part three
site excavation
Buildings in close proximity

Within the historical precinct of campus many historically important buildings are found from different periods of the University's timeline, in the area where the TUC was first started.

This originally limited area is now rich with sensitive structures and proud facades, from many famous architects and styles that stretch from the Neo-Romanesque to Modern designs. These buildings are true jewels of our heritage and of the university's beauty and it is truly the University's treasure.

1. Old Arts
   Date of Construction: August 1911
   Architect: Percy Eagle
   Style: Cape Dutch and Neo-Homanesque

2. Old Merensky
   Date of Construction: 15 April 1939
   Architect: Gerhard Moerdyk
   Style: Art Deco, Neo-Classicism, Arts and Crafts, as well as local styles such as Cape Dutch and Regency.

3. Club Hall
   Date of Construction: 1930-1936
   Architect: Gerhard Moerdyk
   Style: Neo-Homanesque

4. Aula
   Date of Construction: 1968
   Architect: Karol Jooste, under Philip Nel

5. Marketing services
   Date of Construction: 1960
   Bathroom Building.

6. Chancellors Building
   Date of Construction: 1959-1963
   Architects: Meiring Naude and Brian Sandrock

7. Theology
   Date of Construction: 1951
   Architects: Burg, Lodge and Burg
   Style: Academic Revivalism

8. Musion and Amphi-Theatre
   Date of Construction: 1960-1961
   Architects: Brian Sandrock
   Style: Little Brazilian or Modern Brazilian

9. New Merensky Library
   Date of Construction: August 1975,
   Architects: Lou, Marais, Marquard and Kuhn
Urban development is a very large confusing, sometimes monotonous place that is difficult to understand. Subconsciously humans generate a survival mechanism that simplifies the labyrinth of modern society: Cognitive mapping is a mental process where people acquire, code, store, remember and decode information about location and characteristic of the urban environment through which they move. (Lang 1987, 135) Information about a place is remembered either by experience, hearing from someone else or through imagination. This information becomes a guide for structure, appearance, location, uses and values. Thus observing and the understanding of your observation creates a multi-dimensional picture of your surroundings.

Form

During the 100 year existence of the University, its campus evolved and progressed slowly and is still an ever changing landscape of gardens (edges), squares (nodes), buildings (points), path ways, districts and landmarks (buildings).
Campus vs Building

Paths
- Student messaging boards in Libri laan
- View of Aula lawn from Mapungubwe Museum entrance

Districts
- Spiral staircase at Marketing building
- Southern stone edge of Old Arts building

Landmarks
- Outside veranda at Burgundy's restaurant

Edges
- Bridge connecting engineering buildings
- Security desk at Old Arts Building

Nodes
- Main staircase in Musion
- Arched veranda on upper floor in Old Arts
- Information desk at Old Arts

Fig. 43
Sense of place

Character – Sense of place and history (CABE 2003)

1. Aula auditorium
2. Conical sky light – University road entrance
3. Cantelever staircase at Chancellor’s building
4. Clock tower on Old Arts building
5. Eduardo Villa sculpture
6. Old Merensky facade
7. Graffiti wall on Old Chemistry building
8. Eduardo Villa plaster relief sculptures
9. Tukkie werf bell tower
10. Musion fountain

Distinctive buildings and surrounds

Fig.44
Special spaces

Serrie memories

Focus before test

Natural Features

Constant entertainment

Fig. 45

Fig. 46
Topography and Services Contexts

Water table

Most of the buildings on the campus with basement floors have systems to combat the problems posed by the high water table. In summer months when regular rains increase the height of the water table, buildings like the Old and New Merensky Libraries and the Human Sciences Tower need pumps to remove water from their basements.¹ The water filters through basement and foundation walls throughout the day. Old buildings like the Old Merensky have inadequate waterproofing technology which did not exist 70 years ago, therefore they try to combat severe water damage every summer season. Water collection and water pressure against subsurface structures are serious concerns which need to be addressed.

³ - Interview with Gerhard de Kamper, Eduardo Vita Museum Curator
The Animate Environment

Points of entry

Destination web
Main Pedestrian Movement
Student Behaviour Diagram

- Meeting & waiting hubs
- Fast walking
- Conversation & meeting
- Relaxing & studying

AULA LAWN
Building Functions

- Restaurant & shops
- Administration
- Entertainment
- Museums
- Academic

Fig. 52
Fig. 53

Vehicular Movement
Avery long time ago, in 1908 the Transvaal University College was opened in the centre of Pretoria in a delicate little house called the Kya Rosa. In 1910 this Tertiary institution moved to a larger site on the eastern limits of the city and there began the evolution of a first class university located far away in a picturesque country on the foot of Africa. The purpose was to rival European institutions like the world renowned Oxford University in England.

On this new site, the construction of the first building on the new campus began in 1910 and it was to be the Chemistry Building.

During this prosperous time many buildings were built around the Old Arts including the Mervyn Library which was designed by Afrikaner architectural icon Gerhard Moerdyk. The building was a beautiful addition to the campus (with its surprising African motifs) and had strong ties with Afrikaner traditions due to the direct link to the Voortrekker Monument.

Many years past and the far away picturesque African country evolved into an economic and political giant. Now these buildings have found themselves almost a hundred years older and in an alien world. Very little remains of the generation of people who commissioned, designed and constructed them and sadly today’s people do not fully understand their existence. Being stone monuments to a forgotten ideal it has become the perfect time for us to explore and to excavate!
Campus archaeological grid
The site is situated on one of the six main campuses in Hatfield, the University main campus is within the University portfolio. The site is east of the CBD and lies between ‘main’ roads that connect the eastern suburbs to the central city and beyond. It is one of the most beautiful campuses in the country, with its picturesque campuses, greenery, and trees lining paths. The campus is spread over 2.4 hectares, and it also lies next to the lively Hatfield cosmopolitan shopping and residential area.
Locations of large schools
The University’s aim is to reawaken the seemingly sleeping giants, Old Arts and Old Merensky. A plan to renew interest and activity in these old buildings are to be set in place. These spaces can be functional and not merely ornamental.

Campus is a well functioning urban system, in fact it is bordering on idyllic perfection. This is because of it controlled growth and early thorough planning and therefore it is actually seen as an island within a greater urban sprawl.

It is an island where pedestrians rule in an idyllic green forest where restaurants and shop districts provide social opportunities for its visitors.

Campus is divided into areas of different study fields, like engineering, arts and economics. These find themselves in very distinctive districts within campus limits and there is an almost playful competition between the districts.

Within these districts the distinctive architectural buildings are not mere objects within campus space – as it may have started to be – but the buildings have become the conveyors of space and the fabric of the campus structure.