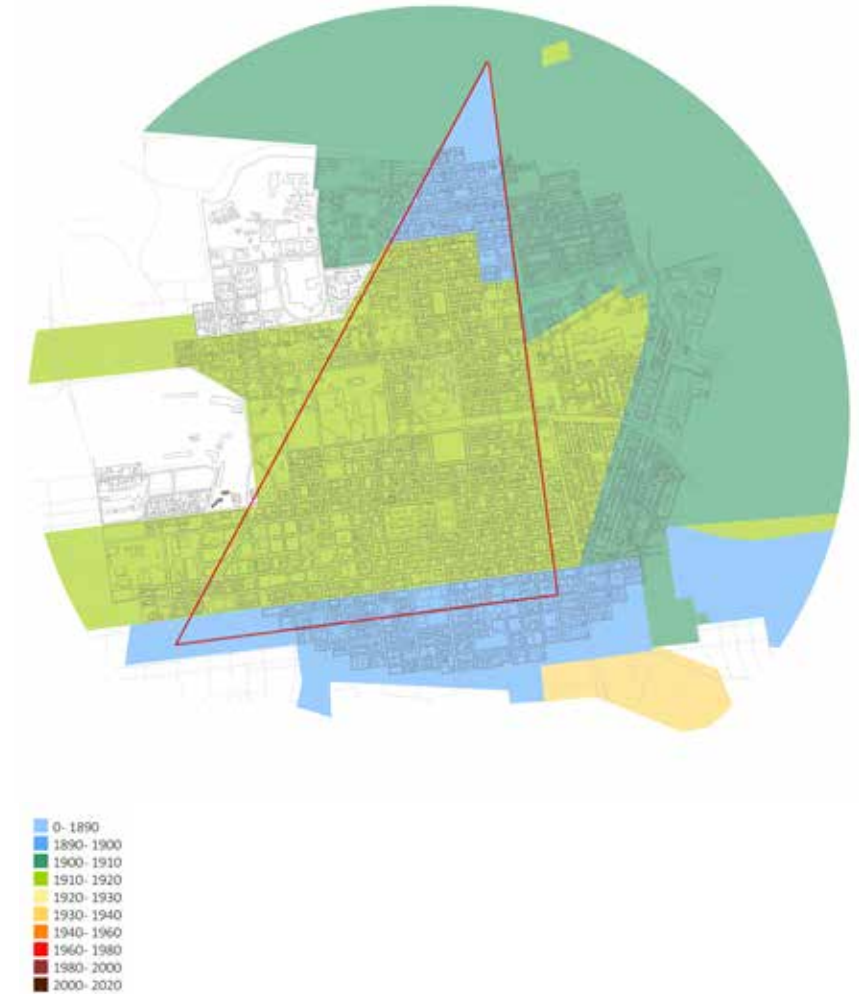


Figure 2.8
Graphic illustrating Johannesburg's settlement and development
(Author, 2016, adapted from Pieterse, 2015)

2.2.4_APARTHEID: SEGREGATED JOHANNESBURG

The tangible and intangible character of Johannesburg reflects over a century of racially driven social engineering that reached its pinnacle under the National Party's apartheid regime. The physical form of Johannesburg emerged from the outset with numerous divisions between communities, as the early mining camp was separated based on racial, social, and economic lines. The gold reef and ridge, as well as the rail and road systems tangibly divided north from south. The Apartheid planners exploited these physical barriers in Johannesburg's landscape to racially segregate people. The Group Areas Act of 1950 allocated racial groups to

particular residential and business sections in urban areas (South African History Online, 2016).

Although the Act was repealed in 1991, the remnants of apartheid planning remain etched upon the urban landscape of Johannesburg. The physical manifestation of Johannesburg's painful heritage is scattered across the city, and in order to come to terms with the past and move forward to a unified future, rethinking the built environment should be considered a vital element in the tangible and intangible stitching of the city.



Figure 2.9
Racial Segregation of Apartheid Planning
(Pieterse, 2015)

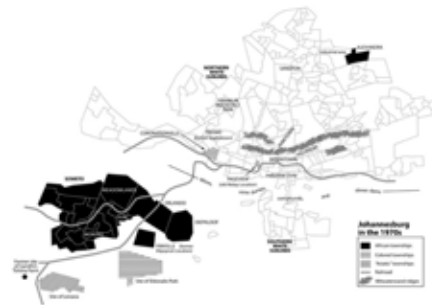


Figure 2.10
The rigid racial zoning of Johannesburg after the forced removals
(Pieterse, 2015)

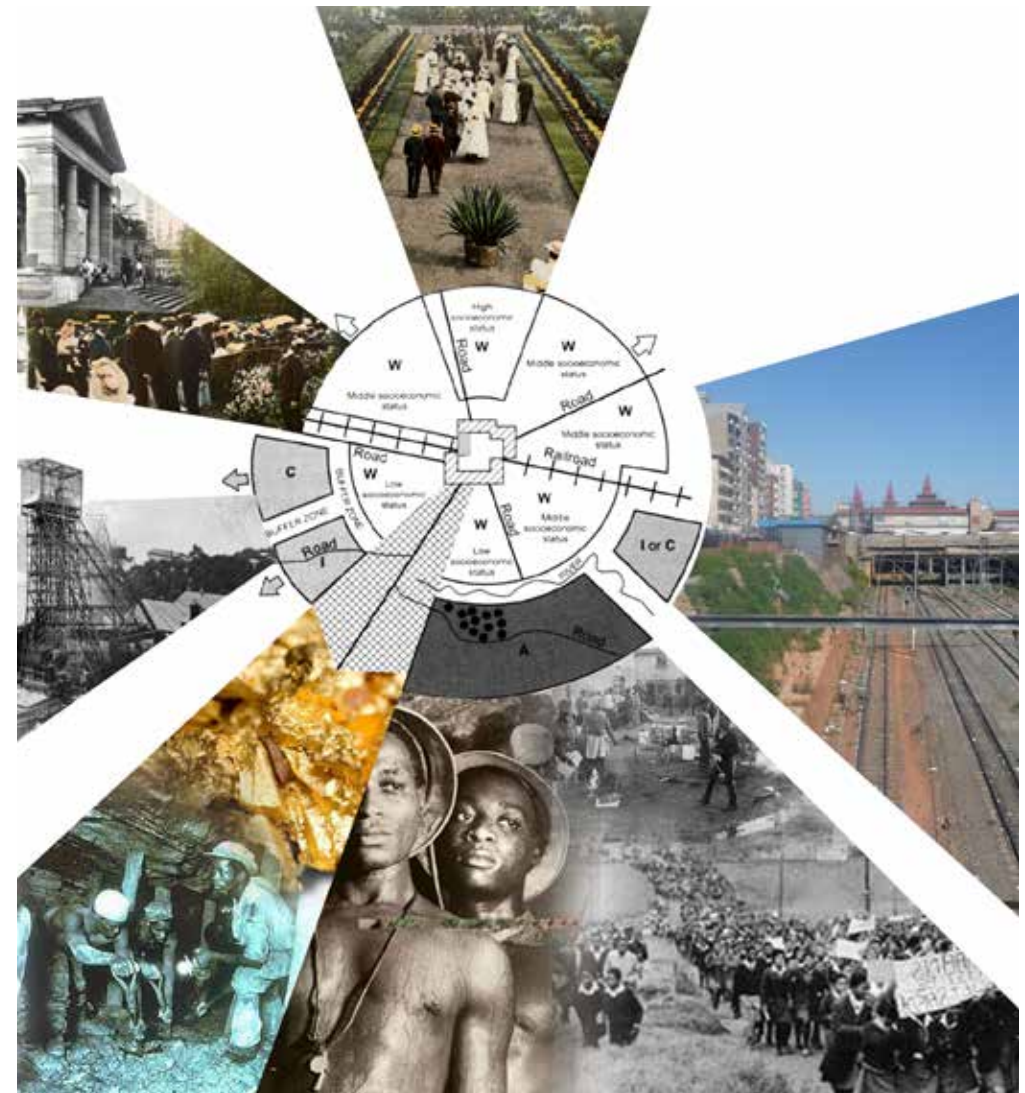


Figure 2.11
Collage indicating the different sectors of Apartheid Johannesburg
(Author, 2016)

2.2.5_JOHANNESBURG TODAY

Today, Johannesburg remains South Africa's premier city and the preferred destination of young professionals and entrepreneurs. The City is the primary industrial and financial metropolis of South Africa. Johannesburg is a dense, dynamic,

and intriguing urban environment that is currently emerging from a period of decline through multiple efforts of the government to rebrand the area as a World Class African City. Johannesburg is a contested city, with tangible and

intangible divisions between its multi-cultural and multi-racial population.



Figure 2.12
Collage of photographs from Johannesburg's past
(Author, 2016, images from Museum Africa Archives)



Figure 2.13
Collage of photographs of present day Johannesburg
(Author, 2016)

2.3 - BIOPHYSICAL ANALYSIS

2.3.1_GEOGRAPHY

2.3.1.1_Climate

Johannesburg is located on the Highveld plateau of South Africa at an elevation of 1,753 metres, and has a subtropical highland climate. OR Tambo International Airport (2016) provides a great summary of the climate for visitors of the region:

'The city enjoys a sunny climate, with the summer months (October to April) characterised by hot days followed by afternoon thunder-showers and cool evenings, and the winter months (May to September) by dry, sunny days followed by cold nights. Temperatures in Johannesburg are usually fairly mild due to the city's high elevation, with an average maximum daytime temperature in January of 25.6 °C, dropping to an average maximum of around 16 °C in June. The UV in-

dex for Johannesburg in summers is extreme, often reaching 14-16 due to the high elevation and proximity to the equator. Winter is the sunniest time of the year, with mild days and cool nights, dropping to 4.1 °C in June and July. Regular cold fronts pass over in winter bringing very cold southerly winds but usually clear skies. The annual average rainfall is 713 millimetres, which is mostly concentrated in the summer months (OR Tambo International Airport, 2016).'

2.3.1.2_Hydrology

Johannesburg does not have any rivers, but its streams are tributaries of the Limpopo and Orange Rivers. The springs ('fontein' in Afrikaans) in the area gave the farms their names, such as Braamfontein, Rietfontein, and Randjesfontein.

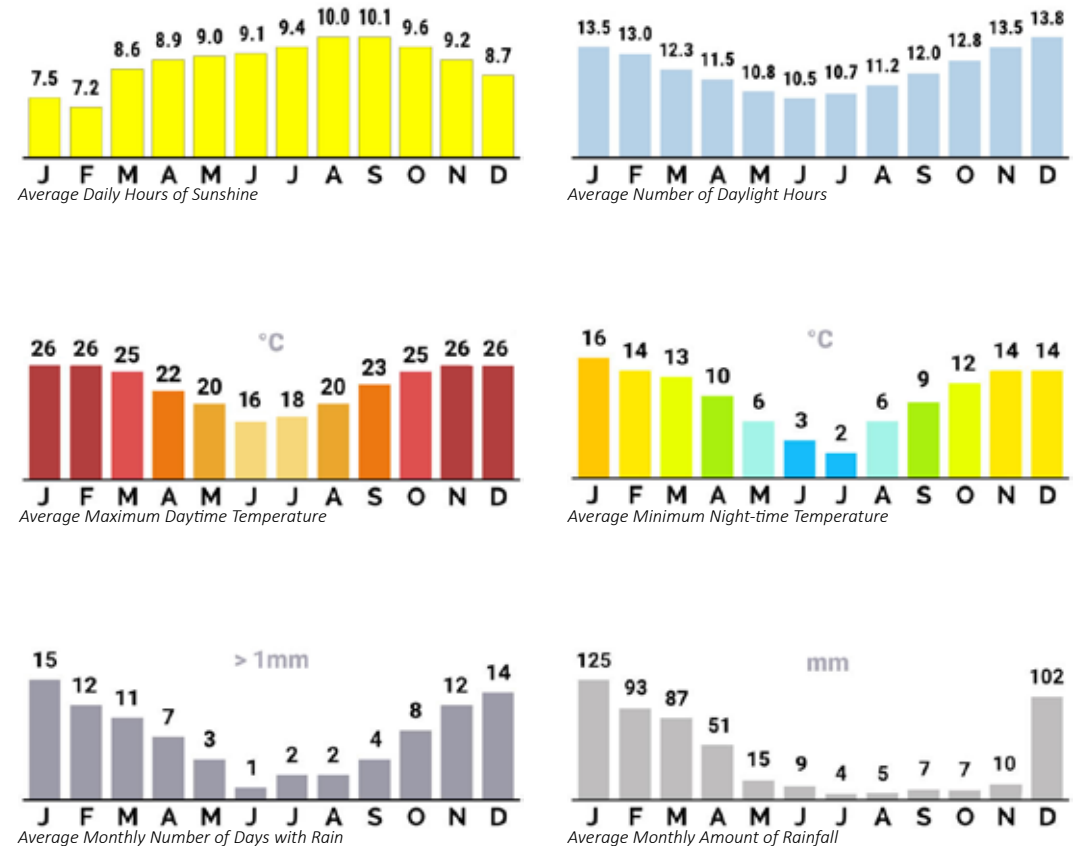


Figure 2.14
Climate data for Johannesburg (OR Tambo International Airport, 2016)

2.3.2_DEMOGRAPHICS_CENTRAL JOHANNESBURG

The following demographic analysis is compiled from census data of Central Johannesburg conducted by Statistics South Africa (2011).

Central Johannesburg has an estimated population of over 957,000 people, of which 74,6% are of a working age, making it South Africa's largest city-living population. Matric certificates are held by 38% of residents and 31% are able to speak English, providing an international advantage. Most residents are single Black African people and the sex distribution of inner-city Johannesburg is even. The results of the census illustrate a young, capable population with the ability to contribute to the development of Johannesburg's economy.

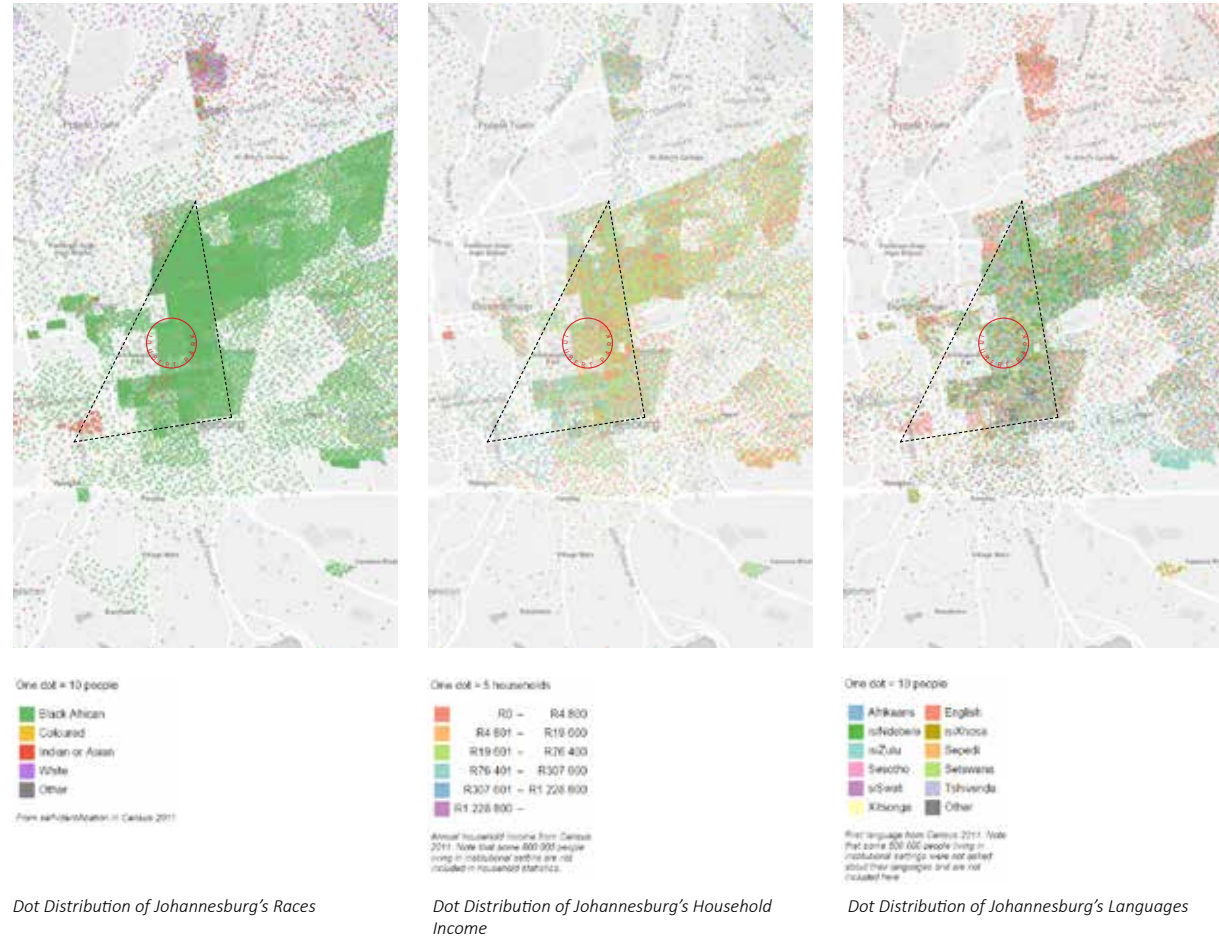


Figure 2.15
Dot distribution maps of Johannesburg's demographics
(Author, 2016, adapted from Frith, 2011)

Characteristics	
Total population	957,441
Young (0-14)	20,9%
Working Age (15-64)	74,6%
Elderly (65+)	4,4%
Dependency ratio	34
Sex ratio	102,4
Population density	2860 persons/km2
No schooling aged 20+	2%
Higher education aged 20+	21,7%
Matric aged 20+	38%
Number of households	300,199
Average household size	2,8
Female headed households	36,5%
Formal dwellings	92,8%

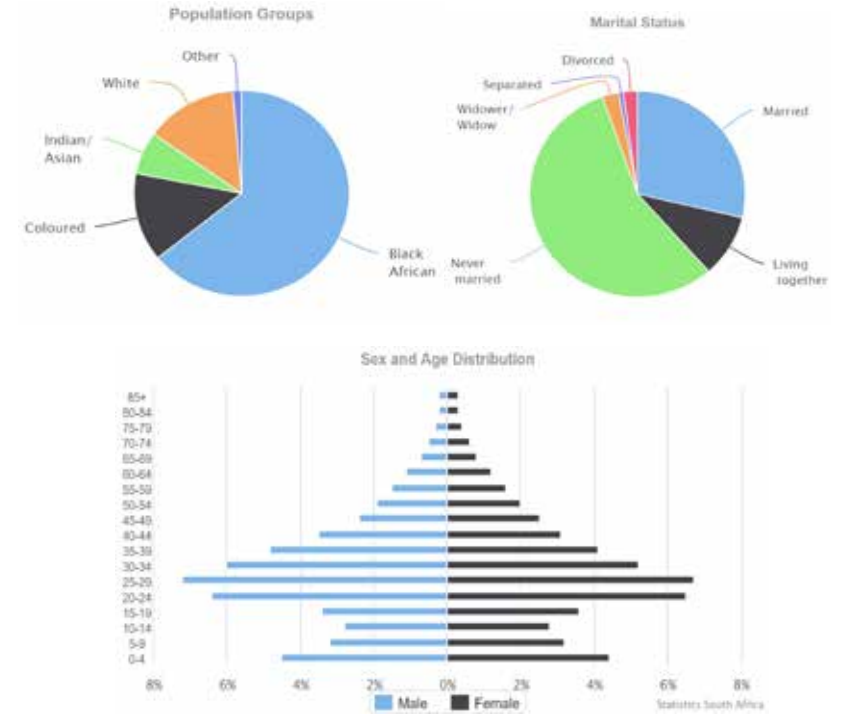
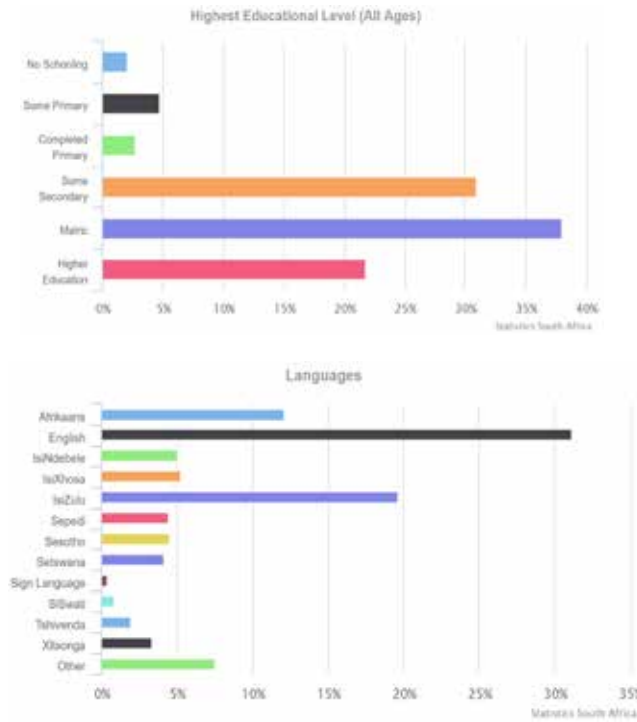


Figure 2.16
Graphs illustrating Johannesburg's demographics
(SA Statistics, 2011)



Figure 2.17
Plan of Johannesburg, drawn by A. E. Caplen (1896)



Figure 2.18
Pictorial map by Gloria Hodge (1893) showing Joubert Park

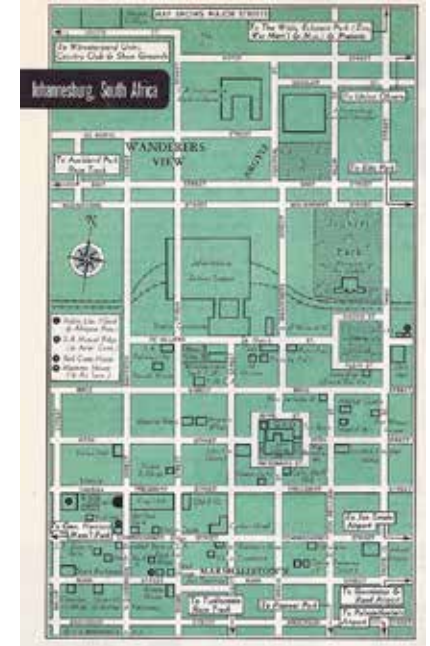


Figure 2.19
Visitors map of central Johannesburg
(CS Hammond and Co, 1950)

2.4 – THE JOUBERT PARK PRECINCT

2.4.1 AN INTRODUCTION

In 1887, Mining Commissioner Jan Eloff applied for a park in Johannesburg, which was supported by the Executive Council, who granted Johannesburg, the 17.8 acres of ground that constitutes Joubert Park today, named after Anglo Boer War general, P.J. Joubert. Joubert Park was formally laid out in a Victorian fashion by G.S. Burt Andrews in 1892, who later became Town Engineer, after winning a competition (CBS Architects, 2003). From the outset, Joubert Park provided residents with a repose and recreational escape from the harsh industrial landscape.

Joubert Park is a reflection of the Johannesburg’s prolific history and has since acquired layers of character over the decades, fulfilling the needs of residents throughout different periods: it has been an oasis, a cultural node, a social space, and a transit hub. It has embodied different identities and remains a significant artefact within the cityscape. Embracing the heritage of the Park provides opportunities for it to reclaim its inherent significance within central Johannesburg and the very urban fabric that it helped create.



Figure 2.20
Diagram of Johannesburg locating Joubert Park (Author, 2016)

2.4.2_PHYSICAL CONTEXT

Joubert Park has been a landmark within the urban planning of Johannesburg since its inception. Its position in the centre of the original settlement, as well as its status as the first green oasis in the city, are testaments to its physical significance within its context. Furthermore, Joubert Park lies at the intersection of major public transport networks: Park Station, mini-bus taxi ranks, metered taxis, and the BRT. One can easily connect to any African city through the transport network, meaning that for many people, Joubert Park is one of the first spaces they experience within South Africa.

2.4.2.1_Urban Boundaries

Joubert Park is located in the centre of the Uitvalgrond, the original mining camp of Johannesburg. The suburb of Hillbrow borders the Park and nodes of public significance are in close proximity including the Newtown Cultural Precinct, Ellis Park Sports Precinct, Constitution Hill, UJ Campus, and the Civic Precinct. Therefore, Joubert Park could be integrated into this network of urban nodes.

2.4.2.2_Surfaces

Joubert Park is a combination of soft lawn surfaces and paved pathways. The majority of the vegetation consists of alien species which were commonly planted in Victo-

rian parks, such as Roses, Plane Trees, Fir Trees and various flowering trees. The Park is framed by a pedestrian walkway which is widened on King George Street and accommodates informal trade.

2.4.2.3_Topography

The longitudinal section through Joubert Park and the surrounding urban fabric illustrates that the Park is located in a dip in the topography and is a break from the high-rise buildings around it, reinforcing its identity as an oasis within the city centre.

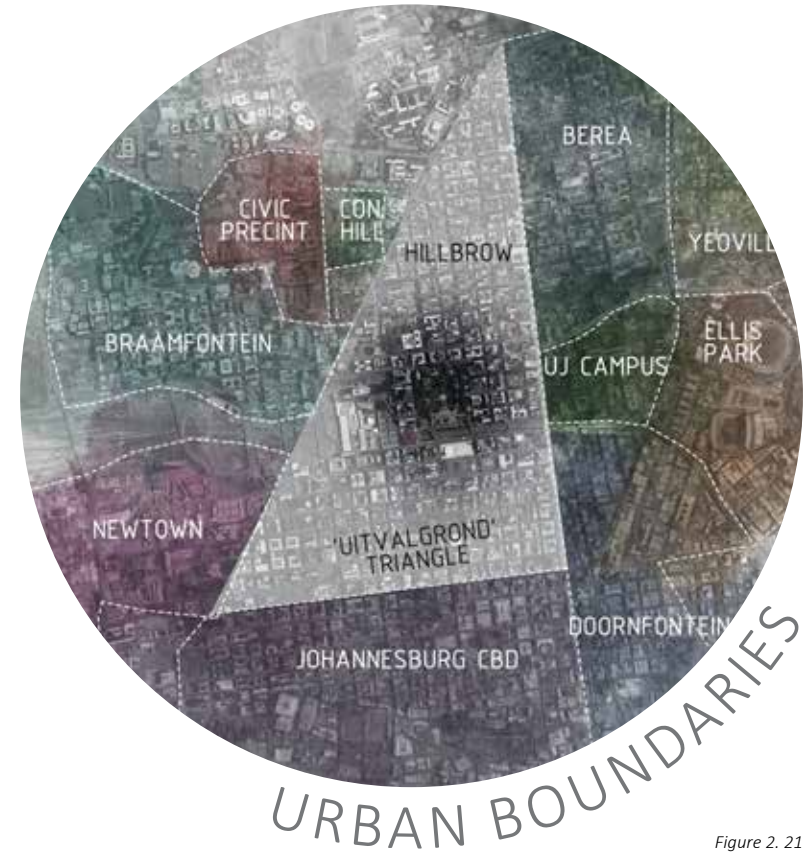


Figure 2. 21
Urban Boundaries (Author, 2016)



Figure 2. 22
Sections through the North-South Axis of Joubert Park's Context
(Author, 2016)

2.4.2.4_Street Elevations & Sections

Joubert Park is framed by tall residential blocks, many of which have small scale retail on the ground floor. The scale of the edges reinforce the natural escape Joubert Park provides within its context. Sections through the bordering streets illustrate boundaries to pedestrian movement, such as busy roads, the BRT, and the train tracks. It is evident that these streets hold potential to be reimagined to integrate the buildings with the Park.

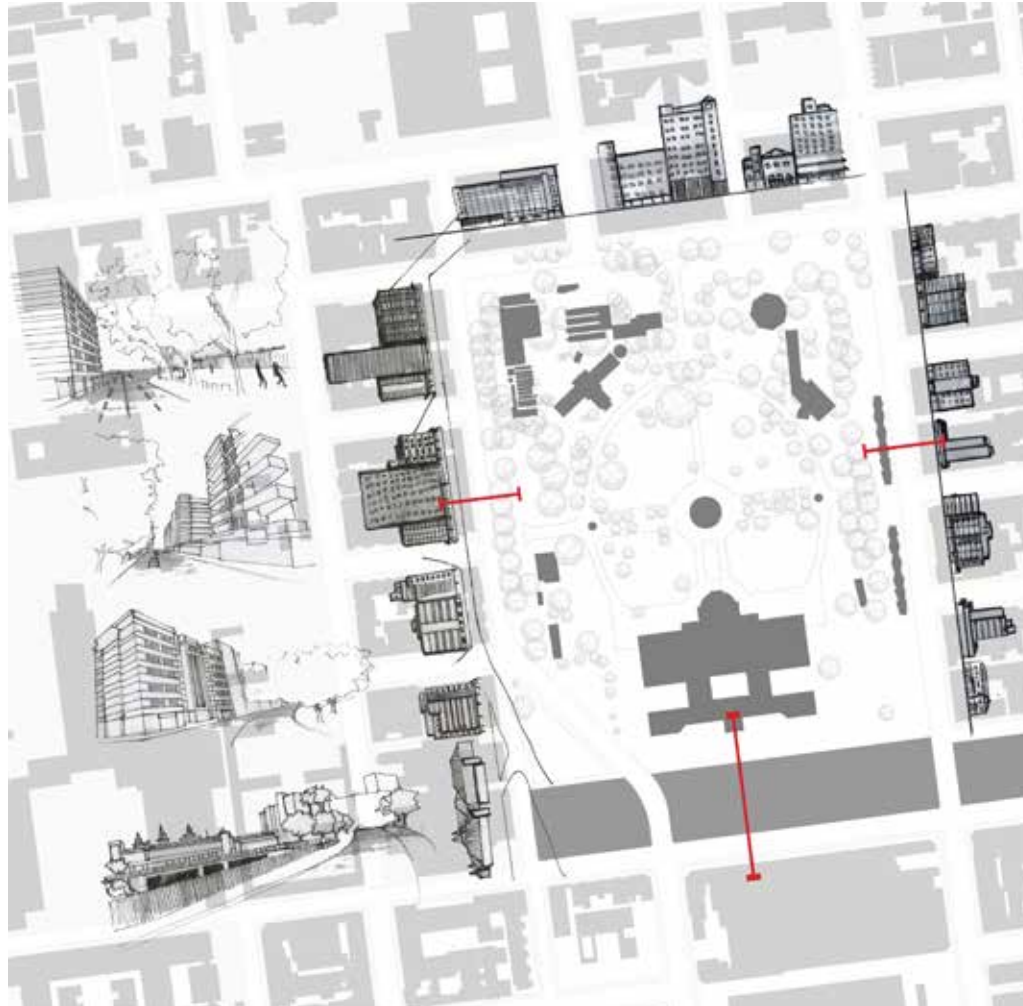


Figure 2.23
Joubert Park Elevation Study (JPG, 2016)

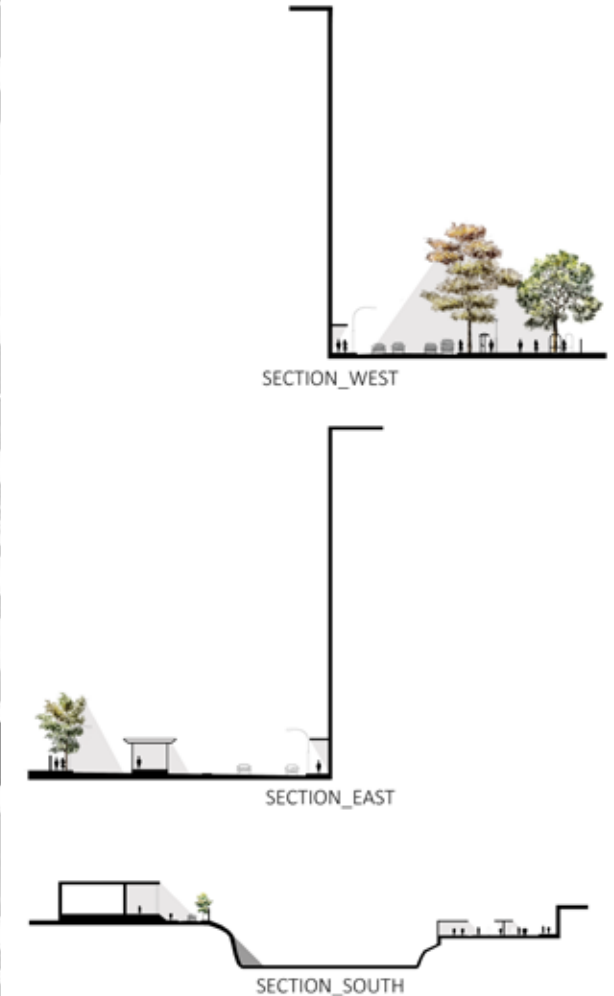


Figure 2.24
Sections through Joubert Park's street edges (Author, 2016)



Figure 2.25
Mapping Joubert Park's building use (JPG, 2016)

2.4.2.5_Building Use

The immediate edges of Joubert Park are residential blocks often housing ground floor retail. Public transport nodes attract people to the area and drive the identity of

the precinct currently. JAG is an extraordinary and prominent structure in the landscape which defines the precinct, and yet it is undervalued and lies in the background.

Figure 2.29
Photographic observation of Joubert Park (Author, 2016)



JAG's Fence



Adjacent Apartment Block



Conservatory's Fence



Joubert Park Lawn



The Train Tracks



Figure 2.26
Macro mapping the transportation routes around Joubert Park (JPG, 2016)

2.4.2.6_Connectivity

A macro analysis of Joubert Park's connectivity illustrates the opportunities for the precinct to use these networks to connect to other public nodes and impact the city

beyond its current boundaries. People are able to reach the precinct with ease from all over Gauteng.

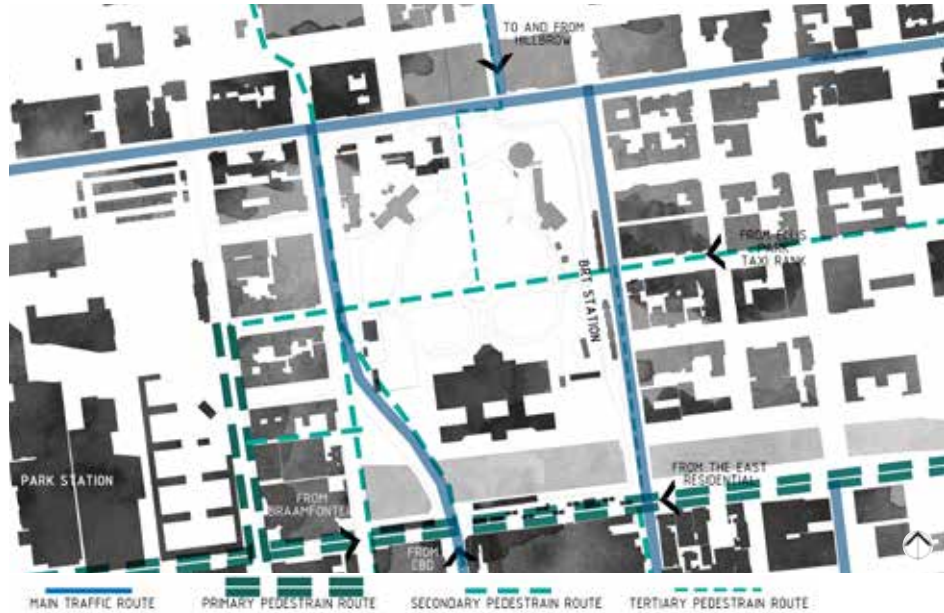


Figure 2.27
Micro mapping the transportation routes around Joubert Park (JPG, 2016)



Figure 2.28
Mapping the physical barriers and boundaries of Joubert Park (JPG, 2016)

2.4.2.7_Movement

Joubert Park is an island surrounded by traffic, which cuts it off from adjacent building edges. Pedestrian paths constantly intersect busy traffic routes, as transportation networks dominate the movement channels.

2.4.2.8_Barriers to Movement

The movement of pedestrians is impeded by various boundaries. Within Joubert Park, private areas are fenced off and do not contribute to the public realm, thus contradicting the role of Joubert Park as an accessible public space. Dead

edges along the road also create spaces that do not engage with people. Finally, the train track is a massive boundary within the landscape.



King George Street



Park Station Taxi Rank



Train Tracks and JAG



Path in the Park



Joubert Park in the Afternoon

2.4.3_HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Joubert Park has an undeniable tangible and intangible heritage significance. As the Park is over a century old, it has undergone transformations of its identity over time, resulting in its position as a multi-layered archive of the inner city. The Park's existence illustrates the 19th century desire of European immigrants to connect to their homelands. Joubert Park is also the site of important heritage structures: the Conservatory (est. 1906), the Bandstand (est. 1907), and the Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG) (est. 1915), the first museum of Johannesburg. Most of the trees planted within and along the Park are considered historically significant and are still valued for their shade by patrons of the Park. Joubert Park is a reflection of continued relevant heritage and the adaption of spaces to suit the needs of current residents. However, heritage structures such as the

Conservatory, Bandstand, and JAG need to be reassessed to contribute to the new identity of Joubert Park and maintain their historical and contemporary significance.

The timeline illustrates the progression of different elements of Joubert Park which contribute to its contemporary condition. In particular, the decline of the Conservatory, Bandstand, and Johannesburg Art Gallery were analysed.



Figure 2.30
Timeline of Joubert Park, with a focus on the
Conservatories (Author, 2016)

	<p>1887 – Mining Commissioner Jan Eloff applies for a park in Johannesburg (1), which is supported by the Executive Council, who granted Johannesburg what is today the 17.8 acres of ground that constitutes Joubert Park, named after Anglo Boer War general, P.J. Joubert</p> <p>1888 – Kruger's Park, later Wanderers Grounds, established West of Joubert Park</p> <p>1892 – A strip along the southern border of Joubert Park is taken for railway lines – Joubert Park is laid out by G.S. Burt Andrews, who later became Town Engineer, after winning a competition – Joubert Park is ploughed and planted, a pond (2) is formalised and a fountain (3) installed – Donations of plants and trees come from all over the world, including the Kew Royal Botanical Gardens</p>	
		<p>1893 – A locust swarm devastates the flowering plants of the Park</p> <p>1897 – Drought impacts the Park</p> <p>1898 – Joubert Park is the 'beauty spot' of Johannesburg (5) – Joubert Park acquired a conservatory from the Wanderers Club</p> <p>1904 – Joubert Park is remodelled by A.H. Stirrat to include children's playgrounds (following the ground-breaking ethos of parks for people as opposed to railed off gardens) (6) – The removal of Eucalyptus and Acacia trees and experimentation with indigenous trees and shrubs – A floral cloak and carpet garden (7)</p>



1905
– City Council calls for tenders for a new iron conservatory in Joubert Park, as plants in the existing conservatory were suffering due to imperfect accommodation. The estimated cost is £3,000
– Kiosk is built in the Park, but is not successful due to its South orientation (8)

1906
March – City Council authorises construction of a propagating house
June – Cast Iron Victorian Conservatory was constructed (9)

1907
– Bandstand (10 & 11)
– Locast swarm devastates the Park

1909
– Snowstorm devastates the Park

1915 – The Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG) opens on the southern area of the Park (12)

1938
July – City Engineer's Department allocated £10,000 for the construction of a new timber conservatory for Joubert Park from the specialist architectural firm Messrs. Richardson & Co. Ltd, London

1939
– Construction commenced on the site of the existing Victorian Conservatory, which was simultaneously demolished (13)

1940
– New conservatory is completed (14)
– JAG extension of west and east wings (15)

1986
– Front steps of the conservatory remodelled into a ramp
– JAG addition, Meyer Pienaar Architects (16)

1997
– Lapeng Child and Family Resource Service established (17)
– Park Station Taxi Rank completed (18)

2001
October – CBS Architects appointed to prepare a masterplan and design accommodation for the Greenhouse Project (19)
– The site is walled off from the Park, only accessible through a private gate

2002
– R3 Million is provisionally allocated to the restoration and conversion of the Conservatory by the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund

2003-2005
– Planting is removed
– Existing steel columns are replaced due to excessive and dangerous corrosion
– Sandblasting of the timber frame
– Existing glass is removed
– Removal of window sections for restoration offsite
– Damaged or rotting timber to be replaced with new sections of Rhodesian teak
– Teak frame is painted white
– All steel members are taken offsite for restoration and cleaning

2004
– Earth Building Completed (20)
– Recycle Centre Completed (21)
– Entrance Completed

2007
– BRT Stop Completed (22)

2010
– Joubert Park is a Fan Park for the 2010 Soccer World Cup (23)

2016
– Joubert Park today is at risk of becoming a taxi storage lot (24)

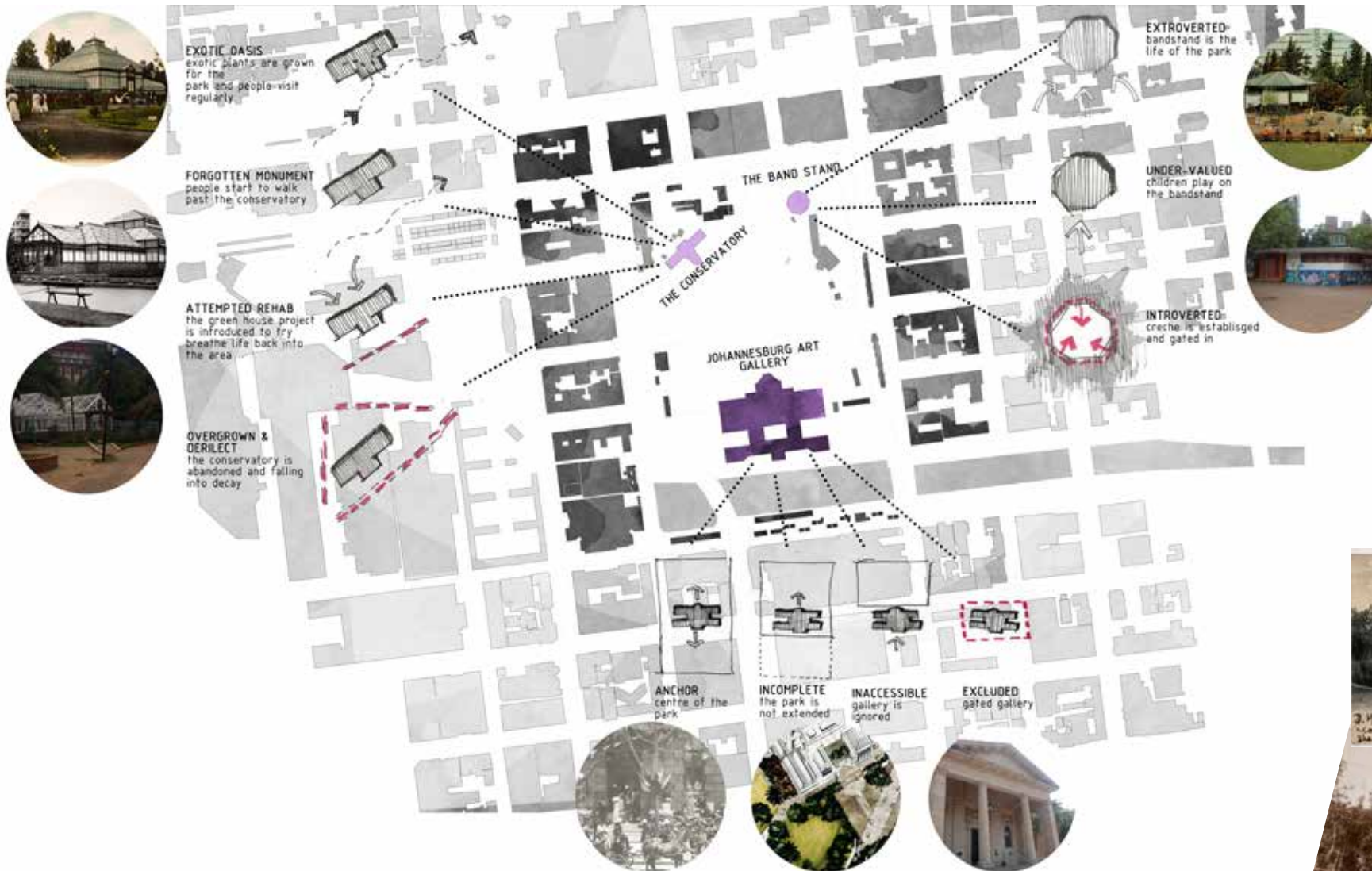


Figure 2.31
The Transformation of Joubert Park's Built Heritage
(JPG, 2016)



Figure 2.32
Postcards of Joubert Park, early 1900s
(JAG Archives, 2016)

2.4.3_HISTORICAL CONTEXT (CONTINUED)

It is important to note that the intended layout of Joubert Park in 1915, by Sir Edwin Lutyens, was never fully realised. This is most obviously noticed with the orientation of JAG away from Joubert Park, as it was intended to be the focal connection point between Joubert Park and the Union Ground across the train tracks. However, the Parks were never bridged, and Union Ground was halved with the introduction of a taxi rank in 1997 and

consequently demolished to make way for a shopping centre. Thus, JAG's original entrance is isolated, facing the railway lines. Therefore, a new entrance was designed by Meyer Pienaar Architects in 1986 with the aim of integrating JAG with Joubert Park, although this has been considered largely unsuccessful. Joubert Park's historical context is rich, but the layers are fractured and isolated from one another.

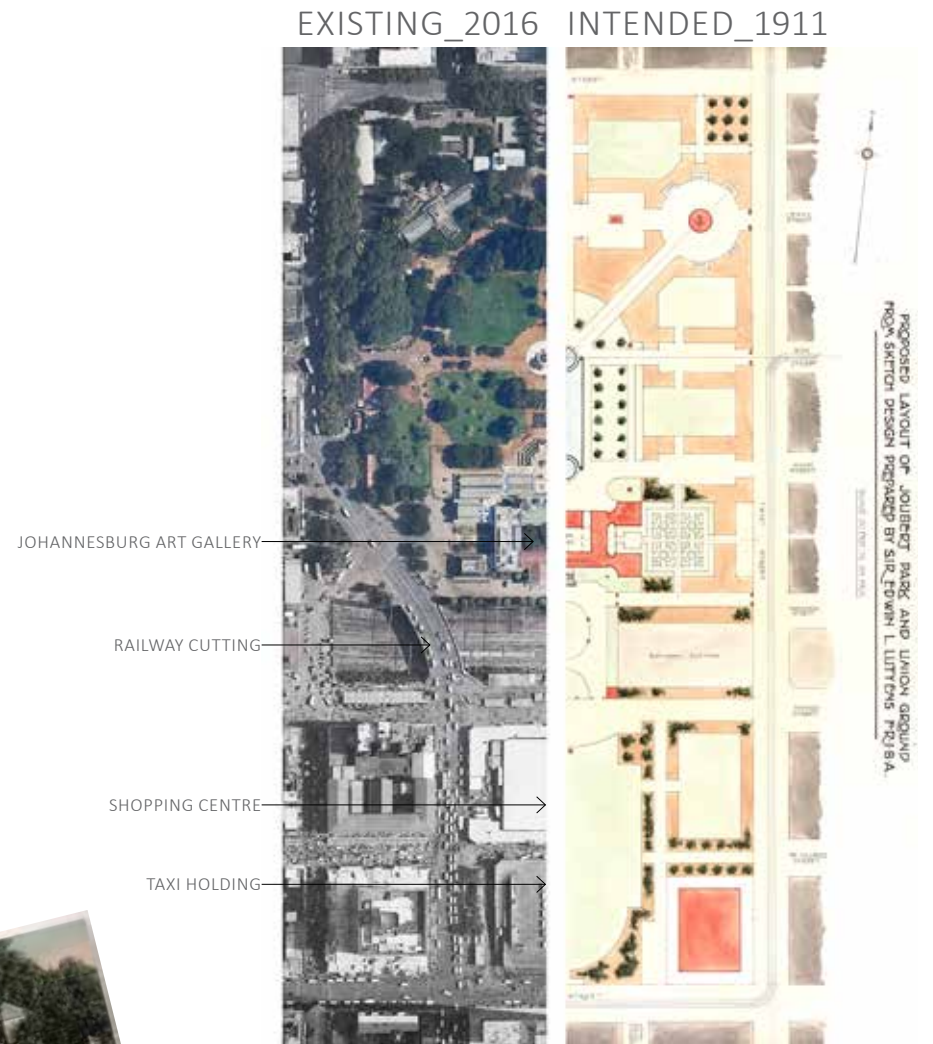


Figure 2.33
Plans comparing the existing fabric of Joubert Park and its intended layout by Lutyens
(Author, 2016, adapted from Google Earth Pro, 2016 and Lutyens, 2011)

2.4.4 SOCIAL CONTEXT

Joubert Park is a recreational space for the residents of central Johannesburg, many of whom live in extremely overcrowded conditions. The giant chessboards in the NW quadrant are constantly occupied by socialising men and on Sundays, dozens of church groups congregate in circles, singing prayers. Couples laze on the grass and the laughter of children at the playground fills the air. King George Street buzzes with informal trade and people having their hair braided while talking with friends. Joubert Park is alive with activity. However, the privatisation of large areas of the Park threatens the social significance of the public space, such as the Greenhouse Project, and Lapeng Crèche. The Park is public, but certain social groups feel threatened and unwelcome, such as people of racial minorities and immigrants (Moronell, 2011).

Joubert Park has various stakeholders which ought to be considered as they define the social context.

STAKEHOLDERS OF JOUBERT PARK

- Those at Leisure
The central use of the lawn is for casual leisure and socialising and should remain unprogrammed

- Children
The playground provides an engaging area for children after school

- The Photographers
Located at each entrance into the Park, these photographers have been the watchdogs of the Park since the 1960s

- The Chess Players
The giant chessboards are a social node and always occupied by men

- Privatised Spaces
Privatised and fenced off stakeholders (Lapeng Crèche, the Green House Project, the Clinic) should be encouraged to reintegrate with the social context or relocated into adjacent buildings of a private nature.

- Drug Users
Drug users are undesirable and create unsafe spaces, thus their ownership of the Park ought to be discouraged

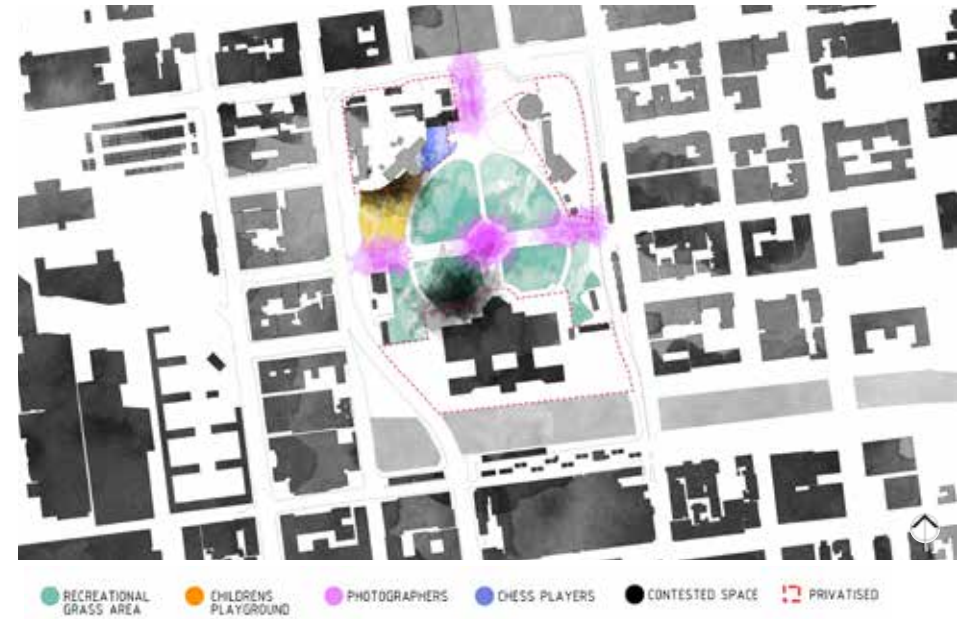


Figure 2. 34
Mapping the Current Stakeholders of Joubert Park (JPG, 2016)



Children Playing in a Dirty Fountain



Sunday Church Groups



Inhabitants of the Park



Children's Playground



Giant Chessboards



Chess Clubs

Figure 2. 35
Photographic observation of Joubert Park's Social Environment (Author, 2016)

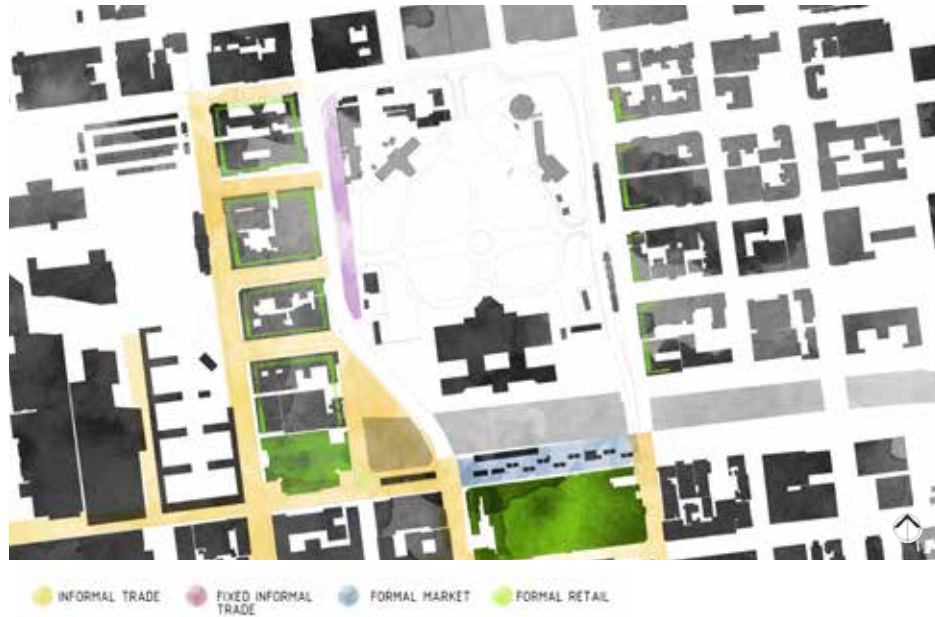


Figure 2. 36
Mapping the Economic Fabric of Joubert Park (JPG, 2016)

2.4.5_ECONOMIC CONTEXT

The economic opportunities in the Joubert Park Precinct are exciting because the area is so well connected and has a high population density. The economy around Joubert Park is primarily small-scale trade and spaza shops, which could be developed into larger economic systems and networks with encouragement.



Fruit Sales Outside an Entrance



The Linear Market on Noord St



The Linear Market on Noord St



Fashion Sales on King George St



Chicken Kebabs by Park Station



Peanut Roasting on King George St

Figure 2. 37
Photographic observation of Joubert Park's Economic Environment (Author, 2016)

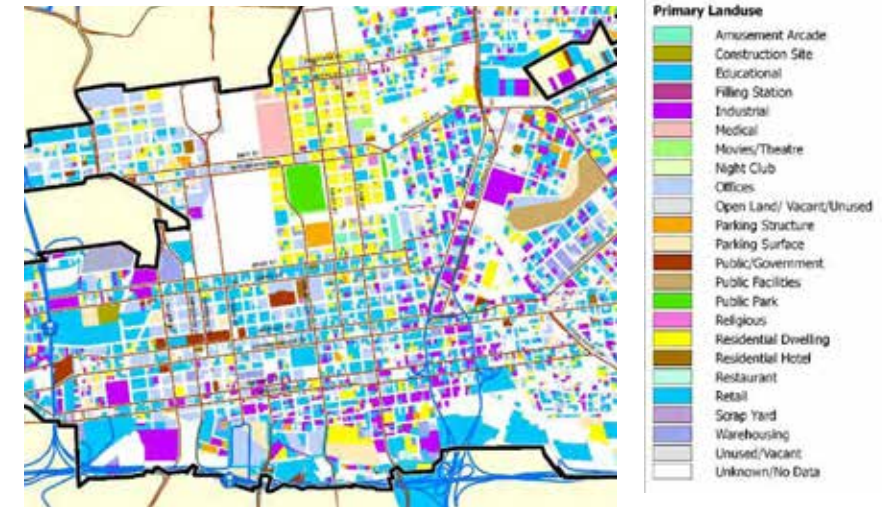


Figure 2. 38
Landuse of Inner City Johannesburg, illustrating the large presence of retail (blue) and Joubert Park (green) surrounded by residential dwelling (yellow) (City of Johannesburg, 2007)

2.4.6_ CULTURAL CONTEXT

Joubert Park has a history of cultural significance as the location of JAG and a bandstand which hosted concerts and events. Unfortunately, this cultural presence has waned over the years, with JAG becoming isolated from the public realm and the bandstand adapted into a private crèche. However, the new branding of Johannesburg as the Cultural Capital will certainly aim to revive the Park as a cultural node by reactivating JAG and engaging the diverse cultures of people residing in the area. Joubert Park once held musical performances, art exhibitions, and public events, which could be reintroduced to revitalise the area as a place supporting the development of a creative culture.



Figure 2. 39
Mapping the Cultural Activity of Joubert Park (Author, 2016)

Figure 2. 40
Photographic observation of Joubert Park's Cultural Environment (Author, 2016)



Giant Chess Boards



Large TV Screen Up for Events



Singer Selling CDs



Park Photographer



Park Photographer and Client



Park Photographer

2.4.6.1_ Taking it to the Street

Gershon (2015) mapped cultural performance locations for street artists in her dissertation 'Taking it to the Street.' Joubert Park is highlighted as the largest performance zone in her research, but is underutilised despite its prime locality, due to the privatisation of its edges. By reactivating the area with creative activity, the JPG believes that Joubert Park has the potential to contribute to Johannesburg's identity as the Cultural Capital.

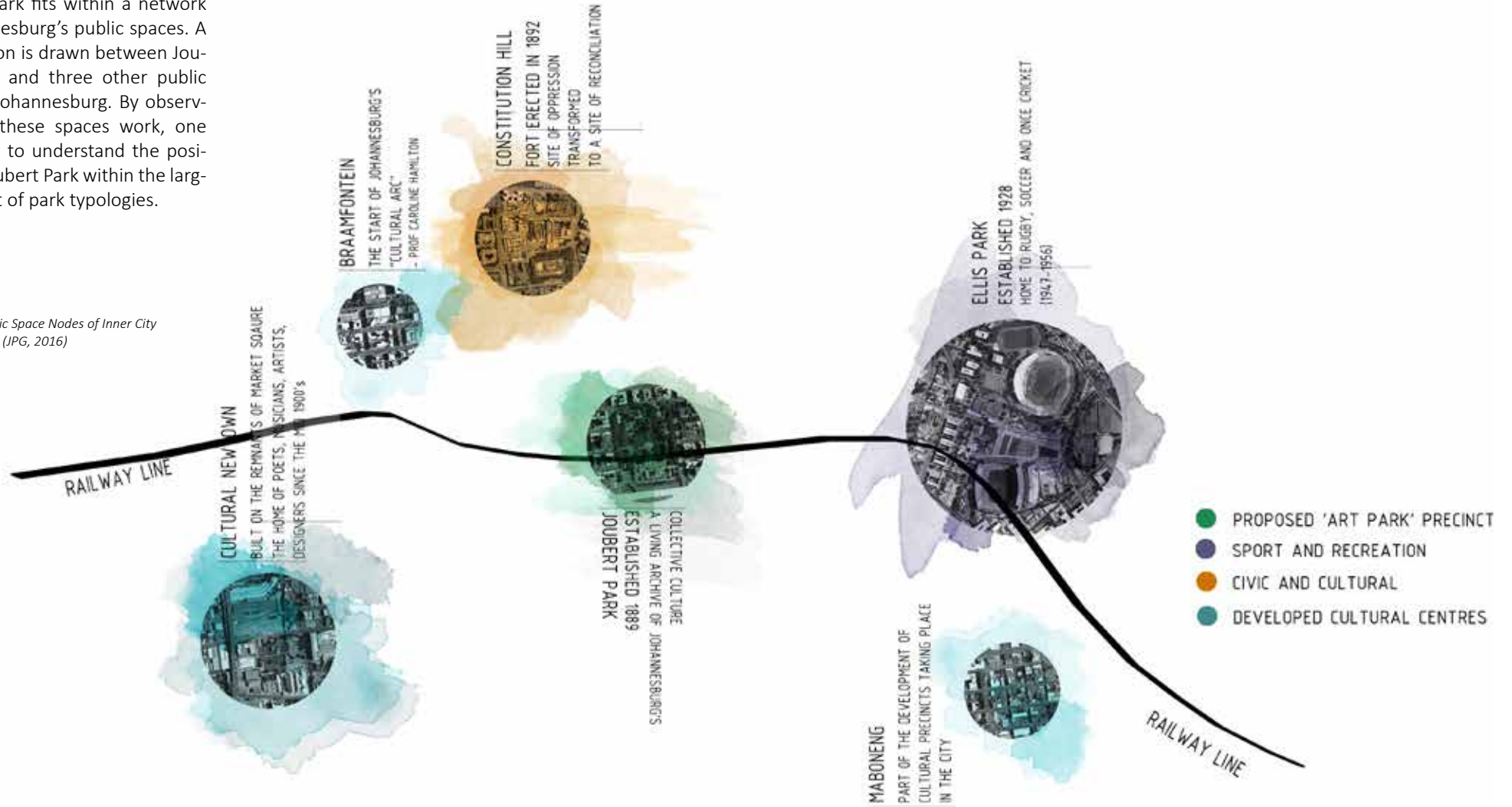


Figure 2. 41
Performance Zone Map (Author, 2016, Adapted from Gershon, 2015)

2.4.7_CONTEXT OF JOUBERT PARK IN THE NETWORK OF PUBLIC SPACE

Joubert Park fits within a network of Johannesburg's public spaces. A comparison is drawn between Joubert Park and three other public parks of Johannesburg. By observing how these spaces work, one can begin to understand the position of Joubert Park within the larger context of park typologies.

Figure 2. 42
Mapping Public Space Nodes of Inner City
Johannesburg (JPG, 2016)



2.4.8_STUDIES OF SELECTED CITY PARKS



Figure 2.43
(JPG, 2016)

2.4.7.1_Mushroom Park

Mushroom Park is located in the commercial area of Sandton, with businesses bordering it on the east and upper class residential developments on the west. On weekends, the Park is a social space and during the week children are sometimes found playing on the jungle gym after school. However, the surrounding traffic often isolates the Park from its context and it does not reach its full potential as a public space. Mushroom Park and Joubert Park both fulfil social functions within dense urban areas, but Joubert Park accommodates a much higher volume of people. As both parks are surrounded by apartment blocks, they serve as gardens for residents. This

role is characteristic of city parks and ought to be encouraged and celebrated. Mushroom Park may function better if the street edge was more pedestrian friendly and integrated with its commercial and residential context, much like the conditions present in Joubert Park.

2.4.7.2_Nelson Mandela Square

Nelson Mandela Square is a hard surface urban square in Sandton devoted to specific recreational purposes. The Square's layout recalls European piazzas with restaurants facing towards a central fountain and a library located on the edge. The Square is consumer driven and very popular for tourists

photographing the Nelson Mandela statue and families and friends shopping or eating out. Like the Square, Joubert Park is surrounded by commercial activity, albeit of a different kind. Spaza shops and markets appeal to the locals of Joubert Park while high end fashion and facilities attract Sandton residents. This illustrates the importance of relevant edges to the successful making of space in an urban park.

2.4.7.3_Mary-Fitzgerald Square

Located in Newtown, Mary Fitzgerald Square is in close proximity to Joubert Park and both public spaces are bordered by museums: Mu-

seum Africa and JAG respectively. However, the hard surface Square is significantly different to the soft surface Park which accommodate different demographics. Newtown is profiled as a cultural hub and its zoning is primarily cultural, commercial and industrial where as Joubert Park is bordered by residential development. Mary-Fitzgerald Square is unsuccessful as an everyday space, with barely any trade or activity during the week. On the weekend, it is able to perform successfully as an event space for concerts and markets. Joubert Park is primarily a park for everyday activities, providing a relaxed environment for users.

The analysis of the above public spaces illustrates the importance of integrating public space within its context by generating edges that respond to and define a successful park without overpowering the space. These public spaces demonstrate how commercial, residential, and cultural contexts, which are also present around Joubert Park, can be used to generate diverse public spaces combining soft and hard landscapes to accommodate various users and activities throughout the week.

2.5 THE NARRATIVE OF JOUBERT PARK'S IDENTITY

As the dissertation has a heritage orientated focus, understanding the changing identity of Joubert Park is of vital importance to gain insight from the past and understand what the predicted future is and the role of heritage fabric and memory. Joubert Park is a founding space of Johannesburg and a reflection of its complex transformation from an informal mining camp into a contested cosmopolitan city. Joubert Park's identity began as an

oasis acquiring the layers of cultural enlightenment and social exploration. Joubert Park experienced a lost, unclaimed identity after apartheid and is now a transit hub, its presence dominated by trains, taxis, cars, and busses. If transport continues to encroach on the Park, the future could be a place with a completely forgotten identity, a new parking lot or taxi rank in the inner city. The past identities of Joubert Park and the rich heritage

behind them have the potential to be mobilised to define the Park today and integrate it as an important public space worth celebrating, following this, an understanding of the narrative of Joubert Park is vital.

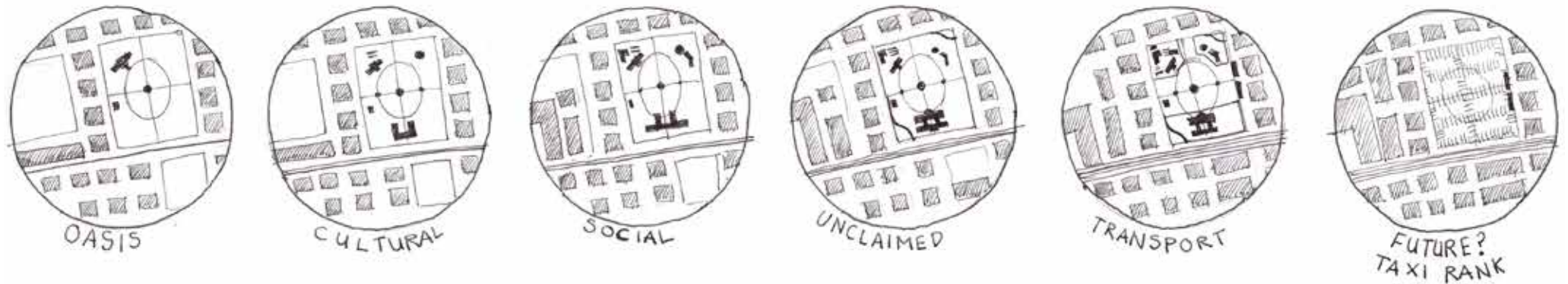


Figure 2.44
The transformation of Johannesburg's Identity and Fabric (Author, 2016)

2.5.1_ IDENTITY 1_ OASIS
1887...

Joubert Park's first identity was that of an ordered Victorian park, developed as an oasis within the mining town of Johannesburg. The Park was filled with exotic plants carefully arranged to create a spectacular natural artwork. The Victorian Conservatory was introduced to the Park to cultivate exotic vegetation and gifts of plants were received from various places, including Kew Gardens of England. The Park attracted wealthy residents who bought property overlooking the piece of paradise.



*People longed for an escape
within Johannesburg's dusty
mining town,
And so Joubert Park was
conceived, a layout for a
Victorian oasis put down.
A place for a stroll along pruned
and planted walkways, a
colonial connection,
An ornamental Conservatory
for exotic plants requiring
protection.
The epitome of class under the
colonial guise,
The jewel of the city, its
paradise.*

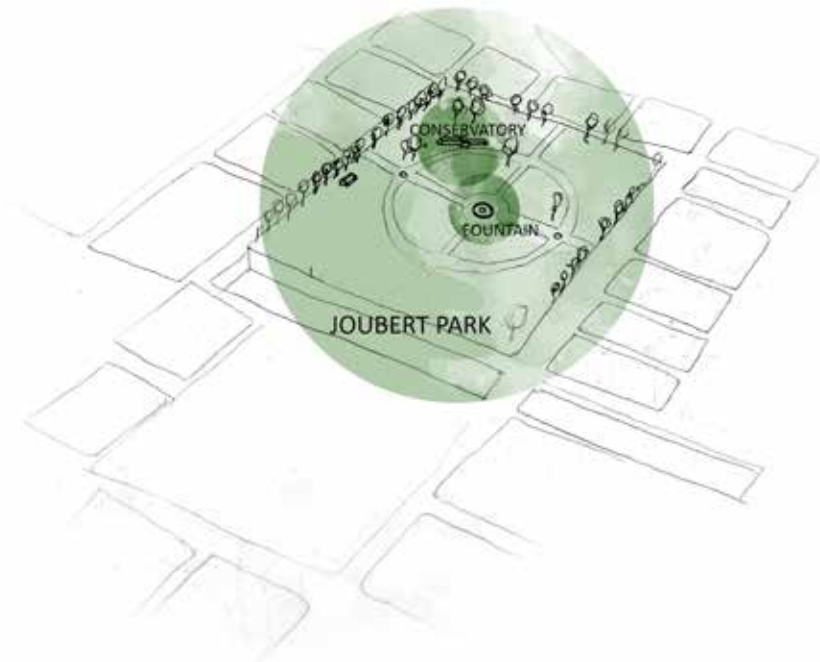


Figure 2. 45
(JPG, 2016)

2.5.2_IDENTITY 2_CULTURAL ENLIGHTENMENT
1915...

Joubert Park's identity evolved with the introduction of the Johannesburg Art Gallery and the Bandstand. The cultural nature of these interventions attracted visitors to the Park for reasons beyond relaxed leisure. Concerts were hosted and the Park became a place for events, giving it a new dynamic quality.



If Johannesburg was to be a civilised place, where was the culture of the Western world reflected?

People needed exposure to the arts, they said, and so a bandstand, and Art Gallery were erected.

*Music filled the weekend air,
And little girls played in the gardens with ribbons dancing in their hair.*

*Ballet and theatrical performances animated the public sphere,
The twinkling Christmas lights of December's nativity scenes drew countless people here.*

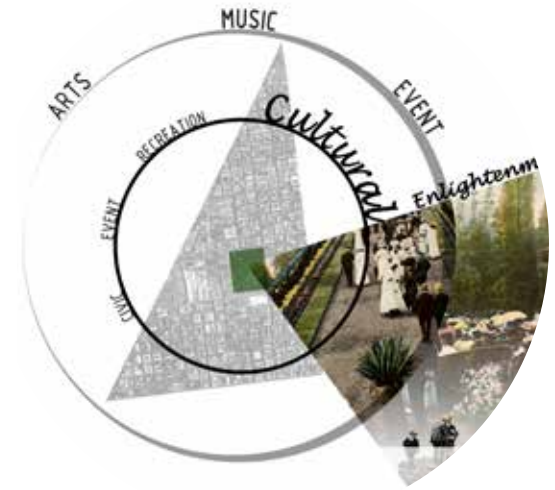


Figure 2. 46
(JPG, 2016)

2.5.3_IDENTITY 3_SOCIAL EXPLORATION 1960...

Adapting to changes in the social environment, the Park embraced its central location and role within the social sphere. High rise buildings began to develop the City's skyline as the residential community densified. Communities met in the Park and men played chess on the giant boards. The playground was expanded to entertain children and parties and music concerts and art exhibitions took place in the Park.



*The sixties arrived with a bustling social scene and high-rise towers,
Cafés, bars, and nightclubs cropped up, with seemingly magnetic powers.
The streets of Joubert Park buzzed with a new energy and sound,
An alternative tattooed crowd, edgy music, and secret habits could now be found.*

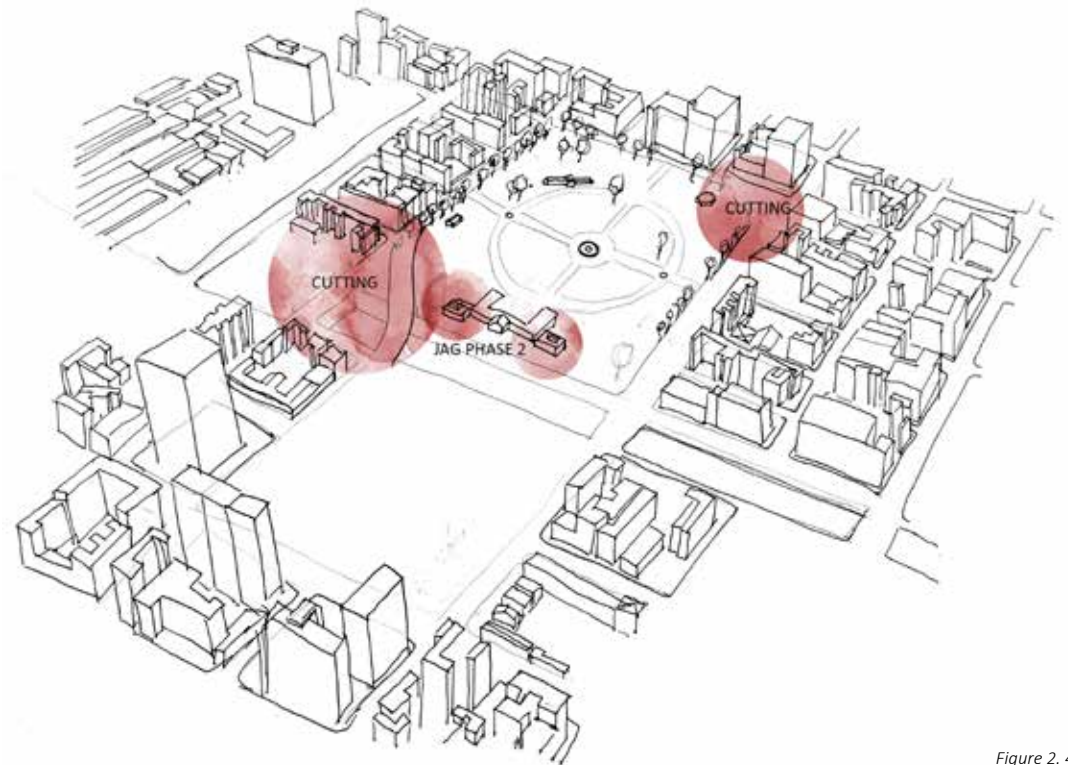


Figure 2. 47
(JPG, 2016)

2.5.4_ IDENTITY 4_UNCLAIMED
1991...

Joubert Park started to decline after 1991 as the community using the public space completely transformed. Upkeep of the Park was forgotten and the unclaimed nature of its identity started to overpower its previous characteristics. JAG's copper roof was stripped and the iron fittings of the Conservatory stolen. JAG, the Bandstand, and the Conservatory lost their public presence and became fenced off in an attempt to protect themselves from further theft and destruction.



In 1991, Apartheid's racial segregation laws fell, a new era coming to light, Joubert Park was now caught in the middle of an extreme urban blight.

Immigrants and peripheral communities flooded Johannesburg, whose character underwent a transformation.

Panicked residents and institutions of old abandoned their posts fearing alienation. But now, what of Joubert Park, who would stake their claim? With uncertain communities now inhabiting the area, gardens deteriorated, losing their once known fame.

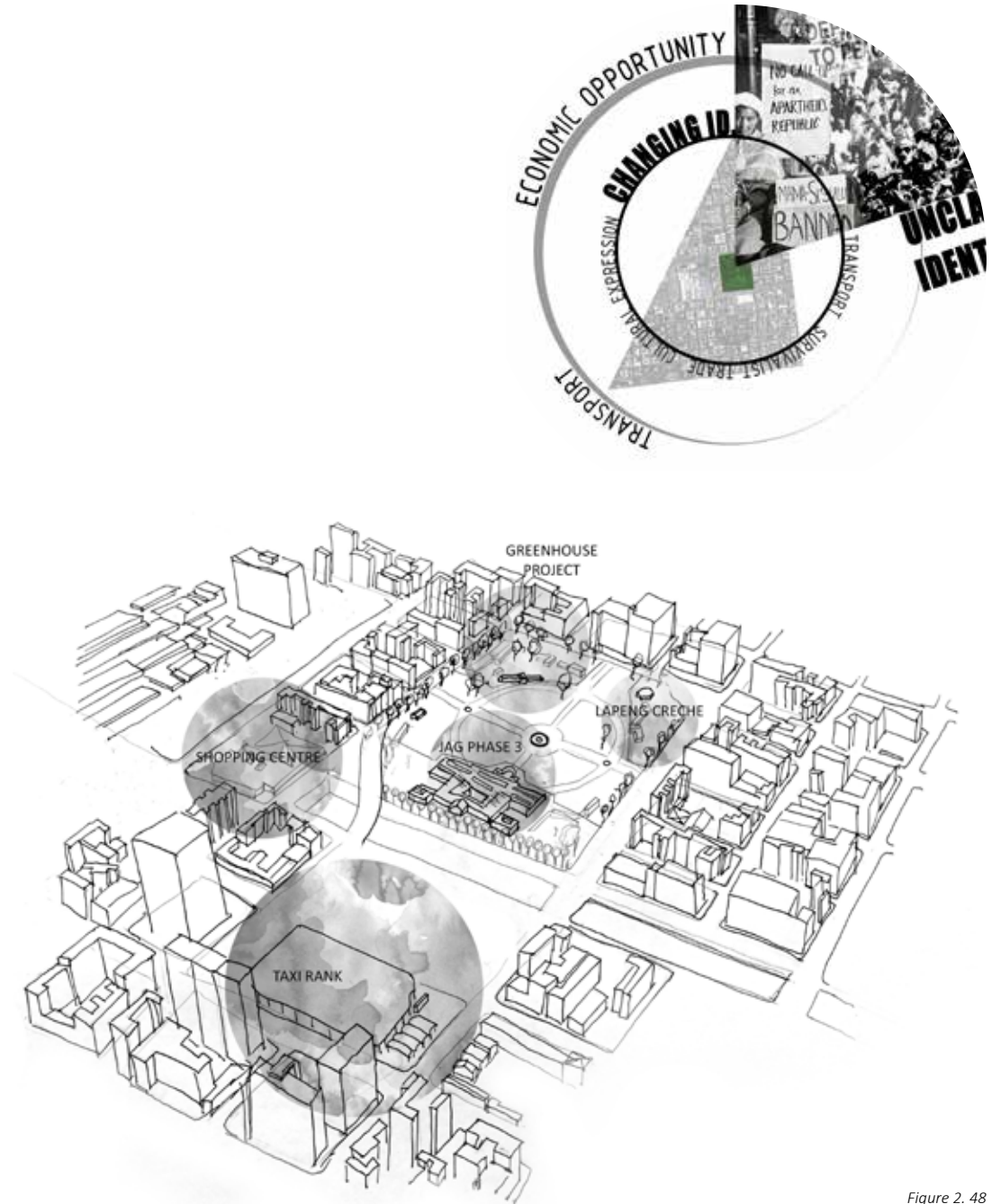


Figure 2. 48
(JPG, 2016)

2.5.5_IDENTITY 5_TRANSPORT & COMMUTING 1997 - PRESENT DAY

Joubert Park is now defined by the various transport networks surrounding the public space. The majority of users commute through the Park between trains, taxis and buses instead of lingering. Roads have eaten into the Park, which is threatened to be converted into a taxi rank.



The Park's identity has transformed from that of an extraordinary place to a space of the everyday that is quite disconnected from its heritage. Resolving the fragmented nature of the space is vital if it is to survive as a valued Park in the inner city.

Joubert Park is now an island in a hub of transportation, Its rich heritage shadowed by taxis, buses, cars, and a train station.

The homeless have made the park their home and drug addicts linger in the corners dark

Hooting taxis, commuting people, and informal trade now define the once elite Park.

Everyday mundane rituals exist in a place with an extraordinary past, What will become of Joubert Park, will its legacy last?

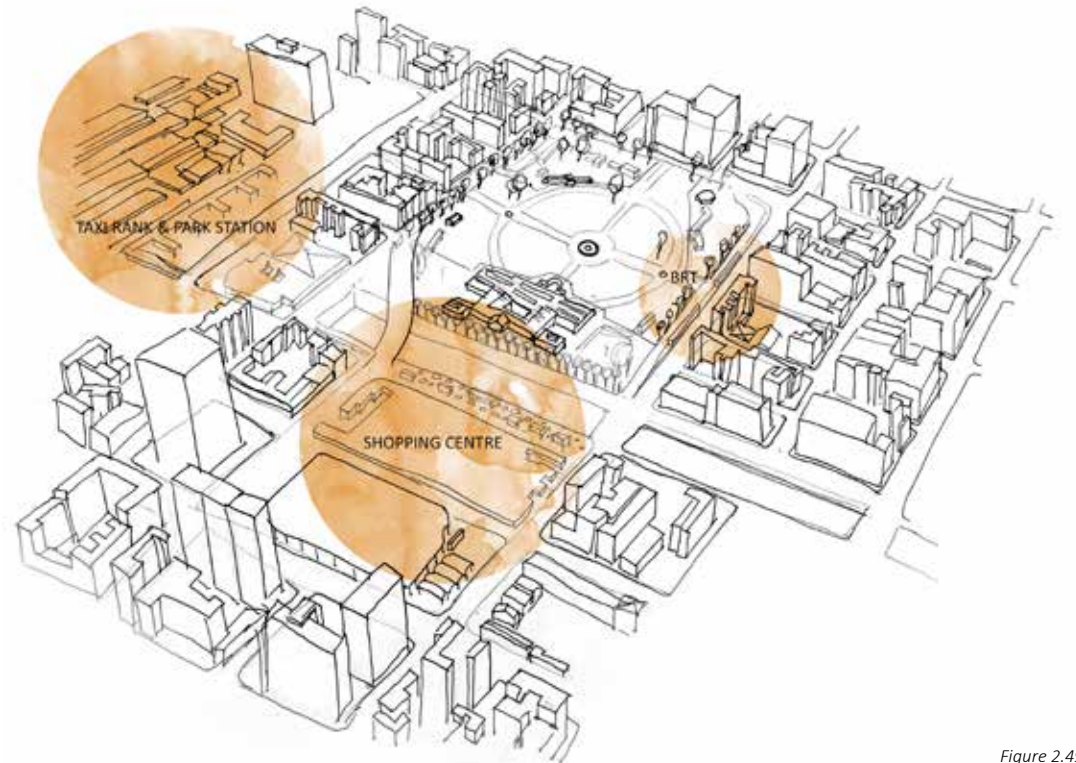


Figure 2.49
(JPG, 2016)

2.6- SWOT ANALYSIS

2.6.1_STRENGTHS



JPG conducted a SWOT analysis of Joubert Park, considering the positive and negative qualities of the site.

Figure 2. 50
(JPG, 2016)

- Connectivity to multiple transportation networks: Park Train Station, Gautrain Station, Minibus Taxis, Metered Taxis, Bus Rapid Transport, and vehicular.
- The availability of open green space within the dense urban context.
- The presence of high-density residential buildings, and therefore a large number of stakeholders.
- A Community Crime Watch unit patrols the area to make the Park a safer environment to be enjoyed by all.

2.6.2_WEAKNESSES



- Privatisation of the public space of the Park, such as fences around JAG, the Conservatory, the Clinic, and the Lapeng Crèche.
- Physical barriers prevent free pedestrian movement, especially the lowered train tracks, the BRT stop blocking a major entry point, and the roads congested with traffic.
- Dead edges on Wolmarans Street and many of the ground level facades of buildings which don't interact with the street.
- Social ills in the park such as exclusion and segregation of stakeholders.

2.6.3 OPPORTUNITIES



- The presence of heritage buildings which could be appropriated to serve contemporary functions and enrich the space with historical meaning.
- The dense human capital in the area could be mobilised to strengthen the economy of the area and enliven spaces with cultural diversity.
- The presence of JAG creates the opportunity to interact with the arts in the Park and facilitate the generation of a new audience who appreciates the arts.
- Joubert Park is a highly accessible public space in the inner city which has the potential to become a node of cultural, economic, and social activity.

2.6.4_THREATS



- Joubert Park's boundaries are being encroached upon by transportation networks, and is under threat of being readapted as a taxi rank.
- Increased privatisation of Park space threatens its role as a public breakout area for all residents.
- Dead edges around the Park threaten the activity of the streets and fragment the relationships between the elements of the public realm.
- The community of the area is in a constant state of flux, resulting in a lack of invested ownership of the space.
- Despite police presence and the Community Patrol, Joubert Park experiences high crime rates, involving theft and assault.



Figure 2.51
Jaco van den Heever (2012), Looking East

2.7 - CONCLUDING STATEMENT

The changing identities and characteristics of Johannesburg and Joubert Park have shaped the contemporary condition of a fractured and somewhat contested urban environment. The tangible and intangible characteristics of space are testament to Joubert Park's palimpsest, heritage, and identity. Understanding these dynamics informs the development of a cognisant urban vision developed by JPG (the Joubert Park Group), outlined in the following chapter.