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Atrophic terrains: reviving Benoni's waterfront

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ATROPHIC TERRAINS:
REVIVING BENONI'S WATERFRONT

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At the edge of an urban landscape there lies a dead space,forgotten and unloved.
A place where nature slowly encapsulates and repossesses man-made structures.
An urban decay where a previously active part of the city has now fallen into disrepair.
This dying space consists of the **urbanscape** of the Benoni CBD, the **parkscape** of Dani Taljaard Park and the **waterscape** consisting of the Kleinfontein Dam. **Atrophic terrains** that are in dire need of **reviving.**

This research report looks at how architecture and urban design can be used in order to reactivate and rehabilitate these existing decaying landscapes. It will reflect on Benoni's rich **history,** learning from past atrophies, as well as explore Benoni's current **social, economic** and **ecological** conditions in order to find ways to create a healthier, active space for the future. Aiming to heal these atrophic landscapes, but also heal the human **body and mind**. An intervention that not only benefits the human, but also benifits nature, where both can thrive on an equal footing.

Introducing a **(Re)Creation Centre,** with a mixed use of functions including a sports, aquatic and rehabilitation centre at its main core, could reactivate the space by bringing a diverse collection of people together while promoting physical activity and healing of the body. Integrating functions and built forms that are site sensitive, helping to rehabilitate the natural environment, mainly focussing on water remediation processes such as stormwater collection and natural water purification methods.

A new development that not only helps to revive the current dead space, but also aims to be socially, economically and ecologically sustainable in the long term. With a society in an economic decline, little money spent on maintaining buildings and their surrounding landscape, therfore material and technological solutions need to be chosen wisely in order to reduce the speed at which built forms deteriorate or alternatively find ways in which to work with this degeneration and find beauty in decay.