Masibambane Secondary School

Kraaifontein, Cape Town, Western Cape

In 1999 the Bloekombos community in Kraaifontein took over a derelict government road camp on the Old Paarl Road (R101) to be used as a school. Initially the classrooms were housed in an existing prefabricated building and portal frame sheds, and classes had to be structured in shifts. Since then the school has gone through four phases of incremental development. Classrooms have been altered into administration areas, mobile classrooms were added, a passage was adapted to be used as a computer area for teachers and many ad hoc spatial revisions were carried out to fulfil growing demands.

In 2008, the Western Cape Education Department funded the school's governing body to build the much-needed administration facilities, library, hospitality classroom and additional nine classrooms. The community expressed a need for the double-storey structure to establish a 'front door' and public reception area that would support

their aspirations of the school as a community facility. The school has always been abuzz with activity and provides a platform for the qualitative improvement of learners' education, a study venue, and a play area throughout the day and year. It has also been a place for community functions and interaction. The project was workshopped with stakeholders from the school and the community to respond to these requirements.
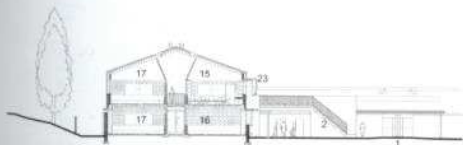
Spatial unity was achieved by relating each building to the central court. The foyer, library, principal's office and classroom access are orientated off this court. Seating areas and soft-landscaped edges to this north edge are provided for informal discussion and play. Shaded covered walkways edge the remainder of the court and shelter the classrooms and hall entrances, providing access to the secondary court spaces that connect to the sports field. The upper-level foyer with its display cabinets and pin boards is seen as an
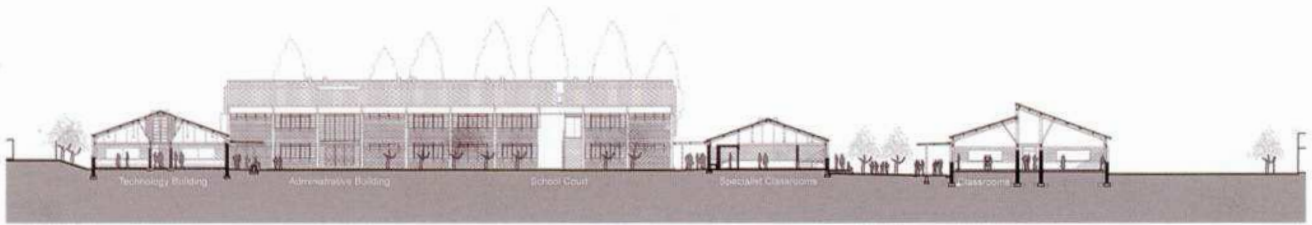
Section CC

important bridging space with the first-floor public entrance to the road. On this level, the library opens up to provide a larger formal reception space. The ground-level foyer absorbs daily learner and staff activities. It is directly associated with the staff area, where pivoting exhibition screens can provide an audiovisual space, and the hospitality classroom. The latter opens up to facilitate catering for large school events, open days and exhibitions.

The use of portal structures provides spatially generous, well-lit and well-ventilated classrooms and a simple structural ordering with pigmented concrete-block infill and steel window panels. A system of metal screens is used to deal with sun control and to provide security. Entrance areas are marked by brightly painted plastered walls. Emphasis on maintaining the garden and sports field has been of great benefit to the qualitative environment provided by the school.
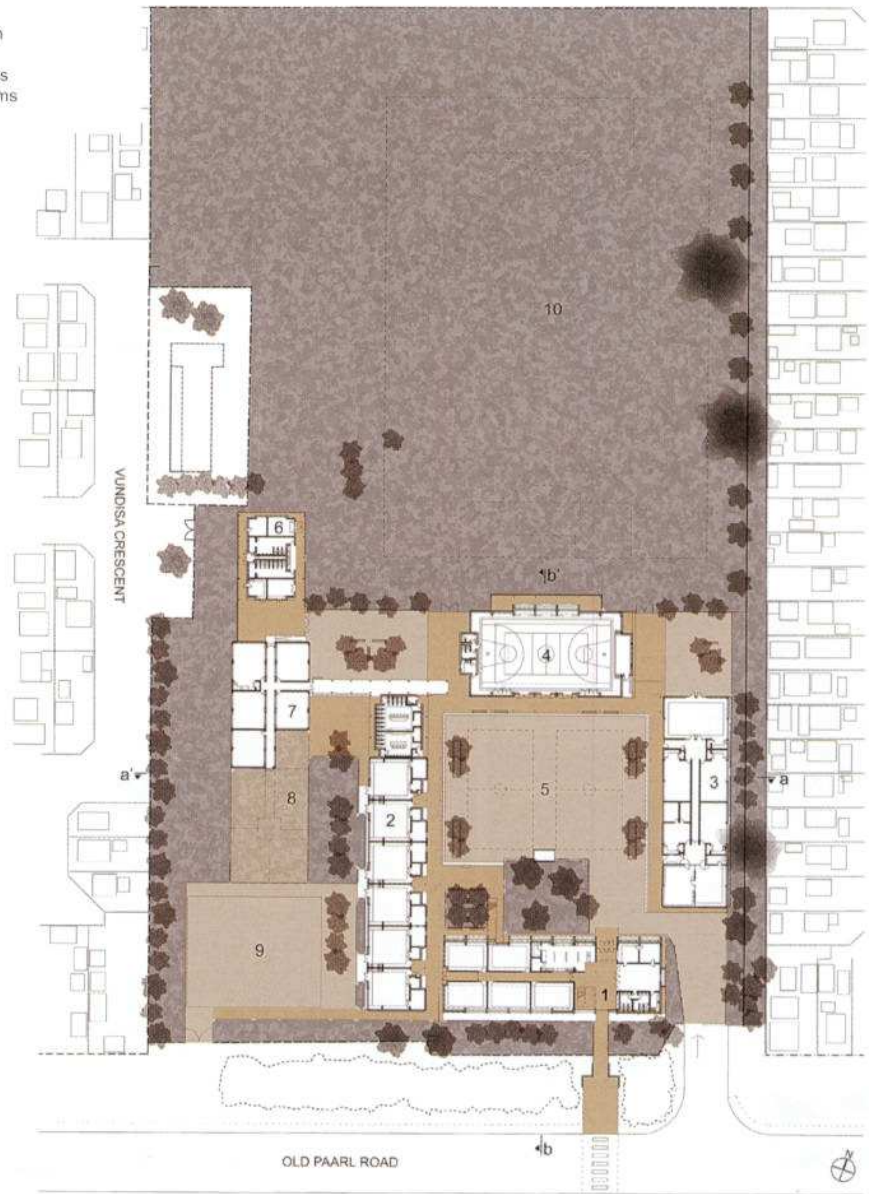

Urban Context Plan

Sectional Elevation AA

Sectional Elevation BB

Legend

1	School Court	9	Vice-principal	17	Classroom
2	Access Stairs to School Court	10	Secretary	18	Kitchen
3	Entrance	11	Bursar	19	Staff Toilets
4	Foyer	12	Sick Room	20	Public Toilets
5	Waiting Area	13	Store	21	Roof over Entrance
6	Meeting/Working Room	14	Strongroom	22	Emergency Exit
7	Staff Room	15	Library	23	Screening Element
8	Principal	16	Hospitality Classroom	24	Gas Store
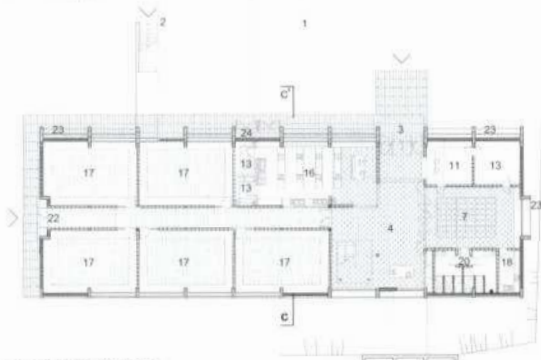
Ground Floor Plan

First Floor Plan