

“Once, heavy industry was hidden in the poorest suburbs of cities, downwind and out of sight of those who made money from it.”

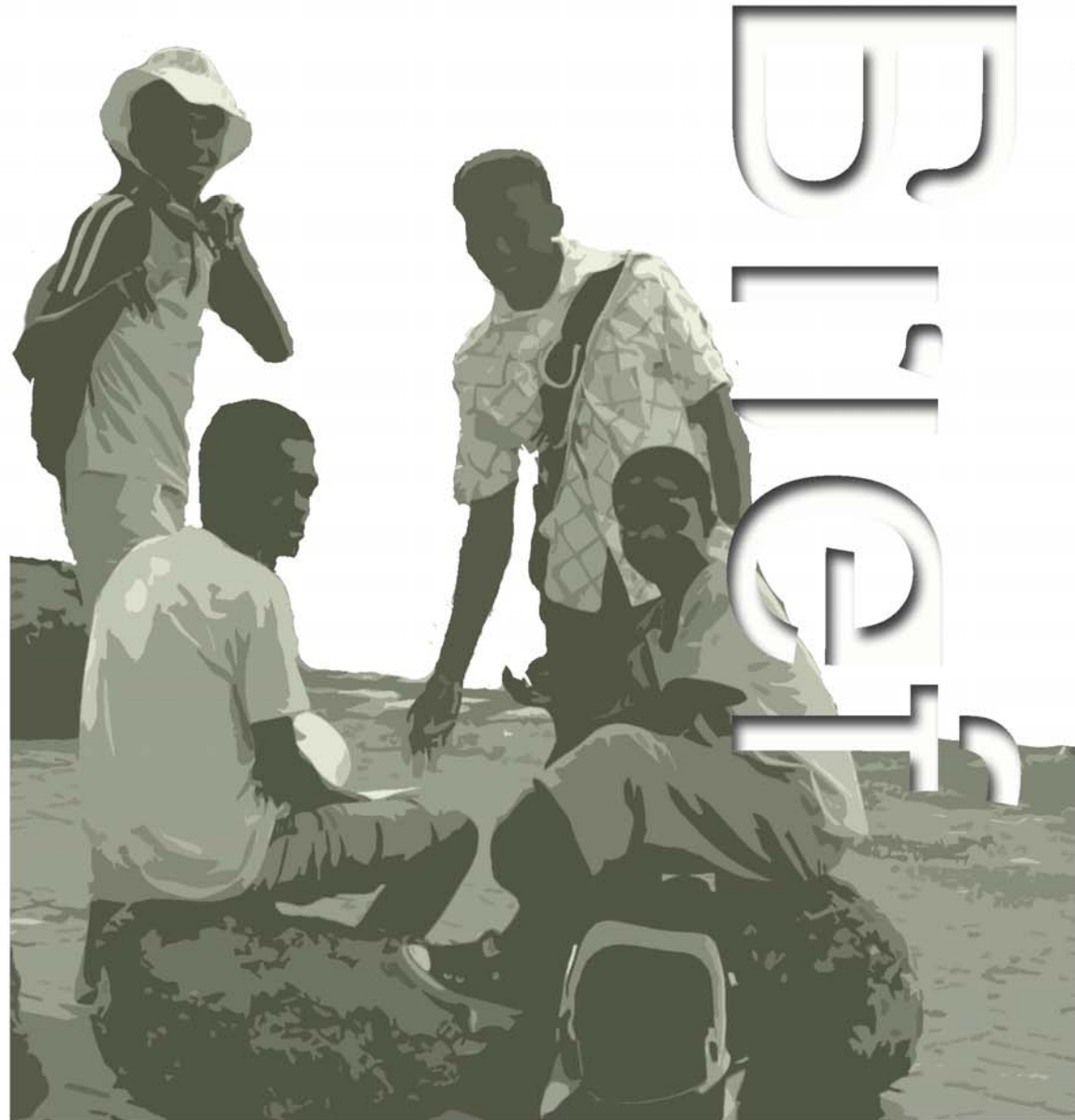
(Kieran 2006:60)



A Brief development

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Brief development

Introduction

Mining engineers, not particularly concerned with the design of aesthetics, follow a practical approach in both the architecture and landscaping of a potential mining project. Factory warehouse like facilities are designed to protect expensive equipment, from dust and rain, usually resulting in unsightly, elementary structures intruding in the landscape. The landscape design does not reflect the specific context. Transport interchanges, gathering places for potential workforce, nearby towns, and cultural values are neglected in the design process, resulting in societal problems and conflict. Offices, change rooms, workshops and gathering spaces, amongst others, are designed to function well, but usually result in mundane, uninspiring spaces, contributing to the adverse visual impact of the site. Buildings and landscapes are function-specifically designed, with little or no sustainable approach, no vision for the future and only erected to serve the immediate purpose of the mine for 30 to 50 years.

Apart from the obvious visual impact, the problem does not cease to exist once the mine closes down. Because of the nature of the infrastructure it is difficult to re-implement a mine successfully. This results in the buildings slowly degrading and going to ruin, an unsightly picture in our otherwise beautiful South African landscape. Unfortunately at this stage in the mining process degrading buildings is not the only concern. Due to the ignorance concerning cultural history and values, and designs that that was purely functional at the time, the surrounding communities are also degrading, and their heritage and character is lost.

A. 1 Brief development

In an attempt to shift the paradigms that govern the perceptions of mining, one should endeavour to explain and investigate the concept of mining accommodated in a larger, broader sense and location. In this respect the mine can be seen as a catalyst for the introduction of

values, spaces and urban areas that are not without meaning or belonging.

This dissertation investigates a paradigm shift that contains mining as a temporary intervention as key to a more sustainable and socially acceptable end land use. There is a need for a design model stipulating guidelines for sustainable mining and its social and infrastructural implications that can lead to invaluable communities within which spin-off activities can be introduced, grown and nurtured. This paradigm shift is necessary in formulating a new approach for an industry that is otherwise perceived as exploitative and exhaustive on the natural, social and bio-physical environments.

A. 2 Project background

The Pilanesberg National Park (hereinafter referred to as PNP), situated within the Bophuthatswana homelands, was founded in 1979. Situated 150 km. North West of Pretoria in the North West Province, this 55 000 ha National Park was quoted as being the first game reserve in Africa to have adopted the basic philosophy that 'nature conservation was to be utilized to the benefit of the local community.' (Keenan, 1984, p.6-7).

Initially only 35 000 ha were considered for the PNP while a large portion of the remaining land was community owned and was used predominantly for subsistence farming. The Bophuthatswana government realized that without negotiations and community involvement, they would be faced with great resistance in the development of the PNP and Sun City complex. It is not purely speculative to believe that the Bophuthatswana government had no choice but to include the local community in the establishment and management of the Park if they wanted to increase the area to 55 000 ha.

Three prominent tribes live around the PNP, with the small Baleema tribe concentrated in Malawi Village on the western side of the PNP, the Bakabung tribe from Ledig village in close proximity of Sun City on the southern side, and the Bakgatla Tribe on the north eastern periphery of the Park.

The Bakgatla tribe is the largest of all tribes with 32 villages falling within the Bakgatla Tribal Area (Nyalala Pilane, Chief of Bakgatla Tribe, 12 August 2003). As a result they own much of the land in the vicinity of the PNP and also benefit from their platinum mining rights. According to their agreement with the Bophuthatswana Government (Collingson & Magome, 1998), the tribe agreed to relinquish their grazing rights of the 8500 ha. that they owned and relocated the portion of their community living within the proposed Park to areas outside the Park (Collingson & Magome, 1998 & Honey, 2000). Today the Bakgatla Tribal headquarters are situated in the small town of Saulspoort, on the northeastern periphery of the Park, with the community living in the surrounding towns and villages.

Mining activities in the area are also very important since this provides employment for a large part of the community. Anglo Platinum's steady state operations, amongst others, are currently under way in the Amandebult and Union Sections near the town of Northam, with Bafokeng Rasimone Platinum Mine (BRPM), and the Rustenburg Section in operation southwest of the Pilanesberg National Park.

A. 3 The site

Rustenburg Platinum Mines (as part of the Anglo Platinum Group) are investigating the possible development of a platinum mining operation, known as the Kruidfontein Project, on the northern periphery of the Pilanesberg National Park, inclusive of the farms Rooderand 46JQ; Tuschenkomst 135JP; Wilgerspruit 2JQ; Koedoesfontein 42JQ; Legkraal 45JQ and Magazynskraal 3JQ. (S.E.F. 2001:.)

Early on in the initial investigations and with the stakeholders' involvement process it was brought under the project team's attention that a strategic green corridor initiative was planned in the vicinity of the aforementioned mining project. It was soon realised that a section of the Kruidfontein Project (the farms Rooderand 46JQ and Legkraal 45JQ) overlaps with a part of the broader regional proposed Heritage Park development.

In the event of the corridor development being pursued, it would open up an important tourism node and conservation area for the North West Province. This conservation effort will hold vast potential for development in the Saulspoor area and it is essential that the heritage, culture and activities of the Bakgatla community form part of both the mining and the management plan for this area.

A. 4.1 Overall objectives

The overall objectives for the project are:

- To design a node from where the people of Saulspoor will commute to the mine and their other daily activities.
- To preserve the very specific character of the town Saulspoor and enhance it in such a way that it can benefit parts of the community in all the phases of the mining operation.
- Enclose the cultural precinct which consists of the tribal office and a large arena like space which hosts weekly, monthly and annual gatherings.
- It must be a design aesthetic that can be recurring and become part of the distinctiveness of the area as well as express the identity of the people who use it.

A. 4.2 Approach



Figure A.2 the design approach

A. 4.2.1 Preconstruction to Closure/Decommissioning

This includes the design of the cultural precinct area to capture the heritage an character of Saulspoor. The design must serve as a mitigation measure to the various influences mining operations usually encompass like influx of people, cultural stresses, visual impacts, traffic and financial stresses. It must also fulfil the present needs of community like promotion of tourist interest, upgrading of the cultural precinct, promote the cultural attractions like museums and trade.

After decommissioning of the mine the design must enhance the developments that occurred during the mining operations and tie in with the architectural influences proposed by the project team, and planned end land uses projected for the shaft infrastructures just outside the Saulspoor periphery

A. 5.1 Project aims and objectives

- The effective planning and design of the transportation system node/s in Saulspoor
- The creation of a safe, aesthetically pleasing environment for the tourist, residents and workforce of the mine.
- The linkage of the mine site with the town
- Include historical and cultural facets in the design
- Designated end land-use
- Tourist-friendly facility
- Sensitivity towards the park and surrounds
- Pedestrian friendly design to lessen traffic impact
- Easy access
- Icon of prosperity and influence of mining
- Growth of a second industry whilst mine is in operation
- Community participation and decision making
- The ease of converting, enlarging, or reduction of the transportation interchange into the designated end-land use
- Reuse of materials

- Urban ease of incorporation into the heritage park
- Upliftment of the community
- Conglomeration of activities to support the whole
- Create new job opportunities; skills training and community development

A. 5.2 Constraints

Linkage to town due to proximity of the mining operations.

Project falls within a specific cultural & physical context

The scope of project

Time span of project

Low visual pattern of landscape

A. 6 Methodology

A **scenario-based** approach to problem solving will be used as part of the research and development process. Due to the nature, scale and time span of the project, the scenario-based approach allows for flexibility and appropriation of the design proposal presented.

Also used is the descriptive survey method:

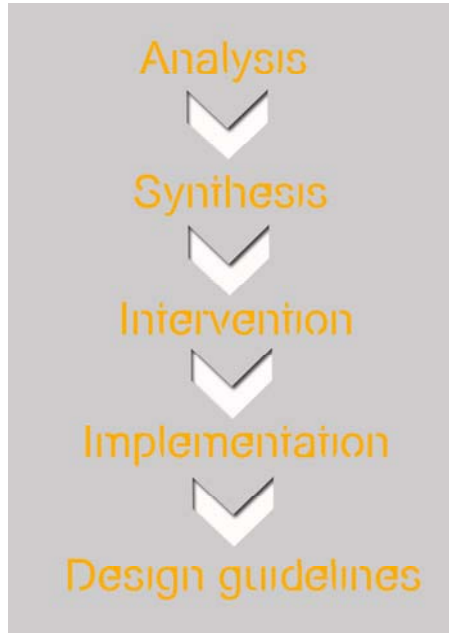


Figure A.3 the design approach

A. 7 The Clients

A. 7.1 Non place-based actors:

A. 7.1.1 International

- World Tourism Organization (WTO)
- World Conservation Union (IUCN)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- World Bank (WB)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)

A. 7.1.2 National

- Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT)
- South African Tourism (SATOUR)
- Anglo Platinum Limited



Figure A.4 Anglo platinum insignia

A. 7.1.3 Regional

- North West Parks and Tourism Board (NWPTB)

A. 7.1.4 Donors

- Gold Fields
- De Beers
- Anglo American
- SA Breweries
- Sun City
- SAPPI

A. 7.2 Place-based actors:

- Community
- Tribal Authorities
 - Bakgatla-ba Kgafela
 - Bakubung-ba Ratheo
 - Batlha Ko-ba Baleema
- Community Development Organisation (CDO)
- Pilanesberg Park Management
- Moses Kothane Local Municipality
- Concessionaires
 - Legacy Hotel Group
 - Golden Leopard Resorts
- Sun City
- NGO's
 - Friends of the Pilanesberg Society (FOPS) (Ringdahl, 2001: 11)