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Blurring the line: Durban Mental Health Support and Training Centre

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1.4 eThekwini's I.D.P vision:

It is quite relevant to realize the vision of the client in order to meet the client's needs. To realize this vision, municipality has mapped out the following goals:

All people must:

- Have ease of movement in the city
- Enjoy a safe environment in all parts of the municipal area
- Afford what the city offers
- Enjoy a clean and green city
- Have access to economic opportunities
- Enjoy homely neighbourhoods
- Have access to services, in particular municipal, health and education services

With delivery of these, the people of eThekwini should be able to:

- Live in harmony
- Be proud of their city
- Feel protected
- Feel their basic needs are being met.

Integrated development plan 2007-2008:110

THE BRIEF

1.1 How would the intervention help to turn the vision into a reality?

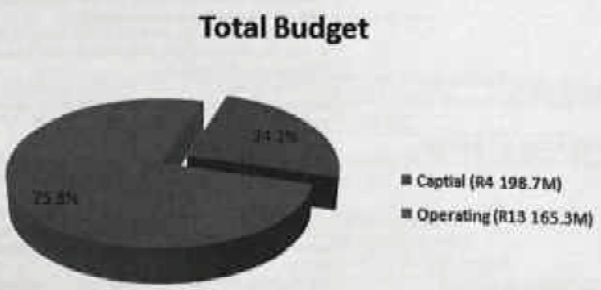
The centre will attempt to meet the requirements mentioned above by implementing the appropriate program as well inclusive design principles .

VISION FOR DURBAN CITIZENS (IDP)	PROPOSED SOCIAL CENTRE
1. Ease of movement	**1.1** The centre will be user friendly for all citizens including the differently able. **1.2** Specific considerations will be made, such as, bus and taxi's that are able to carry physically disabled persons. **1.3** Infrastructure such as, pavement, passages, pedestrian crossings, etc. will be treated with elements that would help a differently able visitor to orientate themselves within the centre.
2. Enjoy a safe environment advocacy	**2.1** Part of the selection criteria for a site will be the close proximity to a police station. **2.2** Access to the site will be minimal with access control implemented at each entrance. **2.3** Support structures such as, social workers, will be in place to assist the differently able person if needed or in a event of a conflict.
3. Affordability	**3.1** The centre will be open to everyone. Most of the facilities will be available to all visitors either free of charge or at an affordable price.
4. Enjoy a clean and green city	**4.1** Due to the climatic conditions of Durban the scheme will include plenty of open spaces such as courtyards and large open garden spaces. **4.2** There is also a need to build green buildings. Green buildings will incorporate passive solar design, cross ventilation, solar energy harnessing, rain water harvesting and a look at sourcing building material locally.
5. Have access to economic opportunities	**5.1** Together with building and forming a program, a few platforms for economic opportunities will be available for both the able and the differently able. Considerations will be taken into including craft programs in the workshops for the differently able.

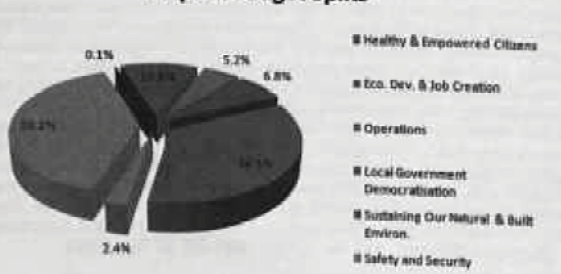
However, we cannot only look at the requirements of the client in order to reach a feasible solution; we also need to look at the requirements of the users themselves. Through research and a series of interviews, information was gathered with respect to the lack of programs currently in place, and the current level of interaction between able and differently able individuals. It was found that various facilities such as support centres and training centres for skill development or skill enhancements were required to help the high skilled differently able society to become independent and self-sufficient. Since the objective of this thesis is to 'blur the line' that segregates the able society from the differently able society, it is important to bear in mind that the centre needs to also have a program in place that would include both the able and differently able persons. An example of such a facility would be a place where the disabled could be at the stage of job sampling before joining mainstream society. The following section will describe each facility to be utilized in the centre where the intention is to meet the requirements of both the client and the user and the overall objective of the thesis.

1.2 eThekwini's Budget Plan

The IDP report gives a clear indication of eThekwini's budget for the year 2008/2009. It is imperative to investigate the feasibility of the project with regards to cost. Hence an investigation was carried out to determine if eThekwini Municipality would be able to subsidize such a quest. The total budget is divided into 2 categories namely, the capital budget and the operating budget. As indicated in the pie chart below the total budget is estimated to be R17 364m



The capital budget is sub-categorized into an 8 point plan as illustrated in the diagram below



To embark on a social upliftment and education centre, we would need to determine wh category, will pertain to the centre.The Quality Living Environments plan's strategic focu is to create a multi-functional social, cultural and recreational services and facilities (I.D 2007-2008:44) which is coherent with the social scheme hence it is concluded that the funding for the social centre would be deducted from the Quality Living Environment budget. As depicted from the graph below, 39.2% of the capital budget is focused on t plan for Quality Living Environments.

The periodic Capital Budget Allocation is found below

	07/08 (Rm)	08/09 (Rm)	09/10 (R
Quality Living Environments	2,030.079	2,314.722	2,403.1

table indicating budget plan for quality living environments (I.D.P 2007-2008 :48)

Stakeholders

Stakeholders from a corporate perspective are seen as an individual, group, organiz or system that effects or affects by organization's action(www.en.wikipedia.org).This s centre targets the differently able and the able communities thus allowing communities to become stakeholders in this organization. Differently able individ would require guardianship to become a stakeholder unless stated otherwise by a cou law. The various stakeholders are listed below:

1. The users – differently able community and the able community, club membe those members that collect government grants in Kwa-Zulu Natal
2. The organization's team – management committee, staff, volunteers, s workers
3. The community – family of the differently able individuals, local volunteers,
4. Funders – local and national businesses, trusts, foundations, individual gi local and national government
5. Organizations – Department of Mental Health, Blind and Deaf Society, private organizations of similar nature
6. Decision makers – national and local government (eThekwini Municipa primary health care providers, other organizations that work with the differ able community

SITE CRITERIA

SITE CRITERIA

For the process of site selection, several criteria were listed aiming to fulfill the objective of the centre.

THE COMMUNITY

For successful interaction between the community and the center, it is essential to place the center within a community. The center needs to also be in close vicinity to existing institutions who deal with disabilities to residential areas.

ACCESS:

Easy access into the site should be a priority, it must be accessible to pedestrians and vehicles. Visual accessability to be a prominent architectural design principal from within and around the site.

NATURE:

In response to one of the objectives which is to create an relaxed and healthy environment the site should include large green spaces where informal interaction can take place.

TRANSPORT:

Transportation modes should be within walking distance from site access points. Site should be close to major access routes for large volumes of vehicles to enter the site without causing traffic congestion.

MOVEMENT:

The site must be easy to move through with no trauma to the user.

SECURITY:

The site must offer a protected environment. the typography and/or existing security mechanisms would help promote a sense of security.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS:

The site should not be exclusive to only on community. It should be close to various institutions for the differently able, to ensure relatively easy transportation to the centr

SITE SELECTION

SITE SELECTED AND DESCRIPTION

Site investigations were carried out in order to determine which site would be most likely to meet the site criteria mentioned in the previous section. The site chosen is located in Kwa-Zulu Natal in the city of Durban on the Edge of Sherwood.

Apart from this site matching all the criteria revealed in the previously, it also had the following advantages over other possible site selections:

- The topography of the site revealed its sloped characteristic. This implies that by positioning the building at/near the crest of the slope rather than at the base of the slope, the building would be visible from the road edges as well from the ridge.
- An urban study revealed that the site is situated in the centre of 3 different communities, namely, Sydenham, Cato Manor and Sherwood. This discovery along with the positioning of the building near the crest of the slope allows the building to be prominent with respect to the rest of the surrounding institutions. This is important as currently most of the buildings which belong to various disabilities are hidden amongst houses in residential areas. By positioning the building proudly at a the highest point of the site will allow for a opportunity to make a statement – for the building to become a symbol of hope and opportunity for the disable community.
- Keeping in mind that transportation is a problem for most people with a disability the site is comfortably situated at the edge of main thoroughfares intum easing access.
- The site is currently being used by the public as a 'shortcut' and as a recreational space, implying that by establishing a building in this already activated zone, the building could act as a catalyst to further enhance the site by adding more established functions that relate to the existing users of the site as well as the community at large.
- The site currently belongs to the council and with the release of the latest integrated development plan (IDP) document; the site becomes a fair site to propose such a building.

Looking back at South African history, Sherwood was designated as an all White residential area, adjacent to it is Sydenham a predominately Coloured area, Asherville a predominately Indian area and across the highway, Cato Manor, once an Indian area, now home to many black citizens.

Sherwood has for decades been home to Challenge , a workshop and a hostel for the mentally challenged adults. Since its establishment, six relating in stitutions have established and operatedin this suburb, making it an important node for challenged individuals. Besides the institutions there are two well known children's homes as well as a hospice care centre within 2km south of the site.

The following mappings highlight the various characteristics of the site as well as issues that need to be addressed during design conception

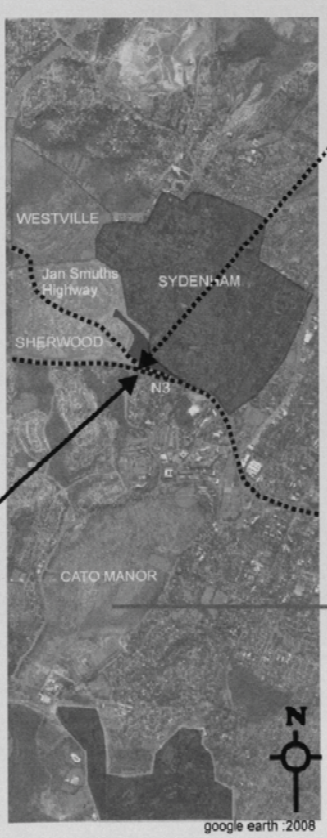


www.mapsofsa.co.za


www.googelearth.com

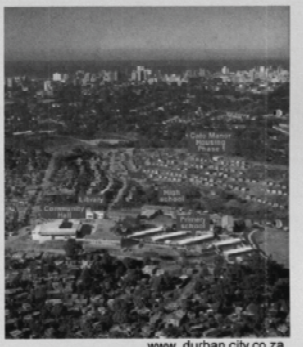


www.mapsofsa.co.za



google earth :2008

Erf :	860 of portion 16
Farm :	Brickfeild
Site total area :	6959m²
Perimeter fencing :	540m²

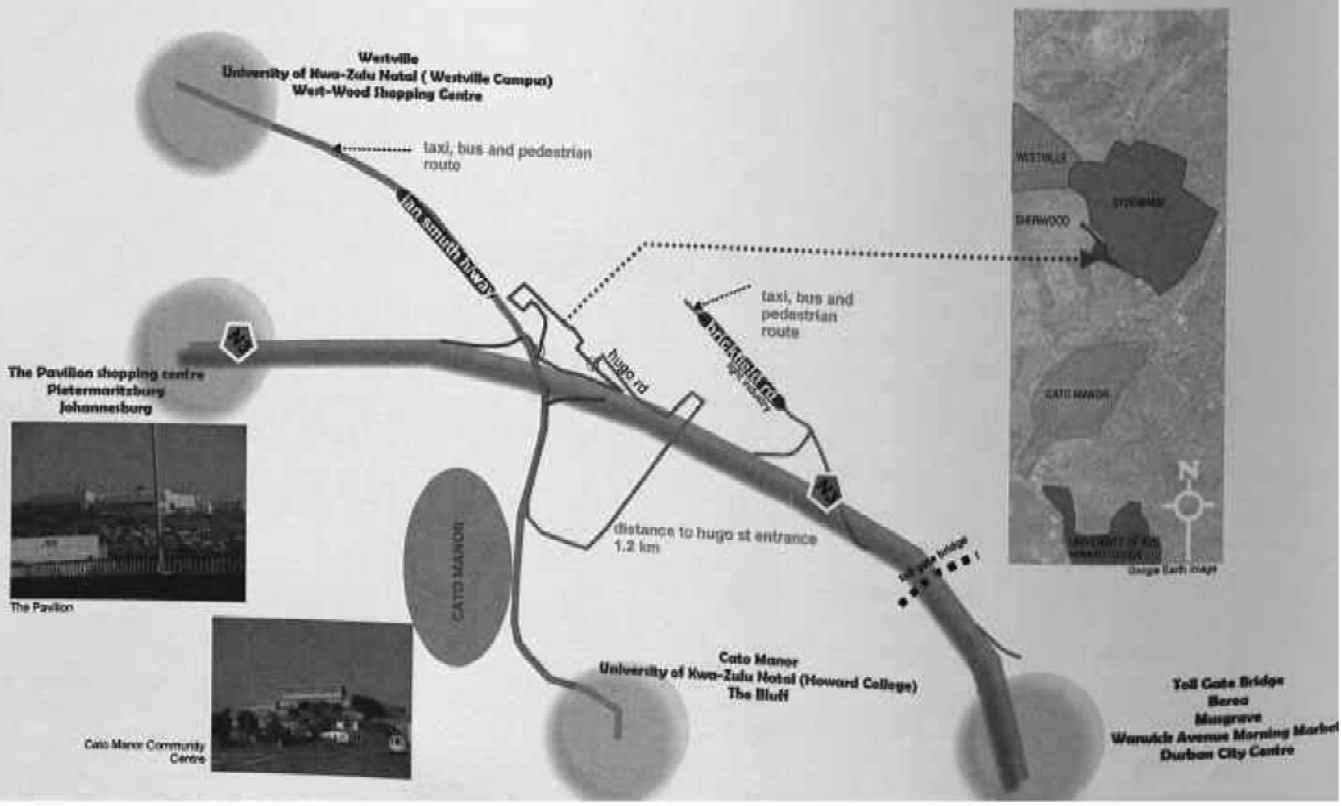

www. durban city.co.za


cato manor medical clinic www. durban city.co.za

SITE MAPPING

MAJOR ROADS ALONG AND TO THE SITE

The site is located at the edge of Sherwood. The two major roads that run pass the site are: The N3 highway and Jan Smuths Highway. The N3 runs east to west connected Johannesburg. Pietermaritzburg to the city centre and Jan Smuth Highway runs North to south connecting Westville and the Bluff area.



MAPPING OF INSTITUTIONS





St Teresa children's hon convent and church



The association for the physically disable



Challenge Workshop - for the mentally challeng and head office for Dur and Coastal Mental Hea



Challenge hostel



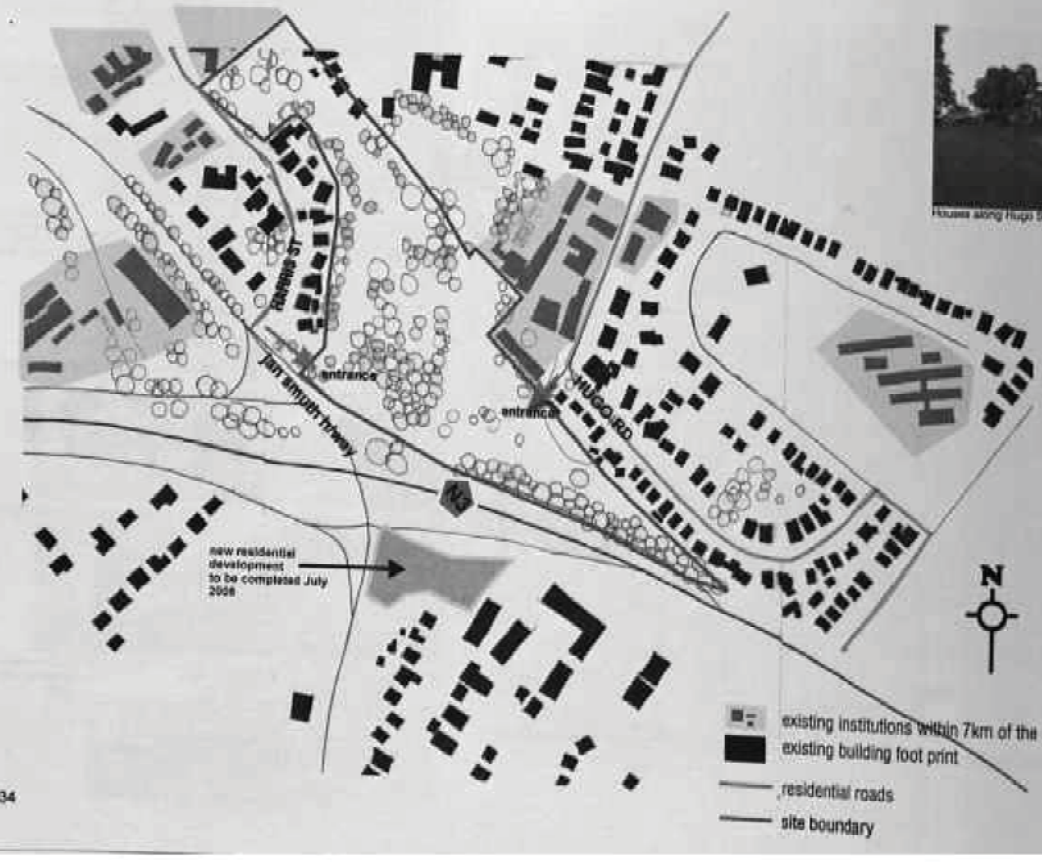
Natal Society for the Bl



Children's Mental Health assessment and Thera Centre

EXISTING FIGURE GROUND

The surrounding buildings are mostly single storey dwellings with the exception of a few institutions.




Houses along Hugo Street in Sydenham

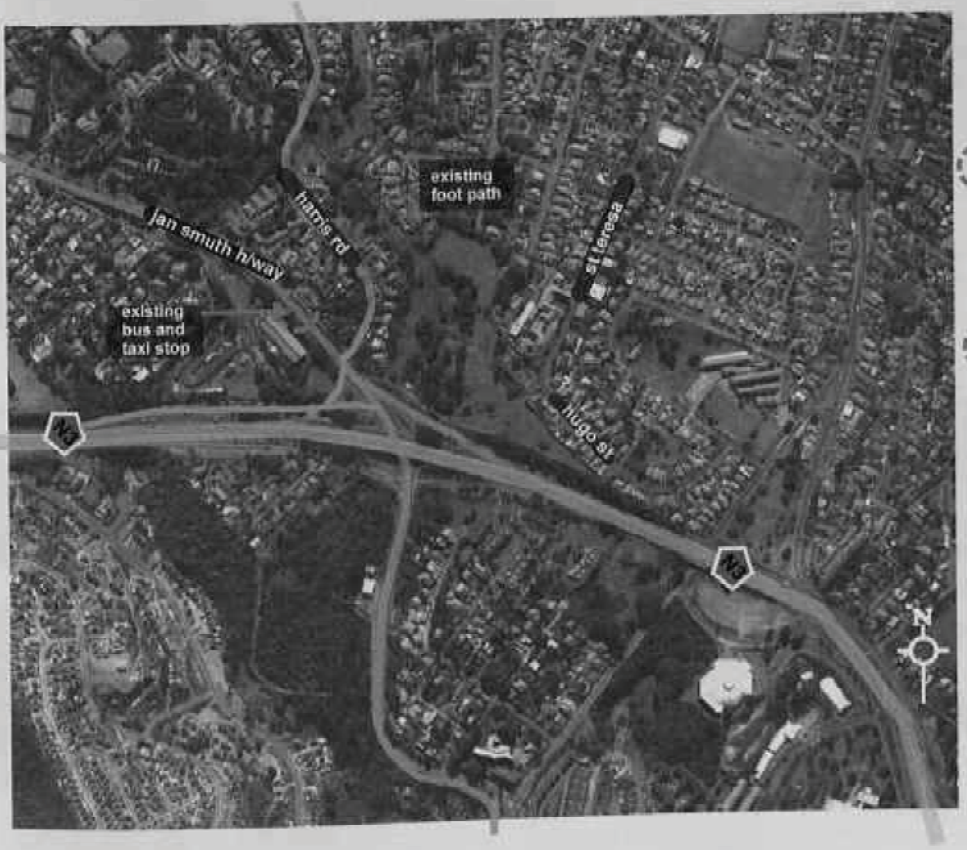

Residence of Hugo Street


View of Herra Street


Entrance off Hugo

View of Entrance off Hugo Street

MAPPING EXISTING ROADS & PATHWAYS IN AND AROUND THE SITE





existing bus stop on Jan Smuths Highway



existing bus stop on Jan Smuths Highway



existing bus stop on Jan Smuths Highway

MAPPING EXISTING PATHWAY AND VIEWS OF SITE





D view looking north east at lowest point



E view looking south west



F view looking south from highest level of site



Pedestrians using the site as a through route



Students the site as a through route after school



G view look at south slope of site

ACCESS POINTS

There are currently two access points to the site. Both of these points are used by pedestrians as a 'short cut'. The entrance off Hugo Rd suite the requirements needed for a vehicle
The current Harris Road entrance could remain a pedestrian entrance. There would possibly be a need to explore another vehicle entrance off Jan Smuths highway.





A View of existing access point to site off Harris Rd



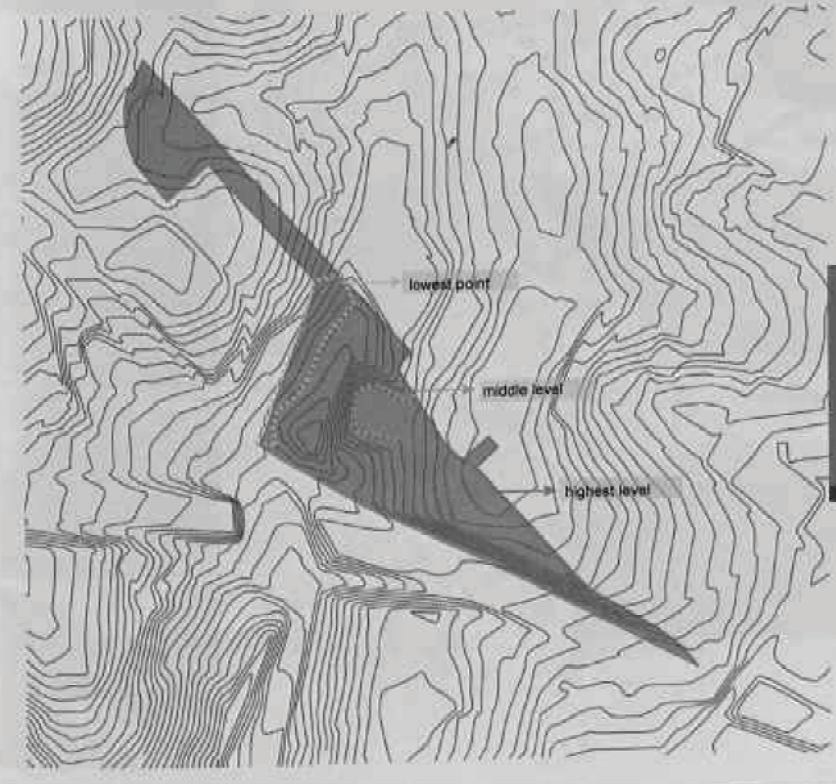
B View of Jan Smuths highway on ramp joining N3 highway

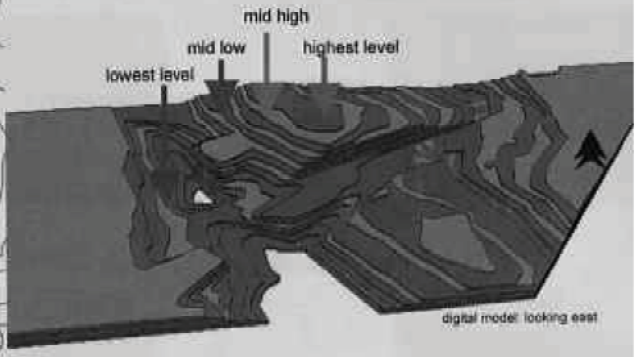


C View of entrance to site off the corner of and St Teresa Street

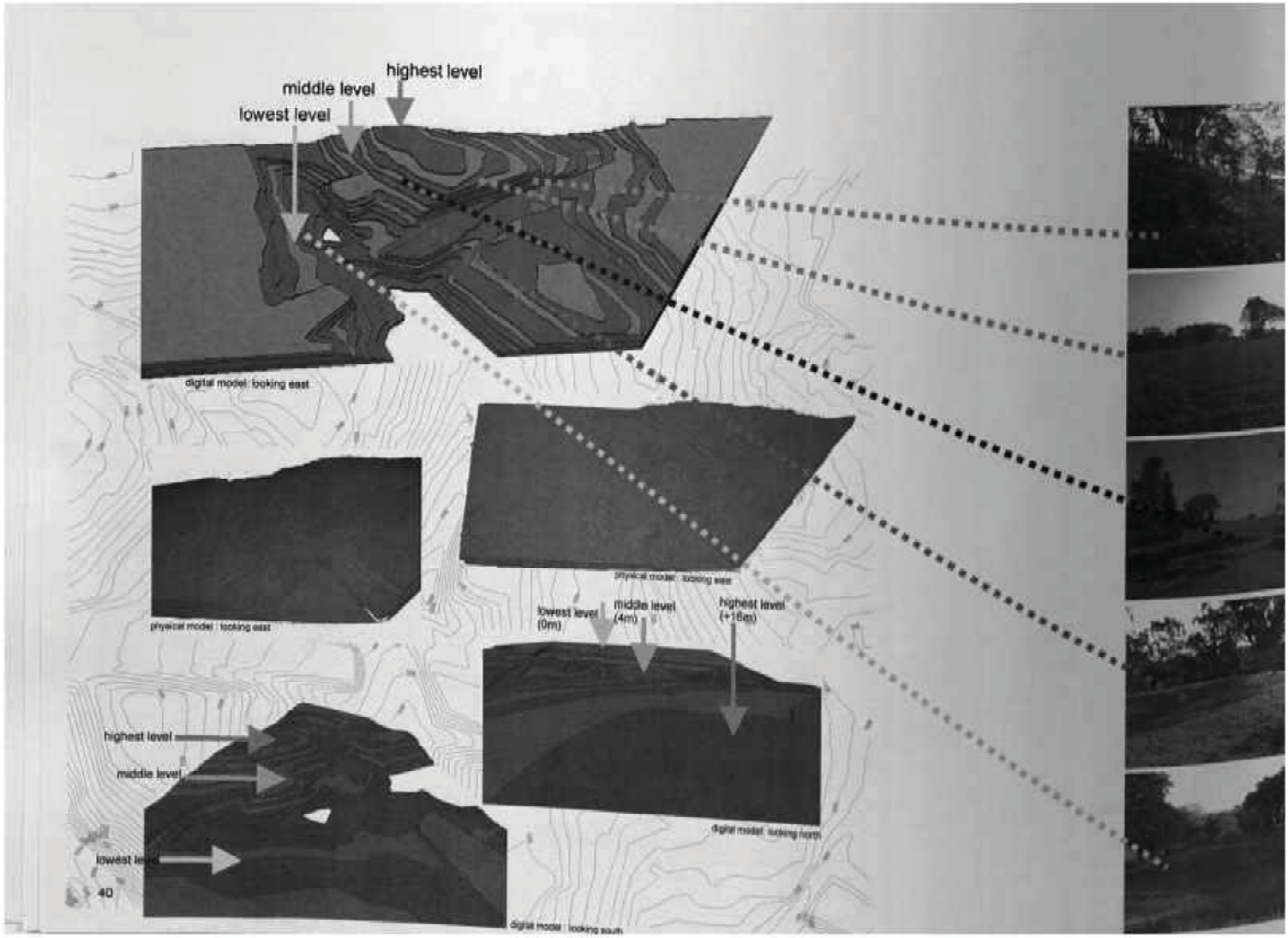
SITE CONTOURS

Contours are at 2 meter intervals








highest level
middle level
lowest level
digital model: looking east
physical model : looking east
lowest level (0m)
middle level (4m)
highest level (+16m)
highest level
middle level
lowest level
digital model : looking south

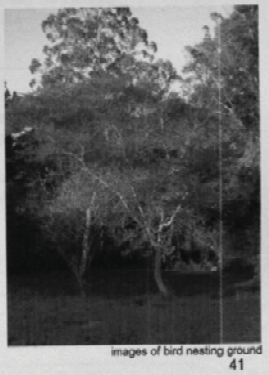
GREEN SPACES AND FOLIAGE

The site is a large green open space characterized by three distinct levels and a bird reserve. The bird reserve brings to the table a completely different dynamic to the site as well as the design approach.









images of bird nesting ground

ACCOMODATION SCHEDULE

The has been discussed that interaction between able and disable societies have a range of benefits for both communities. The exchange of experiences and information can take place through careful architectural design choices as well as with carefully selected program. The following is a list of favorably accommodation defined by the nees of the able and disable communities.

Level	Facility	Function	Breakdown
Basement	Parking	Accessibility	Staff Parking Public parking 61 parking bays in total of which 4 are parking bays for the disabled
	Conference centre	*Conference Hall:* Venue for conferences and social events, awareness campaigns, banquets, fund raising events, etc. *Main Basement Foyer:* Serves as a circulation area and entrance hall to the conference room. Could be used as an area to serve refreshments during intervals. *Meeting Room x 2:* Staff meetings, small group lectures. Could also be utilized as a space for performance practice and music practice	Conference Hall: Size-450 m^2 Seating approximately 200-250 people Audio visual facilities Conference facilities Moveable stage Storage *Main Basement Foyer:* Size- 300 m^2 Approximate maximum capacity 250 people *Meeting Room x 2:* Size – 45 m^2 Seating approximately 30 people Audio visual facilities Ablutions
Mezzanine Level 1	Training Centre	Classrooms are not specific to training individuals with mental disabilities only, the classrooms can also be used by the public for training courses that are not related to disabilities	Size -1100 m^2 3 x large classrooms with a max capacity of 30 students each and, 3 x smaller classrooms with a max capacity of 10 students each Ablutions 1 x sick room
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	Library with courtyard: 315m2 Exhibition space: 115 m^2 to 400 m^2 Reading room – 45 m^2

ACCOMMODATION SCHEDULE