CHAPTER 6: DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

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1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter overviews the different design development stages, applying the previous conceptual guidelines, which are the following.

2. In-Between Space
- familiarization with the site
- working on the Boulevard General de Gaulle open site and in-between space inside the block between the Place d'Andoany, Boulevard General de Gaulle, Rue 21 and Rue 2

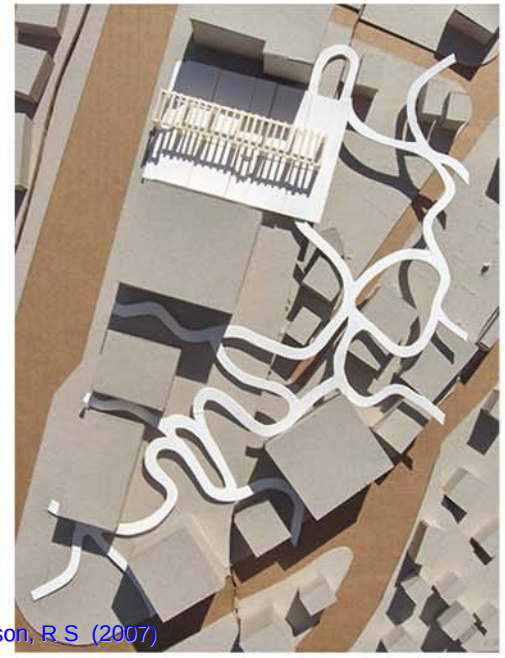
Fig. 122: Design development 2 (Author, 2006).

3. Meandering Path
- first step: explore all possible movement patterns
- second step: with the most repetitive and intersecting paths, create a meander walkway

Fig. 123: Design development 3 (Author, 2006).

4. Testing the In-Between-ness
- meander transforms into space defining element
- activities contained by the intersection points into pavilions
- scales of the pavilions in relation with neighbouring buildings
- activity types in relation with urban zoning

Fig. 124: Design development 4 (Author, 2006).



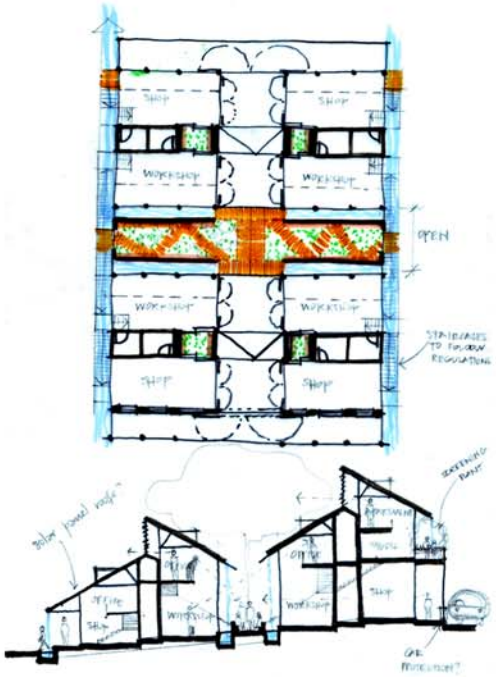
5. Dealing with the Topography

a. Site terracement
- meander path not very practical and not realistically addressing issues of topography (natural fall of 10 degrees)
- alternative solution: site terracement

Fig. 125: Design development 5a (Author, 2006).

b. Topography Extension
- exploring the lower site's contours to adjust according to human traffic and upper site activities
- circulation pattern to link vertically - from the site to the main urban strip, and to the lower quarters; and horizontally through the site to the North and/or the South

Fig. 126: Design development 5b (Author, 2006).



6. Testing the Programme - exploring on:
- volumes and activities
- circulation
- courtyards and water features
- roof vs. views and rain

Fig. 127: Design development 6 (Author, 2006).

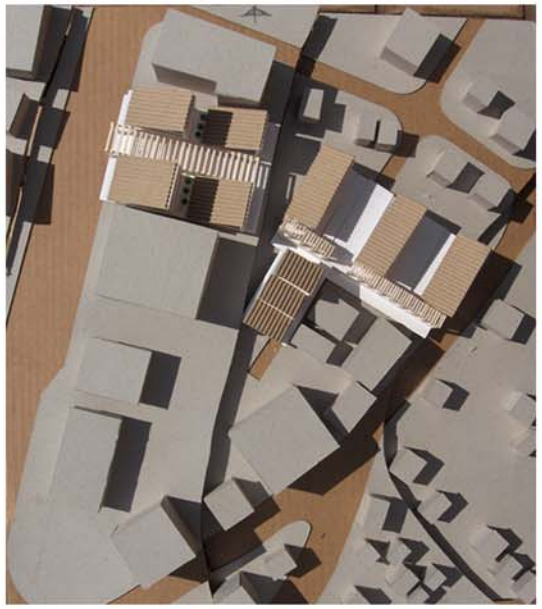
7. Siting Exploration

a. Siting Exploration 1
- circulation
- courtyards
- building proportions: width x length x height in relation to neighbouring buildings
- building programming in relation with surrounding buildings
- roof testing in relation with surrounding buildings

Fig. 128: Design development 7 (Author, 2006).

b. Siting Exploration 2
- courtyard spaces
- circulation routes
- project vs. site i.e. response and interface with surrounding buildings

Fig. 129: Design development 7b (Author, 2006).



8. Roof and scale versus topography:
- testing the terracement of the site to accommodate the different functions and circulation
- one building row alternated with a courtyard to carry out the 'wrapping' concept as well as contrasting inside and outside spaces to integrate nature into the project
- response to the topography: sawtooth roof maximising the South East views

Fig. 130: Design development 8 (Author, 2006).

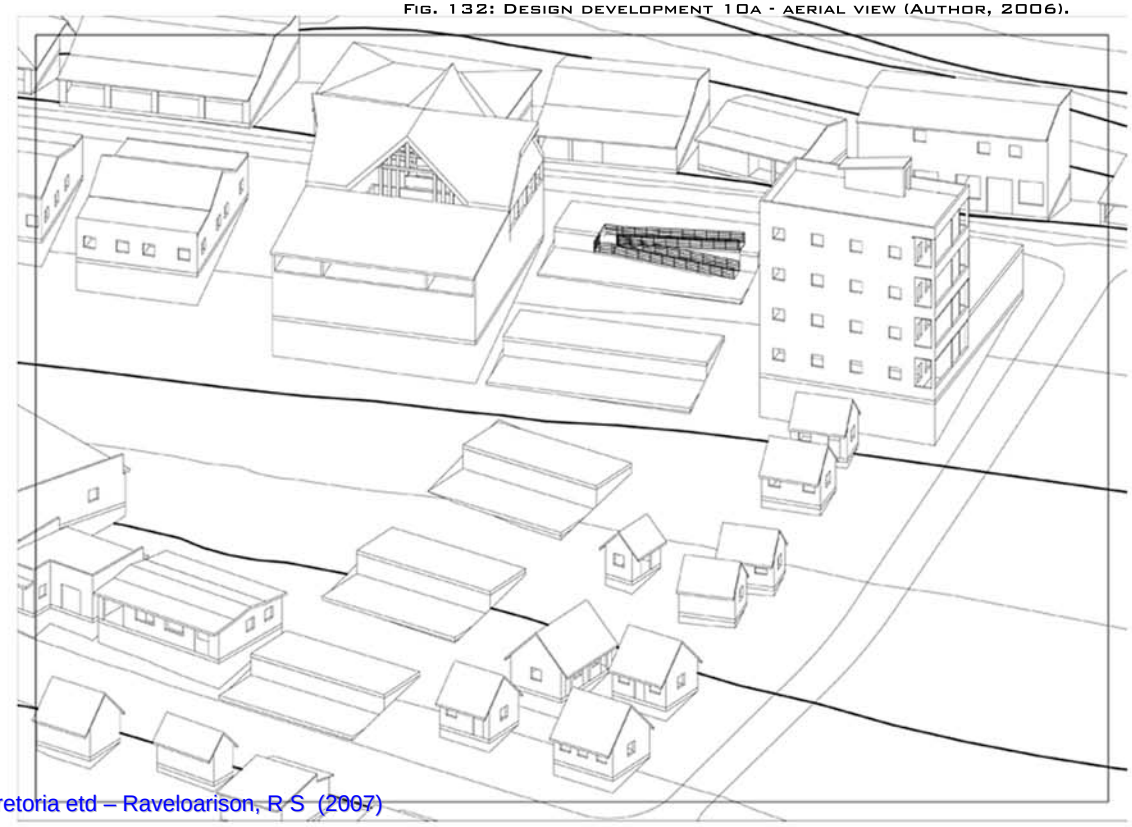
9. Community Centre Multipurposeness
- for maximum accessibility and legibility, the multipurpose hall is placed at the intersection of urban and project circulations
- introduction of ship container tectonics for the multipurpose hall, because of the high availability of ship containers at the town harbour, less than one kilometer away from the site
- problem arising: issue of scales

Fig. 131: Design development 9 (Author, 2006).

10. Topography vs. programme

10.a. Terracement 1st attempt:
- terracing necessary since topography too steep for human movement
- therefore terracing involves cut-and-fill for the building footprints, courtyards and circulation spaces

Fig. 132: Design development 10a - aerial view (Author, 2006).



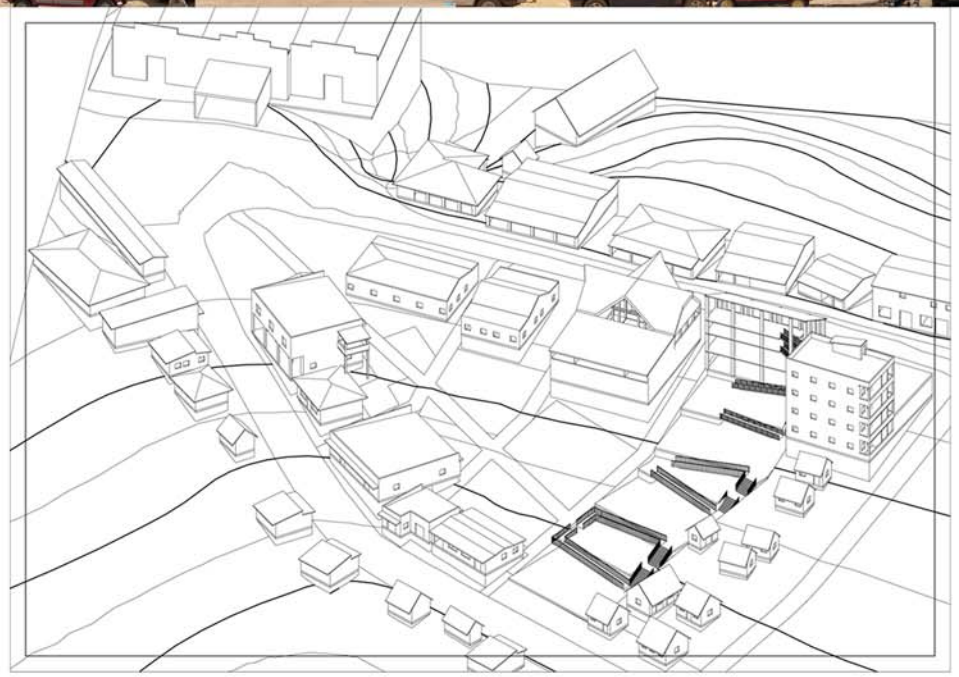


Fig. 133: Design development 10b - aerial view (Author, 2006).

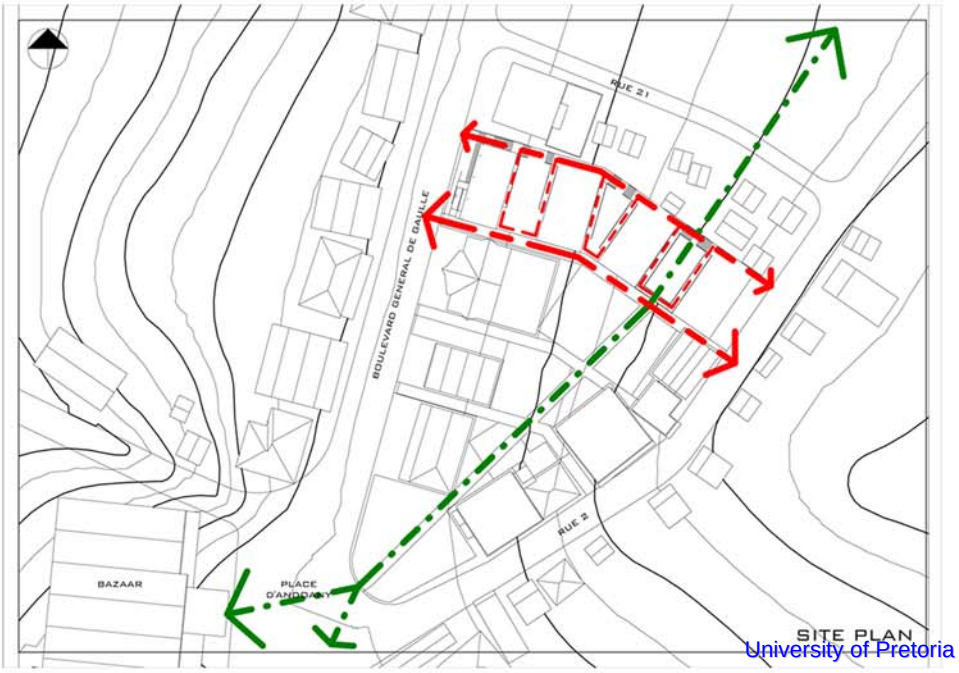


Fig. 134: Design development 10b - site plan (Author, 2006).

10.b. Placing the vertical circulation devices (stairs and ramps)
- terracing for the buildings' footprints in relation to human movement and courtyards
- accommodating circulation with ramps and stairs
- integrating urban linkages with the proposed project's circulation

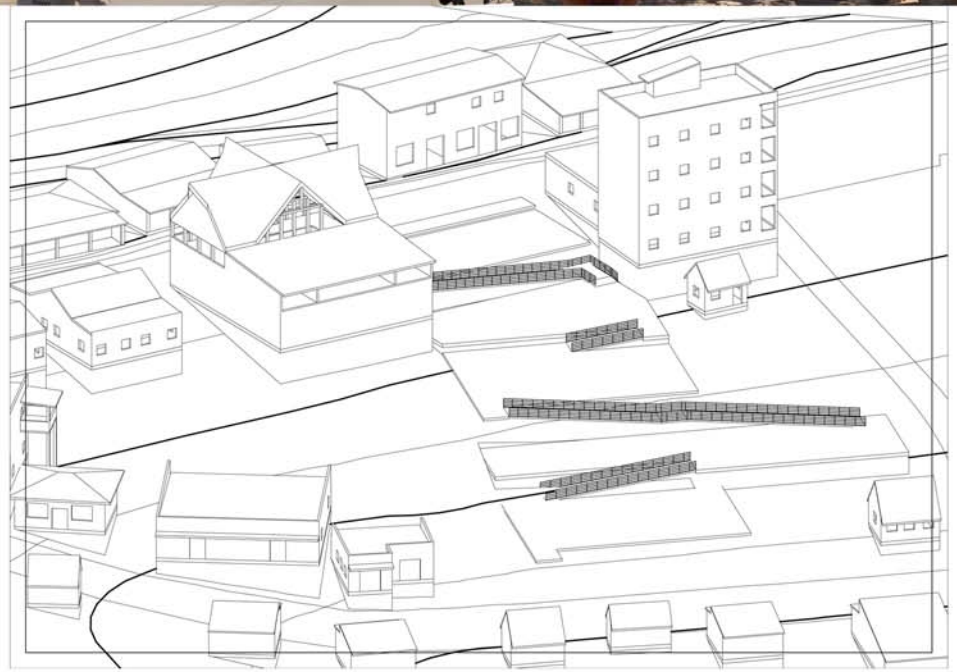


Fig. 135: Design development 10c - aerial view (Author, 2006).

Fig. 136: Design development 10c - site plan (Author, 2006).

10.c. Ramps and landings in relation to ground floor building footprints and courtyards
- introduction of ramps placed as part of the courtyards
- terracing building footprints and courtyards
- integration of urban and project circulations

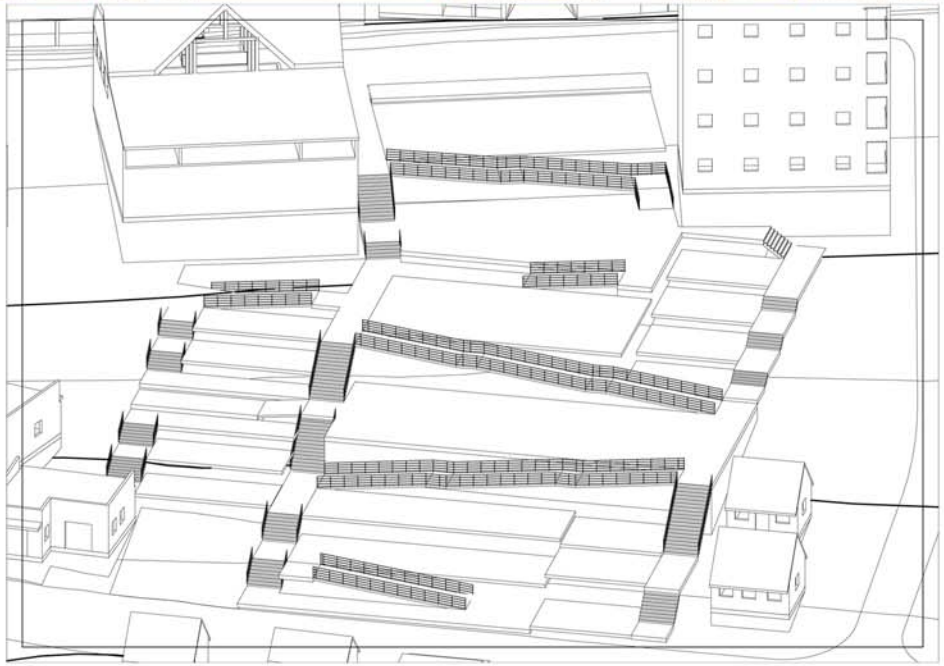


Fig. 137: Design development 10d - aerial view (Author, 2006).

10.d. Buildings' footprints, courtyards, stairs and ramps in relation to topography
- introduction of ramps and stairs
- integration of stairs and ramps' landings between the buildings' footprints and courtyards
- cut-an-fill of the buildings' footprints and courtyards
- buildings' footprints in relation with possible space planning and programme /brief

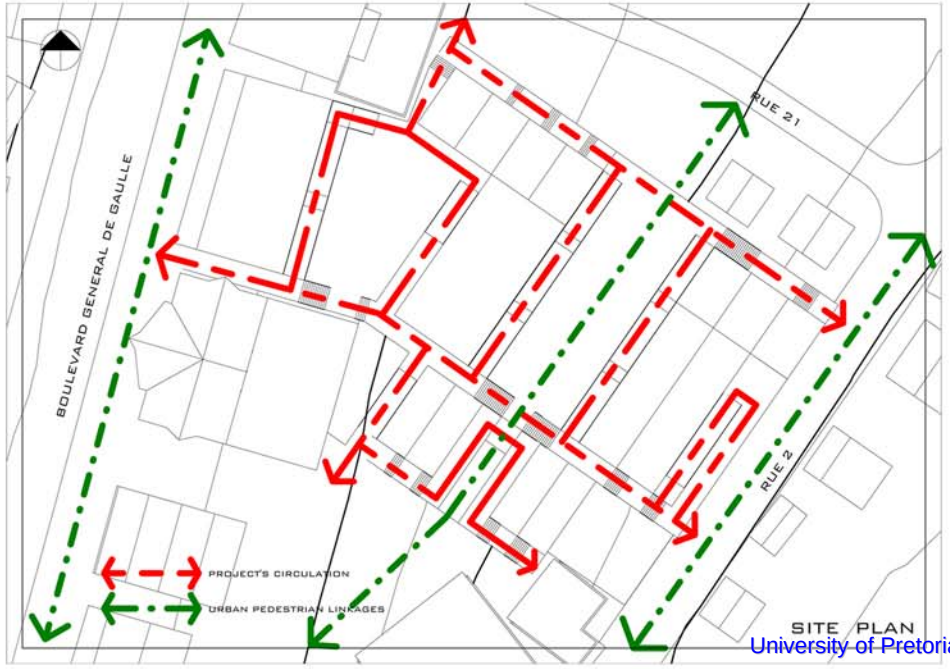


Fig. 138: Design development 10d - site plan (Author, 2006).

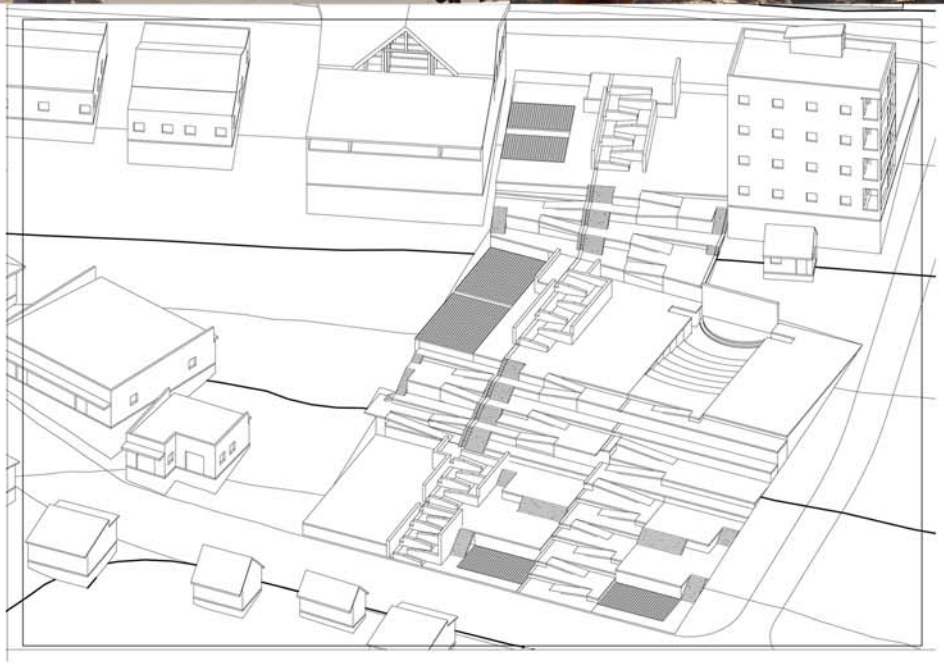


Fig. 139: Design development 10e - aerial view (Author, 2006).

Fig. 140: Design development 10e - site plan (Author, 2006).

10.e. Landscaped courtyard and built levels vs. circulation spaces and topography
- terracing for the buildings' footprints, human movement, and courtyards
- accommodating circulation with ramps and stairs
- integrating urban linkages with project's circulation
- planning for centre's components
- introduction of the water feature as storm water drainage

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11. Space Planning

The followings are the proposed empowerment centre's components:

- rentable spaces:
  - . ground floor: employment agency
  - . first floor: offices and shops
  - . second floor and mezzanine: studio apartments
- multipurpose cultural spaces: changeable into dance and music studios
- reference centre: ground floor and mezzanine knowledge facilities
- design centre: flexible workshops into galleries & mezzanine studios
- public ablutions
- outside amphitheatre
- outside sculptural garden
- main circulation area as the main ordering and organizational element leading to main activities (inside and outside)
- use of ramps on ground floors so as to make all public activities available for disabled whereas upper floors are walkable storeys for more private spaces, therefore, use of central staircases transformable into firescapes
- roof and topography on parallel slopes

The rentable component is to assist the centre with incoming finances. With its mixed-use typology, comprising shop and/or office floor as well as studio duplexes for artists to temporarily live in, it fits appropriately in the urban context and the mixed-use zoning by the Boulevard General de Gaulle. This constituent forms the urban face of the centre.

The cultural centre caters for the community's diverse forms of expression and identities by providing for performance spaces transformable into rehearsal rooms and backstage areas for the performers. This facility also encourages tradition for continuity and heritage for the nex generations, as well as introduces other customs as knowledge.

The design centre promotes traditional skills and also introduce contemporary design techniques, for the local and regional artisans. It brings spaces such as design studios for pattern or clothing fashion as examples; woodwork and textile workshops for sculpture or product design.

The reference centre, also known as the multi-mediatheque, which is mainly a library for books, magazines and journals, audio video and audio tapes, CD's and DVD's, etc. Hell Ville does not possess any public library. The empowerment centre not only provides for a cultural facility to assist with the *Donia*, but also a centre for knowledge as the beginning for community education for all ages, and for community participation into the local and national matters.

Fig. 141: Design development 11 - aerial view (Author, 2006).