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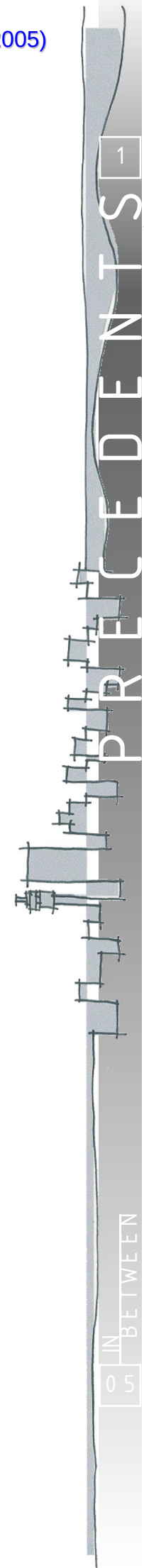
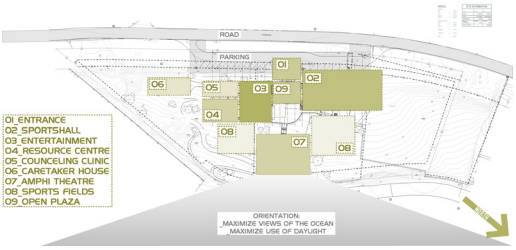
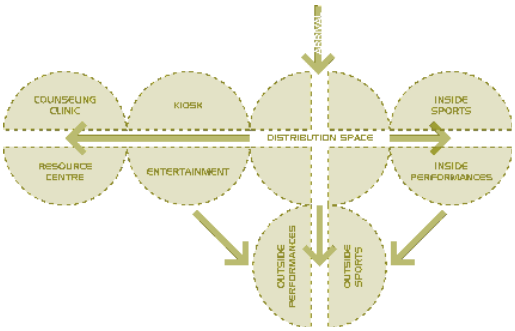




05.01. Site layout of functions



05.02. Functional distribution

05.03. View of the centre from the entrance road

PROJECT

The R12-million centre was built in response to the tragedy that struck the Chatsworth community in March 2000 when 13 teenagers died in a teargas attack at the Throb nightclub. It was built to help address the social problems that affect the Chatsworth community.

The design took into account the needs of the Chatsworth children who wanted the centre to be bright and cheerful, in contrast to the atmosphere of many institutional buildings. An open plaza, which features a Memorial Wall dedicated to the children lost in the tragedy, serves as the focal point of the plaza.

FUNDING

The funds were donated by Irvin and Johnson Foods; Nandos; Daimler Chrysler; and Debis Fleet Management.

MOTIVATION

The youth in the area of Chatsworth are regularly exposed to shebeens, drug abuse, gambling and prostitution, and rape and domestic violence are regular occurrences. Therefore, the centre is a welcome commodity giving youth a safe space of which they can take ownership.

CONSIDERATIONS

Principal architect Sue Clark (personal communication, 2005) explains that an important consideration when designing a youth centre is that it is not a school, so children are not obliged to use it. The facilities should attract them. The design team gathered from market investigations that the centre should provide entertainment facilities such as pool tables and arcade games; computers; and sporting amenities. It should be a bright, light-filled environment in which the youth experience a feeling of freedom and which they experience as a 'cool' place to 'hang out'. The aim was to create a space that would keep the youth from 'frequenting clubs and loitering around shopping centers'. In addition, it had to provide educational and counselling facilities to support a learning culture.

YOUTH CENTRE

The centre occupies a conspicuous position on the side of a steep hill in Chatsworth, and it has a view of nearby Amanzimtoti and the sea. To exploit this view, steel and glass are the dominant materials used in the multi-use hall. The light and open design allows for generous day lighting and natural ventilation, thereby

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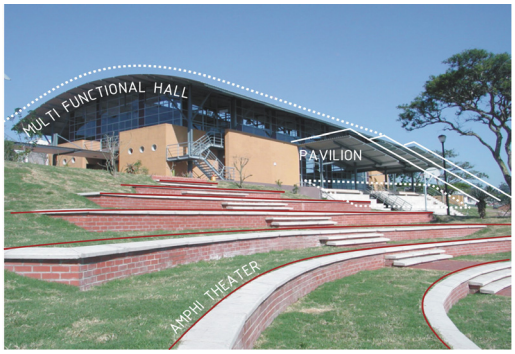
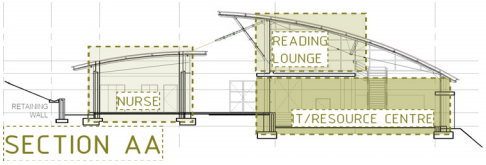
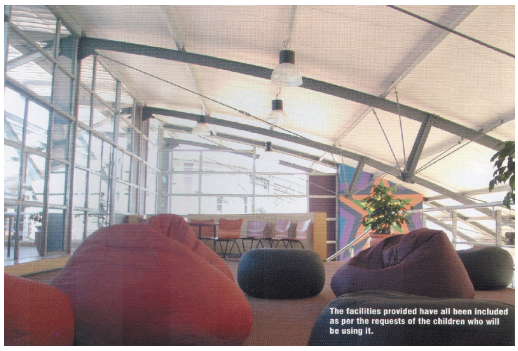


05.04. View of the centre from the Amphi Theater

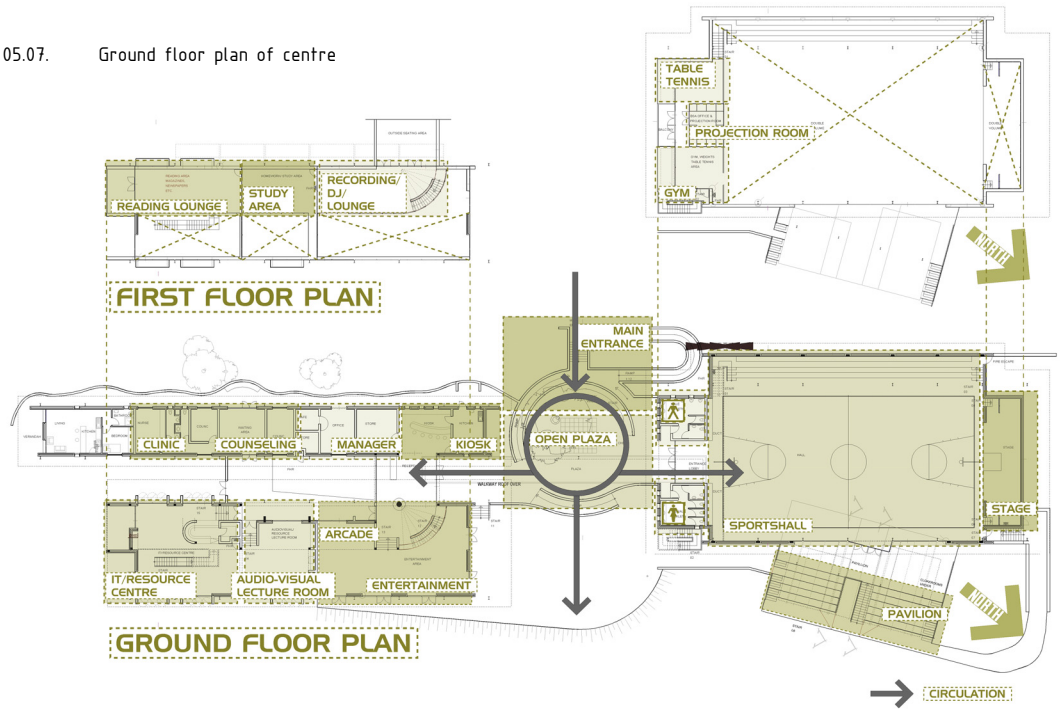


05.05. Section through resource centre



05.06. Interior of reading lounge

05.07. Ground floor plan of centre



minimising maintenance and costs.

STRUCTURE

Like a Meccano set, steel shop fronts bolt to the steel portal frame structure, creating an effect of transparency, openness and lightness. This structure assures easy dismantling and flexibility. The lightweight appearance of the building is enforced by the way roofs follow the contours of the site and to appear to be hovering over structures.

LAYOUT

'Attraction activities' surround the distribution space as depicted in fig. (bubble diagram) and fig. (siteplan). These are the sporting activities, gym, and entertainment games area. The resource centre and counselling clinic are placed further away. This layout ensures that people who visit the centre are exposed to the sports and lively activities, but are made aware of the less attractive resources the centre has to offer.

FLEXIBILITY

Spaces are designed for maximum flexibly. The multi-use hall can easily be used as a sports stadium or performance theatre.

05.08. Circulation zone

CONCLUSIONS

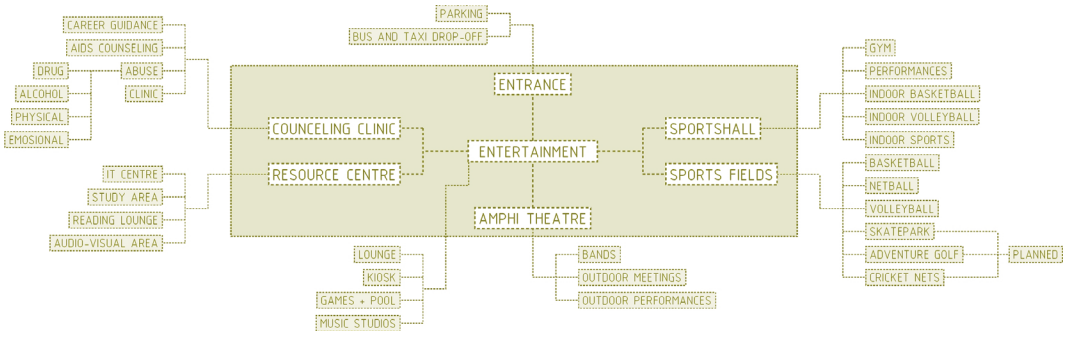
This typological precedent is relevant because of its setting and contextual problems similar to those of the target area. It gives an indication of the needs and wants of the youth of South Africa. The spatial relationship reveals how counselling and educational facilities are latched onto more vibrant and attractive spaces to make them accessible and user friendly, without detracting from the informal and playful nature of the environment.

05.09. Resource centre

PROFESSIONAL TEAM

Architect and project manager
AUB Projects
Team: Sue Clarke and Jens Juterbock- Architects
Meyer Erlank - Project manager
Structural and Civil engineer
Ellmer Partnership
Wet services engineer
DSB consulting
Electrical engineer
Spoormaker and partners
Fire engineer
TDW International
Main contractor
DV cinstruction (Norvo/DNT joint venture)

05.10. Distribution of activities



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05.11. The social facilities

05.12. The multi use hall. Photo by Sue Clarke, 2005

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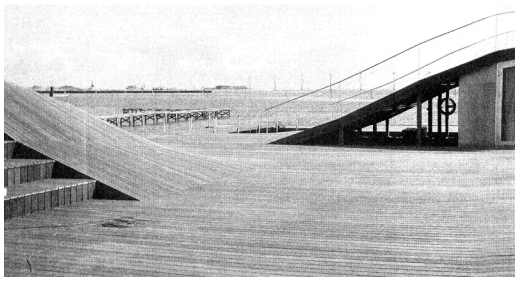


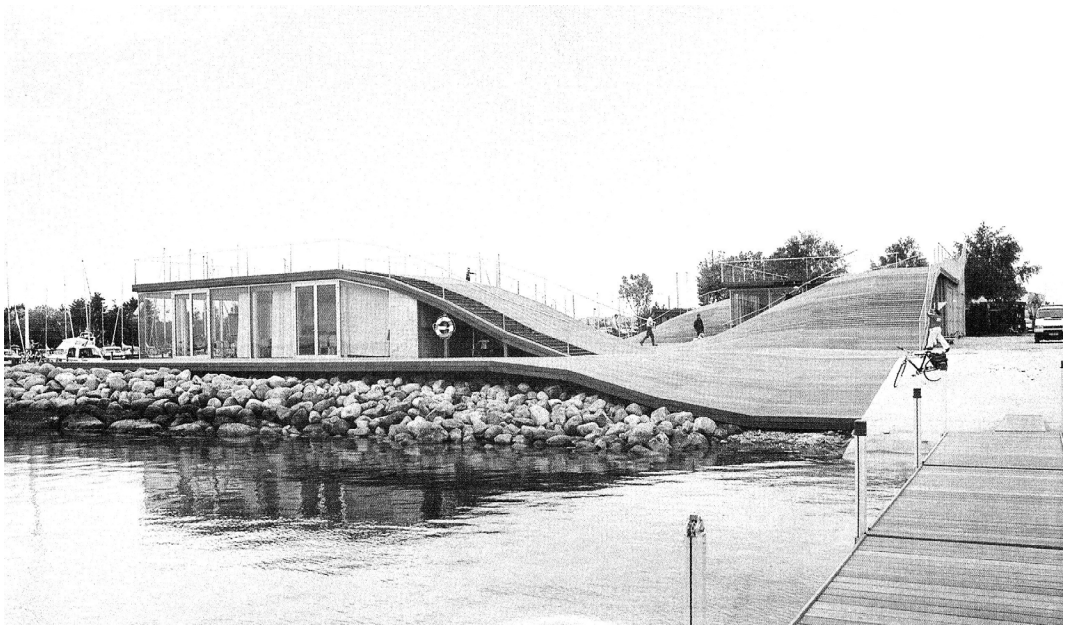
05.13. Undulated deck area

Youth centre, Amanger, Copenhagen, Denmark

The project, part of the community's Østamager improvement project, is set among abandoned industrial buildings and sheds, and is perceived as a landscape rather than a building. Because the ground is heavily polluted with heavy metals, and the cost of excavating the site, the architects decided to cover the site with a deck. The undulating surface both shelters the dinghies and provides eventful play surfaces. The separate single storey structures are enfolded by the deck. Facilities provided include social facilities such as the sailing club room and a general purpose space with kitchen, workshops, locker room and boat hall. Glass walls serve as entrance space, while the other surfaces are curved and sloped wood over which users can run, sit and play.

Architect
PLOT – Julien de Smedt, Bjarke Ingels
Project team
Julien de Smedt, Bjarke Ingels, Henning Strüben, Jørn Jensen, Annette Jensen, Marc Jay, Nina Ter-Borch

05.14. The Youth centre as a deck landscape



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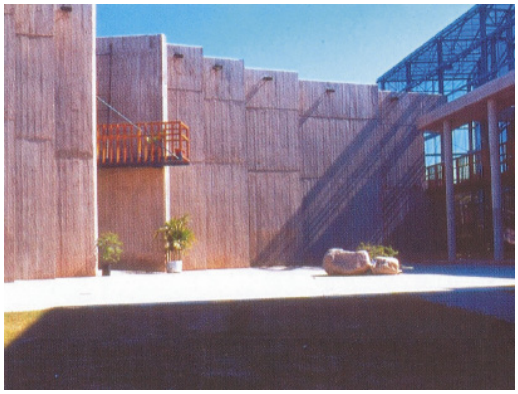
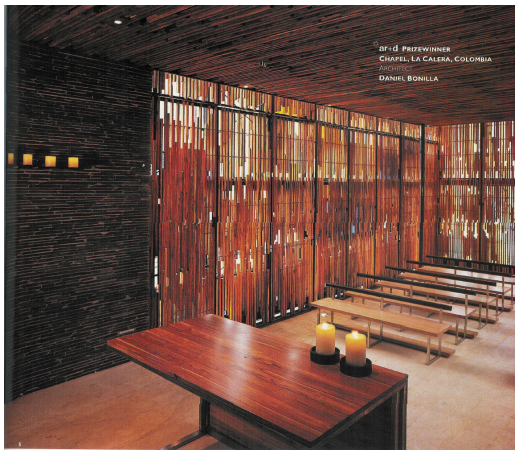
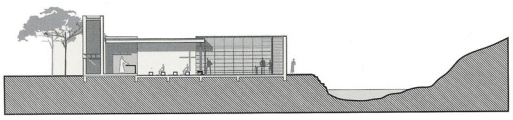


05.15. Jardin botanico – Cordoba, Argetina by Monica Bertolino and Carlos Barrado





05.16. Chapel, la Calera, Colombia by Daniel Bonilla