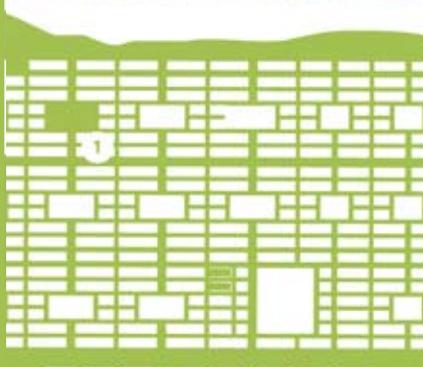
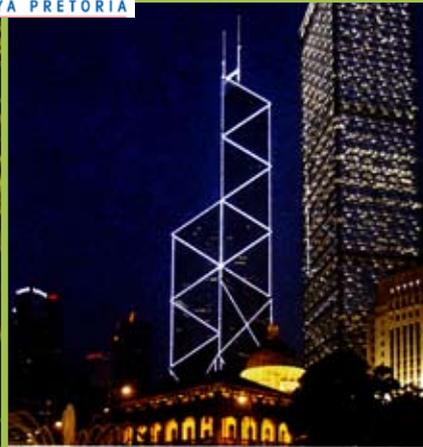
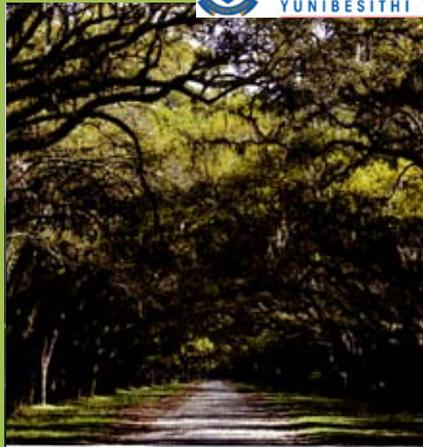


site

analysis



LANDMARK

SYDNEY:
cultural center
1 - sydney opera house
2 - port jackson
UNIVERSITY
1 - the administration building

PATH

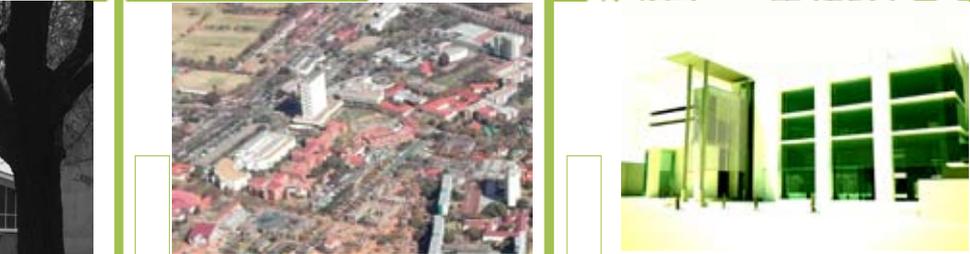
SAVANNAH:
garden
1 - cellular unit
2 - garden
UNIVERSITY
1 - green square in front of the Aula

LANDMARK

HONG KONG:
iconic tower
1 - bank of china
UNIVERSITY
1 - engineering tower

EDGE

VENICE:
canals
1 - grand canal
UNIVERSITY
1 - trees for a natural edge on site



DISTRICT

NEW YORK CITY:
waterfront
1 - hudson river
2 - manhattan
UNIVERSITY
1 - the Hatfield district surrounding campus

NODE

NEW YORK CITY:
central park
1 - central park
2 - hudson river
UNIVERSITY
1 - proposed project; centre for green technology

The application of Kevin Lynch's five elements was used to create a point of orientation which is of extreme importance to know oneself within a specific frame of reference. These five elements, path, edge, node and district, is applied in the design to ensure proper orientation strategies are in place;

The proposed site to be developed as an architectural response to the project objective, is located on the main campus of the University of Pretoria.

_path:

The site was selected for its close proximity to the new Western entrance and the EBIT faculties. At the moment the proposed site has merely a single function; as a ground parking area.

_edge:

The shape of the site is defined by the main transportation route on campus, the ring road, together with the positioning of existing trees.

_node/landmark:

The ring road surrounds the site on both the Southern and Western edge. This creates an intersection, acting as an entry point, and marks the opportunity to function as the Beacon of the Western entrance. A hierarchy of pedestrian routes, give a choice of direction, access to several view points. Proposing several way-finding options to specific destinations, and acts as a mediator between the new Western entrance and the buzz of student-life within.

_district:

Situated between several existing public facilities, the Aula, Amphitheatre and the Musaion, new forms and functions are weaved into the existing context, creating civic spaces, bringing an identity to the overall research precinct. The Modern architecture, surrounding the





site, carries a large degree of symbolic content. Green courtyards display the typical modernistic approach, setting the building back from the site boundary, allowing for spill-out space into a semi-public green corridor. The interplay between defined constraints, determined the final outcome and ensured the important presence of the proposed project blend with the existing building fabric. The relationship between surface and shape is further intensified by an even more dramatic treatment of hard and soft surfaces reflecting internal uses and spaces. Direct links between two proposed projects exists. A pedestrian link on the southern edge and a public transportation link on the western edge. Allowing pedestrian access from the western corridor. The proposed building aim not to dominate the existing relationships with its neighbours, but merely react towards the existing context. Obtaining its own identity but manage a delicate balance between existing and new.

boundaries:

The rectangular site, orientated in a north-westerly direction, is fronted by the campus ring road on both the western and southern sides. This road has the ability to become an important guiding tool for the design process. Recent development concerning the engineering tower, led to the relocation of the Western campus entrance. This entrance offers the possibility to establish a bridge crossing the University road, forming an important pedestrian link directed towards the proposed site.

Other boundaries are formed by the existing building structures; the Aula on the northern side [to form a direct and decidedly valuable link between the proposed facility and the main activities on campus]; the Musaion and Amfi-theatre on the eastern side [forming solid barriers, with only a few existing access links].

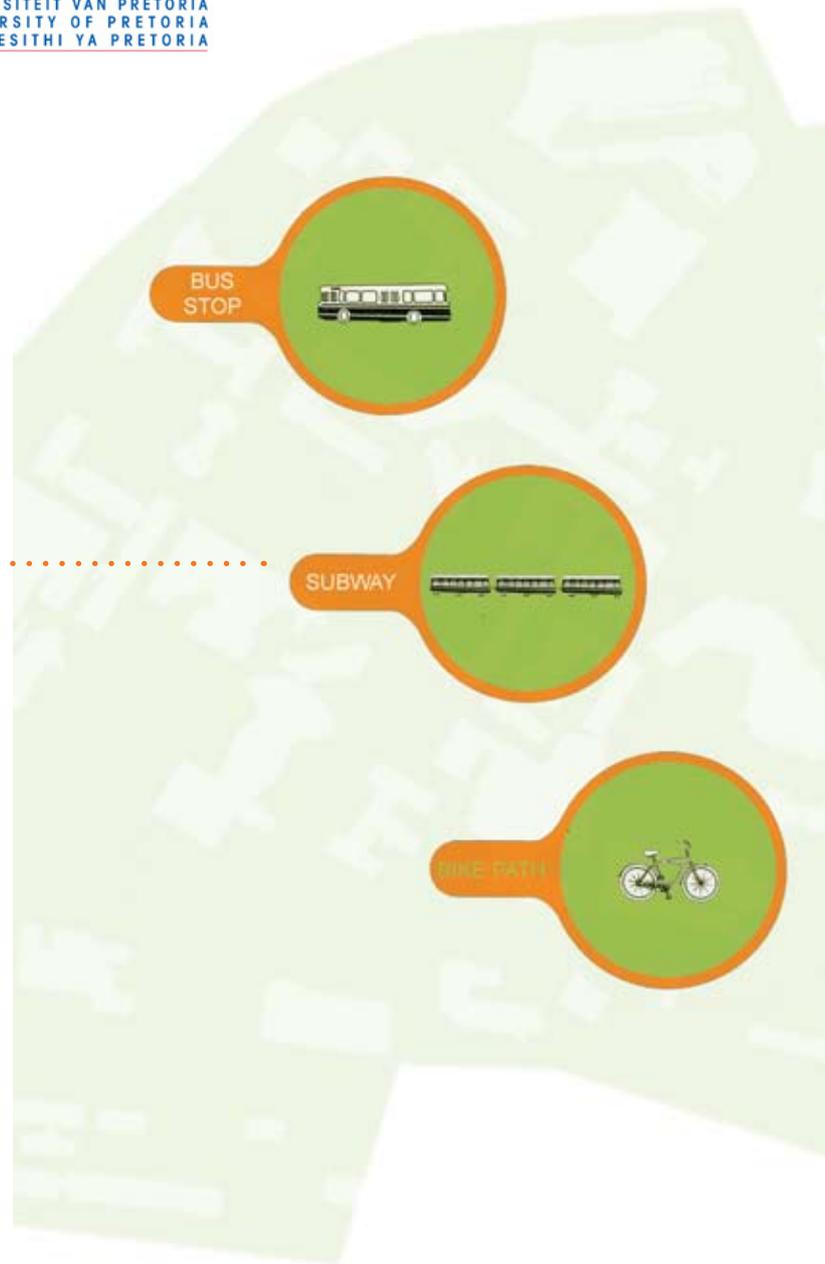




Fig.106 _public transport

space stretches in front of the administration building, currently not defined and under utilised, offering an opportunity to generate recreational activities. On the eastern side, another student project proposal defines the southern edge with a direct pedestrian link running past the museum and amphitheatre on the eastern side.

The proposed research precinct of campus is currently only used for spill-over parking, marking this end of campus as a dead zone. This scenario will change dramatically with the relocation of the western entrance, offering the opportunity to become a much more vibrant, interactive space, generating activities to spur social interaction, within close proximity of the proposed site. As a result pedestrian circulation, redirected towards the proposed site, will ensure the Green Technology Research Centre, becomes a circulation node for students to pass through towards their end-destination. The application of public facilities on the ground floor will reinforce the ability of the facility to allow these users to engage actively with its public facilities. Providing this area with a stimulus of activity.

Currently the proposed site is a hard surface treated area, with several existing trees, used for parking by university employees and visitors. This prohibits the optimal use of semi-private areas around the existing buildings; the natural flow of pedestrian circulation prompting the users to follow other more safe and secure pedestrian routes; further distances need to be covered; and the area imposes on the visual link between existing buildings. Therefore, a circulation spine needs to be designed within the proposed building to cater for all users as a safe harbour against traffic as well as a fast effective alternative to reach a specific location.





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YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA



181

107

_path

The administration building, a valued historic building on campus, celebrates the western corner of campus. Positioned between two main roads linking campus to the rest of the city.

Lynnwood, in the south-eastern direction and University road in the north-western direction. The proposed project, enable pedestrians to reach destinations without vehicular interference.

_edge

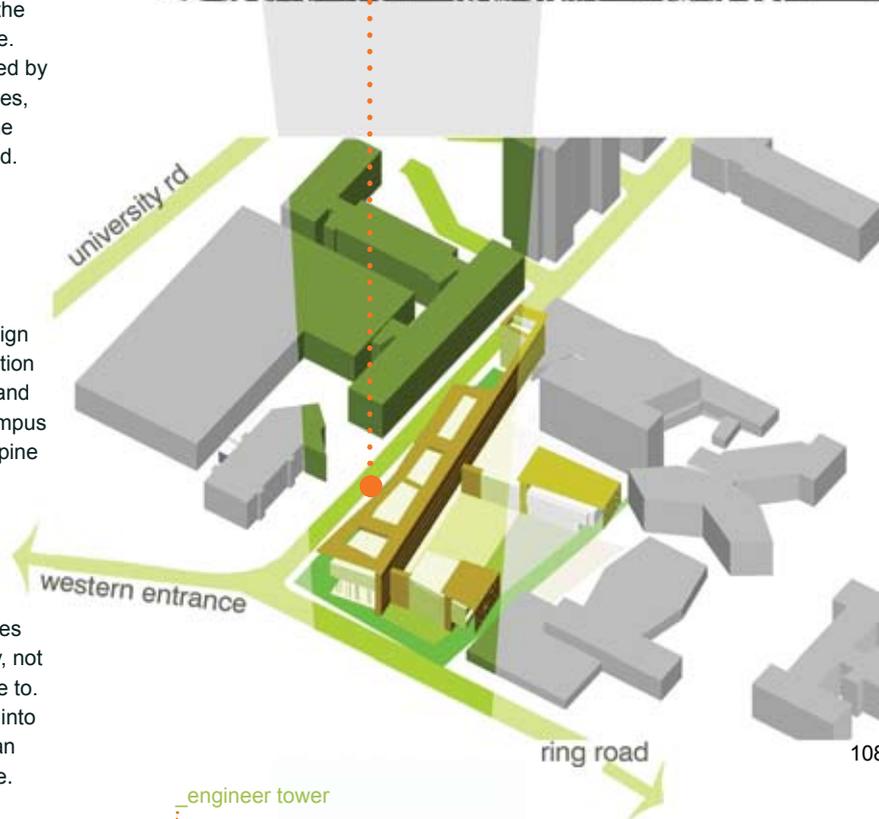
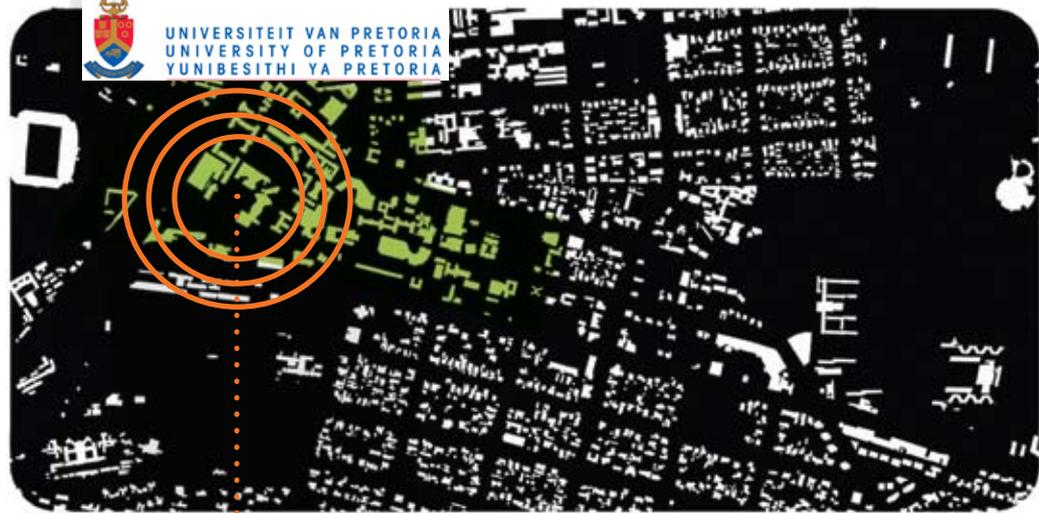
The railway, accommodating both metro rail and the Gautrain forms the north-western edge of the entrance. The proposed site itself is reinforced by a natural-edge of existing fever trees, developing a threshold between the proposed building and the ring road.

_node/landmark

The proposed projects strengthen the legibility of the corner as a design tool to direct the users. An orientation component in the public network, and a point of orientation within the campus precinct. Generating the activity spine towards the proposed building.

_district

A rich architectural language creates the unique form of campus identity, not yet integrated with city life, but able to. Blending the existing and the new into a timeless composition the user can identify itself with now and in future.



engineer tower

aula

amfi-theatre

musaion



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southern edge



fever trees
[acacia xanthophloea]



ring road



western edge
[site corner]



site character

Despite vehicles, parked on every inch of open space, the site and its surroundings can be described as calm, serene and confined, with giant fever trees, emphasising the human scale factor forming the site boundary, guiding the pedestrian to its destination point, ensuring the site remains an inviting space to experience nature within the city.

the aula:

The Aula, known as one of the most prominent buildings on campus, was designed by Karel Jooste in the architectural firm of Philip Nel. Hosting University and public functions on a regular basis, this facility is used to its fullest potential. Unfortunately no specific space is allocated for social gatherings after public functions. This gives the opportunity for the proposed project to cater for this specific need, to establish a social link between the existing and new.

the amfi theatre:

Used mainly by University of Pretoria student activities, the facility can be put to much better use. The form of the theatre resembles the history of the site [previously an athletic field], celebrating its context. This theatre can be used as an additional outdoor theatre by the proposed project for presentation sessions i.e. pecha-kucha night [a presentation containing 20 slides shown in 20 seconds to sell a design idea]. This will ensure a 24/7 use of the proposed facility, relating to its neighbouring buildings and at the same time extending its use beyond the typical campus hours.

the musaion:

Initially, this single storey facility was designed by architect Brian Sandrock, and a few years later the expansion ensured the addition of two more storeys, hosting office facilities for lecturers. This facility hosts indoor events, such as choirs and musical shows. Seated next to the music department, these facilities integrate their use successfully, but it appears there is a need for social integration with the rest of campus, to focus attention on this department to ensure active engagement from the student's side.





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southern edge
[music department]



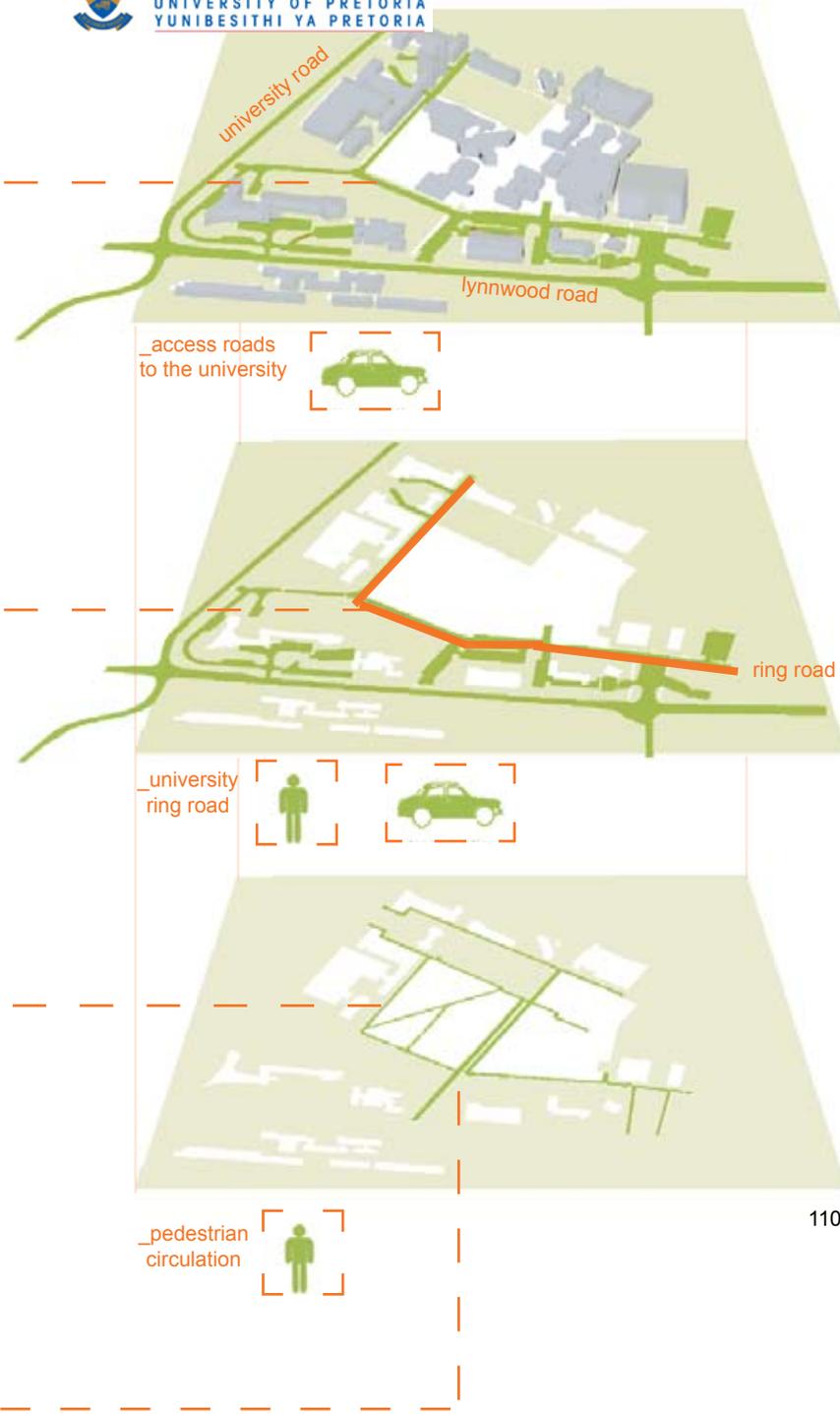
fever trees
[acacia xanthophloea]



western edge
[engineering faculty]



eastern edge
[musaion+amfi theatre]





CIRCULATION

DIRECT ROAD LINKS



CIRCULATION

DIRECT ROAD LINKS



CIRCULATION

INDIRECT ROAD LINKS





DIRECT PEDESTRIAN LINK



BUILDING ENVIRONMENT FACULTIES



INDIRECT PEDESTRIAN LINK



PUBLIC BUILDINGS



NEIGHBORING BUILDINGS



RING ROAD

