Client

Due to the fact that the project is aimed at preserving African culture while also aiding in the development of Africa as a Continent there will be a number of stake holders involved. Being in South Africa, dealing with matters of culture and continental interest it is important that appropriate South African governmental departments are involved in the project. Because of all the Research that is carried out by Africa Institute it will of huge benefit to have them get involved in the project.

- African Union
- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Department of Art and Culture
- UNESCO World Heritage
- Africa Institute

Design brief

To create an architecture which welcomes all it's African people and those who are from outside the continent. The architecture is to create opportunities of cultural interchange and exposure.

While taking care of the social matters, the architecture must also be aimed at aiding boost investor confidence in the African Continent. Platform for Showcasing opportunities that are currently available in Africa and those that have potential is to be made available by the architecture. To aid in the development of Africa, people will be given an opportunity to voice their views directly to the politicians.

Response to brief

Story telling has always formed a major part of the different African cultures as a result I have provided a library.

Different African cultures pride themselves with their different African dishes, hence I have provided restaurants.

Art, forms a major part within the different African cultures, for people lo learn about each others cultures I have added an art gallery.

Show business is currently growing at a fast pace in Africa, in celebration of this I have provided an African cinema/Audio visual.

Performance is one of the most important activities in Africa, be it celebrating, mourning and much more, this is why I have included a performance hall in the complex.

Africa has been involved in the business of trade longer than anyone knows; this is why I have added offices where investors and potential investors can update themselves with the current opportunities opening up in the African Continent.

Importantly in almost all African cultures there is a sacred place or tree where the elders gather around to discuss issues and deliver important announcements from. This created a need for conference rooms and a platform for public announcement.

Markets form a major point of interaction and socialising in Africa, hence I have allowed for them to take place.

Art is also extensively incorporated into vernacular architecture for different reasons; hence I'm also playing with some patterns on the skin of the building. Africa has also been extensively involved in the trade of copper, this material I have also incorporated on the skin of the building.

Concept Development

The design concept is realised through merging the ideas of community informing architecture and that of community within a community.

Figure1: concept study of a community within a community.
This idea is tied together by the saying, 'together we stand divided we fall'.

Figure2: plan of Batufam village (Cameroon) Ref: Guidoni 1975: 124.
This is a village that is occupied by the Bamiikile tribe. Placing of the market at the entry points of the village encourages interaction among the residents. Through this idea a sense of community is created as the markets are a common meeting place for all residents before they despatch to their different places.

Figure3: Ref: Guidoni 1975: 158
In the capital of Lunda Kingdom (Angola) a sense of community within a community has been taken as far as being expressed in their family homes. The different houses in this community are designed around a

courtyard system which encourages interaction and a sense of community within the different family members. A bigger sense of family within the bigger village is created through the main plaza which the entire village is designed around.

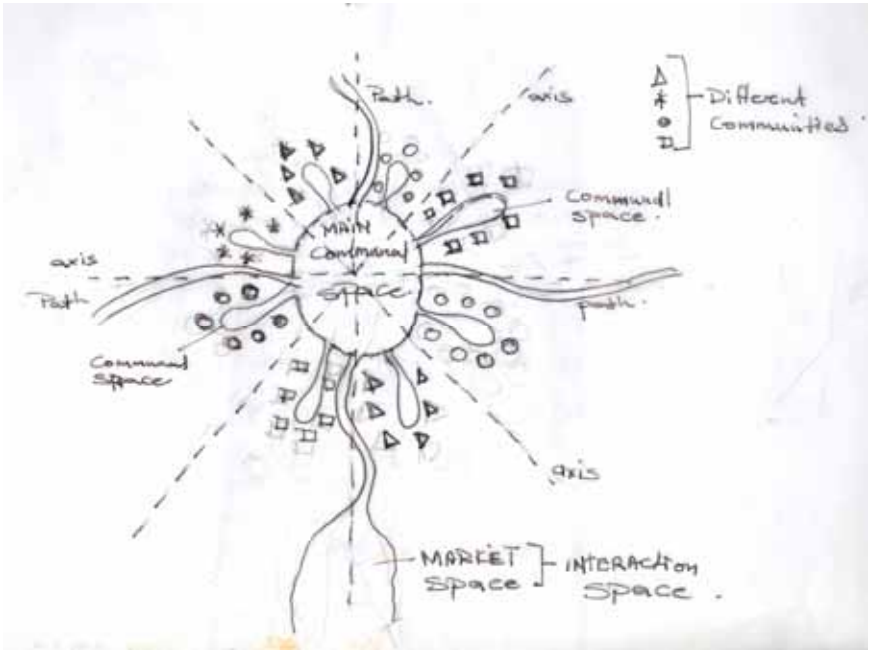


Figure4: Concept from theory

Above is a sketch compiling together all the lessons learnt from the two villages and the idea of community within a community. This concept is a reference point driving the design through its development.

Figure5: Touchstone

Figure6: touchstone

The touchstone shown above is a concept influenced by a Swahili idiom. ‘Sisimizi wawili lawashindwi kavula panzi mmoid’, when translated to English means: One ant cannot lift a grasshopper but two ants can lift a grasshopper.

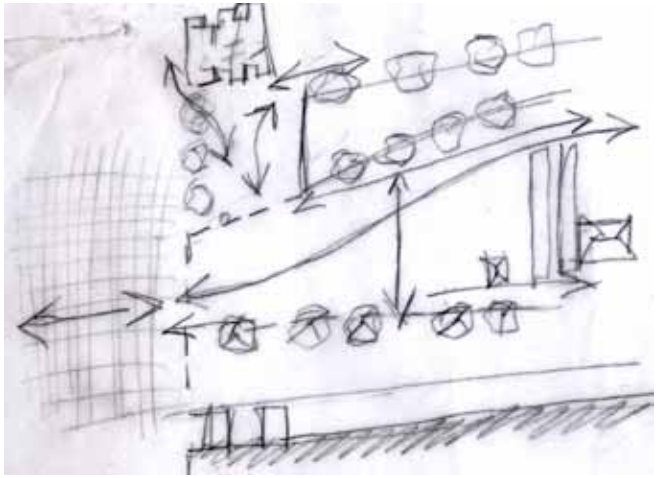


Figure 7: Circulation study
This is a study of the existing and future pedestrian circulation on site.

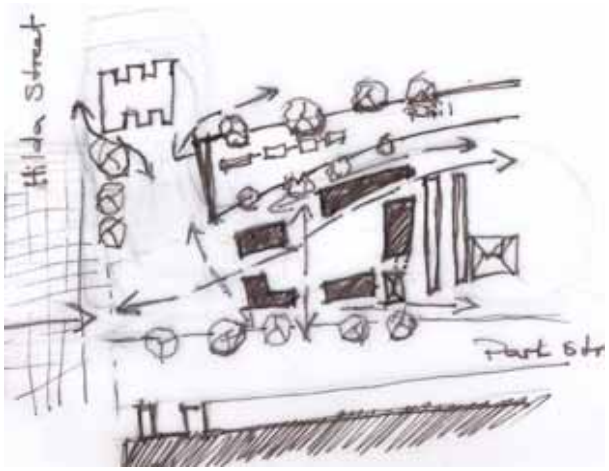


figure 8: concept 1

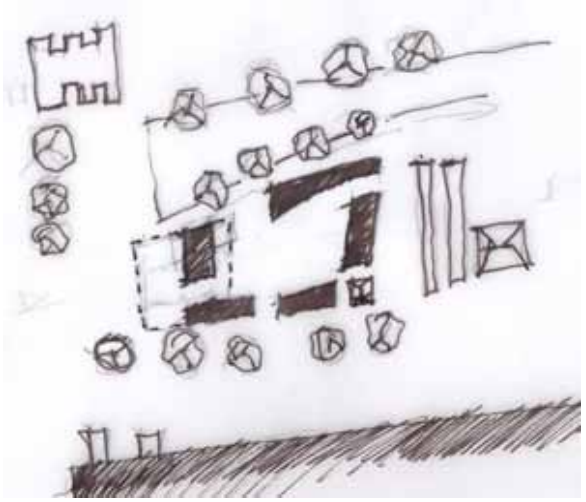


Figure 9: concept 1 development
Design decisions informed by the study.

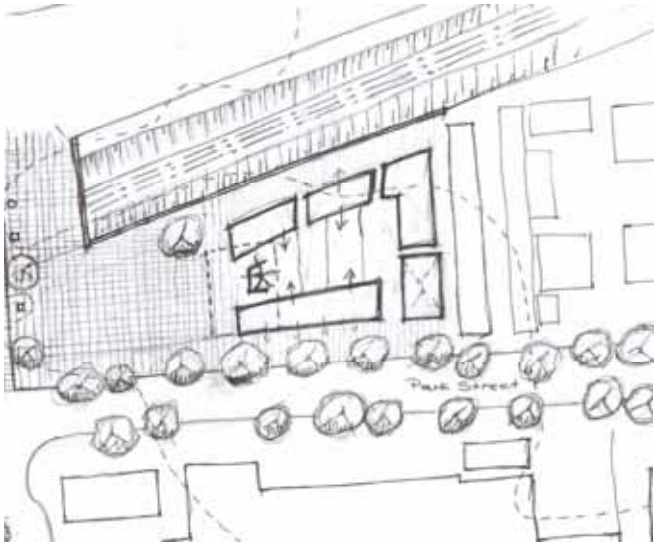


Figure 10: Concept development

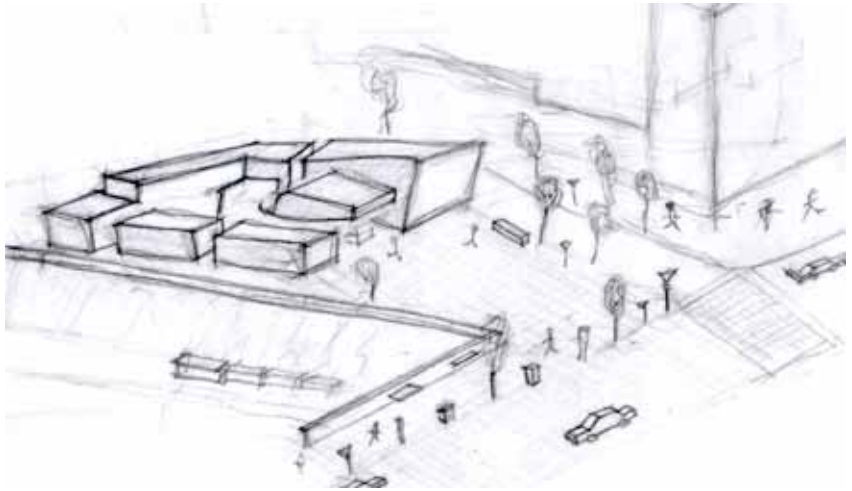


Figure 11: Massing study of concept1

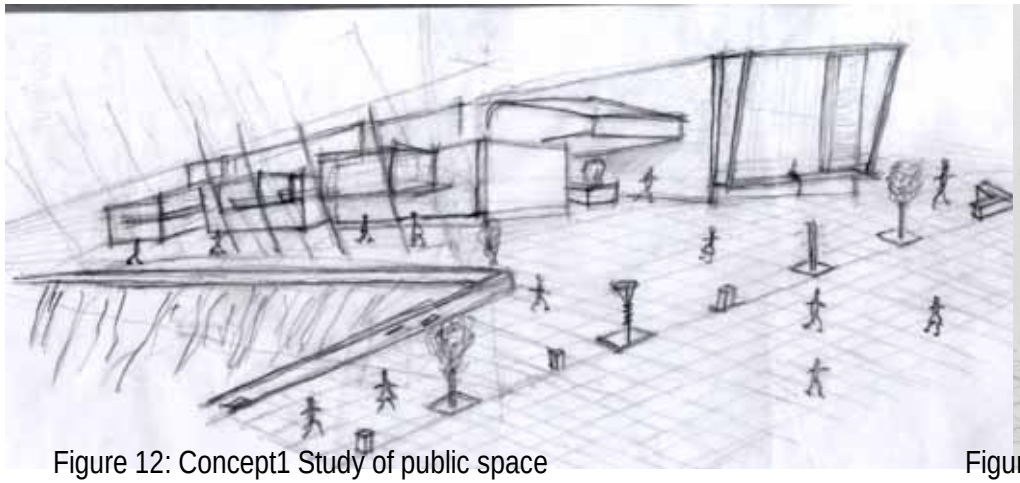


Figure 12: Concept1 Study of public space
The design is to create a public friendly environment for both passers by and those who want to enjoy its space.

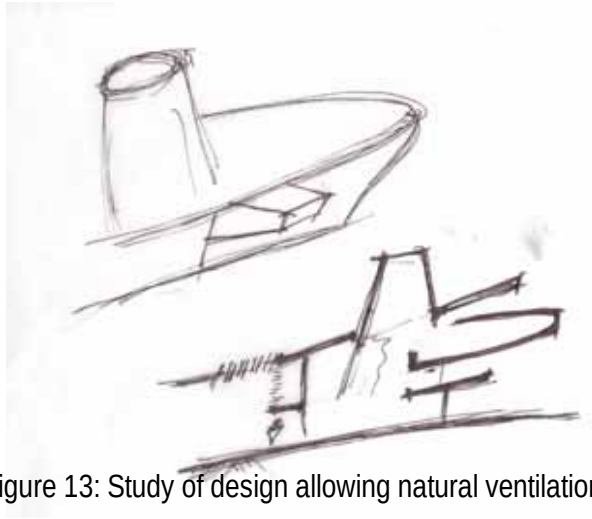


Figure 13: Study of design allowing natural ventilation.

Figure 14: Concept of treating the street edge

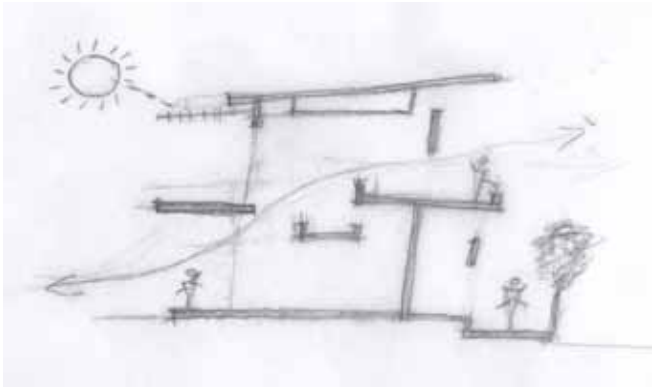


Figure 15: Study of design allowing natural ventilation.

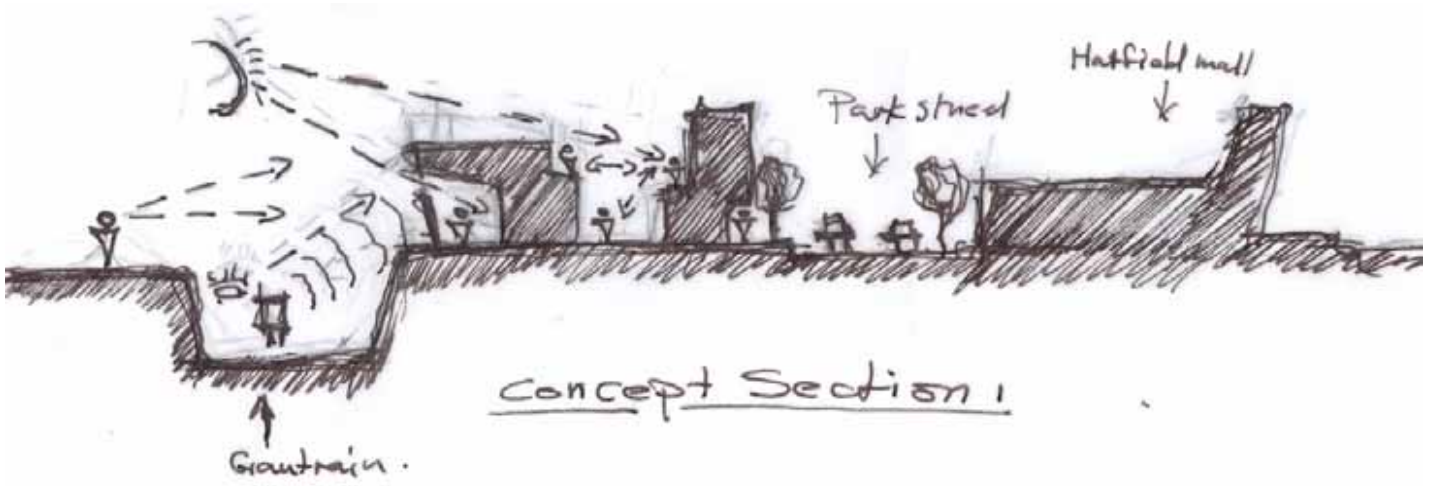


Figure 16: Study of massing and special relation through section

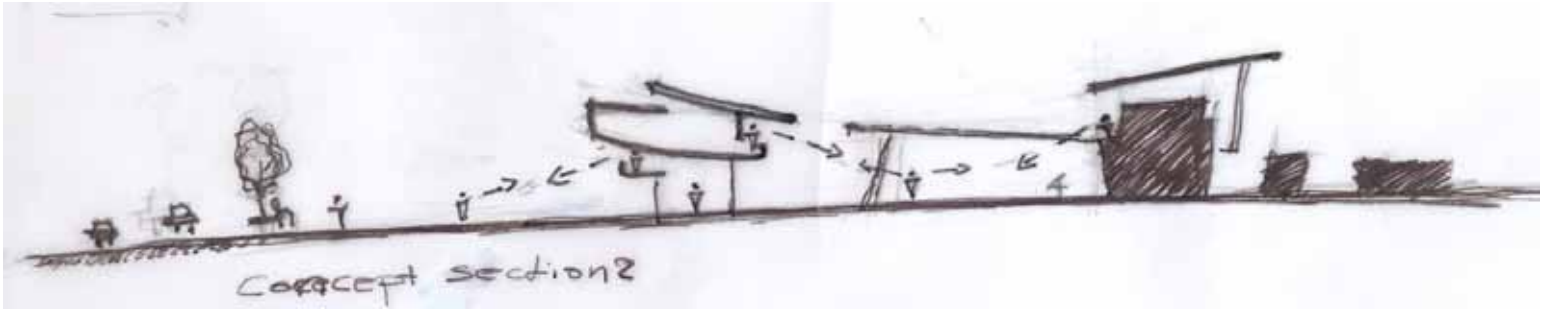


Figure 17: Study of public interaction through section.

The design is to provide opportunities for interaction between people on the street and those inside the building. The design is to also take advantage of the opportunities provided by the street edge.

Design concept development

Figure 18: Concept development plan

Ground floor: Markets, Restaurants, Performance, exhibition and library. The structure is designed to allow pedestrians to go through the courtyard space and link with their own path.

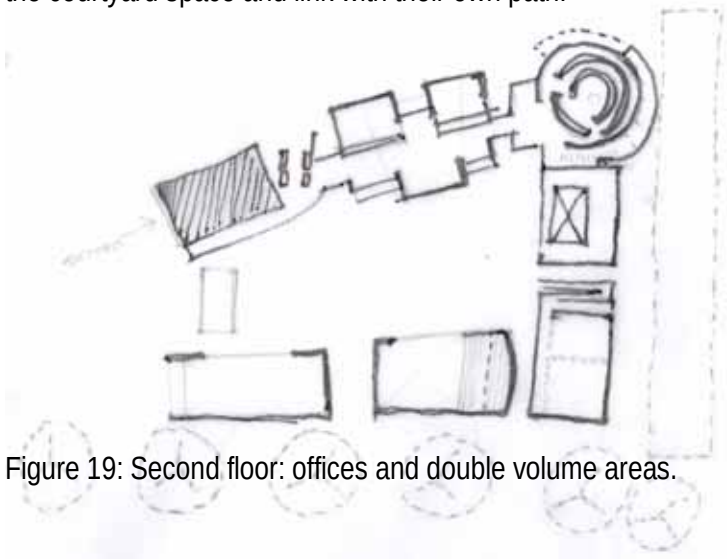


Figure 19: Second floor: offices and double volume areas.

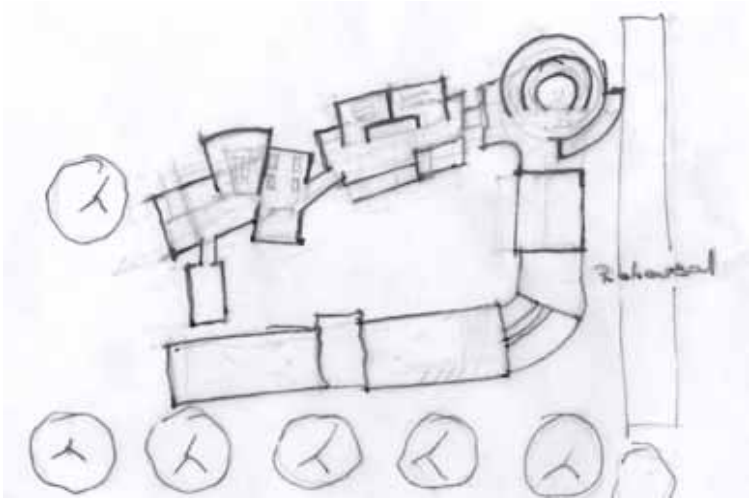


Figure 20: First floor: seminar rooms and double volume areas.

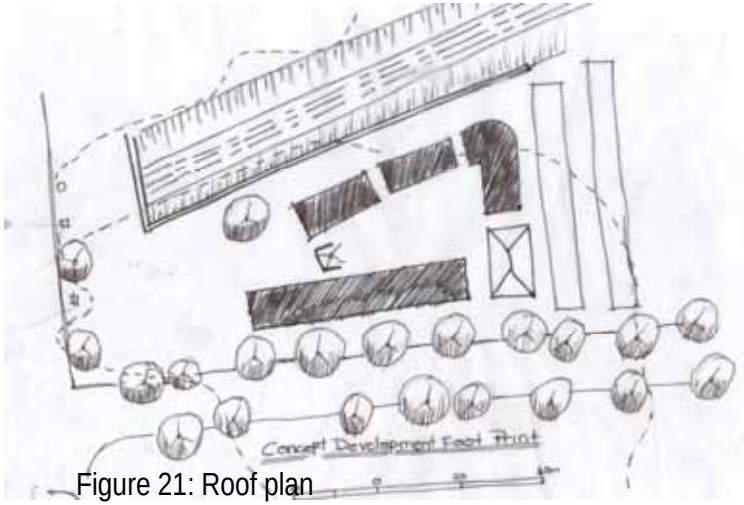


Figure 21: Roof plan

Design concept development

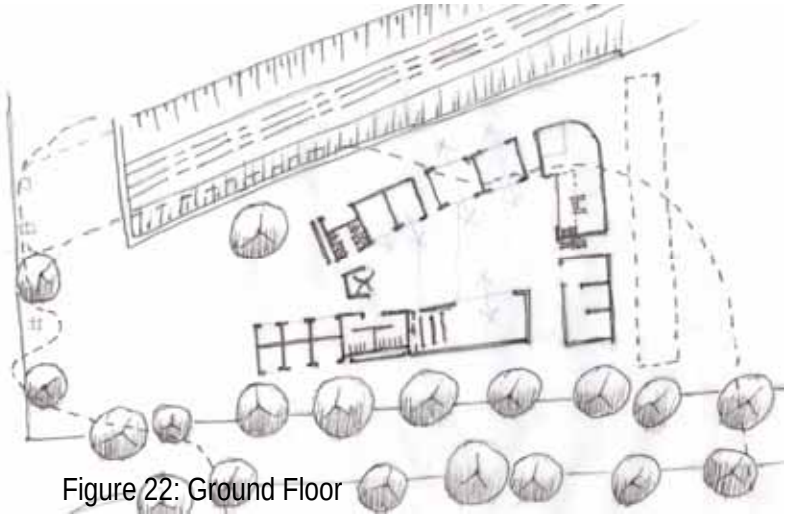


Figure 22: Ground Floor

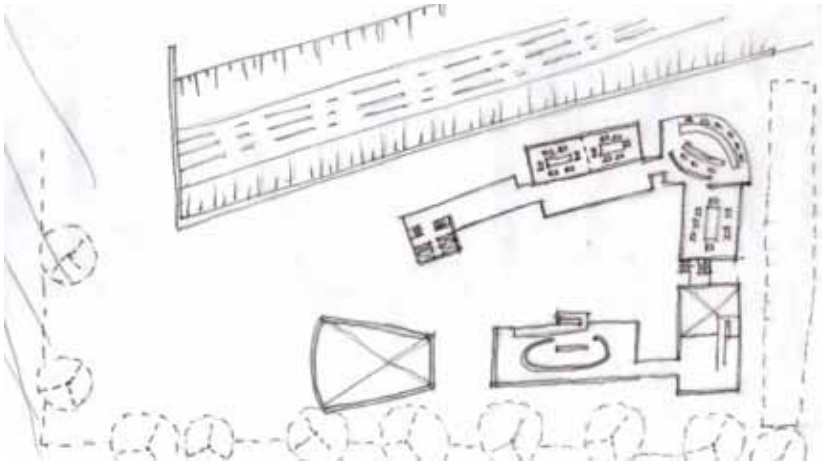


Figure 23: First Floor

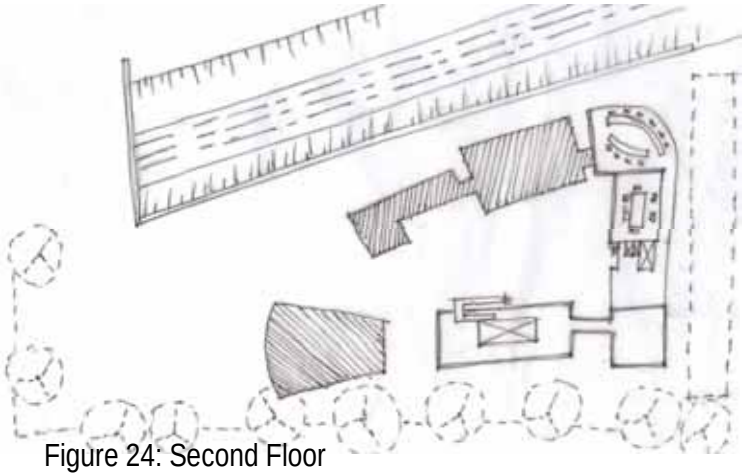


Figure 24: Second Floor

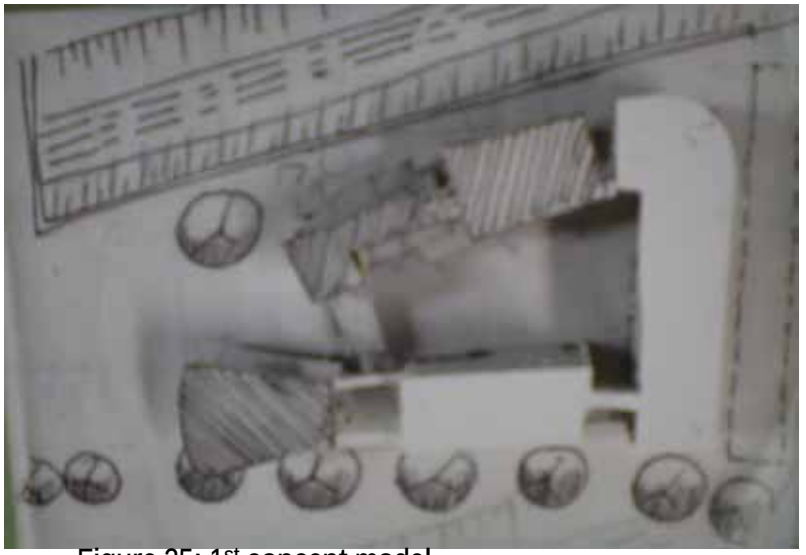


Figure 25: 1st concept model

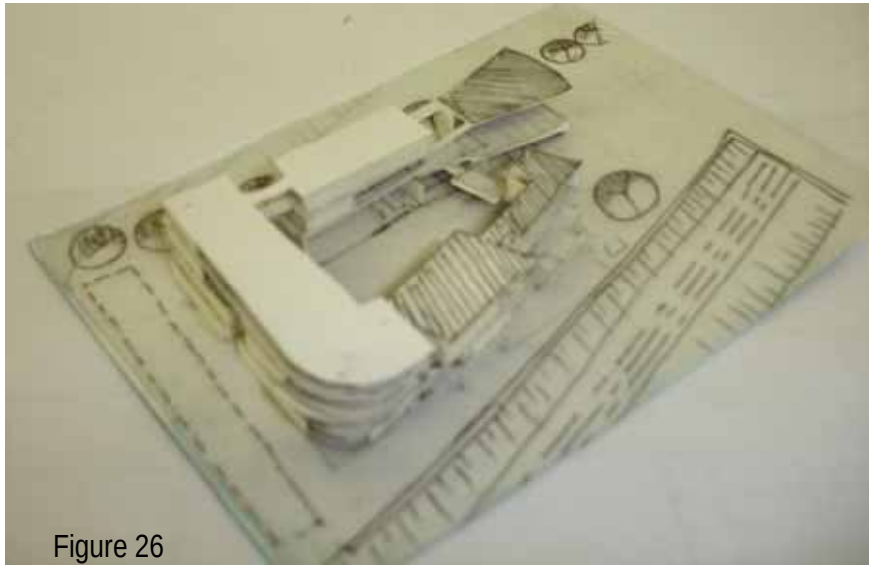


Figure 26

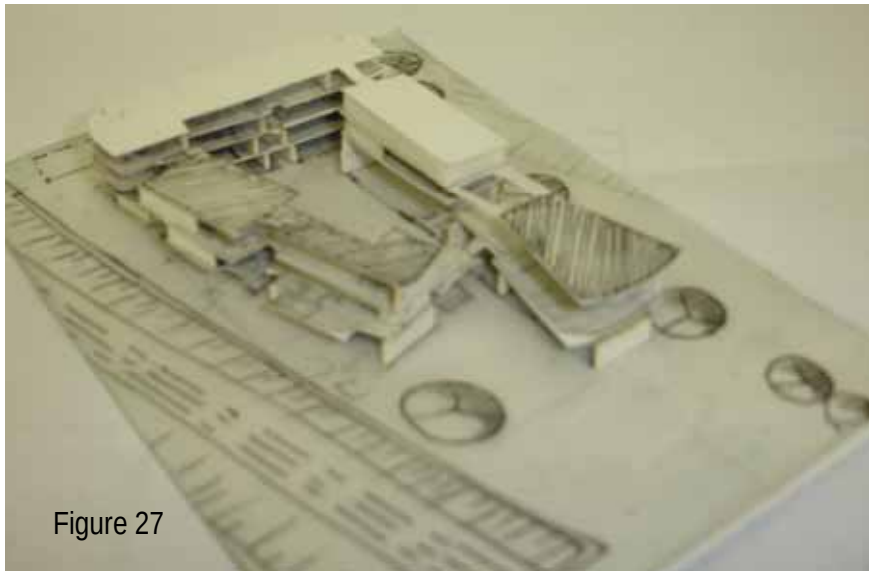


Figure 27

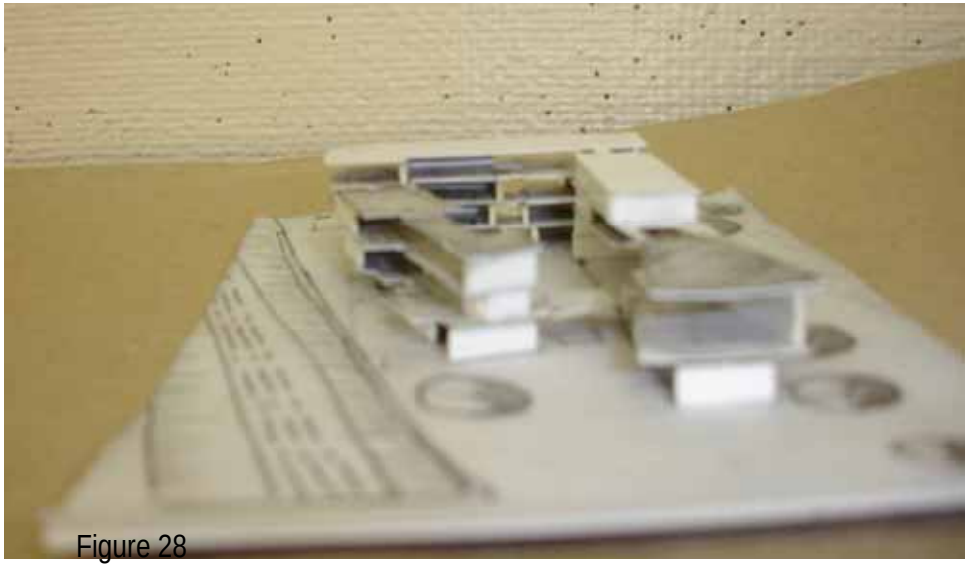


Figure 28

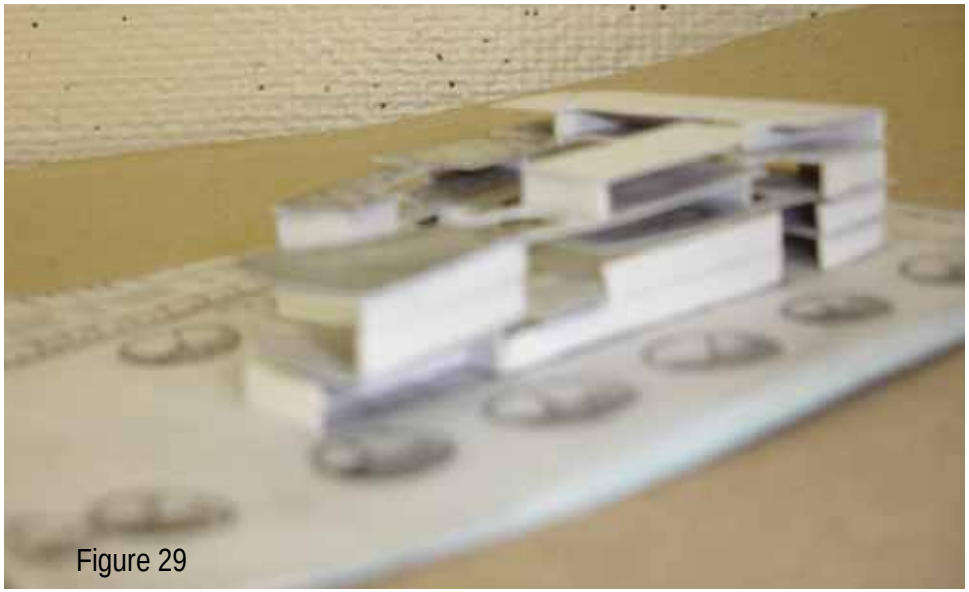


Figure 29

Concept development: exploring the footprint

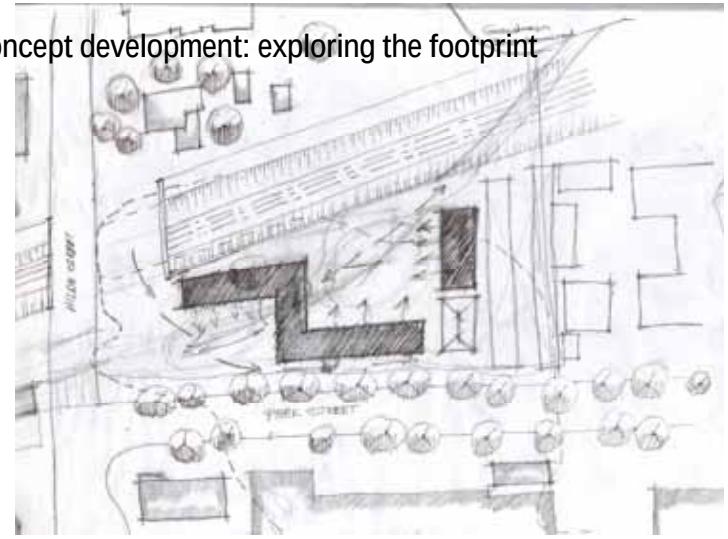


Figure 29: Creating private and public outside space.

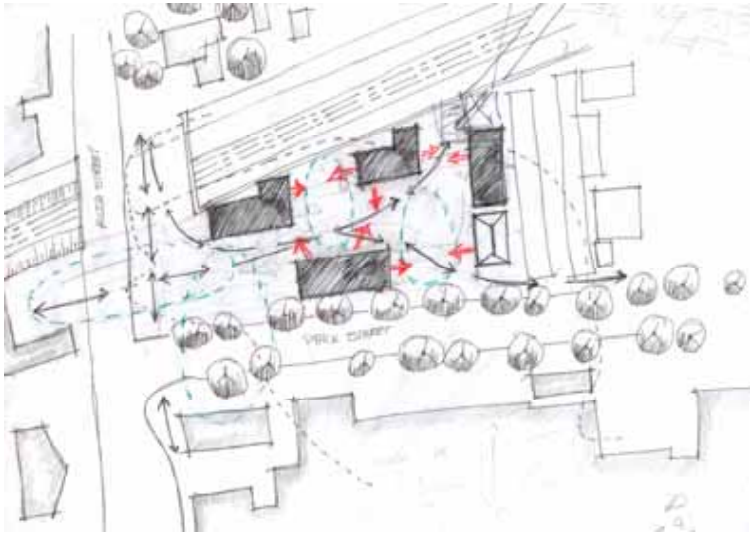


Figure 31: Buildings interconnected by public space and its activities.

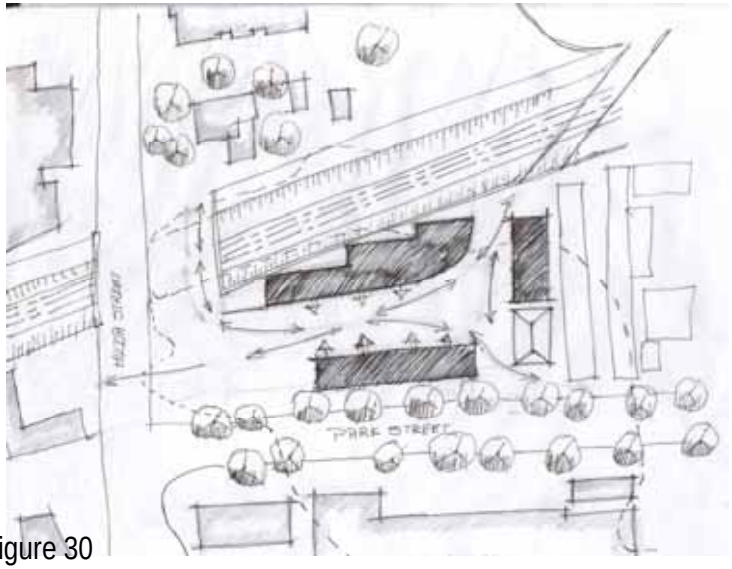


Figure 30

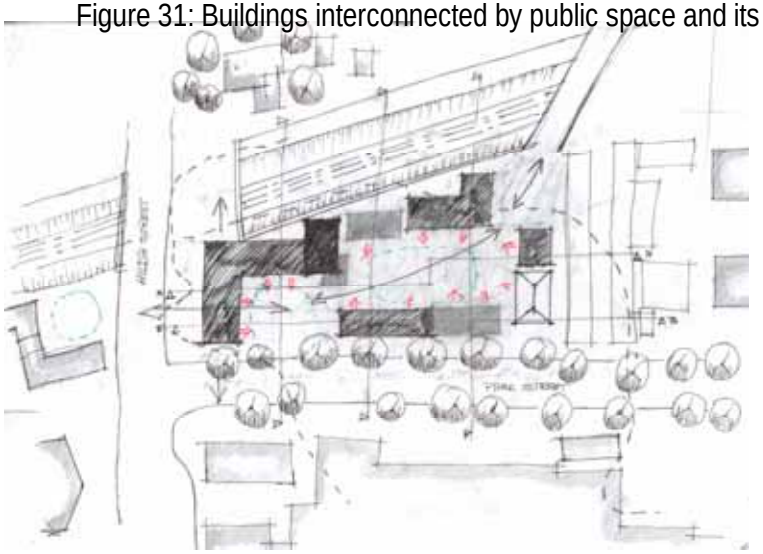


Figure 32

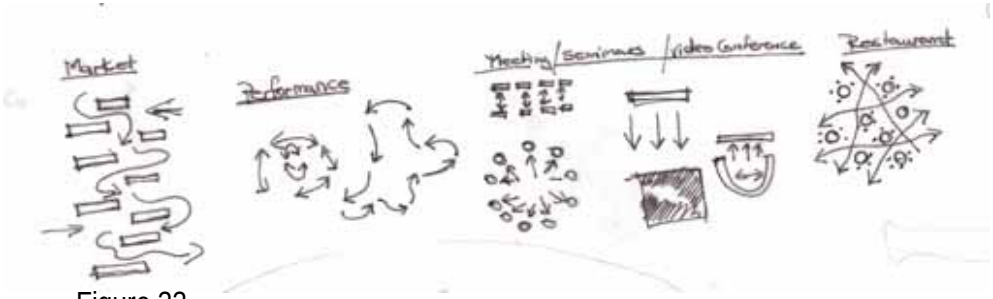


Figure 33

Abstract study (pattern) of activities due to take place in the different spaces.

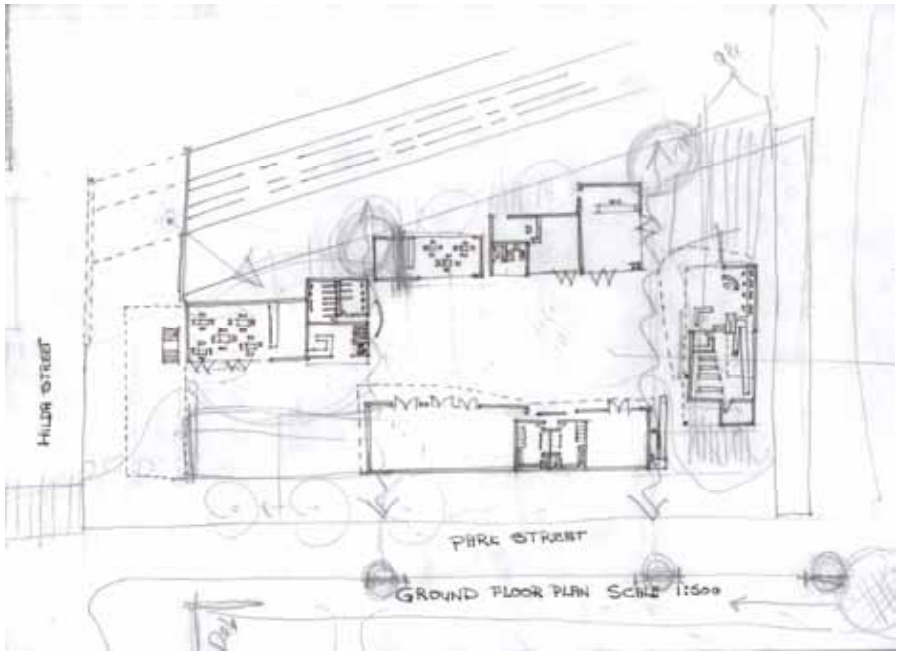


Figure 34

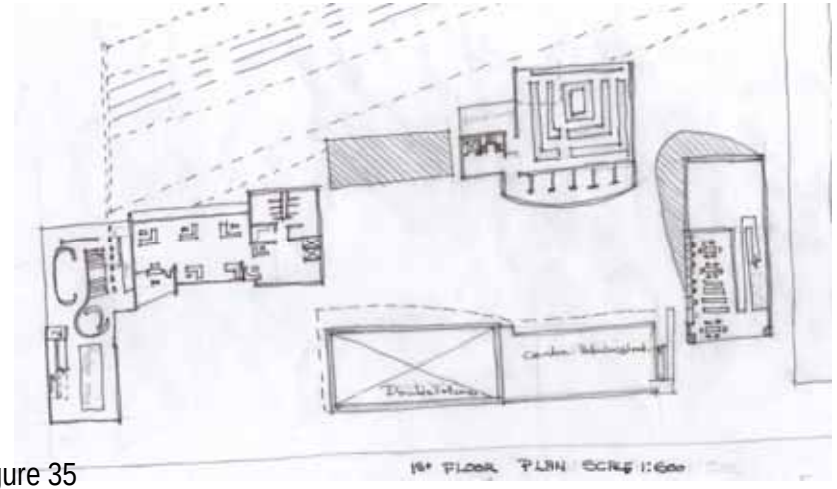


Figure 35

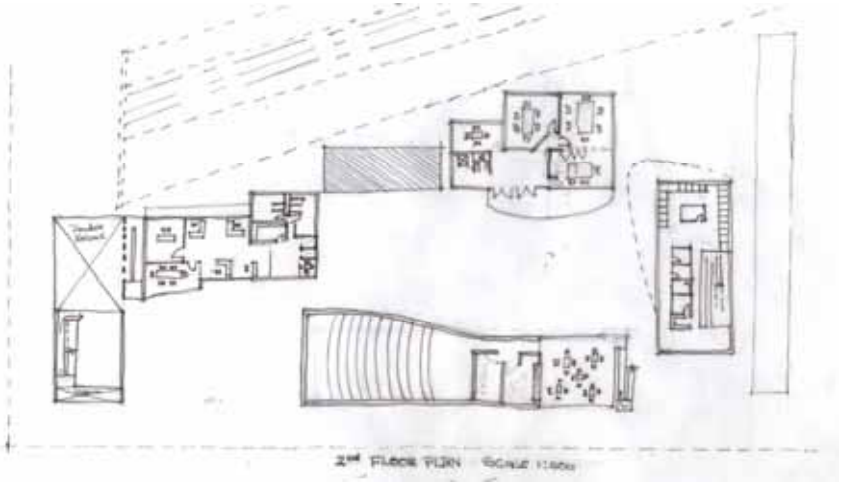


Figure 36

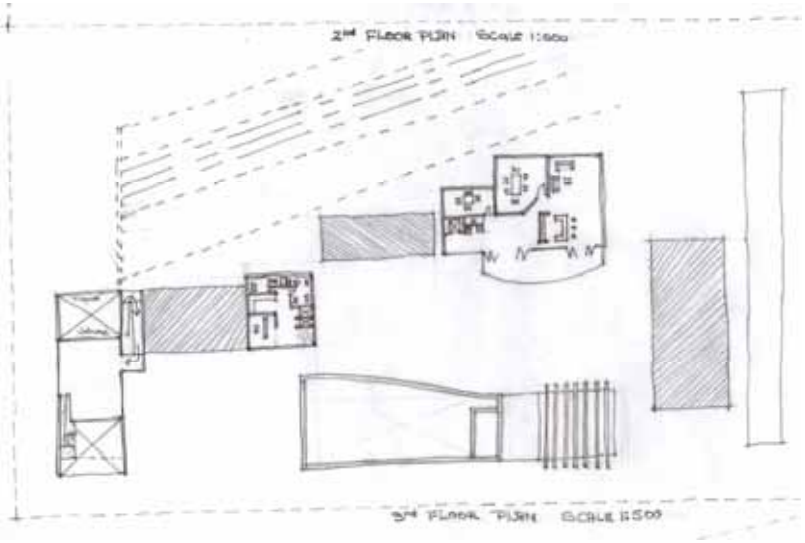


Figure 37

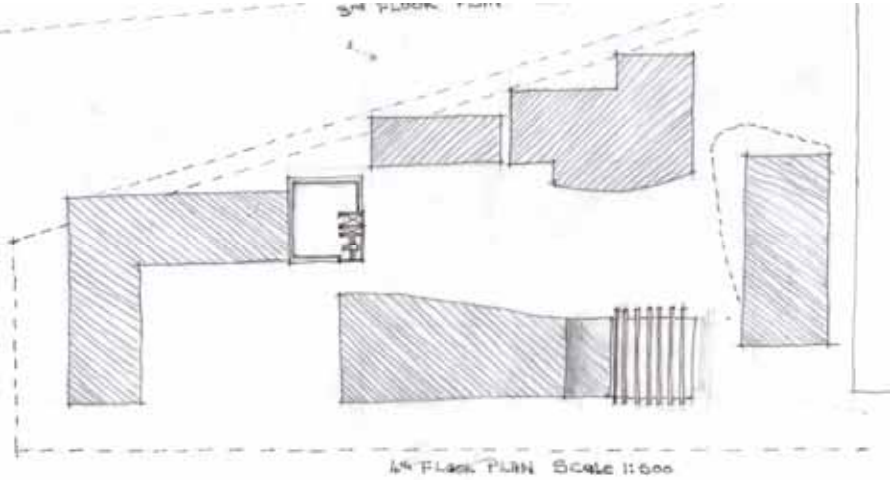


Figure 38

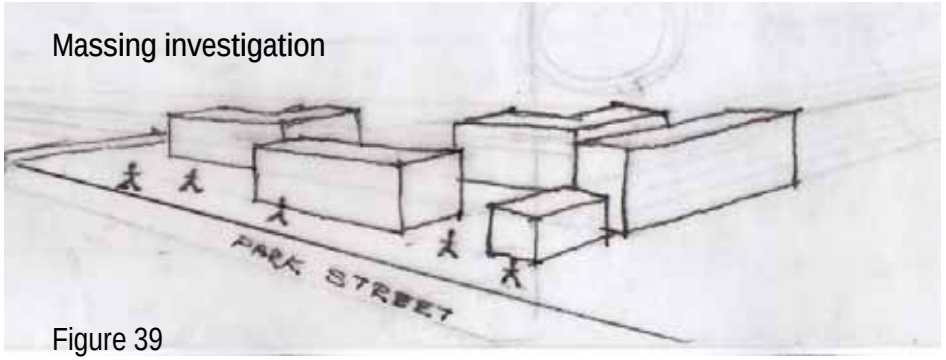


Figure 39

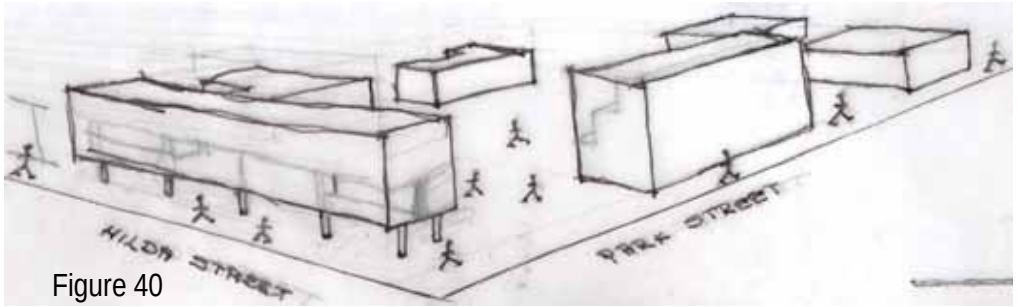


Figure 40

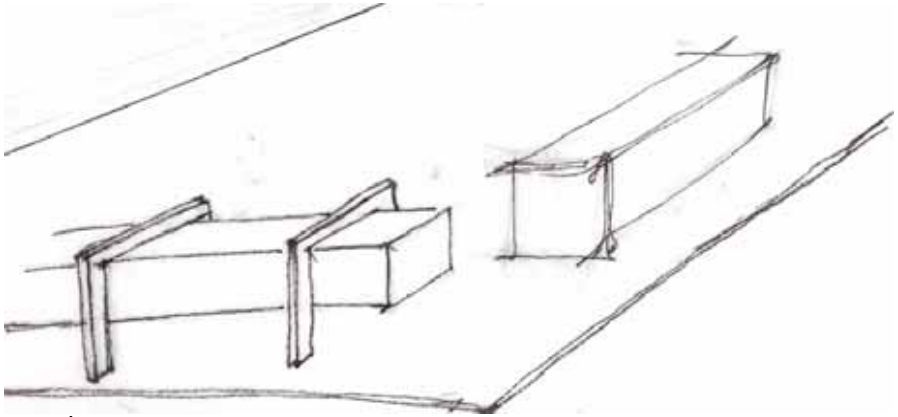


Figure 41

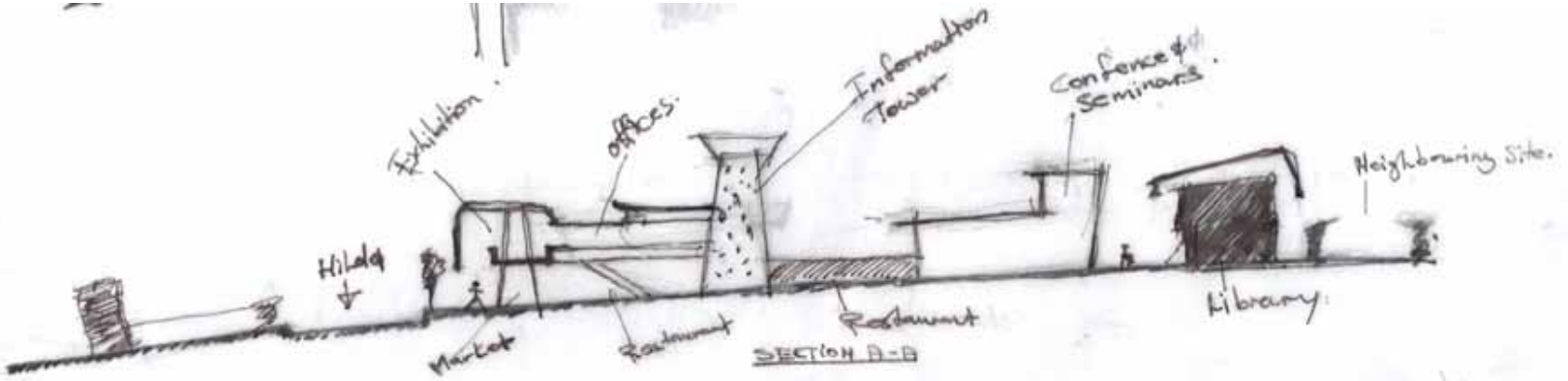


Figure 42

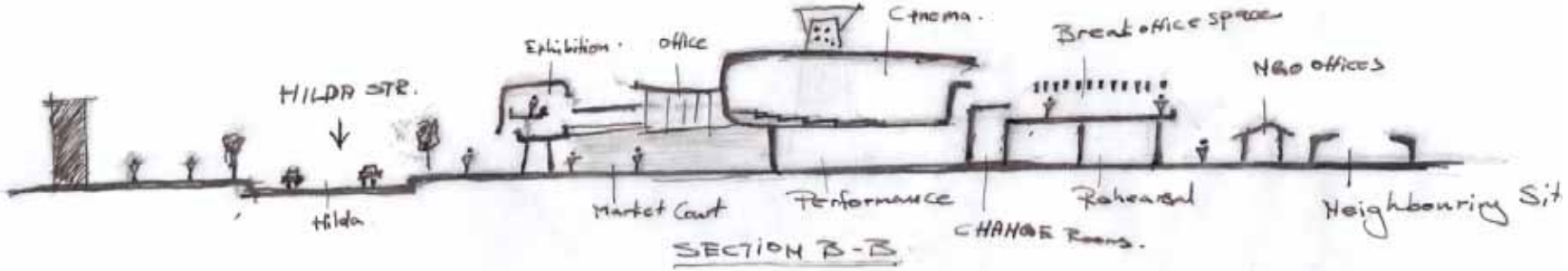
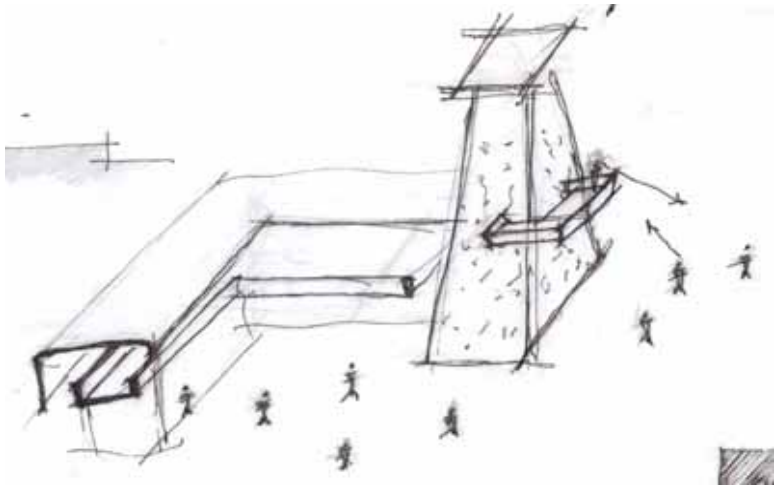


Figure 43



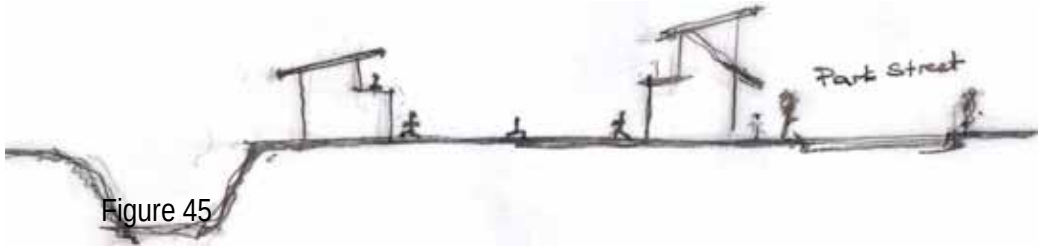


Figure 45

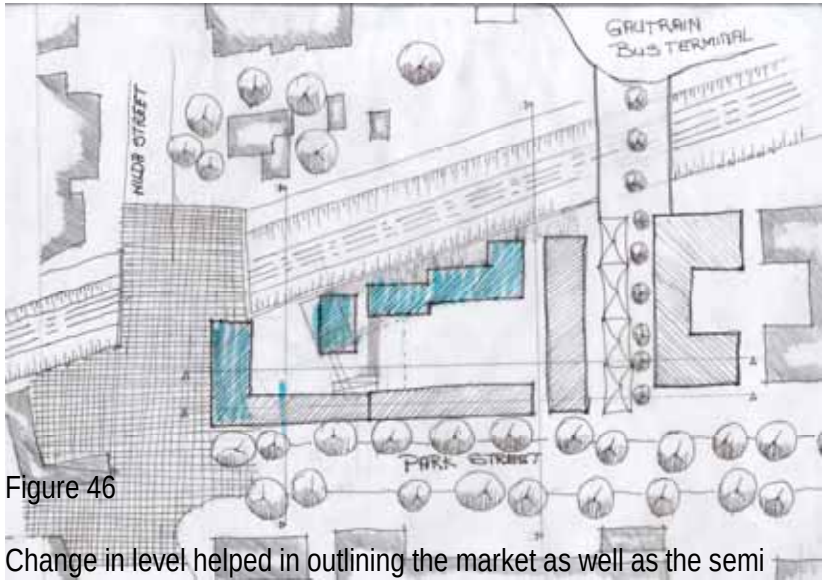


Figure 46

Change in level helped in outlining the market as well as the semi private public. The two spaces shared energies with each other without interfering on each others activities.

Figure 47

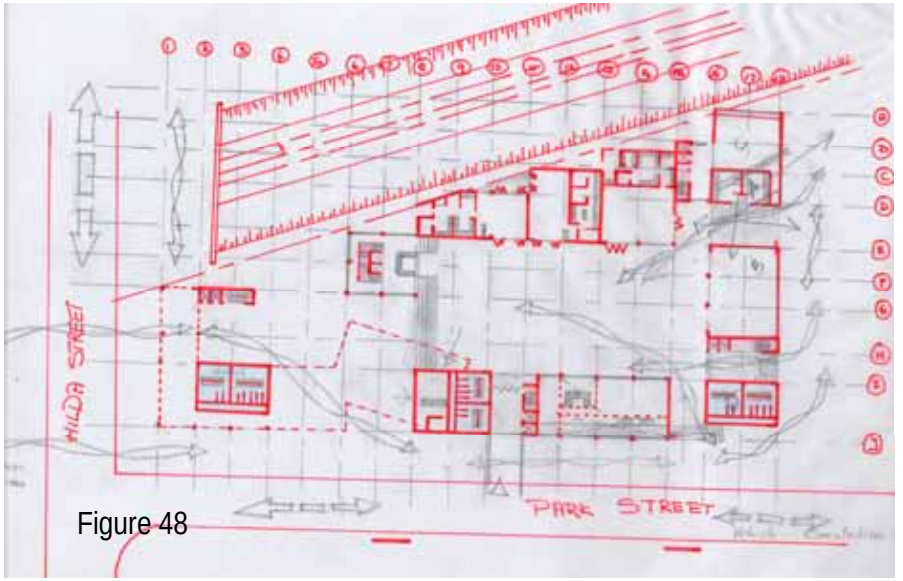


Figure 48

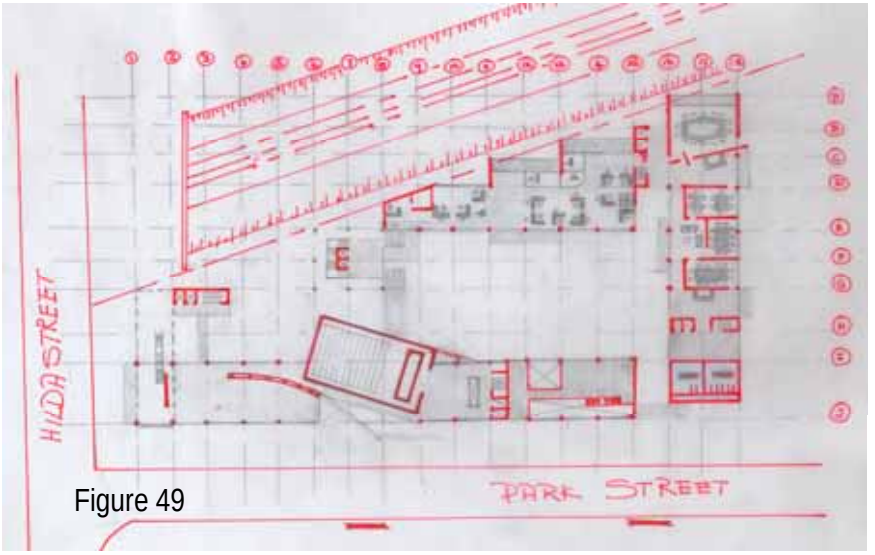


Figure 49

2nd model development: Tower represents a tree for elders

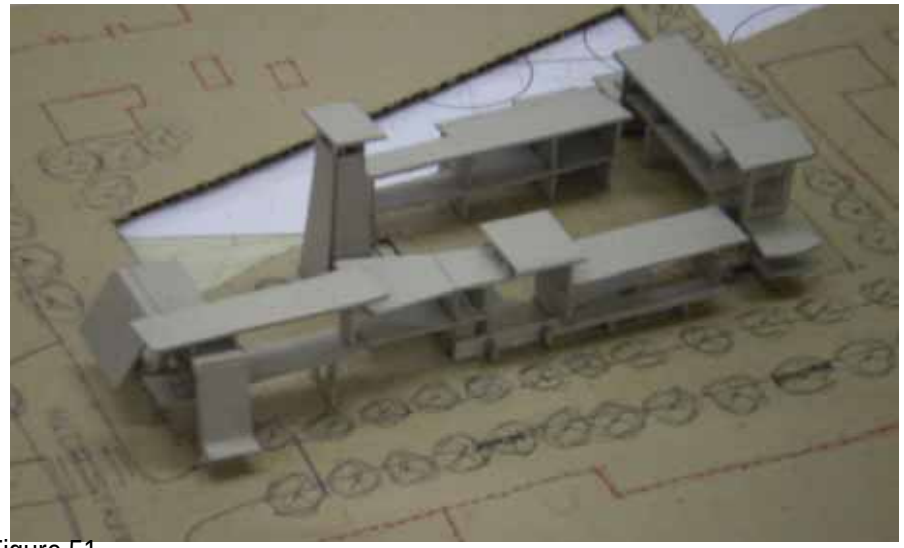


Figure 51

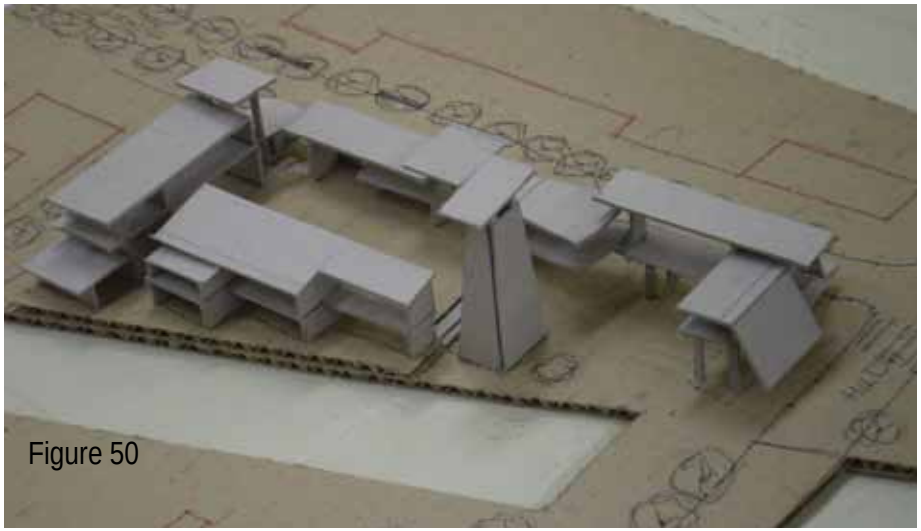


Figure 50

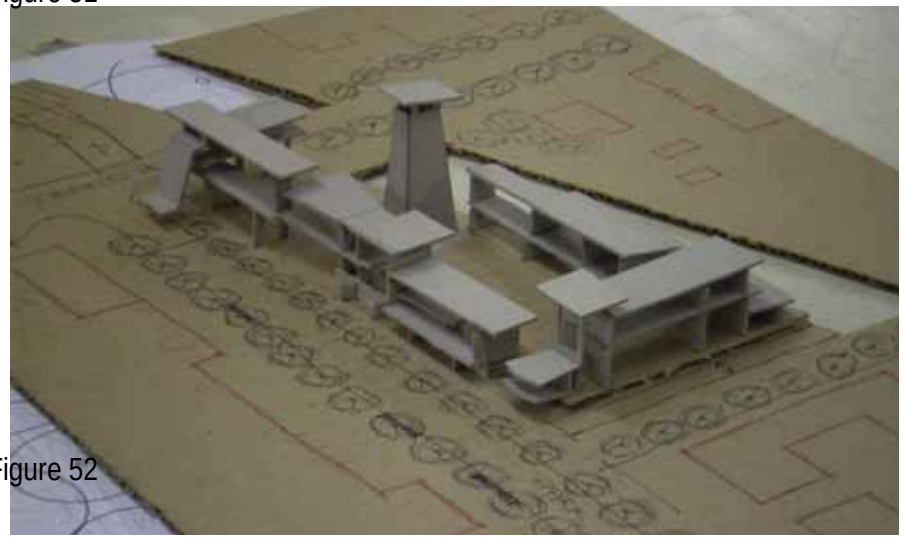


Figure 52

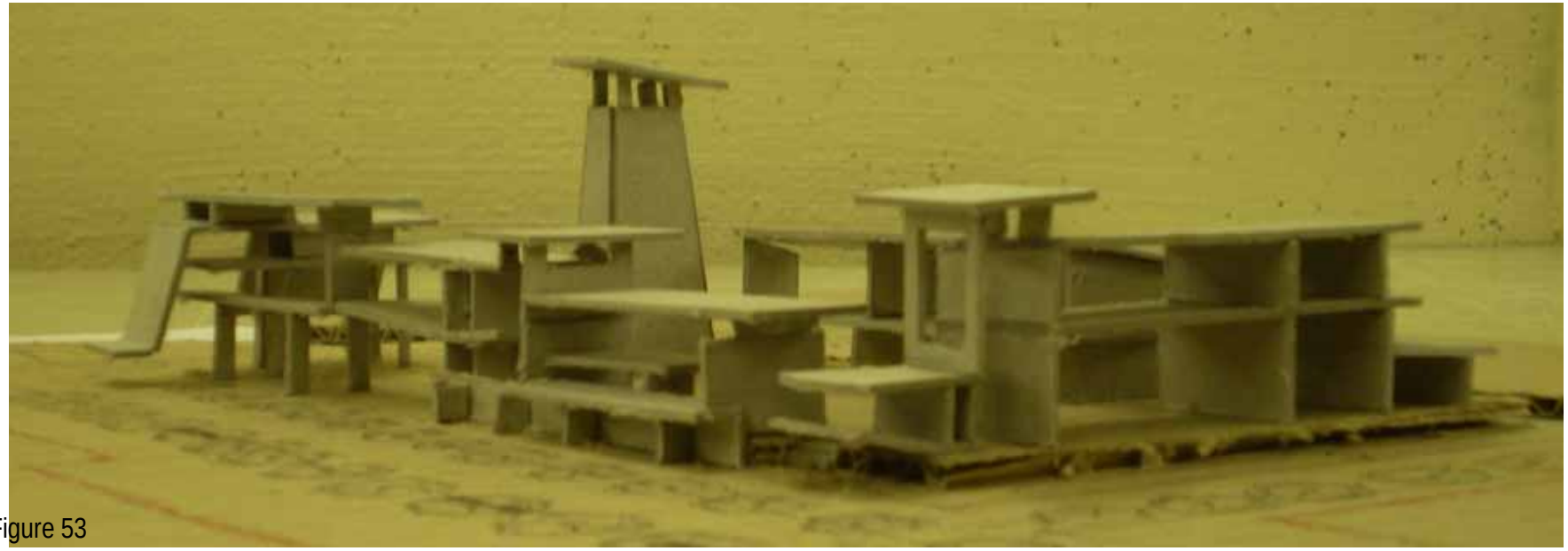


Figure 53

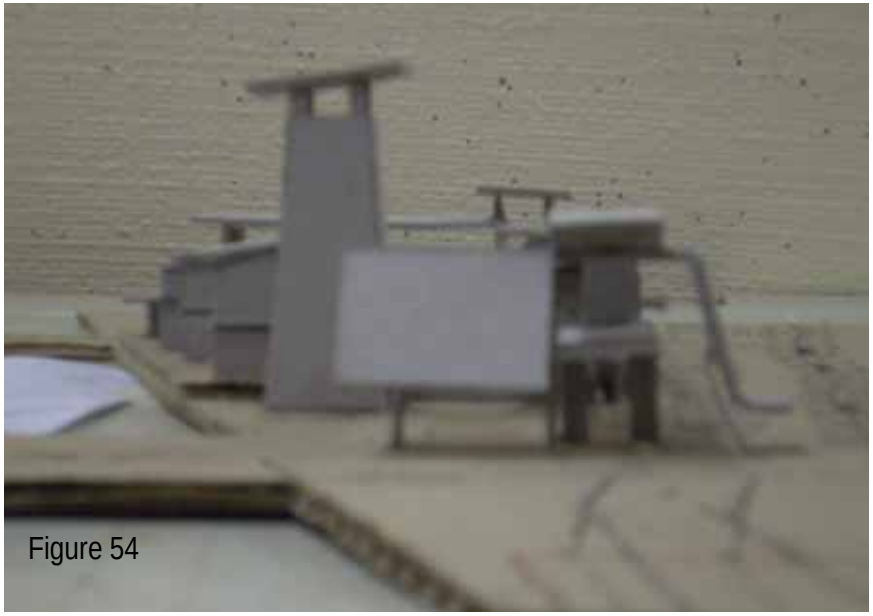


Figure 54

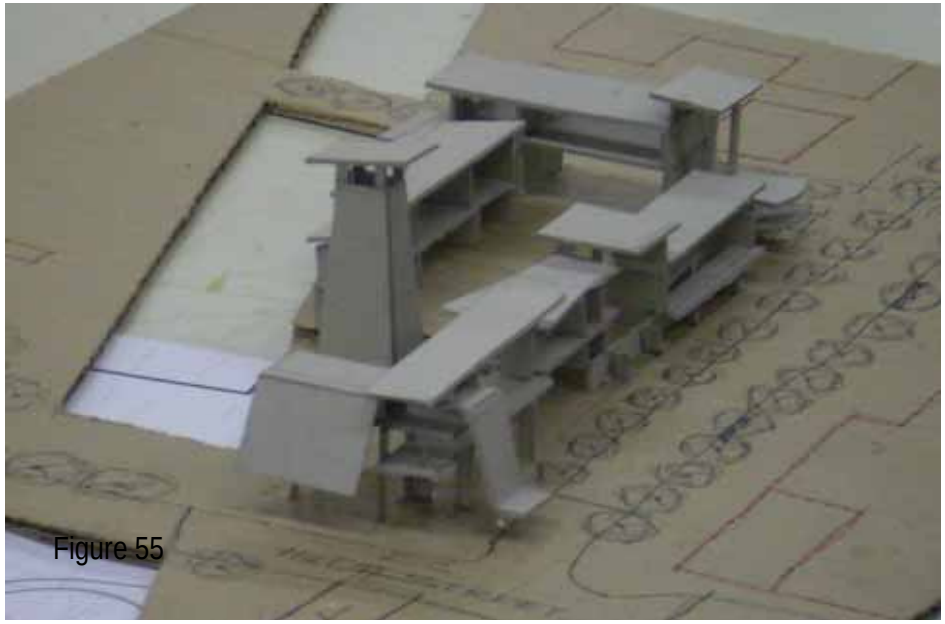


Figure 55

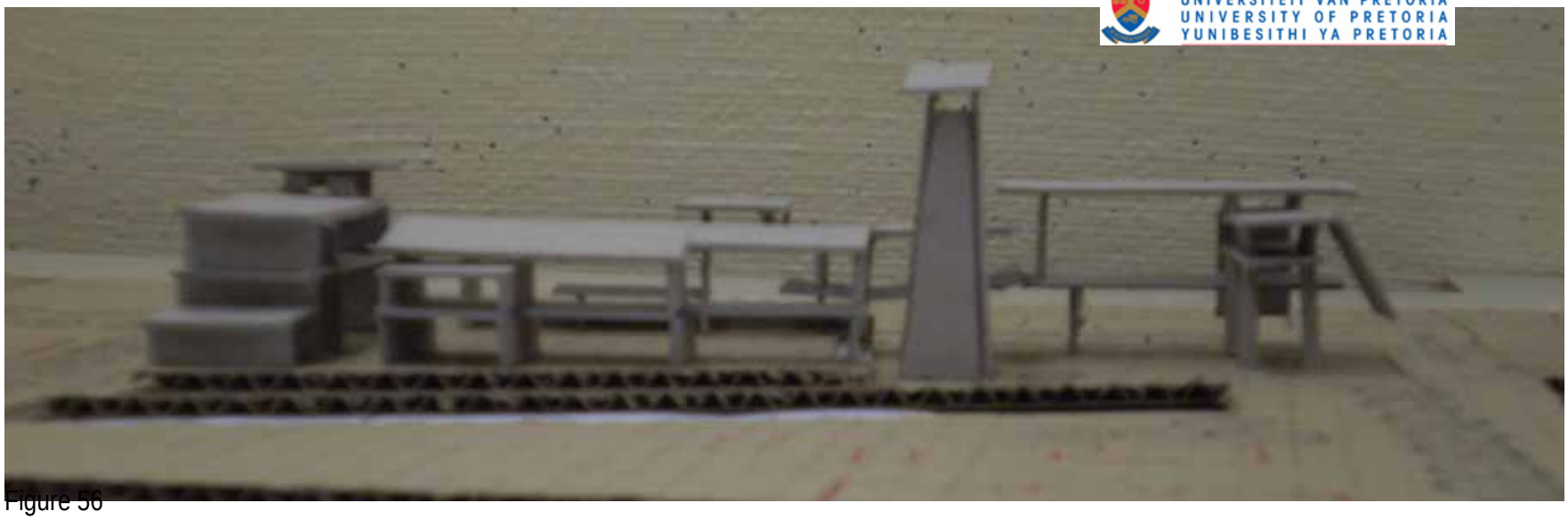


Figure 56

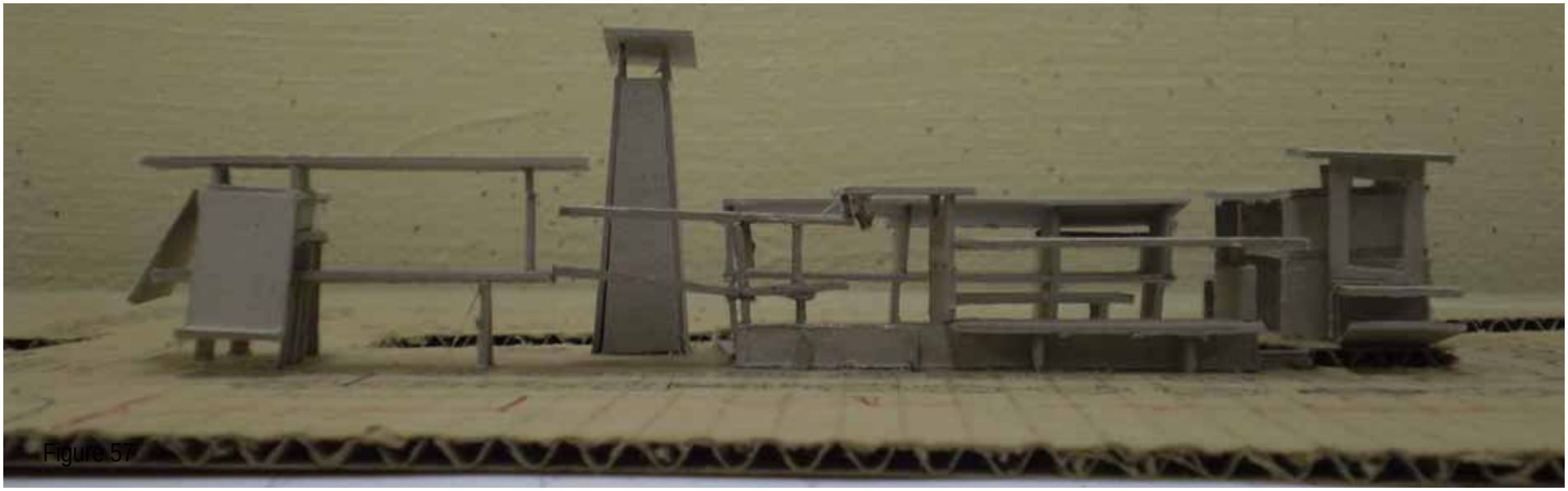


Figure 57

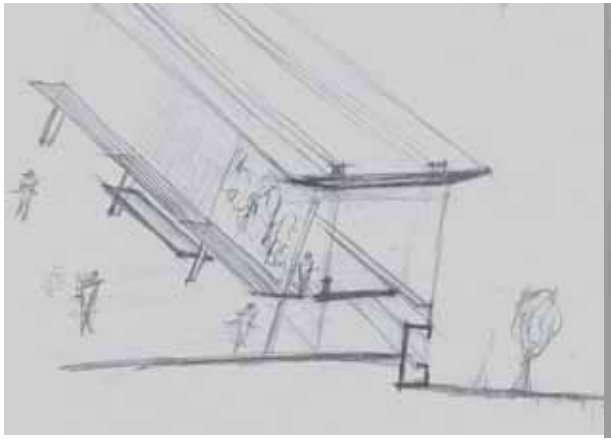


Figure 58

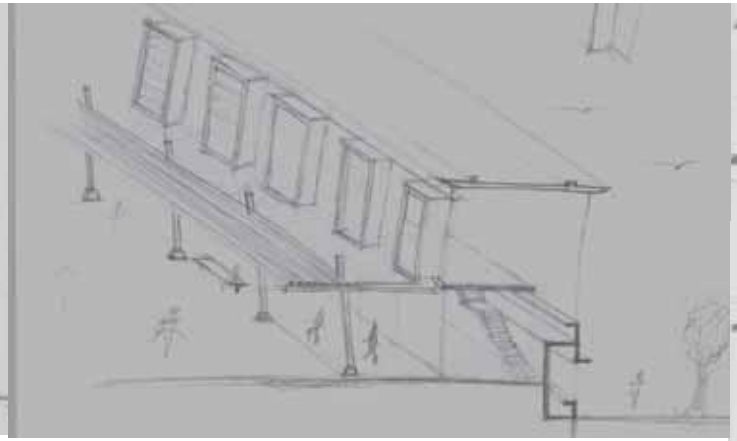


Figure 59

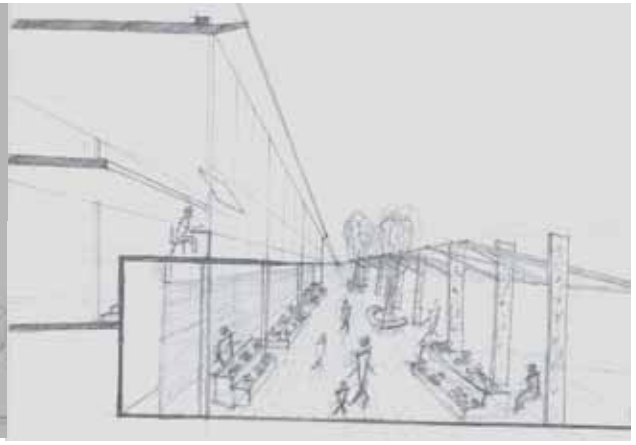


Figure 60

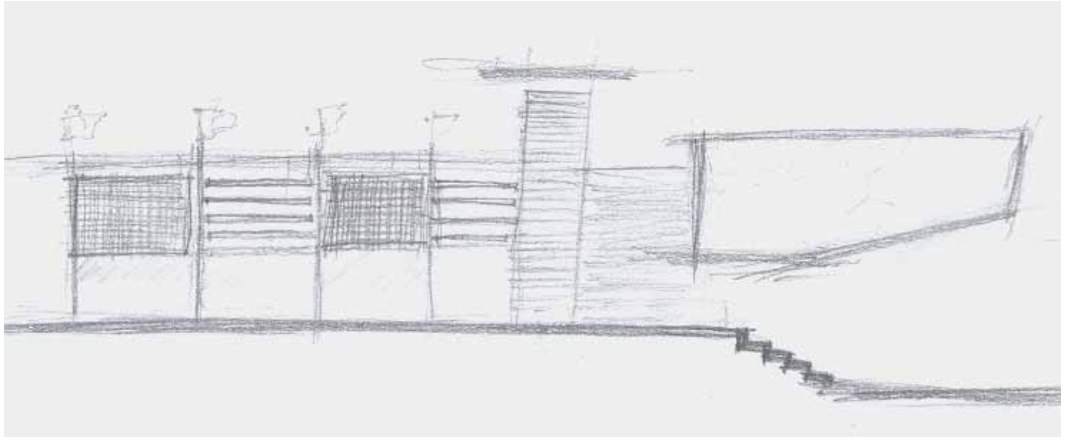


Figure 61

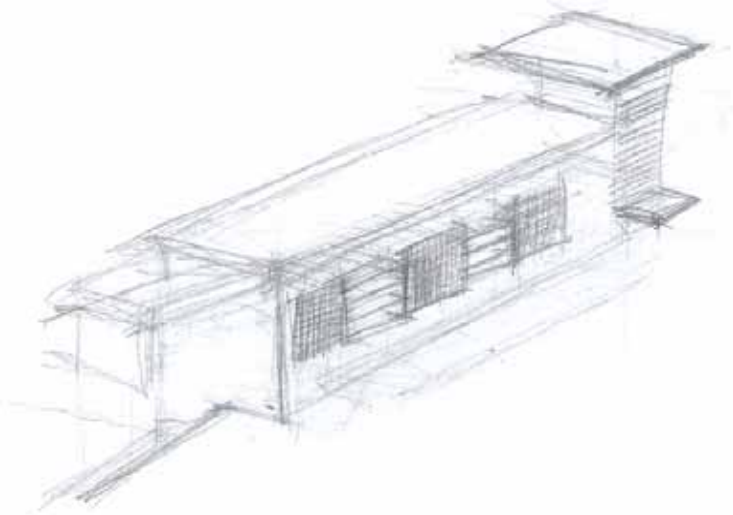


Figure 62

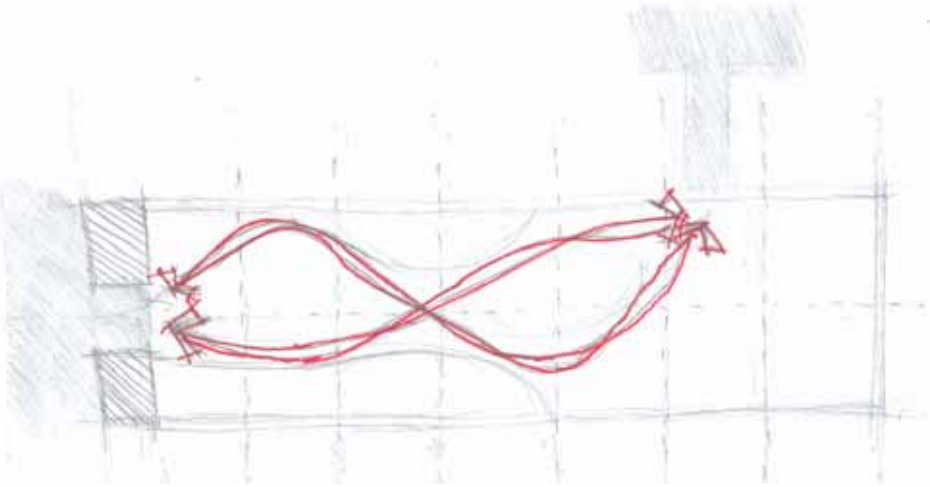


Figure 63: Circulation concept in seminar areas

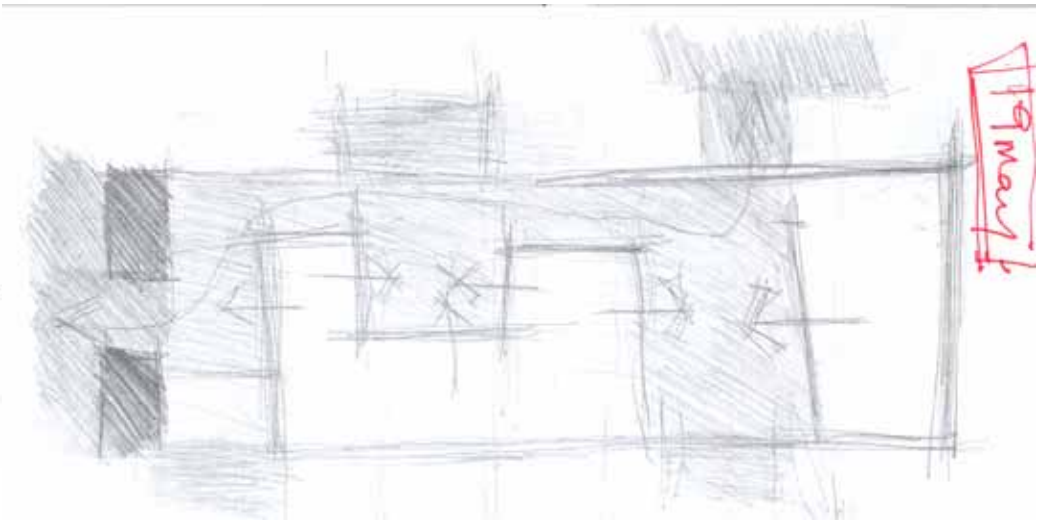


Figure 65

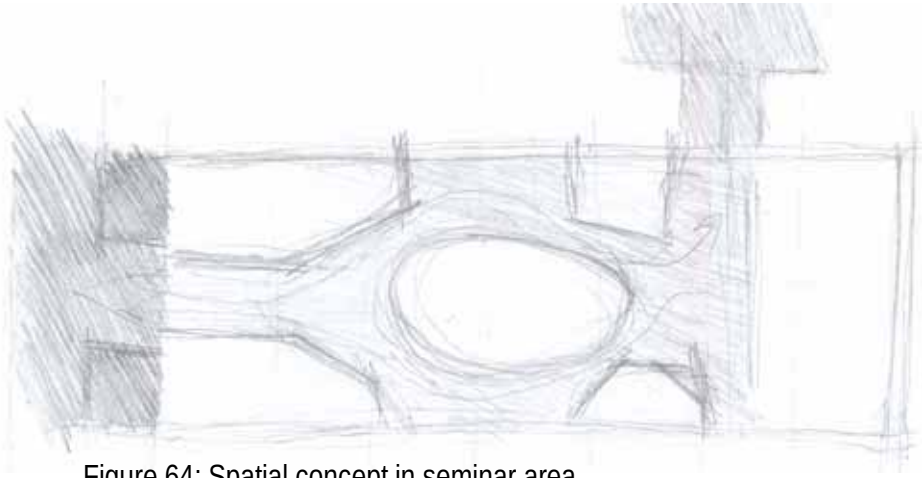


Figure 64: Spatial concept in seminar area

Figure 66

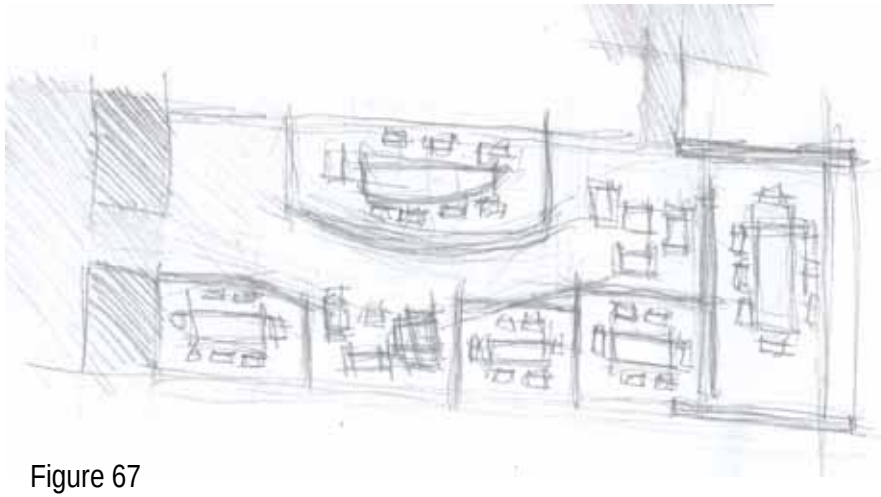


Figure 67

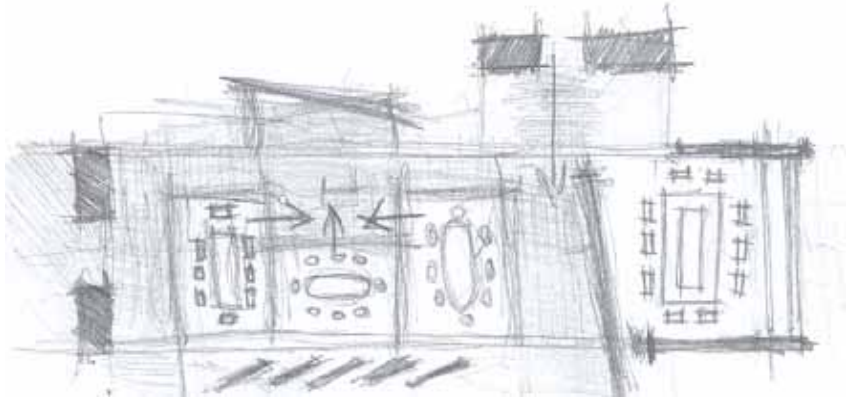


Figure 68

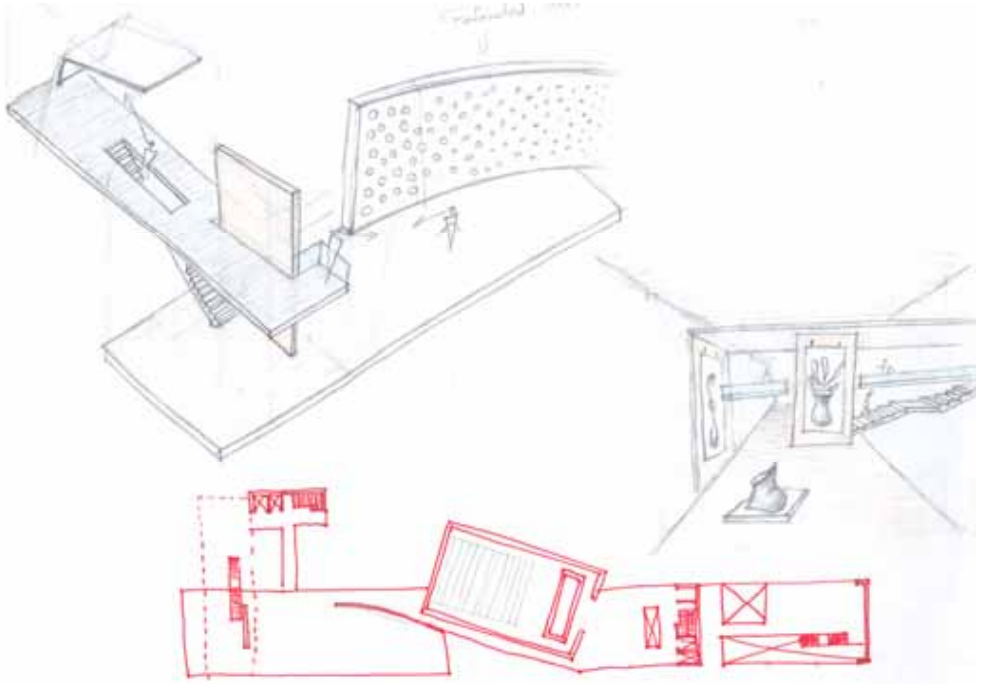


Figure 69: Spatial concept of exhibition area

Figure 70

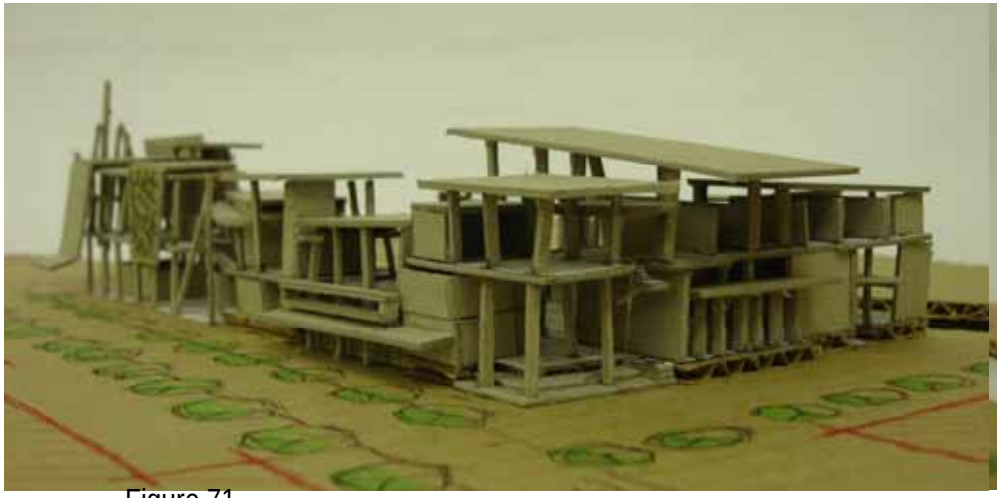


Figure 71

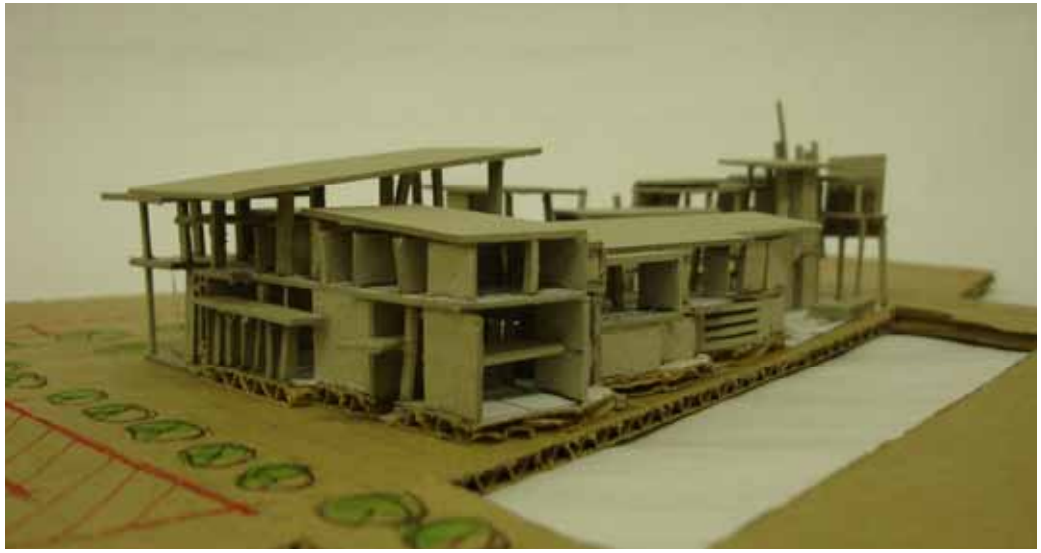


Figure 72

Figure 73

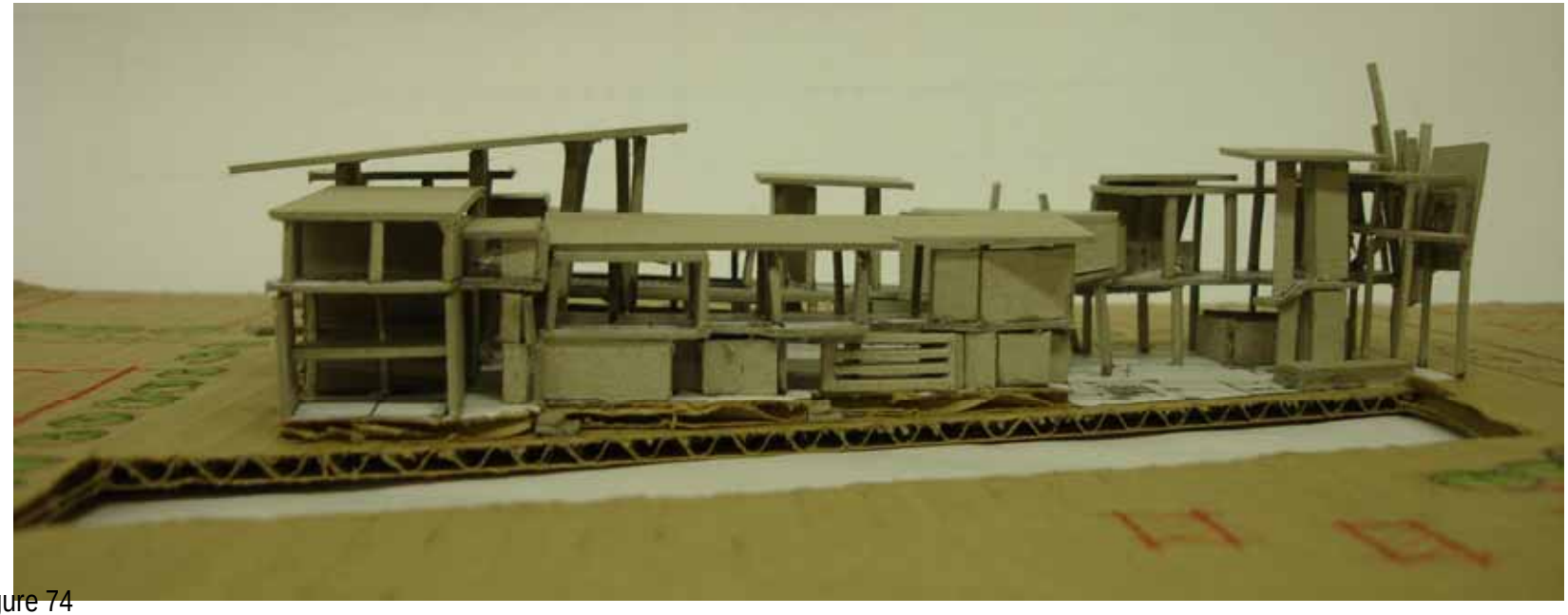


Figure 74

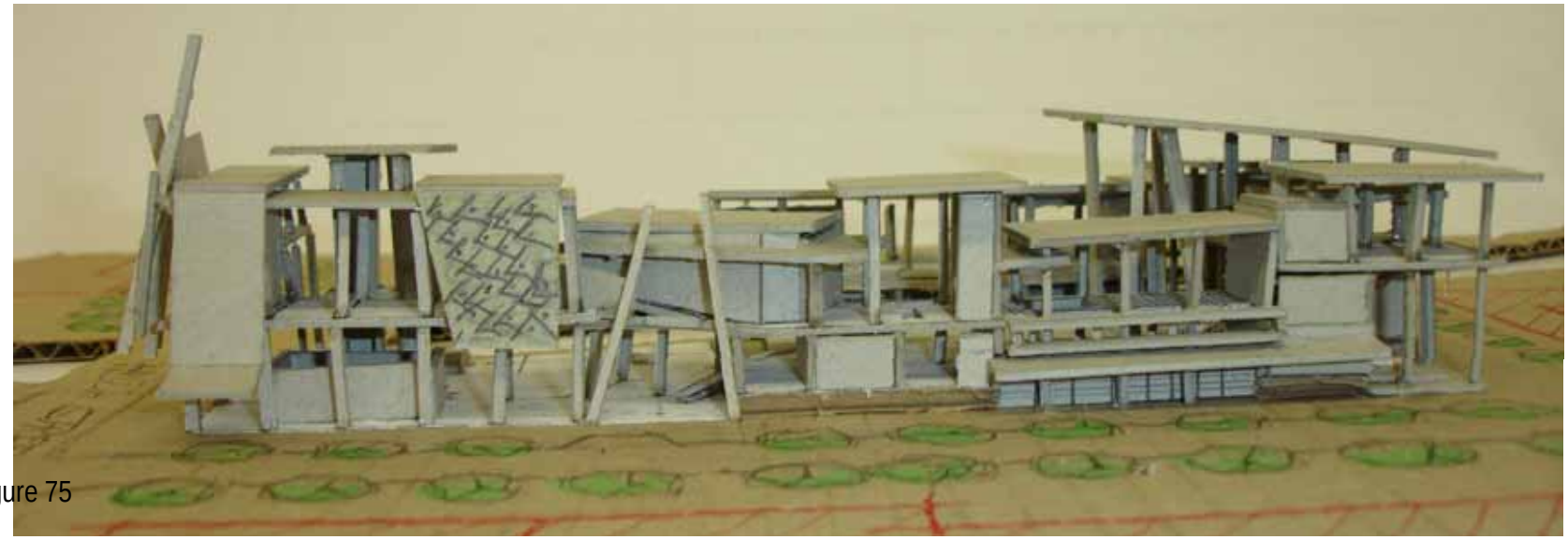


Figure 75

UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

.

Figure 76

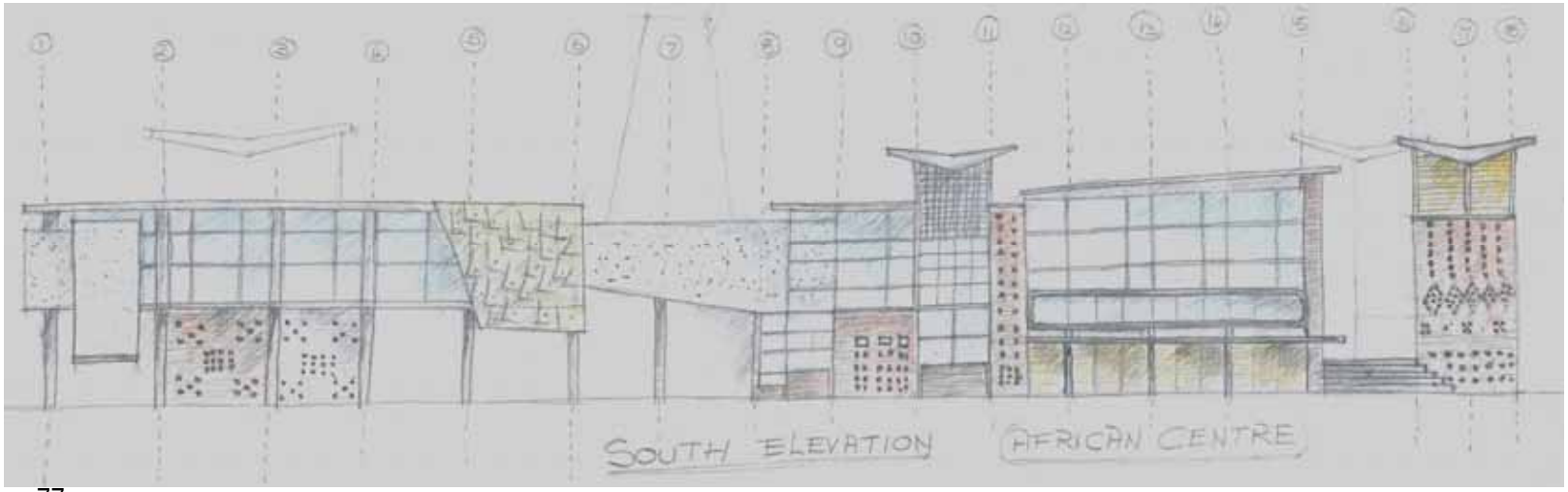


Figure 77

CHAPTER 6

CHAPTER 6

CHAPTER 6