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BACHELOR'S STUDIES

TANGIBLE | DIGNITY

Architecture as Political Activism

ARCHITECTURAL TYPE

Theoretical Humanitarian Architecture

SITE

Woodlane Village (Woodlane Village), Pretoria, South Africa

ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPTS

Palimpsest

The Third Place

Urban Living Room

Public Interest Design

The Role of the Architect

Complex Urban Integration

Memorialisation through material

SKILLS

Revit

Photoshop

InDesign

SketchUp

Sefaira

Procreate

Hand drawing

Model building

Technical resolution

Time management

DUTIES

Site choice

Writing of the Brief

Masterplan Development

Design Development

Design Technification

Design Presentation

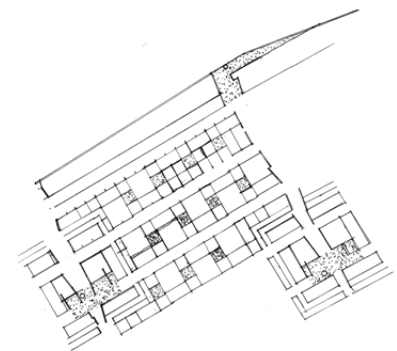
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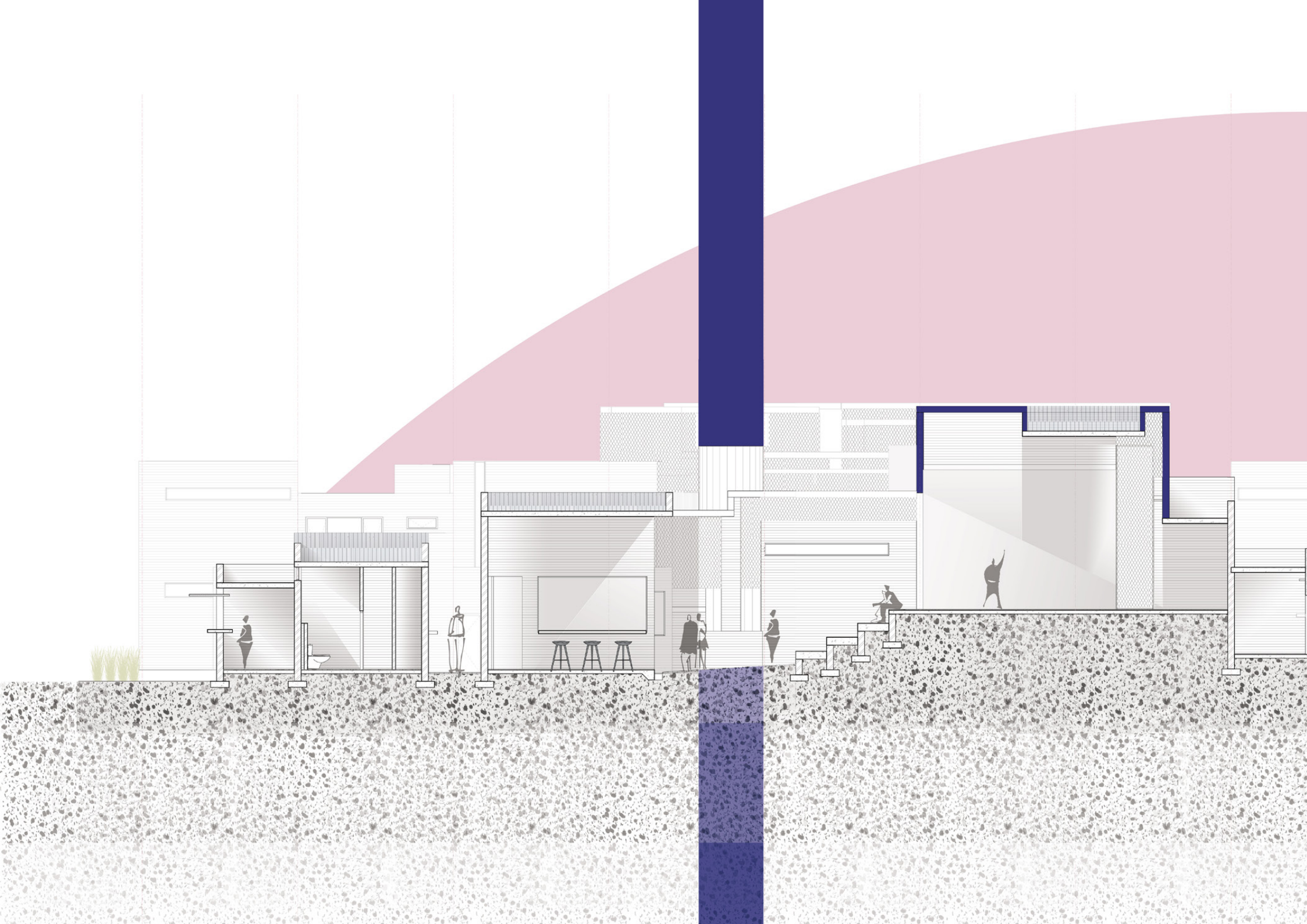


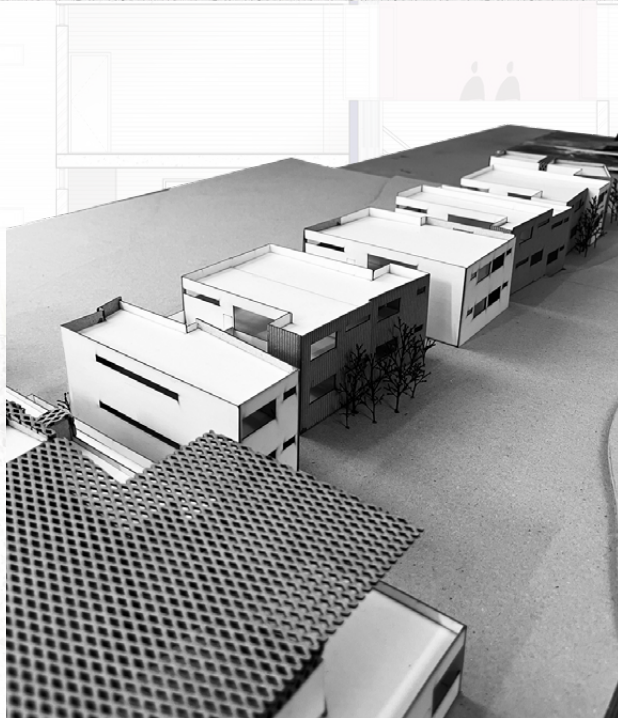
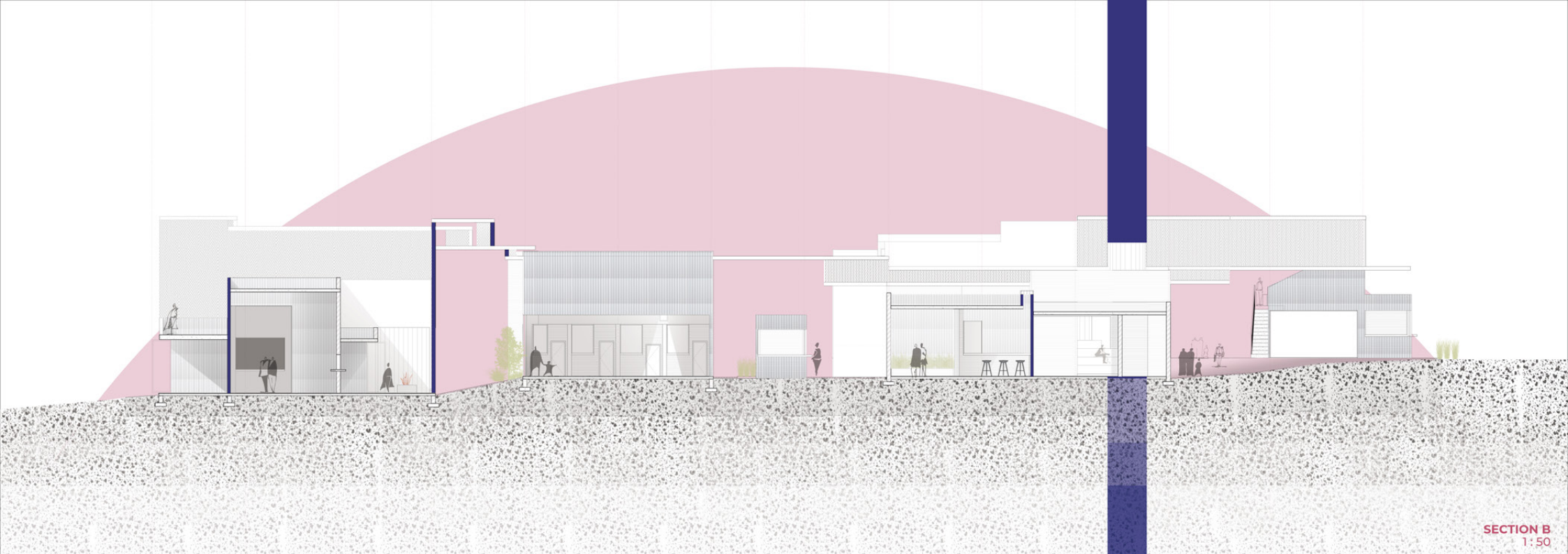
ABSTRACT

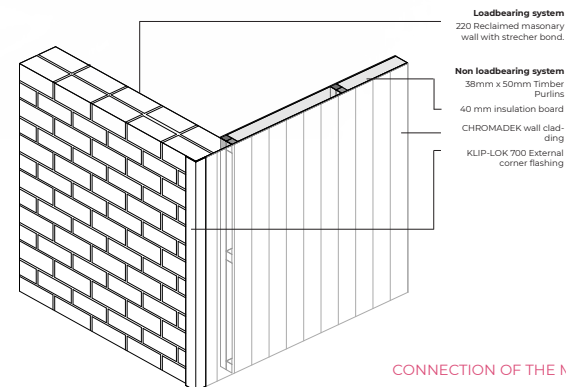
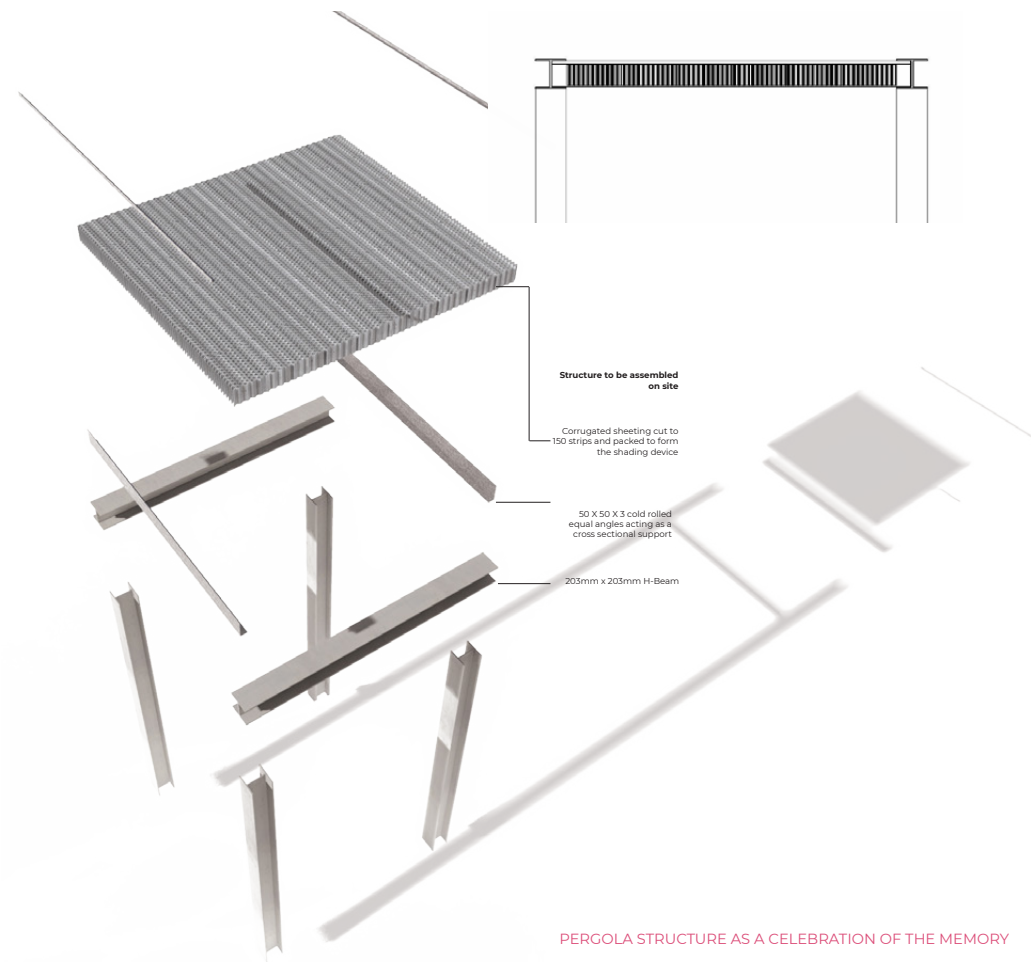
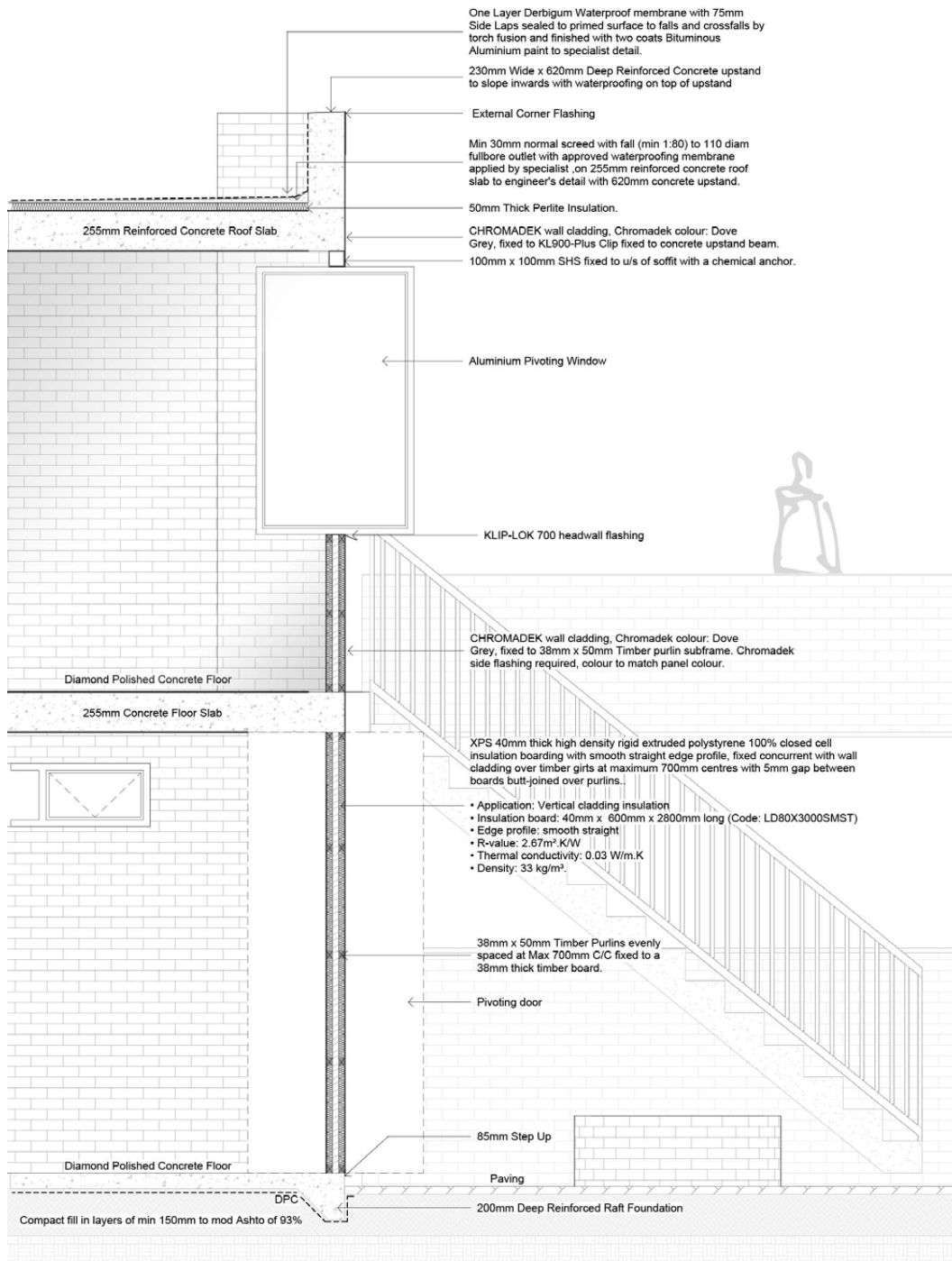
This project addresses a pressing urban issue in Woodlane Village, an informal settlement in Pretoria, South Africa, primarily inhabited by undocumented migrants. These migrants will be evicted and deported in the coming years as the site has been sold to be developed. The developers' proposal places the new headquarters of the African Union on the current site of Woodlane Village. The projects' overarching aim is to challenge the role that architects play in accepting the design brief and not critically reflecting on the impact that their profession has on society. The project aims to address the dignity of the people in Woodlane Village through dignified living spaces and memorialising their current living situation. The principles followed in this project incorporate the principles of Public Interest Design, specifically architecture as political activism. Key design informants include the current placemaking in Woodlane Village, the water tanks that play a vital role in the community and memorialisation through palimpsest. The project explores a new master plan that merges the needs of the African Union with the needs of the undocumented migrants of Woodlane Village. The master plan lays out eight nodes with different focuses. The architectural project will focus on one of these eight nodes in the new proposed development as an example and explores the node facilitating the political, art and cultural needs of the community.











DESIGN DETAILS
NOT TO SCALE

FACILITATING SOCIAL CHANGE IN GQEBERHA

Research Report

SITE

Silindokuhle Preschool in Joe Slovo Township, Gqeberha, South Africa

Lim'uphile Co-op in Walmer park, Gqeberha, South Africa

SKILLS

ATLAS.ti

Miro

Field Research

Data Analysis

Interviews

Formulation of a Research question

ARCHITECTS OF THE PROJECT

Collectif Saga

RESEARCH QUESTION

How did the role of Collectif Saga, a French Architecture firm, facilitate social change in the Silindokuhle Preschool and Silindokuhle community hall in Joe Slovo, Gqeberha and the Lim'uhphile Co-op in Walmer Park, Gqeberha?

Click or scan the QR code for more information on this project.



ABSTRACT

A key debate in architecture revolves around two opposing ideas: On the one hand, architecture is seen as a project of a-political formalism made for the sake of aesthetics. On the other side architecture is expected to engage with the social, political and economic impacts architecture can have. The aim of this dissertation is to advocate for the importance of Public Interest Design (PID), which follows the second idea, by illustrating a change in the architectural role that Collectif Saga underwent during their process-driven approach and how that resulted in socio-economic change for the communities their projects are situated in. It is argued that there is an indirect link between the role of the architect and the socio-economic impact of the project. The resulting research question this dissertation aims to answer asks: How did Collectif Saga, a French Architecture firm's role, facilitate social change in the Silindokuhle Preschool and Silindokuhle community hall in Joe Slovo, Gqeberha and the Lim'uhphile Co-op in Walmer Park, Gqeberha? This research follows a qualitative research method that is situated within the constructivist research paradigm and uses a qualitative research methodology. The data collection was done by doing desktop research of secondary data, site visits and semi structured interviews. The findings and discussion are structured around four key roles that the architect takes on during the process of participation with the community. They take on the role of interpreter, mediator, enabler and facilitator. The findings show that, while this change in the role of the architect is quite complex, it improves the community's capability for socio-economic change. Additionally, a big factor in the longevity of the project seems to be ownership from the community. It can be concluded that, if architects choose to engage with PID in the manner of questioning their own role, architecture can be a powerful instrument of social change.



NEUTRAL SPACE

Creating a space for dialogue

ARCHITECTURAL TYPE

Social Architecture

SITE

Former *Islamiska Kulturcenter*, Biskopsgården, Gothenburg, Sweden.

ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPTS

Co-Design

The Third Place

Urban Living Room

Public Interest Design

Complex Urban Integration

SKILLS

Stakeholder analysis

Designing Co-Design Workshops

Facilitation of Co-Design Workshops

Teamwork

Photoshop

Procreate

Hand drawing

Model building

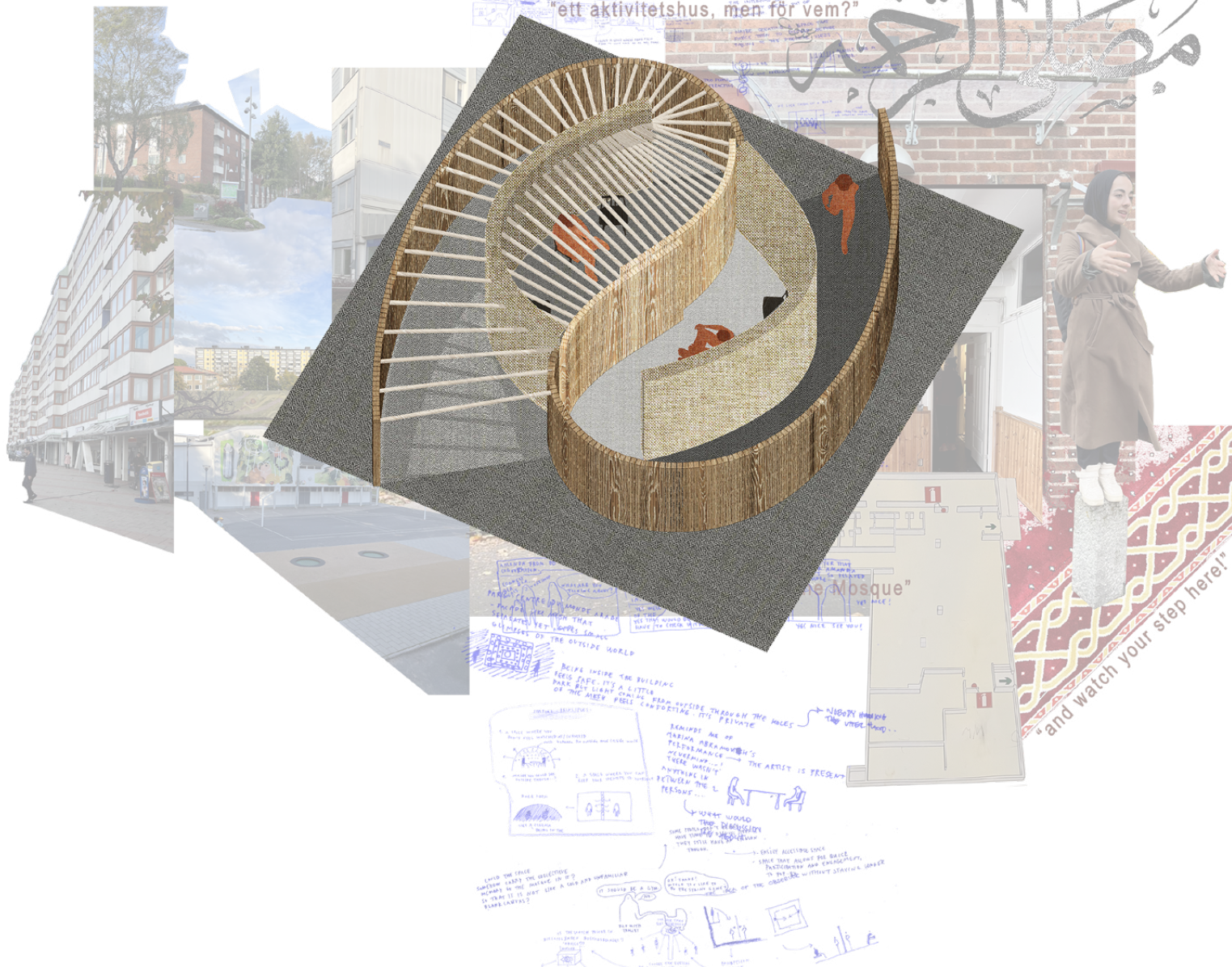
Miro

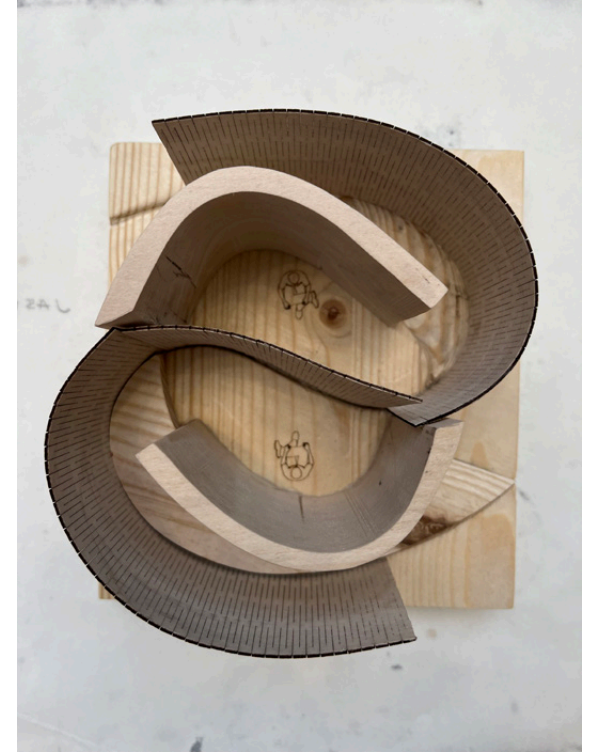
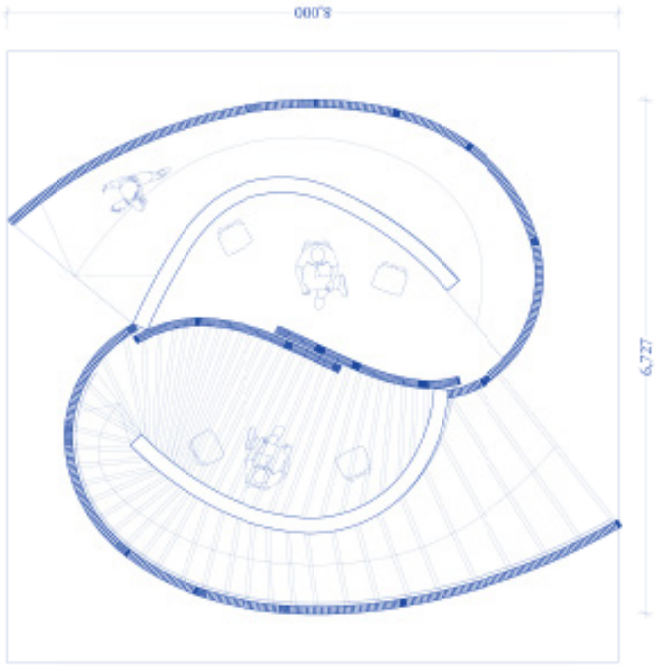
Video editing

GROUP WORK

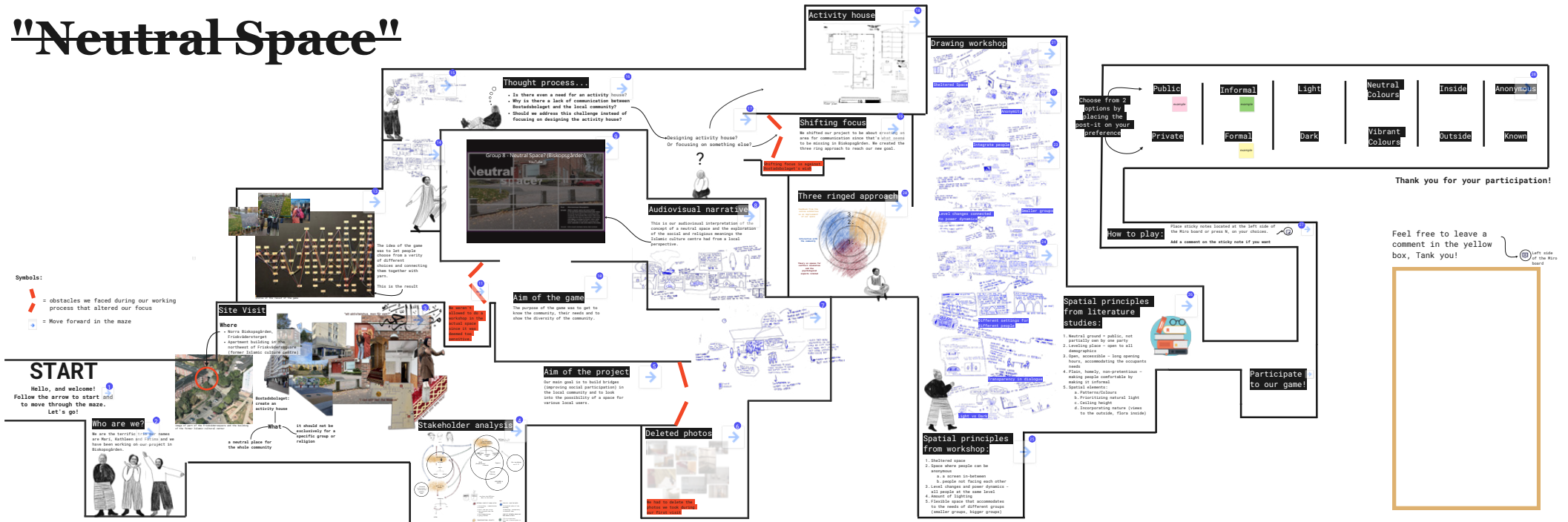
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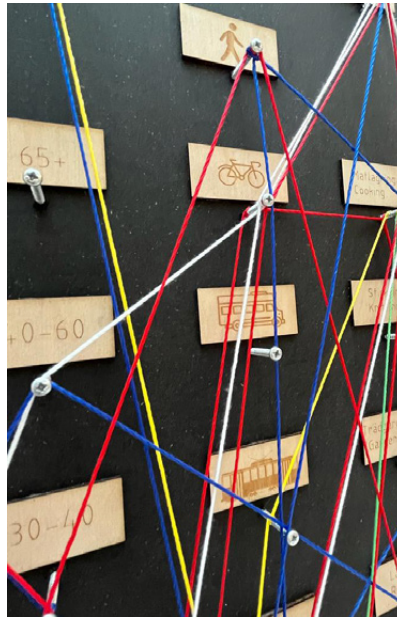
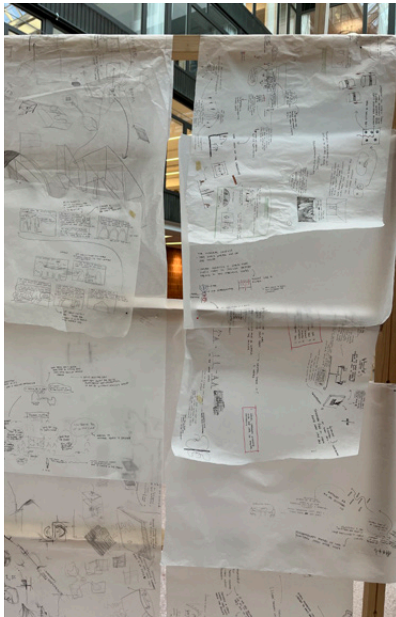




~~"Neutral Space"~~



PHYSICAL EXIBITION



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Game Design used within the community as a way of needs finding.



WATERPOINT AS CATALYST FOR KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Designing the intangible to make the tangible possible.

ARCHITECTURAL TYPE

Humanitarian Architecture

SITE

Woodlane Village, Pretoria, South Africa

ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPTS

Public Interest Design
The Role of the Architect
Complex Urban Integration
Co-Design
Material Exploration

SKILLS

Photoshop
Procreate
Miro
Hand drawing
Model building
Technical resolution
Time management.

DUTIES

Needs Finding
Designing of Co- Design workshops
Facilitation of Co-Design Workshops
Design Development
Design technification
Prototype Exploration

HUMANITARIAN ARCHITECTURE

04

STORY BOARD



01. Woodlane Village, situated in Pretoria, South Africa, is an informal settlement where 75% of the residents are undocumented migrants seeking a better economic future in South Africa.



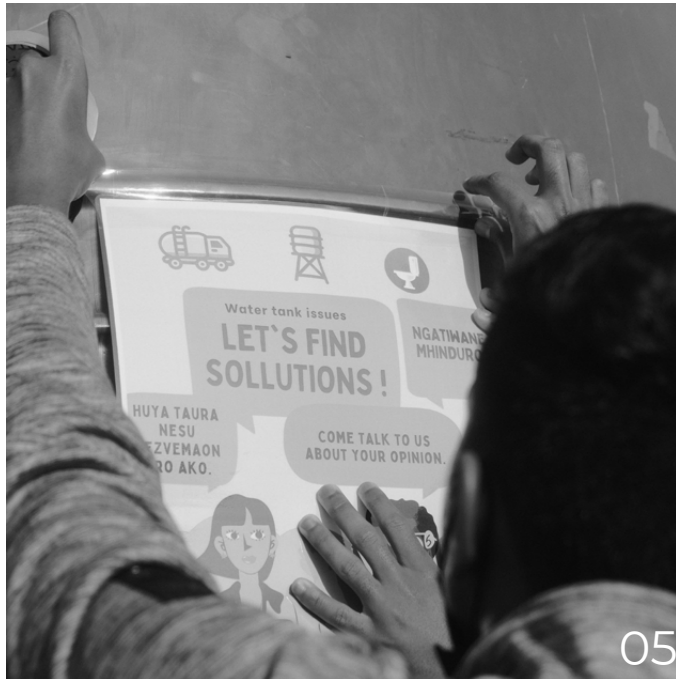
02. The community lacks basic amenities such as electricity, running water and sewage. It relies on chemical toilets for ablutions, and receives water through water storage tanks.



03. As part of our studio, we conducted observations and needs analysis in collaboration with the community. Throughout this process, we identified the water tanks as crucial gathering nodes.



04. Applying Max Neefs matrix of needs, our group focused on addressing the need for services within the community, leveraging the significance of water tanks as central meet-



05



06

05. Using this knowledge, we held many of our Co-Design workshops around the water tanks and also used them as a way to invite the community to these workshops.

06. Our group in front of one of the water tanks.



07



08

07. & 08. In one of our co-design workshops with community leaders, we discussed spatial improvements around the water tanks.



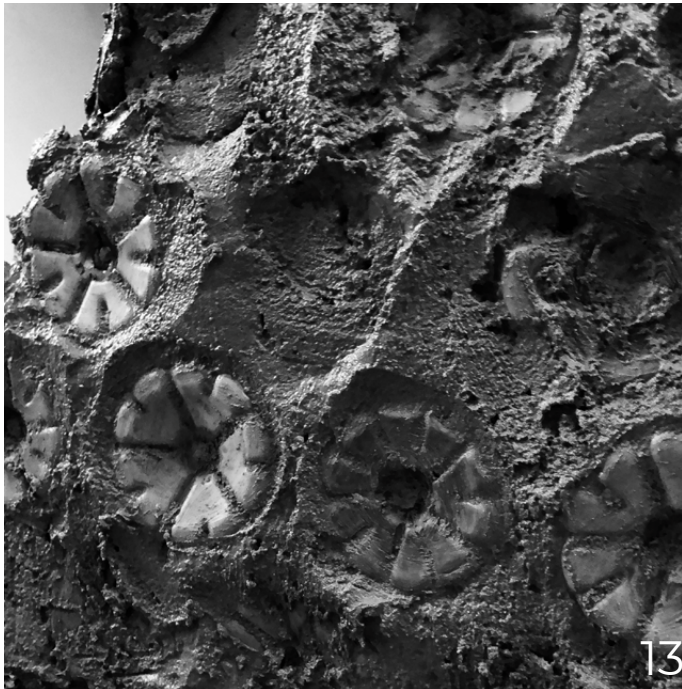
09. Establishing a strong relationship with the community was paramount during this five-month process.

10. After collective needs finding and workshops, each group member decided on an individual architectural intervention. My focus was on mitigating water wastage around the tanks, prompted by the community's expressed need for more water for agriculture.



11. I proposed a water catchment system beneath each tank, utilizing bottle bricks as a low-cost building solution due to economic and political constraints.

12. & 13. Building a prototype with bottle bricks



14. I conducted workshops in the community to discuss the implementation, aiming to create a space for knowledge sharing.

15. The final design, implemented with bottle bricks, demonstrated sustainability by capturing water for irrigation.



16. The intervention being used

The project's essence lies in the knowledge transfer between the community and our studio—achieving a lot with very little. I hope this endeavour not only provided a practical solution, but also imparted a new, cost-effective approach to building within the community.

THE RECTORY

under Moment Architects

ARCHITECTURAL TYPE

Heritage Residential

SITE

Cape Town, South Africa

SKILLS

Revit

ROLE

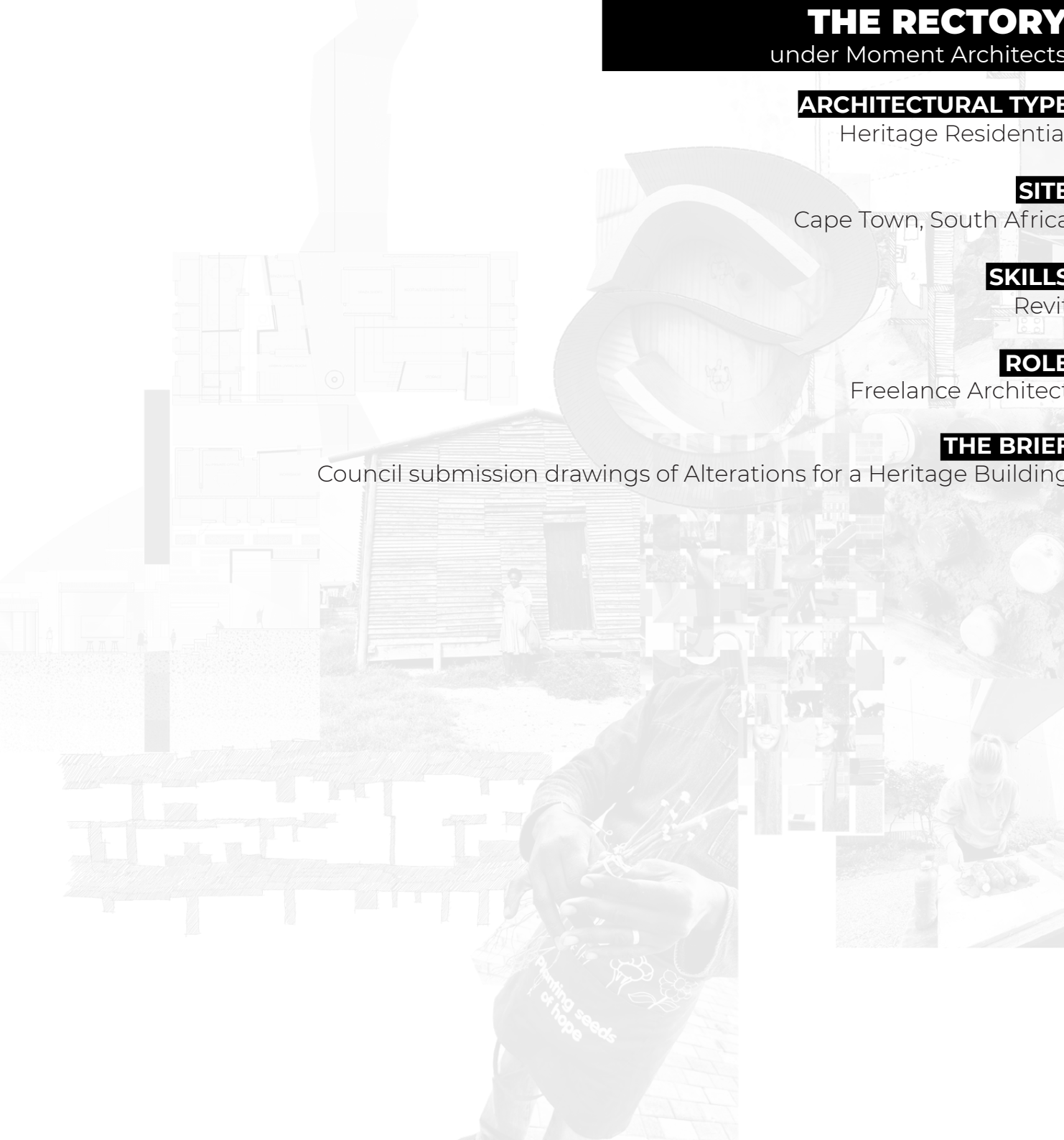
Freelance Architect

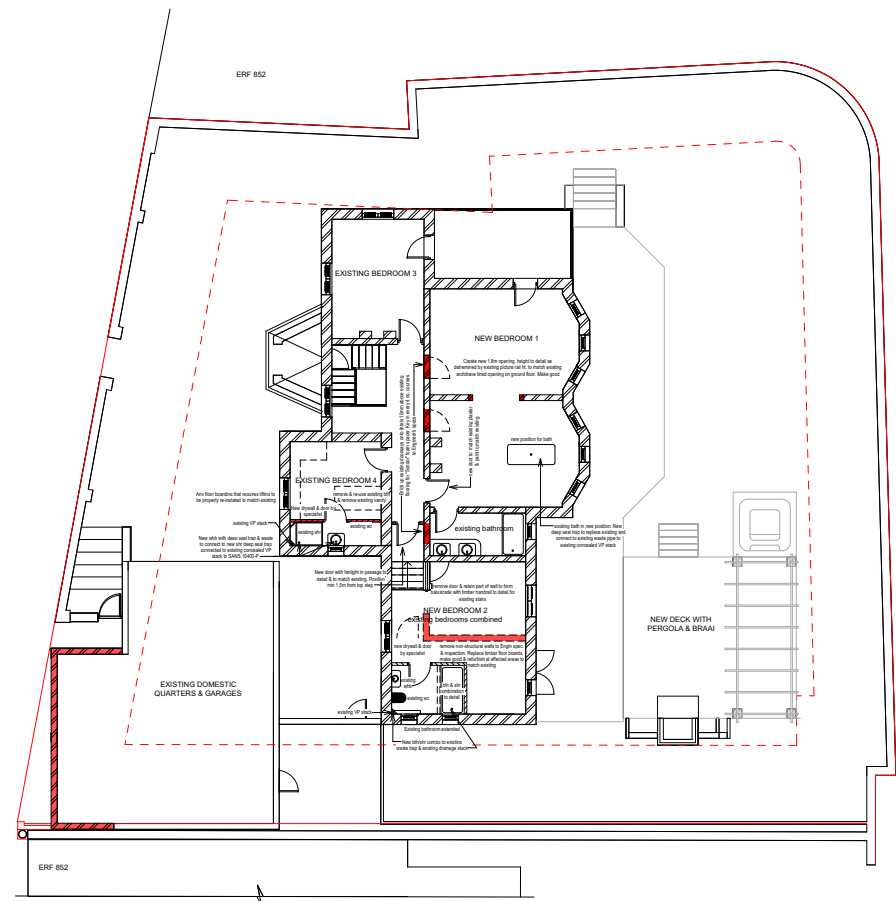
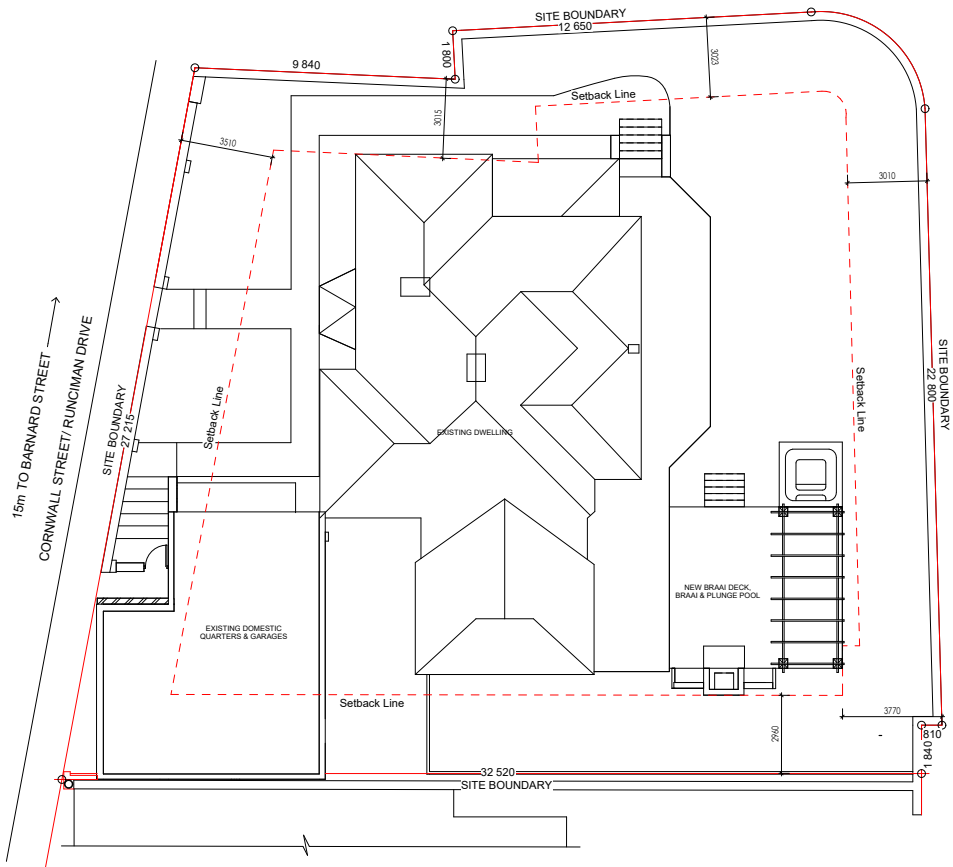
THE BRIEF

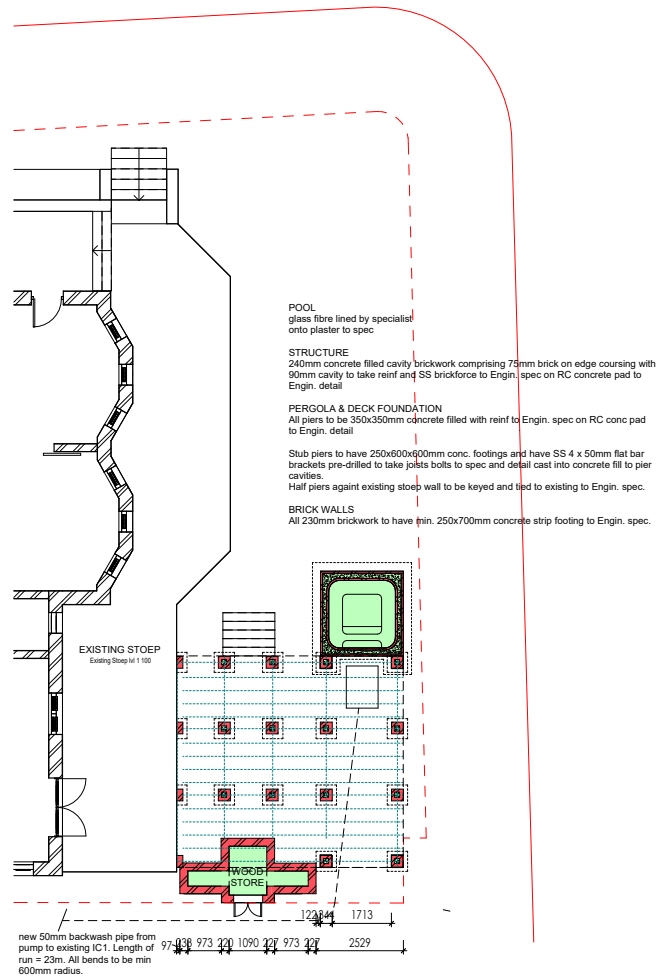
Council submission drawings of Alterations for a Heritage Building

WORK EXPERIENCE

05







PERGOLA CONSTRUCTION

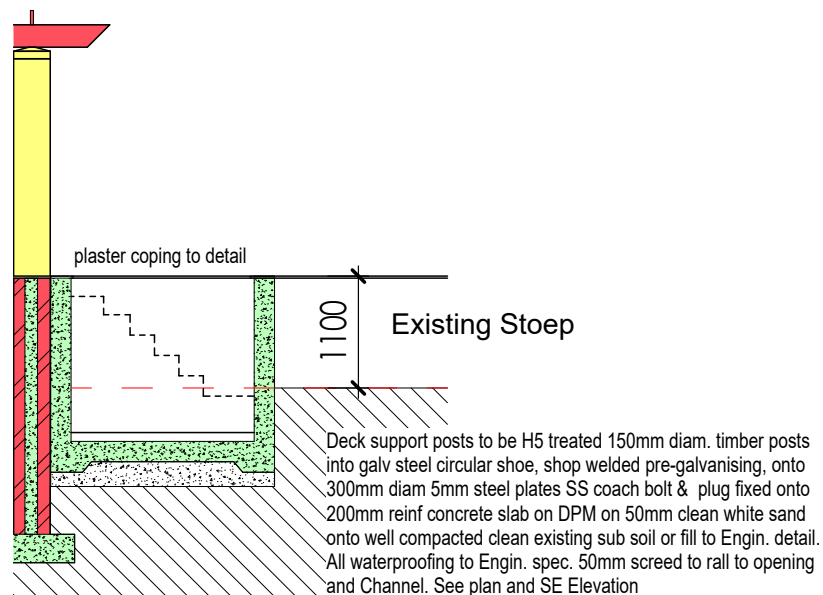
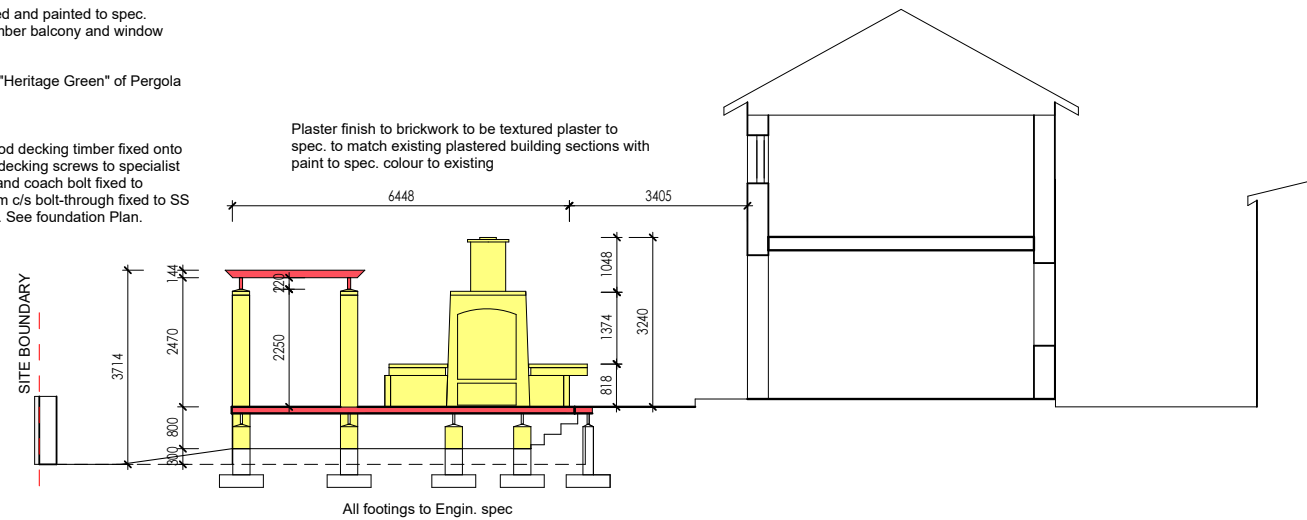
144x44mm timber cross members with profiled ends to detail, bolt-through fixed SS "U" brackets at 829mm c/s & SS coach bolt fixed to 220x70mm main bearer beams, bolt-through fixed SS "U" brackets wit SS pre-welded 5x40mm flat bar lugs min 500mm length, with bent 90deg foot for casting into re-inf. concrete filled brick pergola piers.

Pergola timber members to be properly prepared and painted to spec. Colour to match "Heritage Green" of existing timber balcony and window shutters.

All SS brackets to be Powder Coated to match "Heritage Green" of Pergola timber. All bolts, nuts and washers to be SS.

DECK CONSTRUCTION

22x70mm specialist selected approved hardwood decking timber fixed onto 144x44mm timber joists at 380mm c/s with SS decking screws to specialist spec. bolt-through fixed with SS angle bracket and coach bolt fixed to 220x44mm timber bearer beams at 1.4m & 2.1m c/s bolt-through fixed to SS dbi strap brackets cast into concrete filled piers. See foundation Plan.



SANDOWNS

under Moment Architects

ARCHITECTURAL TYPE

Residential

SITE

Cape Town, South Africa

SKILLS

Revit

ROLE

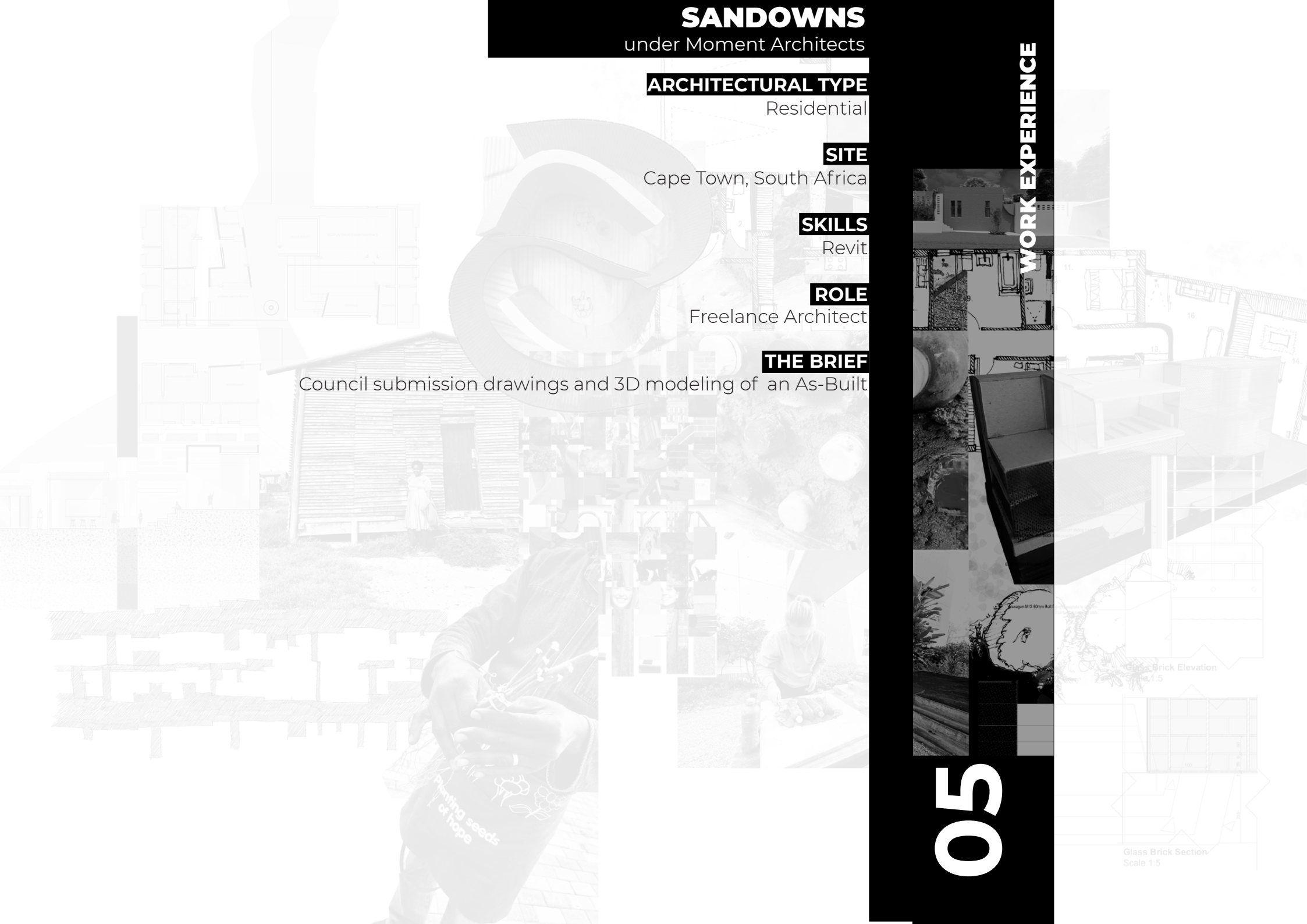
Freelance Architect

THE BRIEF

Council submission drawings and 3D modeling of an As-Built

WORK EXPERIENCE

05





Architectural elevation drawing showing a building facade and a new pergola structure. The drawing includes dimensions and labels:

- Overall width: 4500
- Overall height: 7200
- Boundary line (red dashed line)
- Limit setback (blue dashed line)
- NEW PERGOLA STRUCTURE
- NEW WALL (Gate and Window)
- Dimensions: 1000, 800, 60, 810, 50, 1000, 1400, 1000, 140, 1000

Architectural section drawing of a building. The drawing shows a cross-section of the structure, including a gabled roof, a central tower, and a lower section. Key features and labels include:

- EXISTING DWELLING**: The main structure on the left.
- NEW TIMBER TRELLIS**: A structure extending from the existing dwelling.
- EXISTING BOUNDARY WALL**: The wall below the trellis.
- NEW WALL and trellis**: A new structure on the right.
- NEW GARDEN**: The area below the new wall.

Dimensions and boundaries are indicated:

- 3000**: Overall width dimension.
- 3m block line**: Vertical dimension from the ground line to the top of the existing dwelling.
- 1800**: Height dimension from the ground line to the top of the existing dwelling.
- Boundary line**: Indicated by dashed lines on both sides.

NORTH WEST ELEVATION
1 : 100

HOUSE DROTSCHÉ

by Skin Architects

ARCHITECTURAL TYPE

Residential

SITE

Pretoria, South Africa

SKILLS

Archicad
Lumion
Photoshop
Hand drawing
Design exploration
Technical resolution
Construction drawing

ROLE

Junior Architectural Technologist

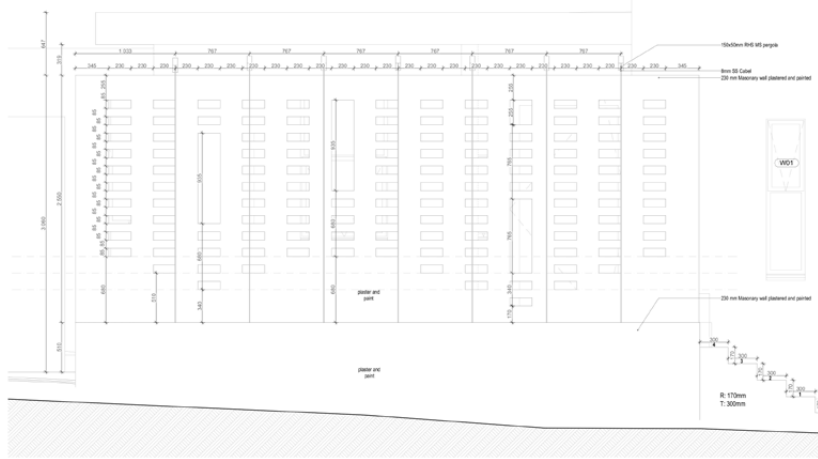
THE BRIEF

Redesign and upgrading of the current house with a focus on the overall flow of spaces, the patio area as a threshold between inside and outside and the main entrance.

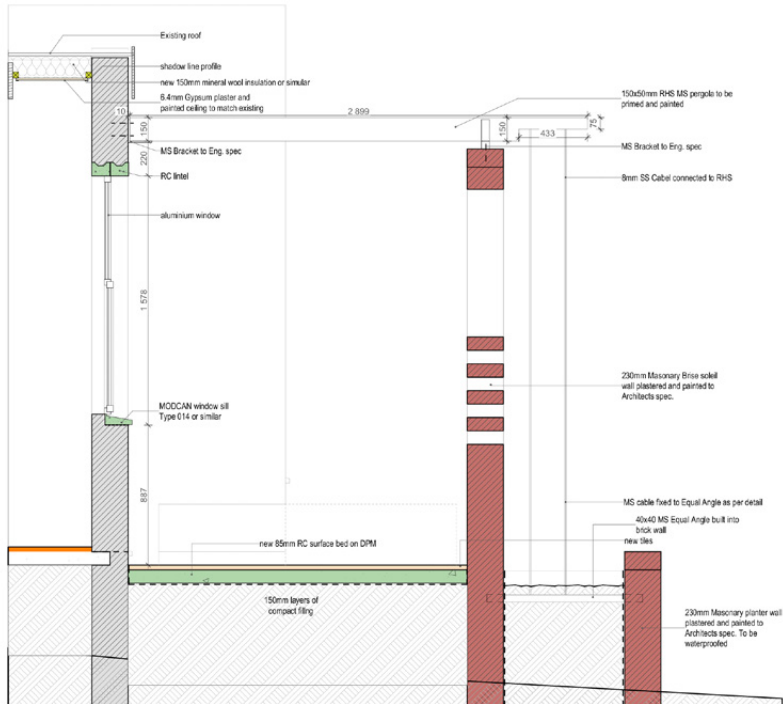
WORK EXPERIENCE

05





D5 Detail
Scale 1:20



D6 Detail





BROOKLYN HOUSE

Celebrating everyday life by putting it on display

ARCHITECTURAL TYPE

Theoretical Residential Architecture

SITE

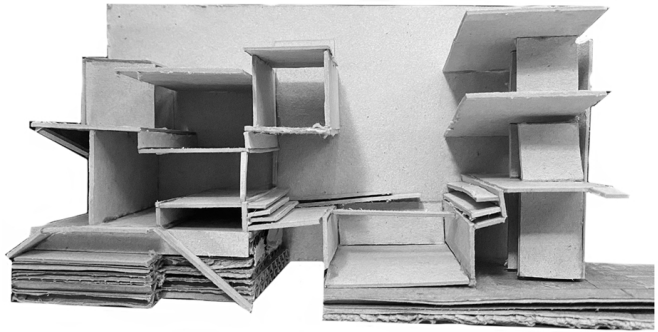
Brooklyn, Pretoria, South Africa

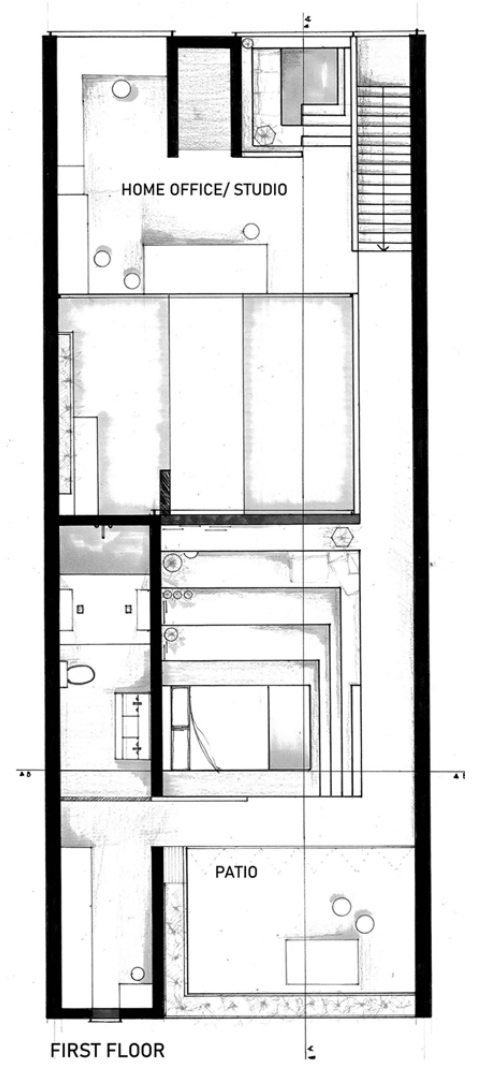
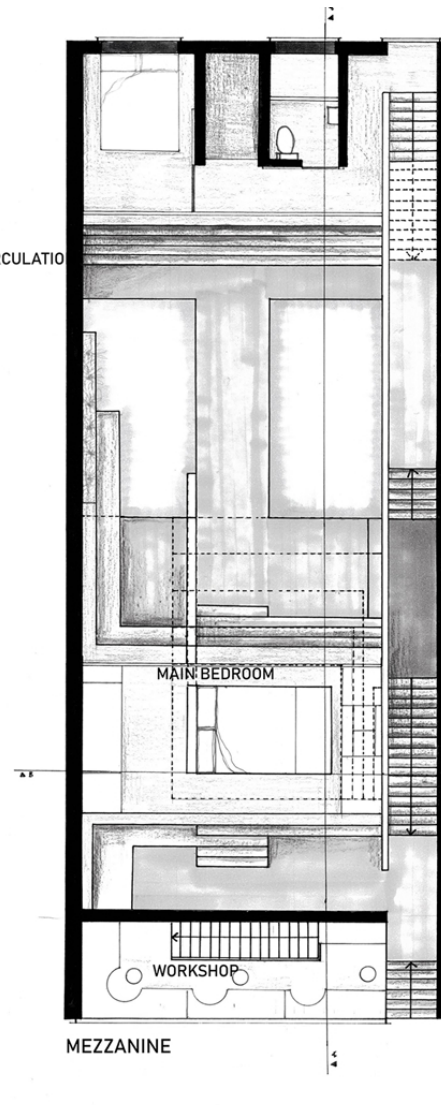
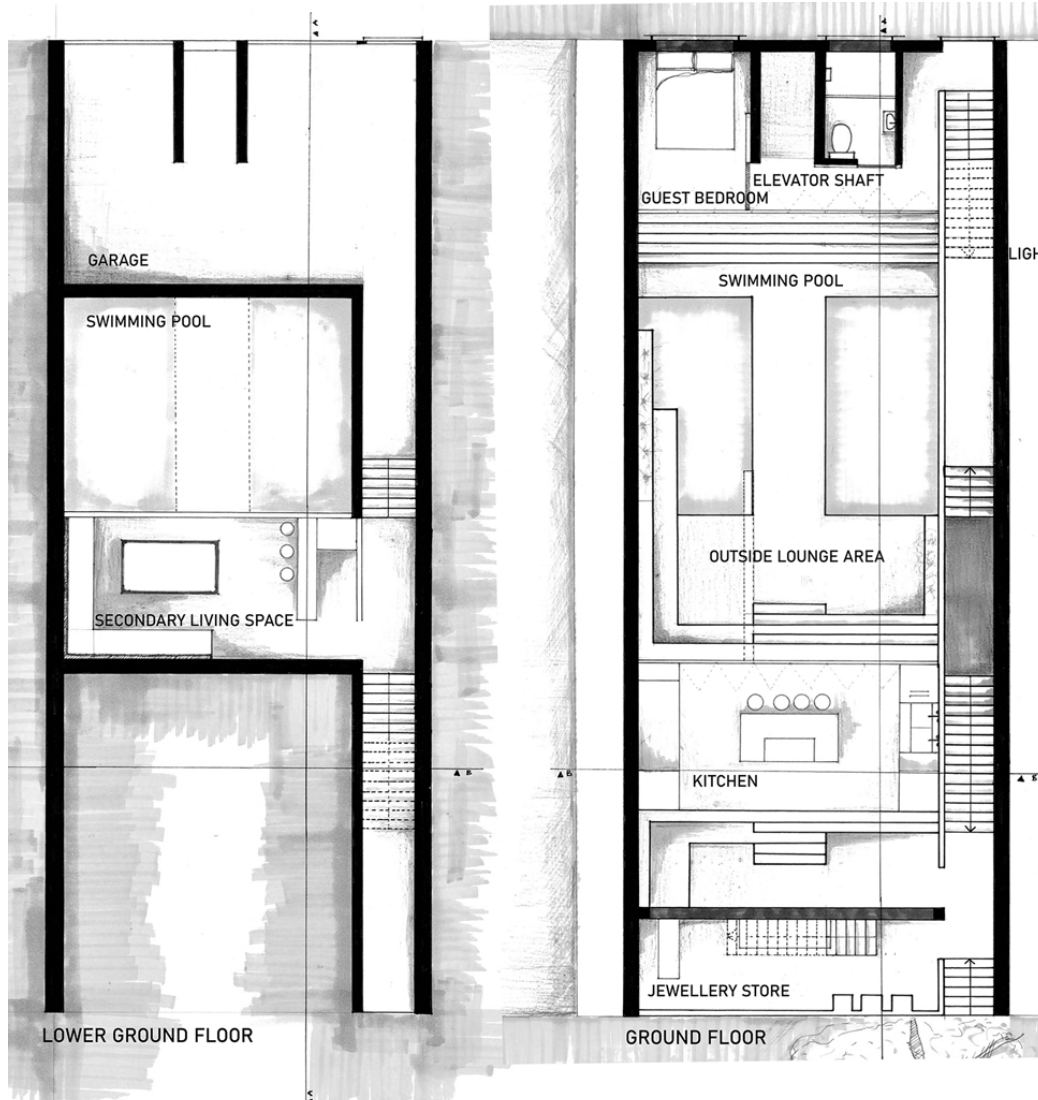
ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPTS

Brutalism
Rituals of Space

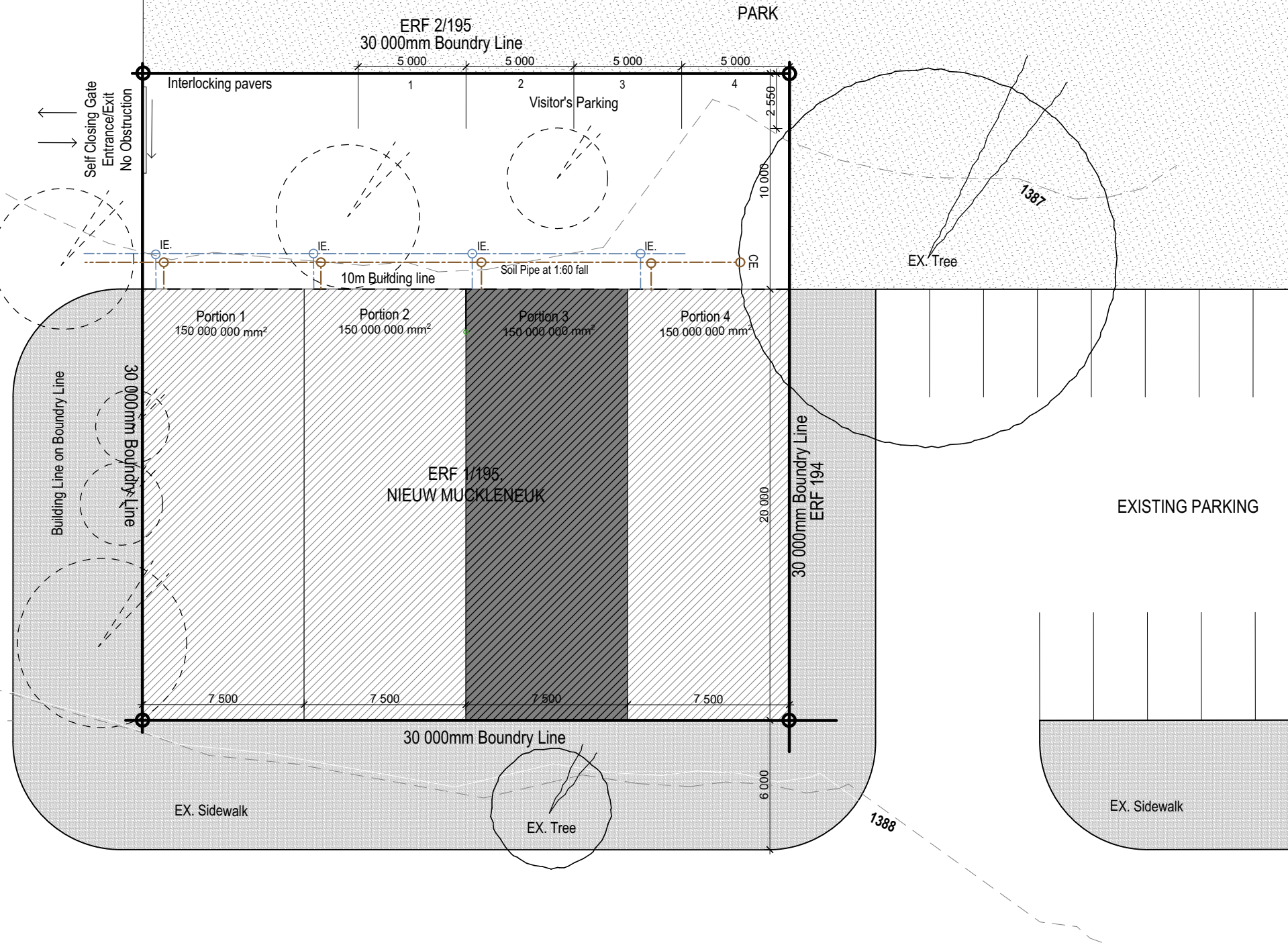
SKILLS

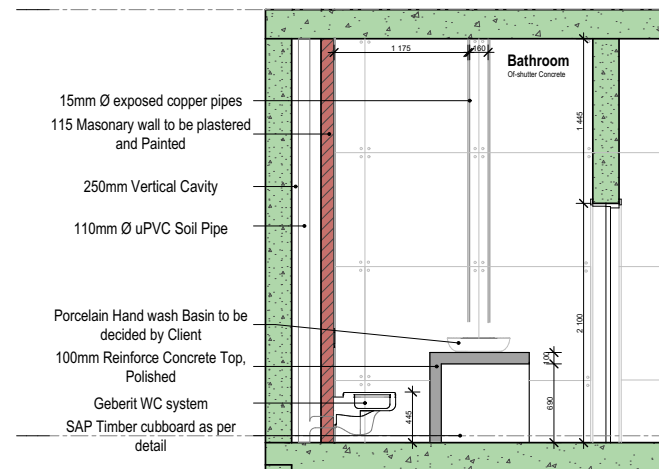
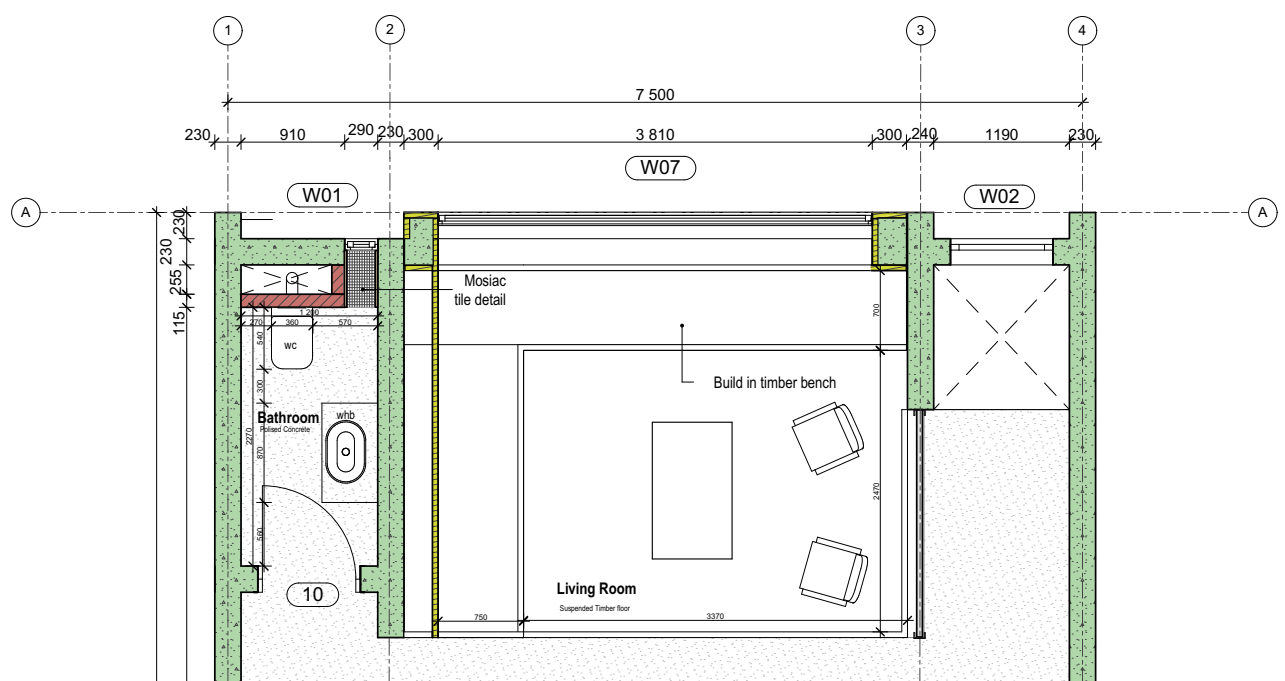
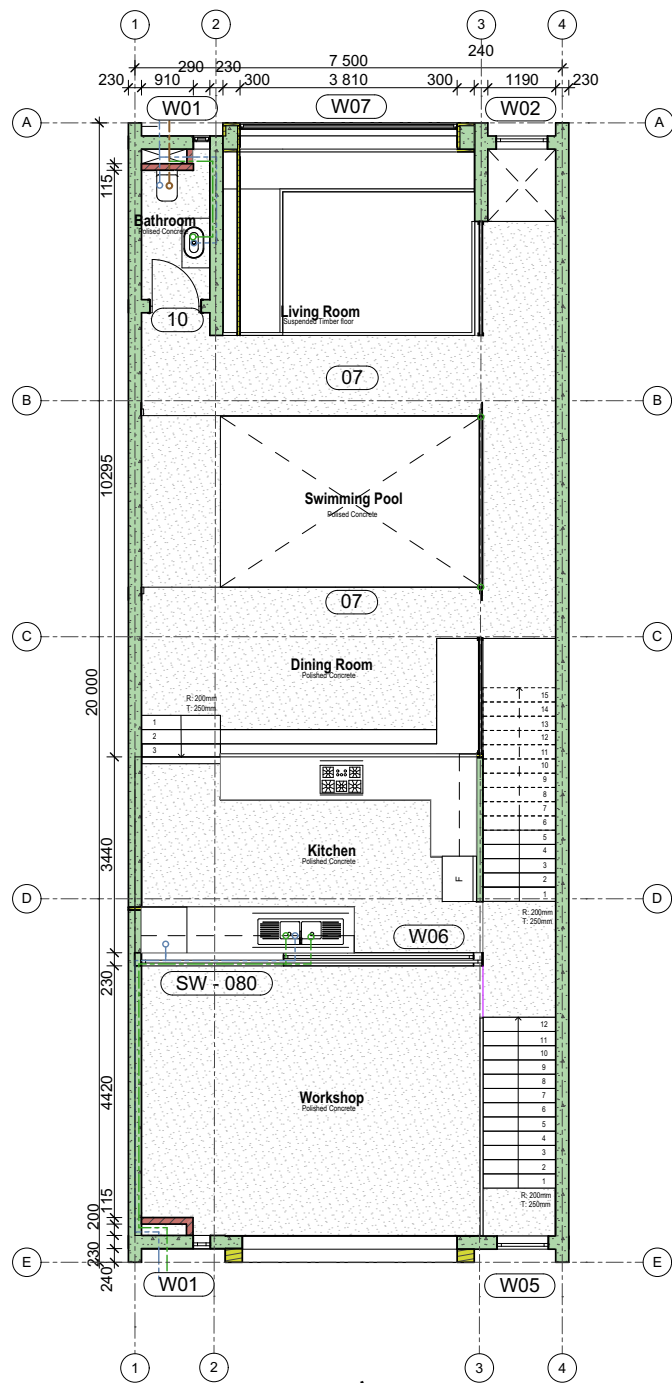
Revit
Archicad
Photoshop
Hand drawing
Model building
Technical resolution
Construction drawings

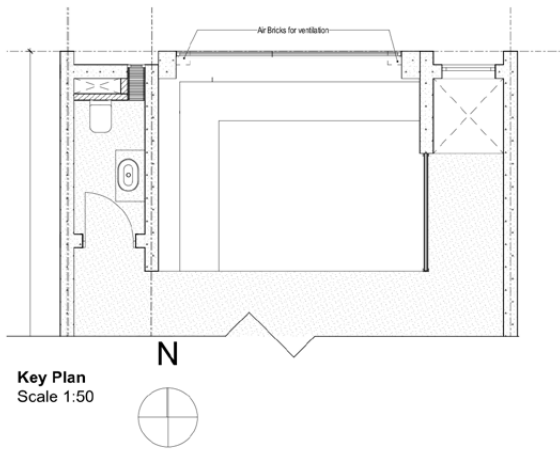




Tram Street







**DETAIL 1: Suspended Floor and
Built-in Day Bed**

