Context surrounding this thesis at a larger urban scale has been explored and responded to by The Vision For Pretoria West and by the Development Framework for the Old Power Plant (see chapter 1), this chapter will then explore the immediate context created by the development framework and explore factors that are directly relevant to the development of The Old Turbine Hall.

As revealed by the methodology of phenomenology understanding the context of a place requires more than a simple analysis of objects within a landscape. One needs to fully understand the essence of a place before you can create architecture within it, to understand the essence of a place one needs to analyse concrete and intangible phenomena and differentiate between natural and man made elements, to understand what makes a location a place, the spacial qualities and character also need to be scrutinised and the history of the place fully understood.

[Fig. 90] Old aerial photo taken of the power plant in the 1940’s

[Fig. 91] current aerial photograph highlighting historical fabric (over 60 years old) and demolished fabric

[Fig. 92]
historical fabric

demolished conveyor

demolished cooling tower

[present day]
progressive construction of the turbine hall
1954 power station
growth of the old turbine hall over the years
[step 2] understand the site
[site framework]

- built fabric
- water
- existing green space
- new landscaping

[natural & man made phenomena]
Fig. 108 | Natural phenomena
Fig. 109: Man made phenomena
[character proposed by framework]

[Fig. 112] Character proposed by framework
[step 3] understand the building

[Fig. 113] West Elevation

[west elevation]
[Fig. 118] South Elevation

[Fig. 119] South elevation
[natural phenomena]

Fig. 120: Turbine Hall - natural phenomena
Fig. 121 Turbine Hall - man made phenomena
Turbine Hall - spaces

[Fig. 122] Turbine Hall - spaces

[spaces]
[character]

[Fig. 123] Turbine Hall - character
[Fig. 124] Turbine Hall - textures