

## 06. Conclusion

In conclusion, this dissertation proposes that through an in depth understanding of the problem and the context and through extensive investigations, responsible, appropriate and meaningful architecture can be created that ultimately improves the quality of life, not only of the users of the project, but of the users of the city as well.

It was found that the environment can aid in the healing and rehabilitation of people in crisis, specifically in reference to the homeless, through accurate problem-solving responses. At the start of the investigation it was believed that the main response to the situation of homelessness in an architectural sense, was to create an environment that focused on safety and protection for the obviously vulnerable homeless. Through the investigation it was however concluded that the answer to the question of a suitable environment for healing of the homeless is one that promotes empowerment over and above protection. It was further established that the notion of empowerment can be achieved through the concept of connection, independence and transition.

The product of the investigation is a shelter for the homeless in the suburb of Arcadia in Tshwane, which falls in a transitional zone between a well established residential area and a commercial area. The shelter can be defined as transitional housing for the adult urban homeless and their children, which focuses on the healing and ultimate rehabilitation of homeless people, including the reintegration of these people into society. The significance of the project is that the development becomes a metaphor for the reintegration of people into society. The project aims to empower people to become contributing members of society and discontinues the cycle of destitution by providing an opportunity for economic activity and by improving the physical environment for the homeless as well as the physical environment of the community in general.

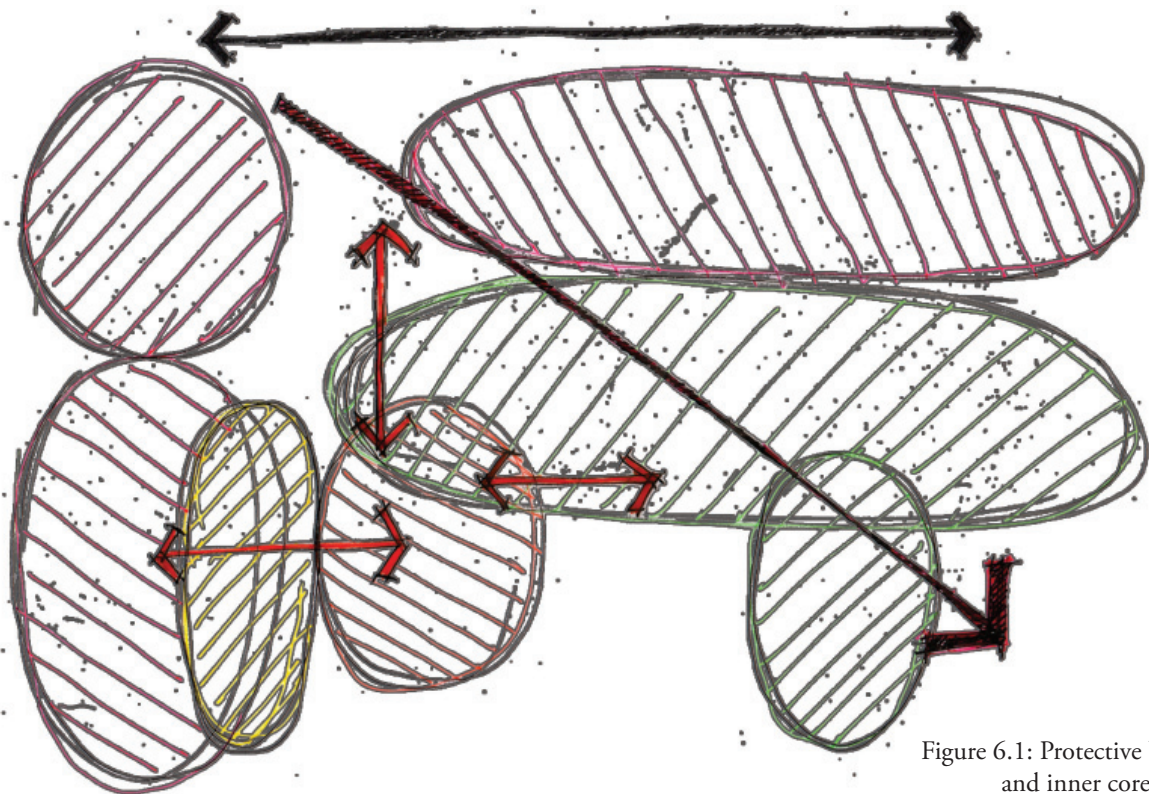


Figure 6.1: Protective boundary and inner core (Author)

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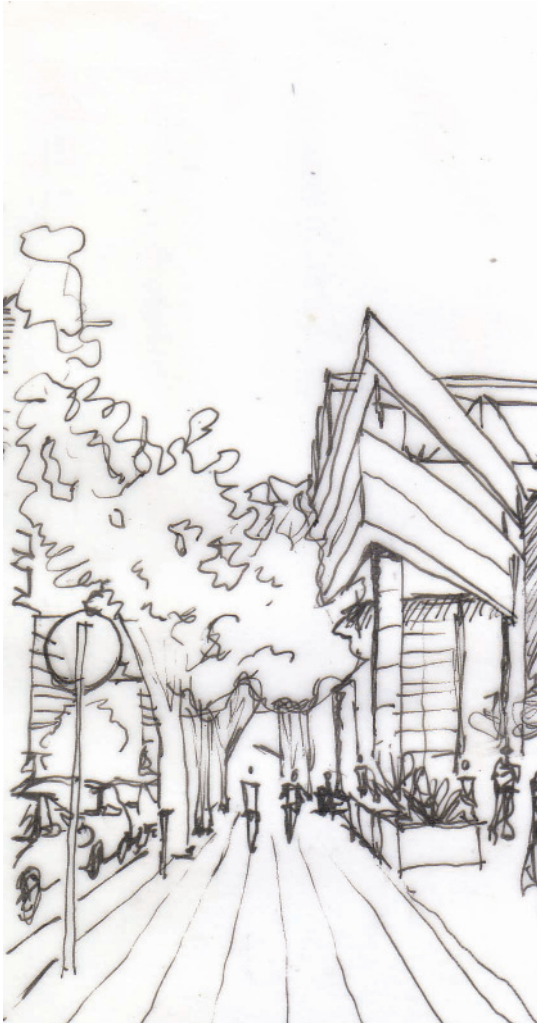


Figure 7.1: Sancardia, North West c/ o Hamilton and Church Street (Author)

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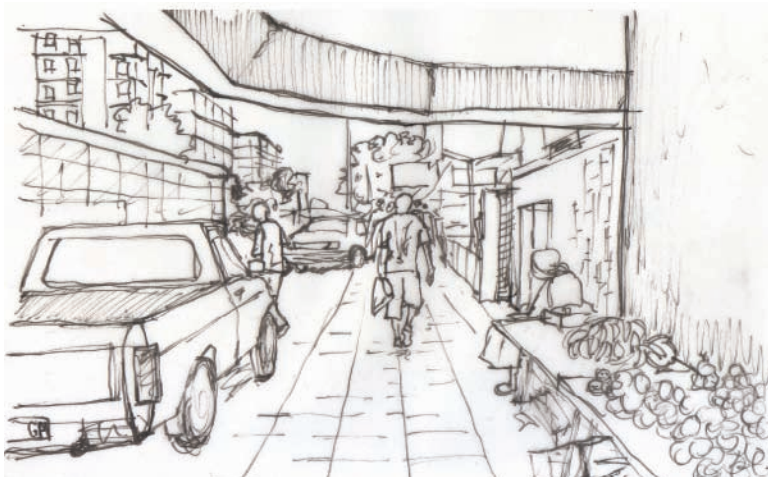


Figure 7.2: Hamilton Street (Author)