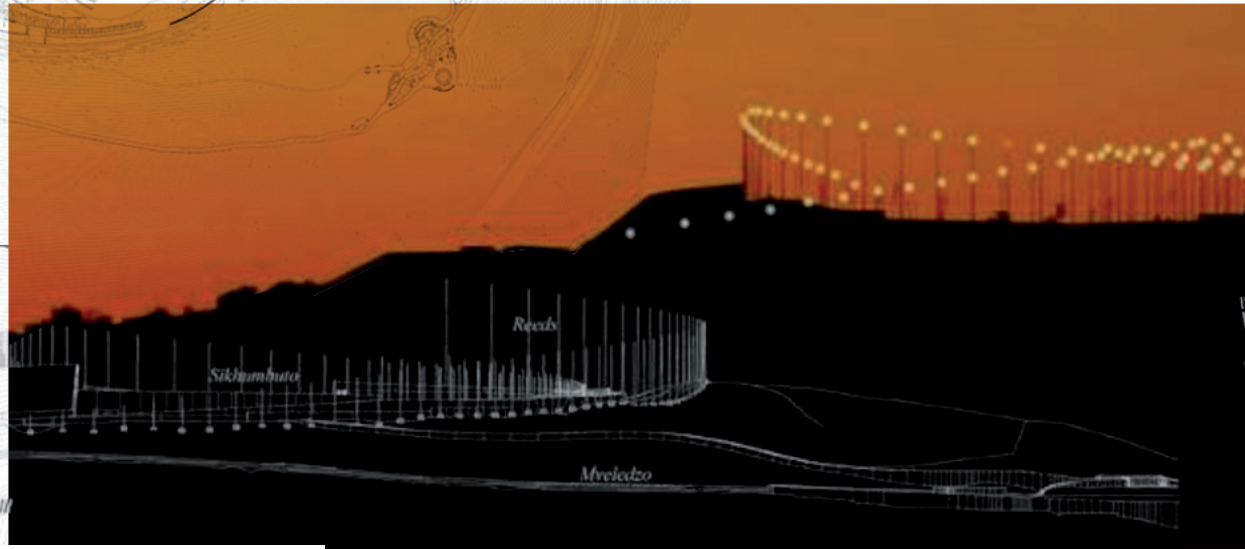
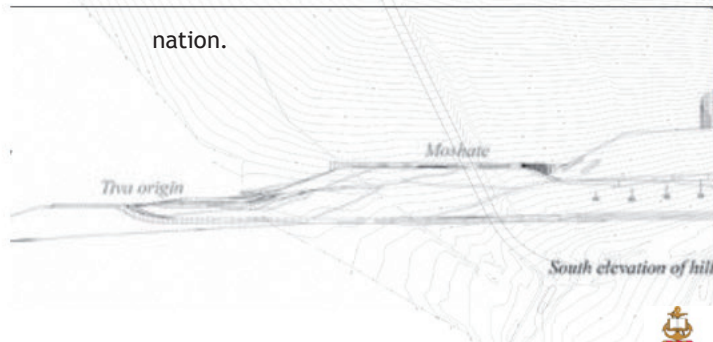
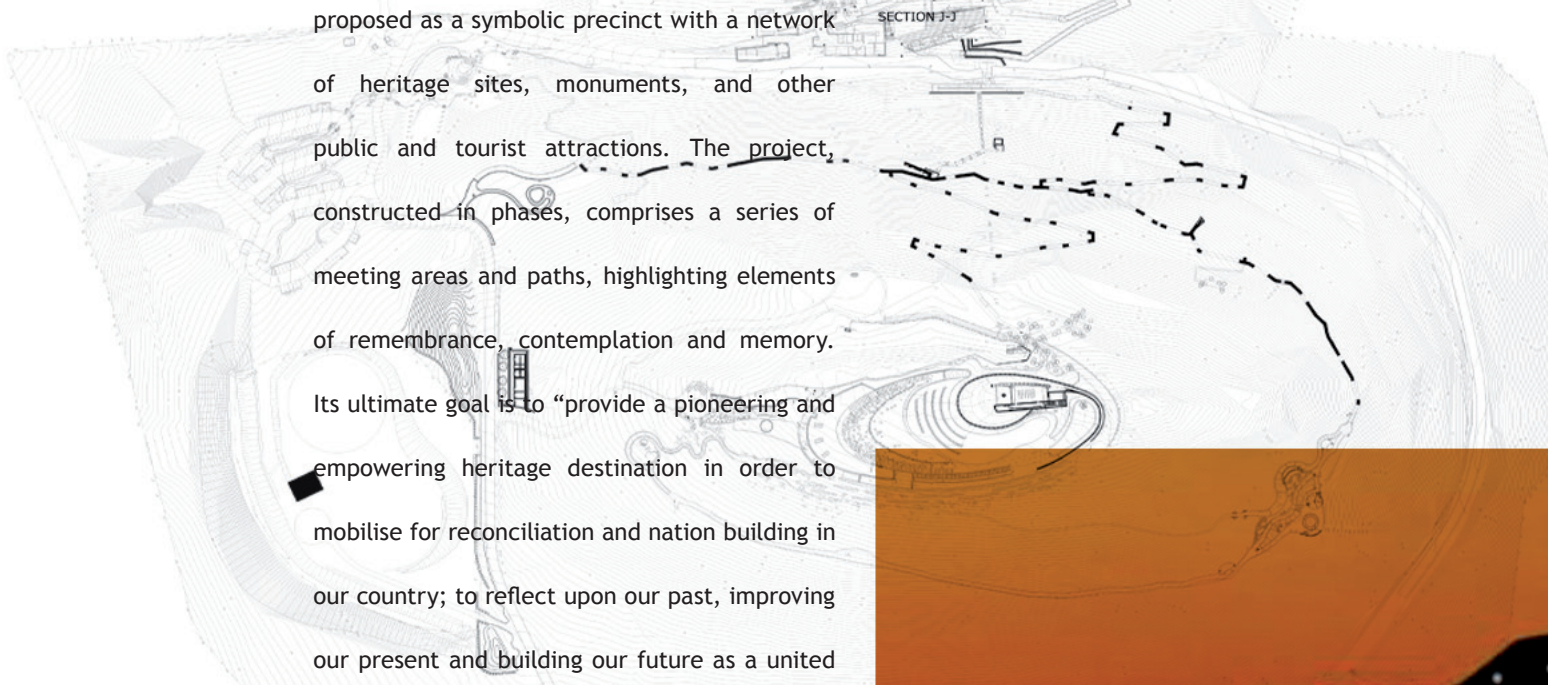
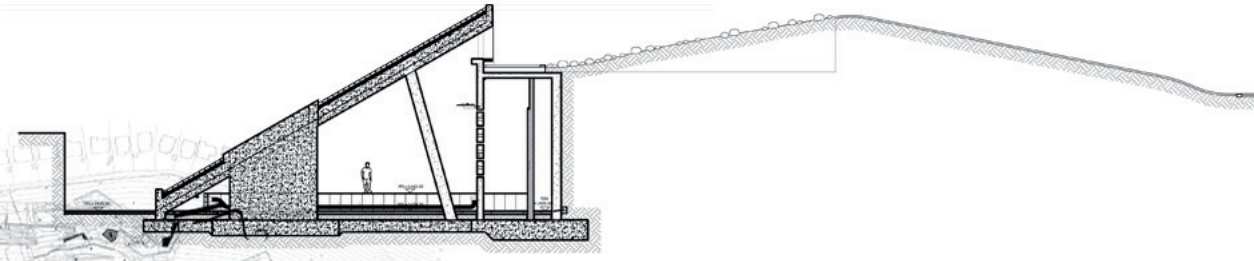
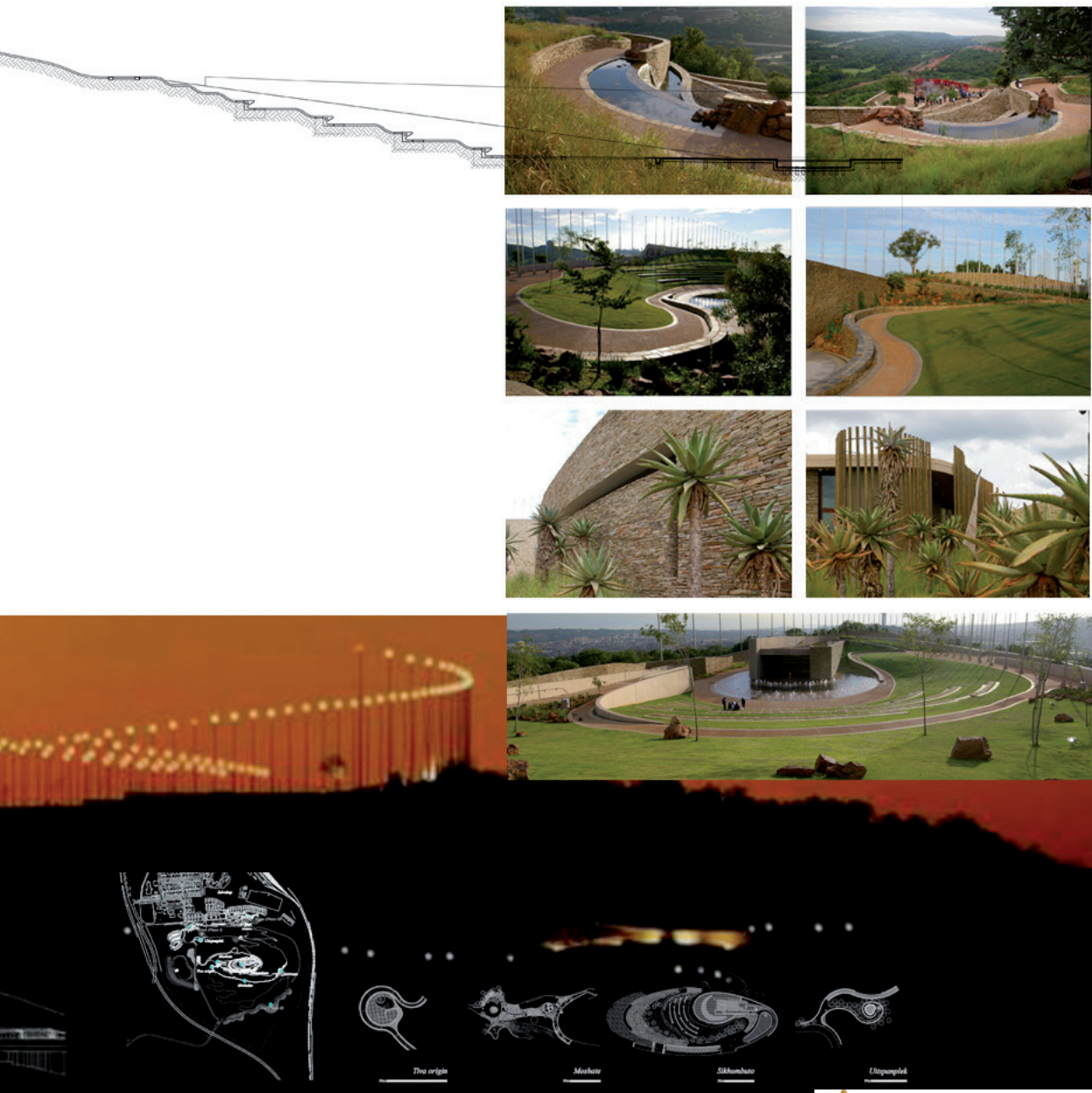


500_design precedents

- 501 Freedom Park
- 502 Singita Lebombo
- 503 Coromandel Farm

The park is part of a larger project to develop symbolic reminders of South Africa's formerly neglected heritage. The brief as interpreted by GAPP and its associates, MMA and MRA was proposed as a symbolic precinct with a network of heritage sites, monuments, and other public and tourist attractions. The project, constructed in phases, comprises a series of meeting areas and paths, highlighting elements of remembrance, contemplation and memory. Its ultimate goal is to "provide a pioneering and empowering heritage destination in order to mobilise for reconciliation and nation building in our country; to reflect upon our past, improving our present and building our future as a united nation.





The spaces appear to be Zulu inspired, taking a re-interpretive approach to each space to imbue the spirit of remembrance and tranquillity and tolerance while being refreshingly jubilant. Each space flows into the other seamlessly hugging the landscape in an architectural language of stone embankment, wall and path.

The freedom park has particular relevance to the thesis for its richness of identity. An identity defined by architecture with gestures drawn from a cultures' past and re-interpreted in a contemporary architecture that lends itself to its setting, rooted in the landscape.



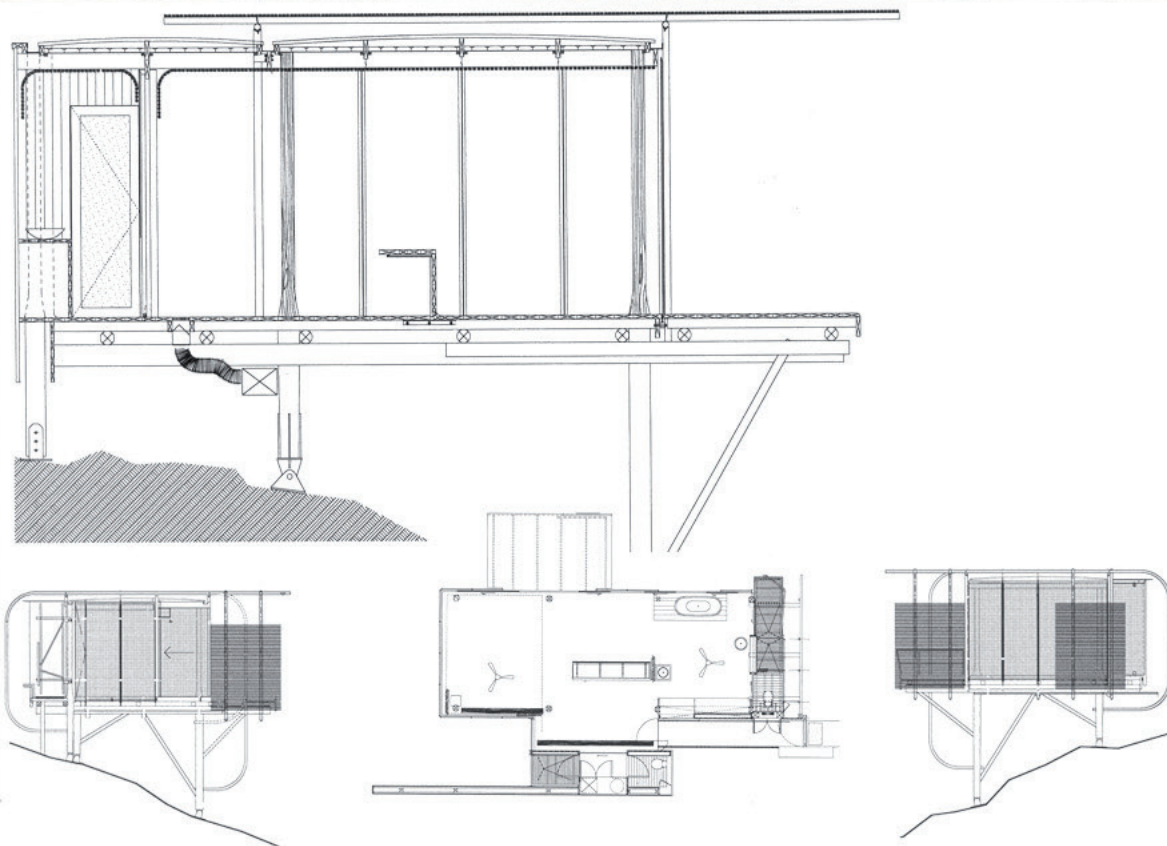
Figure 018. [CENTER] "Freedom Park Precedent" analysis sketches done by author

The Singita complex, is private concession situated on the eastern boundary of the Kruger National Park. It is set against a rhyolite ridge of low hills that are part of the Lebombo mountains and is bounded by the N'wanetsi and Sweni Rivers. The Singita Lebombo lodge was the first of three interventions, the other being a second lodge and a commercial complex.

The brief required that the project be sustainable in designing for a site with these environmental qualities. The brief called for minimal impact on the environment and easy removability at the end of the 20year concession period.

The choice of structure type and the positioning of structures on site ensure that there was minimal disturbance of the natural environment. Buildings in the most sensitive areas of the site were constructed on stilts, and the components of most buildings are demountable.





The design incorporates for passive design principles to temper the extreme heat and humidity that is prevalent in the area, as can be seen in the use of lightweight materials, shade screens wrapping around the skins of inhabited spaces, the use of large overhangs over large glass surfaces.

The design has an active dialogue with both physical and intangible aspects of the site and the surrounding environment in a critically regionalist approach. Neo-Modern architectural devices are used but details and elements are inspired by the local condition and through rich historical referencing. With reference to the thesis, the lodges' layout in the land, as orientated to views while being specifically responsive to the environment in that orientation is notable. Precedence is drawn from the use of indigenous materials in a contemporary manner climatically as well as stylistically.

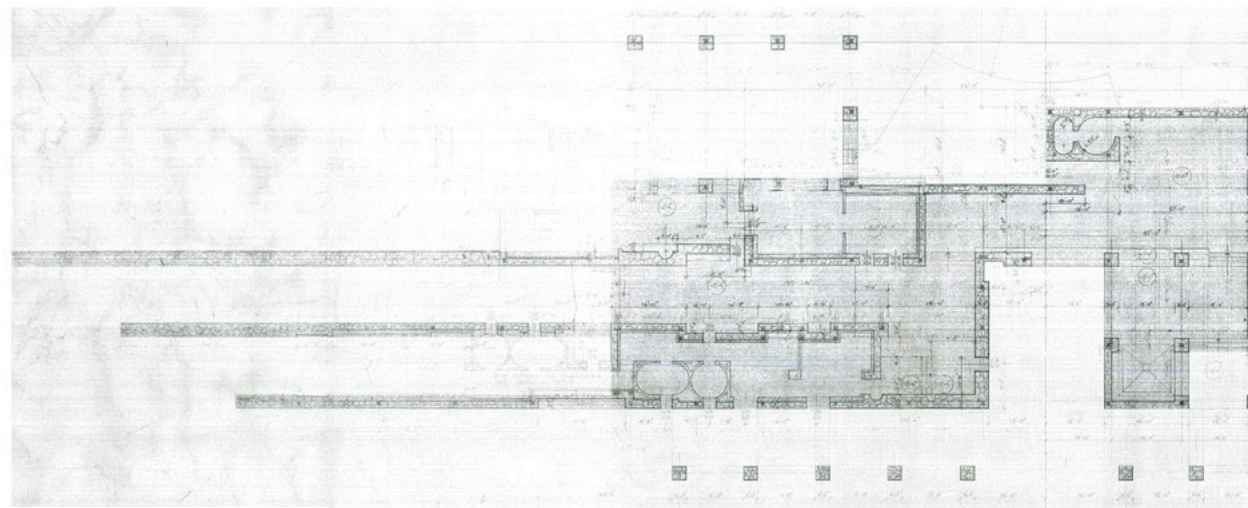
Figure 019. [CENTER]
 "Singita Lebombo Precedent" *analysis*
 sketches done by author

503 Sydney press house- Coromandel

Situated on the enormous Coromandel farm in Lydenburg, a small town 3 hours outside of Johannesburg in the Mpumalanga province, the house was built for Sydney Press, founder of Edgars retail stores. The 240m long design, by Italian architect Marco Zanuso, appears nestled within its context of vast undulating hills of veld grass.

Zanuso, who immediately felt the resonance of the landscape, felt that the building should be one with its environment, hence the walls extending far beyond the expanse of the living space reaching out to become one with its setting. The design draws from a multitude of influences suggesting memory and cultural references, allowing it to be modern yet somewhat ancient at the same time. As a defined bold line in the landscape its presence is felt, it is reminiscent of military fortifications having a precise discipline. Its materiality however,

lends it to an architectural equilibrium held in its affinity to the land. The stone architecture that rests the building in the landscape is in effect reinforced concrete with stone cladding from a quarry dug specifically for the stone. Interior walls of a single brick skin plastered, or in some cases clad with stone. The house is disguised on top by a veld grass rooftop and mimicked inside by wood clad ceilings and floors.





In recent years, the house, under the ownership of the Coromandel farm, has not been well maintained. Weathering and vermin damage is evident throughout the entire house, possibly due to economic constraints of its custodians and an inability to adapt the house to current community needs. Currently its function as a tourist destination is sorely understated due to poor marketing of tourism at the Coromandel farm.

It bears great significance to the thesis in that the stonework is awe-inspiring. The painstaking precision of the stone corners and details reflects true craftsmanship. The stone, quarried on site indicates a usage of available materials. This is coupled with current day construction in the concrete and brickwork, which is elegantly concealed.

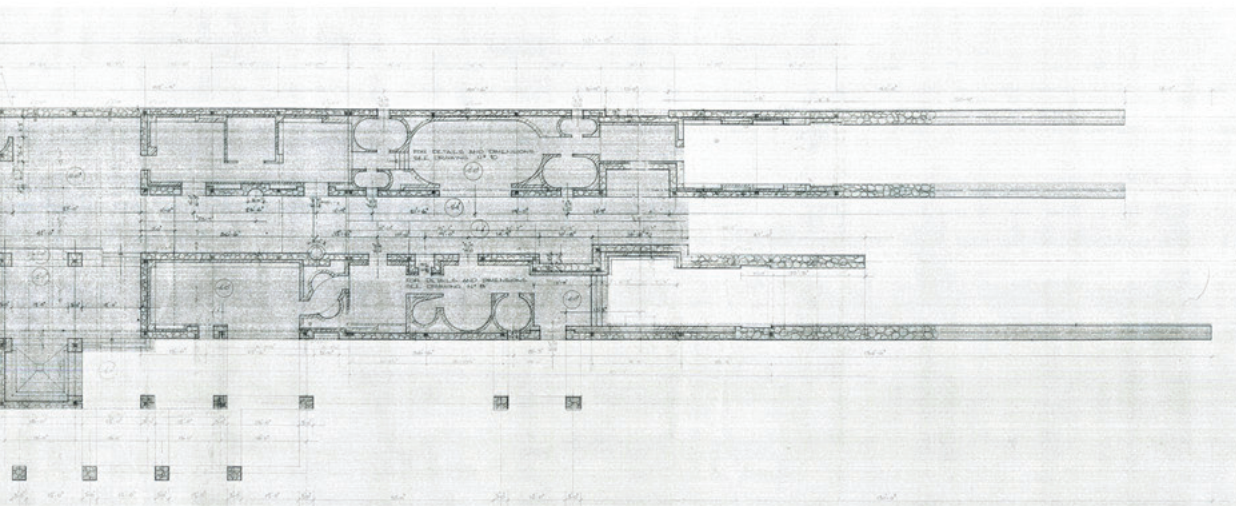


Figure 020. [CENTRE]
 "House Press, Coromandel Farm" *analysis*
 sketches done by author