



02

THE URBAN CONDITION

- 2.1 A[u]tisan To[w]n
- 2.2 A[u]ton Historical Timeline
- 2.3 A[u]ton Now
- 2.4 Mapping
- 2.5 Urban Vision

2.1 A[U]RTISAN TO[w]N

The industrial suburb of Silverton is located to the east of the Pretoria CBD , between the N1 and the Moretele Spruit. It is rich in historic, social and spatial contexts based on the discovery of the precious metal of SILVER known as AG on the periodic timetable. This limited resource did not sustain the town and a unique character developed in obscurity.

Through mapping this obscurity has been translated into a transaction-based framework that seeks to formalise the discreet artisanal character of place defining it as the precious GOLD [AU] of context to be.

The complete framework is unpacked in the diagram based maps of site, including the method formation and mapped condition and spatial responses in the hope that the golden era of the A[U]RTISAN of [AG]TON flourishes and continues.

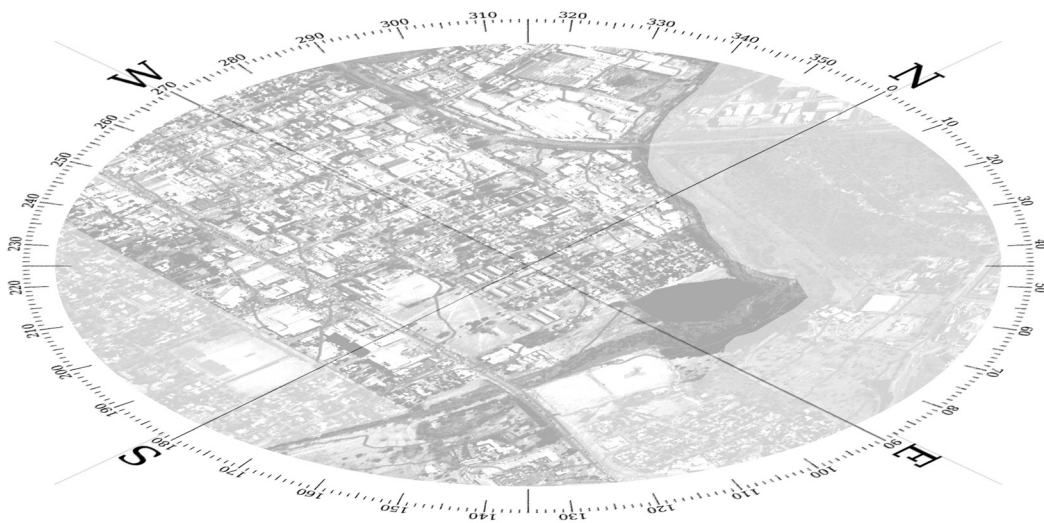
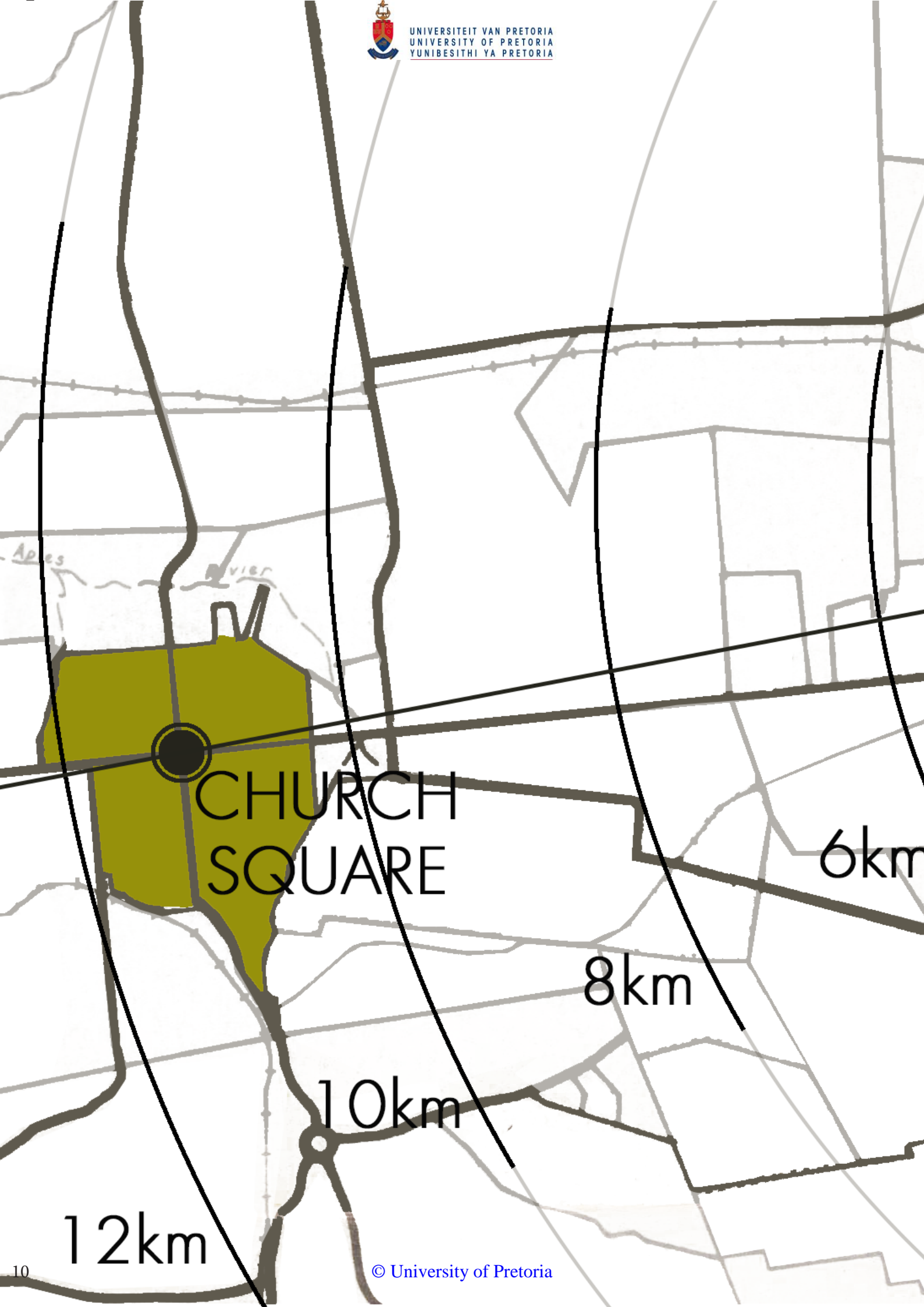


Figure 2.1. Map of Silverton. (Author)



12km

10km

8km

6km

CHURCH
SQUARE



Figure 2.2. Location of Silverton in comparison to Church Square (Author)

2.2 A[U]TON HISTORICAL TIMELINE

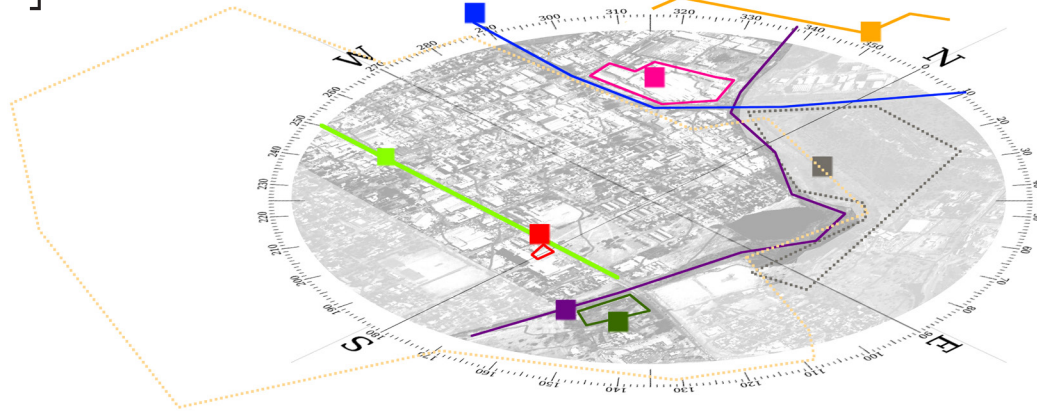


Figure 2.3 Historical timeline of Silverton (Author).

- 1846 David Botha settles at the farm called Hartebeespoort
- 1853 Bought from David by the Vermeulen Family and then the area of Silverton is demarcated on the farm
- 1858 The Silverton farm, number 308 is laid out
- 1859 The Silverton farm is declared and the Guilliam house becomes property of the Silverton Municipality
- 1872 The Northern part of the farm is sold to Cornelius Moll
- 1873 Parts of the farm are sold for 105 pounds each to Hendrik Vermeulens' son Jan Albert and his sons-in-law Guillaume Schoombe Pretorius and Willem Adriaan Fourie
- 25 September 1874 Pilgrims Rest Gold rush [Hans Mundt capitalises] Buys farm for 1400 pounds + Builds half-way station | ■ Moreletta Spruit believed to have gotten its name from Mundts' wives name, Aletta.
- 1900 Silver is found and farm is sold for 9000 pounds to the Silver Mining Company
Thatched home replaced for a Victorian House
- 1905 the portion of the Derpdepoort farm is laid out. Plot number 469 with a total area of 666 hectares and the Cullinin Diamond is discovered.
- 1915 The Silverton tannery is established, 1920 Tannery is extended in relation to the meat boards and in 1929 it is mapped and in 1937 is it further adapted.
1936 Silverton is supplied with electricity
- 1960 Sawmill and steel foundry established in Koesdoespoort for building passenger coaches
- 1954 Era bricks is established West of Eersterust
- 1958 Eersterust is formalized and proclaimed a coloured community and has erven divided
1960 Silverton Population reaches 5000 approx.
1961 Mundt family donates estate to Silverton
- 1967 The Silverton tannery gets allocated as top one hundred industry in the JSE
- 1972 The Municipality donates the Guilliam house is donated by the City of Pretoria to the Cultural- Historic Institution.
Charles Marais, the same Charles which Charles Street is named after, laid out and surveyed Silverton.
- 1975 Cultural History Museum becomes the Pioneer Museum and the Silverton tannery produces 1/3 of South Africa leather demand
- 1979 Eersterust reaches a population of 17 000 people
- 1980 The Silverton Seige | 2 Hostages died Valerie Anderson and Anna de Klerk
- 1983 The tannery closes and becomes an industrial park.
- 1991 the group areas act is abolished, but migrations do not commence
- 2000's Removal of Trees along Pretoria Street

2.3 A[U]TON NOW

Today, Silverton exists as a network of industrial plots on the edges and sits between a collection of long narrow suburban lots which once served as peach tree farms, which has led to a vast amount of open space being filled in with informal constructions. On the main road edges of the suburban neighbourhoods are commercial developments that often either appropriate existing suburban sites or reconstruct a new space.

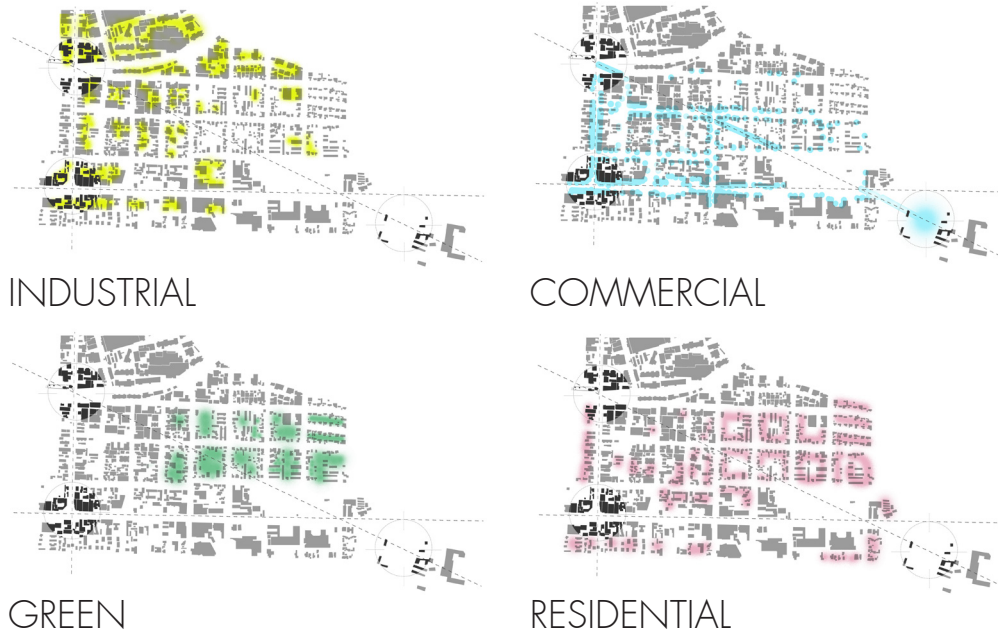
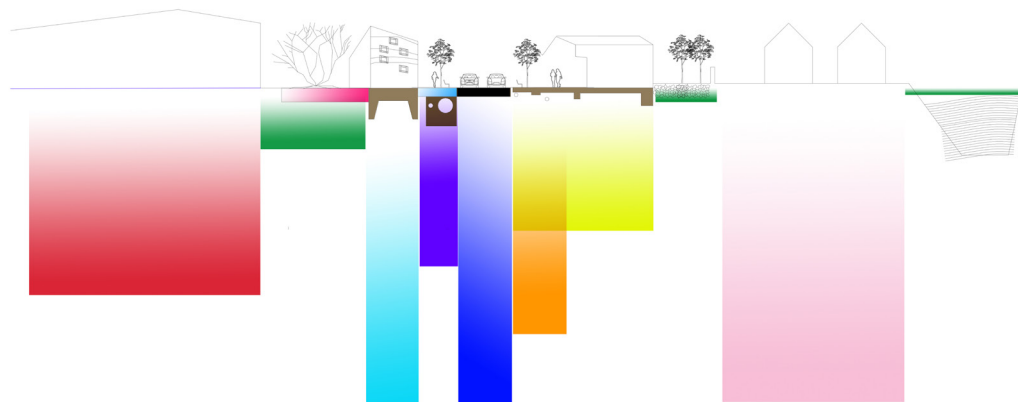


Figure 2.4. Existing Conditions of Silverton (Author).



- Infrastructural
- Small Scale Agri-
- Commercial
- Pedestrian For-
- Primary Vehicular
- Pedestrian
- Industrial
- Residential

Figure 2.5. Existing Section through Pretoria Street (Author).

2.4 A[U]TON MAPPING

A context is but a layer of language, gestures, images and experience. To decipher space and place, a method was developed to capture data rigorously; the method illustrated below involved capturing a variety of different spatial CONDITIONS and creating a condition card from those [as shown below]. Once conditions are defined, they can be categorised, grouped, discussed and disposed of, especially once they become further interrogated.

Overall 9 conditions were defined in the framework in the following way :



Figure 2.6. The condition card (Author).

What is clear from the mapping is that the conditions communicate the diversity and complexity of Silverton. The grouping of conditions per site then goes on to inform a specific regional response. These responses were then translated into the urban concept of “exposing” the industrial nature of industry and graphed into areas of spatial complexity, which the resultant architectures of each project which fits into the greater framework described as the [AU].



conditions from left to right : INVISIBLE DESTINATION, ABSOLUTE, SECONDED, SMALL FENCE, PASSENGER, REVERENCE, TRANSACTIONS, OVERFLOW, SURVELLIENCE, MATERIALITY.



CONDITION : Surveillance

We are aware of how 'watched' we are, even in the safety of your own home. However the public 'watchmen's' invisible status is powerful and results in irrational 'secure' protocol becoming the rational interaction between people. The is no negotiation of right or wrong, there is only one eye with many memories.



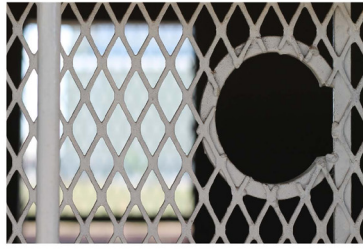
CONDITION : Passenger

The surrounding neighbourhoods supply labour for the day, and the place that is Silverton becomes a ship of trade and industry for a day. The passenger for a day is the visitor, the labourer, the employed and the passerby, journeying with the time and place, hoping for another arrival at better days.



CONDITION : Overflow

With the influx of materials to the yards, the industrial and commercial areas themselves are also flushing out their waste, and the self contained loops remain intact, but unconfigured and weak.



CONDITION : Accessibility

When the boundary can be breached, we often breach it. When the invitation to the inside is presented, we may accept it. The understanding of which places are accessible and to what degree presents new corridors and passages to navigate place. The short fence.



CONDITION : Seconded

Large amounts of 'scrap' arrives to the yards to be traded for money. Everyone of car has managed to carry a load of metals for exchange. Someone is trading an object they no longer need as another is taking it as resource. There is a second life into everything and these yards begin to become an artificial vivarium. Establishing a new life order through process.



CONDITION : Wideness

Where there is a void, something finds a way to fill it. The atrium with people and posters the abandoned building with new tenants, legal or not, and the fields with weeds and waste. The wideness is where the walks a witnessed and the billboards grow like trees. The wideness is spatially latent yet never ceasing to grow at its own rate.



CONDITION : Invisible Destination

The signifiers of a station are marking the trail towards yet, yet as the newcomer to place, we find ourselves unsure of whether to continue onwards. Only as a collective do we meander onwards.



CONDITION : Reverence

This is a god-fearing place. Streets lined with churches, and people lined with vigilance of powers unseen. The suburban wall of churches mediates the commercial strings along the roads and the places to be forgiven and signified at every sign you pass.



CONDITION : Materials

The area contains a legacy of the materials of history used throughout the history of Pretoria, a legacy which slowly finds itself lost to the physical realm and dwelling rather in the realm of literature and history. A means to let the memory remain as tangible must be explored through an understanding of origin and end.



2.4



Figure 2.8. Street Conditions of Silverton (Author).



Figure 2.9. Recycling of materials (Author).



Figure 2.10. The language of Silverton (Author).



Figure 2.11 Car sales in Silverton (Author).



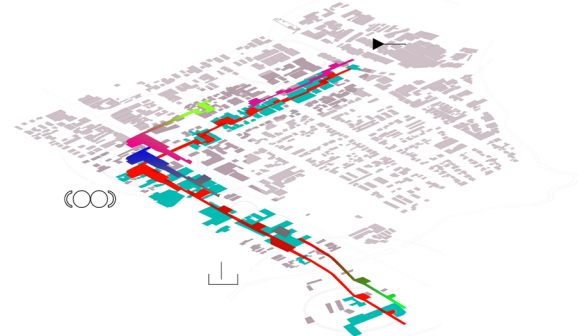
Figure 2.12 Factories in Silverton (Author).

2.5 THE VISION FORMATION

Silverton was mapped into a set of conditions which were then grouped and coded into a set of transactions. These transactions were sculpted into a set of edge conditions which then slot into a proposed artisan corridor, into which the sites of response then slot into and respond accordingly.

PARTS OF THE MACHINE

[AU]



- Gerard : energy source / input
- Ilze : drive unit, conversion / transfer
- Juan : collection / outlet / drain/

ARTISAN CORRIDOR

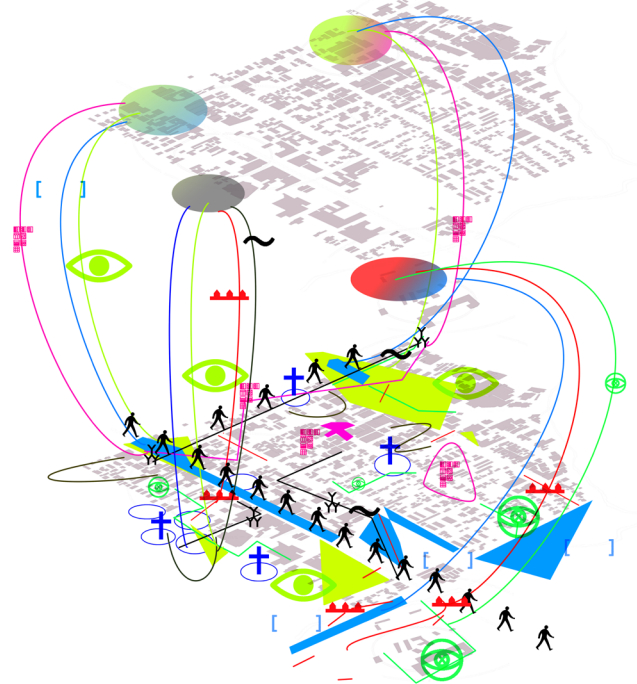
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- 1
- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

TRANSACTIONS

B



- Transaction 1 : Production Culture
- Transaction 2 : Blind Culture
- Transaction 3 : Civic Culture
- Transaction 4 : Commercial Culture

MAPPING

A

- Reverence
- Accessibility
- Passenger
- Overflow
- Invisible destination
- Wideness
- Surveillance
- Materials
- Seconded

SITE

0

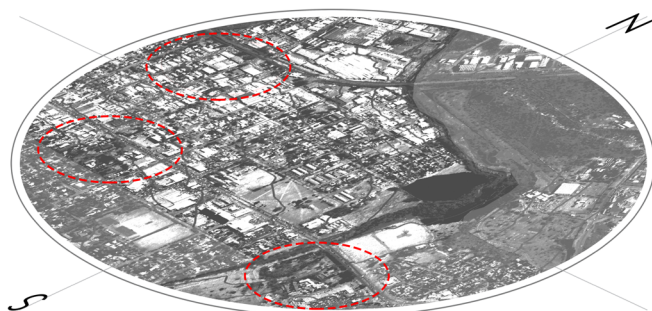


Figure 2.13 The Vision Formation (Author).

2.6 THE URBAN VISION

The vision for Silverton is aimed at strengthening the existing mixed industrial, commercial and residential typologies through the introduction of an artisanal corridor connecting the three sites. This will run parallel with the re-introduction of urban agriculture and reinforcing circulation routes and public spaces.

CONNECTION

4

THE THREE NODES ARE CONNECTED
PINK : WASTE CORRIDOR
RED : PRODUCTION CORRIDOR
BLUE:

FUTURE GREEN SPACES

3

GREEN SPACES ARE TO BE PROTECTED AND FORMALISED IN AN URBAN AGRICULTURAL METHOD THAT ENCOURAGES BIO PLASTICS AND FOOD PRODUCTION

TYPOLGIES / DENSITY

2

THE EXISTING MIXED USED NATURE OF THE SITE MUST BE RETAINED AND EMBRACED INTO EDGE CONDITION IN A MIXED USE MIXED USE TYPOLOGY

CIRCULATION DIVERSIFICATION THROUGH NODES

1

THE THROUGHWAY OF PRETORIA STREET BECOMES DIVERSIFIED THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ROUTES AND PATHWAYS IN RELATION TO NODAL DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTED SITES

SITE

0

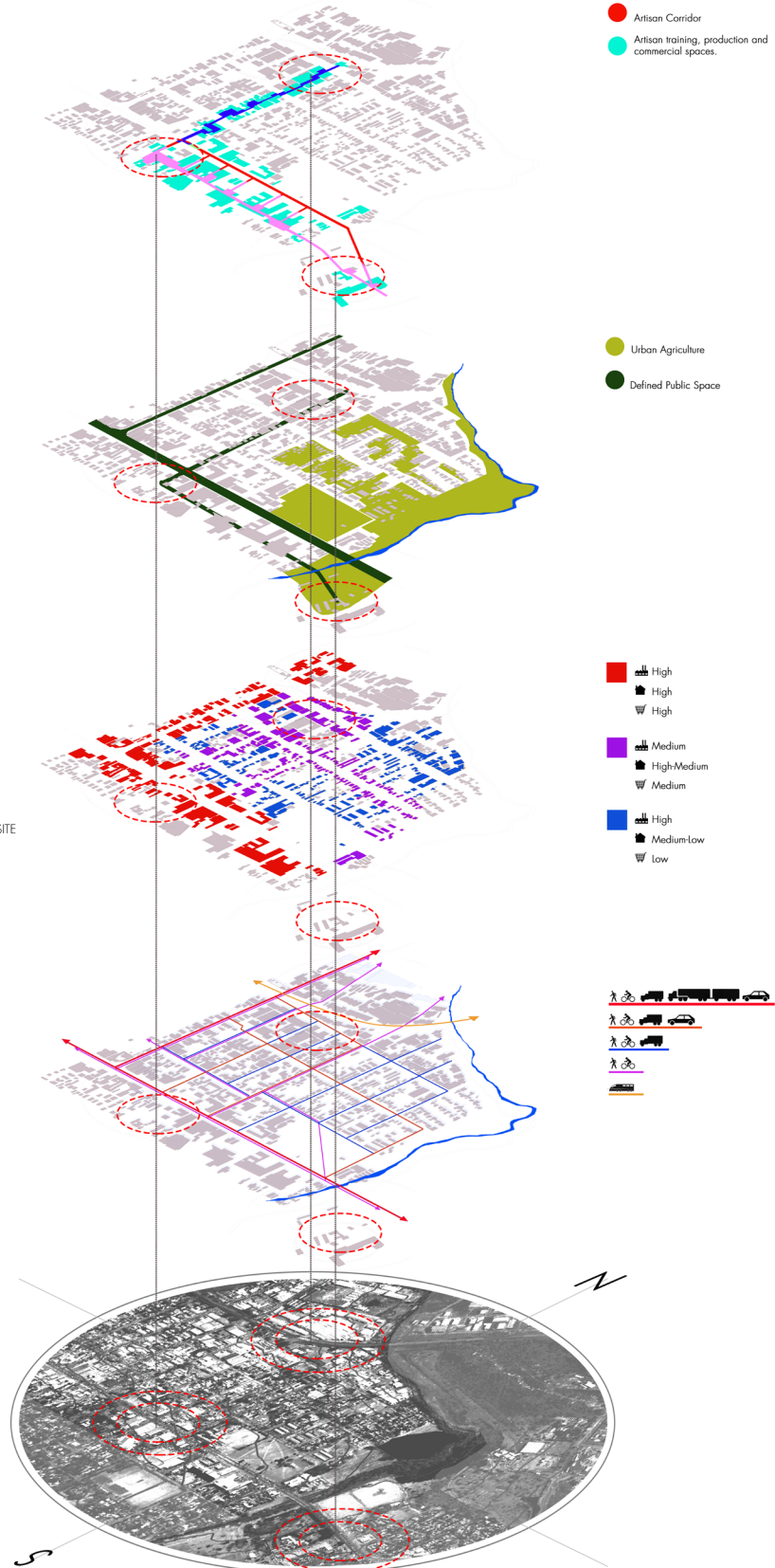


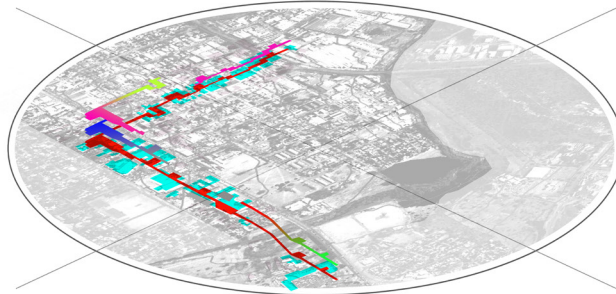
Figure 2.14 The Vision of A[u]ton (Author).

All the conditions became grouped into one condition of TRANSACTIONS - as it was understood that conditions were a variance of transaction. From these grouped transactions a framework vision was then developed.

[AU] CORRIDOR

[AU]

FORMALISE TRANSACTIONS INTO FABRIC OF PLACE THROUGH THE DESIGN OF AN ARTISAN CORRIDOR AS INFORMED BY CONDITIONS



ENERGIES

7

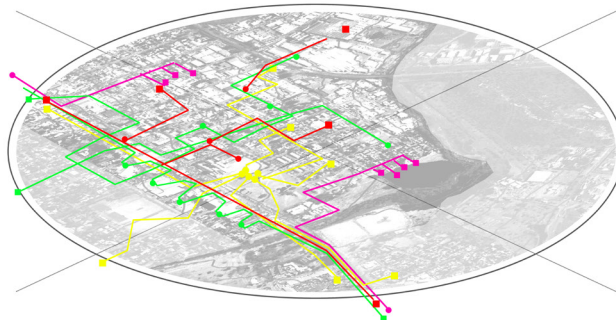
STRENGTHENING OF IDENTITY THROUGH CULTURE OF TRADE AND INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH SPATIAL PERMEABILITY



DEMOGRAPHICS

6

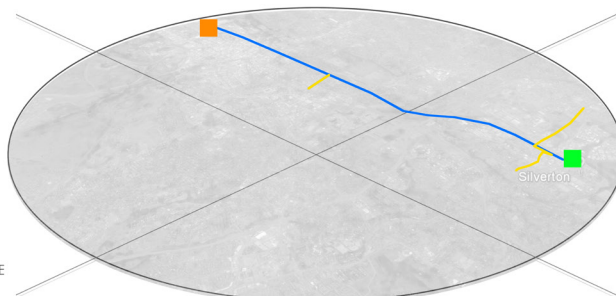
CAPTURE ENERGIES OF EXISTING DEMOGRAPHIC THROUGH INTERSECTIONAL SPACES



CONTEXT

5

DEFINING RELATIONSHIP TO THE CITY AND SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOODS THE EXISTING 12KM BREAK BETWEEN SILVERTON AND CHURCH SQUARE BECOMES NAVIGATED AT A SMALLER SCALE THROUGH THE CONTEXT OF PRETORIA AND DYKOR STREET.



SITE

0



- Existing energy
- Proposed energies
- Proposed intersection into place
- Intersectional energy with train station

- Business Owner
- Disabled / Visitor
- Youth
- Resident
- Worker

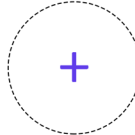
- Primary Route
- Secondary Route
- Church Square
- Silverton



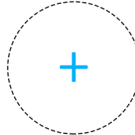
2.6



MATERIALS



SCHOOL

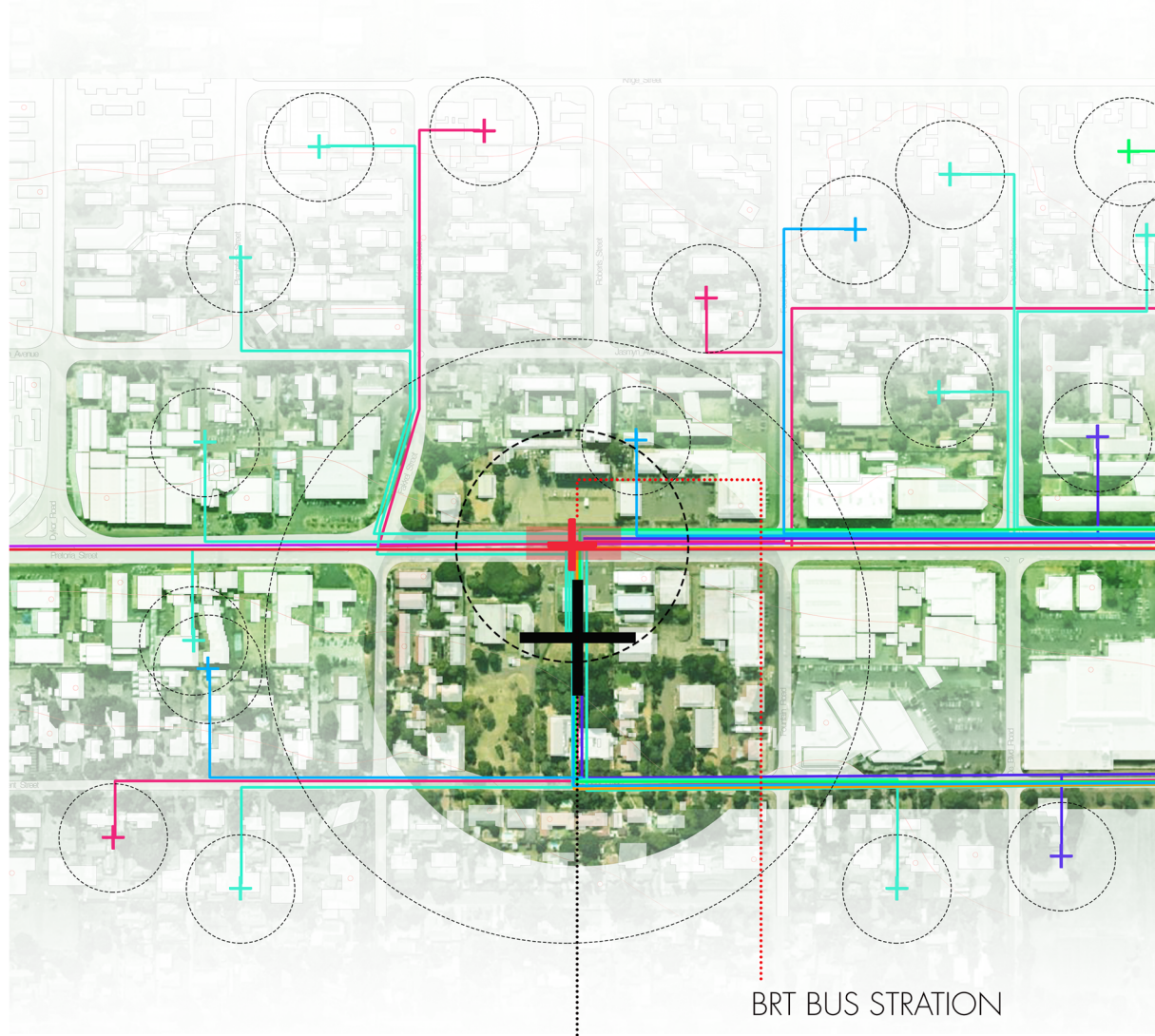


PEOPLE



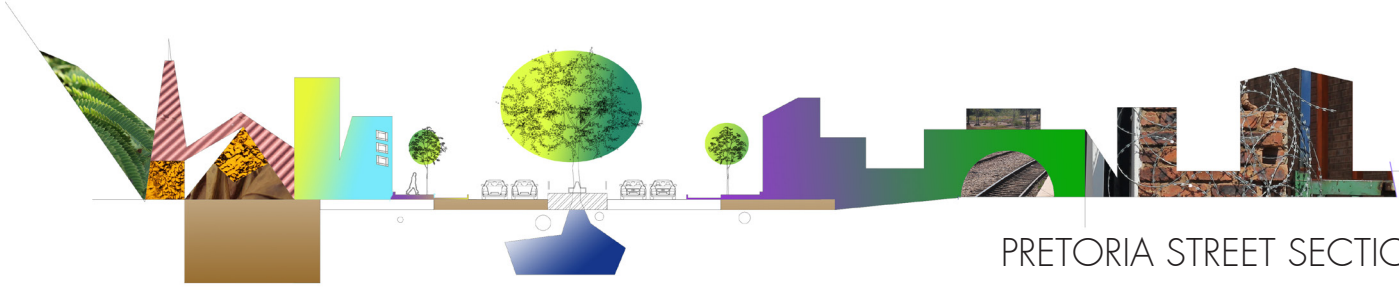
PRETORIA STREET

PRESIDENT STREET



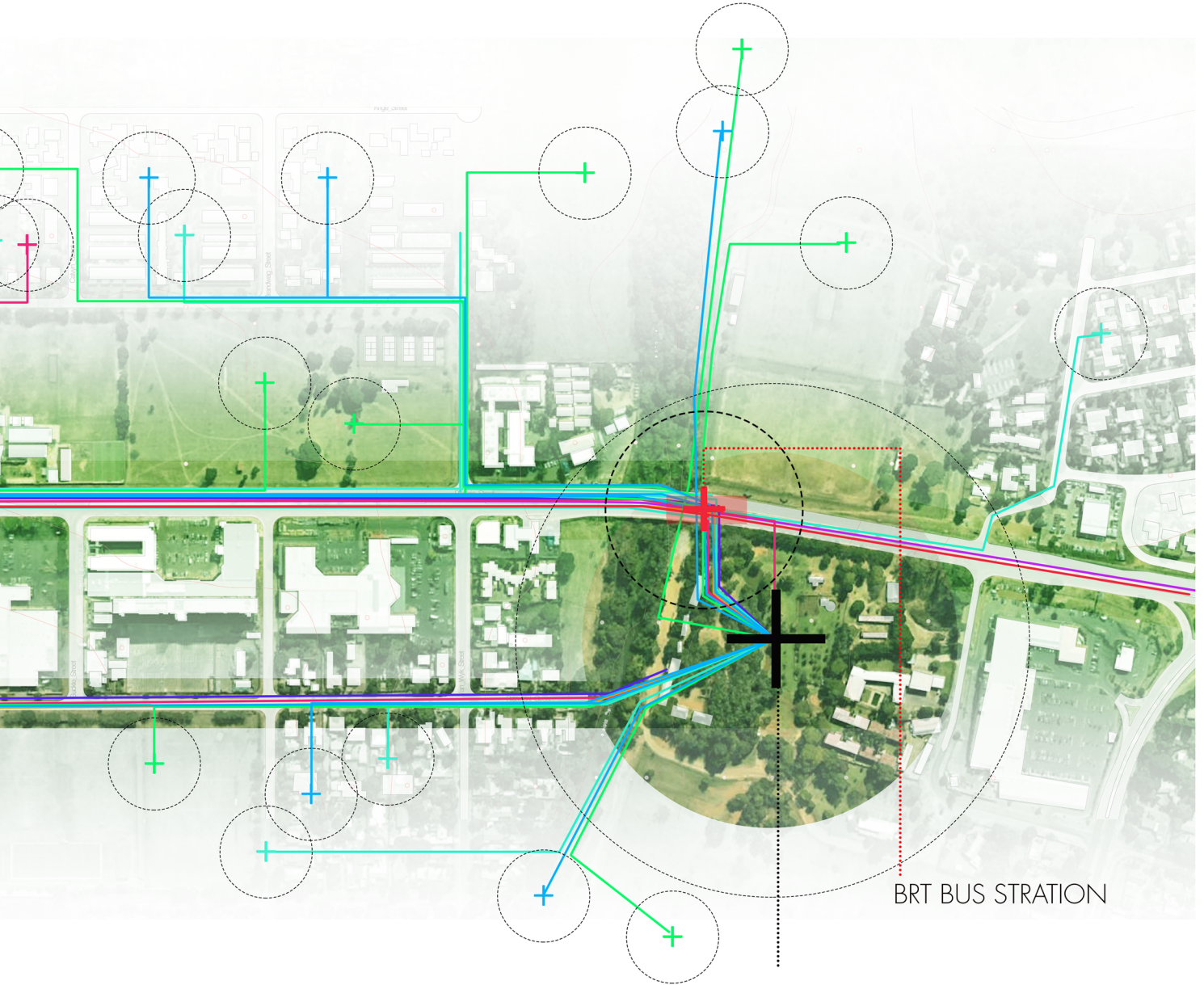
BRT BUS STATION

WASOP



PRETORIA STREET SECTION

Figure 2.17. The vision for Pretoria Street (Author).



[de]BOX

ior
r).



PRESIDENT STREET SECTION

Figure 2.18. The vision for President Street (Author).