

[02][00][00] PROBLEM STATEMENT

[02][01][00] THE NEED

The site is in need of urban regeneration and is located in an important education node, being part of the Tshwane University of Technology and the hospital / medical education centres, on the north-eastern outskirts of Tshwane's Central Business District.

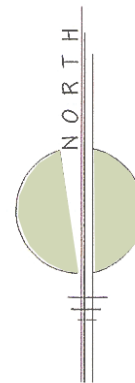


fig [02] EDUCATIONAL NODE

PROBLEM STATEMENT

[02][02][00] INTRODUCTION

The Witwatersrand region is home to a large group of registered artists in an area that includes Springs in the east, and stretches beyond Vereeniging in the south-west, with Johannesburg at its centre.

In northern Gauteng, on the Witbank/Rustenburg axis, with Tshwane as the centre point, the number of active members of the art associations, and professional and junior visual and performing art groups, compares favourably with such membership in the Johannesburg area. Add to this the areas to the north, including Limpopo and up to Polokwane and beyond, and it becomes clear that this is a region that enjoys very little professional support.

Taking the above factors into consideration, as well as the following:

- numerous requests for support and training,
- requests for the use of the TUT library and the library's media services,
- the need for advice and information,
- enquiries regarding the arts,
- requests regarding materials, products and methods,
- requests for involvement and help with community projects,
- and regular enquiries regarding short courses and workshops,

the necessity for a support and development centre for the arts becomes obvious.

The centre will largely be involved in outreach activities and the training of community members that will take prepared projects back to their communities.

The centre could easily become a catalyst for urban regeneration through the intervention of the creative industries, similar to the Newtown Precinct in Johannesburg and the BAT Centre in Durban.

[02][03][04]

PRECEDENT

PROBLEM STATEMENT

[02][03][04] 1] THE NEWTOWN CULTURAL PRECINCT has become Johannesburg’s tourist hot spot in recent years, attracting large numbers of local residents as well as travellers from far and wide. There is much to see and do in the renewed **Newtown Precinct** .

Some years ago, the Newtown area had degenerated into a slum overlooked by the derelict cooling towers and dark turbine hall of the first coal power station in Johannesburg. The main feature of the all new Newtown Precinct is the massive Victorian building which houses both the renowned Museum Africa as well as the Market Theatre.



fig. [03] Newtown Cultural Precinct; Jhb



fig. [04] The Bat Centre; Durban

Durban, KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa by promoting local talent and skills.

Celebrating their unique cultures and encouraging cross-fertilisation, it creates jobs for artists by sourcing talent, imparting skills and developing markets. It also acts as a community cultural centre for the city of Durban and the people of the harbour and Esplanade, and has become a resource to outlying arts and cultural centres and creative people.

Short courses, workshops & seminars take place at the BAT Centre on a continuous basis. Topics of discussion vary between the fields of the visual arts, music, acting, writing and literature.

The BAT Centre’s Visual Art Studio, galleries & BAT shops allows its patrons the advantages of being part of the art world by offering exhibition space where tourists and art lovers can select and purchase artworks.

02][03][02]

THE BAT CENTRE is an arts and culture community centre located in the small craft harbour off Durban’s Victoria Embankment. Its vision is to celebrate the arts and culture of

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[02][04][00] PROPOSAL

This proposed development will provide a facility for the presentation of completed projects from the development and training centre.

The presentation, performance and exhibition of art works will provide a final rehearsal for artists prior to presenting their works to their communities, in areas that previously had little exposure to the performing and visual arts.

A square will be provided, where like-minded members of the community can congregate and experience the arts and art environment. This ‘square’ will be formed by:

- the art ‘**gallery**’ in the readdressed existing “Heidehof” students’ residence,
- the ‘**theatre**’ in the altered and extended general utility hall,
- and a new building, which will house the ‘**restaurant**’.

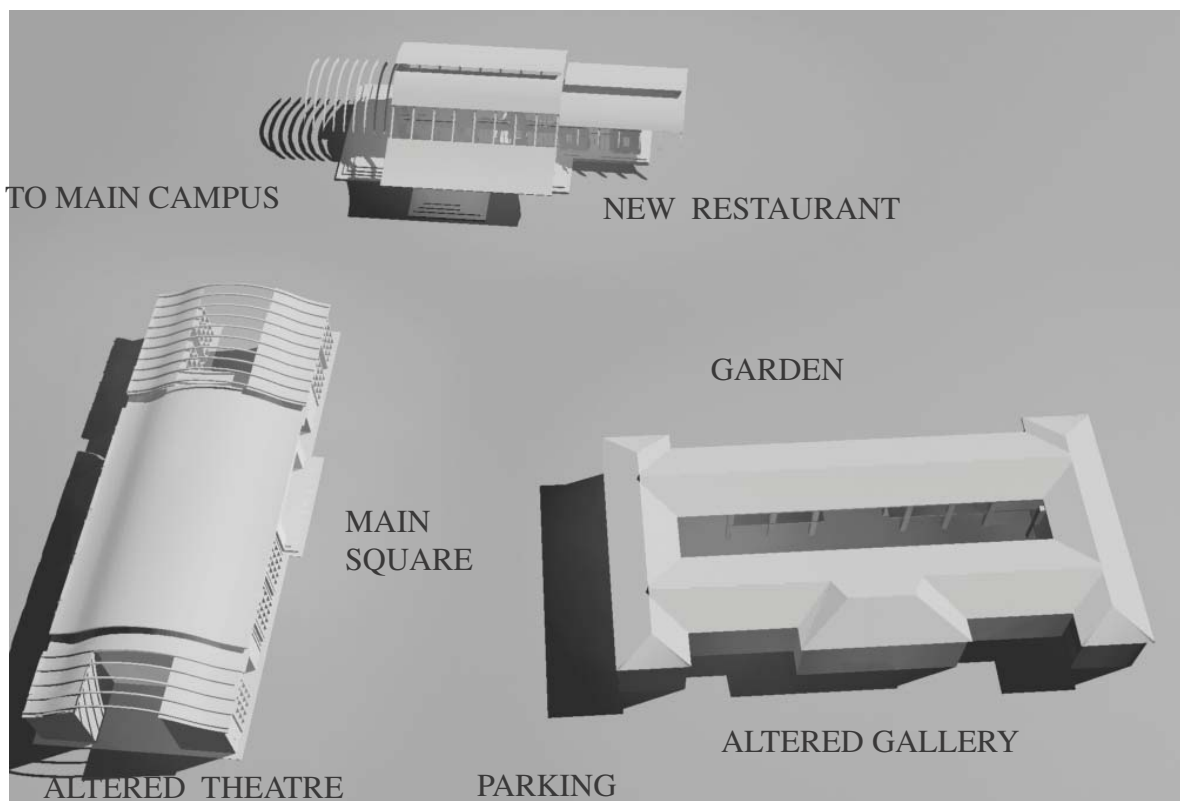


fig. [05] OVER VIEW: BUILDINGS OF THE PROJECT