

https://dspace.org/

Blurring the line: Durban Mental Health Support and Training Centre

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Ground Level	The Resource centre	To house facilities whereby information relating to disabilities could be obtained by both the able and differently able. The computer room can be used as a training room as well to teach those that would like to improve their skills or become computer literate. A library to acquire reading material for leisure reading or for research by both able and disabled societies. Exhibition space and the Library can be used to display information with respect to awareness campaigns, events, etc. The Exhibition space can also be used to display art from both the able and disabled communities. This would give the disabled individuals a platform to display their skills and expose their talent to their community.	Library with courtyard: 315m2 Exhibition space: 115 m^2 to 400 m^2 Reading room – 45 m^2 Computer room – 45 m^2 Ablutions
	Visitors' Centre	A reception area for the welcoming of guests where information about the establishment and its programs can be obtained. A Café for easy access to refreshments by the user Gift shop to showcase/expose the talent of those that are mentally disabled and sell their work which would in turn give them a sense of self worth.	Café – 220 m^2 Gift Shop & Information Desk–150m^2 Ablutions
	Surface Parking	Accessibility	Staff Parking Public parking 15 parking bays of which 3 are parking bays for disabled individuals
	Drop off Zone	To drop off and to pick up passengers	Caters for 4 minibuses simultaneously

DESIGN PROCESS

DESIGN PROCESS

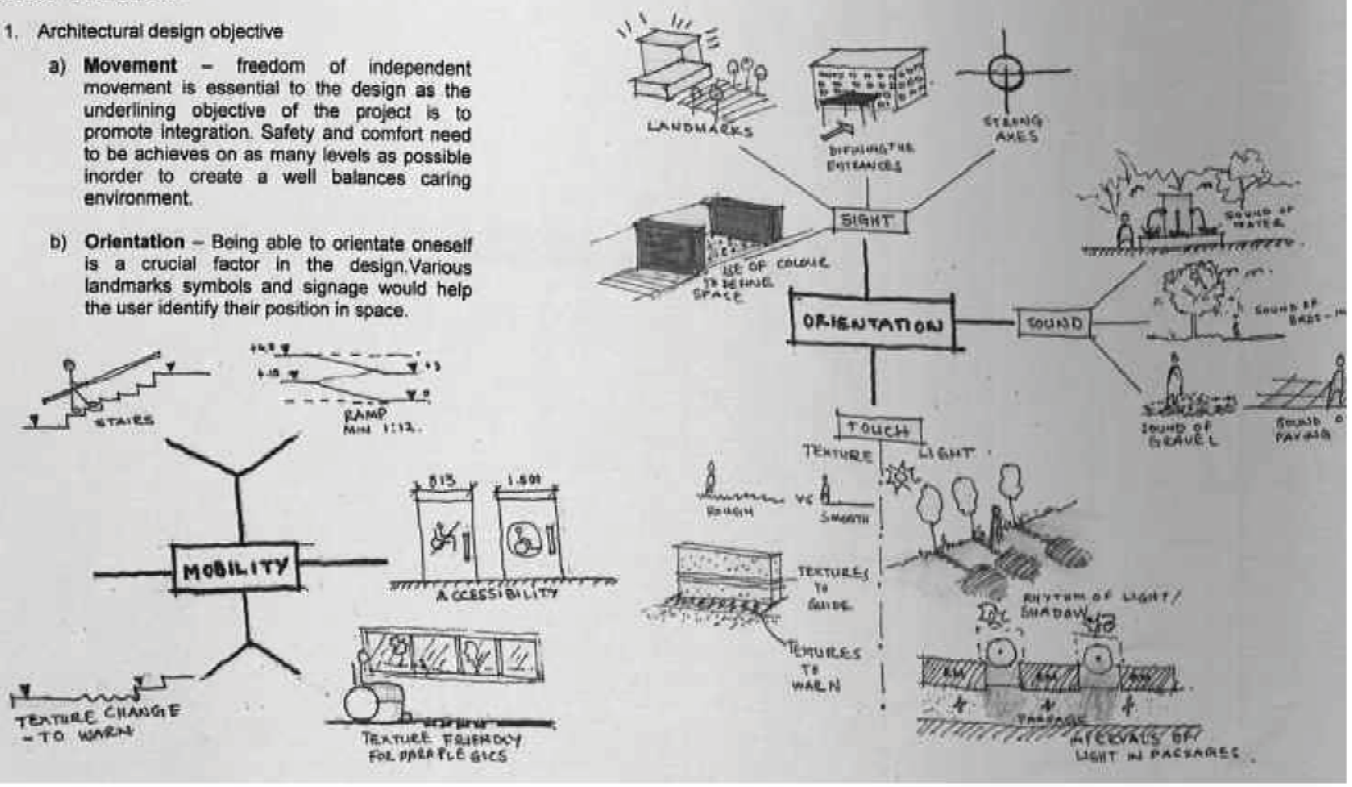
Design Objectives

The Design evolved along with the research into understanding the community of people with mental disabilities and other disabilities. At this point it is importa summarise what has been established in the earlier chapters. By doing build the overall concept.

1. Architectural design objective

   a) **Movement** – freedom of independent movement is essential to the design as the underlining objective of the project is to promote integration. Safety and comfort need to be achieves on as many levels as possible inorder to create a well balances caring environment.

   b) **Orientation** – Being able to orientate oneself is a crucial factor in the design. Various landmarks symbols and signage would help the user identify their position in space.

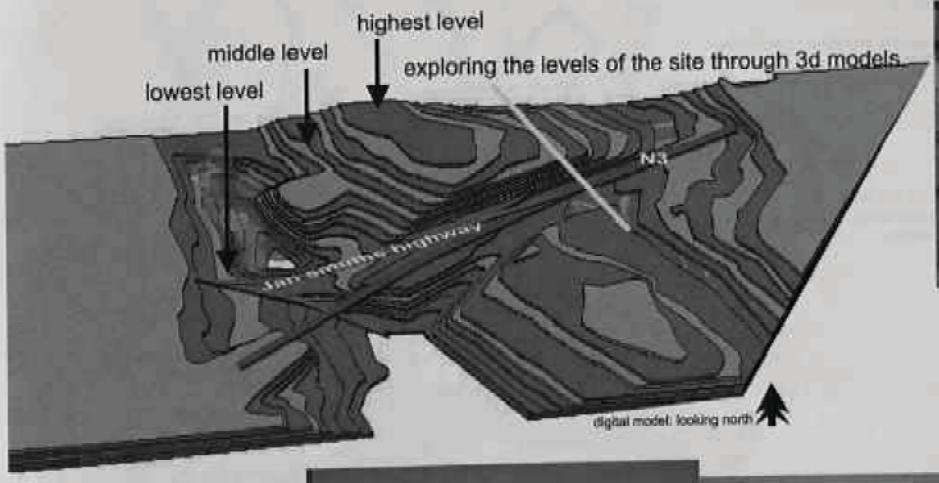


DESIGN PROCESS

Understanding the site

The first step taken was to understand the complexity of the site. This included:

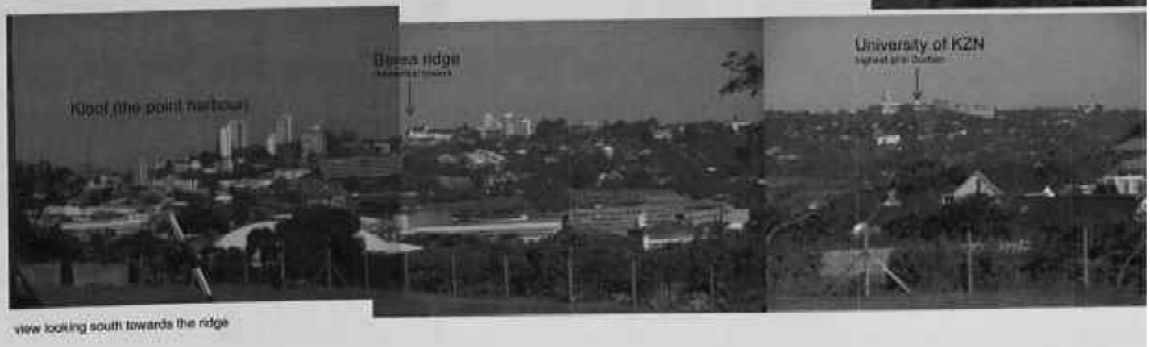
1. Understanding the slopes
2. Mapping unique features on the site
3. Recording important views from the site
4. Recording important views of the site from outside its boundaries.





Textures and objects on site





view looking south towards the ridge

DESIGN PROCESS

Zoning: Public and Semi Public zones

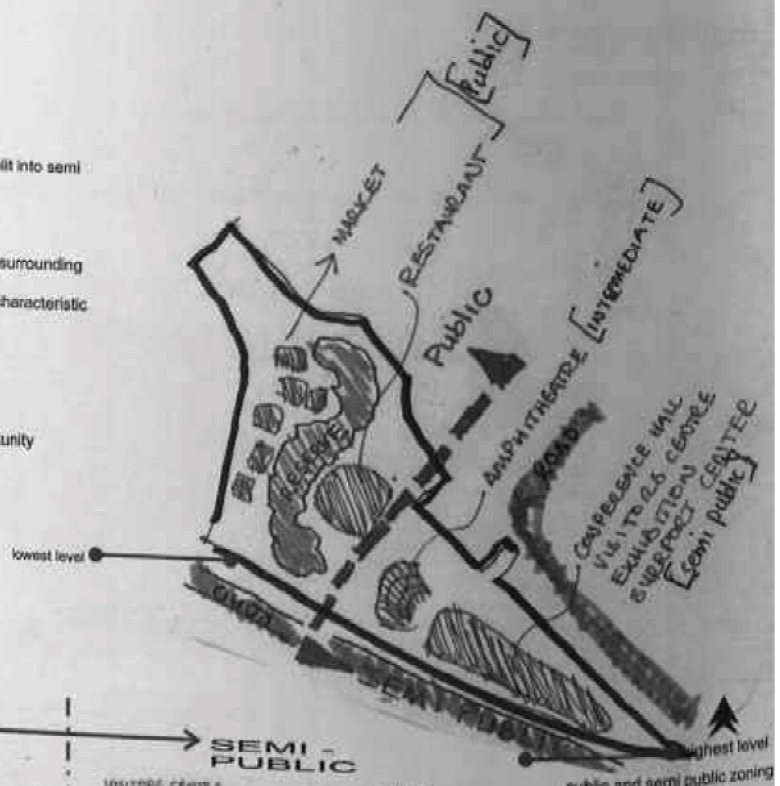
After looking at the site in respect to the above mentioned items, the site was split into semi public and public zones.

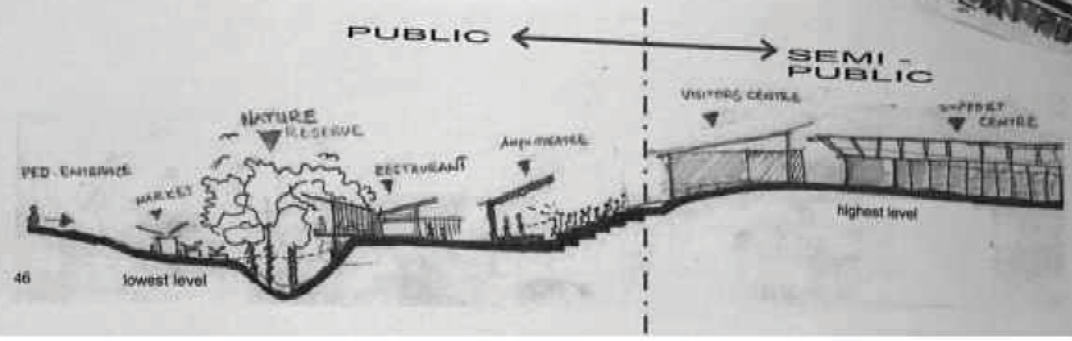
Public Zone:

- Located at the lowest point of the site.
- Close to Jan Smuts Highway (a major road linking Westville and other surrounding suburbs to the city).
- Close to the existing bird nature reserve which could be an appealing characteristic for public program.

Semi Public Zone:

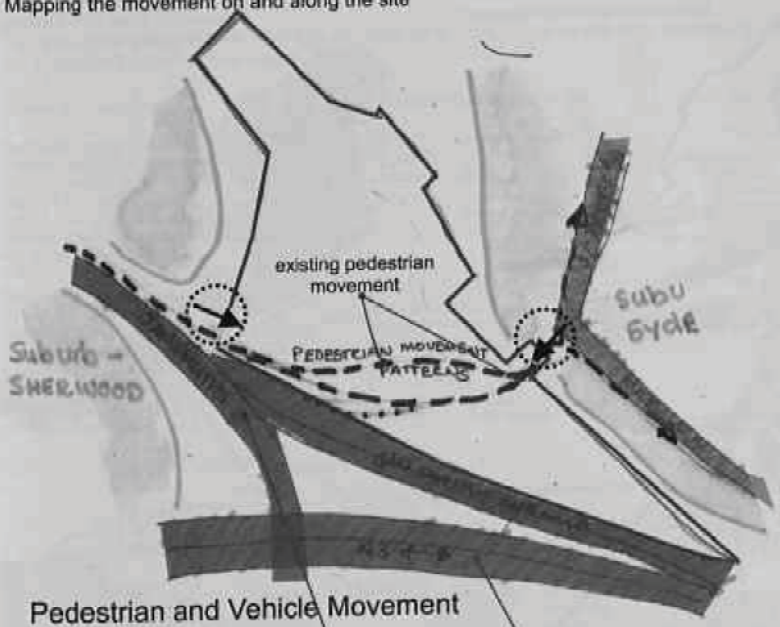
- Located at the highest point of the site.
- Close to Hugo Road entrance
- Has strong visual connections to the ridge as well as the N3 highway
- The typography and views from this portion of the site offers the opportunity to design a building that could be an icon for mental health.





DESIGN PROCESS

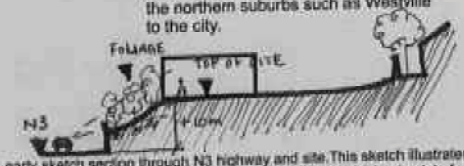
Mapping the movement on and along the site



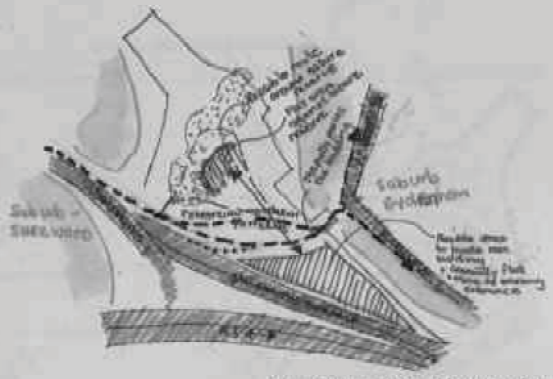
Pedestrian and Vehicle Movement

Jan Smuths Highway is a Taxi and bus route. This road links the northern suburbs such as Westville to the city.

The N3 highway passes the south side of the site. Cars busses and taxi's travel on the N3. It links the city to other hot spots such Pavilion shopping mall.

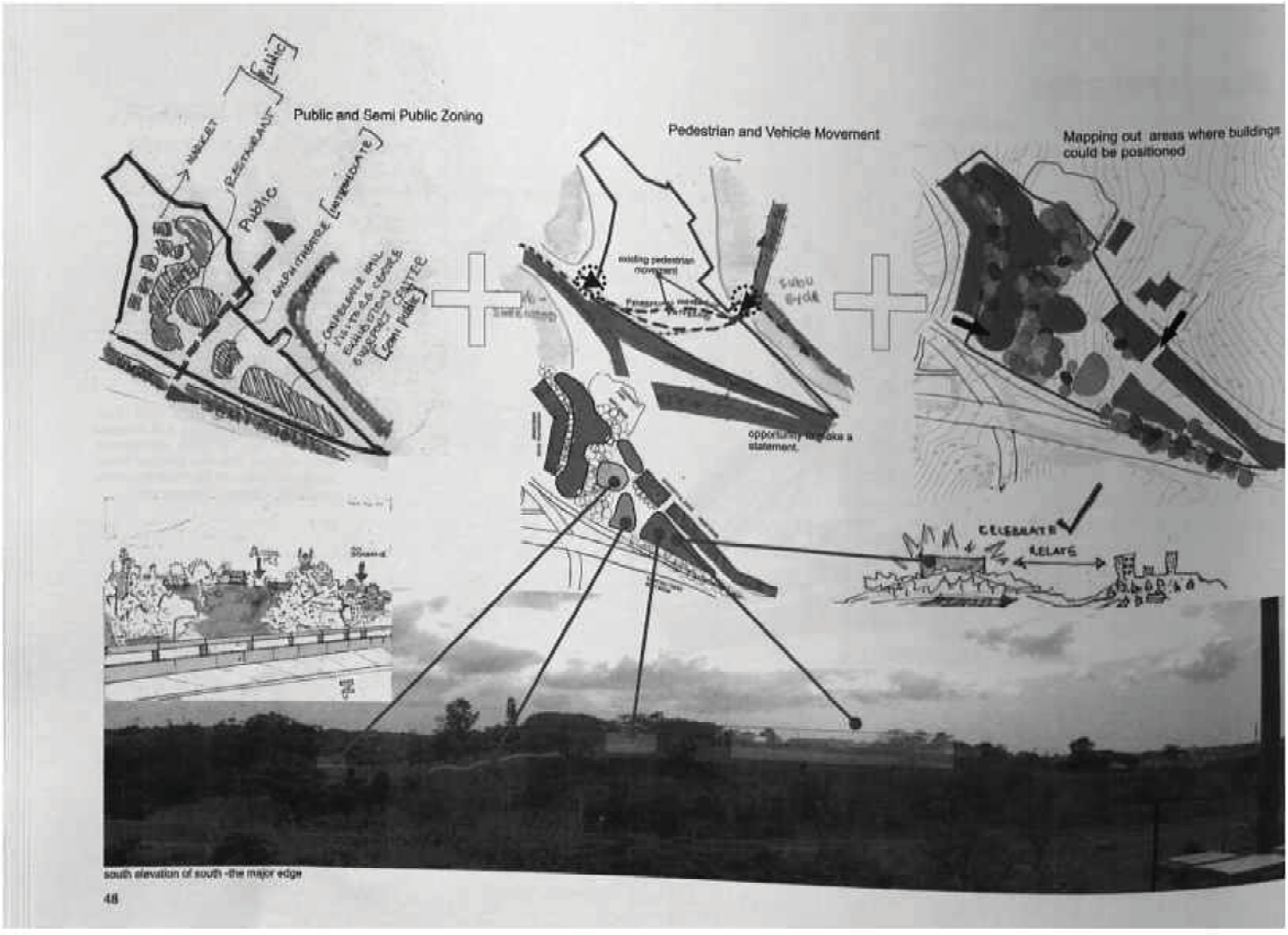


early sketch section through N3 highway and site.This sketch illustrates the difference in height between the highway and the highest point of the site



the sketches along side were done as part of the exercise that focused on movement of both pedestrians and vehicles. The red hatched areas are an indication of the most favorable area that relate to this exercise.





south elevation of south -the major edge

DESIGN PROCESS

EARLY DESIGN IDEAS

The sketches below are a reflection of ideas of building form at the very beginning of the project research stage. It is important to note that at this stage the program began to take shape.

The Multi-Purpose Building

Due to the passing views from the N3 highway as well as the size and location of this part of the site the only part of intervention that seemed to be appropriate is the multi purpose centre.

With single storey residential dwelling in close proximity the building should not be an overpowering building in its scale therefore the sketches illustrate a building that tucks into the slopes of the landscape with turf roofs that can be used.

Information Centre

the sketch illustrates the idea of a building tucked away in to the landscape.

The spaces stretch out into the existing canopies.

The logic of the arrange of spaces is simple. The exhibition space is shown to be the first space encountered by the user, followed by an internet and the library reception desk which leads to the library and outside deck. Each space is visually separated by glimpses of the outside.

Market Space

The market space is envisaged as a space that is governed by one main route. this route is defined by pavilions lining the reserve (south) edge and the existing trees on the north creating an organic space.

The route culminates with an organic market and herb nursery.

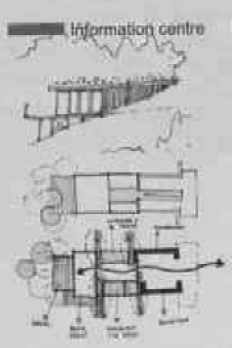
Restaurant / Café

The restaurant is situated on the middle level and near the existing foot path of the site, close to the dense tree foliage. The building sits on the landscape however its engulfed by the canopies of the trees.

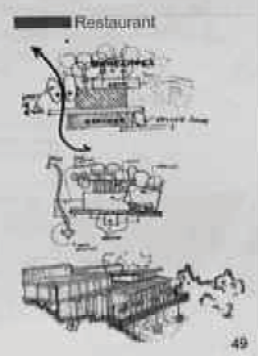
The seating areas are stretched over a covered space and an open aired space with the services on the south.







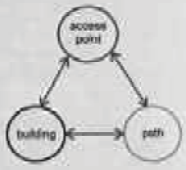


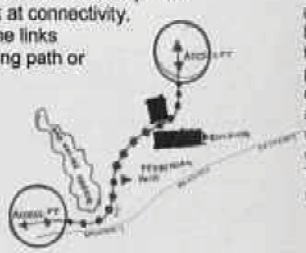


DESIGN PROCESS

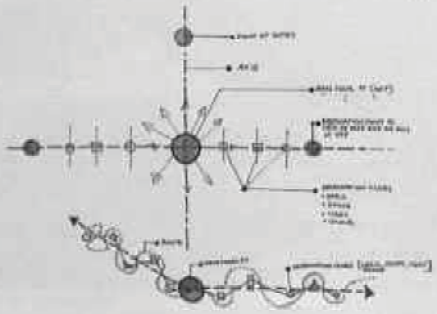
FOCAL POINTS AND PATHWAYS

To ensure that the site and the buildings are accessible to the public especially pedestrians, it was essential to look at connectivity. The purpose of this study was to strengthen the links between access points, building and the existing path or paths

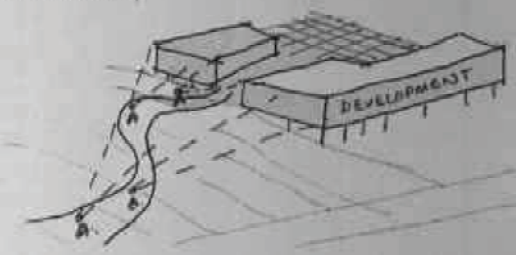


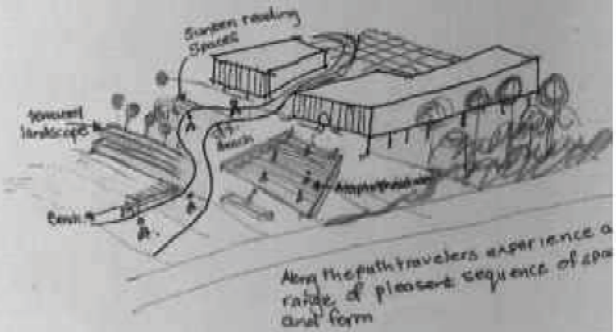


The sketches below are exploration sketches based on Kevin Lynches explanation on focal points The movement from one focal point to the other is linked by clues. The clues along the route become an important factor in this project as we are dealing with people with disabilities. The clues help to move the user from space to space allowing for quick orientation and easy movement. These clues therefore need to be carefully linked to the senses (textures walks, water features, aromatic planting, a play on shadows as well as to physical comfort. The following extract is a description of what pathways are and should be in order to be a successful element.



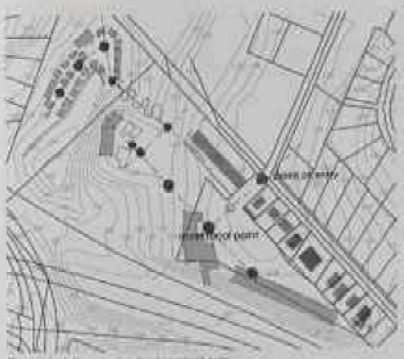
"Pathways are the points from which the development will be seen. Therefore they hav a profound effect on visual character. They should have a clear order of their own an build an image expressive of the function and the nature of the site. Along them th traveler should experience a pleasant sequence of space and form. The path system is powerful way of expressing the underlying topography whether it runs along the contour or aggressively opposing them. Pedestrian motion, like the flow of water, has a apparent fluid momentum. It follows the lines of least resistance, shortening distances b cutoffs. The flow maybe smooth or turbulent, purposeful or meandering. It can b deflected or encouraged by visual attractions, by levels, openings, character of the floo The path could be provided benches, plants, kiosks, cafes, display cases or informatio devices." (lynch:1984:205-206)



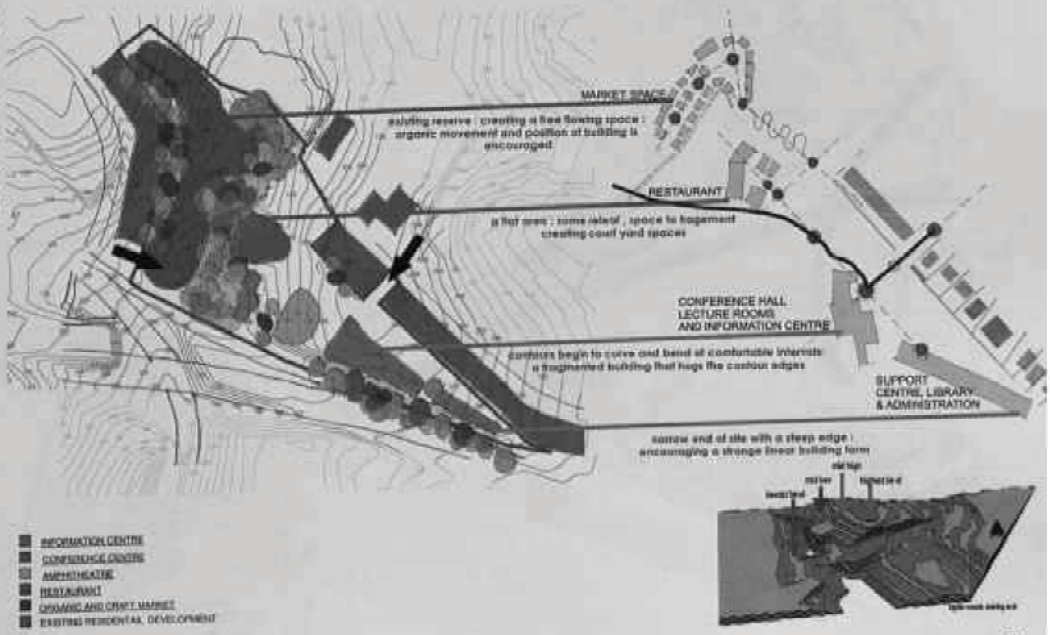


DESIGN PROCESS

Connectivity -applying the idea of focal points



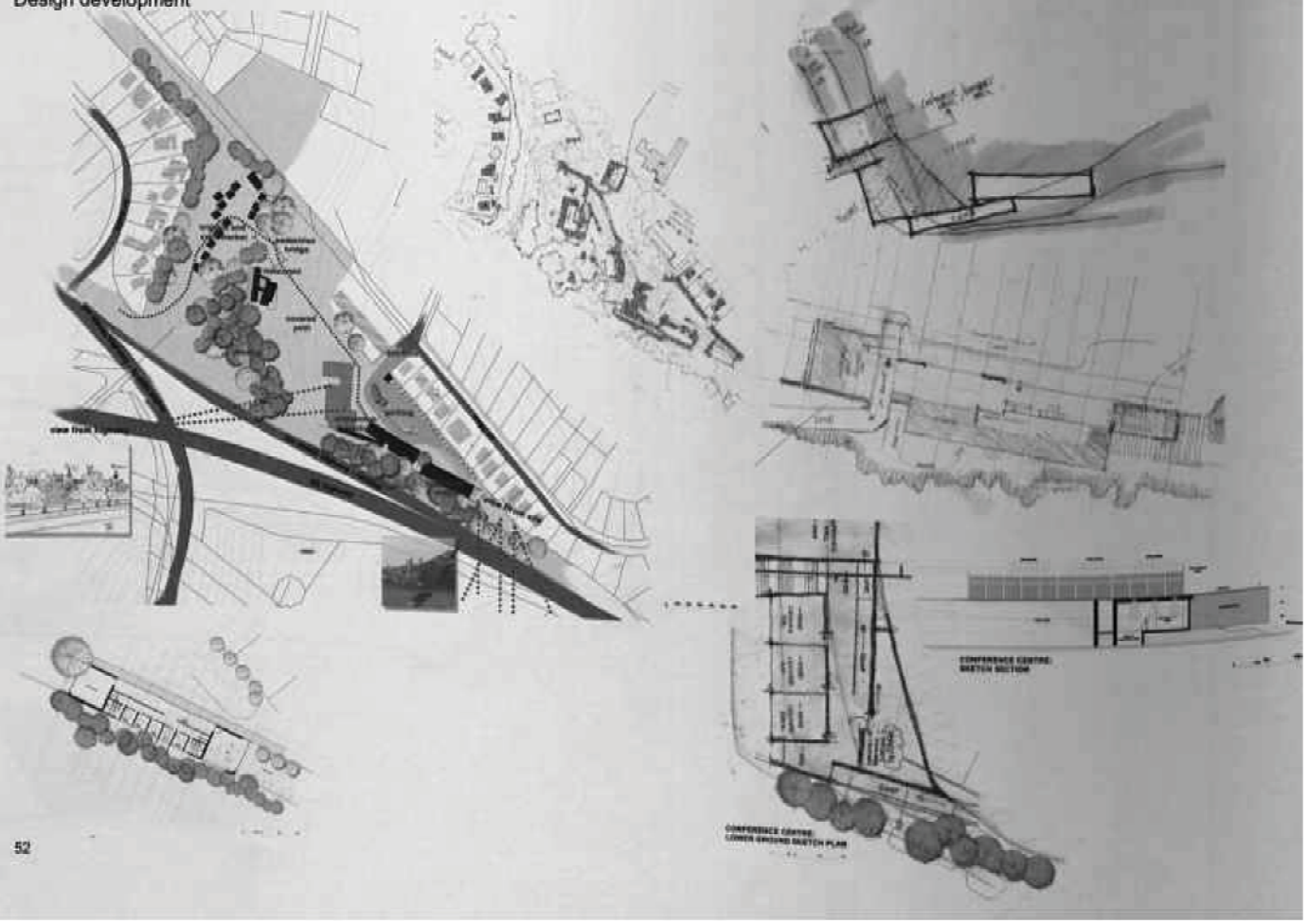
Conceptual site map showing important axes



- INFORMATION CENTRE
- CONFERENCE CENTRE
- AMPHITHEATRE
- RESTAURANT
- ORGANIC AND CRAFT MARKET
- EXISTING RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

DESIGN PROCESS

Design development

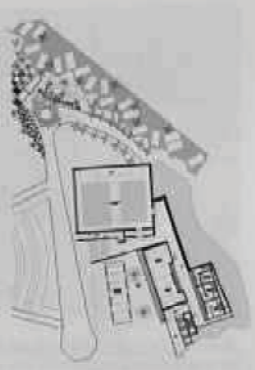


DESIGN PROCESS

Design development

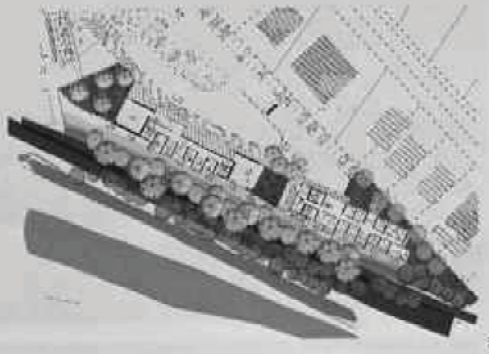












DESIGN PROCESS

Design development



Sketch perspective showing internal entrance space of building. The use of bright colours on wall surfaces help guide the user through building. Texture change along floor edges help warn the visually impaired user. Large glazed surfaces emit natural light as well as allow the user orientate themselves easily.



Coutyard spaces between buildings could become spaces that the user could relax or socialise with other users.



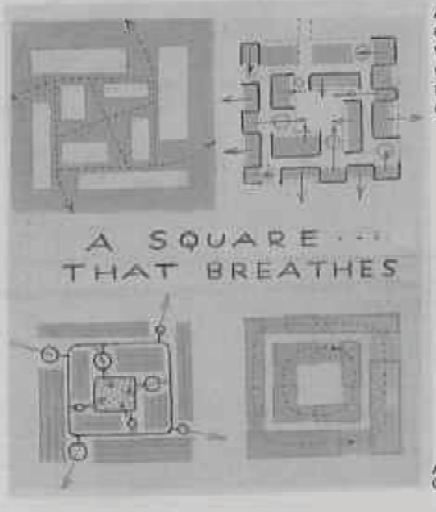
Sketch perspective showing covered walkway. The use of colour and texture create a stimulating environment.

DESIGN PROCESS

Design development

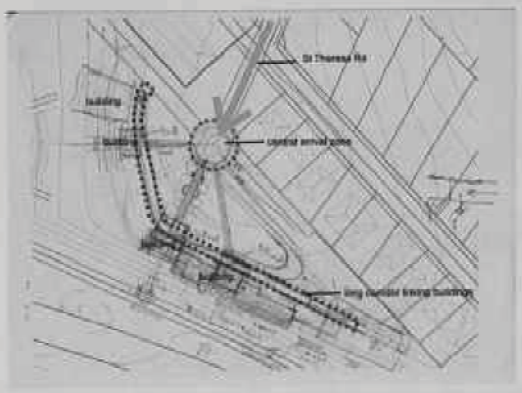
At this point in the design process - interviews and research into space making and program continued. The initial design layout began to pose 3 major problems.
1) Buildings were strung along the site resulting in a fragmented proposal
2) The focal point needed to be strengthened
3) A stronger connection of the site to the urban surroundings needed to be resolved.

"A square that breaths" by Aldo van Eyck began to inspire me. The square allows for opportunity between the fragments. The arrangement of the spaces around fragments are organised and relate to a central space- *the focal point*. Saynatsalo town hall - discussed in the precedent study- at some level relates to 'the square that breaths'. Aalto also separates building at two points creating the opportunity for one to pass through the courtyard to get to the other side.

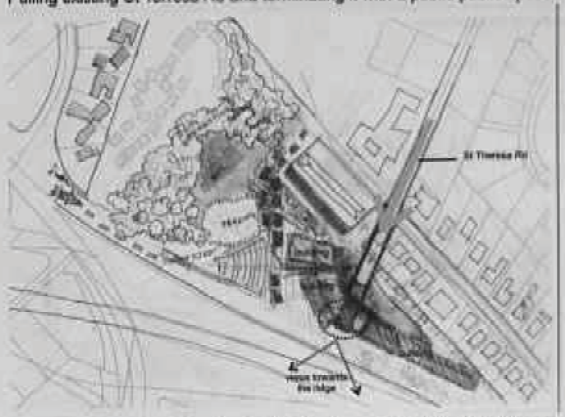


Aldo van Eyck, a square that breaths. (Ligeti'an 1999:115)

Applying this basic concept to the design as well addressing the urban connection issue resulted in the following design sketches.



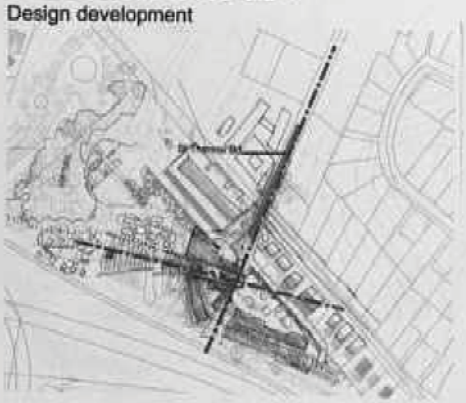
Pulling existing St Terresa Rd and terminating it with a public public space



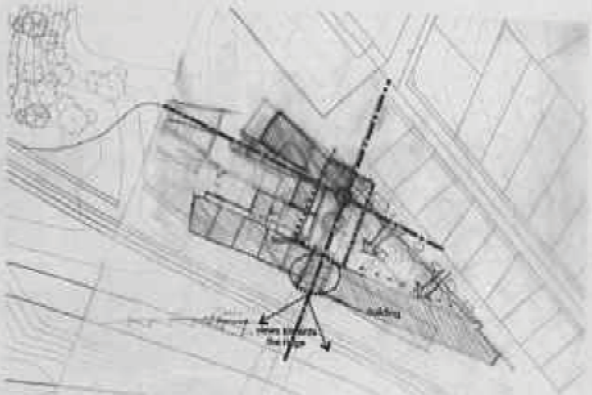
Extending the road and terminated it with a view of the Ridge. Building still wrap around the edges of the contours forming an arc. Walkway from one building to the other still is long. Need increase density.

DESIGN PROCESS

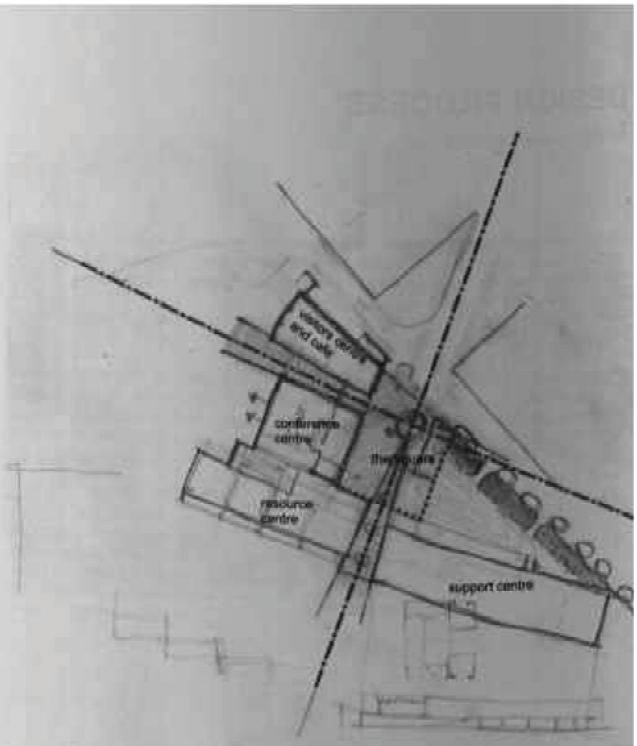
Design development



This sketch focuses on the focal point and axes. The pedestrian route takes the traveler between the buildings into a central space. The central space is on access to the road and the pathway



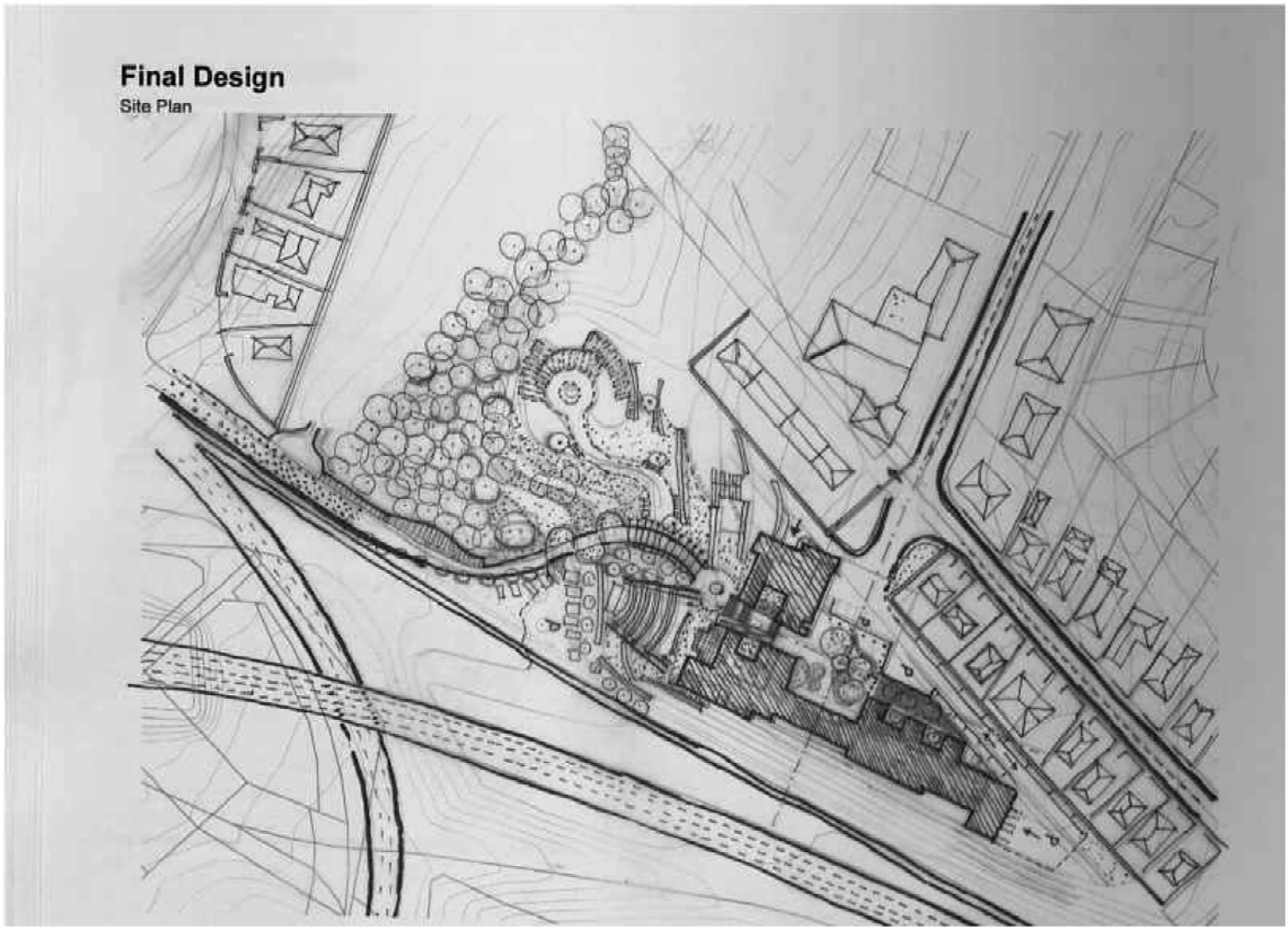
This sketch focuses on the further development of the focal point and axes.

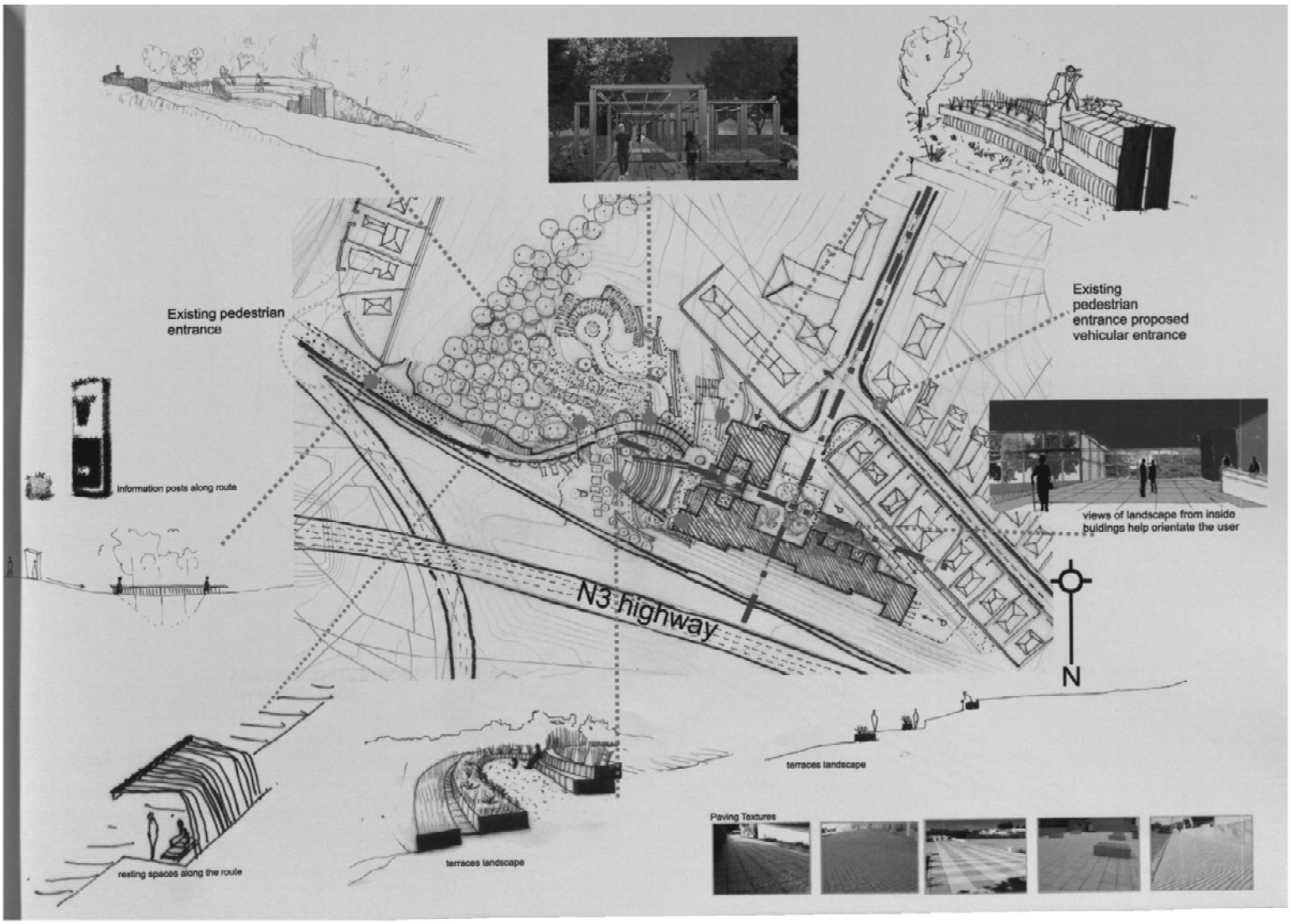


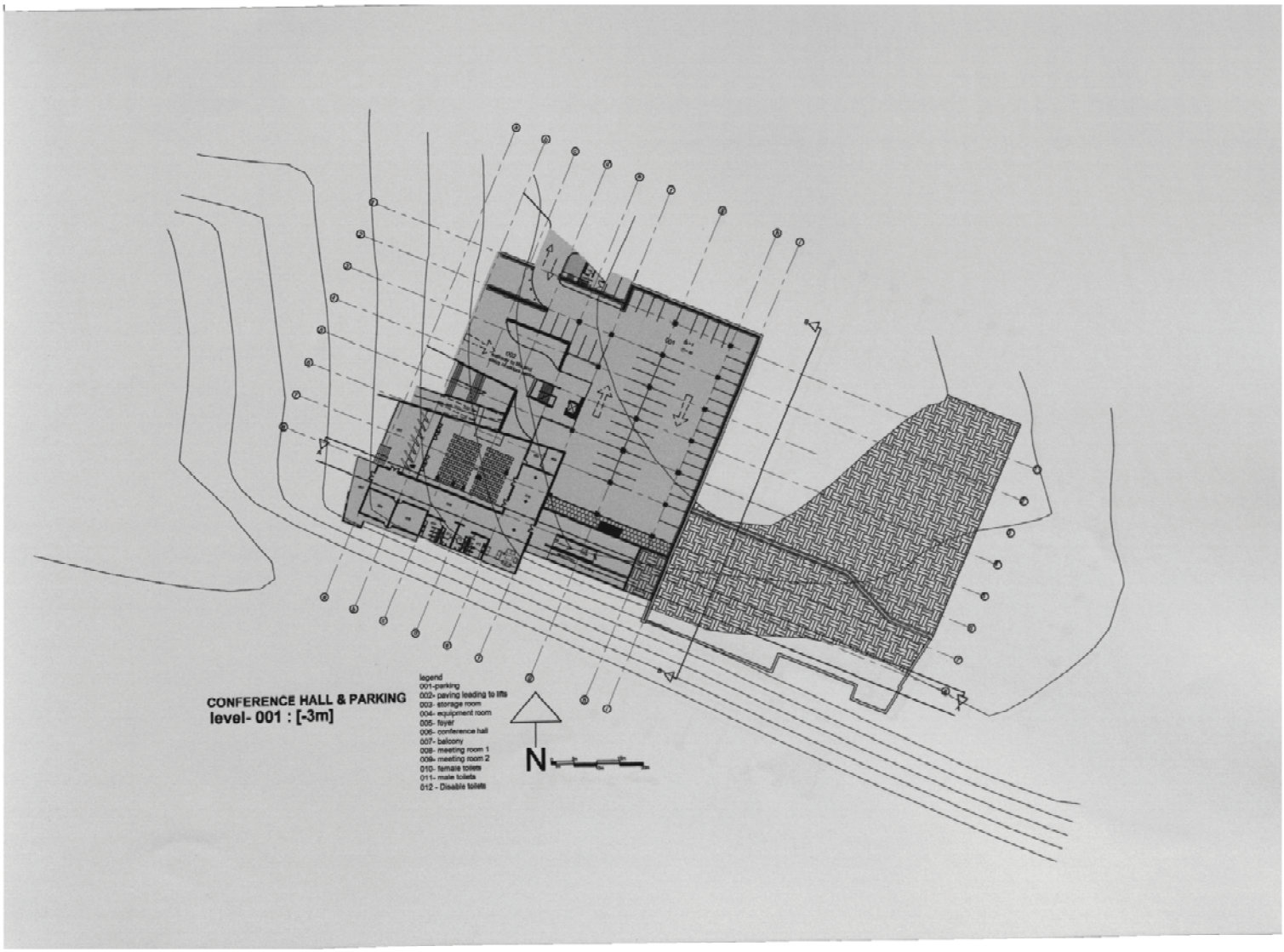
This sketch focuses on the further development of the focal point and axes and defi
the favourable positions of building.

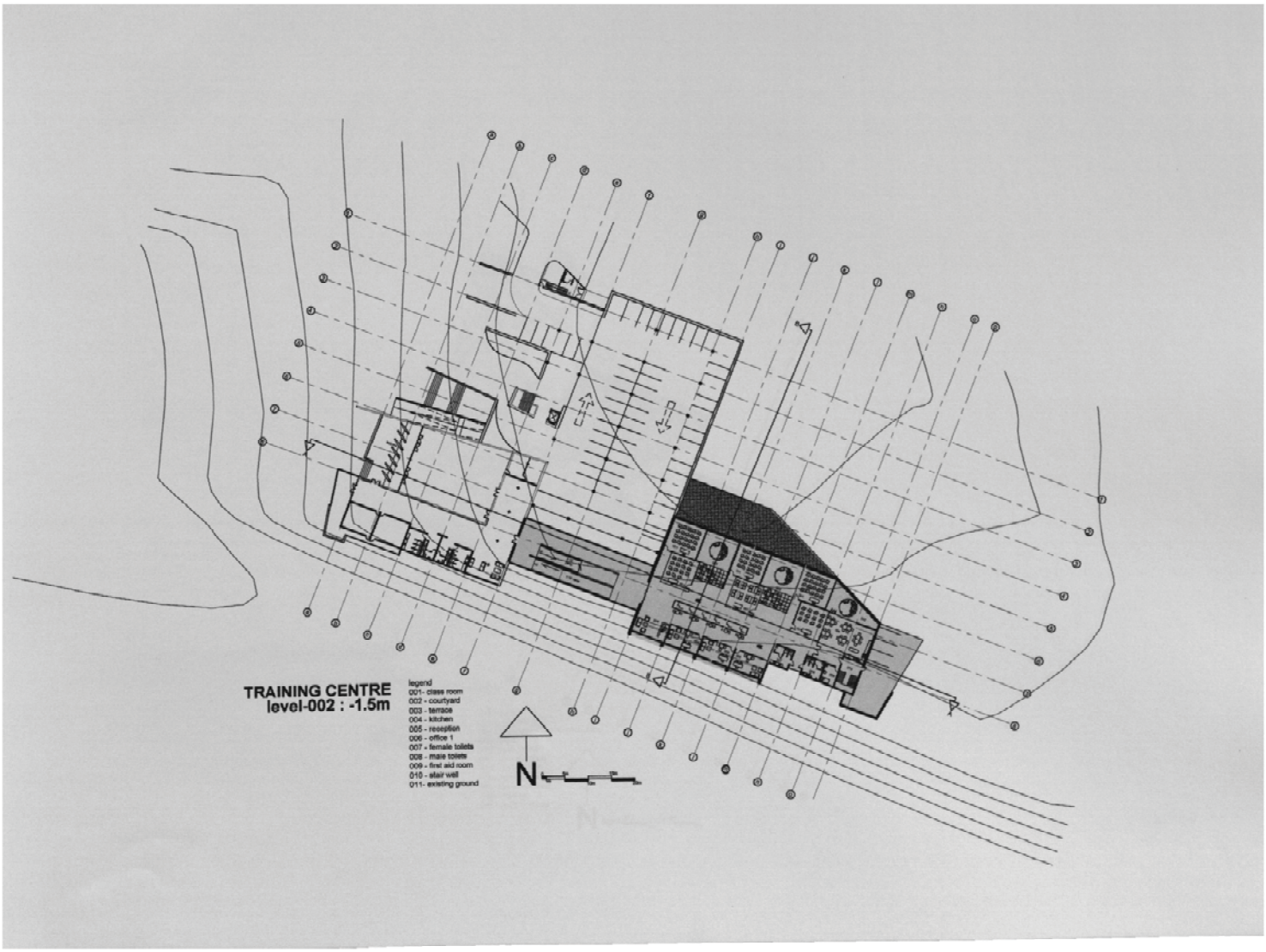
Final Design

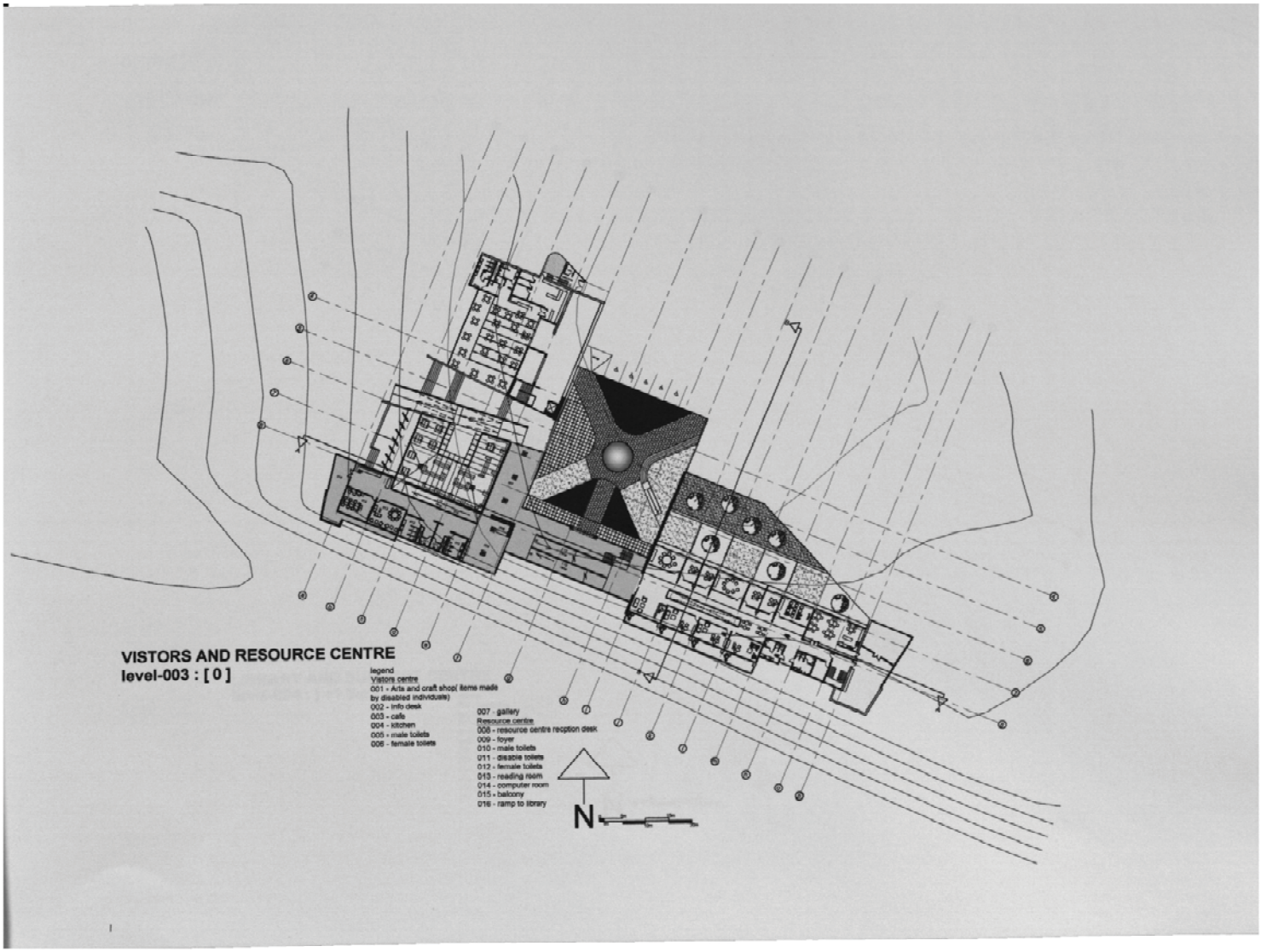
Site Plan




Existing pedestrian entrance
Existing pedestrian entrance proposed vehicular entrance
Information posts along route
views of landscape from inside buildings help orientate the user
N3 highway
N
terraces landscape
Paving Textures
resting spaces along the route
terraces landscape


CONFERENCE HALL & PARKING
level- 001 : [-3m]
legend
001-parking
002- paving leading to lifts
003- storage room
004- equipment room
005- foyer
006- conference hall
007- balcony
008- meeting room 1
009- meeting room 2
010- female toilets
011- male toilets
012 - Disable toilets
N


TRAINING CENTRE
level-002 : -1.5m
legend
001- class room
002 - courtyard
003 - terrace
004 - kitchen
005 - reception
006 - office 1
007 - female toilets
008 - male toilets
009 - first aid room
010 - stair well
011- existing ground
N


VISTORS AND RESOURCE CENTRE
level-003 : [0]
legend
Vistors centre
001 - Arts and craft shop(items made by disabled individuals)
002 - info desk
003 - cafe
004 - kitchen
005 - male toilets
006 - female toilets
007 - gallery
Resource centre
008 - resource centre reception desk
009 - foyer
010 - male toilets
011 - disapie toilets
012 - female toilets
013 - reading room
014 - computer room
015 - balcony
016 - ramp to library
N