

and form a row of terraces, with "...each one lower than the preceding one..." (O'Brien et al 1998:20). The natural kloof was filled in and forms the land on which the houses are situated.



Fig 6-31: Donkin Street Houses (Grobler 2005)

On the eastern edge, back facades of industries and factories face the Donkin Reserve. Height restrictions in this area prevent these buildings from blocking the views from the Donkin Reserve onto the sea and city below. Ventilation shafts, fans and noisy components disturb this area, together with the unsightly back facades of these industrial buildings.

Victorian houses are found on the southern edge together with African jazz clubs and restaurants. The eastern edge houses the Edward Hotel and the Grey Institute that has recently been renovated.

The buildings discussed each carry a particular piece of history, aesthetic quality and contribute to the urban fabric surrounding the Donkin Reserve. Past, present and future all live together in enriching the environment and activities that take place there.

6.5.3 Analysis: Plane

The spatial enclosure of the Donkin Reserve is difficult to ascertain, as the vertical edges are shaped according to the gradient of the base plane of the site. The western edge has the most vertical containment with the Edward Hotel and the Grey Institute building as physical boundaries. The northern and southern edges gradually slope down, which results in the disappearance of these vertical enclosures. This is even

more observed on the southern side as the gradient down to Whites Road is extremely steep. To the north, the Donkin houses give a degree of definition. The eastern edge below is not visible from the level section of the Donkin Reserve. As a result, the horizon in the distance becomes the visual edge to the site. This edge is therefore undefined in terms of physical elements. The overhead plane is the sky above, and no physical enclosure is created on this level.

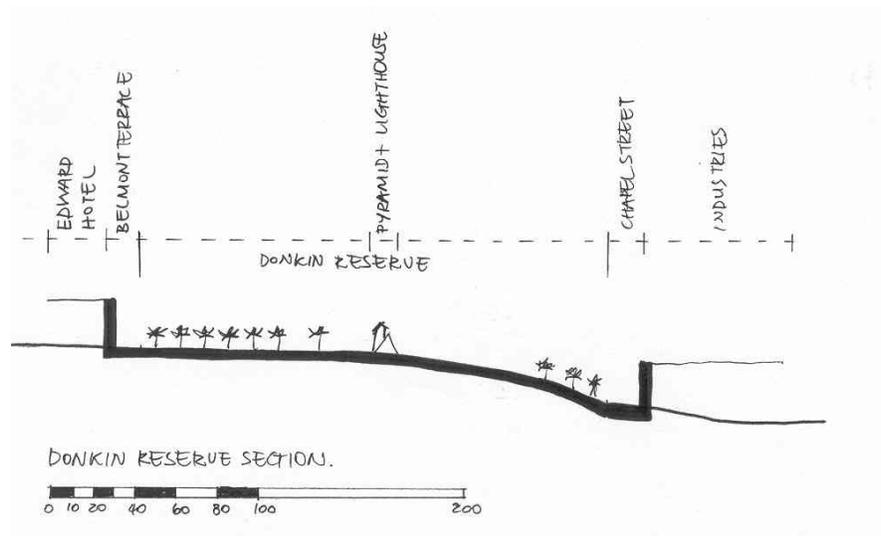


Fig 6-32: Donkin Reserve section (containment)

(Grobler 2005)

6.5.4 Analysis: Volume

The spatial volume becomes difficult to define because of the absence of vertical planes. However, the space is defined on ground level with the use of lines as edges that outline the shape of the site. Volumetrically, if one were to vertically construct these edges upwards, an invisible spatial enclosure could be articulated. The location of the monuments as landmarks also creates a relationship between object, space and object in space. A resonance is created with the focus on these elements.

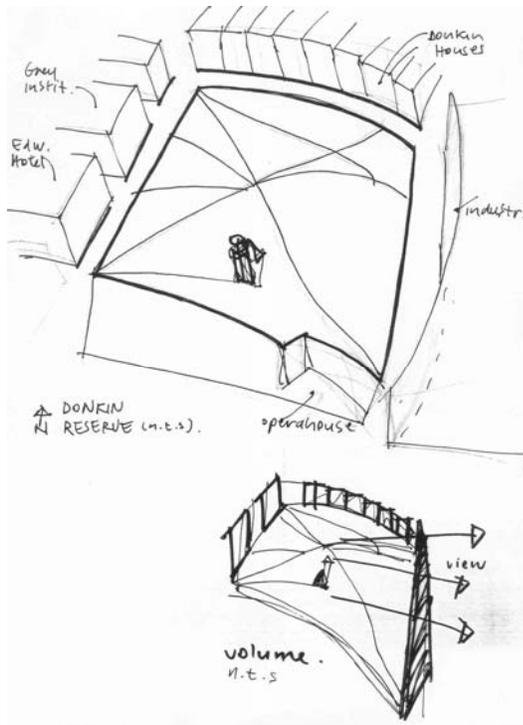


Fig 6-33: Volumetric containment (Grobler 2005)

6.6 Analyses of variables for the enrichment of the spatial quality

The variables as criteria to create place are evaluated: shape and size, proportion and scale, colour, texture, colour, finish material, light and shade and views and vistas. The criteria have been determined in the previous chapters and are now applied to the existing situation of the Donkin Reserve. The aim is to determine whether the reserve complies with criteria for place-making for it to be able to add meaning to the community and city at large.

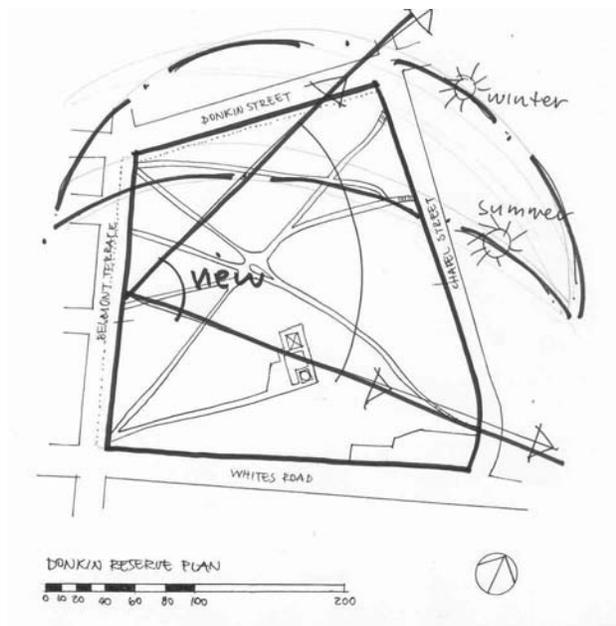


Fig 6-34: Plan of the Donkin Reserve – analysis of variables (Grobler 2005)

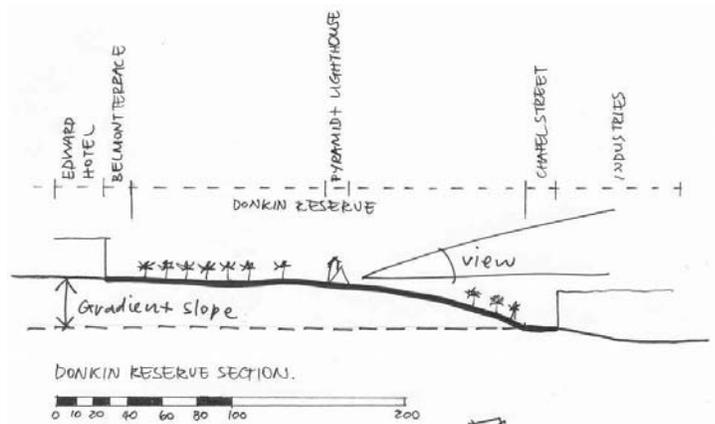


Fig 6-35: Section of the Donkin Reserve – analysis of variables (Grobler 2005)

6.6.1 Analysis: Shape and size

The Donkin Reserve site is trapezoidal in shape and has been created by the adjoining roads on four sides, Donkin Street to the north, Chapel Street to the east, Whites Road to the south and Belmont Terrace to the west. The south east corner of the city block is occupied by the Port Elizabeth Opera House that shows no relation to the Donkin Reserve behind. The trapezoid shape links with the city streets within the urban grid. As open public space in the urban grid, the size and scale contrast with that of the rest of the city fabric.

The gradient of the site slopes down 24 metres from west to east. On the western side, the gradient is level and forms a small plateau, becoming increasingly steeper towards the east and south, until it is totally unusable for human activities.

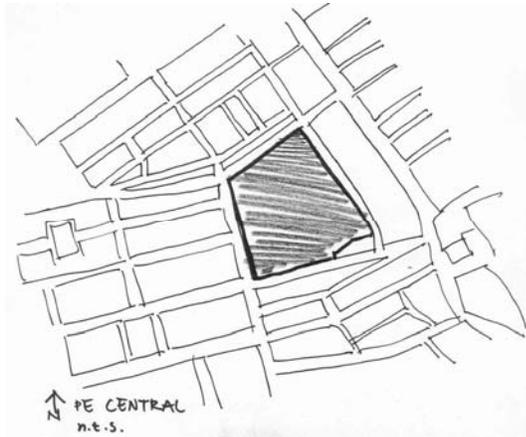


Fig 6-36: Donkin Reserve shape and size

Adapted from (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality 2000)

6.6.2 Analysis: Proportion and scale

Due to the large size and scale of the site, the proportion of the reserve relates to that of the urban environment. Due to the difficulty of physically containing the space, the proportion does not address a human scale in the public context. The space becomes vast and does not create places for people to dwell in.

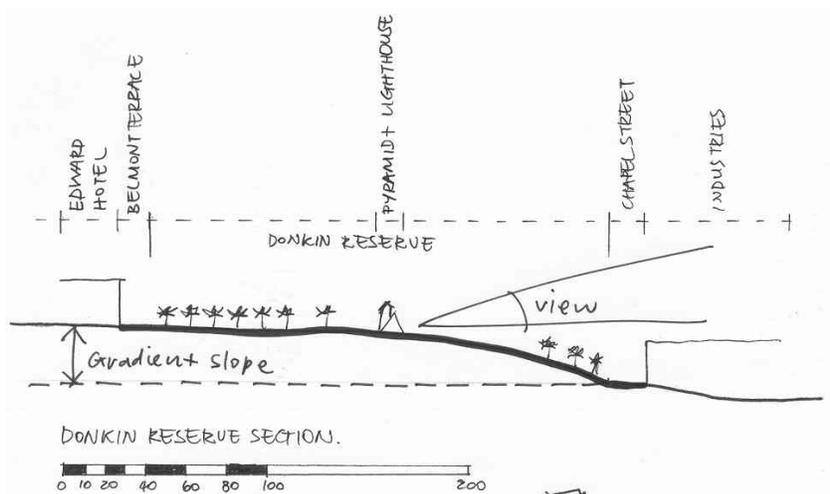


Fig 6-37: Donkin Reserve – lack of containment (Grobler 2005)

6.6.3 Analysis: Colour

The colour combinations of the reserve are derived from nature. Trees, plants and the grass are complemented by subdued colours that blend into the surroundings, especially the stone finish of the Pyramid and the white colour of the Lighthouse. Additional colour is added by the people who frequent the reserve. Accent colour and interest are lacking, due to the limited colour use.



Fig 6-38: Donkin Reserve colour (Grobler 2005)

6.6.4 Analysis: Texture

Texture is provided by the natural elements on the site, but a contrast and wider use of different grains, texture and pattern could be applied.



Fig 6-39: Donkin Reserve texture (Grobler 2005)