

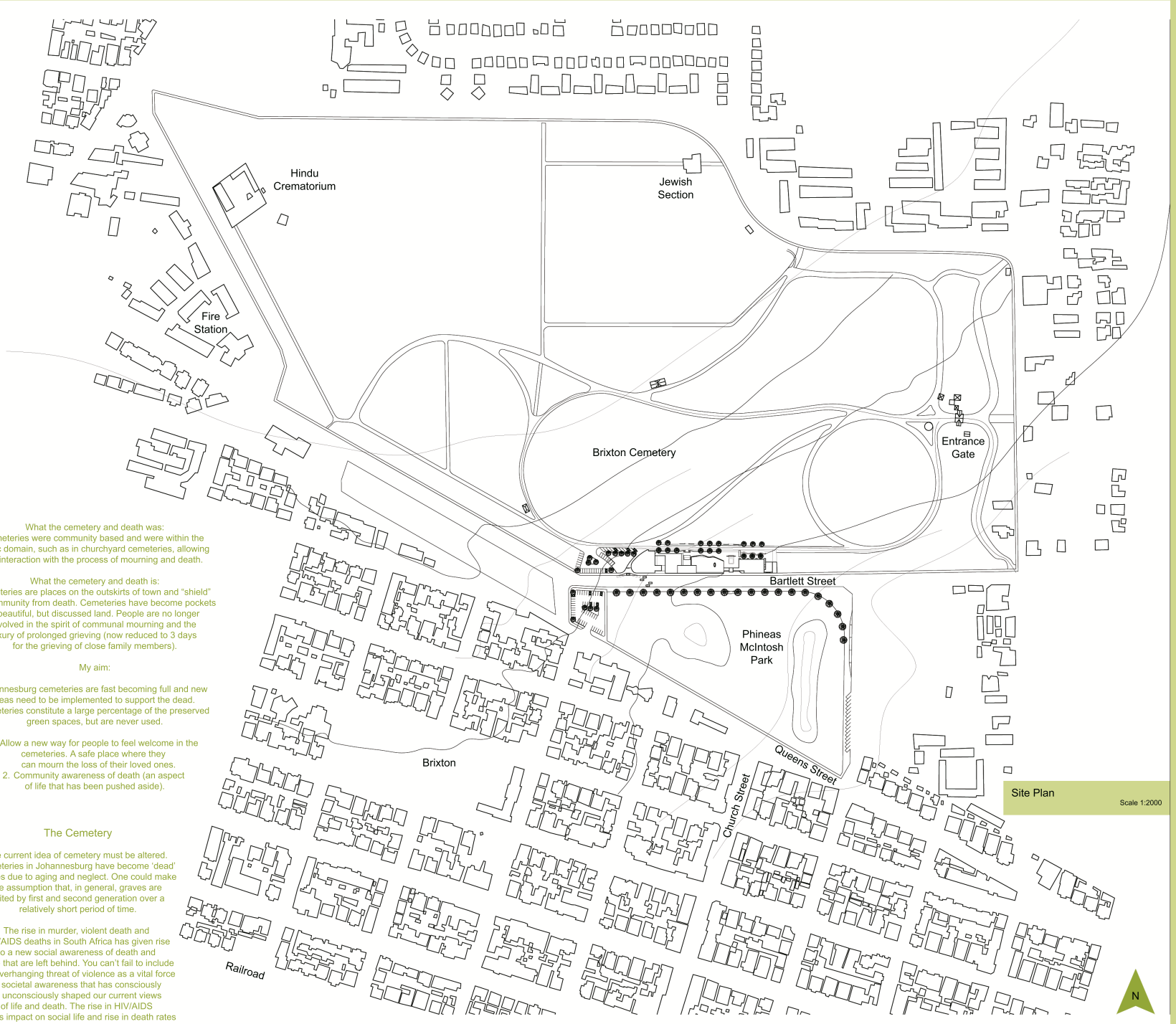
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The outer edge: an urban promatorium

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2009-09-16T11:35:19Z
http://hdl.handle.net/10539/7277

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Site Plan

Scale 1:2000

What the cemetery and death was:
Cemeteries were community based and were within the public domain, such as in churchyard cemeteries, allowing an interaction with the process of mourning and death.

What the cemetery and death is:
Cemeteries are places on the outskirts of town and "shield" the community from death. Cemeteries have become pockets of beautiful, but discussed land. People are no longer involved in the spirit of communal mourning and the luxury of prolonged grieving (now reduced to 3 days for the grieving of close family members).

My aim:

Johannesburg cemeteries are fast becoming full and new ideas need to be implemented to support the dead. Cemeteries constitute a large percentage of the preserved green spaces, but are never used.

1. Allow a new way for people to feel welcome in the cemeteries. A safe place where they can mourn the loss of their loved ones.
2. Community awareness of death (an aspect of life that has been pushed aside).

The Cemetery

The current idea of cemetery must be altered. Cemeteries in Johannesburg have become 'dead' spaces due to aging and neglect. One could make the assumption that, in general, graves are visited by first and second generation over a relatively short period of time.

The rise in murder, violent death and HIV/AIDS deaths in South Africa has given rise to a new social awareness of death and those that are left behind. You can't fail to include this overhanging threat of violence as a vital force in societal awareness that has consciously or unconsciously shaped our current views of life and death. The rise in HIV/AIDS and its impact on social life and rise in death rates at younger ages has impacted us as a society.

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