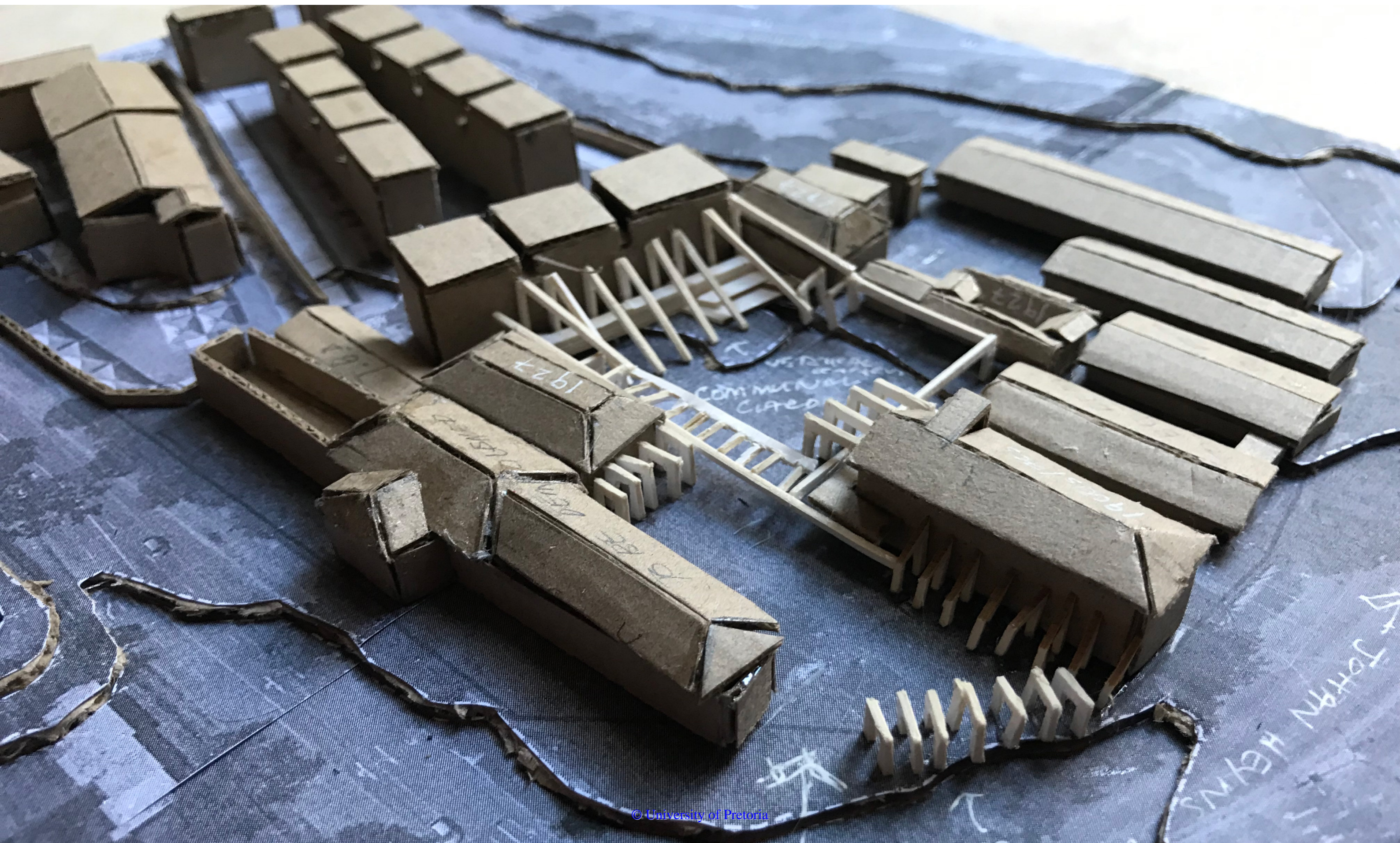


essay two

RESEARCH INTO DESIGN



07

introduction

In this essay, various analytical tasks have been conducted to engage the Melgisedek site, its existing inhabitants and appropriation to inform the programme and conceptual approach to intervention on the site.

Firstly, the mapping of various aspects on site is aimed at identifying moments of potential, namely the potential for integrating the site into its surrounding context, the existing significant and less significant architecture, and the existing activities and appropriation on site. These mapping exercises have then been interpreted, resulting in various design informants to be considered in the eventual site vision and later design of specific spaces.

Thereafter, through interviews and engagement with various stakeholders currently interacting with the site and its inhabitants, an analysis of the user group(s) and their needs has been conducted to identify the most pertinent needs to respond to through the programme and conceptual approach.

Lastly, various precedents have been analysed through the theoretical lenses of appropriation and agency, [communal] event-driven spaces and transient evolving spaces. The purpose of this analysis is to develop a stance on designing for appropriation and to inform a programmatic and conceptual approach that addresses the social and spatial needs of a vulnerable user group through the theoretical lenses of this dissertation.

The analytical tasks in this essay, and interpretation thereof into design strategies and principles, are aimed at developing a sensitive and well-considered programmatic approach that translates into a conceptual strategy and vision for the site as a whole, which will be discussed in the final section of this essay. This site vision will serve as a conceptual framework for a more focused design intervention to follow, where the detailed design development will centre on a particular aspect and area of the overall vision.



Fig. 7.1. Previous page: Photograph of 1:1000 initial site maquette (Author 2021).
Fig. 7.2. Right: Photograph of an old hostel room appropriated into a tuckshop (Author 2021).