



THE INFLUENCE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICING ON THE BUILT FORM:
Towards a Community Orientated Policing Station in Newlands

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is my own original work carried out under the supervision of Dr Yashaen Luckan. It is being submitted for the degree of Masters in Architecture to the School of Built Environment and Development Studies at the University of KwaZulu- Natal, Durban, South Africa. The dissertation has not been submitted before for any examination or degree at any other University. All references, citations, and borrowed ideas have been duly acknowledged in the document.

Signed by Safeer Khan

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وَمَا تَوْفِيقِي إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

“My success is only by Allah”

(Qur’aan 11:88).

All praise and thanks is due first and foremost to the Almighty, surely my guidance is through His will. All those who have assisted in my journey are tools sent from His favour.

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my beloved parents, Sultan and Shere Banoo Khan, for their unmeasurable support - A father whose influence has hardened me and thought me never to shed a tear, and a mother whose tenderness has thought me that it's okay to cry.

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رَبِّ اَرْحَمُهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيْتَانِي صَغِيرًا

My Lord, have mercy upon them as they brought me up [when I was] small.

(Qur'aan 17:24)

ABSTRACT

Globally, societies are exposed to the scourge of crime and social deviance resulting in dysfunction with far reaching social consequences. History records that in order for society to function within a safe environment, law enforcement is essential through policing. This important societal function is performed from the built form of police stations which houses a diverse number of crime management occupational activities. The extent to which various crime management activities are pursued effectively, is contingent on the different occupational spaces available within the built form of police stations. In the South African context the built form of police stations was founded on racial divisions with historically disadvantaged Black communities being underserved by adequate occupational spaces for effective policing. Rented residential buildings, modified containers and mobile police trucks were some of the built forms that served as police stations. Given the legacy of colonialism and later apartheid, police stations also represented the semiotic of political oppression. Upon democracy the South African Police Act was passed in 1995 to break away from the past political dispensation which proposes the participation of local communities in an effort to fight against unprecedented levels of crime in the form of Community Policing Forums (CPF). The aim of this approach is to allow the community to interface with the South African Police Service (SAPS) so that a holistic approach to crime management can be formulated and implemented. However, the reality is that the built form of police stations in its present structure does not provide adequately for effective community participation let alone a conducive environment for law enforcement officers to function effectively in terms of their policing mandate. This is especially so in historically disadvantaged communities where a well-defined space for various policing activities are lacking and even though they do exist are not conducive environments that meets all the organisational needs of the law enforcement officers and the community at large. It is against this context that this study focusses on a case study of the Newlands police station which is located in a low-middle income community west of Durban. The case study makes a situational analysis of the existing built form of the station through a variety of research approaches with key stakeholders and experts in the field of policing, design and crime management. Accounts of police officers serving in this police station as well as in other stations in the province gives light into the experience of police station environments, speaking of their own as well as the perception of the public. The value of this study opportunistically comes at a time where there

is grumbling in the political corridors of government on the existing built form of the police station. It is anticipated that this study will serve as a model to meet the diversified occupational needs of its police officers and the local community and demystify the traditional notion of a built environment that has been notorious to be oppressive and functionally inefficient.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Background

Police stations by their very nature are hallmarks of law enforcement and social control. They represent a symbol of authority that aims to control deviance and promote law and order in society. This manifests into the architecture of police stations. Fostering community relationships and their engagement in law enforcement is the most contemporary trend in policing. However, the architecture of South African police stations needs to be re-examined and re-imagined as to how police station buildings can enhance community relations and advance new concepts for it to create effective spaces for law enforcement through community engagement in policing functions. The community policing model is hailed as a fresh approach to policing in the post-apartheid era. The new policing approach is based on the philosophy that the design of a police station helps to address police and community relationships and advance a better space for law enforcement. To achieve this, such spaces need to be community friendly and foster a comfortable cognitively and socially interactive experience. In order to ensure a new approach in the fight against crime, it is important to analyse the traditional built form of police stations inherited from the past, in order to develop a built form that models this new notion of community policing.

1.1.2. Justification for Study

South Africa is known for its high crime rates and law enforcement challenges (ranks 3rd on the global crime index as at 2019). It has adopted contemporary community policing models by engaging the participation of local communities in its fight against crime. This policing model is hailed as a fresh approach to policing in the post-apartheid era. The new policing approach is based on the philosophy that the design of a police station helps to address police and community relationships and advances a better space for law enforcement. Experiences from elsewhere in the globe attests to the fact that traditional police stations are now being transformed into welcoming and community oriented public facilities. It is based on the assumption that the design of a police station helps to address police and community

relationships and advances a better space for law enforcement. Given this context, the study seeks to investigate a responsive built form for law enforcement in post-apartheid South Africa.

1.2. Definition of the Problem

1.2.1. Problem Statement

The architecture of police stations in South Africa are perceived as intimidating and deemed community unfriendly. It is contended that they are not ideal spaces for victims to report crimes more especially rape, sexual offences, domestic violence and youth coming in conflict with the law. There is a need for the built form of traditional, adversarial police stations to be revisited so that it can reduce the misery inflicted on vulnerable crime victims and witnesses. The existing built form presents a poor public perception of such environments and thus results in a lack of public interaction and community involvement, which compounds issues of crime and crime prevention. This dissertation argues that police stations do not necessarily have to be hostile environments and inversely should encourage public participation. As an agenda to curb crimes, co-operation and engagement with communities through community policing forums become necessary. Based on this, it may be asserted that the poor design of police stations fails to help address police and community relationships nor does it advance better spaces for law enforcement. Given this context, the study seeks to investigate an appropriate built form for law enforcement in South Africa. It is envisaged that this study would be beneficial to suggest a positive cognitive image of the police department as well as establish a strong presence of safety and security wherein police facilities transform into approachable environments. Thus, the architectural narrative has an important role in this regard as this study seeks to understand that which would express the South African police station as a community inclusive facility.

1.2.2. Aim

The aim of this study is to enhance the experiential quality of the police station through architecture that is community centred.

1.2.3 Objective

The objectives of the study are to:

- To understand the built form narrative of police stations in relation to community policing needs.
- To establish the architectural design principles for a community orientated police station
- To examine the current built form of South African police stations with a view to ascertaining how it can be transformed into public spaces that are approachable.
- To investigate ways in which the built form of police stations could provide a conducive public space to engage in community policing initiatives.

1.3. Defining the Scope

1.3.1. Delimitation of Research Problem

The study seeks to enhance the experiential quality of community policing through architecture. It hopes to suggest a positive cognitive image of the police department as well as establish a strong presence of safety and security wherein police facilities transform into approachable environments. The study is limited to the design and built form of police stations in order to promote community policing. It does not purport to examine the built form to support the policing functions in its entirety through architecture, nor does it seek to provide a panacea to the dysfunctions prevalent within the contemporary policing system, save for presenting a built form that will enhance effective community policing.

1.3.2. Definition of Terms

Built Form- A man made space in which people are made to inhabit by means of living, working or recreating on a constant basis.

Community – Refers to a group of people living within a similar proximity or having a particular characteristic in common.

Community Policing – Within a South African context, it refers to a partnership between police and community with the purpose of solving issues of safety.

Law Enforcement - The action or activity of compelling observance of or compliance with the law.

Police Station - Is the built form which facilitates law enforcement by means of accommodating police officers and other members of staff. These buildings often contain offices and accommodation for personnel and vehicles, along with locker rooms, temporary holding cells and interview/interrogation rooms.

1.3.3. Stating the Assumptions

The study assumes that human behaviour and action are a result of perceptions of space and place. Furthermore, the symbolism that manifests into the built form of historical police stations are deemed as intimidating which results in the lack of interaction. It assumes that the notion of existing police stations, which is perceived as hostile environments for crime prevention, can be transformed through architecture.

1.3.4. Hypothesis

It is hypothesized that the community responsive architectural design will present a new built form of police station that will enable community policing needs and practices.

1.3.5. Key Questions

How can police environments encourage public participation?

What are the current built forms of police stations with regards to community engagement?

How can the architecture of police stations be transformed to promote community policing?

1.4. Concepts and Theories

Structural-Functionalism

In order to gain an understanding of the functioning of police stations and then the introduction of the community element, the theory of Structural Functionalism has been employed. This theory connotes the current make-up of the police station in its existing form.

The structure of the police station determines the way in which it functions and the impact it has on controlling and managing social deviance. To this end sociologist Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) postulated that society comprises different structures or systems that contribute to its function. Disequilibrium in any of these structures will result in societal dysfunctions.

Similarly, in architecture, structural-functional theory is referenced in order to express how the built form (structure) contributes to the functioning of social spaces. In the architectural domain, structure connotes form and the vitality of this form is derived from human activity. Space by itself, therefore, is not architecture; it must be organised (Griffin, 1966:9). It is in this context that the study proposes to examine how police stations are organised to serve the function of community policing, crime prevention and reduction functions, with the intention of defining a responsive architectural strategy. Structural-functionalism in architecture is premised on the understanding of the relationship between form and function, which supports the view that change in environment, modifies the very form of behaviour.

Foremost, the police station provides safety and security functions which is the primary organ of any criminal justice system. The more efficient the form of the police station, the more will be the success of the crime prevention function.

Phenomenology

In order for architecture to make an effective contribution, the way the public perceive the built form needs to be addressed, thus warranting an experiential architecture. The key theory of Phenomenology seeks to create a sensory experience with emphasis on the visual quality of police stations. It is for this reason that the paradigm of semiotics needs to be explored.

The importance of place theory supports and reinforces the ideal of an asset that is community inclusive. Whilst placing importance with the police station, the way in which the

police station relates and communicates with the community is just as significant. This too is a means of expressing symbolism and meaning.

The public perception of police stations will determine the semiotic meaning it conveys to the community. The architecture of the police station will determine the signal it conveys to the public as a symbol of authority, while it can at the same time present an image of approachability to people in times of physical, social and psychological distress. Hence, semiology, 'is essentially the fundamental science of human communication' (Baird, 1969:7), and as such defines the conceptual framework of this research. A semiological approach will help understand the mechanics of meanings and perceptions conveyed by the structure and form of the police station.

Fundamental to semiology and meaning in architecture is the idea that any form in the environment, or sign in language is motivated, or capable of being motivated. In this regard, Jencks (1969) observes that meaning could be developed in respect to a form based on experience although such form may have initially been regarded as arbitrary. In this respect, the form and aesthetics of the police station will determine the meaning it will convey to the public, which will therefore determine its functional value as an accessible community asset.

1.5. Research Methods and Materials

The study proposes to use a qualitative research design. It will comprise the study and analysis of primary and secondary sources of data, direct observation of the physical research localities, semi-structured interviews conducted with select respondents and mapping of the physical area of the research locality. These methodological approaches to the study are outlined below.

Secondary Sources of Data

Secondary data will be collected in the form of a literature review that investigates various sources of insight into the proposed study. These will include selected books, journal articles, websites, dissertations, videos and previous studies on the research topic. Furthermore, vast precedent studies will be carried out towards the desired building typology in other parts of the world.

Primary Sources of Data

Primary sources of data will take different forms so that they can be triangulated. The concept of triangulation in qualitative research refers to the use of multiple methods or data sources, which is used to develop a comprehensive understanding of phenomena being studied (Patton, 1999:1192). Triangulation also has been viewed as a qualitative research strategy to test validity through the convergence of information from different sources. In this study primary data will be obtained through the following means:

Case Study:

For this study, three geographical localities in the Metropolitan area of Durban were profiled purposively to represent different classes for the case study. Purposive sampling by its very nature is the deliberate selection of sample, which provides a typical representation of the population. In this respect, cases that represent high, middle and low-income areas were deliberately identified and selected. The area comprised Durban North representing a high income community, Newlands East representing a middle income community and Cato Manor a low income community.

Interviews and Observations:

The executive of the community policing forums in the different research localities will be interviewed to ascertain their understanding on their perception on the nature and extent of crime and criminality prevalent in the neighbourhood and their perception on how a redesigned police station in the research locality could make it accessible, contribute to crime reporting and prevention of crime. Similarly, police officers belonging to the different ranks (Brigadier, Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, Major, Captain, Lieutenant, Warrant Officer, Sergeant and Constable) will be interviewed in respect of their perception. By interviewing different ranks of policing, one can ascertain which parts of the police system are favourable to the community and which parts are not. Furthermore, certain ranks may have more public interaction than others, whilst ranks high in order may have a more informed overview of community trends in that locality. Added to this, it gives an insight into what are the spatial needs of police officers in order for a better functioning police department in terms of their social needs.

Mapping:

The current spatial layout of the police station will be mapped to ascertain how different spatial divisions of the police service contributes to team work and cohesiveness. In terms of analysis of the qualitative data, these will be undertaken manually through a process of content analysis. The raw data will be grouped into themes and analysed by noting frequency and trends in responses received.

CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction to Police and Community

2.2.1 Historical Context of Police and Community

It is important to examine the history of policing in order to understand how it has progressed and changed over time. The word ‘police’ stems from the Latin word ‘*politia*’—referring to civil administration which is rooted in the ancient Greek words ‘polis’, or ‘city’, and ‘politeia’, or ‘city-state’ (Watson, 2006:130).

Most literature on police history is traced to England, due to its global and local influence on contemporary police practice. In Britain, justice was based on tribal systems which continued to exist beyond Roman rule. The period of ‘Anglo-Saxon laws’, from 600 to 1066, emphasised the concept of a collective responsibility with regards to law enforcement (Rawlings, 2002). Residing in a village or tribal grouping, one was entrusted with the right and responsibility of providing assistance in the event of an offences taking place. Rawlings explains that these duties were lateral as well as vertical, meaning the ruler was to provide justice for his subjects whilst at the same time, whilst it was the prerogative of the individual victim to pursue justice. The Norman conquest of Britain in the 1066 brought about systems of a totalitarian governing systems wherein local men were authorised and required to bring offenders to royal justices, which were subject to the preferences of the victim. Felons could present payment to the victim so that the victim may withdraw an ‘appeal’ to the court. The 1100’s saw the emergence of the ‘Frankpledge’, which was the “obligation on community members to assist in law enforcement” (Rawlings, 2002). This system was managed by sheriffs with chief pledges managing a ‘tithe’ - men of a village or town organised for the purposes of law enforcement. During the 1200’s, an additional group called ‘the watch’ was introduced to be on duty during the summer months when vagrant’s offences became more common.

An example of this in action is provided below:

“At Heyford on 30 may 1317, Robert fitz Bartholomew of Heyford received certain unknown thieves as guests in his house. The watchmen of the town saw that those thieves were staying up suspiciously late in the night and therefore went to enter the house; when they came to one door Robert and

the rest of the thieves went out the other door. The hue and cry was raised at once and the men of the town came to pursue and arrest the aforesaid felons. Among the men of the town came a certain John of Bannebury, who has now died, who pursued the felons, calling upon them to surrender to the king's peace. They would by no means surrender or permit themselves to be judged by the law, nor could those who were pursuing them take them alive. A general fight ensued between the felons and their pursuers, and John of Bannebury cut off the head of the aforesaid Robert. The chattels of the aforesaid Robert are confiscated for flight.” (Sutherland 1983:168–9)

Sheriffs held the responsibility of enforcing law and order, keeping offenders in custody, and the right to call out a ‘Posse’ of able-bodied men, similar to the tithes, in assisting of capturing and securing suspects (Rawlings, 2002). During the late 1100’s, the responsibilities of sheriffs were partially replaced by coroners due to concerns of abusive of power. Coroners took over the responsibility of collecting fine monies, confiscated goods seized for the crown, as well as conducting inquests on deceased persons. ‘Serjeants of the peace’ were appointed where there was no frankpledge in place and took on similar responsibilities whilst also making presentments about offences and offenders to courts, and secured the chattels of offenders (Rawlings, 2002:18). Other police officials such as locally elected constables had diverse administrative duties. These developments, although locally based and implemented, were dictated by the monarchy which strengthened the power of the state. Overall control of the policing apparatus lay with the ‘General Eyre’—a type of circuit court. “They tried felons, but, most importantly, they reviewed the system of law enforcement and punished any neglect” (Rawlings, 2002:19). The 1200s saw the expansion of centralised authority over criminal justice when King Henry III obtained authority to prosecute suspects even if victims withdrew their appeal (Rawlings, 2002:14).

It is from medieval England, that origins of many familiar elements of contemporary policing can be seen. The system went through modifications in subsequent centuries. Other literature sources inform that policing origins in Colonial America had a similar developmental cycle to that of Britain. It could be argued that ‘community’ policing was the initial form of policing. Having mentioned that, the presence of a ‘police station’ at that time is doubtful, as members of the community were ‘officers’. There is no mention of a central station wherein these appointed members of the community would gather. Furthermore, the literature shows

how the hierarchical system for different levels of police came into being, and in time, develop a need for the built form to accommodate the ranking structure of police.

As time progressed, there was a need for hierarchies of policing, which in turn, provided a need for a structured system, which would require built form. The first organised police forces can be found in Paris and is traced to the period of rule of King Louis XIV. A Lieutenant-General was in command of this force and the system was extended to other provinces in the 1700's. During this period, police were not only responsible for regular policing duties but were required to supply food to the poor, be a part of firefighting and street cleaning among other civic responsibilities. The force was said to be effective in both controlling crime and suppressing dissent, attributing its success through a network of informants (Horton, 1995:9). This indicates, that whilst international trends are only recently identifying the merit of physically grouping collective and communal civic services together, its success has been tested historically. From the text analysed thus far, it could be stated that as the organisational structure of policing evolved, a need arose for a physical structure to house these structures.

Prior to modern, formalised policing structures being developed, policing functions were facilitated by militia, watchmen or constables, all of which lacked professional training and organised management. The 'New Police Model' became a catalyst for the police to be a remunerated civic service that eventually spread in various forms throughout the world. Crime prevention based on legal due processes as well as co-operation with local communities were to be the focus of the police, however, this system fell short by way of corruption, use of excessive force and overall incompetence. In colonised regions such as Australia there had been a conflict between the militarised form of policing and the community based ideals of the New Police. In Europe, crime prevention took on militaristic form that was more detached. During the 19th and 20th centuries, policing became focused on state protection, enforcing subservience to the rule by way of surveillance and brutality which lead to torture and murder.

In the African continent, records of early policing before the advent of colonialism is almost non-existent. However, what is known is that regiments under the command of Kings, chiefs and traditional leaders for the different tribes maintained law and order and acted as agencies for social control. It is unknown as to whether policing functions took place from formal built environments. However, some form of policing has always been a part of their inherent

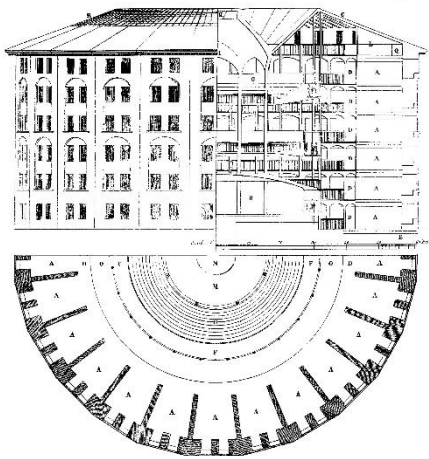
experience. “Deviance was controlled in traditional African societies by a number of agencies, institutions and occupations such as age-based groups, elders, hunters, priests, cultural and religious groups” (Alemika, 2015). Although policing in African countries have been formalised, contemporary challenges of conflicts, insecurity and ineffectiveness of state police and other security agencies in Africa has led to the resurgence and adaptation of traditional policing mechanisms and strategies in modified forms. These forms include communal, ethnic and religious vigilante groups to assure security.

However, during early colonialism, forts and garrisons were built to protect any impending attacks from natives and served as a formal base from which white interests on invaded land was maintained. As the colonialists established their economic and political interest in these native lands, formal police stations were established not only to protect white interest but also to protect them from any threat to their safety and wellbeing. There is evidence that indigenous people from these nation states were co-opted into the colonial police force and so were traditional leaders (*Chiefs*) (Stapelton, 2011). Upon de-colonialization these physical policing structures were inherited by the liberated African states and so were some of the officers who were under the tutelage of their colonial masters. Hence it may be asserted that contemporary policing agencies were a colonial creation established as instruments of colonial pacification, domination and exploitation (Alemika, 2015).

From the literature analysed thus far, it is clear that places of containment were built prior to that of police stations. This indicates that places of torture and imprisonment was required as more of a necessity than a place of administering crime prevention. Police stations came about during the period of the Industrial Revolution which followed the establishment of prisons, workhouses and asylums as stated by Hoffman(2007). The widely criticized Panopticon, envisaged by theorist and social philosopher Jeremy Bentham was a rotunda building, built for mass incarceration. The Panopticon was that of a radial prison layout with a tower at the centre in which a single guard would surveil, in which the guard would be able to observe all of the prisoners without the prisoners having a visual link with the guard or other prisoners. Literature explains in detail the psychological permutations that this layout subjected prisoners to which is outlined as follows:

“In the physical panoptic prison that Bentham envisioned, the prisoner would be unable to escape the unwavering gaze of the central watchtower, but at the same time would be unable to tear his gaze away. While he would never know whether

or not he was actually being watched, due to a cleverly designed network of blinds, partitions and twisting passages in the watchtower itself, he would be aware that there is the potential to be watched and that any act of misconduct could bring about swift justice and retribution. His isolation from other prisoners in the system, both in the literal and psychological sense, make any attempts to go against the system unlikely as his individuality is broken down and any tendencies that go against the norm are stripped away.” Sheridan (2016)



Figures 2.2.1: Plan and Section of Panopticon

Source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panopticon>



Figures 2.2.2: Interior view of Panopticon.

Source:<https://inversetimes.hopto.org/news/story-436.html>

The ideology of which was the ideal model of exerting control over society as it was a manifestation of visible power and constant surveillance and observation - which Bentham believed was the ultimate method of moral reformation. Whilst the structure was that of little complexity, the function was deemed as a ‘cruel, ingenious cage’ by theorist philosopher Michel Foucault. Foucault (1975) argued that the panopticon’s ultimate purpose was to instil a state of conscious visibility which results in assuring the automatic functioning of power. The Panopticon is regarded as the ultimate model of imposing control over society through reform. The Panopticon model during that period was used as a basis for schools, schools, asylums and extended to vast building typologies which ensured control over civilians. Police station design soon followed. It is in this regard that Hoffman (2007) states ‘Policing elements and the buildings they operate from have therefore developed in accordance with this shift in political attitudes, and to meet a need resulting from massive population

disruption'. This statement justifies the need for exploring the political history of South Africa with regards to law and order.

Sir Robert Peel, regarded as the founder of modern policing and the Home Secretary of England, formed the often-cited Peelian Principles of policing. Peel in 1829, introduced the Metropolitan Police Act to Parliament with the aim of creating a police force that would manage the social conflict that resulted from rapid urbanization and industrialization taking place in London at the time. Peel's efforts resulted in what scholars identify as the first recognised police force - the London Metropolitan Police Station. Peel's influence was integral in the creation of this department, as well as his formation of several basic principles that would later guide the progression of police departments in the United States. His ideology was that the prime focus of London Metropolitan Police should be on crime prevention. This meant that it would contrast previous forms of 'policing' wherein the police would prevent crime from occurring as opposed to the act of detecting it after it had occurred. In addition, he believed that the police required to operate from a co-ordinated and centralized manner, providing coverage across a larger region, and also be available to the public both night and day. Patrols were also introduced in this time as method of deterring criminal activity. As is the notion in present day, it was believed police presence in a community would make criminals hesitant about committing an offence. This approach to policing would be vastly different from the earlier time wherein watch groups patrolled the streets in an unorganized and erratic manner. It was important to Peel that the newly created London Metropolitan Police Department be viewed as a legitimate organization in the eyes of the public, unlike the earlier watch groups. Peel felt the need for a central headquarters that would be located in an area that ensured ease of access to the public. Concepts such as way finding and beacons of presence can be deduced. It was important to Peel that his men wear appropriate uniforms, badge numbers so that citizens could easily identify them, not carry firearms, and receive appropriate training in order to be effective at their work. Many of these ideologies were also adopted by American police agencies during this time period and remain in place in some contemporary police agencies across the United States.

The approach of the Peelian principles was such that the influence of policing would be backed by the public co-operation and respect as opposed to the public being in fear of the police. Whilst Peelian principles influenced American policing to an extent, the principles were not fully exercised. The 1930's saw the rise of organised crime wherein corruption became rife. This saw emergence of the 'reform era' and the 'professional model', which

were contrary to the New Police Model as it distanced police from the public, negating any alliance between the two which later proved to have negative consequences. American policing in the nineteenth century valued the Peelian Principles, but unfortunately drifted away when it was determined there should be distance between the public and police. Motorised units with radios or ‘radio cars’ as they were called, became more common for preventative patrols and rapid response in the decades that followed. The 1960’s and 70’s saw the rapid increase of crime, rioting with enforcement crackdowns, the kind of which had been unprecedented in America. Intrusive police practices exacerbated the divide between the community and the police.

In the 1980s, American policing were progressive with the ‘broken windows’ theory about the benefits of order, maintenance and addressing tipping-point neighbourhoods, but had not considered the unintended consequences of zero-tolerance policing. Fortunately, now, police agencies are reverting to the strong need for public consent policing as Peel outlined. Hence the importance of understanding public relations and the subsequent introduction of ‘community policing’.

With regards to the evolution of the built form of policing, Rogers and Houston (2004) in their publication ‘Re-inventing the Police Station’, speak of the proud history of police station design. Commending the building standards for the way in which the Edwardians and Victorians designed institutional buildings, state that they had an understanding of ‘the important role that the estate plays in shaping perceptions and relations, and invested in it accordingly’. This notion is reinforced as they state the following:

“The familiar town centre police station, housing reception area and front desks, offices, cells, exercise yard, and stables (and often sharing a site with the fire station or local court), reflected, in built form, the varied responsibilities of the British police service, and helped make it both visible and legible. At their best, as in Woodhouse, Willoughby and Langham’s London Road Station in Manchester, these buildings were fine works of architecture. But even the standard example, with its solid brick façade, formal entrance, open front desk and blue lamp, worked as a readable, reassuring, symbol of security and public order. Along with the British Bobby’s truncheon, tunic and coned hat, it was a world-recognised icon – an exemplary piece of branding.” Rogers and Houston (2004)

Whilst the British policing model has evolved, there seems to be a similar issue with regards to the public perception of police stations and their inability to be regarded as welcoming environments. Rogers and Houston (2004) in their publication makes an evaluation of British Police Stations by stating the following:

“The low priority accorded to the design of the police estate is all too obvious from a visit to almost any police station. True, victims of rape and other violent crimes are now often provided with special rooms or ‘havens’, outside police stations, where they can be interviewed and supported and examined. But at a time when people increasingly want personal and responsive services, police stations tend to remain intimidating or alienating places. Virtually none provide space for public meetings or exhibitions and very few make the most of the admittedly limited aspects to them that might appeal to the public: horses and kennels remain hidden away, officers are provided with separate entrances, and their offices are removed from public view. The reception area of the great majority police stations – the only public space at all in most of them – could scarcely be less hospitable. They generally take the form of a small boxed room, a small fraction of the over-all police building, which offer no insight into the working of the police station or the larger police force. Seating is often inadequate; even where there is enough of it; it takes the form of metal benches fastened to the floor. Members of staff are separated from the public by one or sometimes two bullet-proof glass screens. And this is usually the only public space at all in what is frequently a massive and illegible building. Ironically, the atmosphere in the custody areas of police stations tends to be friendlier than in the public reception area, with police milling about both side of the custody counter, and chatting to each other and to detainees, their lawyers and others passing through.” Rogers and Houston (2004)

The text above serves as a reinforcement to the problem statement which address the local context. In the study conducted by the Office for Public Service Reform (Office for Public Service Reform 2003: 5), by means of a series of interviews and focus groups, concluded that British Police Stations deterred positive usage of police stations by the public. Among the key findings were that designs lacked enquiry into police-community interaction, insight into

public experience and a lack of priority into the front counter interface. Rogers and Houston conclude that the design of police station buildings plays a vital role in the perception of the public with regards to criminality and the justice system. Furthermore, the publication places emphasis on trust in the police as well as accountability. As such, it is mentioned that architectural statutory bodies would work hand in hand with the government to ensure that public service buildings would be designed to promote confidence in reinforce a sense of shared identity.

It is interesting to note, that whilst South Africa is a developing nation, with poorly designed institutional buildings being as a result of the Apartheid regime, Britain being a developed state is reviewing its police station model. The publication above states that little research has been conducted into the public usage of police stations as is the case within a local context. Chapter 3 of this study, 'Precedent Studies' will further explore the nature in which developed countries attempt to improve public perception despite these societies having a lesser socio-economic complexity.

2.2.2 Historical Context and Evolution of South African Police

According to Hoffman (2007), similar to the history of international policing discussed previously, the earliest forms of policing in South Africa were conducted by 'watchmen', an unpaid, volunteer responsibility, during the era of the Dutch East Company. During the rule of Jan Van Riebeeck, policing was conducted in forts and subsequently in castles. However, formal policing was first introduced in the Cape and came to be in a time when policing in Britain was evolving in 1840's. This is would make sense as the Cape was under British control at the time. Literature suggests extensively how British colonies would integrate policing into the military and the two entities were vaguely distinguishable. As such they operated from forts through the country and eventually become the Union of South Africa in 1910. As was the case with international history, forts and other such places of containment preceded the advent of police stations.

The South African Police (SAP) was established on 1 April 1913. Until its disbandment, the SAP was often called to aid the military to overpower opposition to the government. This role became most apparent during the apartheid years, when South Africa was generally described as a police state (Brewer, 1994). Although the South African Police under apartheid perhaps most clearly demonstrated this colonial legacy, according to Brogden and Shearing (1993), police forces all over the world still remained focussed on repression rather than social

empowerment. The issue of policing being identified as a state function, is a core source of the problems that have confronted contemporary policing. Colonial policing is by character closely linked to the interests and structure of the colonial state: "The police are centralized under the control of the government and they serve that government, rather than the law, performing several non-police duties for government" (Van der Westhuizen, 2001, p.38). The facilitation of apartheid policies such as racial segregation were conducted by the police, skills for which required no traditional training and allowed for abuse of power on a large scale. Hence, policing in South Africa in recent decades gone by, are at a disconnect with the large segment of the community, whose security it was intended to protect.

During the turn of democracy, the new government faced the mammoth task of transforming the police service into one which would be both acceptable to the majority of the population, and effective against crime. With this came many changes to the police force, which can be classified as symbols of a new order. This included changes of insignia, ranking systems, and name changes that were previously associated to the apartheid era. Most notably was changing the name from SAP to SAPS (South African Police Service). This was a symbolic initiative to disassociate the SAP being a police force, but rather having the police be recognized as a civil service. SAP's origins date back to the Dutch Settlers in 1655, and more notably the SAP was responsible for enforcing apartheid laws. Hence, the rename was seen as something necessary to the new government. Although superficial, these symbolic changes contributed towards creating a more positive public perception of the police service.

The legitimacy of the police in South Africa became highly questionable when police agencies enforced unpopular laws. In addition, the police played a militant role, crushing popular protest and engaging in South Africa's de-facto domestic civil war as well as being deployed in support of white regimes in independence struggles in neighbouring states. This resulted police to be alienated on a large scale from the majority black population and in addition police officers became targets of violence from pro democratic groups.

The concept of "community policing", gleaned from contact with the international police fraternity, gained currency in enlightened SAP circles in the late 1980s.

Policing in many countries across the world have undergone a shift from the traditional reactive form of policing, to a more community orientated approach (Pelsner, 1999; Brogden and Shearing, 2005). Due to the success of community policing in different parts of the world after its introduction in USA during the 1970s, it is now seen as the standard ideological

approach. International policing models had partially influenced the SAP and local academics, which resulted in the establishment of the first community policing structures during the early 1990s. The South African Police Service (SAPS) established a Division for Community Relations in late 1992. These Police –Community Forum divisions were established at local level in all areas of SAP jurisdiction. A large number of former Security Branch officers were deployed into the new Division by the SAP, which created immediate suspicion from black communities about the initiative. In 1994, The Interim Constitution, contained a detailed requirement that the new police service should establish a "Community Police Forum" (CPF) wherein it is to be the only recognised platform in which public concerns of policing and safety are to be made to the police. However, despite being formally disbanded, these committees were still functioning, forming the core of the new CPF's. Unlike Peace Committees, CPF's membership was not limited to political parties, but could include any community group and interested individual. The issue with this is that a community policing forum had to be retrofitted into an existing infrastructure. This means that there was no spatial consideration for that component within the existing station. This questions the ability of the concept of community policing to ever be successful.

Whilst the Police Service Act 68 of 1995 and the South African Constitution Act 108 of 1996 states that CPFs, by law of the country, are to be established in every police station in the country, crime prevention was not being achieved significantly. Challenges such as a lack of logistical and human resources were identified as well as communities' were not being well represented by their respective CPFs. In this regard, Smith (2008) states "Individuals feel that they cannot make valuable contributions toward the functioning of the CPF, as the problems experienced in the station area are diverse. For example, affluent communities are indifferent to the needs of communities in informal settlements, as the problems experienced are different. Police stations are situated far from the communities they are supposed to serve. Communities find it difficult to attend meetings of the CPF and because of distances, they feel left out from the process and structures of the CPF. Thus the police service is only accountable to certain sections of the community it serves". As a result of this, the concept of Sector Policing was introduced as a 'stream' of community policing. Sector policing refers to the breaking down of an entire police precinct into smaller, manageable areas within that precinct. This would mean that police officers would be allocated different geographical areas in which to liaise with its respective communities, and to intimately know the criminality dynamics of such areas. It is believed that understanding the root causes of issues

can be aided in crime prevention. The aim of sector policing is for police to identify problems and seek solutions in liaison with the affected community by means of continuous interaction. As such Sector Crime Forums (SCFs) were introduced.

2.2.3. Disconnect Between Police and Community

The government term of ‘Safety and Security’ refers to combatting, investigating and, most notably, preventing crime. This echoes the situation in the United States of America, which is also plagued by elevated levels of crime. However, the solutions to the problems of crime are complex. According to Oscar Newman (1999) in his book *Defensible Space*, he states, “the crime problems facing America will not be answered through increased police force or firepower. We are witnessing a breakdown of the social mechanisms that once kept crime in check and gave direction and support to police activity”. Similarly, the “Pikoli” Report delves into an investigation of policing in Khayelitsha and has revealed that in post-1994 South Africa, there is a major disconnect between the police and the people who they serve. Whilst the report focuses on Khayelitsha, the organisations supporting the investigation believe the same holds true for the poor and working-class townships and informal settlements throughout the country, and can solutions can be applied nationally. The report uncovered a deep community call for police accountability, accessibility and transparency. This comes as a result of cases not being followed through, inability to track progress as well as the almost impossible “mandate” of crime prevention that has been passed on to the SAPS in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. According to David Bayley in his book, *Police of the Future*, “The police do not prevent crime. This is one of the best kept secrets of modern life. Experts know it, the police know it, but the public does not know it. Yet the police pretend that they are society’s best defence against crime and continually argue that they if they are given more resources, especially personnel, they will be able to protect communities against crime. This is a myth.”

This myth has caused a deception in the SAPS themselves and, more pertinently, the community in which they serve. Thus, according to Andrew Faull’s book, ‘*Police Work and Identity*’, police have “an organisational façade of efficiency and effectiveness” that is maintained to uphold this myth. Similar practices have been taking place to safeguard the reputation of the SAPS within communities. It seems that there is less emphasis on the communities that they serve and more on the national view of the stations and officers. Crime

combatting and investigation as listed in the Constitution has been shifted to crime prevention strategies geared towards enlisting the help of the local community in the fight against crime. This has been articulated by Sydney Mufumadi in the 1998 White Paper on Safety and Security: “in the immediate post-1994 period, the government’s policy agenda on safety and security was shaped by two objectives: firstly, to rehabilitate the police to ensure they became protectors of our communities; and secondly, to mobilise our people to participate in the provision of safety and security” (Department of Safety and Security, 1998). Mufumadi, in the same publication reiterates the challenges by stating “A concentration on policing for purposes of political control has meant that prior to 1994 and in contrast with developments in other societies – the understanding and practice of crime prevention is poorly developed in South Africa. In relation to the police this means, in particular, that there has been little tradition of visible and community-oriented policing on which to build” (White Paper on Safety and Security, 1998).

Although this was to be a new radical perception of policing, the residues of the past remained due to the pragmatic requirements to retain many personnel from the existing civil service. For crime theorist Leggett this was a problematic move, which could account for the ongoing troubled relationships between community and police: “To expect a civil service, partly comprised of those who were trained under a fundamentally different regime and part of whom were new to the job altogether, to absorb complex new ways of doing business without significant training seems ludicrous” (Leggett, 2003:1).

It is often the assumption that it is police that is the impeding party in community relations. To further explore the disconnect with police, academics state that it is due to misconception and perception. Burger (2006) finds that the public is majorly uninformed with regards to crime prevention – as he feels that the general understanding that crime is a criminal justice problem. Nel (2000) supports this notion by further stating that the public feels that crime prevention will come as a result of police and the justice system becoming ‘tough’ with criminals, in that police and courts do not arrest and convict enough suspects. Other academics further support these notions and in summary, hold the view that the South African public is overly dependent on justice system. The mandate of crime prevention cannot solely be the responsibility of the police as crime is as a result of many other socio economic factors. Walklate (1996) concludes that it is not the mandate of police to solve the influences of social, economic, psychological or environmental factors that result in criminal activities. Having understood this, it is clear that the causes of crime will not be prevented by

a single agency as stated by Memeza (2001). It is for this reason that South African public are deemed ignorant with regards to the complications that come with crime prevention.

With 200 000 personnel, South Africa has one of largest police services in the world. Unfortunately, these numbers have been ineffective in fighting elevated levels of crime. This is a highlight of the deep systemic social issues confronting current policing in South Africa. Furthermore, as mentioned previously, even the introduction of CPF's have limitations. Whilst SCF's are seen as a remedy to those limitations, SCF's are logistically, resource and infrastructure intensive. Burger (2011) strongly feels that despite all of the innovative concepts used for crime prevention, crime will not be alleviated without full corporation from police and community. He states that this cooperation is dependent on the level of trust in which the community holds towards the community. This alludes to the enquiry as to the role could architecture play in this situation. There needs to be an emphasis in the way in which the architecture of police stations in post-apartheid South Africa expresses this process of rehabilitation and inviting community members to be involved in the process of policing. Architecture needs to be mobilised to create a better connection between people and police.

2.3. Structural Functional Theory

The theory of structuration, as Giddens suggests, is the spatialized practice of power which can be modelled as enabling and constraining relations between 'structure' and 'agency' (Dovey, 1999: 3). Structures are defined as organised properties of social systems in the form of rules and resources. Agency on the other hand is described as the human action or interaction. The relationship between structure and agency is that of enabling and constraining. Giddens argues that structure and agency are a mutually constitutive duality and are mutually important. 'Structure' both enables and constrains 'agency' but at the same time, structures are constructed and given meaning by agents (people) (Dovey, 1999). According to Giddens, spatial structure is a form of 'structure' where the arrangement of space influences or limits the choices and opportunities it provides. Thus, design is a kind of 'agency' that creates social space by means of drawing on rules and regulations of structure. (Dovey, 1999:20). Therefore, for reproduction and transformation of society to occur, agency is a necessity.

Police stations in their existing state are a manifestation of structural functionalism. This means that organisational structures define the manner in which such structures function and

manifest in the built form. Space by itself is not architecture, as it must be organised. It is in this context that the study looks at how police stations are organised to serve the function of community policing, crime prevention and reduction functions.

Police stations are the central point of co-ordination of local law enforcement services requiring them to function every day of the year, 24 hours of the day (Sendich, 2006:210). They represent a symbol of authority that aims to control deviance and promote law and order in society. Fostering community relationships and their engagement in law enforcement is the most contemporary trend in policing. There is a need for an inquiry into how the built form can affect community relations and advance new concepts for it to create better spaces for law enforcement and community engagement in policing functions. This suggests a break away from the traditional design of a bunker, to be accessibly located in the midst of where communities work and play. A successful police station design would therefore discard the prevalent fortress look; fortified architecture creates physical and psychological barriers that prevent access to this vital public facility (Liu, 2018:8).

On the contrary, in the South African context, during the colonial and apartheid era, police station architecture of the time, aimed to oppress the majority of the population by expressing the might of the government (Spuy, 2005:18). In light of the evolution of policing in South African the following examples manifest the structural functional theory.

2.3.1 Analysis of Local Police Stations

During the 1800's policing was administered as militant from forts and garrisons, the design of which was aligned to the militant buildings in Europe at the time. The early 1900s saw police stations being built, and were identifiable as such. Hoffman makes example of Durban police stations having curfew bells housed within prominent belfry towers. The bells were a form of promoting power as they were a means of regulating life of the citizens at the time. These identifying markers phased out and thereafter, police stations in South Africa had little means of being identified as such, apart from the national and police flags as can be seen in present time. During the latter part of 90's, when the apartheid regime was under a lot of pressure, police stations particularly were the target of many attacks. As a result, police stations were designed for access to be highly restricted wherein the intervention of turnstiles, fences, boundary walls and other access control were employed. These were used to convey strength by the SAP, hence the final form of police stations, were fort-like structures.

“The police are often referred to as the ‘thin blue line’, suggesting an agency that delicately differentiates between the community and criminal activity. The apartheid era has left this line thickened and its effects are still felt in the buildings that it left behind, despite the shift from a police force to a police service, post-1994”(le Roux, 2017).

In the post-apartheid South Africa, the SAPS had to redefine itself as a public protection service as opposed to being an instrument of control (Hoffman, 2001: viii). The general public image of these institutions, however, revolves around the criminal element within society with the focus primarily being on punishment and the enforcement of law rather than a public service (Faull, 2011). In an attempt to transform itself, the South African Police Service Act (1995) was formulated which proposed to establish a statutory “Community Police Forum” whereby the police station commissioners would liaise and account to the local community (Rauch, 2000:3). This change in policing policy, although laudable, needs a deep consideration as to how the contemporary police function can achieve this goal and how space is defined and reorganised to fulfil their newly acquired roles in community policing. For this practice to be appropriate, it raises the concern on how the present architecture of police stations can make an effective contribution to this partnership and how it can contribute to the public perception of the police force (Madden, 2012:4).

2.4. The Role of Phenomenology in Meaning and Perception

Police stations are a place of social conflict and reconciliation. As mentioned previously, the current experience of police stations is not welcoming nor are they welcoming spaces. The built form seeks to facilitate reconciliation and thus various design methods have to be applied. The conscious design methods are vital as meaningful civic spaces serve as platform for reconciliation and social inclusion (Bhudia, 2014). The built environment requires the creation of meaningful civic space within it that is culturally appropriate and relevant to the community it serves, which would then in turn provide a platform for reconciliation and social inclusion. The creation of meaning is dependent on human experience. Hesselgren states that the “need to experience a meaning is something primary and spontaneous, not something acquired by training” (Hesselgren, 1969:248). According to Muslim (2018), perception is with the way in which something may appear rather than which exists in objective reality. It is for this reason that Rock (1975:3) states that the objective is to find the

determining factors for these perceived appearances. Whilst many scholars and philosophers have contributed strongly on the topic of meaning and perception, the common theme is that meaning and perception is influenced by sensory experience. George Berkeley (1910), is of the view that sensory abilities and sensations are the provisions for knowledge and that vision and touch serves as an aid for arriving at correct interpretations. Hermann Von Helmholtz (1867) however, was of the opinion that unconscious processes interpret current stimuli based in experiences of the past and it is this interpretation that is regarded as perception. There has been a realisation among philosophers that visual perception is a dominating factor in sensory experience.

According to Pallasmaa (2005:11), there is an exchange between the observer (agent) and object in the experience of architecture, wherein the observer brings emotion and associations to the space, and spaces brings its own aura which evokes perception. Pallasmaa goes on to state that multi-sensory experience enhances the sense of reality when there is constant sensory interaction. This occurs when the built form does not function as an isolated entity, wherein it is an “extension of nature into the manmade realm”, which provides the “ground for perception and experience and the understanding of the world” (Pallasmaa, 2005:11). From this, it is affirmed that both entities are in constant interaction with the environment and are constantly informing and redefining each other. Pallasmaa explains that the processing of information by the senses for the judgement of intellect results in imagination and articulation of sensory thought. As such, multi-sensory experience serves as a means of reconciling between one’s self and the world. It can then be affirmed that our sensory beings contribute to our spatial and temporal perceptions. In addition, the relationship between ourselves and our environments are facilitated by our senses. Multi-sensory experience is made up of the five senses, namely, sight, touch, smell, sound and taste which, which Muslim (2019) mentions, are all unconsciously and subjectively used in our perception of the built environment.

Whilst architecture and space are experienced through many sensory modalities, the majority of perception is formed through vision, which bridges the subconscious, according to Pallasmaa. Merleau-Ponty, an Irish philosopher on sensory, points out that touch as vision are connected and vision would not be possible without the cooperation of memory. Pallasmaa goes on to state from Ponty’s view, that perception, memory and imagination are in constant interaction, suggesting that perception fuses into images of memory (Pallasmaa, 2015:68). This is of particular relevance, as Budhia (2014) states that when experiencing architecture of

tainted history, an exchange occurs between the observer and object. She goes on to state that objects project their own aura and the observer's perceptions and emotions are projected towards the object. This is of importance, wherein as stated previously, police stations have a historic notoriety of brutality and injustice. This is what needs to be addressed as Pallasmaa states that the melancholy in the architecture is fundamentally an expression of the observers own melancholy enticed by the authority of architecture.

The observational process refers to the physical energy of reaching one of our sense organs to create an electro-chemical impulse sent to the brain. "It is this impulse which gives rise to an experience which is known as a sensation or perception which is intrinsically linked to psychology" (Hesseltgren 1969: 11). According to Madden (2012), conscious and sub-conscious wishes and feelings that influence an individual's view are forms the basis of perception. Architecture forms part of the physical realm which acts as a stimulus causing this reaction in the human mind known as perception. Perceptions are an unconscious phenomenon. The stimuli could either be subjective (based on mental phenomena) or objective (physical), both being of equal importance. Thus, perceptions can be based on physical objects or existing knowledge. There is a complex process happens wherein meaning is given to these perceptions. The phenomenological approach seeks to understand the simpler reaction in terms of perception rather than how meaning given to the perception, which is known as semantics (Hesseltgren 1969: 12).

According to Hesseltgren (1969: 255), meaning is connected to perception in three ways: -

Conventional meaning - Conventional meaning can be understood by of example of the national flag, which is seen by the entire nation as a symbol of national identity, as they have all been taught to identify it as such.

Associative meaning - This refers to those meanings that are the result of past associations which are specific to a culture or behaviours of that culture.

Spontaneous meaning - Refers to perception through a natural reaction as is the case with the human smile which is universally understood as a sign of happiness even though it is not taught.

This is of relevance as all three connections can be associated with police stations, dependant on the context in which one would interact with a police station. Police stations carry conventional meaning as the SAPS is a governmental institute. Associative meanings could

relate to the way in which law enforcement has been carried out in the past or perhaps one's previous encounter with the law. Meaning of spontaneity could come into effect with interacting with the police station.

2.4.1 Semiotics, Symbols and Meaning

Semiology and meaning are inherently linked to the notion of language, the system of agreed upon rules to communicate (Madden, 2012). According to Muslim (2019), semiotics could be defined as a way of understanding the assembly of meaning in the built environment.

Semiotics is referred to as the theory of signs and is considered essential to human communication (Baird, 1969: 7). As such it serves a means of agreed upon guidelines to communicate. Muslim states that it is this communication that facilitates the relationship between identity and perception. Furthermore, he states that the relationship between architecture and language, are the common backgrounds to mankind's developments.

Nelson Goodman (1968) in his book, "Language of Art" states that language may have multiple representations. He mentions and describes these interconnected representations, namely- denotation, exemplification, metaphoric expression and mediated reference. Whilst stating that a subject matter may have many representations, it is imperative that distinction is made amongst them so as not to avoid attaining an incorrect attribute. He also mentions that in some instances, the built form would require one to have knowledge on how to interpret such meanings.

Krampen (1979: 13) states that an artefact is the result of human intervention, an intentional act wherein the labourer has learnt to assemble his materials. As such, similar could be said about language in that it is learnt by society and intentionally formed and produced by man. In order for meaning to be transmitted to the public via the built environment, it is essential to have an understanding of how perception can be formed within the mind of the individual and community at large.

The narrative of a building created through its use may be just as powerful as the form itself (Madden, 2012). Meaning can be conveyed powerfully through experience and memory. The function of a building is dictated by its use, however, a stranger knowing the function, may not necessarily know the real value associated with that space by the occupants.

Kouwenhoven assesses the different meanings a stranger could perceive from being at your

old school, or the house you grew up in or even the church in which you were married. As such the narrative of use can be as moving or poetic as that of form (Markus 1993:9). With regard to language, Kouwenhoven makes use of the term ‘bank’, wherein he states that his visual reality of a bank would be that it has ‘the classical entrance, a domed banking hall with mosaic floors and mahogany counters’. In contrast, however, a person living in Shanghai would have a different interpretation or ‘mental image’ of a bank.



Figure 2.4.1: The Shanghai and Hong Kong Bank, Hong Kong by Norman Foster. Source: <https://archello.com/story/71213/attachments/photos-videos/1>

Figure 2.4.2: First American Bank in Texas, USA which contrasts to the image of the Shanghai Bank. Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First_American_Bank,_Ranger,_TX_IMG_6455.JPG

A similar example of the way in which language relates to architecture can be given wherein South Africans colloquially or commonly refer to ‘garage’s’ as a filling station, however, in other parts of the world, the built form of garages refers to the place in which you would house your vehicle in a domestic setting.

It could be that a building has been designed without the intention of it expressing meaning, yet the people who interact with such a building may give it meaning from their perception. As such some buildings designed to convey a message are interpreted differently to the given meaning (Bonta, 1979: 22). With regard to various ways in which buildings may be interpreted, Goodman (1984) identifies three interpretive systems namely – absolutist, relativist and deconstructionist. The absolutist notion is that a building may only have one correct interpretation, that which was the desired intent and identity of the architect. As opposed to the absolutist view, the relativist notion is that all interpretations are correct and

that there is no fixed interpretation. The notion of the deconstructionist system is similar to the view that all interpretations are correct, yet they are a narrative, and as such, a single interpretation is unnecessary.

The topic of symbolism in architecture can be vastly be expanded upon. Broadbent (1979: 12) argues that architecture is a functional entity rather than that of communication. However, function is an intrinsic part of communication. A roof serves to shelter and stairs serve to move an individual from one level to another. Broadbent makes example of stairs or a roof, wherein they are innately aware of their function, even if being unused, these objects signify their function. Broadbent (1979: 13) states that is only when these objects are not being in use, do they have meaning. The mere existence of these objects communicates the function they fulfil. Since architecture can be used as a means of communication then it is agreed upon that architecture can be viewed as a system of signs. “This functional approach views architectural signification primarily through the use of specific organizing notions and concepts, rules and, prescriptions” (Broadbent, 1979: 244).

According to Madden (2012), the image of the building should lead, not mislead, in its overall arrangement as well as in detail. The principle of correspondence between function and appearance has a purely practical aspect (Arnheimn, 1975: 205). The form and make up of buildings create a visual language, thus alluding to cues of the typology of the building, distinctiveness being derived in part by the differences in function i.e. a library vs. a hospital (Arnheimn, 1975: 206). Over time as culture has evolved, buildings have changed accordingly. An example would be that a church or theatre of today looks very different to those of the past. Perhaps, for example in religious architecture, certain standard elements have been retained such as the nave and alter etc, whereas the remainder of the form is vastly different. A new set of rules has been applied to give an identifiable image of the building and its use. The images are continually changing as cultures and communities develop (Arnheimn, 1975: 206). However, it could be argued that in the case of a police station, symbolism of ultimate power and authority need to remain. The challenge then, would be for those symbols to be retained, yet the perceptions of them should be more engaging.

2.4.2. Symbols of Identity, Power and Culture

Governmental buildings, from the past to present are seen as symbols of the state rather than merely a practical house of government. If the intent of these buildings are to support specific regimes, then much can be learned about the various political regimes by way of what is

built. There is an argument that states that buildings are products of the social and cultural conditions of that time. Therefore, symbolic state buildings are best understood in their social political and cultural contexts (Vale 1959: 3). As mentioned previously, architectural symbolism can be subject to various interpretations and as such architects and designers are not able to control or shape the perceptions of national identity. However, Vale suggests that the built form can direct societal meanings by becoming symbols itself in the reflection of national identity. Nelson Goodman argues that the meaning of a building may not have anything to do with the architecture itself. A building may be identified for some of its causes or effects, or perhaps a historical event associated with it (Vale 1959: 6). This provides proof that whilst a building that may have been designed with an intended social and aesthetic meaning, could be overshadowed by non-architectural associations. This can come to being by the acts of the institutional inhabitants or other historical relationships with that building. It is for this reason that Vale (1959: 6) is of the opinion that one not only needs to have an understanding of architecturally derived meaning, but also an understanding of the socio-political and cultural influences of that time and institution. Therefore, when the aim is to engrain meaning into architecture, there should be comparative historical architectural analysis. Added to this should be cultural and socio-political analysis to gain a complete understanding of how that section of the population truly establishes meaning with the built environment. Meaning in the civic realm is two-fold; the socio-political cultural status will influence the physical design of the architect and furthermore establish how that architecture is viewed by the public (Vale 1959: 6). Example is made of the neoclassical buildings of Washington wherein the overbearing height of the structures serve as reminder to the public of the power and authority of the various institutions. This is subliminally perceived as threatening to the public. However, on the other hand, those inhabiting the building have feelings of power which are enhanced by the building.



Figure 2.4.3: Civil activity within the backdrop of Lincoln Memorial Temple.
Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/an-americanicon-that-almost-wasnt-11550261017>

Recent articles indicate that Lincoln Memorial is in fact a misunderstood monument whilst many disapproved of its erecting at the time.

Architects and political critics were enraged at the disconnect between Abraham Lincoln and the Greek Parthenon. However, a survey conducted in recent times, found that it is in the top ten locations Americans would like to visit in the United States.

This shows that meaning is ambiguous and it is dependent on the individual's personal relationship to the institution and the building which is an important element of civic architecture. A balance is found between reassuring civic messages and discomforting authoritarian ones which people will recognize at differing cognitive levels (Vale 1959: 8). However, the duality of cognitive image is necessary for a civic institution, as government offices require the belief and cooperation of the public, yet at the same time being recognised for their role of leadership and power. From this, themes of dichotomy can be deduced.

According to Lawrence Vale (1959: 9), countries which are realising a new political platform, yet have an architecture of old, require a greater need for such architecture to serve politics. He goes on to state that leaders of newly independent countries, South Africa being such, tend to make use of the built environment as a means of redefining the new government from old. This speaks to an attempt of creating a new national identity and national unity (Vale 1959: 10). With regard to police and justice institutions, in most instances, change in policy are brought about from government. If such institute moves towards a new policy, the institute should move towards a relative new architectural identity. In which case, "the new architecture should again redefine the balance between dominance and submissive image with the public" (Vale 1959: 10). Inversely, Vale (1959) states that, if the institution continues to be within an existing architectural platform, the public image of that institution would probably remain unchanged due to the memory of the past. This statement indicates the imperativeness for the existing architecture of police stations to be re-imagined, given the politically influenced past of policing in South Africa.

In order to understand the relationship between culture and identity, there needs to be an understanding of what culture is. Among the various definitions given on culture, the idea that it is a collective experience dealing with a classification of a community seems to be most applicable. Hall (1997) explains an understanding of culture to be a manifestation of the best in what a community expresses through what has been said and thought of. It is the best of ideas, depicted in various classic works of literature, painting, dance, etc. He goes on to

argue that culture is a set of practices that a group or community is most concerned about. Example is made of two individuals, wherein if they are akin to the same culture, their interpretation of the world would be similar, and their expression of ideas and emotions would be in a manner that is easily recognized by each other. Hall (1997:?) states that social practices and actions of the participants that select the language to be communicated can alter the formation of interpretations. As such, identity is form when people communicate with each other. However, according to Alshammari (2018:99), when there are varied stances from participants, then identity in respect to culture is not clearly represented. The understanding of culture is regarded as a collective as is the notion of Novitz and Willmott (1990:280), who state that it is a categorization of a group of people by accumulating their distinguishing and inter-dependent patterns of behaviour and communication, along with beliefs, values and experiences which guide them.

The mention of culture is of particular relevance to community, and community policing. Whilst the police force, being a governmental entity, may have its identity as well as its expression of power, the community should have a 'culture of police'. The concept of culture is a framework for which individuals in the community, from different backgrounds of expertise can come together in the aid of crime prevention. As mentioned previously, under the paradigm of culture, that if a group of individuals share a common concern, a culture of that can be manifested. In the case of community policing, the shared goal is that of creating safer communities.

2.4.3. Phenomenology and Place

As architecture forms part of the contexts in which society participates, it is thus given cultural meaning (Madden, 2012). As Norberg-Schulz states, phenomena can be divided into 2 categories: the concrete, consisting of the tangible earthly elements, and the intangible, consisting of elements such as feelings (Nesbitt: 1996; 414). He argues that the tangible elements should not be mistaken for just tools mere function, but rather a system of cultural signs. Each place or region has its own character, defined by the community which resides in such place. As such, there is a need for architecture to identify these differences and bring a uniformity to these places with a relatable architecture rather than a disembodied foreign built form. According to Naidoo (2014), the hallmark of any healthy community is based on that community's sense of a safe environment. She mentions that the most important element in

establishing a safe environment is community involvement. Newman (1996) in his book “Creating Defensible Space” states that there is a need for an emotional connection between people and their environment in order for safe environments. He goes on to state that if there is a concern about the environment then the inhabitants of such environment will make sure that it is kept safe, neat and free of delinquency. Newman questions the ability of the built environment to prevent crime and deduces that although there are many variants to crime prevention, positive built environment techniques along with community may be employed in aiding this cause. In addition, Naidoo states that community life needs to be celebrated by way of the built form and that community cannot be reliant on the police force and security systems for protection. Newman makes mention of the role of architects and designers and their responsibility towards identifying ways in which community members and neighbours can work as a collective towards working against issues that face society. To supplement this notion, (Nesbitt 1996) states, “The manipulation and control of the built environment without taking cognoscente for the local culture may leave a negative or alien perception with that society, although some political or civic entities may find that helpful depending on their intentions”. Perceptions and interpretations are relevant to one’s location, and it is through this reference that spirit of place exists. Vale states that the placement of parliamentary buildings in particular is a product of social and cultural forces.

2.5. Key Precedent Study: The Constitutional Court

“The Constitutional Court is an invitation to newness and change. Whereas courts usually are known to be private and daunting, the Constitutional Court is happy, inclusive and open. One feels a participant here. This is a feeling encouraged by such simple things as the levels of the seats in the Court Chamber. In that space one feels that one part of the whole. Even while there is a difference in roles between the judges and the participants, there is not a vast distance between them, all share the belief in rights for the individual.” – Thenjiwe Mtintso.

Introduction

Having explored phenomenology under the various paradigms, it is necessary to observe the manner in which these paradigms are put into practice. As the aim of this research seeks to ascertain how the experiential quality of policing can be ascertained through architecture, the Constitutional Court has been identified as a civic judiciary building. The precedent study seeks to explore the cognitive image through architecture and how positive meaning is conveyed as a means of promoting public engagement.

Schaug (1998: 46) validates this by stating that the vision of the commissioned architects “was to incorporate the new and existing urban built forms with the spatial, experiential, textural and cultural system of Johannesburg”.



Figure 2.5.1: Union Buildings in Pretoria, raised above the city and overlooks the city’s public gardens. Source: <http://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/madiba-statue-for-union-buildings/> [Accessed 16 July 2019]



Figure 2.5.2: In contrast, the Constitutional Court sits within the vibrant cityscape. Source: <https://www.designworkshop.co.za/project/constitutional-court->

The turn of democracy resulted in the commission for a new constitutional court. Seeing as apartheid had concluded, the democratic era warranted for a new constitution to be drawn up. This constitution was to be housed in a new constitutional court. Law-Viljoen (2006: 07) speaks of this by mentioning that the building “was to be easily accessible to the ordinary citizen and reflect the aspirations of a young democracy while still reflecting on the troubled journey the country had endured”. This speaks to a transition of identities of a nation. This new intervention aimed at representing an identity of oppression and at the same time encapsulating an aspired identity.

Historical Context and Site

As mentioned previously, there was a need for a new constitutional court and in the interim judges were made to operate in Johannesburg offices. The selection of the site required that it would have to be located wherein a constitutional court would have a presence of dignity, but without expressing a perception of intimidation that is usually associated with court houses.

The Braamfontein Old Fort complex was chosen as the site mainly due to its historical significance. The history of the Old Fort complex can be briefly summarized as a site associated with South Africa's troubled past, dating back to the late 1800's, wherein the site was used as a prison. In subsequent years, several other buildings were built around the site, a 'native prison' for black men being amongst them. Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi were among those that passed through these prison doors.



Figure 2.5.3: Aerial view of the Old Fort Complex Site. Source: Law Viljoen (2006)

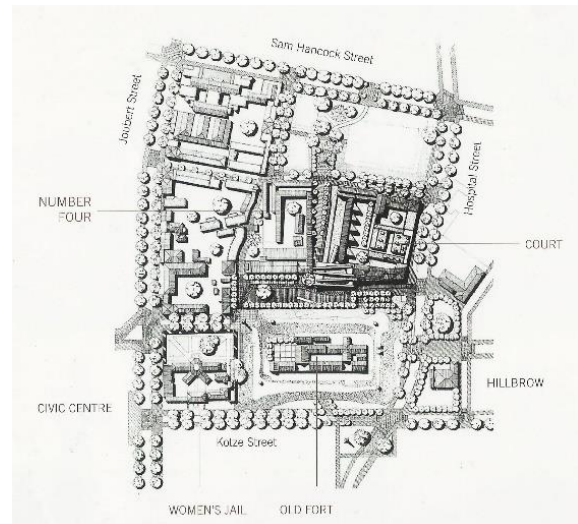


Figure 2.5.4: Site Plan of Constitutional Hill. Source: Law Viljoen (2006)

The history mentioned, was premise for an extraordinary architectural intervention to be realised. The Old Fort complex had imbued the necessary qualities required to stand at the forefront between South Africa's past and future, despite its history of cruelty and turbulence. Paul Wygers, part of the team of architects that was involved in the project, states that the court be isolated and an impenetrable prison be reintegrated back into the Johannesburg city grid. He mentions that which was inaccessible during apartheid should now be accessible. The project aimed connecting the impoverished areas as well as the office blocks and elite suburbs that surrounded the court. Routes within the site had to be established to create a means of access and in turn defined the site. The aim was to ensure that as much of the perimeter of the site be traversed by the public and as such provide a sense of security for the people inside and out of the building envelope.

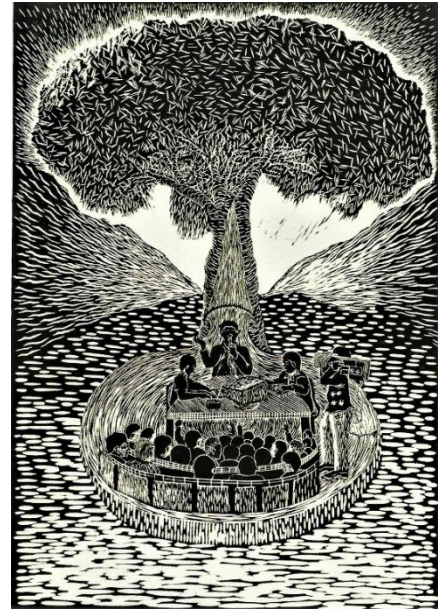
Design Interventions

The brief of the project warranted that, that design should move away from the general perception of court buildings. It was agreed upon that the materiality and style should not be that of imposition which scares people away. Justice Yvonne Mokgoro states that court

buildings are a place you don't want to be present at or even seen at. She goes on to mention that the choice of materials “represent openness, participation – the democratic value of public participation – warmth, welcome to all”. These themes run concurrently with the need for the building to express an identity of power which leads to a perception of respect rather than that of intimidation.

In an attempt to bridge a connection between the court, the city and the people, the Awaiting Trial Block was demolished to make way for an accessibility axis as well as public gathering space. The history of the old Awaiting Trial Block was to be incorporated into the new court building. Therefore, the bricks of the demolished building were reused into the court building and serves as a symbolic and physical connection of history and place.

Figure 2.5.5: Conceptual linocut that represents the project brief: Depicts shade of tree as place of communal gathering with elders. Author: Sandile Goje. Source: Law Viljoen



This with the reuse of other elements such as the prison bars, are means of connecting the past and present. The demolishing of the building resulted in the definition of the site for the building to be designed.

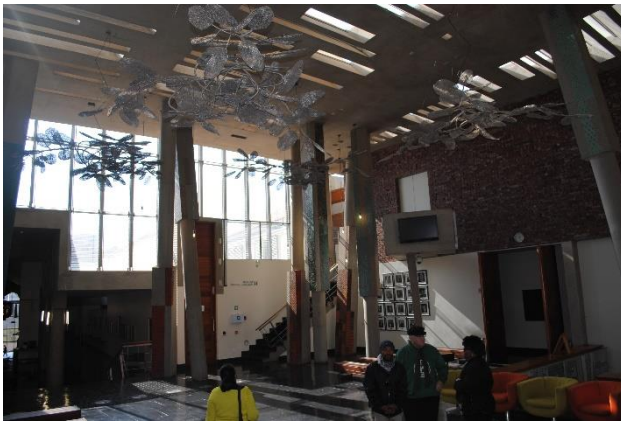
Much emphasis has been placed on light, movement, volume and the tangibility of the craft employed in the fixings and fixtures of the building. These are the make up of phenomenology and sensory experience. The underlying concept of this project was ‘justice under a tree’ which was employed in perhaps the focal point of the building – the court foyer. This stems from the notion of ‘imbizo’ which is an informal communal space, wherein elders of a community meet to resolve problems of the village as is the tradition of rural African culture. The architects attempted to draw parallels between the justice system and primitive means of conflict resolution. This resulted in symbolism wherein the columns of the court were slanted to depict the branches of a tree.

This symbolism is further supplemented by the perforated openings in the concrete roof and walls. This is to allow natural light to penetrate

Figure 2.5.6: Streaks of light filtering through the wire canopy of leaves from roof and slanted columns providing the perceptive experience of being under a tree. Source:

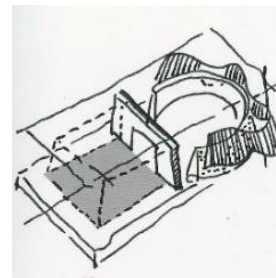
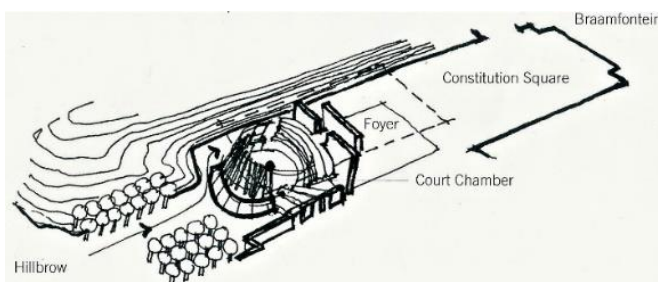
<https://www.brandsouthafrica.com/governance/constitution-sa-glance/gallery-constitutional-court> [Accessed 16 July 2019]

into the space and thus replicate the experience of being under a tree. Madden (2012) explains that whilst the intervention of the slanted columns was unorthodox and its presence was questioned for its appropriateness, typical colonnades are a feature associated with typical court houses. This shows creativity in maintaining the elements of identity of courthouses, yet its expression is that of expressionist symbolism. The cold nature of the concrete columns as well as the overall use of concrete is used to depict robustness and durability. However, usage of mosaics, brick work and lamp shades have been used to contrast this cold sensation and as such results in creating a space of warmth and culture.



The foyer is the primary interface of the court as it serves as liminal space between constitution square and the court chamber. The foyer, whilst serving as the formal entrance to the court, was intended to be an extension of the Constitutional Square,

wherein all sides of the foyer could possibly open up to the square. The foyer came as a means of shelter from the weather elements that one would be exposed to in the square. Furthermore, it provides a platform for one to gather and engage in dialogue, making use of the furniture. The function of the foyer is much of a multi-purpose space for the public. The notion of community is emphasised as the foyer is made accessible for theatrical performances, book launches, debates and so on. This can be corroborated by architect, Janina Masojada, as she says that the vision was for concerts and celebrations to be accommodated and to be attended by presidents and school kids alike. She states that the aim was for disadvantaged South Africans as well as opulent citizens could gather without inhibition and a sense of belonging and identity.



Figures 2.5.7 & 2.5.8: Illustration of the foyer as a doorway between the Constitution Square and Court Chamber . Source: Law Viljoen (2006)

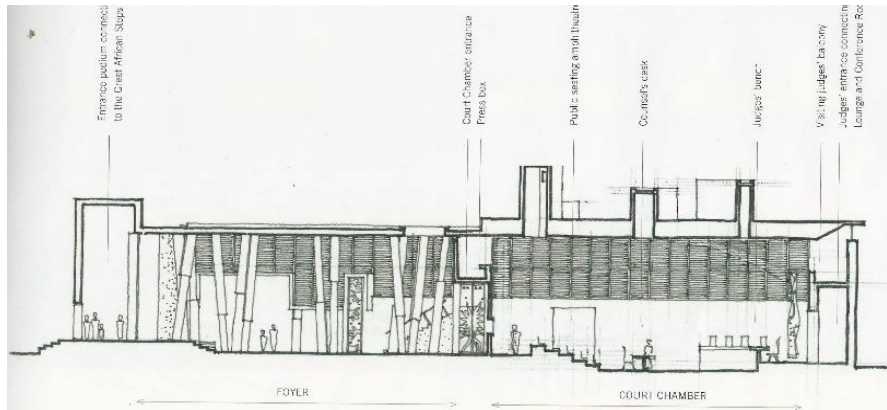


Figure 2.5.9: Cross section of Court Building illustrating the relationship between the entrance, foyer and chambers. Source: Law Viljoen (2006)

Co-architect Andrew Makin states that the intention was to yet again challenge the notions of colonial buildings, wherein one has to walk upwards, approaching an imposing entrance with a deliberate transition between outside, which would then lead to coming into contact with the authority that the building represents. Contrary to this, he states, that the purpose of the foyer was to break down these impositions and make the transition between public and private spaces much softer, more democratic and less intimidating. The presence of the angled columns within the foyer creates the perception that the space is already inhabited, allowing one to have a sense of ease, that they are not entering a large void in isolation. The existent loosely gathered columns, despite being inanimate, symbolise some kind of communal engagement.

Conclusion

Whilst there is much literature on Constitutional Hill as well the other buildings on the site, such as the library, solitary retreat, judges' quarters and conference suites, the focus lies within the public interface and essential usage of the court. Apart from the sensory experience and perception, The Constitutional Hill precinct contributes vastly to place making. Initially, the proposition of having the court next to the suburb of Hillbrow was strongly unwelcomed, yet it has now become a means of a collective identity. Advertently, Justice Yvonne Mokgoro shares her experience of being in the chambers and hearing the kids

playing and shouting after school. The carrying of their voices from the nearby park as she mentions is the proof of community and a *genius loci*. This sense of place in society is achieved by the intervention being responsive to its context as well as shows the importance of culture and identity. Accessibility plays a fundamental role in contributing towards place making. Kraus (2014) explains that formal composition and materiality along with how the place is framed by sky and earth contributes to place identity. He further explains that the dwellings within the landscape, and how these details manifest is a further contributor to place identity. Having mentioned the sentiments of Kraus, the only gathering space on the site, prior to the design of the Constitution Square was the internal prison courtyards. The only connection with the world, was the sky above. With the demolition of the Awaiting Trial Block, there is a lateral line of site to the public spaces of the Court building.

Justice Albie Sachs is quoted to have said that the proximity of the main Johannesburg railway station was means of its accessibility and that the dimension of justice that needed to be symbolised would be manifested in the location and the character of the building. Justice Johann Kriegler echoes the sentiments of Justice Albie Sachs by saying that the court is geographically exactly where it should be, and this is for the aim of accessibility to the masses that are in close proximity of the precinct, despite not being a nodal point at the time. He goes on to state that it has become a means of urban renewal. Similar to the Old Fort Prison complex, most police stations having been built in the apartheid era, are not easily accessible nor identifiable. The Constitutional Court sets precedent of how accessibility interventions are able to enhance interaction.

The entrance and foyer were of a particular interest in light of police station design. Much is to be desired of the public interface of police stations. Constitutional Court, despite its stature as a court, is welcoming, inviting and engaging. Whilst it is understood that police stations are limited by their nature to be inviting, attempts can be made to soften this interface, yet retain its identity and symbol of power as did the Constitutional Court.



Figure 2.5.10: Unconventional mosaic clad court entrance canopy with hand woven hanging lantern. Source: Law Viljoen (2006)

Figure 2.5.11: Hand crafted eight metre wooden door with the Bill of Rights engrained. Source: Law Viljoen (2006)

Figure 2.5.12: Concrete columns clad with hand made ceramics of varying textures and colors. Woven wire chandeliers as canopy of foliage above. Source: Law Viljoen (2006)

The cognitive image of the Constitutional Court is enhanced by the use of various mixture of elements. Viljoen (2006) states that the “experiential quality of the space will provide meaning that the space is significant and exalted” although the user may not be acquainted with the cultural expression of the building. In conclusion, the Constitutional Court completely altered the idea of what court buildings should be. Viljoen (2006) goes on to state it was at the very least, an unconventional court, and although there were debates regarding the angled walls and the reuse of the demolished buildings bricks, the warmth and openness of the building was undeniable. This goes to prove that the fixation of structural functionalist design may be challenged and can pave the way for alternate policing typologies.

CHAPTER 3 PRECEDENT STUDIES

3.1 Introduction

As this study reveals that there has not been much progression nor a general catalyst for police station design in South Africa, precedent studies were chosen from international locations. These precedent studies aims to understand the importance of perceptions towards the built form. Furthermore, these precedents reveal the desired cognitive image that the general public should have towards police stations.

Guided by the literature mentioned previously, interest will be on the manner in which these buildings fit into the greater urban design of their regions and how they influence the urban space and thus the experiences and perceptions of the people. The buildings will be analysed in terms of its form to understand the link between structure and function as well as form and meaning. This is influential to analyse how those who interact with the building-perceive the building. Included, where applicable will be personal accounts of individuals whom have commented on the station, the purpose of which provides credibility into the first-hand experience and perception of the discussed building. Further interest into the precedent studies are the spatial arrangement, along with sensory and experiential value of buildings and how these elements influence perception and thus the cognitive image of the building.

Justification for Studies

Drawing from the reviewed literature, many theories and concepts have been identified. Each of the selected precedents being mentioned are characterised by having either one or many of these theoretical approaches. They include commonalities in the features identified in the Constitutional Court. Precedents have been chosen based on their influence on experience and perception. These precedents focus on the way in which spatial arrangements and design composition influences the way in which one would experience such places. It delves into the meaning expressed by these buildings and the manner in which such perceptions are either enhanced, corrected or evolved. Furthermore, the precedents have a response to their surroundings context. This touches on place making and community, which is essentially the key focus areas of the study. Of importance are the entrance facades and charge desks, and an analysis of how they have been expressed. Interest in these entities come from the poor and uninviting entrances of South African police stations wherein there is a lack of a welcoming experience.

3.2 North Kent Police Station

Urban Context

The award-winning North Kent Police Station is located in the UK, outside London. The site of the building complex is in an area in Northfleet, that had been part of an open recreational ground. Seeing as the police station functions adjacent to the existing recreational ground, indicates that there is no presence of negative perception towards the police station. The station is close to the Thames and Gravesend Town Centre but located outside the town. This provides operational access to the A2 (main road). This shows that accessibility has been a key factor in its location. Despite being outside the town which is adjacent a main road, this allows for easy public access to the site as well as for officers to be deployed easily.

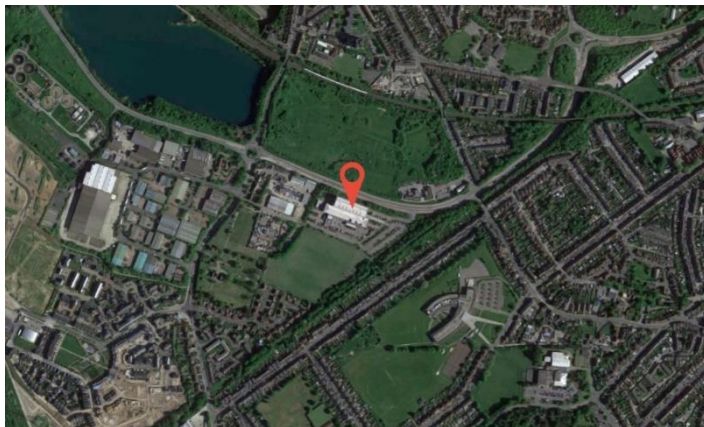


Figure 3.2.1: Urban Context of North Kent Police Station. Portion of recreational grounds used for police building.

North Kent, UK.

Source: Google Earth.



Figure 3.2.2: Site plan of North Kent Police Station shows building in relation to landscape, parking and freeway.

Source: Making Better Police Buildings.

A new policing model that has been employed required the police station to serve as a satellite HQ, however, the building was designed to be an Area HQ for North Kent. As such, the building shows a vastness in terms of its adaptability. This can be proved by the transition of its initial use to its current use as satellite entity. This reorganising and collaboration with

other Forces has resulted in the Serious Crime Directorate and Procurement Department for Kent and Essex being based within the building.

Planning

The North Kent Police Station is a 4-storey office building, separated from the 40-cell custody suite by a central atrium. A formal paved approach is used to define the entrance as well as an associated landscape which is well considered and attractive. The charge desk area is made to receive natural daylighting. The building's key feature, being the 80-metre-long central atrium or 'street', provides an open, common area where the officers meet and interact, a feature lacking in the previous Gravesend Police station with its cellular rooms and narrow corridors. The design houses open-plan office floors which provides for a closer, more efficient liaison between working groups and permits the adaption of more flexible spaces to suit the constantly changing sizes and purposes of the specialist police units.

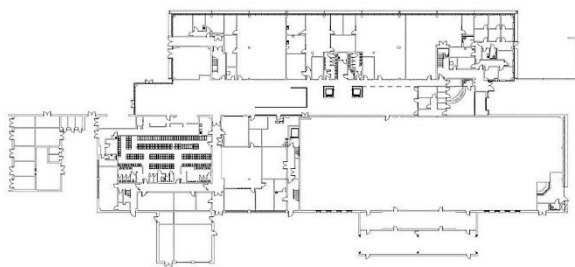


Figure 3.2.3: Ground floor plan of the North Kent Police Station.

Source: Glen Howells Architects.

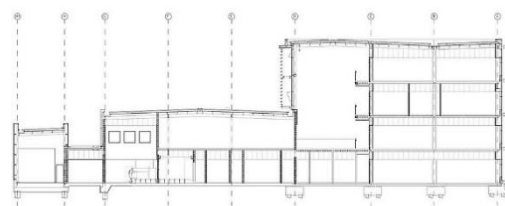
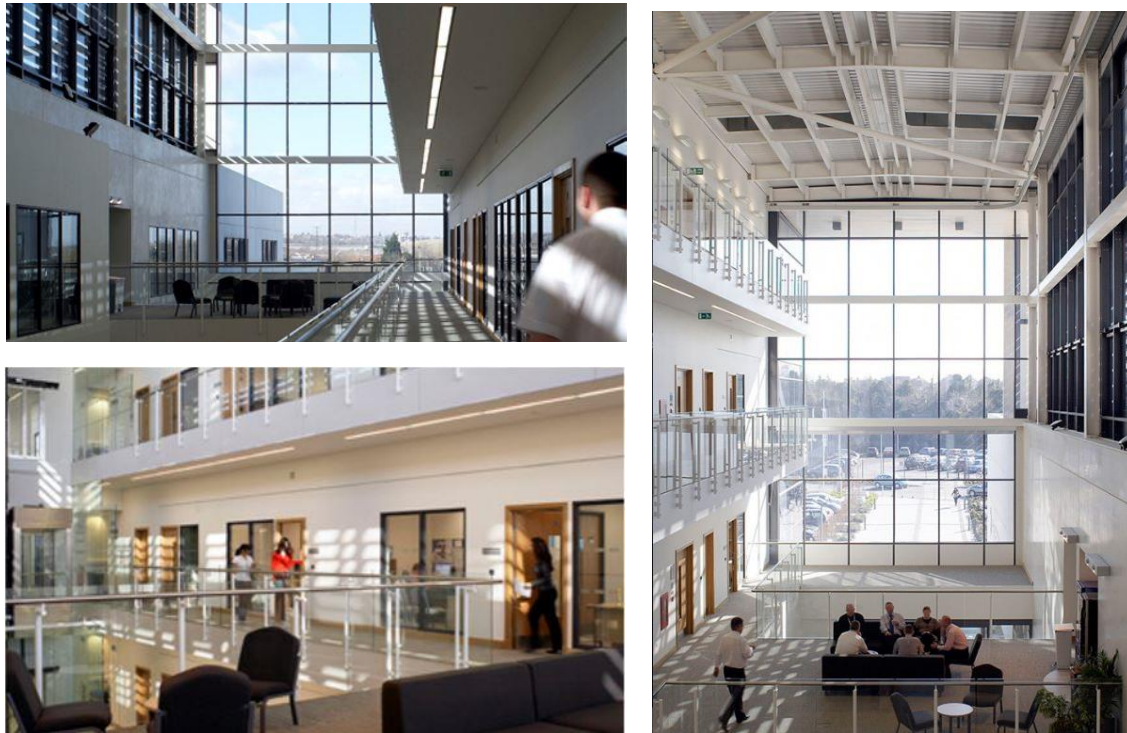


Figure 3.2.4: Section through North Kent Police Station showing volume of spaces and atrium.

Source: Glen Howells Architects.

The central atrium serves as multi-purpose space, with a staff restaurant as well as break-out areas for relaxation. This serves to augment the heavily used conference and formal meeting rooms and further serves as a function and exhibition area. The is concerted effort into achieving an experience of openness and transparency by means of spatial arrangement. The use of atrium and double volume spaces attests to this. This also shows the intent for creating multi-purpose communal spaces as well as break out spaces which are otherwise uncommon in police stations. This also speaks to catering for the workers of the building, that being the police officers. The design of the custody suite promotes efficiency by reducing the time

taken in the reception and processing of detainees and thus results in officers spending less time in administrative duties at the station and more time out on patrol. Of further importance is the fact that police officers find the working environment suitable. This proves that good design promotes a positive work ethic which results in a more productive approach to serving the public.



Figures 3.2.5, 3.2.6 & 3.2.7: Depiction of interior light quality as well as programmes arranged around central atrium space.

Source: Glen Howells Architects.

Form and Materiality

The composition of the North Kent police station is coherent with an architectural language of crisp detailing. With regards to its materiality, the use of glass, concrete and metal (louvres) were employed. The exposed smooth concrete cladding and slim cross walls frame the tinted recessed glazing and the narrow dark grey louvres. This approach ensured that the image of the police force of North Kent is coherent, transparent and impressive modern public entity. It is worth noting that the standard and popularity achieved in the accommodation of this police station has greatly influenced the recruitment and retention of police personnel.



Figures 3.2.8: Strong yet warm entrance interface. Shows simplicity in form.

Source: Glen Howells Architects.

The success of North Kent Police Station is attributed to the ingenious way in which the design achieves a composition of simplicity, coherency and elegance despite the complex accommodation schedule requirements. With regards to the aesthetic of the police station, although simple, it conveys the message of power and strength, whilst also achieves an experience of comfort and approachability. It is further worth noting that the police station is perceived as a public building.

Technology

The brief of the North Kent Police Station required that it would need to be sustainable as well as a case study for its typology and as such it has been awarded a BREEAM excellent rating for its sustainability. This comes as a means of incorporating UK's largest geothermal systems. The 32-tonne carbon reduction of the building is attributed to its ground source heat pump system. Water is circulated through pipes which are housed within the structural concrete piles which is supplemented by remote geothermal piles located in the parking lot which has a depth of 100 metres. This heating and cooling system results in a 30 per cent energy saving which equates to 18 000 pounds per annum. Furthermore, rain water is collected on the flat roof and is used for sewer systems.

The extensively glazed façade faces north, providing light and temperature, whilst the south façade makes use of brise soleil solar shading.



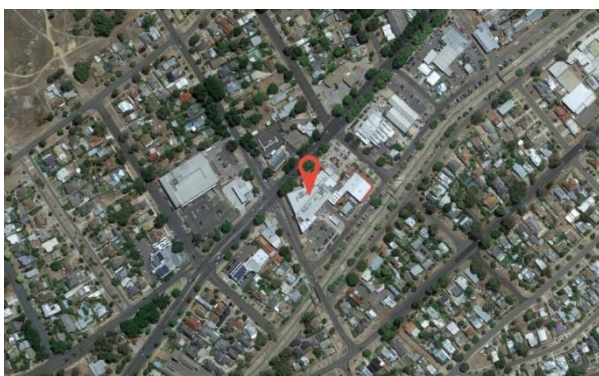
Figures 3.2.9: Rear façade indicating shading

Source: Glen Howells Architects.

3.3 Bendigo Police Station

Urban Context

The Bendigo Police Station is located in Victoria, outside the city of Melbourne. Being the largest stand-alone police station in Victoria, the station accommodates an amalgamation of operational police groups historically dispersed throughout Bendigo from four different locations. The planning is primarily defined by the particular operational requirements of these police users. The urban context of Victoria is that of fast developing metropolis, wherein there is an emergence of a fusion of modern and heritage cultures. It is in an area where there is presence of a bustling tourism industry coupled with thriving local businesses. The police station is on a prominent corner site on the eastern side of Bendigo in Golden Square.



Figures 3.3.1: Urban context of Bendigo Police Station. Victoria, Australia.

Source: Google Earth.

This site is also on the main road into the city, set among car yards, food outlets and barbecue sales rooms, but with little of the historical context normally associated with Bendigo.

According to Harrison, regional institutes have for too long been losing its presence from the

streets. Harrison goes on to state that post offices, banks and municipal stations have often left their original older building and moved into something far more generic and inconspicuous – a strange desire to suppress the nature of the public institution and rely on what the market throws up. The brief of this project aims at rectifying that. Hence, the brief of the project required an institutional building that responded to the wider regional context and was simultaneously visually assertive within the public realm.

Planning

The building provides high quality muster areas and offices for the various police divisions, associated ancillary spaces, holding cells as well as interview rooms with a clearly defined, accessible public entry foyer. The station is made accessible from the public entry point which is along the highway, from a dynamic forecourt created by the building pushing in from the boundary. The public foyer, however, is limited in size in relation to the scale of the building which results in a slightly unwelcoming space. Interview rooms and the 24 hour operations centre is found immediately adjacent the public foyer. It is beyond the public spaces that the key central atrium can be found which was intended to be a platform for which casual operation exchange can take place. The atrium space provides natural lighting which assist users in terms of orientation. This atrium space essentially splits the building into halves, resulting in vertical as well as linear circulation. The long atrium is successful in that it enables light to enter into the building, expressing the key circulation. This gives the experience of being present in a small street without descending into the cliché of ‘lanes’. The doors and windows of the workspaces and offices overlook into this linear space, similar to line shops. The length of the walls narrow and expand to provide an experience of perspective. These walls are of striking yellow perforated panels. The experience of the ‘street’ comes to life in its precast concrete finish. It gives a sense of solidity and robustness that helps this ‘street’ reading.



Figures 3.3.2: Light filtering into central 'street'. Source: Stuart Harrison
http://www.stuartharrison.com.au/research/articles/BendigoPolice/SH_FMSA_BendigoPoliceStation.pdf [Accessed 10 July 2019]



Figures 3.3.3: Perforated and industrial concrete panels add tactility to the space yet retaining robustness. Source: Stuart Harrison.
http://www.stuartharrison.com.au/research/articles/BendigoPolice/SH_FMSA_BendigoPoliceStation.pdf [Accessed 10 July 2019]

The double height atrium spaces feature clerestory windows which gives this spine a presence from the exterior and happens to be essential to the building wide management system. This spine goes on to extend to the western façade with a two level glazed wall, with a series of cranked vertical fins screening western sunlight. These painted fins are an expression of intensity as well as a centre point along this edge. Beyond this double heighted 'street', other police station facilities are present, but notably include a gym, changing rooms as well as sleeping quarters. Change rooms, gyms etc. are essential in assuring the socio-physical well-being of officers, that they may interact with victims pleasantly as well police effectively when out of the station. The interiors here are more standardised. The first floor space is dedicated to the main meeting and conference room which overlooks the corner intersection on the outside – the location where the building is positioned. This contributes to great views and aims to provide a connection to contemporary and booming city of Bendigo.

Form and Materiality

The two primary street elevations, being the corner edge of the building, shows off the visually distinguished and prominent inclined 'double facade' glazed feature. These 'double facades' support the dichotomy of a modern police force requiring 24-hour operational security and street surveillance while simultaneously presenting an accessible and transparent public image. The double glazing allows the 'pointy' expression of the building's form on the corner, and the giant glazed raking eave along the street. This corner becomes sort of a focal

point, and thus an urban landmark. This attests to the importance of location and orientation. The police station is successful and identifiable due to its corner site position. This helps creating a perception of presence within the urban realm, creating a perception of presence within the urban context.



Figures 3.3.4 & 3.3.5: Elevational Views of Bendigo Police Station highlighting dynamism of form. Source: Stuart Harrison.

http://www.stuartharrison.com.au/research/articles/BendigoPolice/SH_FMSA_BendigoPoliceStation.pdf [Accessed 10 July 2019]

The entrance is defined by an overhead canopy which is clad in ‘police’ check blue and white tiles. The wall behind the entrance is concrete with operable windows allowing for ventilation into the void space. Whilst glass is mostly used as a means of suggesting transparency, it is used here to create form, with the conventional wall behind. The usage of glazing avoids a compound mentality; a reassuring gesture wherein high security buildings are often perceived as closed off fortresses.

Figures 3.3.6: Entrance Canopy Feature. Source: Stuart Harrison.

http://www.stuartharrison.com.au/research/articles/BendigoPolice/SH_FMSA_BendigoPoliceStation.pdf [Accessed 10 July 2019]



The structural makeup of the building is predominantly lightweight steel construction with glass and precast concrete panels making up about half of the exterior. The sculptural ‘double façade’ composed of steel frames serves as an environmental feature which is aimed at reducing energy consumption by shading the western and northern inner façades of the building, thus creating a controllable thermal buffer zone wherein operable windows allow for access of cleaner, cooler or warmer air, dependant on the season. This would occur whilst maintaining the buildings security requirements as well as blocking out potential noise. This area is planted with creepers supported on vertical wires to create a terrarium effect within the depth of the façade. The main atrium supplies the building with relief air via the office spaces or from low-level vents in the façade. The back of the building is of a simpler language, with the underlying precast concrete slips from under the glass and becomes the exterior walling. This area is used for services such as vehicle inspection and prisoner delivery bays.

Harrison states that, “day or night, this building sits as horizontal landmark, a well-sited and considered transformation of a corporate architectural language.”



Figures 3.3.7: Corner Site Location, vibrancy of Bendigo Police Station at night. Source: Stuart Harrison. http://www.stuartharrison.com.au/research/articles/BendigoPolice/SH_FMSA_BendigoPoliceStation.pdf [Accessed 10 July 2019]

He goes on mention that the distortion of the building’s form and integration of sustainable systems, creates a new recognisable public building. He firmly states that, “This is a return to public architecture that tells us something about what it is. This building is not a post office. It is not a bank, nor an office building. It is a police station.” Much has been mentioned as to how the use of materials and textures are used to evoke certain experiences and achieve a

desirable perception of the building. There has been a clear intent in ensuring that the police station is viewed as public building rather than an ordinary 'regional institute'.

Technology

The defined double-glazed façade act as energy reduction feature. The western and northern facades make for a controllable thermal buffer zone wherein windows can be opened to access cleaner air, either warmer or cooler, dependant on the season. This occurs without having to be susceptible to traffic noise or security issues. This area of the building also features creepers by means of vertical wires creating a terrarium effect. Relief air is supplied from the main atrium via the office spaces or from low-level vents in the façade. Other sustainable elements feature grey-water storage tanks.



Figure 3.3.7: Along with its strong expression, the double glazed façade serves as thermal buffer zone, achieving seasonal shading, natural ventilation and passive climate control. Source: Stuart Harrison.
http://www.stuartharrison.com.au/research/articles/BendigoPolice/SH_FMSA_BendigoPoliceStation.pdf [Accessed 10 July 2019]

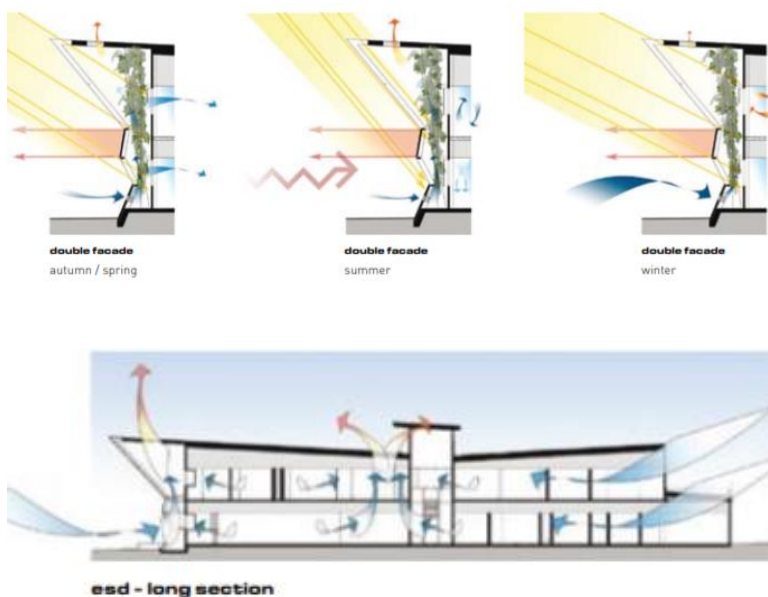


Figure 3.3.8: Depiction of creeper system in relation to heating and cooling. Source: Stuart Harrison.
http://www.stuartharrison.com.au/research/articles/BendigoPolice/SH_FMSA_BendigoPoliceStation.pdf [Accessed 10 July 2019]

Figures 3.3.9: Passive thermal control employed in Bendigo Police Station. Source: Stuart Harrison.
http://www.stuartharrison.com.au/research/articles/BendigoPolice/SH_FMSA_BendigoPoliceStation.pdf [Accessed 10 July 2019]

3.4 Hatfield Police Station

Urban Context

The Hatfield Police Station is located close to the centre of Hatfield and the A1. The Police Station is a result of a redeveloped building. The building initially was an aircraft factory. The building has been design around two existing art deco buildings which were part of the Hatfield Aerodrome, built in 1934. The main concerns of local authorities were the retention of the heritage of the existing building and thus, it had to be incorporated into the design of the proposed police station.



Figures 3.4.1:
Hertfordshire
Constabulary, Type 1 &2
Police Station and
Criminal Justice Centre.
Hatfield, UK. Source:
Vincent and Gorbing.
<https://www.vincent-gorbing.co.uk/architecture/hertfordshire-constabulary-hatfield-police-station-and-custody-suite>[Accessed 10 July 2019]



Figures 3.4.2: Aerial View of
Constabulary. Source: Vincent
and Gorbing.
<https://www.vincent-gorbing.co.uk/architecture/hertfordshire-constabulary-hatfield-police-station-and-custody-suite>[Accessed 10 July 2019]



Figures 3.4.3: Site Plan of
Hatfield Police Station. Source:
Vincent and Gorbing.
<https://www.vincent-gorbing.co.uk/architecture/hertfordshire-constabulary-hatfield-police-station-and-custody-suite>[Accessed 10 July 2019]

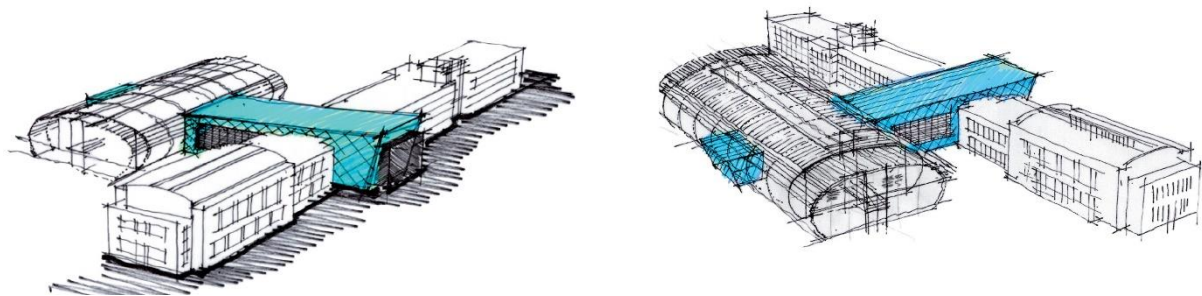
Planning

The existing buildings had to be extended to make provision for public enquiry office space, a hundred custody suites and sufficient parking. The spatial layout of the police station is more orthodox as compared to contemporary police stations, and thus is more reliant on formal corridors. This is a direct result of the need to retain the heritage of the existing buildings. The Hatfield Police Station proves that modern architecture can be retro fitted into existing buildings with historical connotations. This was achieved by a combination of design prowess and thoughtful functional planning.

Form and Materiality

The only change that has been brought about in the addition of the police station into the existing heritage building is the entrance. The entrance feature is given emphasis by means of an overhanging roof as well as inclined glazing. The use of a distinguished entrance and the connective element serves as prominent marker. This new link is highlighted yet is not insensitive to the overall composition and as such, the image of the Hatfield Police Station remains that of a civic building.

The old and the new do not detach attention to each other but is legible as a singular composition.

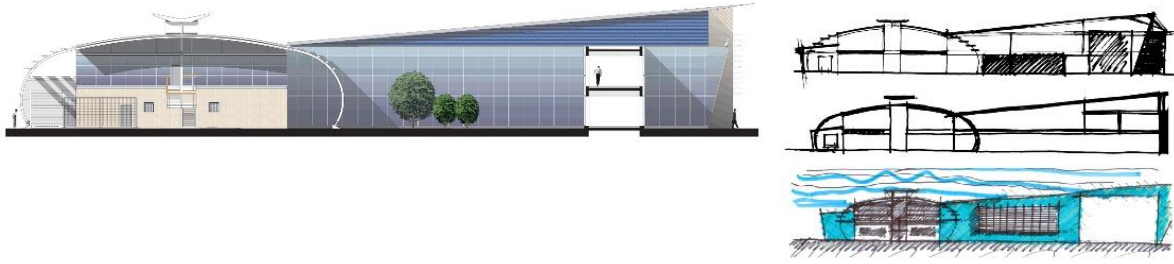


Figures 3.4.4 & 3.4.5 : Front and Rear Sketches for new intervention. Source: Vincent and Gorbing. <https://www.vincent-gorbing.co.uk/architecture/hertfordshire-constabulary-hatfield-police-station-and-custody-suite>[Accessed 10 July 2019]



Figures 3.4.6 & 3.4.7 : Indicates the contrast of entrance features, retention of existing building. Vincent and Gorbing. <https://www.vincent-gorbing.co.uk/architecture/hertfordshire-constabulary-hatfield-police-station-and-custody-suite>[Accessed 10 July 2019]

Whilst the refurbished buildings remain low key, they still possess a strong identity. The original stone clad historic pond gives an elegant approach to the former De Havilland office building. Additionally, commemorative plinths were dedicated to significant De Havilland aircraft and serves as a formal parade. At the back, a curved roof feature can be found which encases the custody building. This element is the contrast to the historic buildings.



Figures 3.4.8, 3.4.9 & 3.4.10 : Curved roof element in relation to building intervention.
Source: Vincent and Gorbing.

[https://www.vincent-gorbing.co.uk/architecture/hertfordshire-](https://www.vincent-gorbing.co.uk/architecture/hertfordshire-constabulary-hatfield-police-station-and-custody-suite)



Figure 3.4.9 : Aerial view of proposed intervention. Source: Vincent and Gorbing.
<https://www.vincent-gorbing.co.uk/architecture/hertfordshire-constabulary-hatfield-police-station-and-custody-suite>[Accessed 10 July 2019]

3.5 Hollenbeck Community Police Station

Urban Context

The Hollenbeck police station in Los Angeles arose as a need for the areas increasing crime rates, more specifically gang related crime, to be addressed. The new police station is constructed on the same site as the existing 1958 station which is a central corner site in Boyle Heights, across the street from a notoriously drug-infested urban park and the local public library.



Figure 3.5.1: Urban Context of Hollenbeck Police Station, LA, USA.

Source:

<https://www.archdaily.com/115287/hollenbeck-replacement-police-station-ac-martin>. [Accessed 10 July 2019]



Figure 3.5.2: Site Plan of Hollenbeck Police Station, LA, USA. Source:..

<https://www.archdaily.com/115287/hollenbeck-replacement-police-station-ac-martin>. [Accessed 10 July 2019]

More notably, it is located across public park and other community spaces. The community found it necessary that the police station was to retain its central location in order for the new intervention to assimilate into the existing creative urban fabric.

The neighbourhood is that of strong artistic expression as many of the houses and gardens are brightly colored with local murals. This rich and layered history speaks to a distinct tradition of the area's expressionist identity.



Figures 3.5.3 & 3.5.4: Art mural found in gang ridden Boyles Heights. Artworks found on houses and businesses. Source: Architect Magazine 2009

Studies into this police station reveal that this artistic expression had played a contextual influence in design of the new facility as will be discussed further. The involvement of the community towards the new station speaks of inclusivity and thus would be a contributing factor towards a sense of place by means of identity.

Principal architect on the project David Martin states that, “It has really captured the imagination of a lot of people, it’s a statement of a new social awareness that the police should be part of the community and should not be behind the walls of some paramilitary fortress”. He goes on to mention that despite the criminality within the area, the Hispanic community in Hollenbeck are vibrant, rich in artistic culture and deeply concerned about its neighbourhood. This echoes the sentiments of Newmann in his book, ‘Creating Defensible Space’, with regards to his views on a community standing as a collective to achieve the common goal of eradicating delinquency as mentioned previously.

Planning

The core objective with regards to the space planning was to create a cohesive sense of space. The station has clear pathways, lines of sight and maximises daylight in hallways. This spatial arrangement ensures that the demanding program has legible circulation and the organisation of the program caters for the intricate requirements. Police stations, due to their specific needs in terms of security, tend to

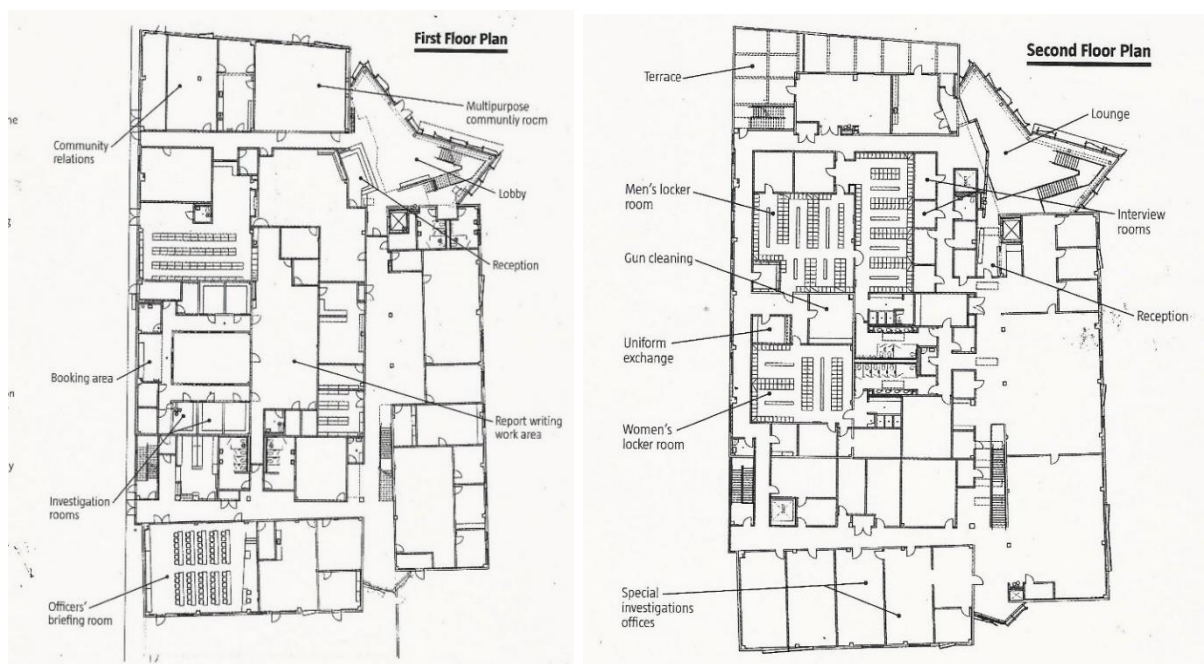


Figure 3.5.5: Floor plan of Hollenbeck Community Police Station. Source: Architect Magazine 2009

become complex in their organisation.

As a result, they become circuitous and thus projects a disjointed sense of space. Once more, the spatial arrangements result in a more efficient and enjoyable environment for the two hundred officers and staff within the station and as such encourages interaction with the surrounding community.

The entrance is in an undulated glass façade which faces the street along with a fronting plaza that looks onto the park. The notion behind this was to create an open area that would be utilized by the community.



Figure 3.5.6: Community events space in front of glass facade. Source: Architect Magazine 2009

The station houses an entrance lobby, multipurpose spaces, support areas, offices as well as temporary holding cells. The lobby comprises a reception, waiting area as well as a space for impromptu gatherings for members of the community or officers.

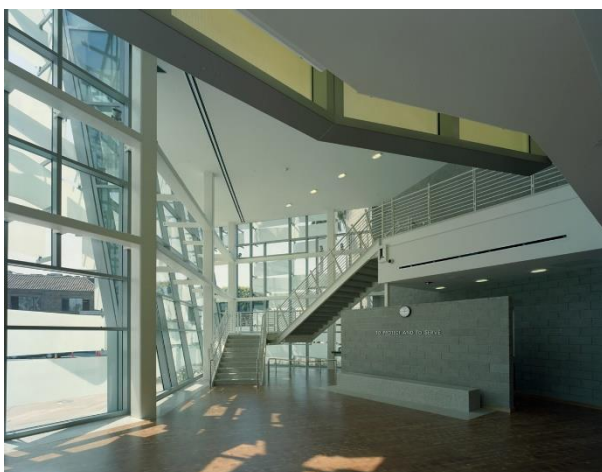
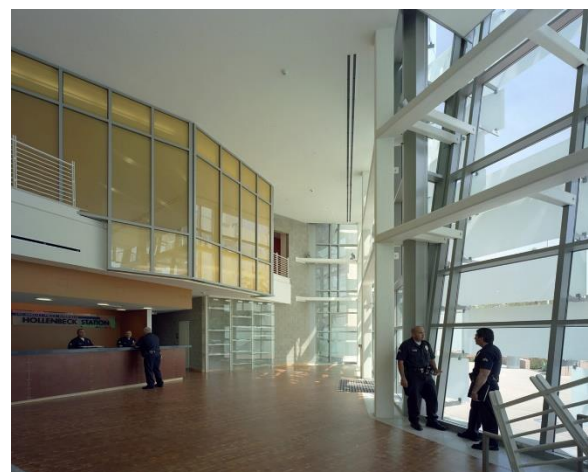


Figure 3.5.7: Glazed entrance area allows light into the lobby. Source: Architect Magazine 2009



Figures 3.5.8: Glass enclosed lobby gains extra safety by means of the canted curtain wall made up of large bulletproof panes. Source: Architect Magazine 2009

The multipurpose room within the building accommodates local groups to have events. This multipurpose room can be accessed by a double door which opens out into the plaza, allowing for events to spill out into the neighbourhood. This indicates that the community is an asset and an integral part of the police despite having to follow strict security criteria that guides the design.

Of interest, added to this accommodation schedule is an onsite vehicle maintenance facility along with a fuelling station and car wash with parking for over three hundred vehicles. This indicates that police vehicles are to be serviced at the station, thus making response much more efficient.

Form and Materiality

The project brief stipulated that the design was to move away from a fortress with foreboding walls, to which the architect pitched the idea of a glass façade, which was unexpectedly welcomed. The building comprised three rectangular, two-story volumes with the defining element of the police station being its undulating glazed façade. The facades act as direct link to the community by its artistic nature and at the same time creates a welcoming public entrance. During daylight hours, light filters into the lobby area and in the evening, it becomes a glowing beacon of light. The intent of this feature is as much strategic as it is artistic.



Figure 3.5.9: Trademark Glass Façade. Façade acts as a lantern at night, discouraging crime in the immediate area, and increasing the police station's presence. Source: Architect Magazine 2009



Figures 3.5.10: Mosaic mural art feature in the community room of the Hollenbeck Police Station. Source: Architect Magazine 2009

Whilst it is a feature the community can relate to, the art-architecture connection responds to the police departments emphasis on creating close ties to the community by engaging public interaction. Furthermore, these glass panels had to be designed and engineered to be bulletproof which was vetted and approved as drive by shootings were an occurrence in Hollenbeck. Referring to this, the architect stated that whilst the building had to function as a fortress, it did not have to look like one. Having made reference to structural functionalist theory previously, this gives insight into how the design of police stations should be approached.

With the need to create an environment of functional adjacencies, efficiency and productivity, the design was to address safety and security. This meant that whilst natural light was to enter the building, the undulating pattern was to obstruct views of the sergeant on duty from the outside, as the officer could potentially be in the line of fire. At the same time, this allowed views of the outside from the inside.



Figure 3.5.11: Addition of colour to brick façade, relates to vibrant neighbourhood. Source: Architect Magazine 2009

The sculptural presence of the building is in keeping with the artistic quality of the neighbourhood. Apart from the front façade, the rest of the building is typical with the addition of protruding windows as well as panels of colour which relates to the bright hues of Spanish culture. This regionalist feature is apt for a neighbourhood in which colourful street murals are celebrated and expressed. In a community that is home to a surge of gang and drug

related crimes, the welcoming design of the police station serves as symbol of comfort and at the same time it has a character of warning.

Most of the flooring is finished with recycled rubber flooring so as to make the working environment of the 200 officers comfortable. In total, a 4 color palette has been used to differentiate the different spatial programs within the station, from officer's quarters to cell blocks. This indicates that different spaces require different spatial experiences and as such, had to be finished accordingly. For example, the soft feel of rubber provides relief for officers throughout the day, catering for their frequent movement.



Figure 3.5.12 & 3.5.13: Contrast in spatial feel between the officer's area and cell block. Officer's hallway makes use of natural lighting and colored, textured flooring, whilst the cell block is of a harsher nature. Source. Architect Magazine 2009

The police station has been well received by both the police force and the community and this attests to its intent in being inviting for public use. The design has been proven to be responsive as it is mentioned that a chain-link fence around the library across the street had been removed. Furthermore, the public plaza in front of the building had begun to be actively used. This shows that there isn't a necessity for police stations to be positioned away from public spaces and located in isolation. The Hollenbeck community police station makes its presence known without being overbearing and is a catalyst for positive social development in the area.

Technology

The Hollenbeck Police Station is yet another police building awarded for its sustainability amongst its many design awards. One of the many sustainable features is the use of the distinct glass façade which brings in natural light. Each of the 70 bent frosted panels consists

of three layers of glass- 2 layers of clear glass laminated together, with a translucent semi layer. This allows for the glass to be opaque, obscuring views into the building yet at the same time, allows for light to filter through.

These frosted panels are fixed to a curtain wall system via an aluminium bracket, becoming part of the literal and figurative transparency in building trust

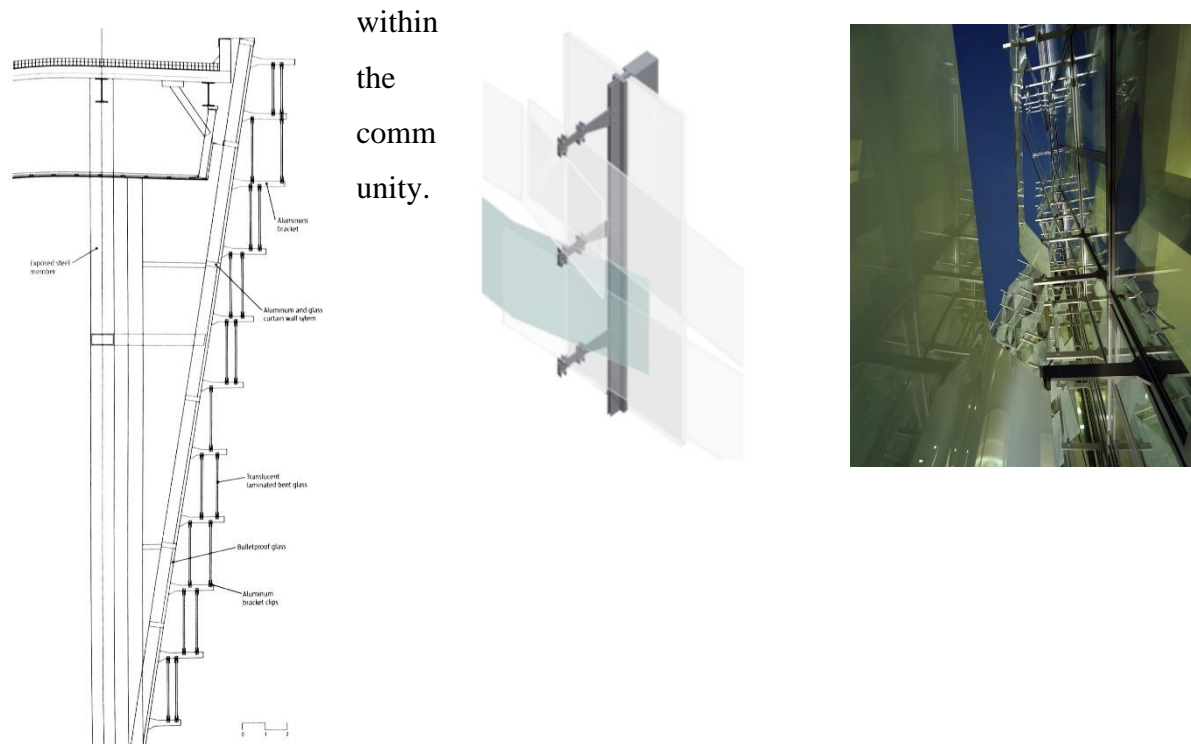


Figure 3.5.14, 3.5.15 & 3.5.16: Structural make up of undulating façade. Source: Architect Magazine 2009

3.6 Bronx Police Station

Urban Context

The new Bronx police station came as a need to cater for more effective policing. The Bronx is among New York's impoverished districts with high crime rates. Murder and other violent crime has doubled in recent years and the advent of the new police station, as stated by officials, is to foster transparency and communication between police and residence by means of community orientated design. Literature on the Bronx Police Station has indicated that communication between community and police has declined and in response to that is the introduction of a community space within the station which is the first in New York.

According to the architectural firm, the interior of the station is "enhanced with amenities that

encourage dialogue with the community while providing spaces for officers to reduce stress and promote physical activity”.

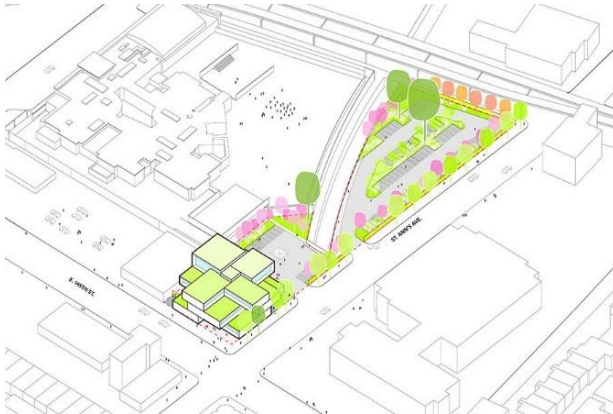


Figure 3.6.1: The new Bronx 40th Precinct station located in the Melrose neighbourhood on a corner site. Source: <https://www.archdaily.com/781440/big-designs-bronx-station-for-new-york-police-department/56b0dd25e58ecce7e1000751-big-designs-bronx-station-for-new-york-police-department-photo>. Accessed[20 July 2019]

“We were working in a century-old building that was designed for century-old policing methods. Now we’re changing that with a modern facility made for modern, neighbourhood policing" said NYPD Commissioner James O'Neil.

Planning

The internal layout of the police station has been designed with the intent of promoting dialogue with the community as well as an environment for police officers to exercise and unwind. The interior configuration is planned around the central light – filled atrium, allowing for a visual link from the main desk to all the floors above. The light is filtered through by means of clerestory windows. The station is composed of twelve separate programs, each of which are contained in a volume with all of the entrances and circulation routes centred on the atrium.

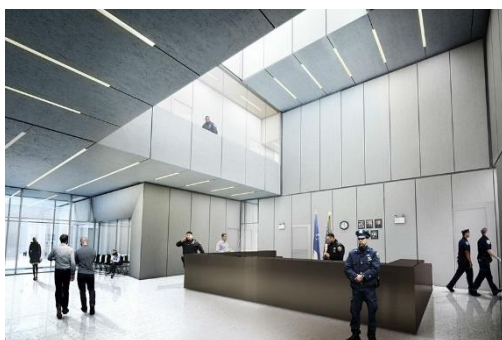
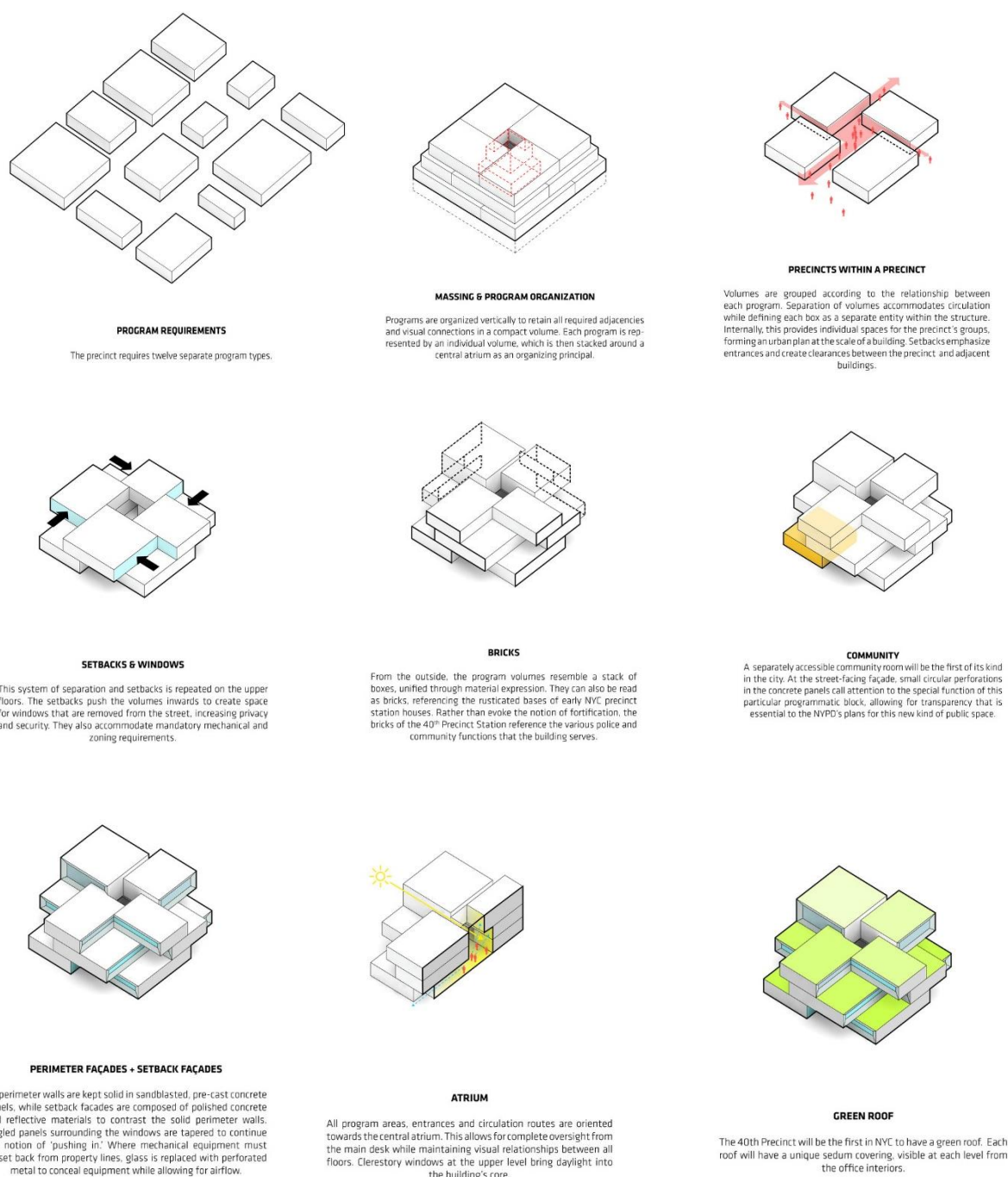


Figure 3.6.2: Central Atrium Space. Source: Archdaily https://www.archdaily.com/781440/big-designs-bronx-station-for-new-york-police-department?ad_medium=gallery Accessed[20 July 2019]

These volumes are arranged vertically around the atrium and are adjacent to volumes of a similar program. This addresses the issue of the public not being able to have a visual connection with the police. Having the charge desk as part of a central atrium with functions centred around it helps the perception of the public as there is transparency and openness. As a result, it would enhance the community's cognitive image of the police.

Figure 3.6.3: Spatial configuration of Bronx Police Station. Source: https://www.archdaily.com/781440/big-designs-bronx-station-for-new-york-police-department?ad_medium=gallery Accessed[20 July 2019]



Among the volumes mentioned, is the community events area which is the first of its kind in a NYPD facility. The publicly accessible community room is faced to towards the street in an attempt to promote dialogue as mentioned previously. This multi-purpose area, having its own street level entrance will accommodate for information kiosks as well as a platform to host events and classes, all towards an aim to encourage civic engagement with the precinct.



Figure 3.6.8: Vibrant evening impression of the Bronx Police Station. Source: https://www.archdaily.com/781440/big-designs-bronx-station-for-new-york-police-department?ad_medium=gallery. [Accessed 20 July 2019]



Figure 3.6.4: Public interface with building perimeter. Source: https://www.archdaily.com/781440/big-designs-bronx-station-for-new-york-police-department?ad_medium=gallery. [Accessed 20 July 2019]

With regards to the officers, the station includes an exercise courtyard as well as a climbing wall for them to exercise, encouraging physical activity.

Additionally, the parking lot was addressed by streetscaping its perimeter in order to make it a softer interface. Vegetation were among the plans used to integrate the station into the community.

Form and Materiality

As was discussed, the spatial layout of the Bronx police station, is an example of form following function. The volumes within the spatial arrangement are housed in ‘bricks’ and composed together as cues were taken from the rusticated bases of early New York police stations. An attempt was made for the building to be identified as a police station in a more contemporary manner. These stacked blocks clad in concrete, metal and steel are a means of reflecting the various police and community functions that the building serves as opposed to the notion of fortification. The stacked blocks features green roofs, with plants being visible from the internal offices. The use of this is to perhaps contrast the concrete finishing and provide users a warmer experience



Figures 3.6.5 & 3.6.6: Street edge impressions of Bronx Police Station depicting symbol of authority yet at the same time being inviting. Source: https://www.archdaily.com/781440/big-designs-bronx-station-for-new-york-police-department?ad_medium=gallery. [Accessed 20 July 2019]



Figure 3.6.7: Façade System. Source: https://www.archdaily.com/781440/big-designs-bronx-station-for-new-york-police-department?ad_medium=gallery. [Accessed 20 July 2019]

The composition of the blocks is setback and protruded to define entrances as well as create a distinctness between the police station building and neighbouring buildings. These setbacks allow for windows to be accommodated into the exterior façade which are not visible from the street, enhancing privacy and security. These windows are framed by angled panels that express the notion of ‘pushing in’ as is similar to the setbacks.

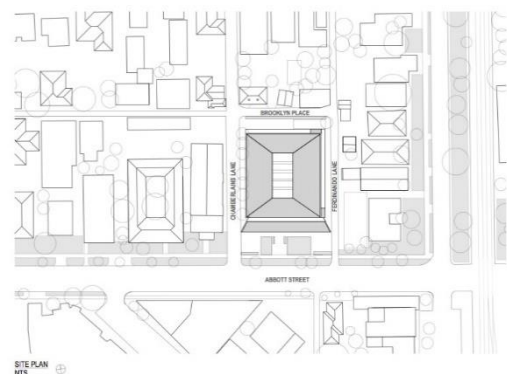
The materials of the perimeter walls are that of precast concrete panels whilst the walls of the setbacks are of polished concrete and reflective materials. Service areas of the station are clad in perforated material so as to conceal equipment yet allow for airflow.

3.7 Bayside Police Station

Urban Context

The Bayside Police Station is yet another case in which the primary aim was to move away from the existing design paradigm of police architecture. Features such as openness and accessibility were to be adapted to emphasise the station being perceived truly as a public community building. This comes as the brief required that the police are reconnected with the community. Architects, Francis-Jones Morehen Thorp, were to make the building a part of the neighbourhood’s urban fabric whilst retaining security and technical requirements in an attempt to realise Victoria Police’s vision of a more open and interactive approach to contemporary policing. The station required that the police facility incorporated traffic management amongst its other crime investigation departments. Additionally, a new armature was required that would be civic in its character.

Figure 3.7.1: Locality Plan of Bayside Police Station, Victoria, Australia. Source <https://www.archdaily.com/135858/bayside-police-station-fjmt/50145a8c28ba0d5b49000c40-bayside-police-station-fjmt-plan>. [Accessed 29 July 2019]



Form, Materiality and Space

The frontage of the police station is by means of a forecourt, followed by the formal entrance façade, being a two-storey archway. The overarching frame addressed the street edge and is scaled to neighbour the double storey Masonic Hall to the left. This reinterpreted entrance portico is framed by in situ concrete wall posts on either side with a timber clad scalloped beam across. The usage of concrete connotes the building's strong and forthright civic character, whilst usage of the timber element subtly gives way to a warmer, human dimension that relates to the beachside setting of Port Phillip Bay.



Figure 3.2.2: Bayside Police Station scale in relation to adjacent Masonic Centre. Source: Google Earth



Figure 3.7.3: Character of a strong façade, humanized materiality and scale of entrance. Source: John Gollings <https://www.e-architect.co.uk/melbourne/bayside-police-station>. [Accessed 29 October 2019]

The entrance itself is housed in a low scaled terracotta volume, with the use of red brickwork contextualising it with the neighbouring houses. It is clear that careful consideration has been taken to ensure that the police station fits within the context of the Victoria suburb, with features that the residents are climatized to. Furthermore, the choice of materials speaks to the sensitivity of perception of the building as well as its civic identity.

The point of entry into the station is via the air lock which has been deliberately over scaled so as to serve as the reception lobby after hours. The roof above is fully glazed, allowing for natural light to filter through, which is controlled by mechanical blinds. The experience of being in this space would allow for views through the building's interior as well as panoramic views of the sky above. The over accentuated space seeks to provide a calming and welcoming experience in achieving a truly public interface as was the requirement of the brief. Detailing of the seating and charge office desks ensures for a neat configuration which expresses order.



Figure 3.7.4: Use timber panels that provide depth and warmth to the environment. Source: Joh Gollings. <https://www.e-architect.co.uk/melbourne/bayside-police-station>. [Accessed 29 October 2019]



Figure 3.7.5: Well-lit and clean area serving as the reception/charge desk area. Source: John Gollings. <https://www.e-architect.co.uk/melbourne/bayside-police-station>. [Accessed 29 October 2019]

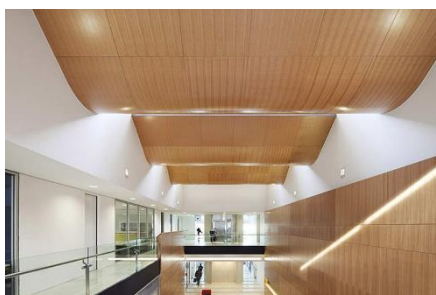
The foyer space mediates the everyday interactions with the public via the entry air lock and so it is essential that these spaces are impressionable. The combination of glazing with softer materials successfully develops an intuition of trust and respect. The main atrium space is found behind the foyer, which serves as the ceremonial heart of the station. The work spaces, meeting rooms, sally port, holding cells and gymnasium within the station are gathered around a central top-lit atrium, lined with timber. Functionally, the space acts as the central

circulation spine, but it is also the interactive hub between community and police. Additionally, the space is intended to serve as an integrated exhibition/artwork space.

The interactive hub is within a double volume space, with an undulating timber roof, the voids in which serve as sky lights that draw north and south light into the space. The sculptured timber elements hover over the volume providing a humanising spirit within the focal point of the building. The character of the roofing is similar to that of the entrance façade feature, extending the phenomenological transparency of the station. Advertently, it creates a pleasant working environment for the officers, creates a sense of unity and decorum as it serves as a transition zone in which policing divisions can be unified.



Figures 3.7.6, 3.5.7, 3.5.8 & 3.5.9: Curved exhibition panels allowing streaks of light through. Emphasises welcoming impression. Expression and tectonic development of natural materials. Atrium lined with Victorian Ash panels. Source: John Gollings. <https://www.e-architect.co.uk/melbourne/bayside-police-station>. [Accessed 29 October 2019]



Environmental sustainability was a key objective for the project as the architects understood that the Victorian Police are seen as role models for the wider community and as such its building should reflect human comfort and control. Whilst many sustainable features such as rainwater harvesting and architectonic lighting control systems have been used, ultimately high occupancy areas were positioned towards favourable orientation, closer to the internal atrium, achieving high levels of natural light. Externally, the high thermal mass materials coupled with a large-scale external metal grate combine to achieve a high-performance external envelope.

The metal grate has been ingeniously utilized as it serves the purpose of screening and shading whilst allowing light and views. The grate is fixed away from the building perimeter allowing for vertical landscaping within the cavity. This provides further privacy and allows for a more vibrant and naturalised working environment.



Figure 3.7.11: The form of the station expresses operational transparency, retaining the privacy of sensitive and critical areas. The result for which are cleanly composed façade thresholds of the police complex which are perceived as inviting and engaging towards the on-looking community. Source: John Gollings. <https://www.e-architect.co.uk/melbourne/bayside-police-station>. [Accessed 29 October 2019]

Figure 3.7.13: Exploded view of the station layers indicating the buildings intent to subtly integrate the police station into its suburban setting, whilst being a purposeful symbol of the station's service to the public. Source: John Gollings. <https://www.e-architect.co.uk/melbourne/bayside-police-station>. [Accessed 29 October 2019]

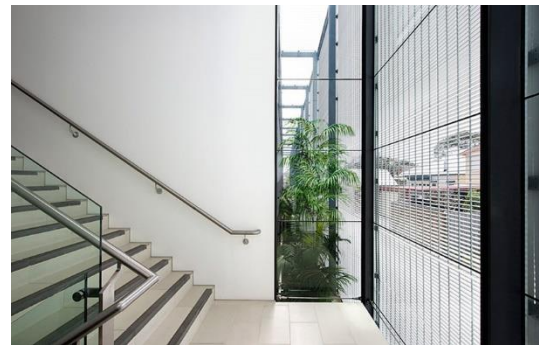


Figure 3.7.10: Vegetation on the perimeter provides an engaging visual aspect from the internal spaces outwards whilst serving as subtle screening from the exterior. Source: John Gollings. <https://www.e-architect.co.uk/melbourne/bayside-police-station>. [Accessed 29 October 2019]

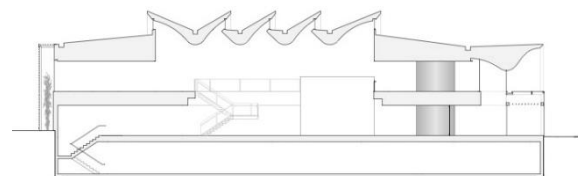
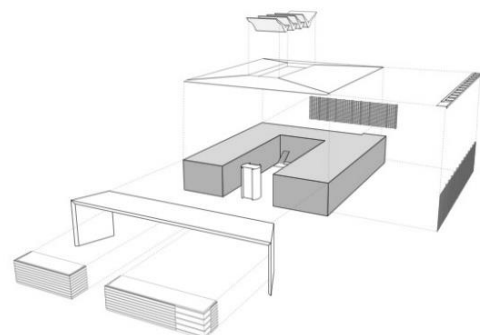


Figure 3.7.12: Building section indicating the cloud-like roofing elements. Source: John Gollings. <https://www.e-architect.co.uk/melbourne/bayside-police-station>. [Accessed 29 October 2019]



‘The Mayor, said Council recognised designers and architects whose work showed sensitivity to Bayside’s neighbourhood character, streetscape quality, local identity, heritage values, public places and the natural environment.

“We amended the focus of the award this year to ensure that proper recognition was given to the ecologically sustainable development category. Council hosts this event to recognise and promote the excellent work of designers in Bayside,” said Cr Hayes.’

Bayside Built Environment Awards

3.8 Windsor Police Station

Urban Context

The new Windsor Police station comes as replacement to the previous one which was located in the town hall. The location of the new station takes advantage of its context within a public realm with the intent of being an essential part of the community. The site chosen by the architects was seen as a catalyst for urban growth as it had the potential in becoming a civic campus for the town, further establishing a police presence.

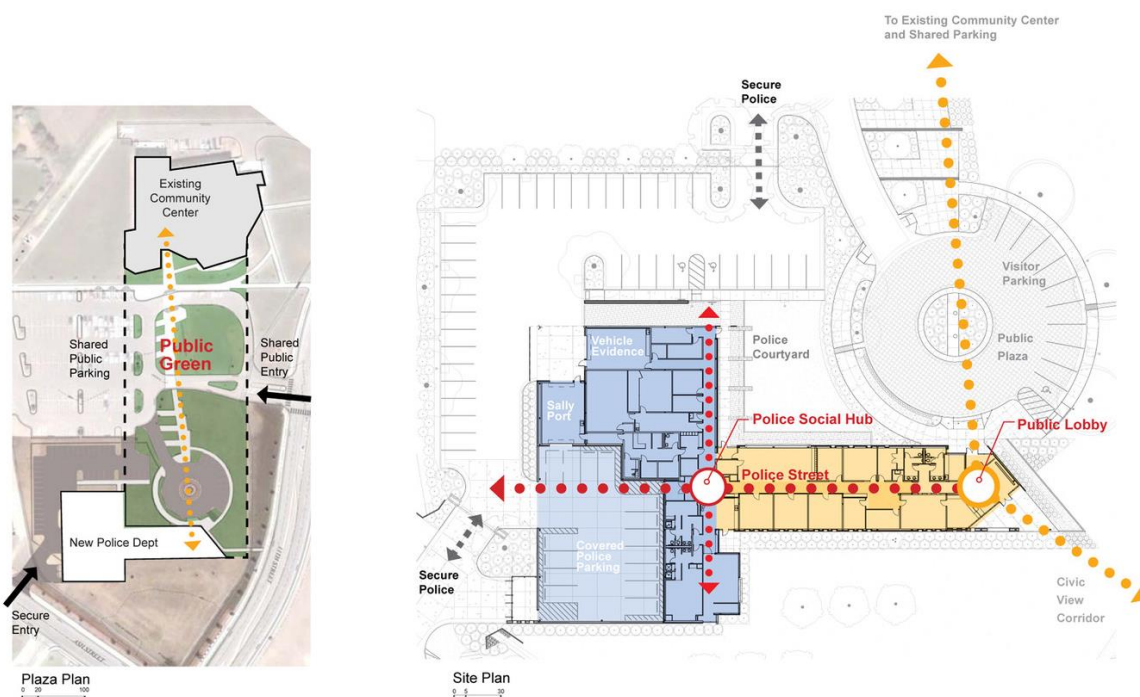
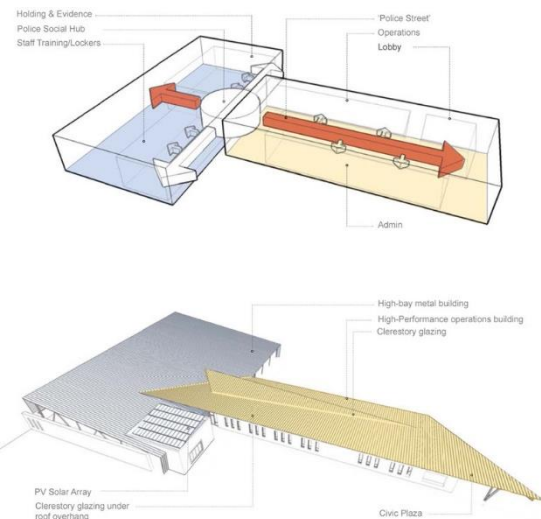


Figure 3.8.1: Locality and Site Plan indicating the sharing of the site, vehicular entry, parking and meeting room space with the Community Recreation Center. Source:

<https://www.archdaily.com/166842/windsor-police-department-roth-sheppard-architects>. [Accessed 30 October 2019]

Form, Materiality and Space

The new building commands visibility due to its location on Main Street, being in close proximity to the commercial and residential hubs of Windsor. The overall form of the police building comprise two metal structures, one housing support services, whilst the other structure is the main police building. This engineered metal building accommodates an attractive glazed lobby with a masonry floor plane. The public entry point is well defined, with an accentuated canopy which serves as the civic plaza. It is noteworthy that the report writing area is deeper into the building, showing sensitivity to crime reporting. The circulation centre of the police station is found at the intersection of the two forms, wherein wayfinding is achieved. Other well considered spaces are the interrelated configuration of the gymnasium, locker and social hub for the officers. Additionally, the corridors have been scaled up so as to function as a meeting place.



Figures 3.8.2 & 3.8.3: Expression of building form expressing the functions contained within. Source: <https://www.archdaily.com/166842/windsor-police-department-roth-sheppard-architects>. [Accessed 30 October 2019]

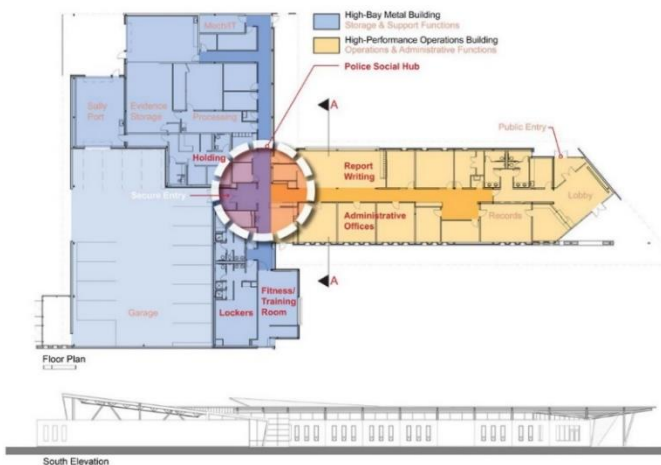


Figure 3.8.4: Plan and elevation drawing interrelationship of spaces as well as building form. Source: <https://www.archdaily.com/166842/windsor-police-department-roth-sheppard-architects>. [Accessed 30 October 2019]

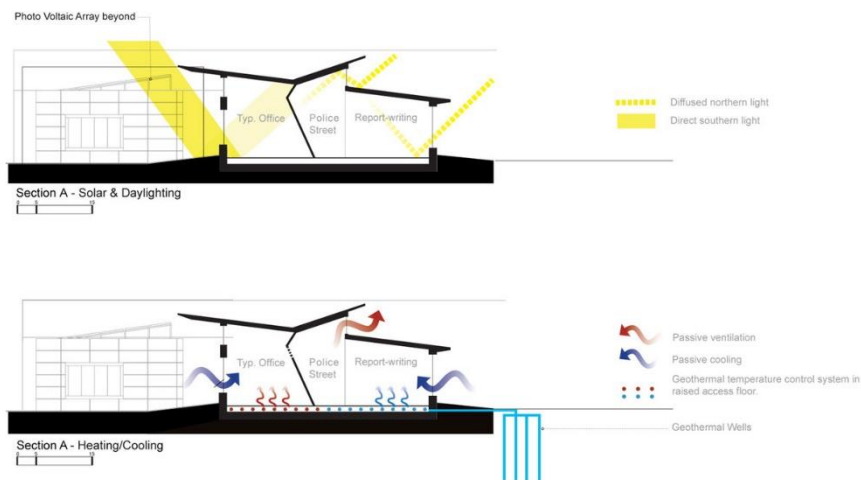


Figure 3.8.5: Indication of environmental sustainability. Source: <https://www.archdaily.com/166842/windsor-police-department-roth-sheppard-architects>. [Accessed 30 October 2019]

The modern design, with its convenient and accessible location is cognoscente of the towns future needs in its placement, making the Windsor Police service an icon in the small town in Colorado.

3.9 Conclusion

Whilst the context of the precedent studies analysed differ vastly to the South African context, many common themes should be applied to the design of local police stations. It is of interest, that whilst these international settings are not exposed to the level of crime that is faced in South Africa, there are still strong efforts made towards enhancing public perception and public engagement. This can be supported by the fact that in most of the precedents mentioned, strong emphasis has been placed on its urban context, and the manner in which the stations develop a presence in which it is located. This proves the relevance of adapting the theory of *genius loci*. Of further interest is that these police stations not only cater extensively for their public image, there is consideration on the working environments of the officers.



Figure 3.9.1: Windsor Police Station Police Offices.
<https://www.archdaily.com/166842/windsor-police-department-roth-sheppard-architects>.
 [Accessed 30 October 2019]



Figure 3.9.2: North Cumbria Police Headquarters Offices.
 Author: Van Bruggen
http://www.vburbandesign.com/uploads/3/0/4/2/3042581/designing_better_police_buildings_v16_17_09_13.pdf [Accessed 15 July 2019]

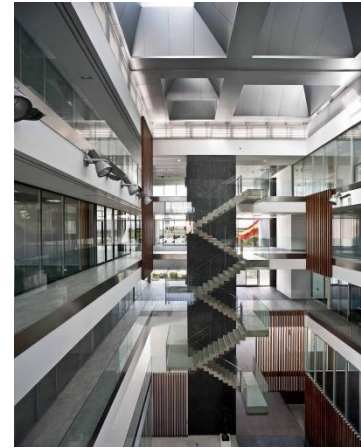


Figure 3.9.3: Fuencerral – Pardo Police Station Offices. Source:
<https://www.archdaily.com/255186/fuencarral-el-pardo-police-station-voluar-arquitectura>
 [Accessed 27 November 2019]

This comes from the notion that if officers work in pleasant environments, then as a result, a positive level of efficiency can be offered to the public. Additionally, whilst still connoting that these international precedents are institutional facilities, the design language aligns with the experience of a corporate environment. This is such as perhaps, corporate environments are associated with efficiency and productivity.

Having analysed the precedents, common to enhancing the experience of both the public and the officers, strong themes of lighting are present. All of the precedent studies mentioned place, large amount of emphasis on natural lighting by means of atrium spaces, clerestory windows as well as extensively glazed façade etc. This comes as a stark contrast to the police stations of South Africa wherein spaces are often dull and unwelcoming, resulting in a poor perception of the institute. Whilst the theory of phenomenology lists various means of cognitive experience, light is the quality that most often conditions one's mood. Pallasmaa (1994) states there is no true architectural experience without light and goes on to mention that light is the strongest conditioner of the atmosphere of place, the most comprehensive criteria of the character of space, place and setting. In other words, Pallasmaa is defining light

as the element in space which plays a vital role in determining how we feel. This proves that the bringing of light into buildings enhances the cognitive image of such building.

Supplementing this notion, on the analysis of the work of Tadao Ando, it could be said that phenomena would be never perceived as phenomena if there was no light. Furthermore, lighting plays a role in which materials are perceived and the way in which the tactility of materials is experienced. By use of light, the experiential quality of materials could be enhanced, resulting in positive perceptions of space. It is perhaps that the maximisation of light becomes the catalyst for most of the discussed precedents become environmentally sustainable.

Over the last decade, the design of international police buildings have been placing emphasis on the building's interface, in particular, entrance foyers or commonly known in local terms as the charge desk.



Figure 3.9.4.: North Kent Police entrance foyer and public concourse. Author: Van Bruggen
http://www.vburbandesign.com/uploads/3/0/4/2/3042581/designing_better_police_buildings_v16_17_09_13.pdf [Accessed 15 July 2019]



Figure 3.9.5: North Cumbria Police entrance foyer and public concourse. Source: Van Bruggen
http://www.vburbandesign.com/uploads/3/0/4/2/3042581/designing_better_police_buildings_v16_17_09_13.pdf [Accessed 15 July 2019]

Treating these areas by employing lighting, the relevance of which mentioned above, and welcoming features plays a role in the cognitive mapping of spaces. Furthermore, there has been an attempt to deformalize the charge desk area by introducing more public functions.

Whilst the entrance and interior spaces of the precedents studied previously are soft and welcoming, the exteriors of these police stations still express an identity of strength without becoming overbearing. This is achieved, in some cases, wherein the police station provides public space and plazas, which once more promotes the notion of place making within police precincts.



Figure 3.9.6, 3.9.7 & 3.9.8: Fuencarral – Pardo Police Station Outdoor space, softened with textured materials and vegetation. <https://www.archdaily.com/255186/fuencarral-el-pardo-police-station-voluar-arquitectura> [Accessed 27 November 2019]

CHAPTER 4 INTERVIEWS AND CASE STUDIES

4.1 Introduction

As the previous chapter explores enlightening ways in which police station architecture can be re-imagined, it is important to understand the state of governmental institutes within a local context. In order to understand both, the need and the constraints of local law enforcement structures, various interviews have been conducted, along with case studies. The result of which aims to understand the influencing factors in the cognitive image and perceptions of not only the public, but the police as well in the environments that service the community.

Interviews

An interview has been conducted with the chairperson of the eThekweni Central CPF Cluster in order to give insight as to the challenges being faced by communities with regards to their SAPS relations.

Interviews have been conducted with architects who have experience in designing police stations in KwaZulu-Natal. Interviews with architects provided a practical account for which the structure and function of the police service co-exist. These informants are regarded as experts in the field.

Interviews have been conducted with the various ranks and departments of the Newlands East SAPS in order to gain an understanding of the workings of the police as well as the issues and needs of the officers and community in order to achieve efficient police service.

An interview has been conducted with an academic, a leading criminologist and researcher on matters of the disconnect between community and police.

Case Studies

A case study has been conducted on the Newlands East Police Station, in which the station has been mapped and socio-spatial observations have been made. This was to provide insight into the conduciveness of the station for police work and community service.

4.2. Interview Findings

Community Policing Forum Member

Mr Imtiaz Sayed, being on the board of the eThekweni central cluster of Community Police Forums (CPF) explains that the contributing factor for the disconnect between police and community is as a result of the community not knowing the mandate of the police. He goes on to explain that this arises from the discrepancy in the community's expectation verses the police's actual service. He asserts: “

“...it is here that the role of CPF's come into play, wherein CPF's are responsible for conveying what the police are responsible and not responsible for.... communities are not aware of their rights. This contradicts the essential reason for the introduction of CPF's as it has been introduced to ensure a smoother transition from the Apartheid's SAPF to the democratic SAPS”.

By way of examples Mr Sayed mentions that a robbery and a burglary are different, as there is a difference between a hijacking and theft of motor vehicle, and each of these different scenarios are dealt with differently by the police. There are instances wherein the police need to come to the crime scene and vice versa. Communities need to know the varying ways in which police deal with each of these situations before deeming police inefficient. To further explain, he gives the scenario of land invasion. He mentions:

“land invasion is not a crime listed in the policing Act, yet it is an issue facing communities, as such policing are unsure of what to do as there is no such case called land invasion. However, trespassing is an offence. Such example shows that communities need to be made aware by CPF's as to how to report crimes in order for police to interpret these crimes as chargeable offences.

Furthermore, he states that police are hesitant on making arrests as they are afraid of wrongfully charging suspects, when in fact, if communities were thought to make strong cases, more criminals would be charged. It is made clear by Mr Sayed, that the CPF's are the body mandated to communicate to the police in representing the community, yet it seems that communities are disconnected from the CPF's, let alone the police. When asked if this is due to there being lack in the system, he replies in saying that there's a lack in understanding what the CPF system can achieve.

Mr Sayed goes on to mention that the National Development Plans (NDP) instruction is that crime cannot be eradicated until and unless there is community involvement in crime prevention. The NDP program suggests strategies that encourages social cohesion by means of community outreach initiatives. He explains initiatives such as youth development programs are a means of reducing the succession plan of crime and criminality.

Being the collaborator with the CPF's seven stations within KZN, he states that stations that were built pre-apartheid may have served the need at that time, but with increasing crime rates and population increases, that is not the case at present. He mentions that:

".... the Umbilo police station, converted from a house to a police station, for example, has outgrew its need and thus adjacent buildings have been conjoined in an ad hoc manner without any integrated spatial floor planning, as is the case with the Berea station as well".

When asked if the police station environment is conducive for community access, he responded with a resounding 'No'. When speaking about some of the CSC's in eThekweni, and the Sydenham station in particular, he stated that *'a normal person that walks in there, he feels like a criminal already, so its not inviting its not conducive'*.

With regards to the CPF's, he mentions that *"... its members such as the chairperson and co-ordinator should have offices within the CSC of the police station seminar rooms and workshop areas alike could be utilised in having community awareness programs on how to deal with issues mentioned above. The issue here is that there is no structure for CPF to exist within the spatial structure of police stations"*.

As per his recommendations on the ideal police station, he advises a Parking-Pen-Automation system. He states that parking is a problem unanimous amongst all police stations, so accessibility needs to be addressed. Pen refers to the processes of reporting and then the processing of automating these reports. He alludes to the point that automation process should be less reliant on human intervention and rather on technological advances. He states

that an automated system with a linked national database would be less susceptible to corruption, and could result in avoiding the loss of dockets, crime statistics etc. Furthermore, he promotes the usage of smartphone applications and its efficiency in logging crime reports to the SAPS. This is as opposed to using the 10111 which could take a considerable amount of time lodging a report. He states that using an app would eliminate language barriers, dialects and pronunciation issues. He goes on to state that he would really like to see an un-manned police station in the future.

Architects in the Field of Police Station Design

Mr Ebrahim Kazee, of Ebrahim Kazee Architects, has been responsible for the design of the Montclair and Stanger police stations, both of which at the time of interview, were under construction. He has also been commissioned on the appraisal of the Umbilo Police Station. He associates the disconnect between communities and police with the apartheid regime, stating that the transition of the police has not been as it was intended. As such he mentions:

“....that the building type should change and that’s what I intended to portray in the design of the Montclair Police Station ... a station that is an example of a once residential building converted into a police station. If one looks at the Umbilo Station, it met the need during the apartheid era ... but for the present times it is not conducive as previously police stations were designed to be harsh. I have considered this factor as such in my design of the Montclair Police Station ... it has a modern outlook which is, a place of work that boosts the morale of the police officers and provides greater efficiency”

Whilst understanding the pragmatic and security considerations of police stations, Mr Kazee believes that police stations should not be designed in specific models or typology but maintain the need to retain the interface between public and private realm. In terms of the appeal of the building, he has designed the CSC to be in a three to four volume space in an attempt to create an architectural appeal. Whilst the personnel are influential in the comfort of a space, he states that the approach to the police station and spaces are important. In this respect, he asserts that:

“..in the past, windows and openings were designed to be narrow so that objects could not be thrown at the glazing, whereas now ... that isn’t an issue, which allow for grander glazing façade, ventilation, light and décor. Ideally, the presentation of the police stations should be lighter yet retaining its robustness to reflect the authority of the officers within”

Kazee was sceptical of commissioned architects who work closely with the Department of Public Works in designing public buildings resulting in differences arising. In his design, although he felt that a flat slabbed roof would be much better suited for the design concept

and the feel of the building, the Department to the contrary felt that a pitched roof would be better suited for maintenance purposes. To move away from the monolithic face brick look, he made use of shutter concrete to satisfy the requirements of a low maintenance building yet retaining a modern aesthetic. He stated that the public would gravitate towards a better designed police station and as such attempts for the building to be perceived as light and appealing as possible. He feels that the use of glazing should be used where possible to support the notion of transparency in the police service, but certain spaces are required to remain solid.

He mentions that with regards to space planning, the Department of Public Works stipulates net areas for spaces to be allocated, whilst as an architect, he felt that the spaces for efficient police functionality should be a consideration. Hence, as a commissioned architect to the Department of Public works, as much as he tries to combine space with aesthetics and the need for efficient functionality, not at all times these are accommodated by the Department.

Discrepancies between the design brief and the designer result in practical issues which would be influential in the experience of spaces by the public. Most of the spaces come from a needs assessment report that is specified by the SAPS. He states that as an architect, one needs to understand the rationale of a police officer in order to design for them. The architect has the has a challenging task of translating the needs assessment into a social and organizational dynamic that fits into spatial arrangement for effective functioning. Human rights and legal entities play a role in the formulation of spaces and square meterage's in which the architect has to negotiate and implement within the intended concept. In this respect he avers:

“as an example I try to create separate entrances for sensitive victims ... however the challenge is that that entrance is still regarded as conspicuous. In addition, added services such as trauma counselling needs to be in fully fledged private facilities”.

When probed about other services that can be incorporated into a police station, he suggested motor vehicle licensing could be explored, a first aid room for victims of physical abuse, shower facilities for officers, a sick room for officers who are unwell whilst on duty are some of the facilities he considered should be part of the design for a modern police station.

By the referral of Mr Kazee, Mr Ravi Jhupsee of Architronic has also been interviewed. Mr Jhupsee has been responsible for the design of the Chatsworth Police Station amongst others in the southern region of KwaZulu-Natal. Just like Mr Kazee, from the onset, Mr Jhupsee

made clear that the police station model of apartheid era was brutal in its approach as they had to portray an image of dominance. He states these buildings were more of a political intervention rather than a functional intervention for community policing. He mentions that during the turn of democracy, as an architect, it was still difficult to re-imagine the police station model as people responsible for re-development were still very much entrenched in apartheid design of public facilities. Nonetheless, over time, he says, the focus started leaning towards more modern and effective typologies which is community centred in structure, but at the same time had to function as a law enforcement entity. He states:

“... these buildings require a critical enquiry into its aesthetics, materiality and the introduction of light and shadow where none was present in the past... particularly of the circulation and the relief one experiences within the building as well as the importance of natural lighting and ventilation in areas of public interface. If one takes the example of the Sydenham police station the space is uncomfortable for effective policing due to the legacy of Apartheid planning and design”

Speaking of the design of the Chatsworth Police Station, he states that it deviates from the norm of other police stations. He makes mention of the entrance hall, describing it as ‘uplifting’, enhanced by the use of texture and color, resulting in a brighter aesthetic. Speaking about the materiality of the station, he states that police stations requires an element of robustness in its character. As such terracotta bricks were used, due to its sustainability characteristics, however, Mr Jhupsee limited its usage to certain areas. In order to offset the dominance of the face brick aesthetic, off shutter concrete, panelling and paintwork was utilised instead. He states, *“The brick has become part of a palette of materials, to soften the form, the texture and perception of the building”*. When questioned on the proof of the influence of materials towards perception, he mentions interestingly, that the Chatsworth Police Station is not prone to vandalism. He states that generally, other police stations are abused, and the fact that the community and the police do not abuse the building, is positive, since buildings that are disliked, are vandalised. He goes on to state that many apartheid constructed buildings are prone to broken windows and bricks alike.

Amongst the many compliments he has received on the Chatsworth Police Station, the one that stands out the most was that a government minister had commented that it did not look like a police station. Mr Jhupsee was elated in that the sole intention of the design was to make it function as a police station with all the attributes of safety, but for the public interface to be softened. Moving from the welcoming public interface, he speaks of the working environment of the police officers. Previously, he states, as asserted by Mr Kazee earlier, that

“narrow windows were used, resulting in dark spaces coupled with dull floor finishes. The color of the floor finishes, was beige and light green, which gave a dull outlook resulting in me , changing the color palette. Poor lighting in particular provided a dingy and dull work environment given the stressful nature of police work. I had to advocate strongly for the creation of a police environment that lifted the spirit of stressed police officers and a space in which they had a sense of belonging and pride”.

Changes such as these brought about positive feedback from the officers, as surveys were done on their job satisfaction with regards to the work environment of Chatsworth Police Station two to three years after completion.

The success of the station was proven in that many more police station designs were offered to Mr Jhupsee’s firm, to which he adds that the Montclair Police Station designed by Mr Kazee has a similar vision. He states that architects are responsible for changing the mindset of the ideals of a police station. He states that newer police stations, such as Montclair, intends to cause a shift in the way in which the public interfaces with the police. Whilst Mr Kazee was of the opinion that attitude of the officers are a stronger determinant of public perception, Mr Jhupsee’s notion that the mindset of officers can be changed through design. He states that police stations are not necessarily places of crime reporting and that meaningful social interaction has to be considered within the building. With that, he states, police stations need to have facilities that cater for community participation which has been allocated for in the design of the Chatsworth Police Station. He speaks of creating larger boardrooms, accessibility off the CSC, wherein the community can have a presence within the station and the governing of the area. Mr Jhupsee states that previously, there had been no platform for the community to interface with the police.

Other services included in the Chatsworth Police Station are separate areas for sensitive victims of crime as well as counselling facilities all of which are close to the CSC but not visible from the CSC. He mentions that previously, these services were not present. With regards to the officers, there has been a drive by Mr Jhupsee to the Department of Public Works to create meaningful spaces, such as a mess hall, canteen and gymnasium areas for police officers. He states that job satisfaction is dependent on many variables, for some it may be remuneration, for others it may be value added services offered by the employer and so forth. In relation to this, he says that insurance houses and other corporates such as

Deloitte and Touche enjoy better working conditions and is a contributing factor to job satisfaction and efficiency.

Mr Jhupsee aims to move away from a dominant architecture with regards to civic buildings. In contrast, he feels that civic buildings should be easily approachable and an '*architecture of acceptance*'. The Chatsworth Police Station however, has a tower within it, the rationale behind which is that the station can be identified from a distance within the terraneous landscape of Chatsworth. It functions as a water tower, providing up to 48 000 litres of water. At the top of the tower, is a blue light that shines, which denotes the presence of a police station. This marker serves as a mapping mechanism as well as his intent on creating an urban identity.

Criminologist

Lead criminologist and extensively published researcher Professor Monique Marks believes that there is definitely a disconnect between police and community, stating that the public don't consider the police as the first respondent to their safety and security needs. In this respect, she postulates:

"that people would only report crimes for the purpose of insurance claims while the middle-income citizen place more faith in private security companies whereas lower income communities contact their neighbour as the first respondent. This is in contrast to other countries wherein the police would be the first responder to crime. This perception, is firstly due to the legacy of the SAPS legacy from apartheid amongst other issues such as the lack of stature that the police portray. We have the South African Constitution which is the only constitution in the world wherein community policing is built into the constitution, the concept in reality is a farce"

Marks sees two primary issues, the first being that having a forum to mediate between public and police indicates a power relation. The other issue she finds is that these forums are predominantly represented by more vocal, prominent members of the community. She feels that community forums should be operated in a manner that is to be more transparent and consultative, allowing communities to actually come up with their own solutions to the problems they encounter, which she doesn't see occurring. In the initial years of CPF's, she states that communities were very much involved, but subsequently realised that they don't have much say. She states that the system of CPF's are strong in certain areas, such as Chatsworth, yet she says, there are a whole group of people that are excluded, such as those from informal settlements and public housing. She says that the issue is that communities

limit what constitutes a part of ‘community’ to what is suited. By way of example, she mentions that a report such as domestic violence from an individual in a shack is not taken in a dignified manner. However, such individual is still a part of the community, yet don’t feel as comfortable. She felt that community policing has no appeal for the impoverished in societies, wherein their feelings are not voiced and are the sector of communities that police will trample over.

Professor Marks speaks in depth of the psyche of police officers from their training to the resources given at their disposal and its influences on their functioning. When asked about the quality of spaces at police station she agrees with the notion that better work environments enable better service. She states, “ *if you look at the majority of police stations in South Africa, its not a place where I would like to go and work every day, I feel like most police stations in South Africa are pretty gloomy, dismal places to work and to go into, they’re not welcoming, open friendly spaces*”. She believes that it has an impact on the manner in which officers go about their duties. She advises that the primary concern in the re-imagining of a police station is the CSC. In this respect she alludes that:

“...it needs to be a space wherein people can wait, with dignity and comfort. The manner in which victims and police engage must be private, be sensitive to vulnerable complaints and provide dignity for those in holding cells. I welcome the idea of victim counselling and community resource facilities, however it needs to be resource intensive”.

Marks envisages the ideal police station, from the viewpoint of a criminologist, as a completely transparent environment. She gives the example of her office, which she has designed, which is predominantly glass. She says it enables her to see what is going out outside, and she would want people to see what she is doing – she says further, that is what creates connection. She states that police stations should be as open as possible, it should allow for a flow of officers between different ranks as she feels that the hierarchical structure of police isn’t ideal. The space given the most attention is the entry point as she states that this is space wherein people should feel comfortable, where she says, ‘*where people feel that care has been placed in it, that it doesn’t look like some other government bureaucratic office*’. She speaks of safe spaces, not just for victims of gender-based violence but for other vulnerable groupings such as sex workers, LGBTQ members as well as foreigners. As a whole she states that police stations that don’t feel like fortified prisons are a lot more pleasant to go into.

Marks makes mention of two approaches as a way forward with regards to crime prevention. The first being the maximalist approach, an approach in which police work is celebrated whereby police are actively seen trying to find crime taking place, visiting schools, participating in public parades and so on. The other approach, which Marks advocates for, is the minimalist approach. This approach involves police focusing the majority of their resources primarily on serious crimes only. When asked about lower level crimes, she states that police should equip and allow communities to deal with these issues. She comes from the strong viewpoint that crime prevention cannot be done by the police and that the SAPS is under resourced to take on all crimes, and as a result in less crimes being solved. When questioned about mob justice and vigilantism being a result of enabling communities to partake in crime prevention, she stated that it would be foolish to think that this does not take place currently. She feels that the maximalist approach, being the more popular and softer approach would be welcomed by the community as it would mean that police are more visible, more present within communities, focusing on low level issues. However, she states, conflict arises as communities are the first to be in uproar when serious issues are not dealt with, when police are occupied with other issues. Having worked extensively with police, Marks suggests, as she has suggested to police, to isolate or signal the primary crime in their community and tackle that extensively. This would include engaging with communities to bring fourth for example, the drug dealers, in utilising them to reduce the scourge of substance abuse. It is here, that Marks feel, that communities and police should meet and discuss the *“eradication of the single disease that plagues that community, by means of community resource centres”* as mentioned above. She says that this platform should also be made available for people who lose their homes, a safe space for all. By way of example, she questions the place in which a community of shack dwellers would reside in if their settlement burnt down. It is here that the community facilities can be coupled with police. The point she drives across is that police service is not limited to a certain income bracket, yet a certain class within the community would feel more entitled. This, in her opinion, is the flaw with the maximalist approach. She goes on to mention that there is a conflict, whereby for example, communities would want drug abusers to be locked up, but those users are part of families within the same community. She makes mention of other policing models such as the Japanese kaubans wherein there is a police station on every block and the police are responsible for knowing each block intimately, a system which that society is acclimatised to. The French model she mentions, is much more of a minimalist model that works better in that region. She states that police stations in the Nordic region are better suited models to the

South African design of a police station. She states that South African society is in a dilemma as to which of the two approaches to take. She states that the minimalist approach would allow for police to deal with the bigger issues, which would then result in a stronger confidence in the police system.

4.3. Case Study Findings and Analysis

Newlands East Police Station

Among the factors responsible for the lack of public participation and inclusivity is that many police stations in KwaZulu-Natal have been retro fitted into buildings that have not been designed to serve as law enforcement structures. Examples of this can be found in the greater Durban area wherein structures such as residential homes have been converted into police stations. As a result, these stations outgrow their capacity and thus become inefficient. The Newlands East Police Station is among these - situated in a shopping complex that has been leased out to the SAPS. This comes as a cause for concern as the property is not conducive in meeting the need of the users – being the SAPS. Admission by the various officers interviewed, conclude that the station does

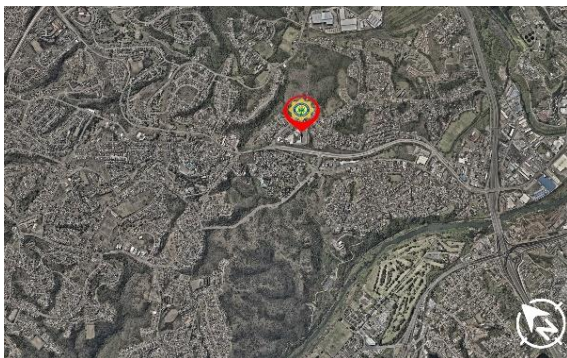


Figure 4.3.2: Newlands East Police Station within Shopping Complex-aerial view. Source: Google Earth



Figure 4.3.3: Newlands City Shopping Complex and SAPS. Source: Author

not function effectively.

FINDINGS



Figure 4.3.4: CSC charge desk. Source: Author.



Figure 4.3.5: CSC waiting area and report writing. Source: Author.



Figure 4.3.6: CSC operations. Source: Author.

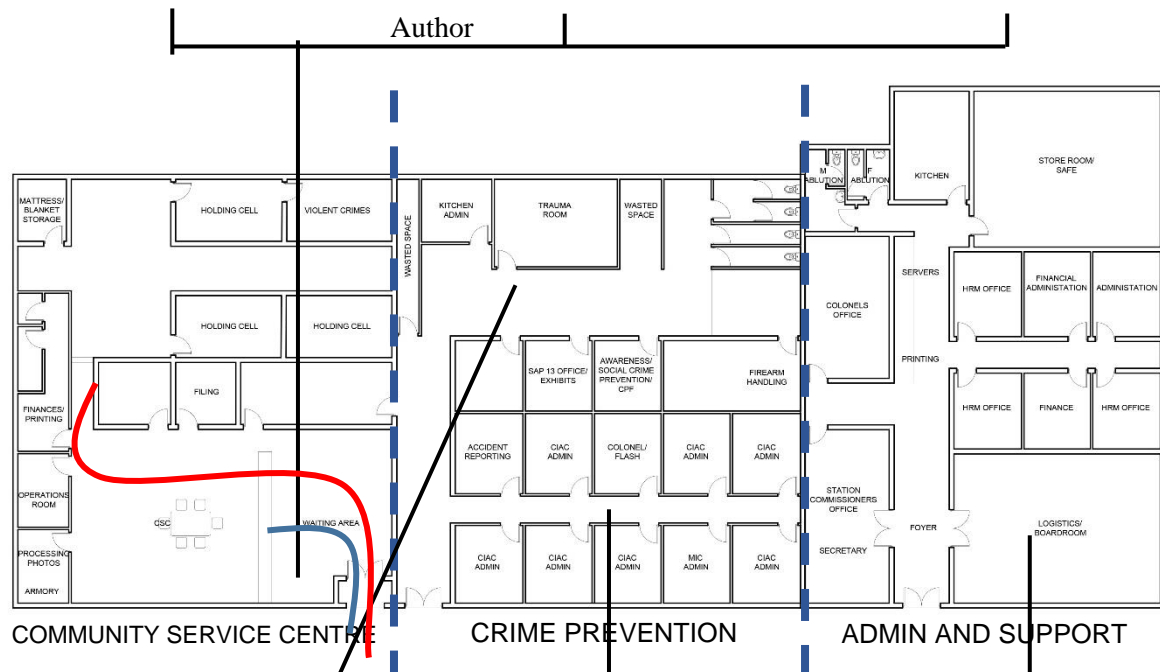


Figure 4.3.7: Newlands East SAPS Floor Plan. Source: Author.



Figure 4.3.8: Trauma/counselling room. Source: Author.



Figure 4.3.9: Double ended corridor office planning. Source: Author.



Figure 4.3.10: Shared logistics office/Boardroom. Source: Author.

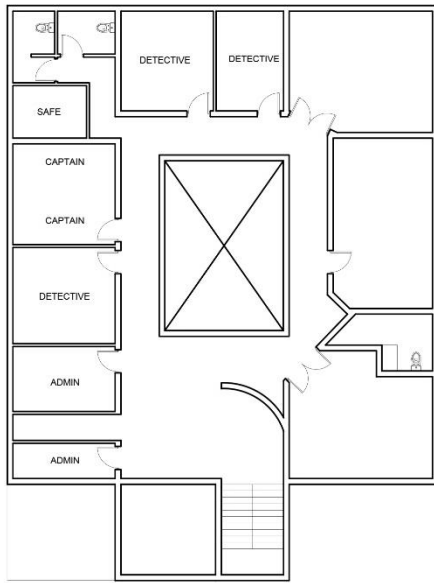


Figure 4.3.11: Newlands East
SAPS Detective Unit. Source:



Figure 4.3.12: Cramped environment of shared
Detective Offices. Source: Author.

The location of the police station is at an immediate disadvantage, as the shopping centre in which it is located, is in a pan-handle configuration, approximately 200 metres off the suburban road. Additionally, the shopping complex sits approximately 10 metres below road level. Once entered into the shopping complex parking lot, there is no definition of police station parking but merged with the complex parking. Refer to Fig. 4.3.2.

Figure 4.3.3 further indicates that the police station is poorly identifiable. Restricted by the character of the shopping complex, the police station fails to command a presence with no entrance definition. Spatially, the police station is configured in four sections, each with its own entry point. Figure 4.3.6 indicates three of which being adjacent to each other namely, namely, the Community Service Centre (CSC), Crime Prevention and Administration. The detective area which works independently from the rest of the station is located on the floor above.

With regards to the CSC, there are many glaring concerns which indicate community relations are not sensitively considered. Whilst there is sufficient seating for the public, there are no designated spaces in which reports are written. What seems to be re-used office tables, have been placed in the waiting area of the CSC (refer to Fig 4.3.5). This would mean that if one is writing a report or being tended to by officers, there is an apparent lack of privacy. The charge desk area faces similar issues where in there is no privacy in crimes being reported. This would mean that sensitive reporting of crime could easily be overheard, putting into

question the dignity of the complainant (see Fig. 4.3.4). This issue has been unanimously reported by each of the officers interviewed, whereby they have stated the absolute necessity of cubicles for crime reporting. Officers mentioned that whilst some of the stations they have worked in previously made provisions for this facility, not all police stations in the province have such. Whilst, there are rooms for sensitive victims to write out reports and be interviewed, CSC commanders have mentioned that this happens in a general office that is utilised by the commander. An additional issue found is that the holding cells are located within the CSC. This means that perpetrators are brought in via the CSC, in view of the public, to be processed. Serious reason of concern is to discover that perpetrators are processed in the same space as the weapon armoury.



Figure 4.3.13: Armoury and Mugshot space. Source: Author.



Figure 4.3.14: Make shift desk for incident writing. Source: Author.

The holding cells are found to be insufficient with regards to its capacity. The station commander indicated that in events wherein the cells are insufficient, suspects are transported to neighbouring police stations. This would mean that SAPS vehicular resources would be utilised where there is short fall in the built form.

With regards to the Crime Prevention Unit of the police station, of concern is the location and spatial arrangement of the trauma room. The trauma room is positioned at the back of the station, receiving no natural lighting. The trauma room features a single bed, with an office desk for the social worker in an open plan configuration. Furthermore, the trauma room officer/social worker mentions that this configuration is not suitable, as



Figure 4.3.15: Trauma Bedroom and Office – Victim Support Room. Source: Author.

scenarios occur wherein a victim may be utilising the bed whilst another is being in consultation.

The social worker explains that these facilities are not sufficient and a more private configuration, separate for stay in victims would be required. Public interaction occurs within the functions of the Crime Prevention Unit (CPU), however, such as not catered for. CPU offices are poorly planned, with long narrow corridors separating a double ended office layout. The same issues are prevalent in the admin unit of the station (see Fig 4.3.9). Admin and CPU officers raised concerns over a lack of office space, in some cases many officers have to share offices. Figure 4.3.10 indicates that logistic officers are placed in the central boardroom, having to vacate when meetings take place. With regards to the board room, it is found that the CPF's utilise the same boardroom used by police officers. The Detective Unit on the floor above, has similar issues of space, wherein up to 3 detectives share a 9 square metre office. An interview with a detective informed that each detective has their own cases, their own victims and their own persons of interest whom need to be interviewed. The detective went on to state that it is not conducive for persons of interests to be interviewed, having the other detective overhearing matters of the case.



Figure 4.3.16: Offices without ceilings, shortage of filing space.
Source: Author.



Figure 4.3.17: Server Room in an open corridor. Source: Author.

Whilst these are issues mentioned are most noteworthy with regards to each department within the station, there are fundamental flaws with the overall layout of the station. The

layout of the station provides spaces and offices closest to the front with natural lighting. Deep and double ended office layout results in poor lighting for the majority of the station complex, causing the station to rely on artificial lighting. In addition to the lack of natural light, there is no ventilation, with one officer stating that the lack of natural air, coupled with the cramped office layout, has led to respiratory complications. Not only are there issues of privacy within the CSC, similar issues are prevalent within the police offices as the walls do not reach up to the ceiling, resulting in noise travelling. This could result in crime intelligence information becoming compromised. There is also a general shortage of space, not just for officers, but for filing and storage as well (see Fig 4.3.14 and 4.3.15). Having analysed the Newlands East Police Station, it is clear that the function is not conducive to the structure. This claim can be supported by the newspaper article below, the concluding remark by Police Shadow Minister stating, ‘A station needs to be built, it should not be situated in a shopping centre, I have never seen such’

Figure 4.3.18: Newspaper article highlighting the shortcomings of the Newlands East Police Station.

Source: Rising Sun Newspaper.



Police Officers

Police officers at the Newlands East Police Station were extensively interviewed to understand not only their need, but the need of the community. Having spoken to the senior commander of Human Resource Management, he states that the core issue with the Newlands policing precinct is that the boundaries of Newlands has grown over a period of the last twenty years, yet the scale of the station has remained the same. He states that capacity of the station in relation the population and area in which it serves is simply not manageable. As a recommendation, he strongly suggests the introduction of satellite stations.

Speaking to the Captain at the time, who had been the CSC commander for that shift, states the inconsistencies of the station. He states:

“..the station being in a shopping centre, provides no sense of security or privacy. The suspects are escorted to the holding cells, passing the CSC, which leads to major concerns over the safety of the community”.

When asked about what could be done to transform the station in order to meet the needs of the police and the community, he stated that it would not be possible to do so due to the limiting nature of the leased-out property to the SAPS. He states, one cannot make changes, rather, one is governed by the changes. A major issue mentioned by all of the officers that have been interviewed, is the state of the CSC. He states that the serious lack of privacy deems a need for cubicles, wherein members of the community can report a crime without being heard by the next officer or the next community member. He alluded to a set up similar to that of a bank, SARS or ticket office.



Figure 4.3.19: Reduction of natural lighting.

Source: Author.

The officers mentioned that this cubicle set up was not consistent in all of the police stations they have served in past.

Speaking of the environment of the police station, he says that natural lighting is essential, yet over a period of time, the officers have become accustomed to the artificial lighting. Ironically, the one side of the police station that windows are present, it is tinted, with shelves against the openings. This then speaks to the lack of space.

Many of the officers felt that their safety in the police station is compromised, with easy access into the station. Constables and admin workers stated that offices have no windows, and the lack of ventilation causes dizziness and fatigue, having to step outside for air at various intervals.

With regards to Victim Secure Room (VSR), officers as well as the station police station stated the facilities were insufficient. They mention instances wherein more than one victim has required a bed, resulting in them making use of the couch and sleeping on a chair. Ideally, they suggest, that the VSR should cater for different family configurations, example, a mother and a child, a father and a child, a female only, etc. Additionally, the officers felt that the various departments of the police station should be located and housed together as one captain stated many police stations are not fully fledged. He says for example the social work component of CR Swart Police Station is using a leased office in Commercial Building in the CBD. He goes on to say that the training facilities for officers are also in rented spaces.

With regards to the public perception of the station, he says community have expectations of a friendly environment. When asked about the face brick materiality of the station, not particularly the Newlands Police Station, officers felt that it was not comforting. One constable describes his work environment as depressing, and that he can only wonder how more miserable it would be for victims. The HRM senior commander says that there has been a move towards changing the paint of all police stations to the colors of the SAPS uniform, however, he says that they have not considered the fact that a large number of stations are rented, as such that would not be possible, listing many leased out stations in eThekwinini that he is aware off. He mentions this ahead of stating that the current interface of police stations are not welcoming at all. One detective interviewed drew comparisons of his work environment specifically to corporate offices, stating that it is surprising that state buildings were not up to the standard of private sector buildings, especially seeing as police work is a public service.

4.4 Empirical Research Challenges

The intent for case studies was for three police stations to be researched, each representing a high, middle and low-income area so as to identify as accurately as possible the needs and shortfalls of a typical South African police station. The aim of which would help understand how an ideal South African be designed. This comprised the Durban North police station representing a high-income community, Newlands East representing a middle-income community and Cato Manor a low-income community. Whilst this being the intent, it was not possible for all three stations to be sampled due to time constraints. Conducting research on police stations in South Africa has proven to have a lot of red tape, with various members of authority seemingly reluctant to grant due access. A large portion of the research period was taken up in granting permission for the research to take place by the head office of the SAPS in the Province, notwithstanding delays in back and fourth bureaucratic processes in securing a gatekeepers letter to undertake the study. As a result of the shortage of time, only the Newlands East police station had been sampled as a case study, in accordance with the guidelines stipulated by the SAPS. For security purposes, Department of Public Works nor SAPS could grant access to any police station blueprints and neither could the architects involved provide access to plans due to it being bound by governmental contracts as well as it being a matter of national security. Furthermore, members of the public at the police station could not be interviewed neither was access granted into holding cells.

4.5 Conclusion

The aim of empirical research conducted makes a case for the poor design of police stations in South Africa. As mentioned previously, there is a lack of literature that delves into the built form of police stations, rather it is the performance of the police service that is constantly under the spotlight. Having conducted interviews with police officers, it is clear their dissatisfaction at the state of police stations. Many of the officers spoke not only of the inability of the station to meet their need, but spoke of the need of the public not being satisfied. Although the Newlands East police station was the only station sampled, officers were specifically questioned about their experiences in other police stations, which to a very large extent were dissatisfied. Similarly, the architects interviewed spoke negatively of police stations other than that of the subject matter. Furthermore, the South African Police Service, in correspondence to gain permission to research, stated that the research had bearing.

It is important to note that both architects and officers alluded to police stations possessing an architectural style of corporateness. This is in line with the many of the police buildings analysed in the precedent studies. Having stated that there is no South African model for police stations, this provides an insight as to the way forward. Both architects interviewed, when asked on the process in which they conceptualised the design, stated they begin with understanding the context and designing responsively. Mr Jhupsee in particular, states the importance of the station being comfortable in its environment. When asked about mediating between his design and the requirements from Department of Public Works, he states, *'Its about showing them what is suitable, its about the genius loci, its about where its located'*. This speaks to the importance of place making in police station design, because essentially, police stations service communities. Furthermore, apart from being under resourced, most of the complaints given by officers, were relating to the structural experiential nature of the stations. Having mentioned that, the theoretical framework of phenomenology becomes justified.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

Literary review for this study describes the structure and functional relationship of the built form being the primary driver of organisational functioning within the police force. Mention is made of the co-dependent entities of structure and agency, being interrelated. This serves as the pragmatic process of how police stations have been designed. Hoffman (2007) states that historically, internationally and locally, the police force was a militant entity. He goes on to state, that as a result, police buildings required security, hence the fort like structure. In specific to the South African context of police station design, Hoffman mentions that ‘this was done to combat the threat of attack and to help control the surrounding populace’. From the extensive literature and empirical research, the influence of the apartheid regime on the built form of architecture is inevitable. In contrast to South Africa’s post-apartheid police service, the crux of the SAPS values and mission statement is that of community service and engagement. This is identified in the symbols and insignia of the SAPS. Refer to figures

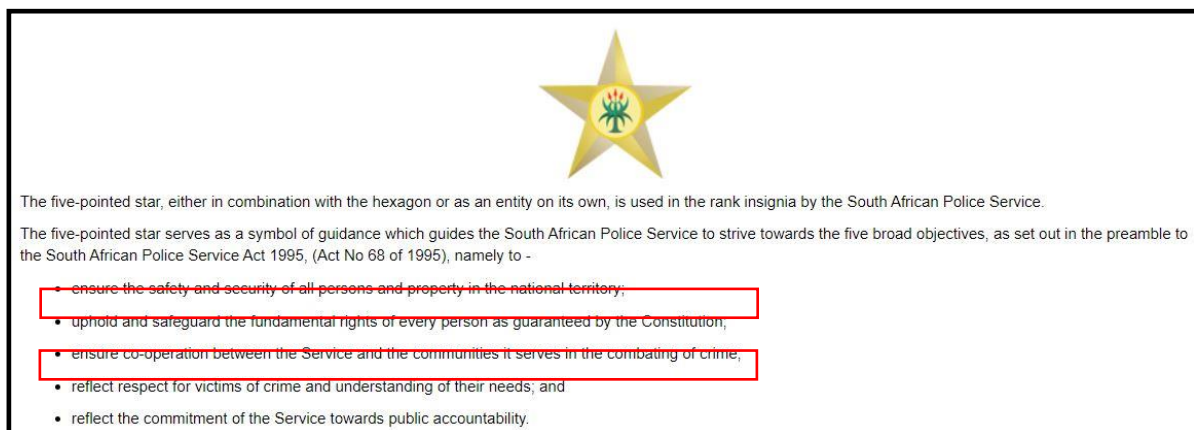



Figure 5.1.1: Symbolism and representation of the 5-pointed star.

Source: https://www.saps.gov.za/about/emblem_symbolism_5star.php

Figure 5.1.2: Symbolism and representation of the Aloe Plant. Source: https://www.saps.gov.za/about/emblem_symbolism_aloe.php



The hexagon, either in combination with the five-pointed star or as an entity on its own, is used as rank insignia by the South African Police Service. The sides and points of the hexagon symbolize the six cornerstones which are the essence of the nature of the service the South African Police Service must render. It forms the acronym "POLICE".

People

The South African Police Service is a people-oriented service. It is a service for the community by the community with the emphasis on the fundamental rights of all the peoples of South Africa. The rationale is based on the needs of people and the flexibility of policing, which is the basis for community policing. It involves a consultative approach in which the community is the key stakeholder. This approach gives rise to the need for mechanisms such as Community Police Forums and other civilian involvement in policing matters.

Order

Public order is one of the most basic human needs. Historically this specific need gave rise to the establishment of the policing concept by mankind. The most important function of any policing agency is to maintain public order and stability. The South African Police Service is no exception to this rule. The effective maintenance of order and stability is the key to the success of the entire South African society.

Law

Every society needs rules in order to ensure an orderly environment in which to live. These rules are manifested in laws that have to be maintained principally by the police. The Constitution is the highest law in South Africa and provides the fundamental legal framework within which the South African Police Service must operate. No one is above the law and the police have to act against every offender. They must, however, act in a discrete and responsible manner in order to ensure that they themselves do not become offenders.

Impartiality

The South African Police Service is bound to provide an impartial, professional policing service to all the people of South Africa. The South African Police Service operates as an arm of the government of the day, with the powers which, through the democratic process, are allocated to it by the citizenry. The police are, therefore, not the servants of any particular political party or group.


Crime

The South African Police Service is the main stakeholder as far as the prevention of crime is concerned. It is, however, not the only responsible party and needs the co-operation of other State Institutions and society as a whole. The police cannot control all the socio-economic factors that are conducive to crime. The investigation of crime is a very important policing function and plays an essential role in the system of criminal justice. The South African Police Service is bound to do everything humanly possible, within the parameters of the law, to prevent and solve crime.

Environment

The bottom line is that the South African Police Service is responsible for creating a safe and secure environment in South Africa. A safe and secure environment does not only benefit basic activities such as education, health care and social development, but also promotes international investment and tourism, which benefits the country as a whole.

Figure 5.1.3: Symbolism and service representation of the Hexagon. Source: https://www.saps.gov.za/about/emblem_symbolism_aloe.php



- Both are survivors which are able to operate effectively with very few resources;
- both are to be found throughout South Africa irrespective of beautiful, cosy, harsh or dry surroundings;
- they are able to deal with most conditions and are well equipped in terms of qualities and armoury;
- although offenders may experience them to be hard and bitter, they have a healing effect on the community as a whole;
- they are dynamic and change all the time, leaving their old, dry leaves behind at the bottom of the stem while creating better and stronger leaves higher up on the stem;
- in spite of their hard and bitter qualities they also possess qualities of beauty and care;
- they are easily identified and are always eye-catching;
- they are protected from illegal interference and will not tolerate such interference at all;
- their composition is extensive and they consist of many components; and
- both form part of a larger ecosystem or community on whom both are dependent, therefore they cannot exist and function on their own.

The Figures above connote in all of the official symbols of the police, the emphasis of public engagement and participation in crime prevention. The statements highlighted above bear testament to this. Furthermore, the translation of these symbols as provided by the SAPS has a noticeably subdued tone, however the South African Police Service is a body of power, authority and order.

Notwithstanding the power and authority that the police have to display in its day to day functioning, the policy document of the SAPs requires it to be community-centred. A community centred policing function can only be achieved if the structural layout in its design facilitates accordingly and projects an image conducive to community participation. It needs to break away from its traditional notion of a punitive environment. Several policy documents in the post-apartheid era call for community participation as part of transformation in the new South Africa and as such the policing environment is not exempted from it. Given the high crime rates in the country, the scourge of crime and criminality can only be reduced through participation from all sectors of South Africa including the local community.

The maintenance of law and order in South Africa predisposes police officers to high levels of stress and at times demoralising, demotivating and alienating given the socio-psychological strain they are exposed to in fulfilling their duties. As illustrated in the various precedent studies and interview with a leading criminologist, the police environment is designed in such way that it enhances the organisational psychology of those that work in it. It may be argued that these precedent studies and those mentioned by the criminologist are Eurocentric models and cannot be replicated in the African continent let alone South Africa. Constraining factors would be cost and other social amenities backlogs that the government need to address. A way around such constraints is the adaptation of these models to local conditions, using alternative cost effective materials and technology. The provision of private space, lighting, ventilation, color of the building, open spaces that can be adapted to working needs are some of the consideration that can contribute to a built structure resulting in optimum functionalities.

In the case study and other examples cited, it became apparent that the present built form of police stations are as a result of adaptation of existing homes and rented facilities. A case in point is the Newlands police station housed in a shopping complex. Officers interviewed were most dissatisfied about their work environment which was a hindrance on their effective ability to police. As illustrated in a newspaper report, this case study came in the public

domain which created a spotlight in the political corridors resulting in the shadow Minister of SAPS making an in loco visit to the station. Since her visit on the 18 October 2018 no proactive steps have been taken to ameliorate the built form of the police station.

The two consulting architects with experience in the design of police stations who were interviewed for this study made revealing comments on how various elements of the police built form was considered in its planning and design. As much as these designs are considered for contemporary demands of policing what becomes clear is that the final decisions rests in the hands of the state which in this instance is the Department of Public Works. One of the consultants was bold enough to state that these officials are caught up in the apartheid legacy and find it difficult to break away from the modality of the past. It becomes evident that government officials and bureaucrats have not been sensitized to new built forms of police stations taking into consideration the paradigm shift towards community policing and scales of economies that arise through effective policing in crime management, prevention and reduction.

Given governments resource constraints community policing is seen as a panacea to some of its financial woes. It is expected that the community could deal with softer crimes such as taking preventative measures whilst the police force deals with harder and complex crimes. For this to happen there is a need for resources. This is like being on top of a wish list as community participation in crime prevention requires resource flows. In an interview with the chairperson of the eThekweni Central Cluster of Community Police Forums unequivocally articulated that the CPFs have failed in their responsibility in fighting crime as basic needs such as an office to co-ordinate programs, seminar and board rooms were non-existent to pursue its mandate. A centralised space where the community could interface on crime fighting and prevention programmes was lacking, resulting in most CPFs operating from the generosity of their homes. Without such a centralised physical structure in the built form of the police stations militates against the good intentions of the CPF to collaborate in its efforts to partner the police in their fight against crime.

5.2 Recommendations

As stated in the opening chapter, it is hypothesised that the community responsive architectural design will present a new built form of police station that will enable community policing needs and practices. Having understood the influences of the problem statement by way of literature, and then delved into successful models of community orientated design by

way of precedent studies, the design principles of the proposed built form can be conceptualised. Together with this, is information supported and supplemented by primary data.

The problem statement states that police stations by their very nature are hallmarks of law enforcement and social control. They represent a symbol of authority that aims to control deviance and promote law and order in society. This manifests into the architecture of police stations. However, analysis of precedent studies alludes to the nature of police station design being approached in a different manner. This hypothesised approach is in light of a welcoming, friendlier architecture, that human interaction is receptive towards. The enquiry now arises into how would a police station, an institutionalised entity that is symbolic of power and control, retain those values whilst being perceived as a comfortable organisational environment. This research shows that these stark contrasts have to embrace, and as a result, the architectural concept of 'Dichotomy' has been identified.

Precedent studies as well as the empirical research indicates the need for duality in the functionality of police stations. This would mean that a degree of publicness inexorably has to be embraced. The embracing of public spaces and functions with that of the private parts of the station can be differentiated and expressed by means of materiality and form. It is through materiality and form that the experiential nature comes to being.

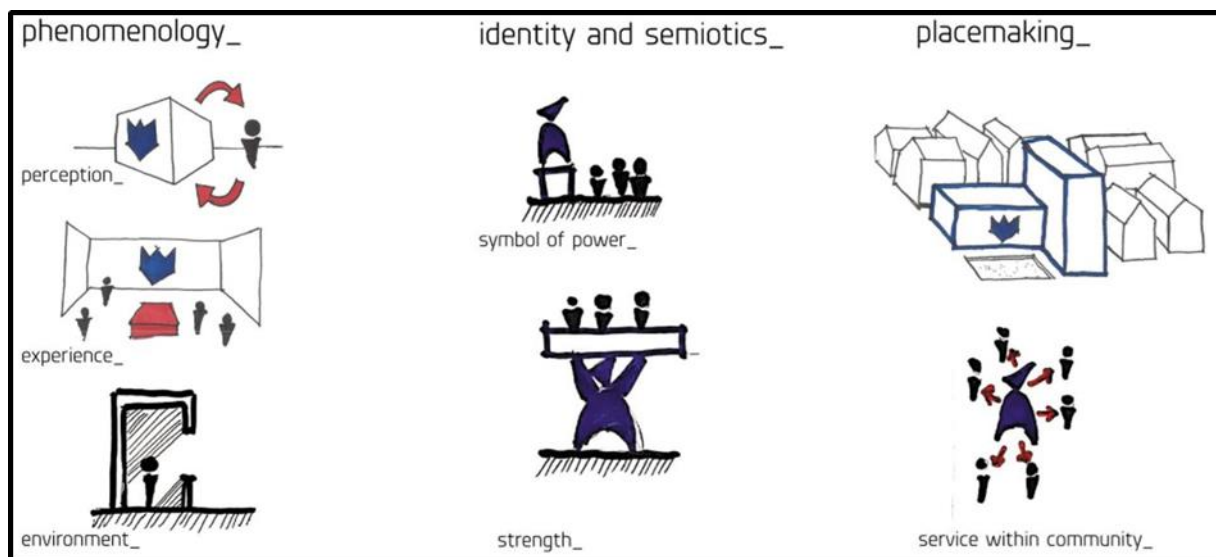


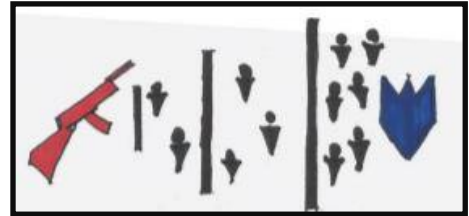
Figure 5.2.1: Theory of Phenomenology relates to perception, experience and environment
 Theory of Identity and Semiotics relates to the symbols of power and strength
 Theory of Placemaking relates to the police functioning as an entity within the community

Source: Author.

By derivative of the theories of phenomenology, identity and semiotics, and place making, dichotomous design principles have been formulated (see Figure 5.2.1). These design principles will be discussed further.

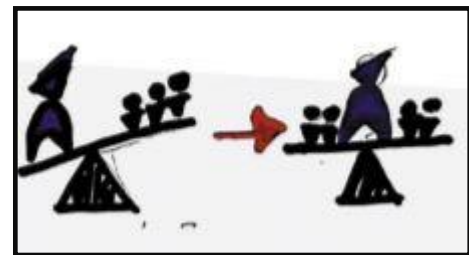
Approachability vs Gradients of Security

Whilst police stations are public buildings, there are sensitivity considerations with regards as to what spaces the public can permeate through without compromising the security of the police station. These sensitive areas especially are the docket rooms, armoury and holding cells.



Authority vs Participation

The structure of police are ranked in a hierarchical system of authority, and advertently, the structure of police stations are set out similarly. Thus, an exercise is required to retain the order of authority yet allowing for the public to engage with the necessary levels of authority within that hierarchy.



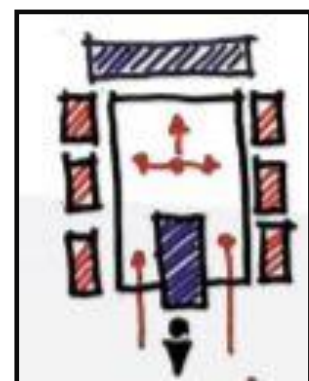
Force vs Service

This refers to the character in which the building portrays. This can be expressed by means of form and texture, and in instances, can be differentiated externally by the internal considerations as a result of the previous two principles.



Wayfinding

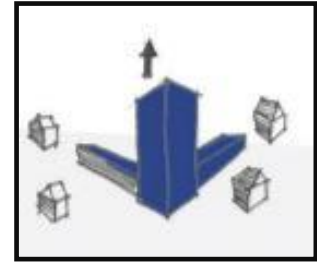
An issue identified with police stations, especially in light of approachability and gradients of security is that the public find difficulty in finding the functions that they need within a police station. Wayfinding is a means of having the functions of both the public and police spatially mapped out in a way that is easily legible



and in a manner that would ensure positive engagement without compromising security.

Beacon of Presence

The police station has the opportunity to become a cognoscente entity within the community realm without having to exert dominance, and at the same time assimilate in the community it is placed.



Formulation of Project Brief

The theoretical framework utilised serves as the maxim through which this research has been approached. This, coupled with the analysis of primary and secondary data has provided recommendations to confirm the hypothesis and the aim of the study. As result the following brief of the architectural has been formulated :

The South African Police Service requires a new police facility that would effectively service the Newlands Precinct. The proposed police station is to firstly meet the need of every officer and staff for the purpose of conducting crime prevention and law enforcement tasks. In addition, the police station is to be welcoming to the community it serves. It should cater primarily for the need of reporting of crimes in a manner that is dignifying and respectful. It is understood that a police building is a governmental institute, as such, the police station is to provide a civic platform to the community. In addition, other value-added services should be incorporated within the station, providing holistic service to the public. The platforms are not to compromise the security of the police service.

The building design requires that provides a positive experience, enhancing the cognitive image of the building to the one it serves. It is essential that the police are perceived as a service to the community, a beacon of social control, which needs to be expressed in the building. It is necessary that this is achieved without compromising the identity of the police service, being that of authority. Design expression is encouraged so as to for the police station to be well recognised.

Schedule of Accommodation Building Function

In light of the project brief, an accommodation schedule based on the department and officer compliment document provided by the Newlands East SAPS has been formulated. This

accommodation schedule caters for all the general policing functions with the introduction of further functions not typically found in all police stations across the country. Additional functions are as follows:

Public Plaza

Community Hall

Integrated CPF offices within the CSC

Integrated VisPol offices within the CSC

Introduction of Motor Vehicle Licensing, SASSA grants and Post Office

Introduction of legal services, counselling services as well as temporary victim accommodation facilities.

Police Canteen, gymnasium and break out recreational space.

Key Building Functions

Community Facilities

The Community Service Centre typically is open 24 hours to the public, with officers on rotating 8 hour shifts to serve at the CSC. The primary use of the CSC is for members of the public to lay charges, report crimes and traffic incidents. Secondary functions include certifying of documents and facilitating oaths and affidavits. The proposed police station will cater for the primary and secondary uses within the CSC wherein secondary functions would not infringe on the efficiency of primary functions taking place. Additionally, separate interview rooms will be part of the CSC for sensitive victims to give statements and report incidents. This sensitive interview room will be equipped with rape kits and a bed for victims to lay down. Within the public realm of the CSC, will be the other facilities that public visit the police station for, such as firearm licensing, liquor licensing, police clearance certificates and so on. New metropolitan and governmental services as mentioned, will be located in close proximity to these other functions. The aim of introducing these functions within the police precinct is to improve the cognitive image of police stations. Both the CSC and these public amenities have ample and comfortable seating, positioned for ideal experience and perception. There will also be dedicated interview/report writing rooms for non-sensitive incidents to be documented.

In addition to the proposal as required in the brief, the police station precinct will have a community hall, wherein CPF meetings as well as other community initiatives can be conducted. The hall will also have a mezzanine area, which can be utilised in the event of neighbourhoods being displaced as a result of natural disasters or land invasions. The community hall will have a kitchen that would not only service the hall activities but would be open ended to the open civic space so as to serve as a weekly soup kitchen. This hall is to also be able to host other activities such as conferences, training activities, award ceremonies etc. In an attempt to further public inclusivity, the public plaza will be adjacent to the hall, wherein the hall activities could spill out onto. The plaza acts as the primary pedestrian thoroughfare into the building. It is intended for informal meetings to take place, for public to meet and engage and possible mural art stands where members of the public can visually illustrate the plagues facing their neighbourhoods that police are to tend to.

Crime Prevention, Support and Detective Unit

These facilities will be positioned in more secure areas of the police station due to the hierarchical gradient mentioned previously. Whilst administrative functions such as logistics and human resource management can function independently, crime prevention unit, commissioners, commanders and other high-ranking officials need to be located in a manner that interdepartmental interaction can take place. Each of these areas in the station will have dedicated board rooms and meeting spaces to encourage effective engagement.

The detective unit of police stations operate independently. Research has indicated that there are 4 crime groupings, each of which has its own detective unit. The detectives of each of these units require their own interview rooms as well as administrators.

Suspects and Detainees

Suspects need to be brought into the police station through a separate, secure access, away from public platforms. Interviews with officers reveal the steps taken with regards to the detainee process. This includes a room for statements to be taken, fingerprints, searches as well as an area for photographs to be taken and entered into the police database. Thereafter, suspects are escorted to the storeroom wherein they collect a mattress and blanket and then sent to the holding cell. Suspects are detained in the holding cell for period of upto 48h hours until transported to court for a bail hearing or sent to prison. Cells are to be constructed and adhere to the 'Project 5 Star' document which outlines the requirements of the space.

Concluding Remarks

The design for a new community orientated police station should accommodate for public inclusivity, whilst ensuring that security and privacy needs are maintained. Just as other civic typologies have become the nodal focus of communities in the past, so too could a community police station have a similar influence. As such, it is intended that having engaged with the urban context, the vibrancy of the police station has the ability to encourage further urban growth in terms of establishing an integrated civic node. This is in light of creating meaning within the built environment as mentioned in the literature review. Also mentioned in the literature review is the understanding that police, and in relation, police stations are a national entity with a national identity. As such, whilst attempted to resonate with its immediate local context, it requires to be identified with the greater national context of the police.

APPENDIX A

Interview Schedule Community Policing Forum

Central Cluster Chairperson

1) Do you believe there is a disconnect between police and community? Explain.

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2) What are the challenges that community experiences with police interaction?

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3) Why do you believe such challenges are prevalent?

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4) What are your opinions on the physical structure of police stations in general, in terms of space planning?

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5) What do you feel are the general perceptions of the public towards police?

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6) In your view, does the existing design and layout of police stations meet the needs of the public?

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7) Explain how you were commissioned to for the design of the Montclair Police Station?

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8) Summarize the brief given to you by the Department of Public Works ?

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9) What were the design stipulations set out by the Department of Public Works with ?

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10) Did these stipulations conflict with your views on how police stations should be designed?

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11) Explain the theoretical/conceptual framework that has been used to design such police station?

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12) In terms of the language of the building, were you instructed to make use of particular materials and enforce a particular style?

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13) What public perception does the design aiming to achieve?

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14) Does the Montclair Police Station provide a platform for public engagement? Elaborate.

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15) In your opinion, should police stations have a strong community function within it? If so, what public facilities should be located within the station?

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15) Do you feel that victims of sensitive crimes find it comfortable to report crimes in South African police stations? How does the Montclair Police Station deal with this?

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18) Do you feel crime prevention would be enhanced if community and CPF's were more closely linked to the police service?

Key Focus Areas

- Community policing
- Perceptions of police stations
- Physical designs of the police stations
- Dealing with sensitive crimes

APPENDIX B

Interview Schedule Ebrahim Kazee Architects

1) Do you believe there is a disconnect between police and community? Explain.

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2) What are the challenges that community experiences with police interaction?

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3) Why do you believe such challenges are prevalent?

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4) What are your opinions on the physical structure of police stations in general, in terms of space planning?

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5) What do you feel are the general perceptions of the public towards police?

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6) In your view, does the existing design and layout of police stations meet the needs of the public?

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7) Explain how you were commissioned to for the design of the Montclair Police Station?

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8) Summarize the brief given to you by the Department of Public Works?

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9) What were the design stipulations set out by the Department of Public Works with?

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10) Did these stipulations conflict with your views on how police stations should be designed?

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11) Explain the theoretical/conceptual framework that has been used to design such police station?

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12) In terms of the language of the building, were you instructed to make use of particular materials and enforce a particular style?

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13) What public perception does the design aiming to achieve?

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14) Does the Montclair Police Station provide a platform for public engagement? Elaborate.

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15) In your opinion, should police stations have a strong community function within it? If so, what public facilities should be located within the station?

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16) Do you feel that victims of sensitive crimes find it comfortable to report crimes in South African police stations? How does the Montclair Police Station deal with this?

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17) Do you feel crime prevention would be enhanced if community and CPF's were more closely linked to the police service?

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Key Focus Areas

- Community policing
- Perceptions of police stations
- Physical designs of the police stations
- Dealing with sensitive crimes

APPENDIX C:

Interview Schedule Architrone Architects

1) Do you believe there is a disconnect between police and community? Explain.

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2) What are the challenges that community experiences with police interaction?

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3) Why do you believe such challenges are prevalent?

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4) What are your opinions on the physical structure of police stations in general, in terms of space planning?

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5) What do you feel are the general perceptions of the public towards police?

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6) In your view, does the existing design and layout of police stations meet the needs of the public?

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7) Explain how you were commissioned to for the design of the Chatsworth Police Station?

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8) Summarize the brief given to you by the Department of Public Works?

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9) What were the design stipulations set out by the Department of Public Works with?

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10) Did these stipulations conflict with your views on how police stations should be designed?

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11) Explain the theoretical/conceptual framework that has been used to design such police station?

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12) In terms of the language of the building, were you instructed to make use of particular materials and enforce a particular style?

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13) What public perception does the design aiming to achieve?

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14) Does the Chatsworth Police Station provide a platform for public engagement? Elaborate.

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15) In your opinion, should police stations have a strong community function within it? If so, what public facilities should be located within the station?

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16) Do you feel that victims of sensitive crimes find it comfortable to report crimes in South African police stations? How does the Montclair Police Station deal with this?

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17) Do you feel crime prevention would be enhanced if community and CPF's were more closely linked to the police service?

Key Focus Areas

- Community policing
- Perceptions of police stations
- Physical designs of the police stations
- Dealing with sensitive crimes

APPENDIX D

Interview Schedule Police Officers

1) What is your perception of an ideal police station?

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2) In what way does the existing police station meets with your ideal?

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3) If not, what aspects about the physical layout of the police station does not meet your need?

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4) How can the physical structure of the police station be transformed to meet with your need?

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5) What new facilities can be created in the police station to meet your need?

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6) In your view does the existing design and layout of the police station meets the need of the public?

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7) What additional facility can be created in the police station to encourage public participation?
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8) Do you think that community policing forums should have their own facility in the police station to undertake their work?
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9) What facility in particular should be made available for community police forums to work in the police station?
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10) What special facilities is needed for victims of crime?
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11) What do you think needs to be changed to provide services to the public?
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12) In what way does the existing structure and layout of the police station facilitate your work?
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13) Do you find the existing police station environment pleasant to work in?
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14) What aspect of the police station can be enhanced to make the physical environment pleasant to work in?

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