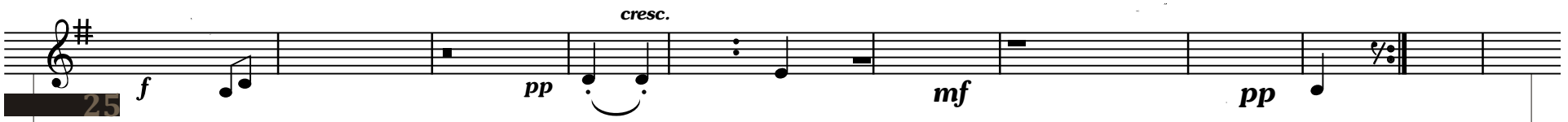
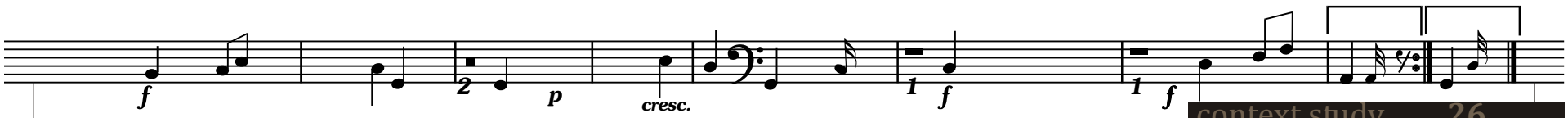
"Music is always a commentary on society"

Frank Zappa



CONTEXT STUDY **MACRO**

FIG. 3.1



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MACRO CONTEXT

Pretoria is contained in the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality in the northern part of the Gauteng Province and is physically situated in the transitional area between the Highveld and the Bushveld in the north-east of South Africa. The city of Pretoria lies between two green belts namely Witwatersberg and Meintjieskop to the north and Salvokop and Muckleneuk to the south. These greenbelts are linked by a series of parallel green belts by means of the Apies River which begins at Fountains Valley south of the city. (Butcher: 2003)

Pretoria is one of South Africa's three capital cities. The city of Pretoria serves as the administrative capital; whilst the other two capital cities, namely Cape Town and Bloemfontein serve as legislative and judicial capitals respectively.

Pretoria is easily accessible owing to the N1 and N4 highways, as well as the close proximity of the OR Tambo International Airport.

FIG. 3.2 South Africa in a global context
FIG. 3.3 Satellite photograph of South Africa
FIG. 3.4 Satellite photograph of Pretoria
FIG. 3.5 Satellite photograph of site

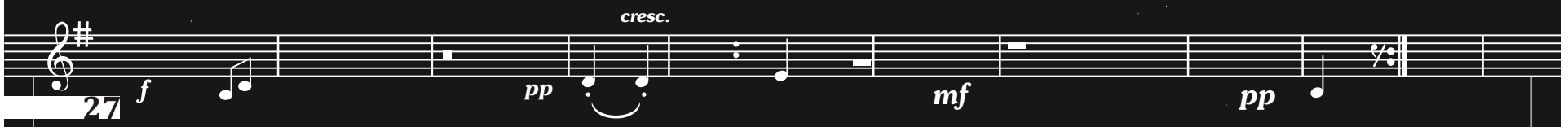

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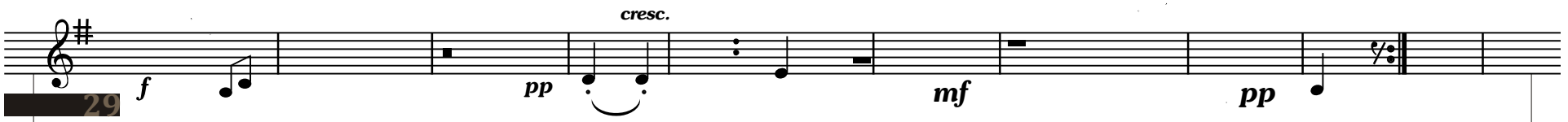
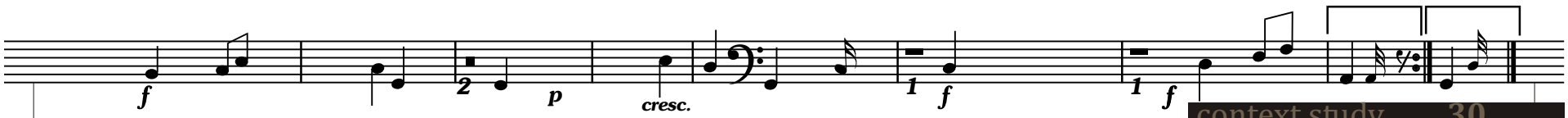
FIG. 3.3

FIG. 3.4

FIG. 3.5

FIG. 3.6 City blocks

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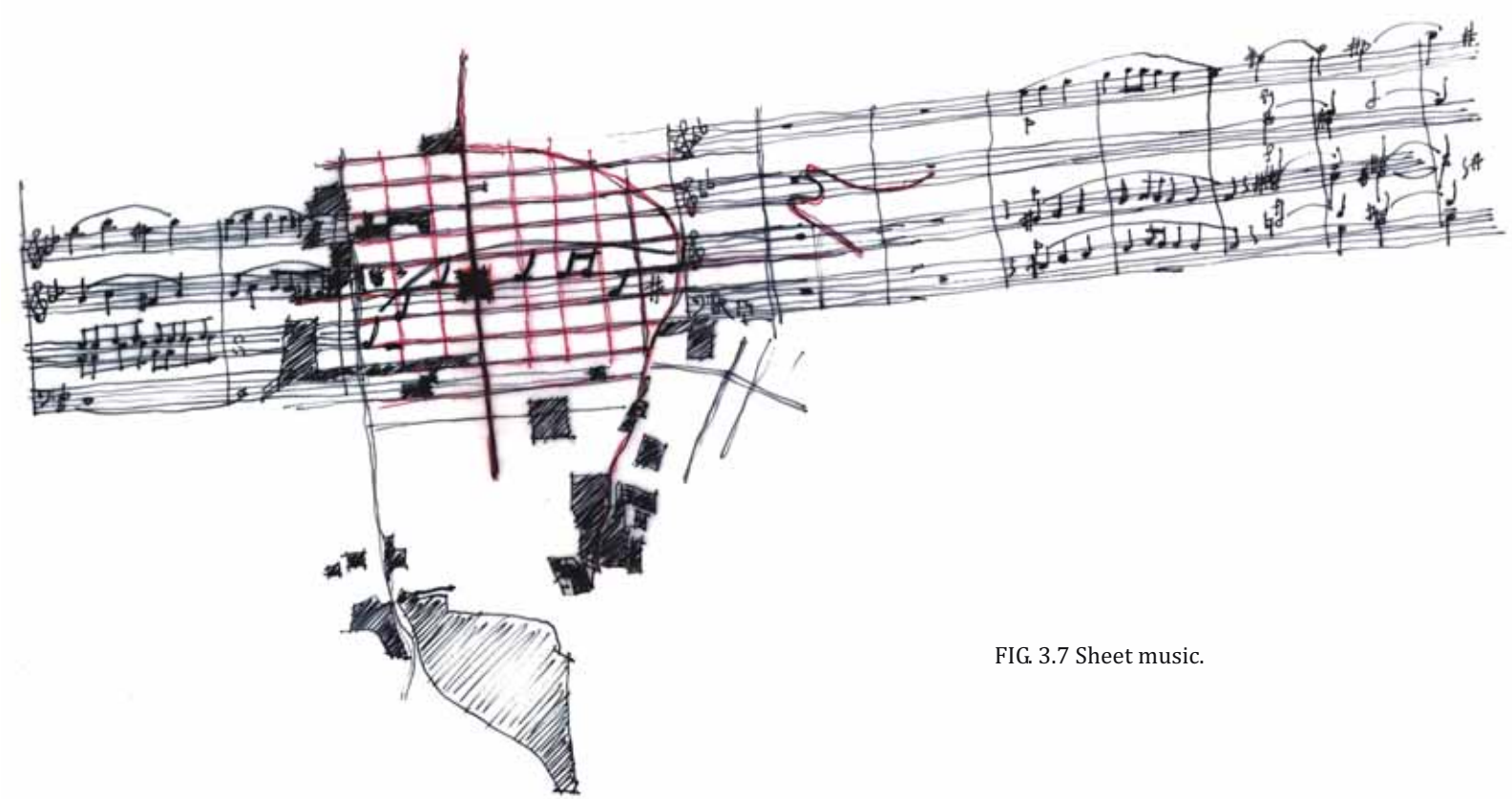
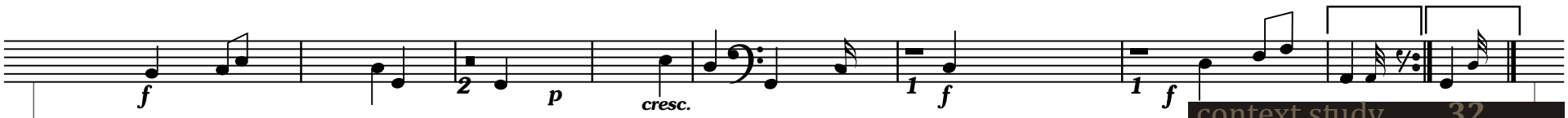
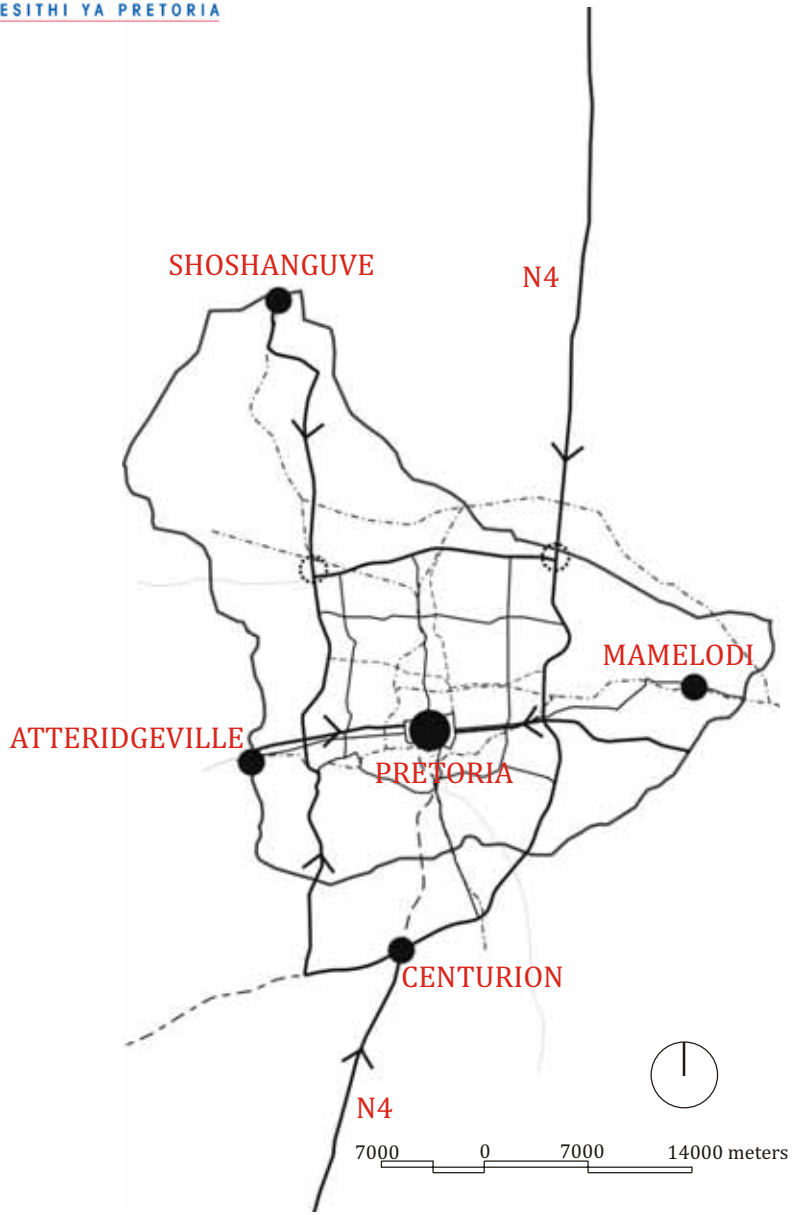


FIG. 3.7 Sheet music.



MACRO CONTEXT

Pretoria is a postmodern city still in the process of rebuilding itself after post-colonialism and to a certain extent, post-apartheid. Many of the inequalities created and maintained by apartheid still remain in South Africa which is evident in Pretoria. As a result, the social fabric of the inner city is fragmented as there is an influx of previously disadvantaged people from the neighboring townships into the inner city and a retreat of previously advantaged people to suburbia areas bordering the city. Inhabitants of these suburbia areas have adopted a sort of "fort knox" strategy through isolated low-density developments occurring on the outskirts of the city further damaging the social fabric of Pretoria and ultimately leading to social decay. Meeting points where interactions between human beings take place has taken the back seat to an urban society based around the car, which forms an integral part of an extremely fast paced lifestyle that almost completely cuts out and isolates people from people. Thus the definition of an activity node has, as a result, become somewhat blurred. People have retreated into their own "bubble world" by adopting an "each for his/her own" attitude instead of engaging in and participating in the community.



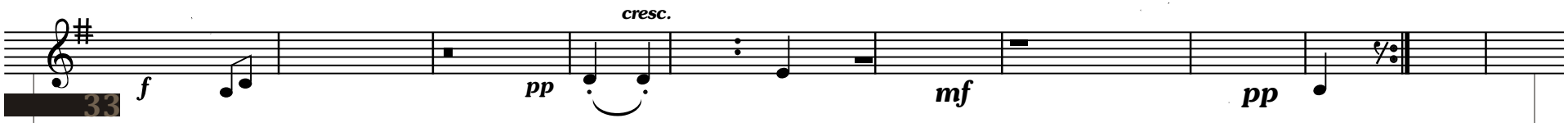


FIG. 3.8 (opposite) Major vehicle routes and township nodes
FIG. 3.9 Green spaces.

When considering the philosophy of social ecology, generally based on human domination over all, it is clear how the scattering of community facilities throughout the city do nothing for the life of the city (Alexander: 1977). As a result we find one of the biggest problems in communities today (if not the greatest) being the fact that the available public life in any community is spread so thin, it has hardly any impact on the community.

People seek out concentrations of other people. But to create such concentrations of people, facilities need to be grouped densely around small public squares which in turn can function as nodes. But such nodes would require pedestrian traffic to pass through it to truly make it function because as mentioned before; people seek out concentrations of other people.

Instead what we find happening in South Africa (e.g. Pretoria) is a more large scale concentration of "nodes" (cities, townships) interlinked by "pedestrian paths" (roads, highways). This large scale version of the activity node pattern of course does not function at all as community facilities are scattered throughout the city and as a result do nothing for the life of the city. Golfing estates would be the perfect example of just this, as golfing estates are literally splitting suburbs by being literally cut off from society, and as a result, breaking the network of "paths" between the different nodes.

Neighbourhoods are physically separated from each other, contributing to patterns of special fragmentation and social exclusion. There is a lack of opportunities for social contact and interaction on a broad city scale, due to different groups operating in separate enclaves and leading separate lives.

Tibbals points out that the public realm is "the most important part of our towns and cities. It is where the greatest amount of human contact and interaction takes place". It is therefore important that the development of urban public space, as part of a larger public sphere, addresses the tensions inherent in the contemporary transformation of the urban public realm and contributes to the emergence of an urbanism which promotes social interaction and tolerance. (Tibbals: 1996)

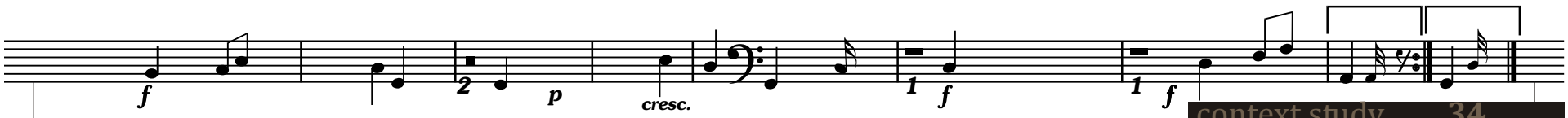


FIG. 3.10 Pedestrian and vehicle traffic

FIG. 3.11 Movement corridors

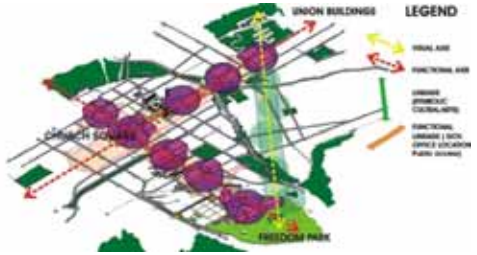


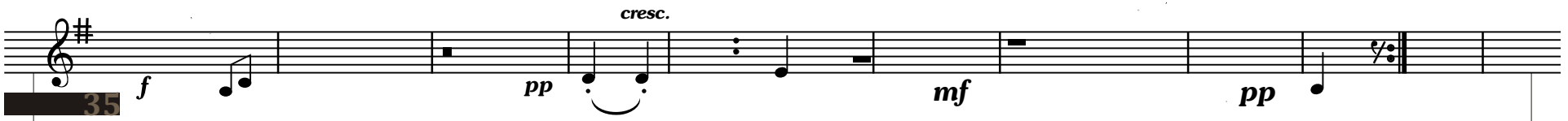
FIG. 3.12 Government boulevard

The TICP SDF by GAPP (2004) is a macro scale urban development framework that aims to achieve sustainable urban renewal. It will aid and reinforce proposals made for improving Pretoria city's inner urban environment. Aspects such as urban security, public spaces, and accessibility will form the back bone of all proposals and will contribute to inner city renewal and rejuvenation.

Paul Kruger and Church Street as key movement corridors are further strengthened by the Union buildings - Freedom Park visual axis as well as the concentration of investment, development and urban management via a series of squares, parks and pedestrian routes.

Public space
The clustering of government offices along the two corridors in a series of nodes combined with key public spaces creates a “Capital Web” of public investment that stimulates private investment and creates a new capital city image.

Pedestrian core
Creating a pedestrianised infrastructure spine along Paul Kruger Street consisting of tram routes, services, public space networks and government offices will not only increase commercial opportunities, but will also directly link symbolic sites. Movement routes crossing the Paul Kruger spine will form important nodes and will be accentuated by a combination of hard and soft public spaces. For the purpose of the proposal, Boom, Bloed and Struben Street crossings will be of utmost importance.



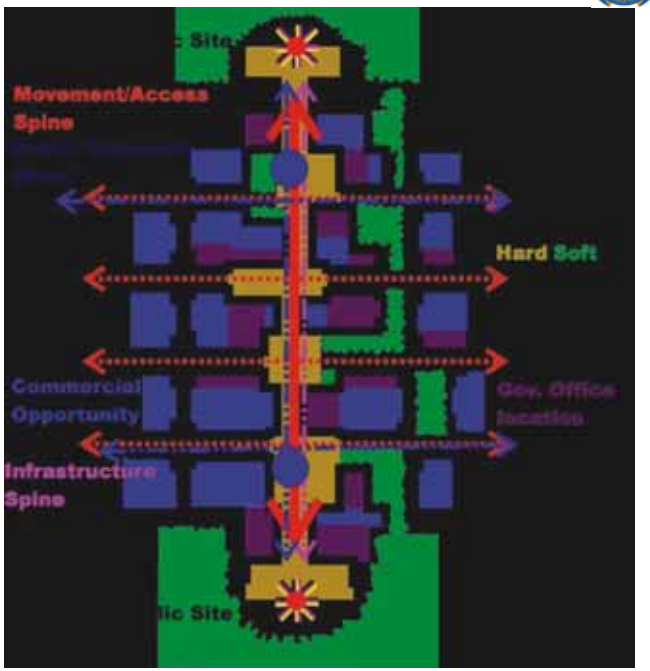


FIG. 3.13 Activity spines

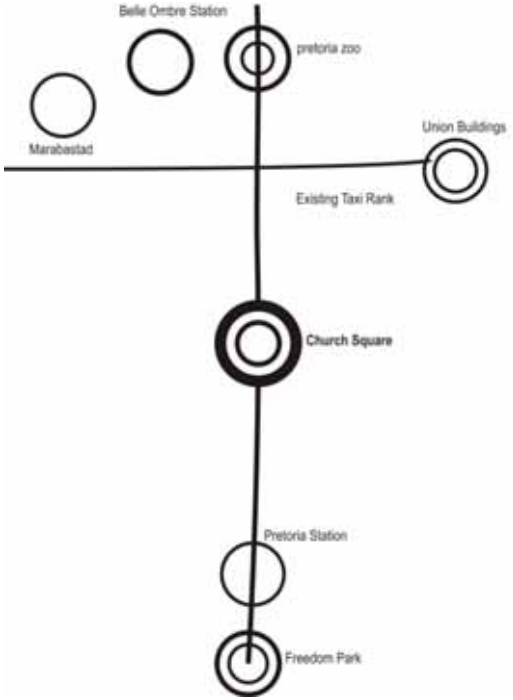


FIG. 3.14

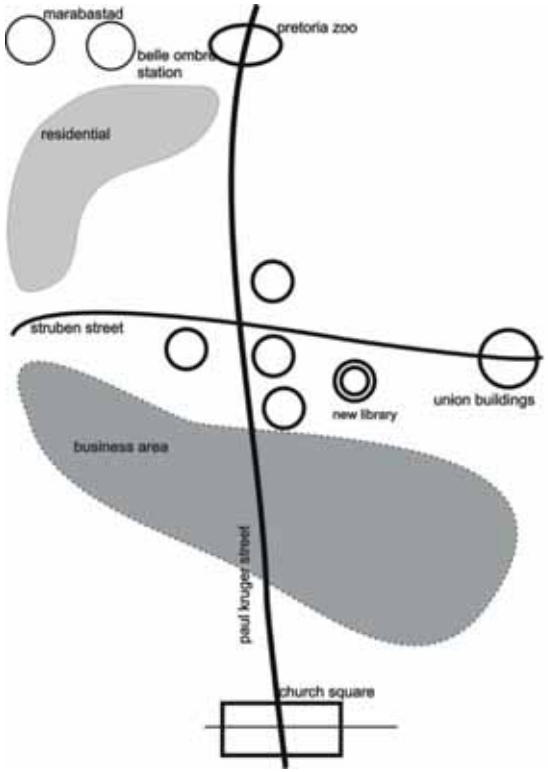


FIG. 3.15

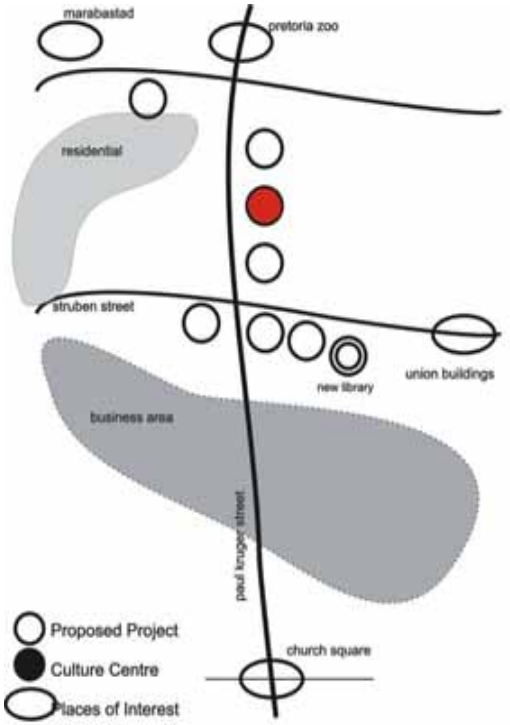
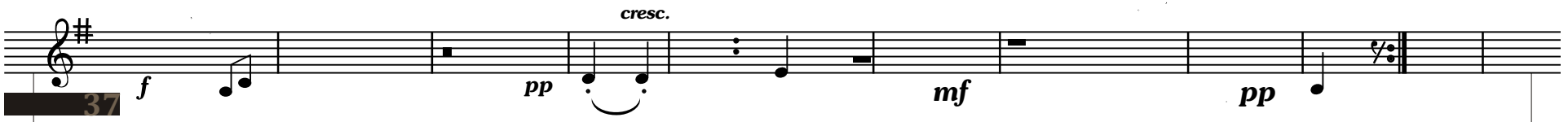


FIG. 3.16

FIG. 3.14 Diagrammatic map of nodes around Church Square.
FIG. 3.15 Diagrammatic map of public spaces.
FIG. 3.16 Site in relation to other proposed projects



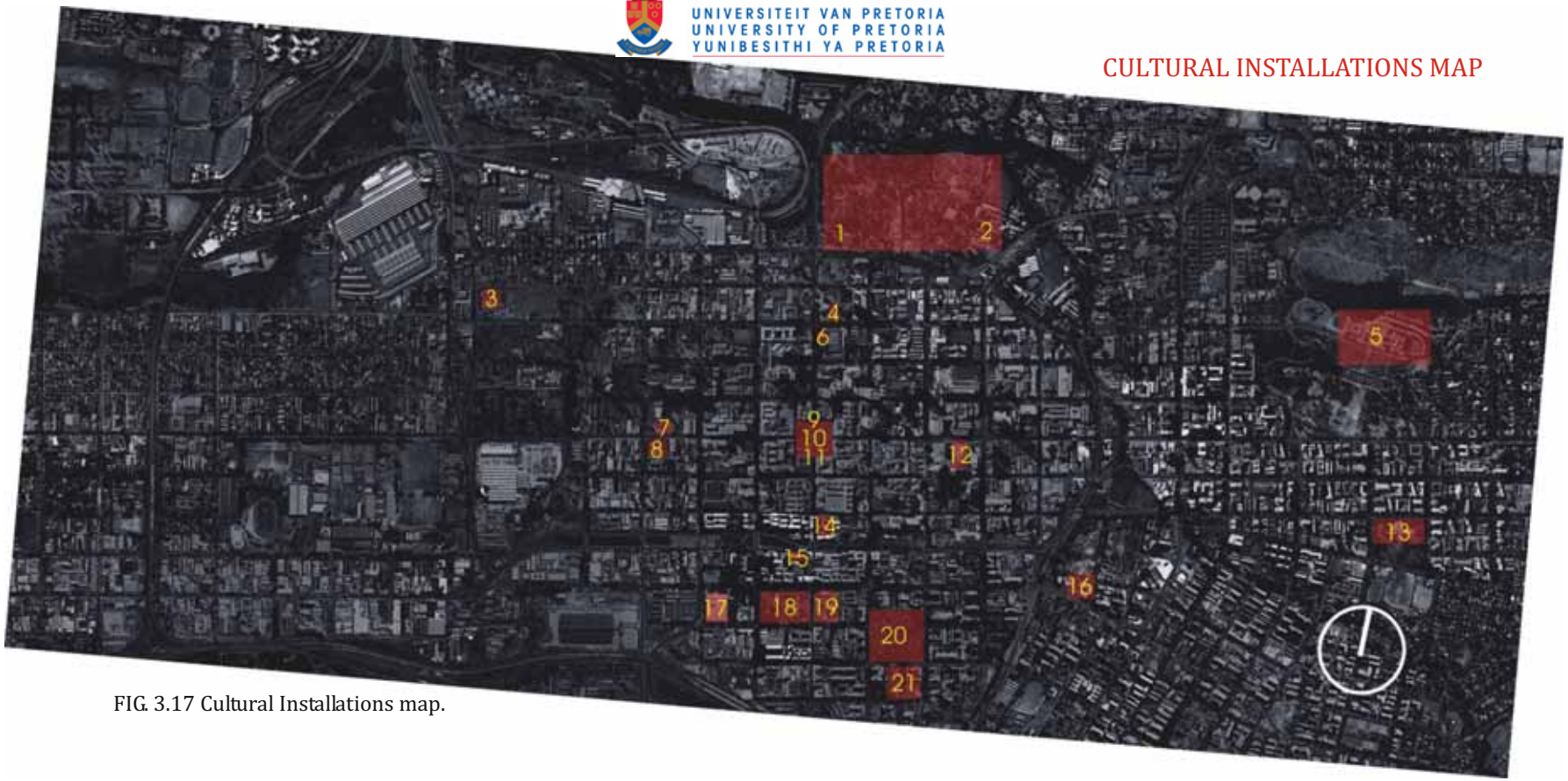
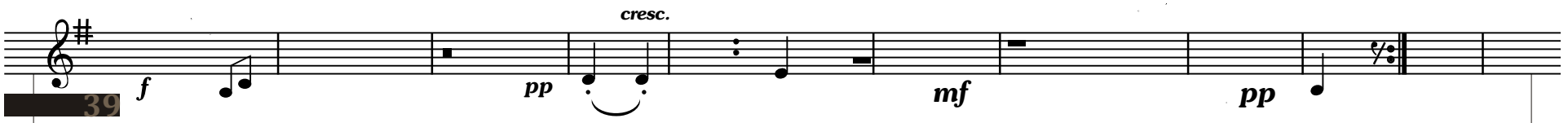


FIG. 3.17 Cultural Installations map.

1. Aquarium and Snake Park
2. Pretoria Zoological Gardens
3. State Model School Museum
4. House Jansen
5. Union Buildings
6. Jewish Synagogue
7. Kruger House
8. Paul Kruger's Church
9. Palace of Justice
10. Church Square
11. Old Raadsaal
12. State Theatre
13. Pretoria Art Museum
14. State Model School Museum
15. Museum of Science and Technology
16. Oeverzicht Art Village
17. African Window
18. City Hall and Pretorius Square
19. Transvaal Museum
20. Burgers Park
21. Melrose House

FIG. 3.18 Site locality map.



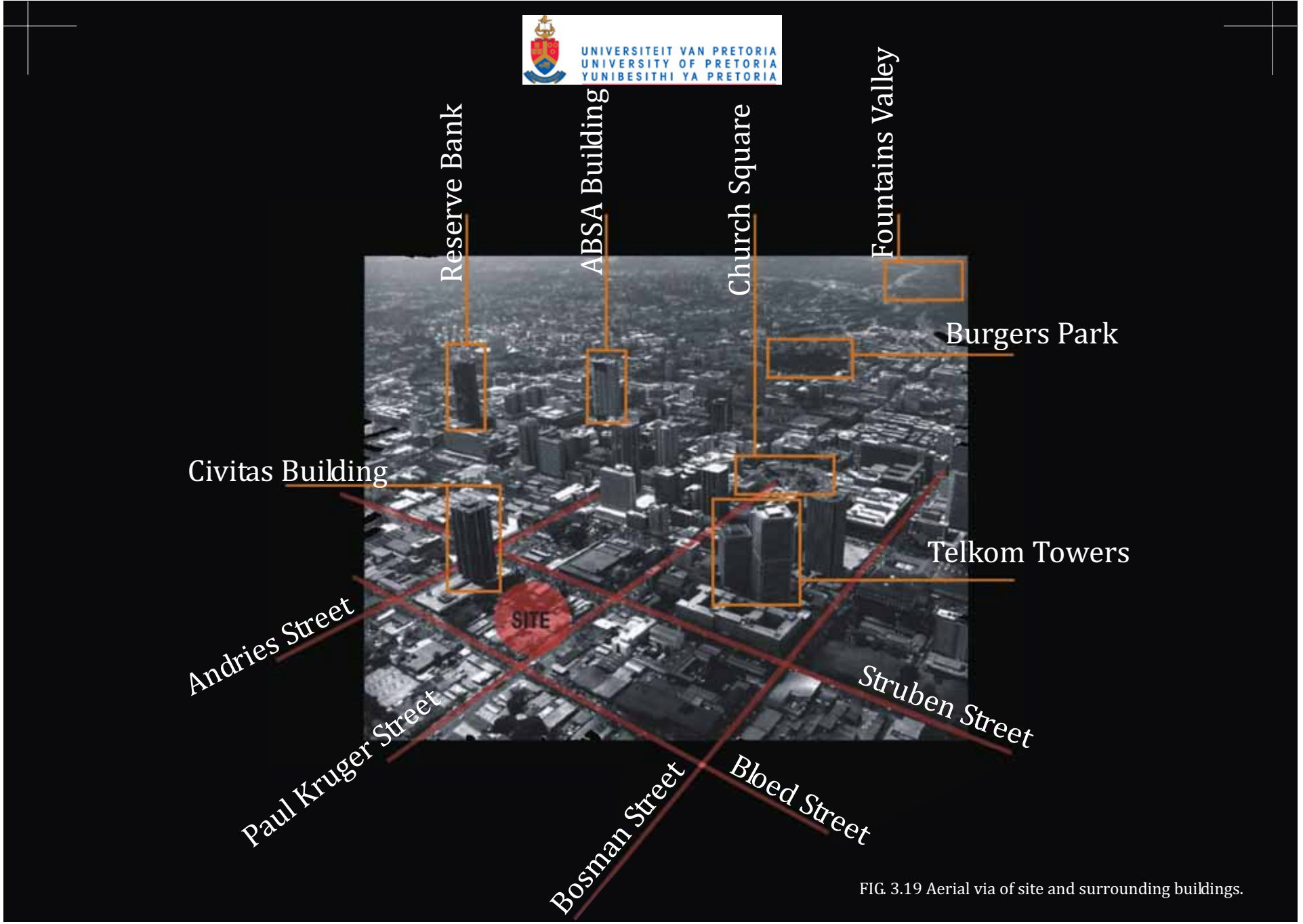


FIG. 3.19 Aerial via of site and surrounding buildings.

Inner City Skyline

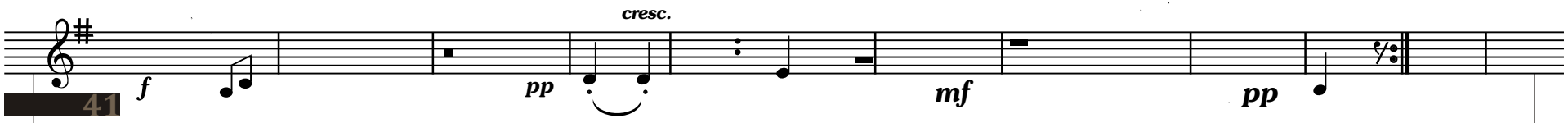
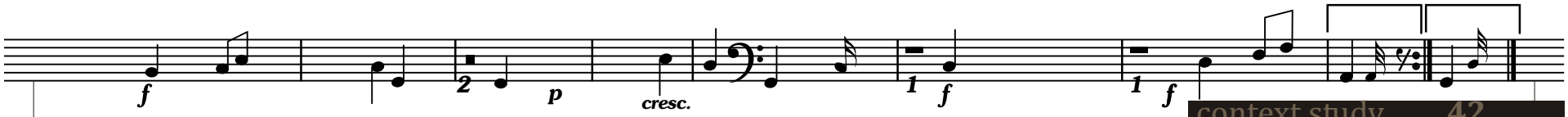



FIG. 3.20 Inner city skyline.