

YEOVILLE

LEARNING

RECREATION



The University of the Witwatersrand
School of Architecture and Planning

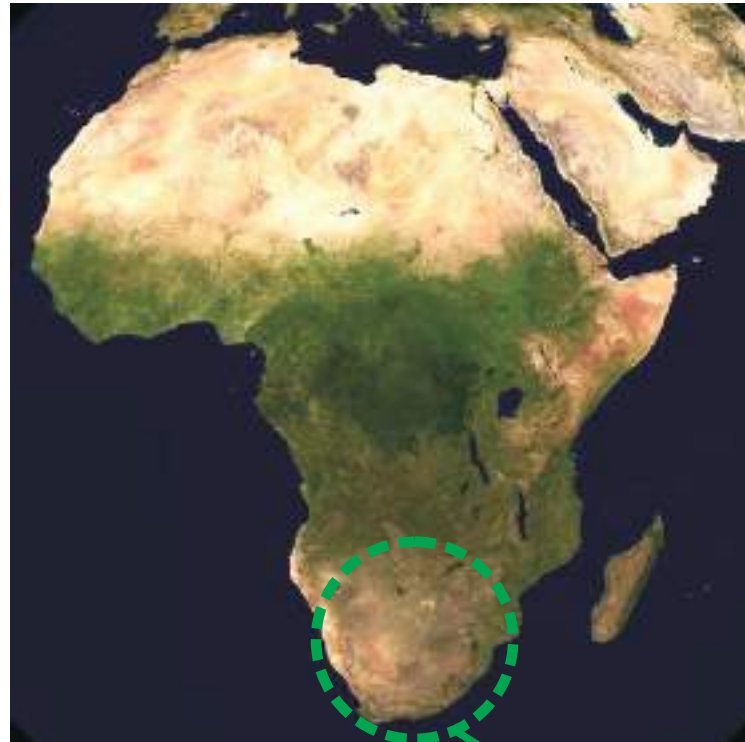


ARPL3003
Contemporary Issues within
Architecture

O. Koma.....
H. Molvi.....
R. Soomar.....
T. Maphalala...

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Mapping + imagining
Yeoville
in-between
architecture



South Africa within Africa



Yeoville Square bounded by Raleigh/Rocky Street to the North, Fortesque Road to the West, Yeo Street to the South and Kenmere Road to the East.



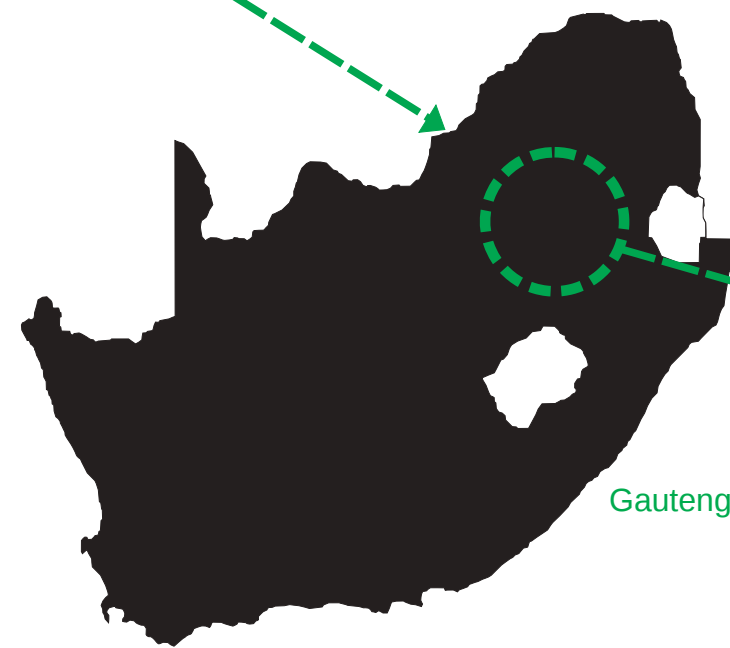
Yeoville within Johannesburg



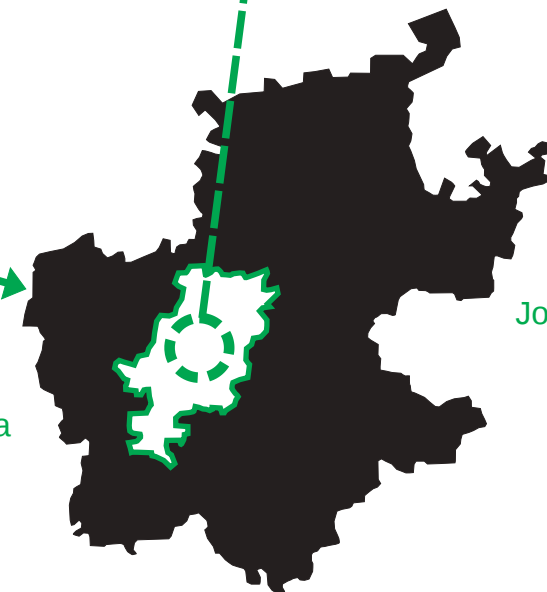
LOCATION MAP

Yeoville is in Johannesburg, South Africa and is bounded by Louis Botha Avenue to the North, Joe Slovo Drive to the West, The Ridge to the South and De La Rey Street to the East.

The site that will be focused on in this project is a square in Yeoville bounded by Raleigh/Rocky Street to the North, Fortesque Road to the West, Yeo Street to the South and Kenmere Road to the East. The library opposite the square on the other side of Raleigh/Rocky Street is also a point of focus.



Gauteng within South Africa



Johannesburg within Gauteng

Development of Yeoville as a Recreational Place

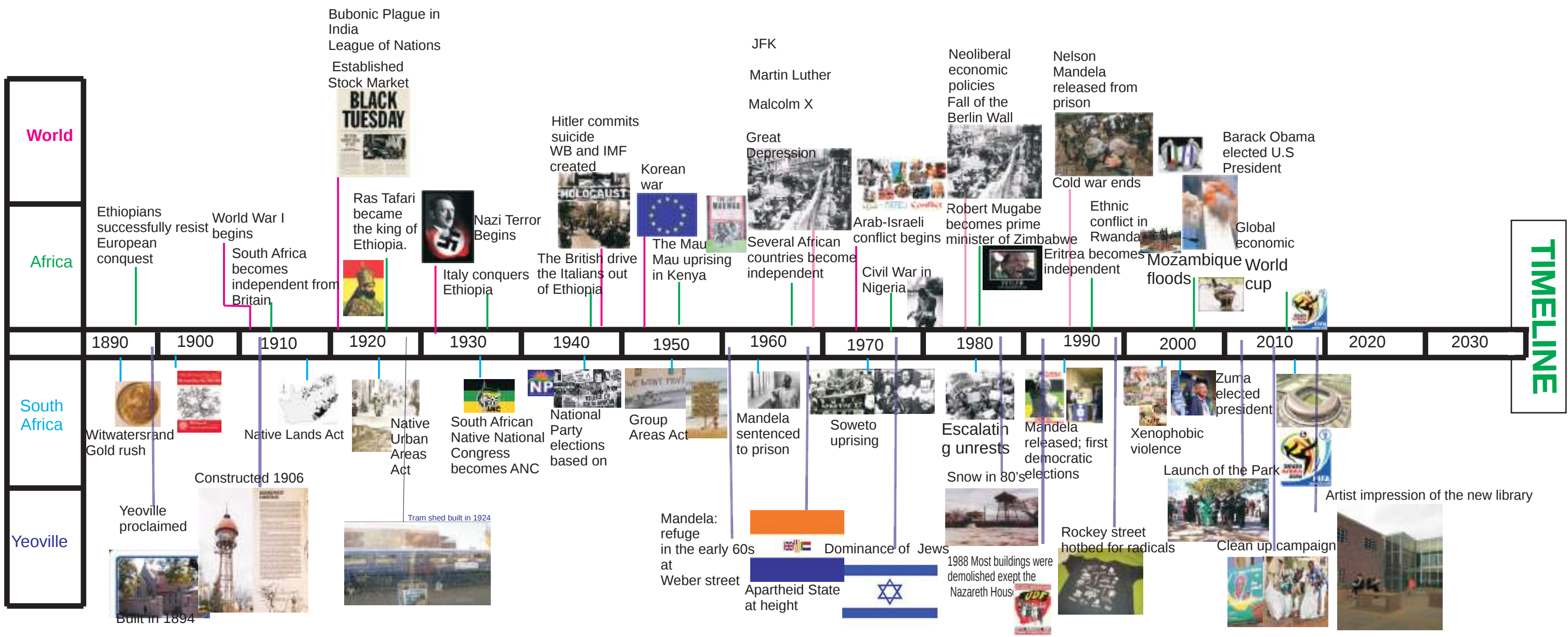
Yeoville was proclaimed as a suburb in 1890 by Thomas Yeo Sherwell. The yeoville park is called Yeoville square. It was the centre of the suburb and one the first public green spaces in the area. Yeoville also improved in the provision of infrastructure as it saw an increase in construction of schools (Neger, 2002). Yeoville officials together with the city of Johannesburg have late realized the importance of recreational facilities in the community. There has been an attempt to upgrade the Park by the JDA and a construction of a new library along Rocky/ Raleigh street.

In this project, we have been studying and analyzing the library (Rocky/Raleigh street) together with the block opposite bounded by; Rocky/ Raleigh street, Fortesque street, Becker street and Kenmere Street, where the pool, park, recreation centre are located.

Analysis of study area was conducted through interviews, observations and other relevant data. The observations were conducted through continuos site visits along with workshops that were held in Yeoville.



Historical Influences



Learning and Recreation in Yeoville

This map is a footprint diagram illustrating the location of the learning and recreational places in Yeoville. The places of learning are the schools/creches and day cares, many of the day cares and creches are located in residential dwellings. the other major centre for learning is the library, situated on Rocky/Raleigh road. it is a place and resource base that students off all ages use regularly.

The places of recreation identified were predominantly the open space i.e. parks. the other places of recreation were situated on Rocky/Raleigh road and consisted of entertainment scenes whose targeted market are adults, as the entertainment is largely constituted with alcohol.



Legend:

-  School\Day-Care\Creche
-  Place of Worship
-  Park
-  Entertainment
-  Restaurant
-  Recreation Centre
-  Library
-  Pool
-  Tennis Courts
-  Study Area

IDENTIFICATION OF LEARNING AND RECREATIONAL PLACES IN YEOVILLE

U FROM ? SO WHERE ARE YOU FROM ? SO W

[illegible]

Urban Memories

Public Spaces.....

Housing.....

Collective Mapping + imagining
Yeoville
in-between
architecture



Shananon



Emanuel



Miche



Dan



Patrick



Lesedi



Patience



Mitha



Yeoville is a place of arrive/ welcome, whereby people from all over the country and different parts of Africa. Yeoville is perceived as such because it has a diverse mixture of people. One can have different conversation. Yeoville is the first stop to a long journey. Every corner has a story to tell. Rockey Street was a popular 'hangout' spot back in the 1980s.

Every one has a story to tell about where they come from. Our 8 interviewees all live in yeoville, but come from different countries. The children are as diverse as the countries they originate from. Some people may view immigrants as outsiders, but the fact that they live in the same suburb they experience the same problems.

1	The pool is a place where the children in Yeoville come to teach themselves how to swim. During summer it is full, during winter they close it. Children are the main uses. They have to pay R2 to use the pool.	9	The picture was taken to signify how innovative people are becoming when confronted by difficulties. The bridge was put in place because when the park gets flooded it becomes too muddy for one to walk.	17	The picture was taken by the ridge, whereby it seems from the make of cars, that the people who use the ridge as a church are wealthy.
2	The pool is enjoyed by the children because they get to meet other children, where friendship is made.	10	As it has already been mentioned, the park is contested. Cricket also seems as a fauavorite choice of sports	18	The streets in Yeoville are always filled with children. The streets are a place where some children can play.
3	The park is always buzzing with people, who are passing through. The pathways where designed in accordance with the movement of the people	11	The park is used by homeless people as a sleeping area.	19	This picture was taken just outside the Yeoville school. The girl seemed to be waiting for someone, and thus decided to take out a book and start studying.
4	The loading bay was not intended for such purposes. However during the groups' visit, the car had found access into the park. People seemed to be loading goods onto the vehicle.	12	The balls are used for sitting. They were not in the original plan but where put in by the artists.		
5	The benches are used as a place where people can sit and have conversations, or watch their children playing on the swings	13	The sandpit is mainly for small children, however due to the rain the sand has become hard.		
6	The park is so contested. Children seem to like playing soccer.	14	The park is also used as an illegal dumpsite. It seems as if residents do not take ownership of the park. The ridge is a beautiful place where		
7	The dinosaur is main attraction for the children.	15	you get to see the entire city, including the Ellis Park		
8	The pathway is damaged due to the park getting flooded.	16	The ridge is used mainly by people who use the area as a praying site. The area seems to be perceived as holy because it looks over the entire city.		



A place to have fun

Where friends are made





The pathway



The loading bay



The meeting place



The soccer field



The playground

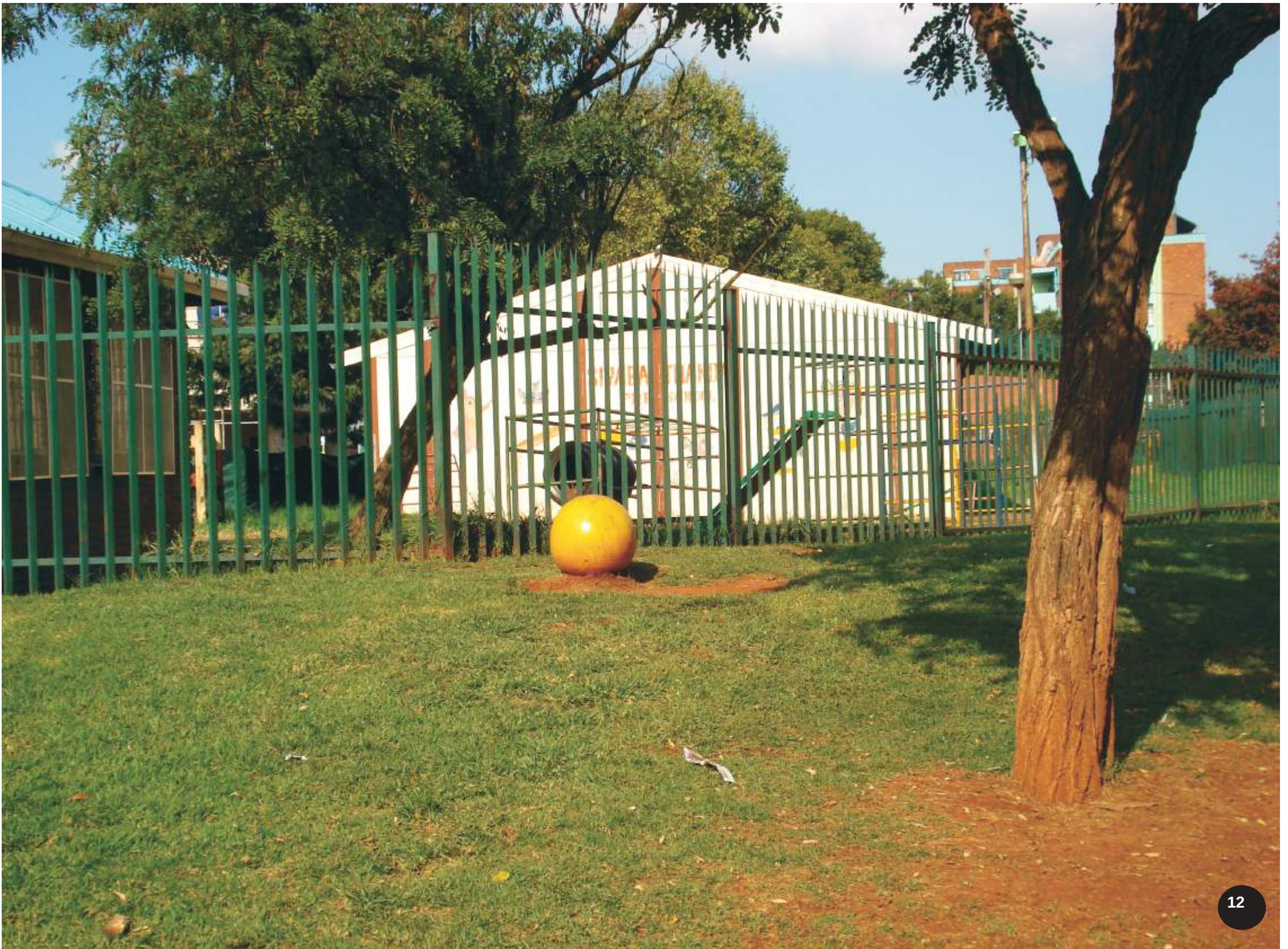






The cricket pitch







The beach



The dumpsite





The church





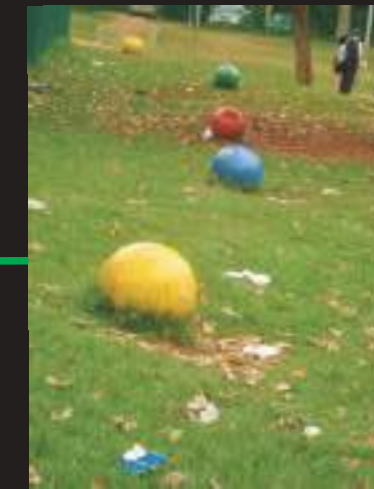
The playground





The park in Yeoville has experienced a lot of muggings, according to sergeant Warrant Officer Mike as a result of the numerous homeless people who have been using the park as a place of refuge and rest. The park has been used as a form of housing for these homeless people.

There are rounded objects located all around the park. these were designed by the artists appointed by the city of Johannesburg as part of a mandate that stipulated that all projects adopted by the city should have a portion of the budget allocated to art. these round objects are used as benches, we assume that these weredesinged as seats but also to deter homeless people from sleeping there.



The benches designed by the Architects have games and art on them, however, it becomes uncomfortable for children to play on it when there are people sleeping next to or on it.



Conventionally homeless people use benches in parks to sleep on, as is illustrated in the image.



On colder days, some of the Homeless people sleep next to the bench. This is because they use the bench as a shield against the cold wind.



THE PARK

The firm ASM Architects and Urban Designers presented a plan intended to revamp the park in Yeoville to the Johannesburg Development Agency (JDA).

A number of elements to regenerate the park and the other uses in the block such as a gathering space, a small ball playing area, a water garden play fountain, new children play area with controlled access, the conversion tennis courts into a multi-purpose court area, seating and other park furniture, lighting and off-street parking were proposed in the plan.

Most of these elements have not been achieved due to budget constraints.



Past

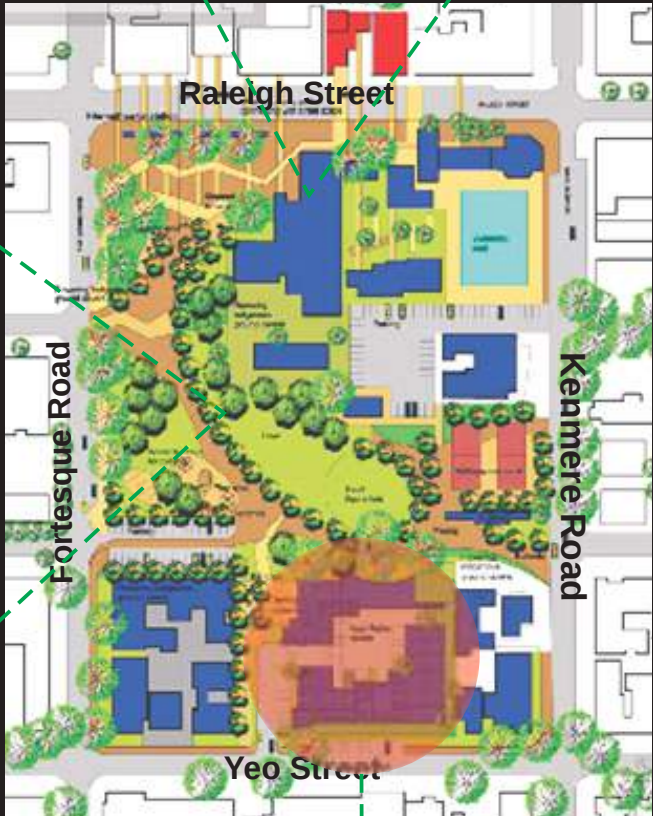


Present

Recreation Centre

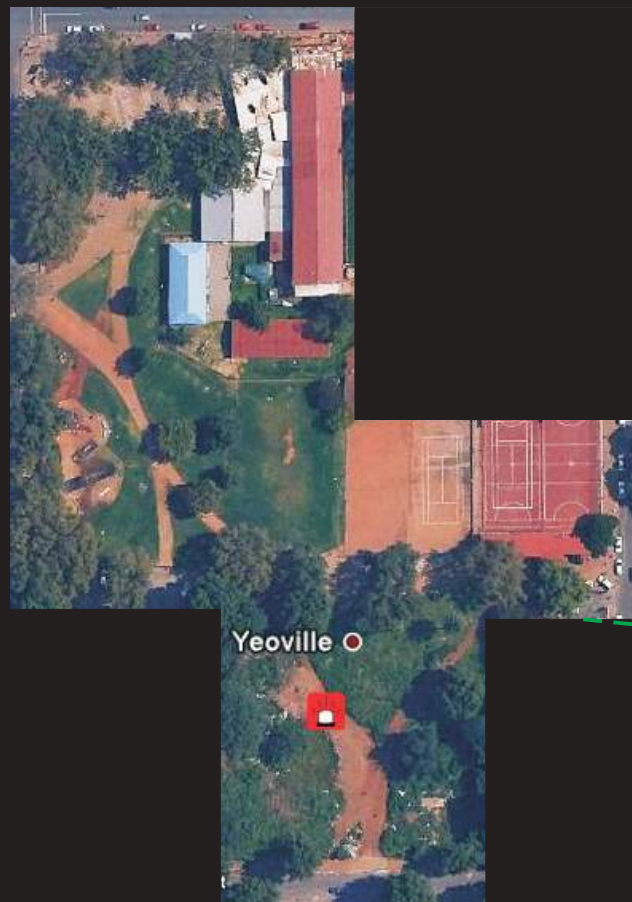


Proposed upgrades of the park

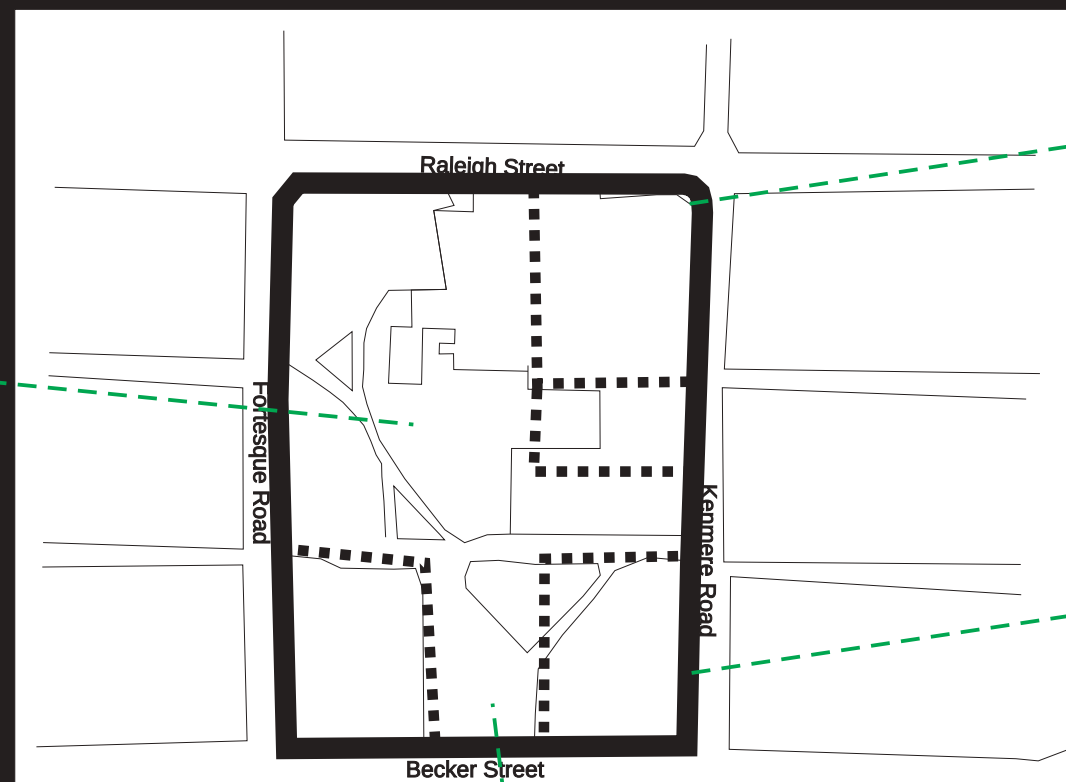


Proposed extension of the Yeoville Police Station (did not take place due to budget constraints).

MAGNIFYING THE PARK



The park



the neglected site



the pool



the police station

The Yeoville Park is bordered by Rocky/ Raeigh Road, Fortesque Street, Becker Street and Kenmere Road. it has recently undergone a major renovation whereby the Johannesburg Development Agency sought to upgrade the park and create a civic node with the new library and pool adjacent to it.

Therefore it is not unusual that there are various activities happening in the park. It has distinct precincts within it, Namely the Park itself, the Pool, The Police Station, the Clinic and a neglected site at the back.

These five precincts will be further dissected and explored.



The “baby” pool



The grassy area not utilized by pool or its users



The pool only opens for summer season, closed for the duration of winter



The Pool



This area is zoned as residential 4 but is not used as anything at the moment. The grass is long and not maintained, is used as a dumping site and some people even use it as a sleeping place.





Taxi Delivering on the park



The 'Dinosaur'



Street kid sleeping in the park



Preaching



The Bridge



Hop scotch- umkoko



Tennis Courts

Activities in the Park

Warrant Officer(Yeoville police station)- “ no problem with the school kids, they are well behaved” He also said that they main problem that they greatly endured are muggings within the park as well as ‘negligent parents who leave their children in the park and the children get lost and are brought to the station. Strategies like people patrolling in the park have been implemented by the municipality/ council. “We are not responsible for the informal traders found in the park, the Metro-police are.” said the Officer



Police Station

YEOVILLE LIBRARY



The Management of the Library

When it comes to building a public space, there are a lot of things that have to be compromised. The library use to be a heritage building which was a sub station that was owned by the city. The site for the library had to be re-zoned since it was a heritage site. When designing for public facilities, the designer and architect must design in accordance to the laws of the city. For example, the library must cater for everyone and therefore has a lift to accommodate for people with disabilities.

Hotel Yeoville Project

Hotel Yeoville is a community website and an interactive art project that has opened recently and is available for the use of residents of Yeoville. It is a ground-breaking public arts project that consists of various innovative themes such as, study, work, love, play, community, etc.

The Hotel Yeoville Project is aimed at building social networks and starting conversations about important public issues and events.



The chalkboard is a place where residents write their names and where they are originally from. People get to upload photos and videos to the Hotel Yeoville gallery.



The courtyard



School children use the facilities provided by the library.



Main Entrance to the library on Raleigh



People from all over Africa use the library as well as the services provided by the Hotel Yeoville Project.



Residents of Yeoville and Bellevue, as well as visitors to the library post their texts about their experiences in Yeoville or their own personal expressions together with pictures of themselves on a wall on the second floor of the library.

Narrative

Mitha is a 14 year old boy who lives in Berea, a suburb next to Yeoville. He lives in a flat on Joe Slovo Drive with his parents and sister. His sister is 12 years old and in grade 5. His mother is a domestic worker and father is a welder. They both work from Monday to Friday and therefore prefer it if their children come home straight after school, for safety reasons.



He goes to Sheikh Anta Diop Primary School and is Name: Mitha in grade 6. His school is situated on Grafton road, Age: 14 years old so the proximity from school to home is relatively small, thus him and his sister walk to and from school everyday. the children from this household do not take lunch everyday, its more of a spontaneous gesture that occurs irregularly.

Mitha and his sister use the library quite often, twice a week. They do their homework there as this space allows them to work with their peers after school. during the week they “come to read and write stories” at the library. Mitha also uses the library on weekends when he attends the Soul Buddyz meetings. in these meetings the youth of Yeoville gather to talk about issues and hardships they deal with on a daily basis.

He does not use the park very often. the only time he comes to the park is on a Saturday and Sunday, when his parents are there to supervise. according to his parents, it is a very unsafe place for children to be in by themselves.

Narrative

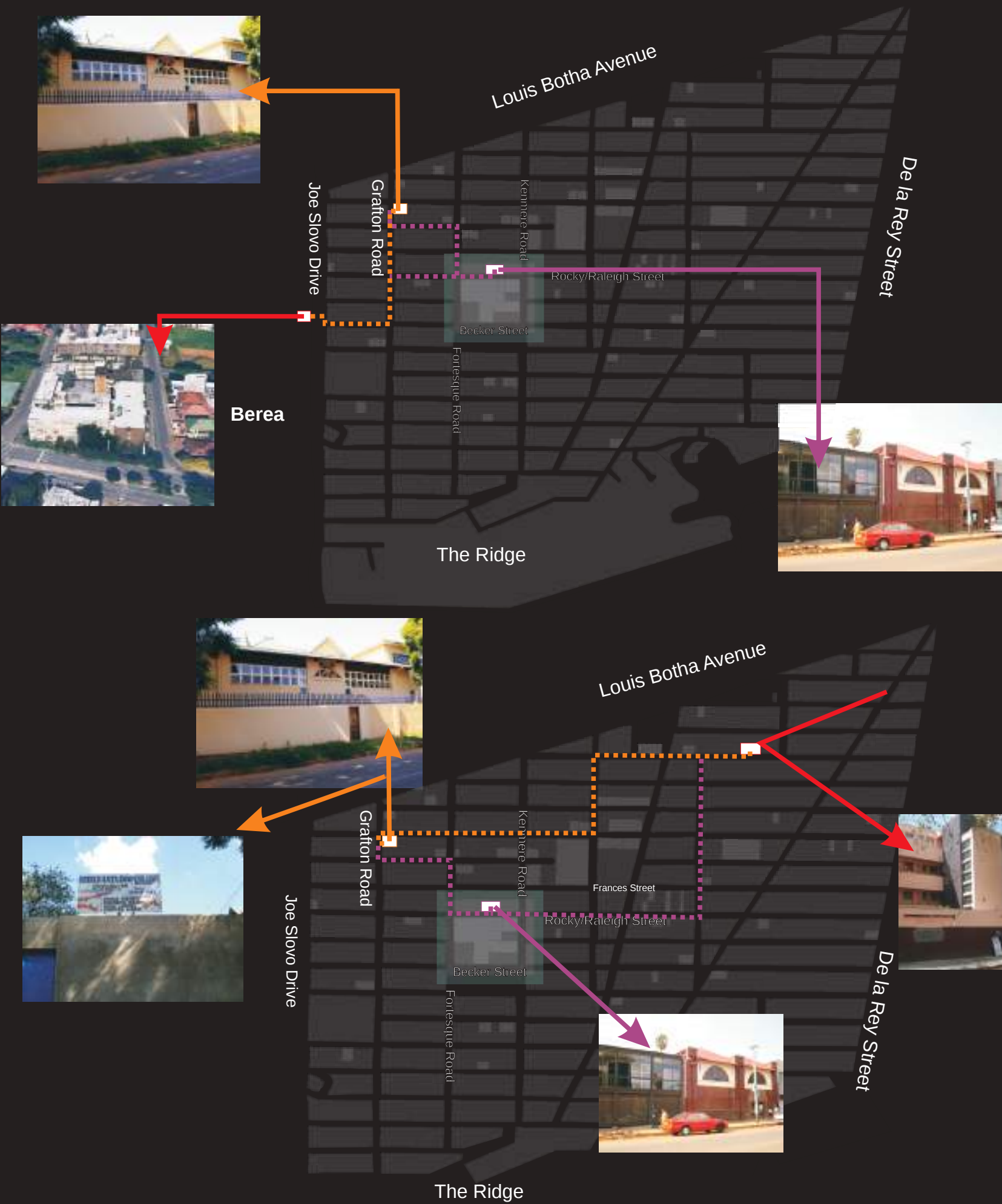
Patrick is a 15 year old originally from Angola. He has been in South Africa for 9 years now, however his mother is still in Angola and his father has passed away. He now lives with his sister who is 12 years old and uncle, who works as a security guard in a small flat on St Georges Street, Yeoville. His uncle works odd hours and thus is very possessive of his niece and nephew.



Name: Patrick
Age: 15

patrick and his sister attends Sheikh Anta Diop Primary School. Patrick is in grade 6. Him and his sister occasionally go to the library, mostly for the soul Buddyz meetings. they rarely go there after school to do homework or socialise. Their uncle does not like them to go anywhere in Yeoville.

This therefore means that Patrick hardly ever goes to the park. Fridays are the only days that he goes there because school closes early and him and his friends spend about an hour there before they head home on a Friday.



A “KID’S” YEOVILLE

Name: Shanon
Age: 10

Schools at Observatory Primary School
and lives on Regent Street.

Plays at the Yeoville swimming pool on
Saturdays.



Joe Slovo Drive

The Ridge

Louis Botha Avenue

Regent Street

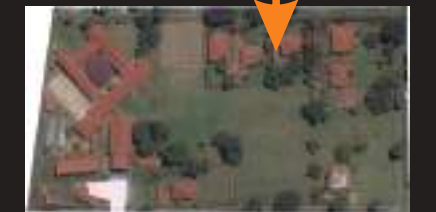
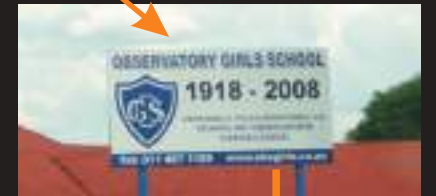
Raleigh Street

Fontein Road

Becker Street

Kenneth Road

De La Rey



Name: Lesedi
Age: 9

Schools at Glenhazel Primary School
and lives on Regent Street.

Plays at the Yeoville swimming pool on
Saturdays.



Joe Slovo Drive

The Ridge

Louis Botha Avenue

Regent Street

Raleigh Street

Fontein Road

Becker Street

Kenneth Road

De La Rey

6km



Glenhazel
Primary School



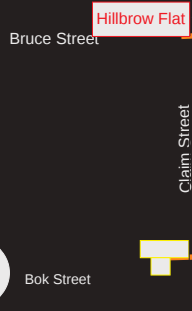
A "KID'S" YEOVILLE

N

Patience (8):
Lives at Hillbrow (Flats)
Schools at in Hillbrow: Inzenzo Kungemazwi Community College
Father is unemployed
Mother Domestic Worker



Every month she goes to the Yeoville Clinic for injection she is accompanied by the her mother. That is the only time she uses the park.” I love this park, especially the dinosaur, if only I came with my friends from Hillbrow it would be more than fun.”

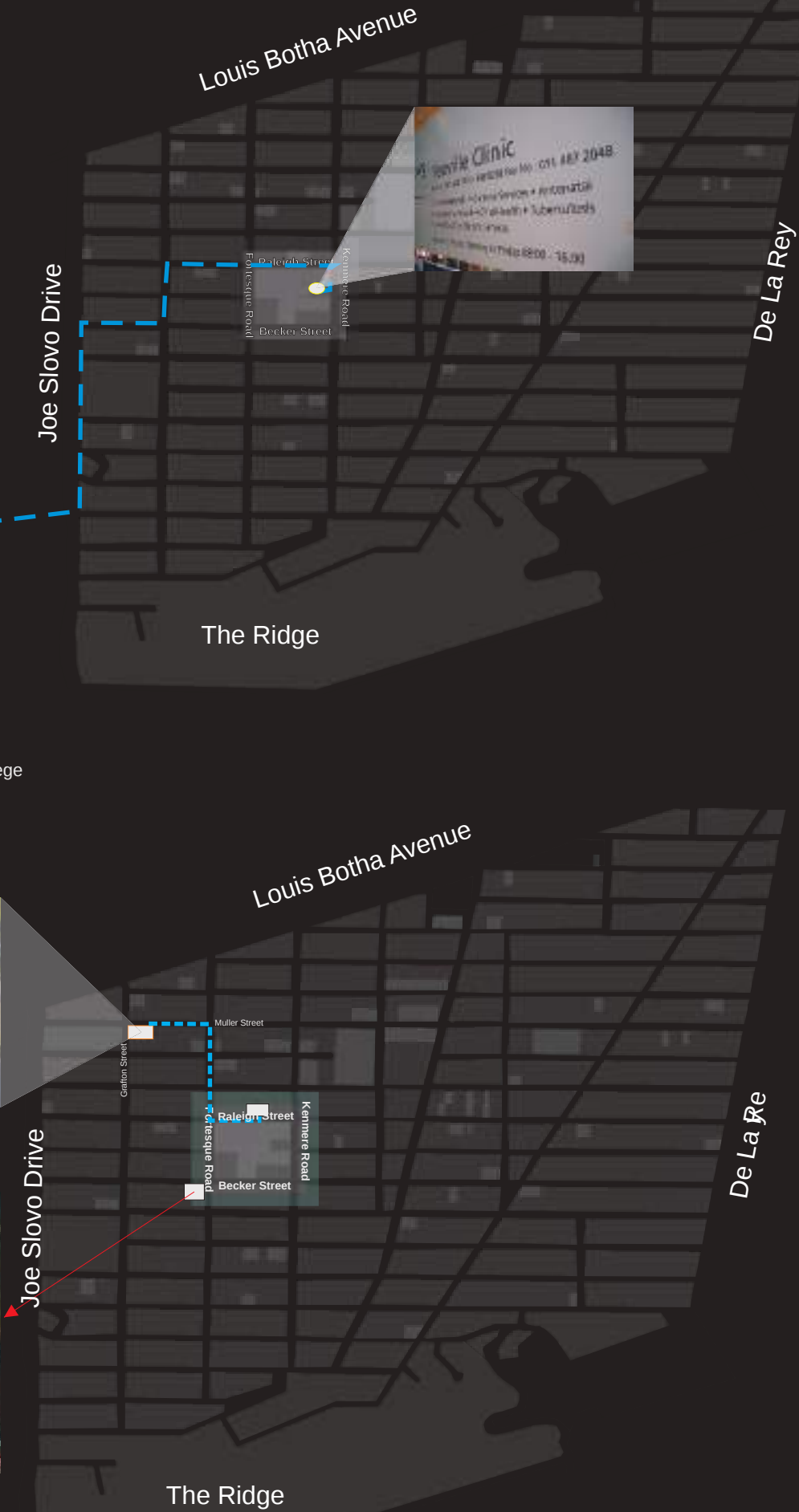


Izenzo Kungemazwi Community College
Cnr Bok and Claim Street in Hillbrow
Jorbert

Dan (13):
Congolese
Lives in Yeoville (Frances street)- flats
Member of the Soul Buddies.
Uses the library for reading and discussing issues affecting the youth at soul buddies meeting.
Hardly uses the park but his younger sister(7)
Schools at Sheikh Anta Diop Primary in yeoville and in grade 6



52 Grafton and cnr
22 Muller Street



A “Kid’s” Yeoville

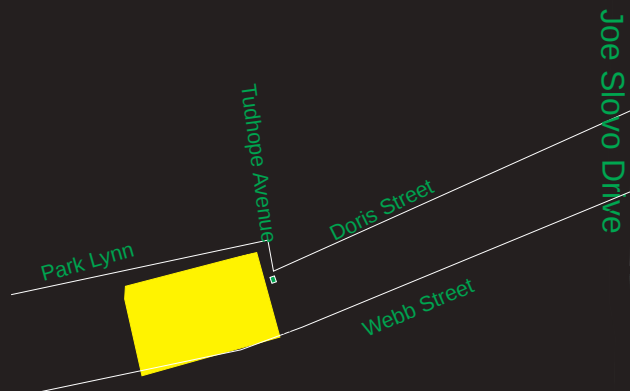
A "KID'S" YEOVILLE

Name: Miche
Age: 14 years

Goes to school in Berea, at Barnato Primary School. Miche spends most of his time either at the park or the pool.

When we first met him, he had been in Yeoville for two weeks and had just started school.

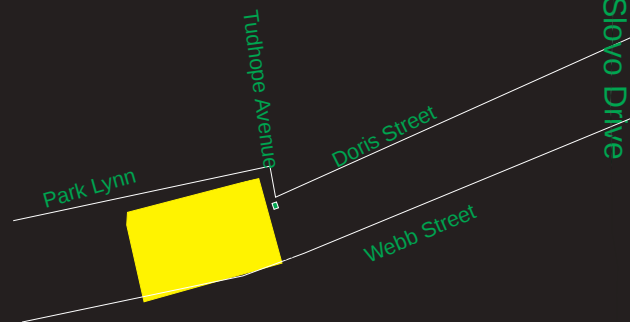
He came from Congo in Kinshasa and had arrived with his mother. He used to be a rugby player while he was schooling in Kinshasa.



Name: Emanuel
Age: 13 years

Emanuel goes to school also in Berea at Barnato. He is friends with Miche as he too comes from Congo in Kinshsa.

He has been in Yeoville for 3 years. He spends most of his free time either swimming at the pool or playing soccer. He uses the library occasionally.



RECREATION

Park

Pool

Rec. Centre

YESTERDAY

The park was zoned as the open space of Yeoville, when the township was established in 1890. Yeoville was a white suburb, before 1994.



2004- Before the park was revamped by the JDA. The playground equipment was not concentrated in one corner of the park.

Who: pre 1994, white residents. post 1994- Africans
What: entertainment, relaxation
How: swings, jungle gyms, grass.



The Yeoville pool is one of the oldest pools in Johannesburg. Prior to 1990 85% of the population was white, which would imply that the pool was used predominantly by white people.



the mosaic art on the entrance of the pool began in August 2004.

TODAY



The park has been revamped by the JDA, who have defined pathways and replaced the old playing equipment with 1 dinosaur, a merry-go-round and a slide.

Who: mainly small children and homeless people
What: relaxation, entertainment (playing on dinosaur sport and sleeping)
How: not effectively.



Pool is well maintained and well used. The care taker lives on the property, to ensure no trespassers. the exterior was uplifted, with the use of mosaic art. The pool is very popular amongst the youth.

Unused space has much recreational potential.

Who: Mostly Children and a few adults
What: swimming lessons, networking.



a new recreation centre is being built in the park. there will be activities for all ages such as sewing, art, dance, literacy classes etc.

Who: All ages
What: A variety of activities
How: Use the resources and infrastructure offered by the rec centre.



TOMORROW



The future developments of the park should include a safe jungle gym that has a variety of activities for a variety of ages. as well as more benches in shaded spots.

Many patrons of the park have requested a space to play soccer. Since the tennis courts are underutilised, the space should be transformed into a multi-functional sporting area.



A suggestion for the pool is that it should be heated so that it could stay open during winter. the unused space at the pool could be transformed into a family area, allowing for picnics and braais. A kiosk should be built for convenience sake.

The new recreation centre, that will be completed soon, will have activities such as music, dance, adult literacy classes, sewing classes, self defense classes as well as providing a safe space for youth to hang out. it would also be viable for the recreation center to be a venue for seminars and workshops.

MATRIX

	LEARNING	
	Library	
YESTERDAY	 The library was originally located on the corner of Rocky/Raleigh Street and Bedford Road. The library has been in Yeoville for decades.	
TODAY	 The new Yeoville library is situated on Rocky/Raleigh Street where an old tram shed that dates back to 1924 once stood. The development had to stick to the building's original design because of its heritage status. the library caters for all ages and offers a space to do homework, learn about cultures and network with peers. moreover, it has not confined itself to local school children.	 The library has launched the hotel Yeoville exhibition whi ch celebrates the multi-culturalism that has characterised Yeoville .It showcases where people are from and allows the public to add to the gallery. Who: all ages and types of people What: reading, homework, research How: use of infrastructure, books, computers.
TOMORROW	The future developments of the library should include more computers and a larger space for to access the computers. the area where the high school children do their homework and tuition could be more comfortable. 	The library should continue being a safe place for children to go to after school. it will encourage them to do well and motivate them to work harder. The messages in the hotel Yeoville Gallery should continue offering tuition and help as well as messages of hope for the patrons of the library to know that education is the first step to success. 



The interventions are simple in that what we (the designers) want for the park coincides with the requests of the users.

The park needs to be more user friendly and comfortable for all its users.

One of the major concerns in the park is the issue of security. Many of the interviewees do not use the park as it is seen as a dangerous space. More security needs to be present especially to ensure the security of unaccompanied minors.

Almost all the children interviewed would like to see a soccer field. A mini field was included in the original design of the park, however not maintained. Therefore we suggest the soccer field should be located in place of a tennis court and beyond.

The parents of the children in the park would like to see more benches in shady areas.

The major concern for us was the fact that the jungle gym was not safe enough. We would suggest a safer jungle gym that has less risk of children getting hurt.

INTERVENTIONS

DAY 1 - YEAVILLE FIELD TRIP WITH THE CLASS OF ARPL3003

It was decided that class meets at Maurice's home on Regent St in Yeoville. A few colleagues and I got a lift with Ramesa's brother. ~~a~~ Maurice then gave a talk on Yeoville and took us for a tour of Yeoville. Yeoville had changed quite a lot since my last visit which was like 7 years ago. My uncle had a place there but knew he moved to Mayfair. I remember he use to complain about people stealing copper cables which left some without phone lines & electricity. Driving around Yeoville was actually a first, and from what I have seen I think that Yeoville has ~~great~~ potential to become something with great ~~potential~~.

Day 2 - St Aidan's Church, Regent Street, Yeoville.

Cafe Yeoville - A number of residents from Yeoville & Bellville attended this gathering along with lecturers and students from the University of Witwatersrand. Four themes were discussed, namely, Yeoville Stories, Housing, Public Space and African Diversity.

Day 3 - Site Visit

Ramesa, Olga, Thulani and I went to Yeoville to map down all the recreational and legerslag areas. We also visited the library, ~~and~~ which was really impressive. I took a walk to the park while smoking a cigarette found the park very interesting.

Day 4

Went to the library and the park. interviewed some children. You hardly find any high school kids in the park. Some parents come to the park with their little children. Young boys play soccer & cricket in the park. People find really innovative ways of fixing things for themselves (building a bridge across a muddy ditch on a grass). The progress on the rec centre is speeding up. I find that from what I have seen from my previous visits, the tennis court is not utilised yet the children have no proper place to play cricket & soccer. There were a few young boys dressed in suits, handing out pamphlets at the park. These boys were part of some church youth group. I felt the "little boy" (12 years old) sorry when I seen him dressed in a suit whilst the other children had fun playing.

Day 1

YEAVILLE FIELD TRIP WITH THE WHOLE CLASS BUT SINCE ~~WE~~ ~~WAS~~ ~~NOT~~ ~~ORGANISED~~ BY THE SCHOOL, WE HAD TO MEET THERE. DIDN'T HAVE TRANSPORT, WE WALKED THERE. AFTER PASSING HARBOR WE WERE SHARED THAT WE HAD TO BE MUGGED BUT THAT ~~ONE~~ ~~WAS~~ ~~NOT~~ ~~REPORTED~~, WE GOT LOST IN YEAVILLE LONDON, FOR THE REST OF THE TRIP. FINALLY WITH HELP WE FOUND THEM. HAD A BACKGROUND "LEADER" WITH MARBLE THEN PROCEEDED TO THE YEAVILLE TOUR. LEFT YEAVILLE WITH A DIFFERENT PERCEPTION OF YEAVILLE.

MEETING WITH A SENIOR RESIDENT'S GROUP, SPOKE VERY HELPFUL GOT INSIGHTS ON THE DESIGN PHASE WITH ITS CONSTRAINTS (POLITICS)

Day 2

OUR VISIT WE WERE REALLY NOT SURE WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR, THE ONLY THING WE KNEW WAS THAT WE HAD TO VISIT ALL THE SCHOOLS, AND RECREATIONAL PLACES THAT WERE IN YEAVILLE. TAKING!!! BUT GOT THE JOB DONE.

Day 3

WENT TO THE PARK AND LIBRARY AT ROCKY / MOUNT LOUSY DAY MET 2 MUMS FROM YEAVILLE, VERY POSITIVE COULD NOT GET MUCH INFO FROM THEM. SPOKE TO THE POLICE OFFICER WHO TOLD US ABOUT HARBOR AND THAT OLIVE AT THE PARK.

Day 4

SPoke to the PARK SPOKE to kids who were using the park. WENT VERY INSIGHTFUL.

First day to Yeoville

I was kinda nervous as to how I'm gonna get to Yeoville. When I got there it was not what I expected. The place was crowded. Kinda like a tent. And this guy married, he was interesting but I lost conversation after a while. I think Yeoville is not as bad as brother - know they better me. I can't even explain.

First group visit

Went to Yeoville again. I enjoyed it this time around. We interviewed some kids at the park. You should have seen Ramesa, she was soooo nervous. and the thought her car was got stolen - lol. Anyway, we went, we saw & conquered. I think our project will be interesting at the end.

2nd visit

Oh my God, the ridge was sooo beautiful. I've never seen anything so magnificent. Maybe someday I'll even live in the Yeoville. Just imagine walking up to that beauty. I hope on our next visit we go again.

Yeoville, over time and countless visits has evolved in my mind, and the perceptions that were originally clouding my judgement have been successfully ~~mitigated~~ mitigated.

The interaction with the children ~~and~~ made the project really enjoyable and a new dimension to Yeoville was unearthed.

Yeoville, dangerous, highly ~~likely~~ likely getting shot, abducted or mugged - .. I DON'T THINK SO.

- Overall, people living in Yeoville and outside love and enjoy the library and its facilities (Hotel Yeoville).



People who design for public purposes, must usually do so with uncertainty. Meaning that certain unforeseen changes will always occur. For example, we assumed that the designers has put the “balls” in the park. However it was some designer hired by the city to put the “balls” in, unknown to the designers.

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