

# 4. Context



Tshwane



Gauteng



South Africa



Africa

# Site Selection

In an age when more than half the world population is concentrated in cities (Brudett & Sudjic, 2007: 8), Pretoria, like so many other world cities, is faced with questions of globalization, sustainability, jobs, immigration and social exclusion (Brudett & Sudjic, 2007: *ibid.*). At this time in history, cities all over are undergoing great changes to increase the quality of social interaction and diversity of activities within urban areas (Gehl, 2006: 7).

Urban centres will become places of high density and will include a diversity of activities (Brudett & Sudjic, 2007: 68). To create a healthy urban environment, amenities like housing and work opportunities need to be in close proximity for the future urban dweller (Alexander *et al.*, 1977: 53). Walking and public transport will be the main forms of transportation in urban centres. Our engineered cities governed by vehicular access and movement routes will be re-appropriated (Gehl, 2006: 45). The need for private transportation will be minimized by the close proximity of amenities found in the urban environment (Jacobs, 1992: 35).

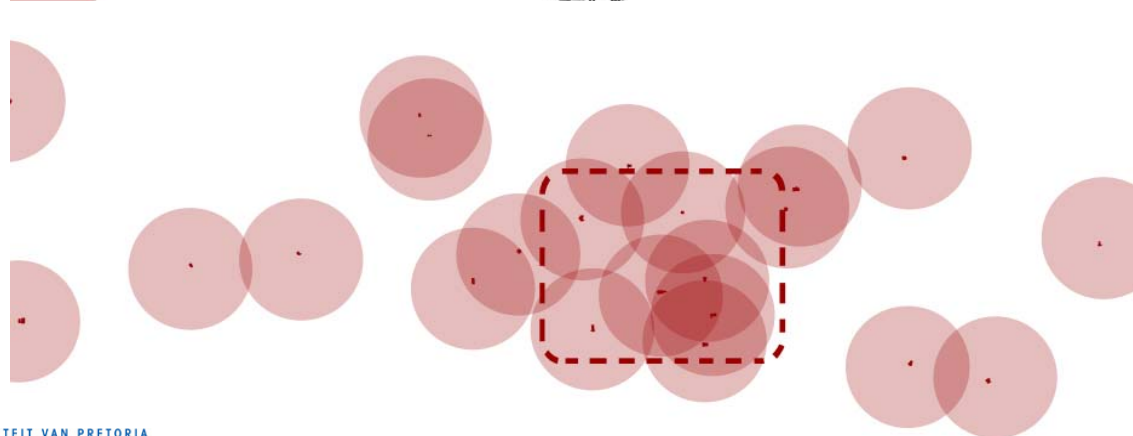
Fig. 20: Aerial view of the Pretoria CBD (www.tshwane.gov.za).



Fig. 21: Figure ground study of the Pretoria CBD, with places of worship in red. The circles indicate a 5 minute walking radius drawn around the places of worship (Author, 2010).



Fig. 22: The image shows the circles and places of worship. The study area is located where the most circles overlap, indicates the study area (the red dashed rectangle) (Author, 2010).



The Place of Remembrance is meant for the urban dweller: not exclusively for a particular group of people, or geared towards a particular religious group. Relationships “between” is the primary drive of the project. To strengthen the relevance of the site selection process, an “inbetweenness” is used as primary parameter for the site selection process. The *physical manifestation* of the relationship *between* the physical and the spiritual is chosen. By identifying *places of religious worship* within the urban environment, and using humanistic planning principles (Gehl, 2006: 7), a study area is identified.

Humanistic planning principles are centred around the idea of a concentration of activities within reach of people on foot, limited to a 5 minute walking radius (Gehl, 2006: 83). Circles with a 5 minute radius are drawn around each place of religious worship. Potential study areas are identified by selecting areas where multiple circles overlap.

Within the study area, several *conditions of inbetweenness* are identified as primary site informants. As numerous conditions exist in the urban environment, specific conditions of inbetweenness need to be identified within the study area.

For the purpose of this study the *conditions of inbetweenness* are limited to those conforming to the following requirements:

- space found within the limits of a city block
- awkward space: space not able to be used for the general functions found within an urban environment
- left over/lost and under-utilized space
- vertical inbetweenness

Sometimes unplanned, these conditions of inbetweenness carry the inherent function of delivering much needed ventilation and light to the buildings framing them. These two functions also play a major role in the design of the place of remembrance as it will populate the inbetween.

The images show the process of site selection. Within the study area *six* conditions of inbetweenness have been identified. All these sites could house a vertical place of remembrance, as it is the aim to have more than one vertical place of remembrance in the urban environment.

These sites are evaluated according to a more detailed set of requirements to establish a specific site. For the purpose of the study a specific site is needed that will house the first of many vertical places of remembrance.

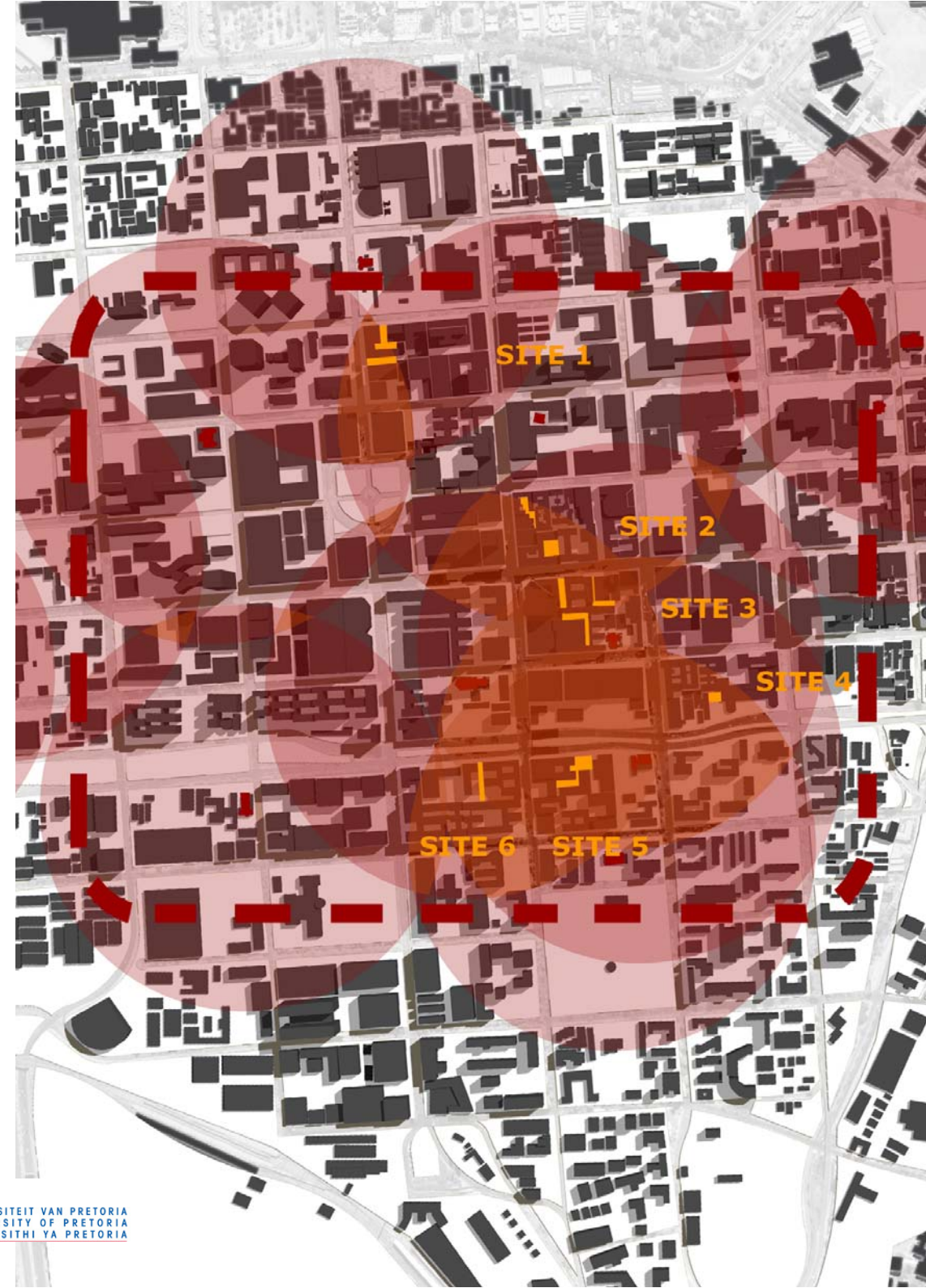


Fig. 23: (Opposite page)  
Enlarged study area (Author,  
2010).

## Site selection as per requirements

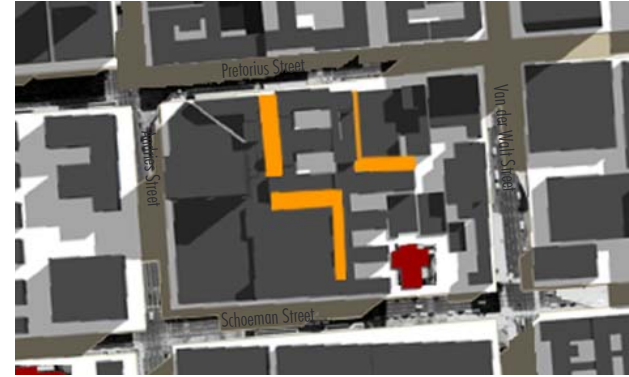
Table 2: A detail set of requirements set out in table form.

Requirements:	Site:					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Proximity to the city centre (< 1km)	x	x	x		x	
Accessibility of the condition of inbetweenness	x		x	x		x
Visibility from street	x		x	x	x	x
Existing condition of collective dwelling on site			x			
Possible scenarios of private and public space	x	x	x		x	x
Condition of verticality		x	x			
Site infrastructure (existing services and parking)		x	x	x		x

Site 1



Site 2



Site 3



Site 4



Site 5



Site 6

# Site analysis

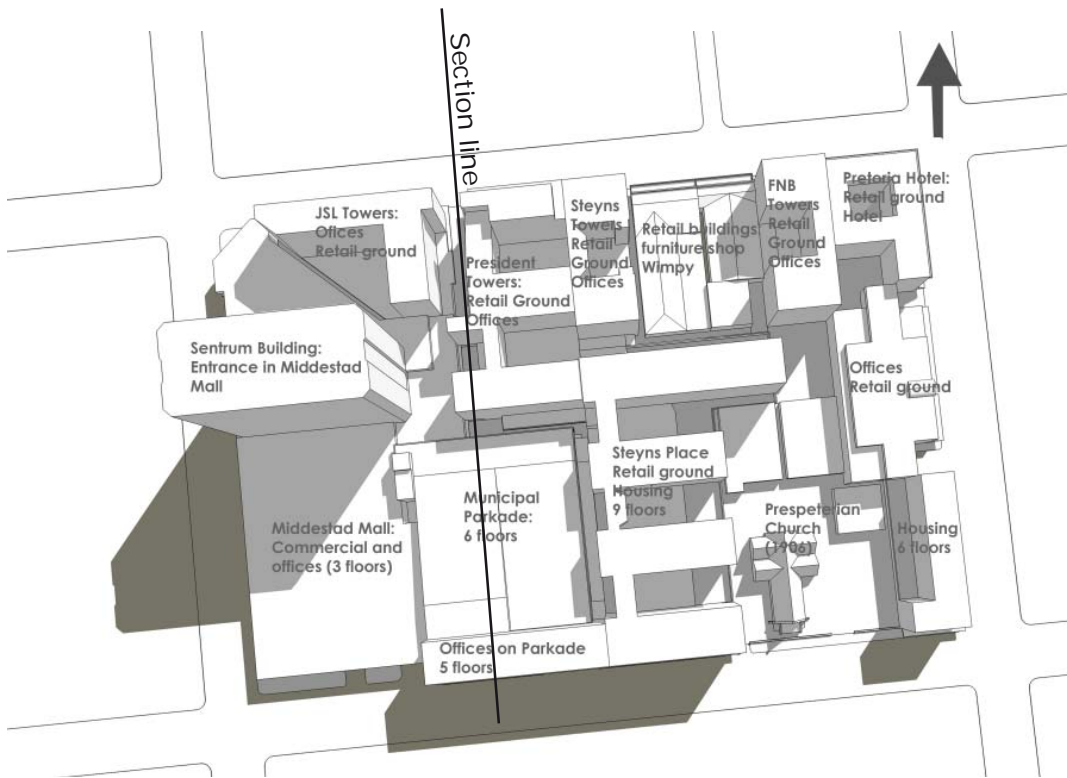
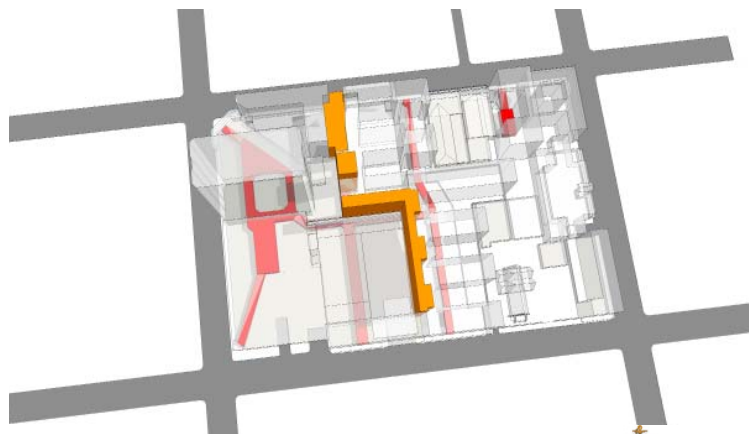


Fig. 24: Functions housed on the block of the proposed site (Author, 2010).

Fig. 25: The image shows the "in-between" to be used on the site for the vertical park of remembrance (Author, 2010).

Fig. 26: (Opposite page) 3D figure ground of Pretoria CBD with site highlighted, showing close proximity to many amenities in the CBD (Author, 2010).



## Site Accessibility

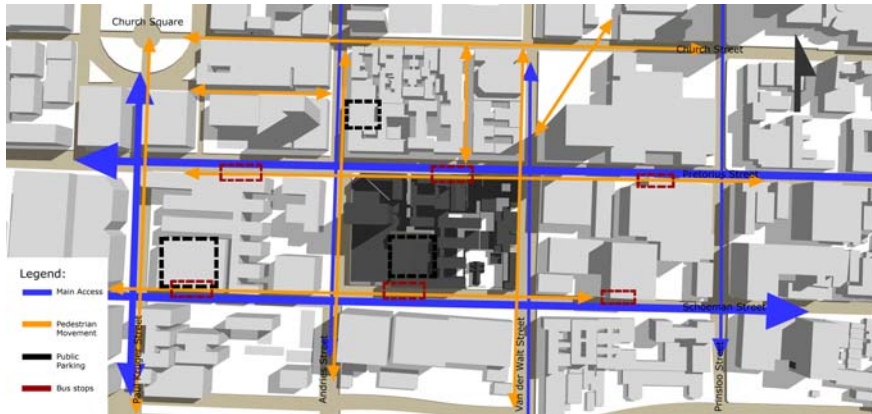


Fig. 27: The diagram shows the accessibility of the block with access roads, pedestrian movement and parking in and around the block (Author, 2010).

## Accessibility: Interior

The block, located between Pretorius, Van der Walt, Schoeman and Andries Streets, has an existing arcade system, the President Arcade, the Steyn Arcade and the Middelstad Mall, providing access to its interior. This provides an opportunity to utilize the interior, as pedestrian access is already in place. In Figures 16 and 17 one can see the existing arcade system (indicated in red) providing access to the block interior.

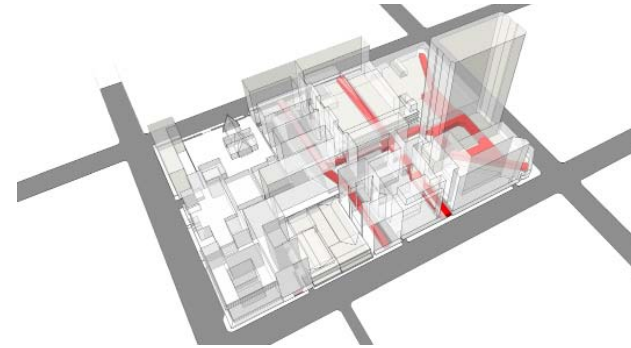
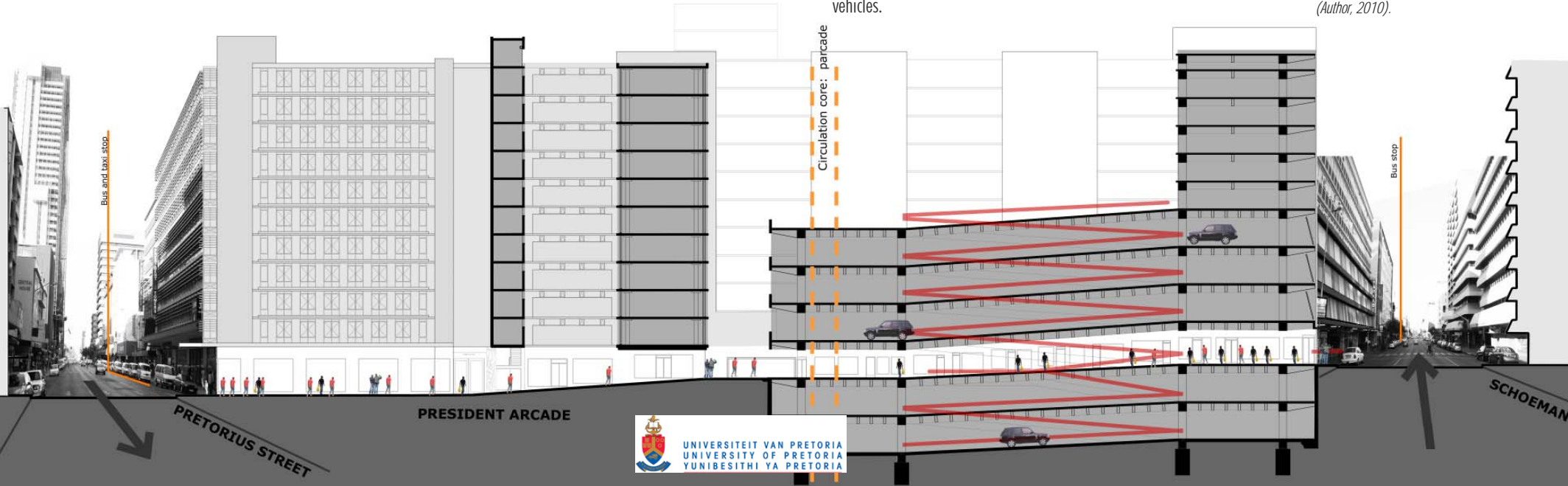


Fig. 28: 3D block with arcade system indicated in red (Author, 2010).

The section below indicates an existing public parking structure on the southern part of the site. The parking structure will serve as access for services to the facilities. When a memorial service takes place, it can be used by private vehicles.

Fig. 29: Block section showing accessibility to block interior (Author, 2010).





# Northern Facade

Fig. 30: Composite image of the northern facade of the block (Author, 2010).

Fig. 31: Composite image of the southern facade of the block (Author, 2010).



# Southern Facade



Fig. 32: Activity in Pretorius Street at the entrance to President Arcade (Author, 2010).

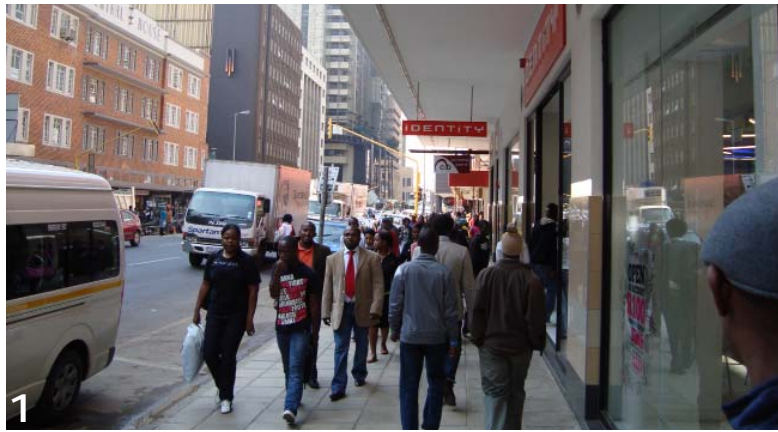


Fig. 34: President Arcade south entrance (Author, 2010).



Fig. 33: Municipal arcade with its entrance to the south of the block in Schoeman Street (Author, 2010).



Fig. 35: Key of block.

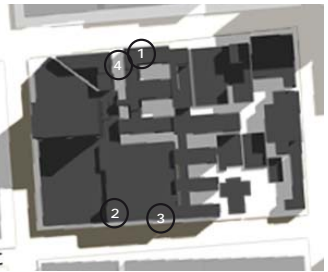


Fig. 36: The site's northern street face, showing the verticality of the "in-betweenness" (Author, 2010).

Fig. 37: Figure ground study done using an aerial photo from 1937 (Van der Waal collection, University of Pretoria) (Author, 2010).

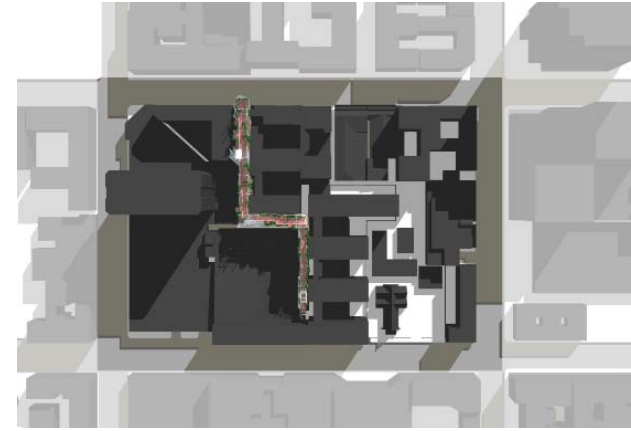
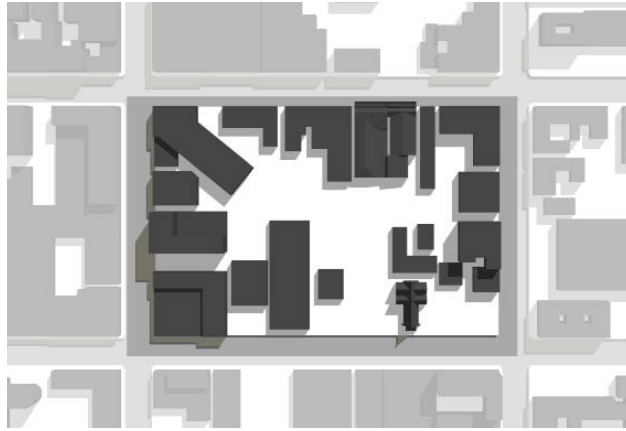


Fig. 40: Figure ground study done using an aerial photo from 2010 (www.tshwane.gov) (Author, 2010).

Fig. 38: Figure ground study done using an aerial photo from 1947 (Van der Waal collection, University of Pretoria) (Author, 2010).

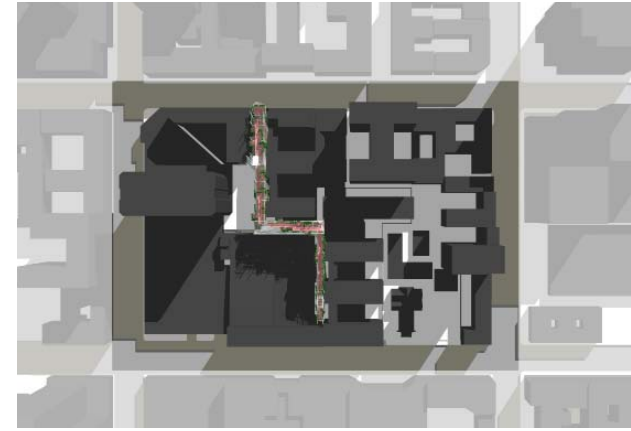


Fig. 41: Figure ground study done for the site for 2030. The development shows how the vertical place of remembrance influences the built form around it over time (Author, 2010).

Fig. 39: Figure ground study done using an aerial photo from 1975 (Van der Waal collection, University of Pretoria) (Author, 2010).

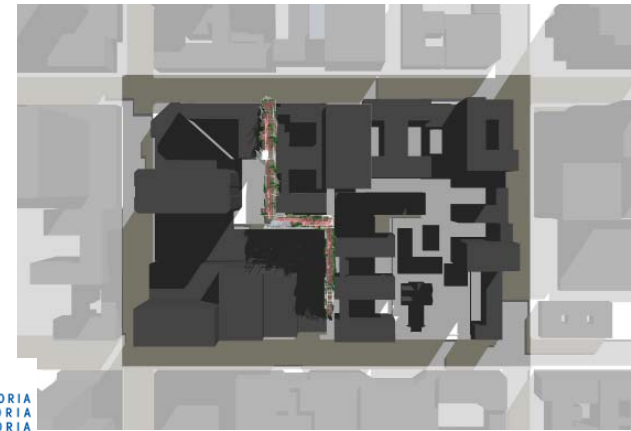
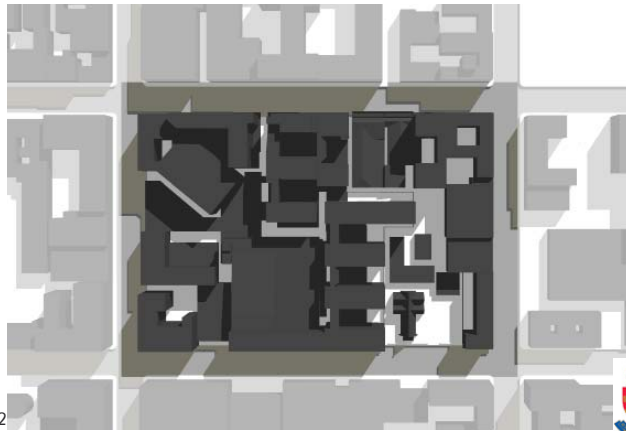


Fig. 42: Figure ground study done for the site for 2050. The development shows how the vertical place of remembrance further influences the built form around it over time (Author, 2010).