

THE POTTER'S HOUSE

288 Burgers Park Lane, Pretoria Central, Tshwane



Figure 8.1: Entrance to Tshwane Leadership Foundation Complex, Burgers Park (Author)

Interview with Lettie Malhepo, Programme Manager, 1 March 2010

The Potter's House offers transitional housing to women and their children in crisis. The organisation is located opposite Burgers Park, in Pretoria CBD, and is part of a larger organisation namely, Tshwane Leadership Foundation. The following questions were asked in the interview:

- How many women can stay at the shelter and who are they?

There is space for 24 women and their children at a time. These women are from all walks of life and of all races; they are normal people what found themselves in terrible situations.

- For what time period can they stay at the shelter?

The women can stay for anything from one to three nights, to three weeks, to six to twelve months.

- To what age can children stay at the shelter with their mothers?

Girl children can stay with their mothers at any age and boy children can stay up to the age of 12 years.

- How does the accommodation work?

There are two beds in a room. Two single women can share a room or a mother and her children. Two rooms then share a bathroom.

- Who washes the clothes?

They wash their own cloths with a communal washing machine and have specific days that they can use the washing line.

- Who makes the food?

There are hired staff to make food in the week and then the women make their own food on weekends, they eat together in a communal dining hall. The reason why staff is hired to make food is because some of the women have strained relationships with each other and refuse to eat the food each other prepare which leads to the food being wasted.

- Is there any assistance for couples with problems?

Couple can come to the facility for counselling and the organisation sometimes also have interventions for the husbands. The organisation does follow up on the situations.

- Is there help for people coming in off the street at any time?

There is a house mother on duty 24 hours a day, so the women can get assistance at any time. There is also a security guard so there is not a problem with violent hus-

bands at the centre.

- What education is offered to the women?

There is a wide range of skills development available to the women.

On site: Fabric painting

Laundro mat

Off site the organisation has networks with the follow places where the women can receive training:

Sowing training, where the women then make wedding dresses in the evening at the centre.

Pop up is a life skills centre where they learn:

Computer skills

Child early development

Security

Mosaics

Other than training and care for their children the women take part in:

Swimming classes

Aerobics

Spring cleaning

Devotion

Counselling and support groups

Parenting classes

3 day camps

- What is the first step when some body comes to the centre?

On arrival the women are assessed and then help with getting an ID, retrieving her belongings and helped with opening a case against her abuser by the on site legal centre.

- How do the women hear of the centre?

The women hear of the shelter through, churches, social workers, clinic, hospitals and at police stations.

- What facilities are there for the children?

The children go to off site day care. Babies go to the day care at Lerato House in the north of the CBD and children from age 3 to 7 go to day care at Inkululeko Community Centre in Salvokop. Both Lerato House and Inkululeko Community Centre are affiliations of Tshwane leadership Foundation.

- What facilities are offered at the centre?

The current facilities are:

- 12, 2 bed bedrooms
- 1 bathroom for 2 bedrooms (6)
- Kitchen
- Dining hall
- Lounge
- Chapel
- Peace garden (outside quiet space where the women can be alone and reflect)
- Playground
- Homework room
- Laundry and washing line
- Offices
- Reception and waiting room
- Assessment and counselling offices

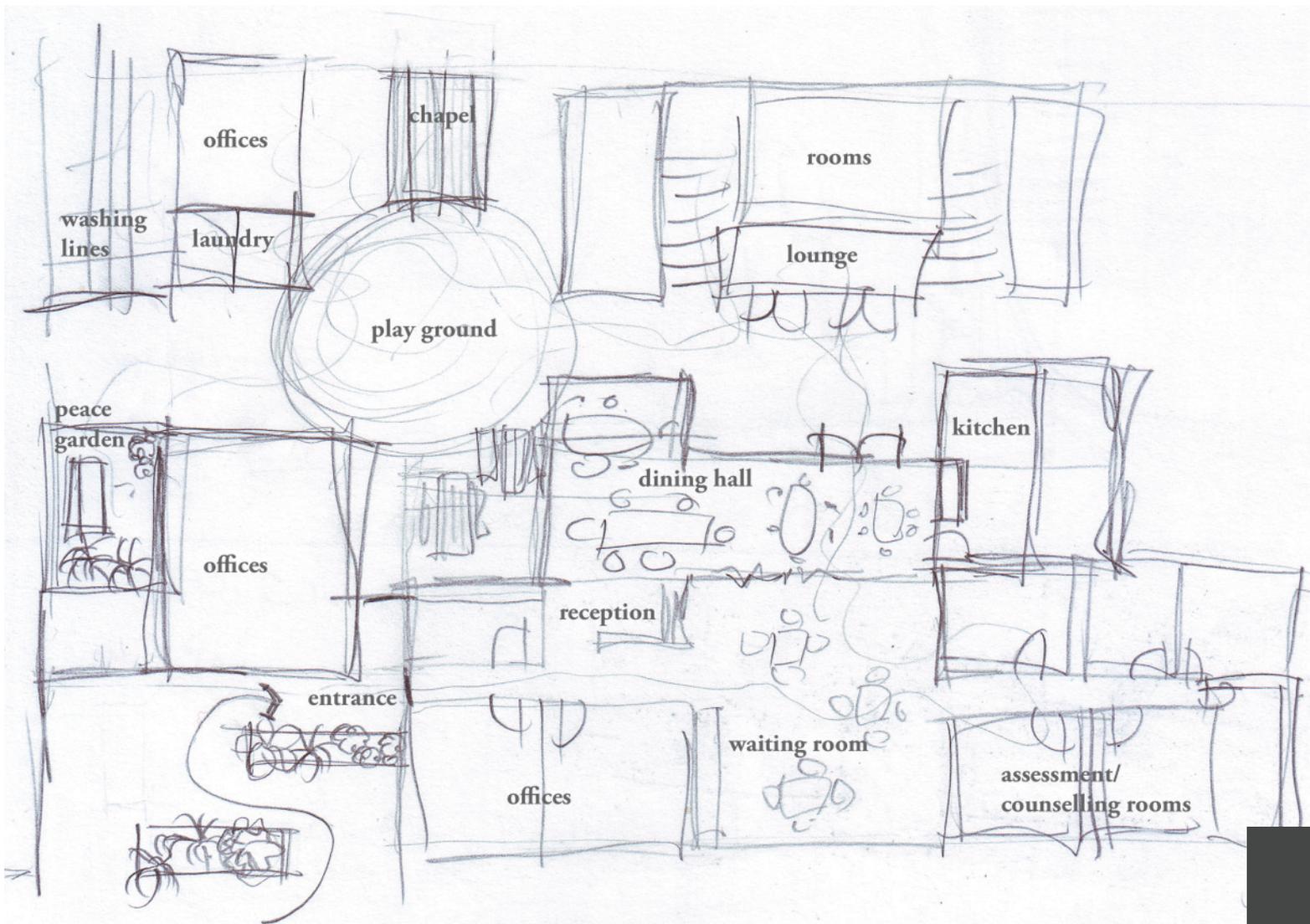
- Does the facility need anything else at the moment?

Their wish list includes:

- A camera and video camera
- A larger playground for the children
- An upgraded peace garden
- Parking spaces for the women who have their own cars

[although I was shown the shelter I was only allowed to take a photo of the reception]

Figure 8.2: Plan of The Potter's House (Author)



The Salvation Army

219 Church Street, Pretoria West

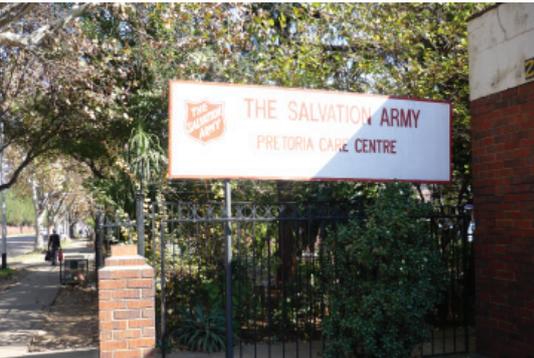


Figure 8.3: Sign from street (Author)

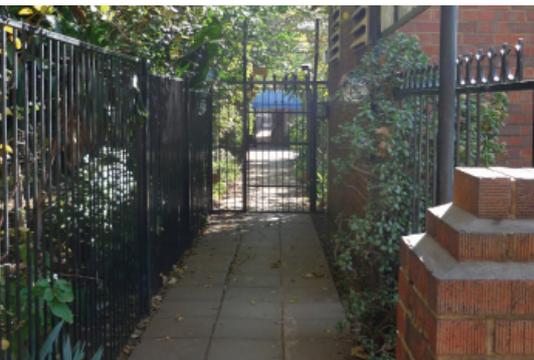


Figure 8.3: Entrance (Author)



Figure 8.4: Approach (Author)

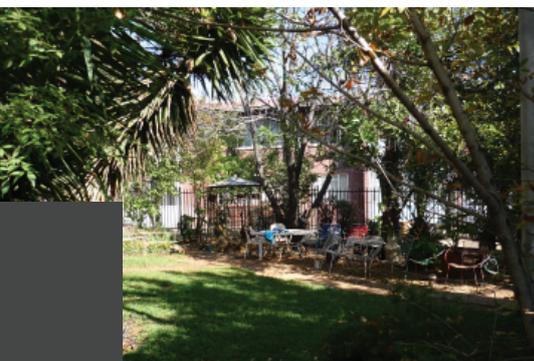


Figure 8.5: Garden (Author)

*“The Salvation Army is an integral part of the Christian Church, although distinctive in government and practice. The Army’s doctrine follows the mainstream of Christian belief and its articles of faith emphasise God’s saving purposes. Its objects are ‘the advancement of the Christian religion... of education, the relief of poverty, and other charitable objects beneficial to society or the community of mankind as a whole.’*The movement, founded in 1865 by William Booth, has spread from London, England, to many parts of the world.*

Whether it’s embracing the homeless, uplifting the abused or abandoned, training and mentoring the disadvantaged, providing character building programs for youth, or assisting the displaced or elderly, The Salvation Army’s goal remains the same: serving the most people, meeting the most needs. HEART TO GOD - HAND TO MAN”
(<http://www.salvationarmy.org.za/index.html>).

The Salvation Army’s Care Centre in Church Street offers accommodation for pensioner, adults over the age of 25 and people with disabilities.

Interview with Colette, Major at The Salvation Army Care Centre Church Street, 20 May 2010

- Who can stay at the centre, is there any costs for the residents and how long can they stay?

Pensioners and people on disability grants stay permanently at the centre and pay two thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of their grant to the centre, which is usually about R700, 00 a month.

Low-income or no-income men and women over the age of 25 can stay at the centre for up to 3 months while they “find themselves again and look for employment”. This time period is extended if necessary; currently there is an occupant that has been staying at the centre for 5 months because they can not find a job.

People off the street can also stay at the centre for a few days in emergencies.

- How many people does the centre cater for?

The centre caters for 51 adults and is currently full, there are about equal numbers of men and women among the adults and more female pensioners. The residents have single rooms and communal bathrooms, women and men have separate bathrooms. The centre tries to keep the men and women’s rooms on opposite sides of the building. The emergency accommodation annex has 3 bedrooms; 2 bedrooms with four beds and 1 room with two beds, also with communal bathrooms.

- Are children allowed at the centre?

Yes there are currently four children living at the centre, a four month old with his family, two 6 and one 8 year old with their mothers. The centre does not really cater for children as it is not the ideal place to grow up, but the social worker does make sure that the older children are registered at school and that they attend.



Figure 8.6: The Salvation Army (Author)



Figure 8.7: Dining Hall (Author)



Figure 8.8: Kitchen (Author)



Figure 8.9: Chapel (Author)

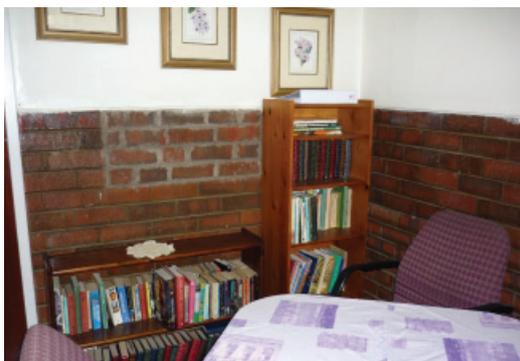


Figure 8.10: "Library" (Author)

- What education is available to the residents?

The centre collaborates with organisations such as Pop-up and Vodacom, who offer training, life-skills courses and counselling. The centre provides the transport for the residents.

- Are any of these services offered at the centre?

Counselling is offered to the residents by the social worker and by Colette herself as she has training in health and social welfare.

- How do people hear about the centre?

People hear about the centre through word of mouth, social services, churches and through the network of hospices and other welfare organisations, for example Red Cross, which the Salvation Army is part of.

- Is there assistance for people from the streets at any time?

The staff live on the premises and therefore can attend to any situation that may arise at any time.

- Who washes the clothes?

The residence wash their own clothes in the washing machines provided.

- Who prepares the food?

The centre provides three meals a day and tea in the morning and the afternoon. Men and women eat together. The centre employs staff to prepare the food. Although the residents do not make their own food they have to help with cleaning, working in the garden and do sometimes help out with maintenance such as painting.

- How is the centre funded?

The centre runs mainly on donations from private organisations and from churches and does not receive any government funding, subsidies or grants.

- What is the aim of the centre?

The centre aims to be a home for these people and to be comfortable and welcoming as a home should, for this reason pets are very important, dogs, cats and a parrot help make the centre feel welcoming.

The Salvation Army aims to spread the Christian religion and so the residents are expected to attend daily devotions at the chapel and church services every Sunday, although the Major did say that some do try and "get out of it".



Figure 8.11: Facilities (Author)



Figure 8.12: Social space (Author)

McDonald's

555 Church Street, Arcadia



Figure 8.13: McDonalds (Author)



Figure 8.14: Deliveries (Author)

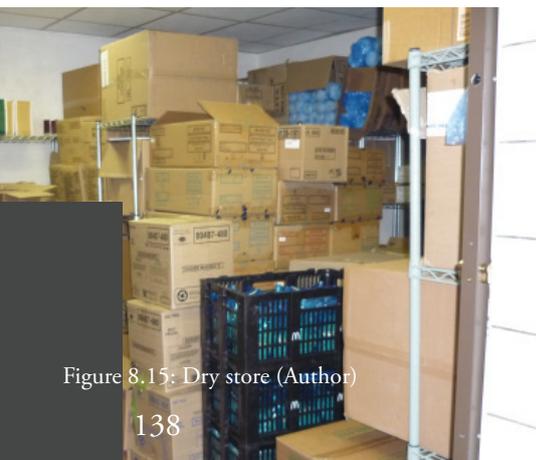


Figure 8.15: Dry store (Author)

Interview with McDonald's Manager, Nobantu 24 May

- How does the kitchen work?

It's basically a production line; the food is delivered on one side of the kitchen and service at the other side.

See plan and photographs

- How many costumers are served?

There are on average 1000 costumers served every day.

During lunch time for 12 pm to 3 pm, 120 customers are served per hour, while our target is 140. 70 cars are also served during that time per hour.

- How many people work at the restaurant?

30 -35 people work here a day in 8 hour shifts, so that's about 10 people at a time. There are 65 people employed currently. McDonalds has won "the best company to work for" in 2010.

- How often are deliveries made?

Twice a week on Monday and Thursday.

- How is the garbage handled?

There is one big bin in the kitchen that is take outside when it gets full and then the garbage outside is collected everyday.

- Where is the food stored?

The food is stored in a 4x 3m dry store, a 2x 3m fridge and a 2x 3m freezer.



Figure 8.16: Fridge (Author)

Figure 8.17: Freezer (Author)



Figure 8.18: Wash & Sanitise Equipment (Author)



Figure 8.23: Deep fryers (Author)



Figure 8.28: Staff room (Author)



Figure 8.19: Kitchen (Author)



Figure 8.24: Kitchen (Author)



Figure 8.20: Kitchen (Author)



Figure 8.25: Hard at work 1 (Author)



Figure 8.29: Restroom (Author)



Figure 8.21: Deep fryers (Author)



Figure 8.26: Hard at work 2 (Author)



Figure 8.30: Restroom ventilation (Author)



Figure 8.22: Ovens & warming drawers (Author)



Figure 8.27: Hard at work 3 (Author)



Figure 8.31: Plant room (Author)

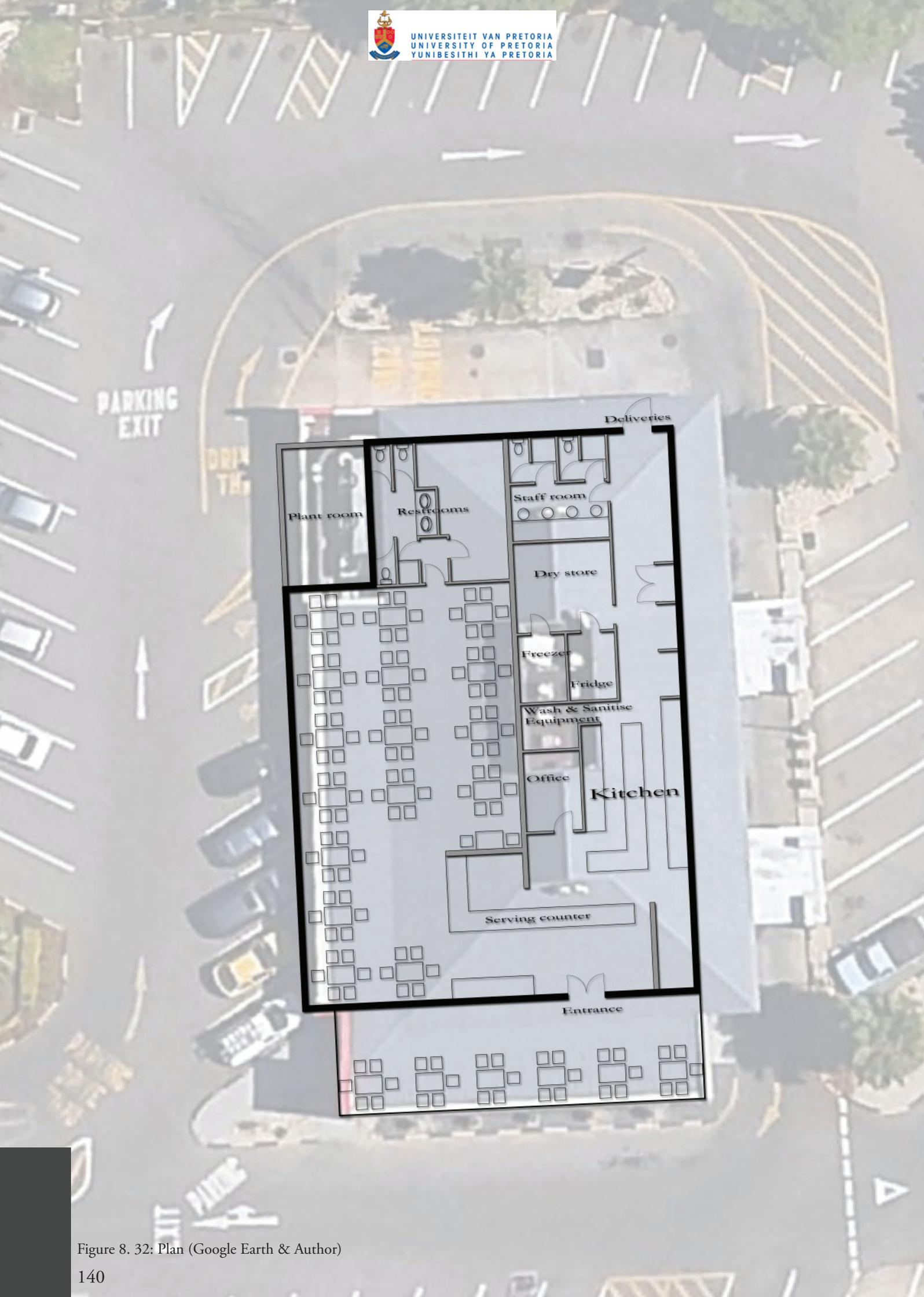


Figure 8. 32: Plan (Google Earth & Author)

Housing Precedents



Figure 8.33: Cité de Refuge_ Le Corbusier_ light (Online)



Figure 8.34: Julian Street Inn_ Christopher Alexander_ design for user (Online)



Figure 8.35: 68 Social Housing_ Magén Arquitectos_ elevation treatment (Online)



Figure 8.36: Brickfields_ Savage + Dodd & ASA Architects_ accommodation (Online)



Figure 8.37: Frans van der Werf_ individual Expression (van der Werf, 1993: cover)



Figure 8.38: Quinta Monroy_ Elemental_ flexibility (Online)

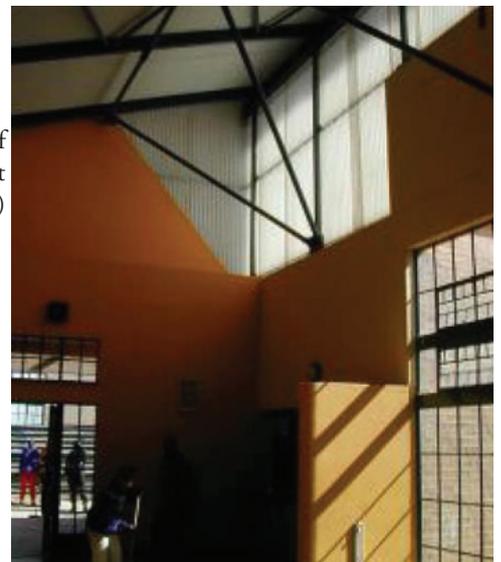


Figure 8.39: Van Ryn Place of Safety_ Henri Comrie_ light (Comrie, 2003: 30)