

2. CONTEXT

- 2.1. NARRATIVES OF PUBLIC LIFE IN DISTRICT SIX
- 2.2. STATUS QUO INFORMANTS
- 2.3. LANDSCAPE MAPPING
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CONTEXT

2.1. NARRATIVES OF PUBLIC LIFE IN DISTRICT SIX

2.1.1. Introduction

This section of the document serves as a brief summary of themes discussed in the Reading the Landscape Document. Prior to embarking on the Public Participation Process, the professional team conducted desktop research and site visits in order to build an understanding of the context of District Six, past and present.

Many previous teams have documented and produced work regarding the urban context of District Six. These documents formed the bases of the teams understanding of the site. These documents include:

- ▶ The 2012 Draft Spatial Development Framework, by Nisa Mammon and Associates and Lucien Le Grange Architects and Urban Planners (2012).
- ▶ Heritage Impact Assessment by Lucien Le Grange Architects and Urban Planners (2003)
- ▶ Texture and Memory by Bezzoli, Kruger and etc. (2002)
- ▶ The Struggle for District Six Past and Present, by Jeppie and Soudien (1990)

These documents provide a thorough analysis of the urban context and its formal characteristics at length. They describe the structuring elements, the built form, and the typologies of the site in an in depth spatial analysis. Rather than duplicate work already done, this analysis attempts to add to the body of work available. The Public Realm Strategy focuses on the public spaces and streets of District Six. The Public Life of a place is integrally linked to the sense of place that is imbedded within public space. **Public space provides the setting (or the stage) on which public life unfolds.**

It is thus appropriate that the analysis component of the Public Realm Strategy focuses not only on the built form, but on the narratives told, past and present, that imbue the site with meaning. The incorporation of narrative and themes into the analysis provides the opportunity for a more nuanced, human-centred lens, focusing on the public lives of people within the public realm.

- ▶ **Public Life Study** - a synchronic and diachronic analysis of public life, past and present, in District Six.
- ▶ **Public Spaces: Past and Present** - Identifying and documenting public open spaces through sectoral readings produced by the respective disciplines.

Rather than simply describing the context, which tends to be reductive and repetitive, we have opted to view the context through the **narratives, memories and stories told**. The urban landscape is conceptualised through a series of themes that allow for complexity, paradox and a nuanced understanding of the substance of urban life.

A summary of the themes has been provided, followed by an overview of spatial informants, mapping overlays of historical maps, an analysis of landscape elements and finally planning maps that describe the current status of land parcels.

The outcome offers initial insights which contribute to a collective re-framing of the spatial challenges faced by District Six. Additional contributions from the “Caretakers” during participatory co-design workshops continued to add to the team’s understanding and influence the outcomes of the project.

The method of understanding the context does offer the limitation that it could be interpreted differently by another set of consultants. The following then sets out a reading of the important qualities that describes the essence of the place.

The purpose of this section of the document was to lay the groundwork for engagement throughout the process and to form a basis of knowledge for the project. It aimed to:

- ▶ Provide a spatial reading of the site from urban design, heritage, landscape, cultural and town planning perspectives and develop a shared understanding of the site.
- ▶ Provide a response to desktop materials studied over the course of the last few months.
- ▶ Identify sites of significance, sites of public spaces and identify narratives that contribute to the sense of place of district Six, past and present.
- ▶ Provide a basis for knowledge and engagement for the co-production workshops. Allowing the professional team, the public and those involved in the co-design process to



2.1.2. Framing the Narratives of District Six

District Six continues to provide a landscape of memory for its former inhabitants, even though it was destroyed in physicality and its inhabitants' forcibly removed, half a century ago. Some of the remains and remnants of the old streets and buildings can still be seen in old cobbled roads, curbs, drainage and garden herbs that spring up each year and so it is a site that continues to live on, both tangibly and intangibly, in complex and contradictory ways.

A 'sense of place' is informed by all the senses. Memories of sights, sounds, smells are part of this; providing a richness and texture to the lived experience that is part of how humans live in cities and spaces. It goes beyond built form.

These seemingly intangible layers are not without their connections to place and space. The vibrant nature of District Six was based on the diversity of its people within, and their connections to spaces outside of District Six: the sea and harbour; Table Mountain and its footholds; the industrialised city and its economic opportunities and dual exploitation of labour; between suburbs and townships; urban and rural links and roots; and the district's global connections.

District Six remains characterised by its paradoxes: its multiplicity of individual memories and meanings; its "manifold realities of common experience" and its "living contradictions within families themselves" (Nasson, 49 – 50: 65).

Landscapes are rarely thought of as narratives in their own right but more often as a backdrop or symbol in service of the stories told. If we expand the definition of landscape, particularly those landscapes in urban areas, we see the confluence of a dynamic interaction between cultural and natural forces. A character that is the result of active and interactive natural and/or human factors (Council of Europe 2000, Article 1 - adapted).

History, particularly in South Africa, has recorded many successive and devastating landscape changes, which, as in the case of District Six, have left behind barely any relics today. If preservation and restoration are considered, active processes of materialisation, then heritage is constantly being created and context specific landscapes become imbued with narrative.

Within a narrative, the experience of each character in a story introduces changes in focus and meaning. These changes revise our understanding of the landscape. It is therefore important to always ask: Whose story is being told? What belief systems are established through stories? How does one organise the many layered, personal, ethnic and regional, stories of place? What are the ethics and politics of telling stories?

Narratives are fundamental to how people make sense of experience and landscape. Stories link our sense of time, event, experience, memory and other intangibles to the tangible aspects

of place (Potteiger and Purinton, 1998). Narratives are not typically recognised in conventional documentation, mapping, surveys, or even overtly in the formal concerns of design, but they offer a unique way of perceiving, knowing and ultimately interceding in the landscapes we form. The simplest stories, local history or archetypal myth, raise fundamental questions regarding subjectivity, representation, fiction and what is considered real.

The site is defined by its stories, places and things and because stories run parallel, sense of place is therefore inherently complex and ambiguous. Definitions and perceptions of place are manifold and contested.

This section of the document offers a summary of the spatial narrative derived from a collection of stories and insights, which map out different relationships and features of the landscape(s) of District Six. A multi-disciplinary team offers a unique advantage of being able to extend landscape narratives beyond the literal and has the potential to open new ways of understanding a site.



2.1.3. The Narratives, Place, Time and the Senses

Place, time and sense are the threads that pull through these themes, anchoring the intangible to lived realities and everyday experiences.

Place

District Six is itself a place, but contains multitudes of spaces, each imbued with layers of memories and experiences over time. Public life, by its nature plays out in the arena of public space. These spaces form the backdrops or settings.

Time

What is evident in the records, readings and interviews regarding District Six, is the cycles and rhythms of the neighbourhood. A range of routines and rituals punctuated the everyday life of the area. Annual rituals of renewal and festivities, seasonal cycles of employment, daily routines and weekly cycles of work and rest contributed to the dynamism of occasions and the everyday.

Sense

Sense provides us with insight into the experiences and lived reality, bringing the stories of place and time into a tangible and relatable narratives of the human condition. The narrative of public life can be told through the sights, sounds, smells, tastes and textures of District Six .

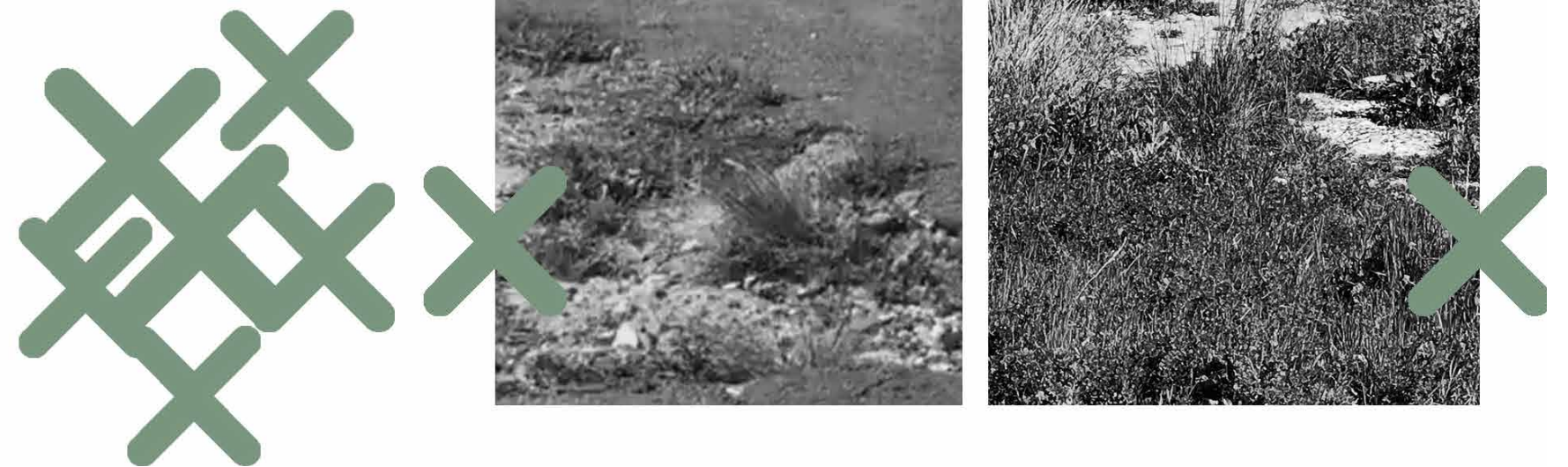


Fig. 2.1. Present District Six - Orientation from Mountain to Sea



2.1.4. The Narratives & Themes of Public Life in District Six

Developing a critical understanding of the environment in which we are acting is pivotal to developing an argument for an appropriate intervention. This analysis formed the background work done before we embarked on a longer process of co-production with the City, consultant team and interested and affected parties within the District Six community through the Caretaker group.

Rather than simply describing the context, which tends to be reductive and repetitive, we have opted to “read” the context, where we conceptualise our understanding of what exists, past and present, drawing on themes we uncover along the way. We employed narratives as a method of understanding the context. This offers the limitation that it could be interpreted differently by another set of consultants.

The narratives of District Six were framed through 6 thematic lenses. Through a desktop study of various source materials, discussions with the consulting team, mapping of the past and present and walking the site, we have arranged a narrative of themes pertaining to the public life of District Six. While the narrative themes do not attempt to cover the full ambit of public life within District Six, past and present, they form a structure for discussion and narratives to be pinned to. These themes include:

- 1. Orientation**
The site in relation to the city and the viewer in relation to the site.
- 2. The Seams of the Grid**
Public life took place in between the built form.
- 3. The Macro and Micro Economies**
Large and localised spaces of employment, transactions and activity.
- 4. Density and Diversity**
The neighbourhood, its built fabric and the people who inhabited it.
- 5. Childhood, Recreation and Learning**
The public life of childhood memories, routines, learning and play.
- 6. Events and the Everyday**
Spaces of activity, occasion, rhythm and public life.

UNDERSTANDING THE SITE THROUGH MULTIPLE NARRATIVES + THEMES

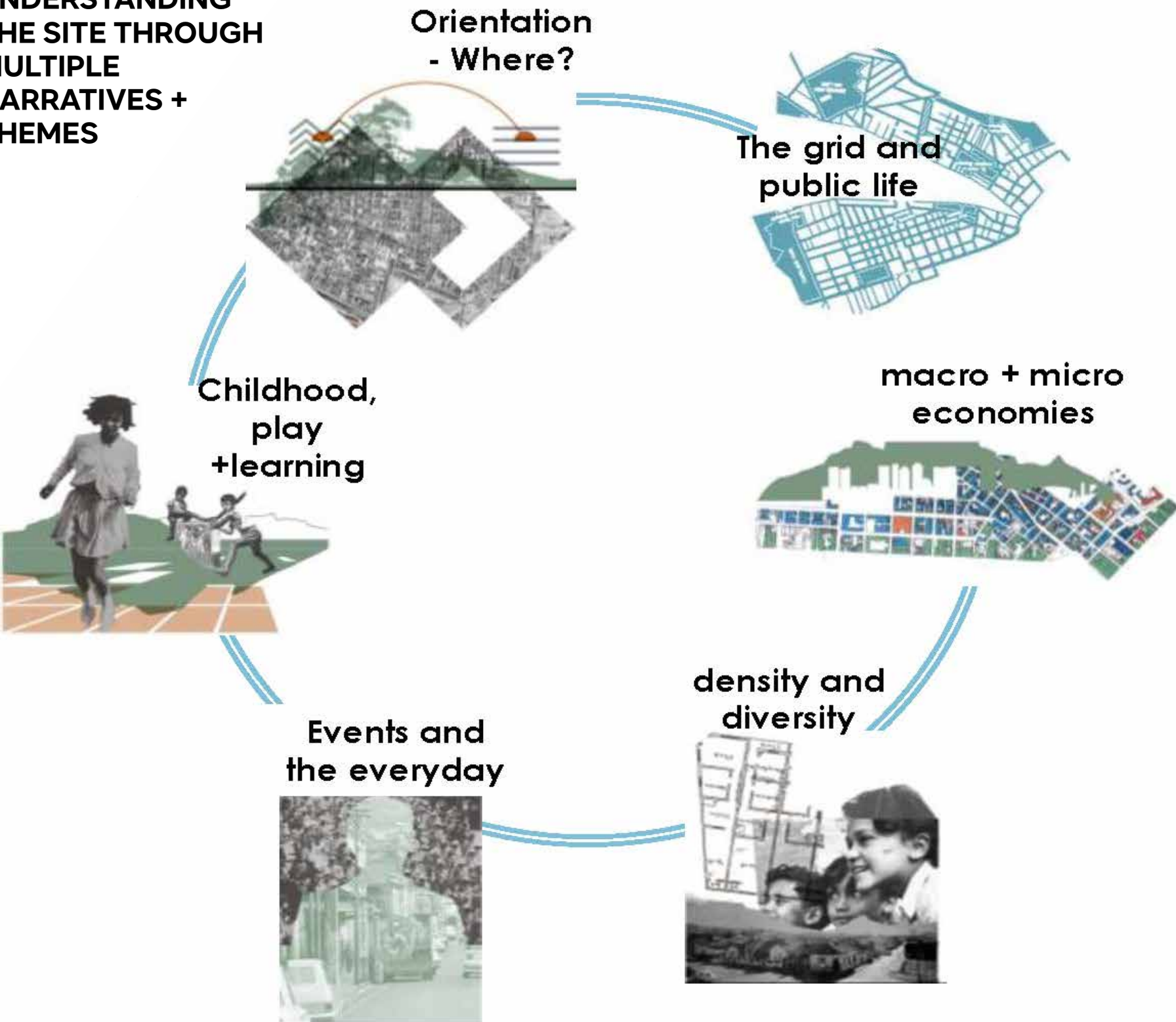


Fig. 2.2.Narratives - Themes of Public Life In District Six



2.1.5. Unpacking Narratives & Themes of Public Life in District

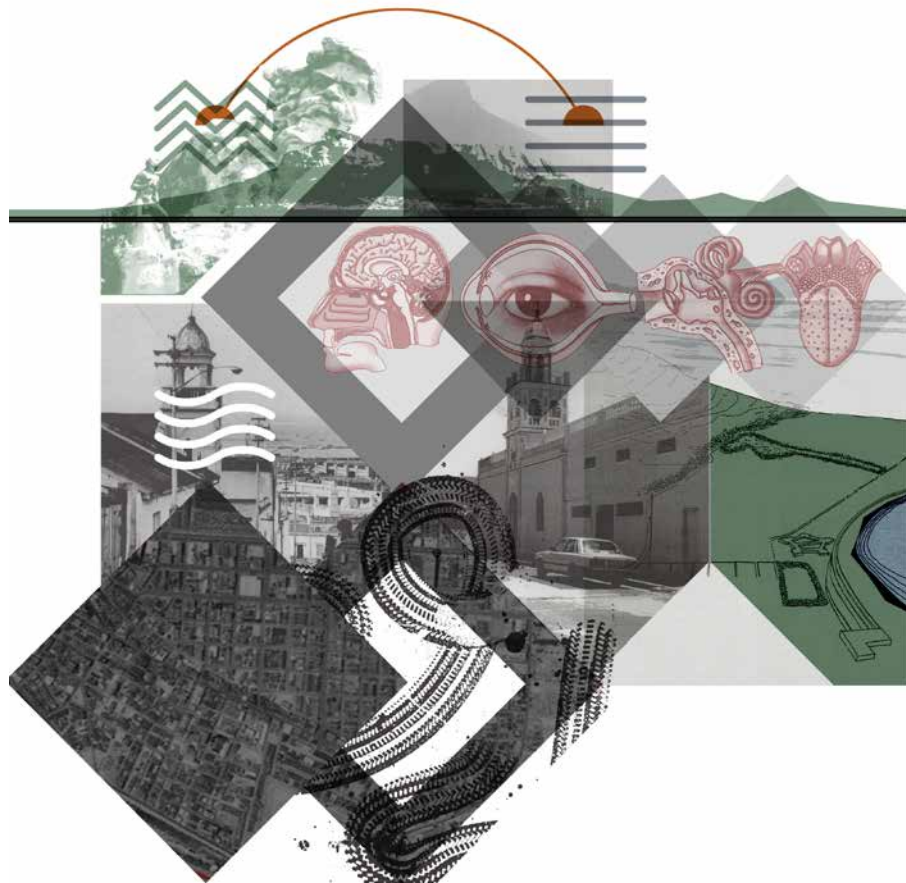


Fig. 2.5. Narrative Montage - Orientation

ORIENTATION

District Six, in as much as it was a district, was inherently connected to the rest of the city in both physical urban form and social construct. The dominant features that shape the sense of place are its location between Table Mountain and Table Bay. Sounds of the elements, day and night, would need to contend with the man-made sounds of the larger neighbourhood.

In contrast to the density the area was known for prior to its destruction, it is now experienced as a void, a harsh scar within the city's fabric that tells the narrative of our country's racism and the wounds of segregation.



Fig. 2.4. Narrative Montage - Seams of the Grid

THE SEAMS OF THE GRID

Within District Six, life happens at the confluence of the two urban grids. Two commercial spines set up different conditions for economic activity routes. One a higher order commercial corridor, Sir Lowry Road, linked to the factories, warehouses and stores of Salt River and Woodstock. The other, Old Hanover Street, provided a smaller scaled commercial spine that serves as a backbone to the community, providing local retail opportunities.

The street, a negative of the surrounding built form, became an arena for public life. Ironically, in the present, road textures remain as the ghostly inverse of the built form and the only indications that the urban fabric around them once existed.

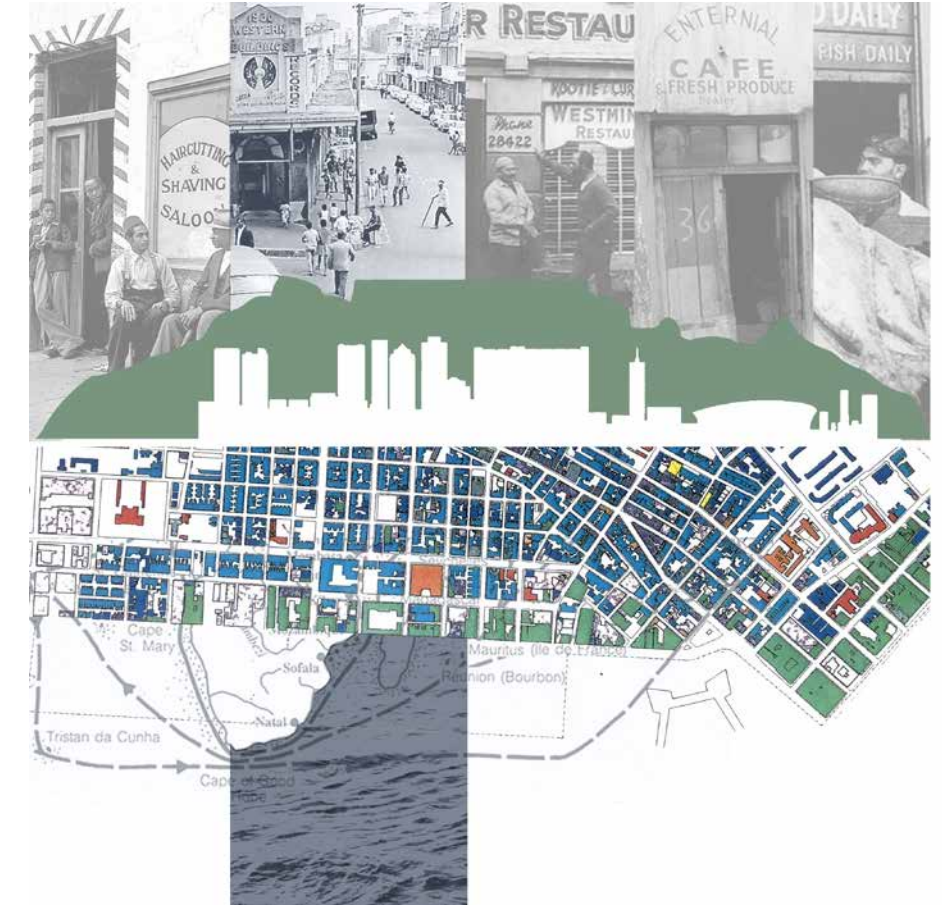


Fig. 2.3. Narrative Montage - Macro and Micro Economies

MACRO AND MICRO ECONOMIES

District Six presented its residents with an ease of access to the economic opportunities of both the inner city and the industry that surrounded it. A hierarchy of scales of economic opportunities existed. The episodic events within streetscapes and economic activities were inherently linked to time through the cyclical nature of work, pay and play. The cycles of interactions and transactions in the streets provided the observer with a full sensory experience of the space. The now-absence of residents which once provided a ready supply of labour and commerce is keenly felt with these areas, relying on the more established economic activities further to the east and west to sustain them.



2.1.6. Unpacking Narratives & Themes of Public Life in District



Fig. 2.8. Narrative Montage - Density and Diversity

DENSITY AND DIVERSITY

District Six was known for its dense, vibrant and multicultural urban fabric. The densely packed, understated terraced homes formed the backdrop to the public life of District Six. A strong place-based identity evolved within District Six. With the high density and human activity in the area, came an economic, social and cultural life that supported a diverse population.

The density of life within the confines of the home meant that the spatial boundaries of public life and domestic life were fluid. Starting in 2004 contemporary interpretations of historical residential typologies are slowly being developed and re-introduced into the area.



Fig. 2.7. Narrative Montage - Play, Recreation and Learning

CHILDHOOD, RECREATION AND LEARNING

Several schools remained peppered across the landscape in District Six - these were connected to churches with their curricula or routines influenced by denomination. School concerts and performances formed memorable moments within the yearly cycle.

Due to the lack of space or formally dedicated public spaces children would escape to Trafalgar Park or play in the streets. Schooling for many children came to an abrupt end with teens often being ushered into jobs in order to gain additional household income. At present the site is seemingly characterised by a lot of open space or rather openness, but little of this is exclusively zoned open space for recreational purposes.

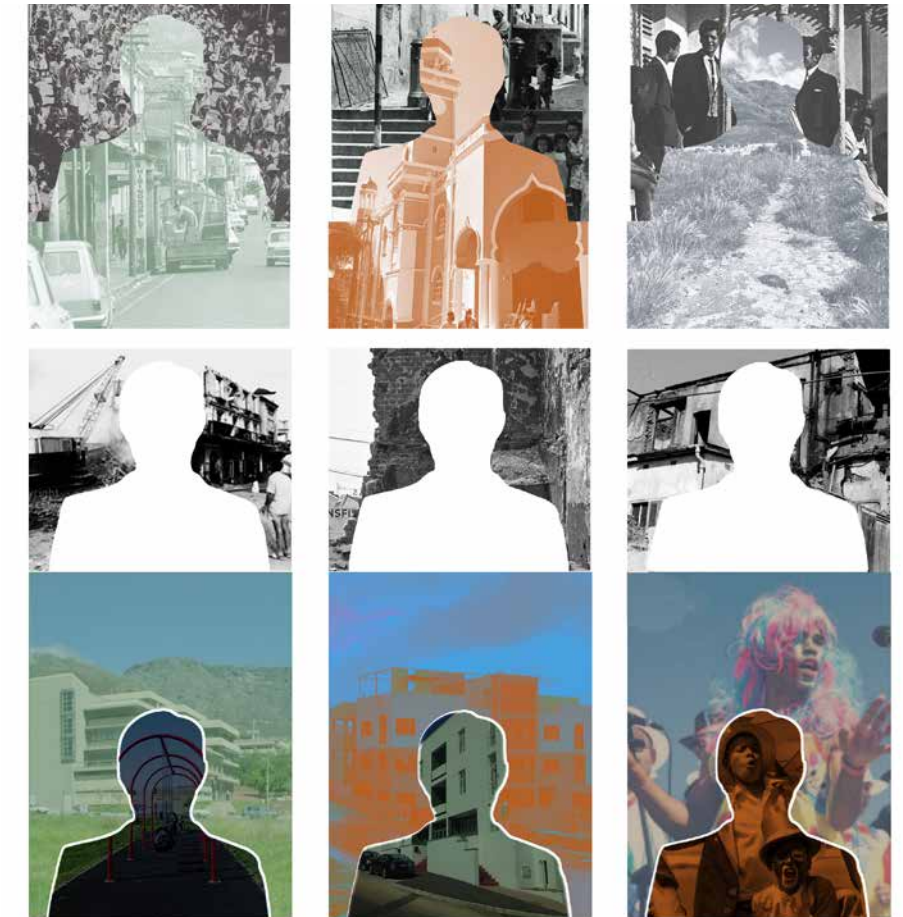


Fig. 2.6. Narrative Montage - Event and the Everyday

EVENTS AND THE EVERYDAY

Woven into the rhythm of social life in District Six were a multitude of cycles: annual events; seasonal changes; weekly and daily routines. The largest of these events, now returned to District Six, was the "Coon" Carnival or New Year's Carnival.

Communal public leisure would take place through multiple events and in multiple places - formal and informal i.e.: mosques, churches, schools, cinemas, street edges, outside corner stores, on stoeps, etc. Currently, large tracts of land remain open, sporadically interspersed with, now disconnected, institutional remnants of the "past" which escaped demolition in the 1960's/1970's.



2.1.7. A Landscape of Memory

History is a “prerequisite for unlocking concepts associated with truly understanding the complexity of the contemporary landscape” (Stoffberg, Hinds and Müller: 3). Sites of cultural significance are shaped through the collective memories of the people who have lived in the space.

The ‘remembered’ District Six is one that often dates back to the early to mid-20th century, documenting experiences within the living memory of people just before they were forcibly removed in the 1960s and 70s. And yet this is also an ancient pre-colonial landscape inhabited by indigenous groups that used its water sources and position for their own grazing and subsistence purposes. It is a site of slavery, emancipation and the settlement of freed slave communities. By the early twentieth century the district housed a complex mix of labouring and middle classes and even elites from around South Africa and the world before it took on the quintessential vibrant characteristics of a stratified working class neighbourhood and slum that the District tends to be known as.

Each of those inhabitants brought their own meanings and purposes to the spaces through time, and rather than to reduce and simplify meanings or uses the research scope has endeavoured to open the lens of this study towards multiplicity and complexity. Similarly, we need to work with the grain of the landscape as a contested space which does not reduce a narrative “to single or essential truths” (Jeppie and Soudien 1990: 13). If as Müller notes, “Memory is not merely a storage place for information to be retrieved later, but rather a process whereby the past is continuously constructed, based on certain social and mental conditions” (Müller: 9). To explore the ‘collective memory’ of a site is also to recognise that its memories are continuously constructed along with its meanings, by a process that involves “opposition and resistance” (Ibid). The narrative and meaning of the site does not remain the same, but continues to be reflected and refracted by social dynamics, economics and the politics of each changing moment.



Fig. 2.9. District Six - Composite - Aerial and the Imprints of the Historic Street Layout



2.2.2. Urban Fabric

The sudden shift in urban fabric and built form, from presence to absence, tellingly reveals the story of District Six. The approval of the Foreshore Development Plan in 1947 and the subsequent development of a modern road network, situated at the strategic eastern edge of the City, had clear implications for District Six. In addition to dislocation and trauma, these planning actions may be seen within the context of the rise and expansion of a modernist vision for Cape Town. Also evident is the transition from colonial segregationist policies towards a city divided by race and dominated by ideological expressions of apartheid power and statutory spatial planning.

By 1959 a revised road scheme including the Eastern Boulevard, became operational leading to the expropriation of 258 houses in its path. In 1966 District Six was declared a 'White Group Area'. The Cape Technikon (now CPUT) was built in the 1980s, and the East City filled with looser urban form surrounded by portions of vacant land.

While this area would historically have been the connecting tissue between the City Centre and Woodstock, it now constitutes a break in the urban continuum, presenting modernist infill, oversized roads and swathes of vacant land with some remaining institutions. The shift from the City Centre to the loose urban infill of the East City is clear in the breakdown of the urban form. Recently built restitution projects currently sit in isolation, but the hope is for future development to aid in stitching the city together and result in a more integrated urban context.

LEGEND

- Dense City Centre Urban Fabric
- Industrial + Commercial Urban Fabric at the edge of District Six + in Woodstock
- Denser Residential Fabric of remaining D6 + Woodstock
- Lower Density Urban Fabric
- Reintroduced Residential fabric in D6
- Lose Urban Fabric + Infill
- CPUT
- Schools / institutions
- Religious institutions
- Other public institutions
- Building footprints
- Historic Street Grid (from Thoms Survey, 1898)
- Highway
- Vacant land

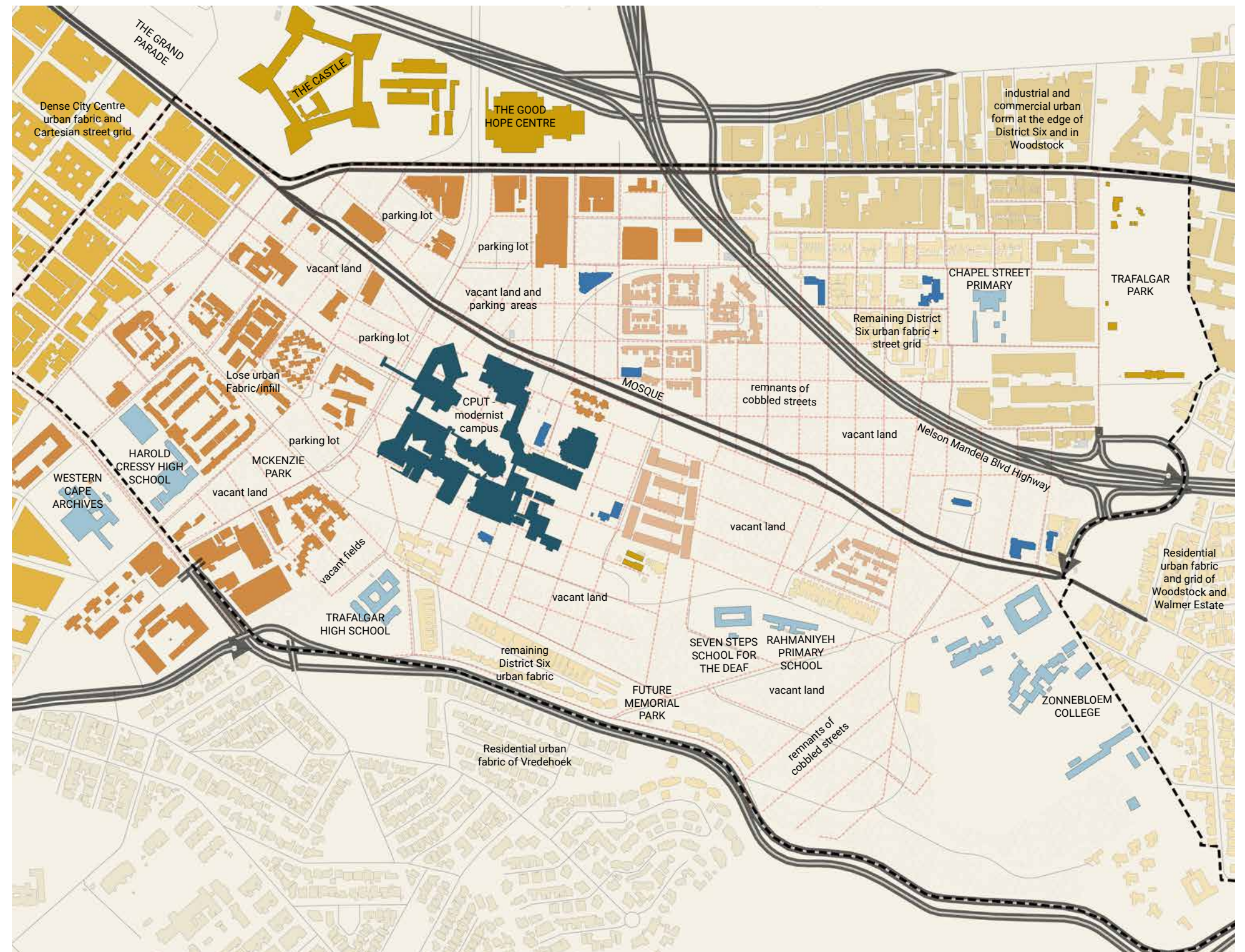


Fig. 2.11. The Status Quo - Urban Fabric of District Six and Surrounds



2.2.3. Existing Site Conditions

In contrast to the density the area was known for prior to its destruction, it is now experienced as a void. A harsh scar within the city's fabric that tells the narrative of our country's racism and the wounds that segregation inflicted on our urban environments and people who lived within them. District Six of now is often experienced from a car, driving past a vacant terrain that severs the City Centre from the rest of the metropolitan area. The vacancy, peppered with once embedded religious landmarks, is what orientates the viewer.

District Six in its current form is surrounded by highways and dissected by large roads erasing the smaller streets that once lay below them.

Where District Six meets the East City, the city blocks are replaced by large parking lots and emptiness that is inhabited by a homeless community, but is otherwise devoid of the life that characterises an active urban environment.

A sense of erasure is visible in the remnant of the cobbled streets visible on the lower slopes of District Six. The historic grids and small scale streets have been erased to make way for large highways and wide boulevards.

Where the grid was once the space between the fabric, the road textures remain as the ghostly inverse of the built form and the only indications that the urban fabric around them existed.



Fig. 2.16. Children Playing on unknown corner.



Fig. 2.15. Hosrtley Street Historic Image



Fig. 2.14. Remnants of Cobbles



Fig. 2.13. Remnants of Cobbles



Fig. 2.12. Remnants of Cobbles



Fig. 2.17. Graphic Collage of Present-Day Conditions



CONTEXT

2.3. LANDSCAPE MAPPING

2.3.1. Composite Mapping

Context is non-static and complex. The tangible and intangible layers of the landscape can be interpreted through historical layering and through the observation of the site in its current state. Intervention in the landscape should take into account the complexities inherent in the site and its historical, cultural, ecological and ephemeral layers. It is the nuanced interpretation and subtle responses over time that finally provides the rich tapestry of a cultural landscape.

A composite mapping of the textures of District Six alludes to a quality of space and a layering of memory. Historic District Six contained a multitude of textures, materials and building interfaces relating to the public realm. These textures and and interfaces contributed to the sense of place and rich sensory experiences of District Six.

The green matrix illustrates a dense urban environment with a green network connecting the mountain and ocean. The open space system included not only the limited parks and fields, but also the smaller residual and domestic open spaces. With the gradual infill of more housing these would have been reduced in time. The street and the spaces between buildings served as the primary open space system and contributed to the vibrancy of place.

LEGEND

Historic Cobble Streets

Historic Concrete Streets

Old Asphalt Streets

Unspecified surfaces

Trees

Historic Green Spaces

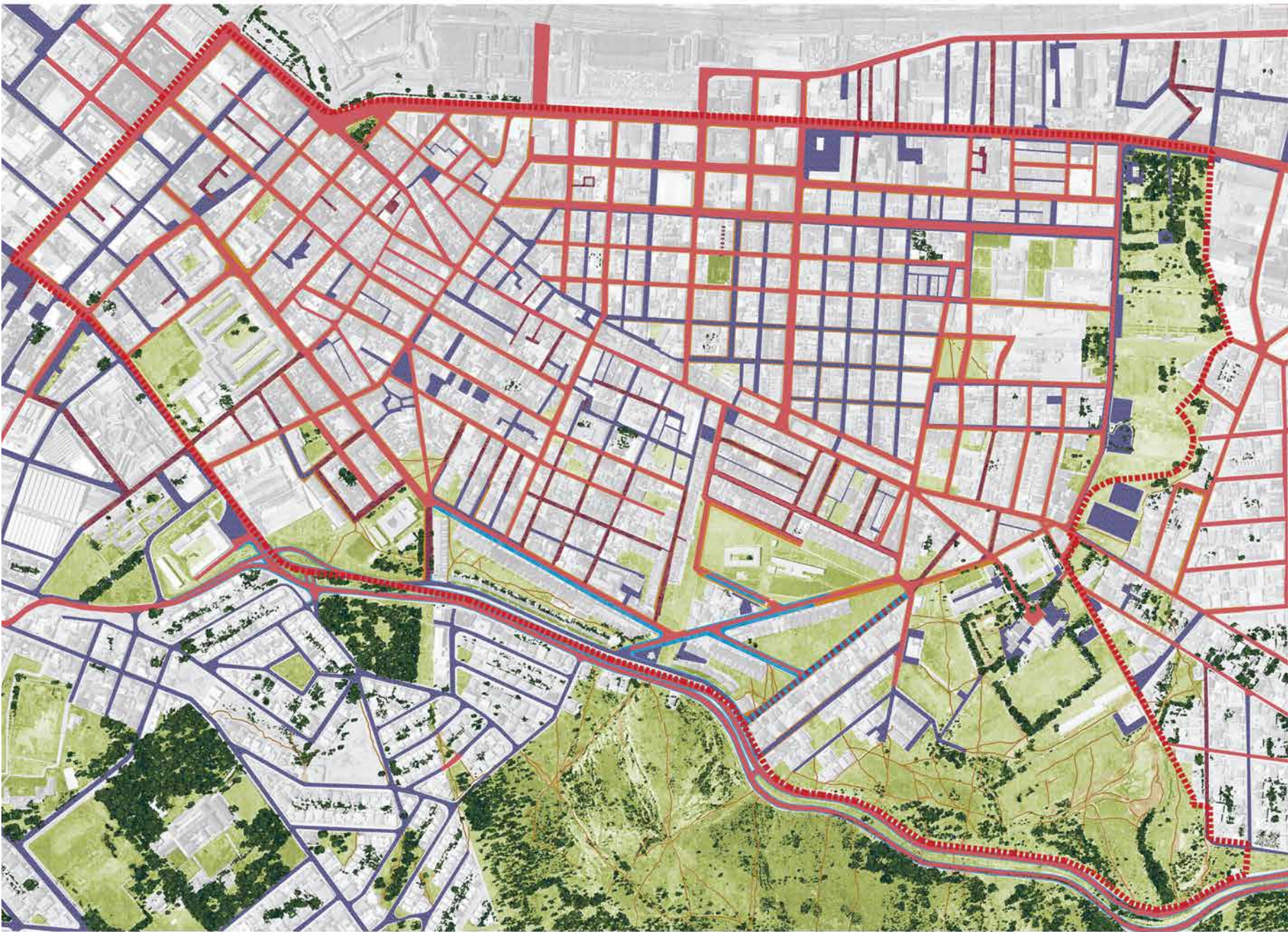


Fig. 2.19. Aerial Composite of a Layered Landscape - textures and green matrix

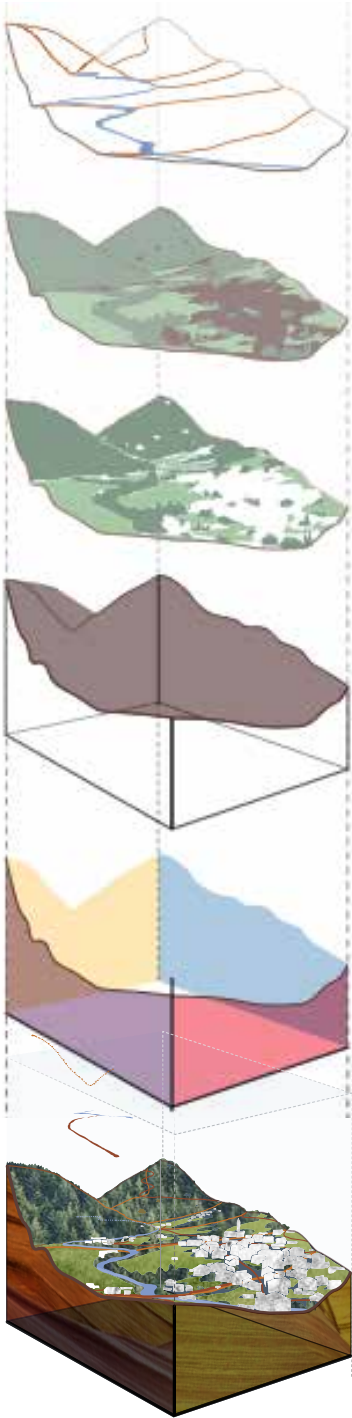


Fig. 2.18. Layered Landscape



2.3.2. Landscape Elements

Water & surface Drainage Patterns

Landform and contours of a landscape dictate surface drainage lines and how water flows overland. The management of water as urban development grew was predominantly through channeling and formalising the existing drainage lines into the streets in the shape of overland channels. This resulted in a storm-water run-off system that became part of the urban fabric and informed a particular urban streetscape and sense of place.



Fig. 2.20. Typical Section - cambered street where drive-ways are accommodated with open channel

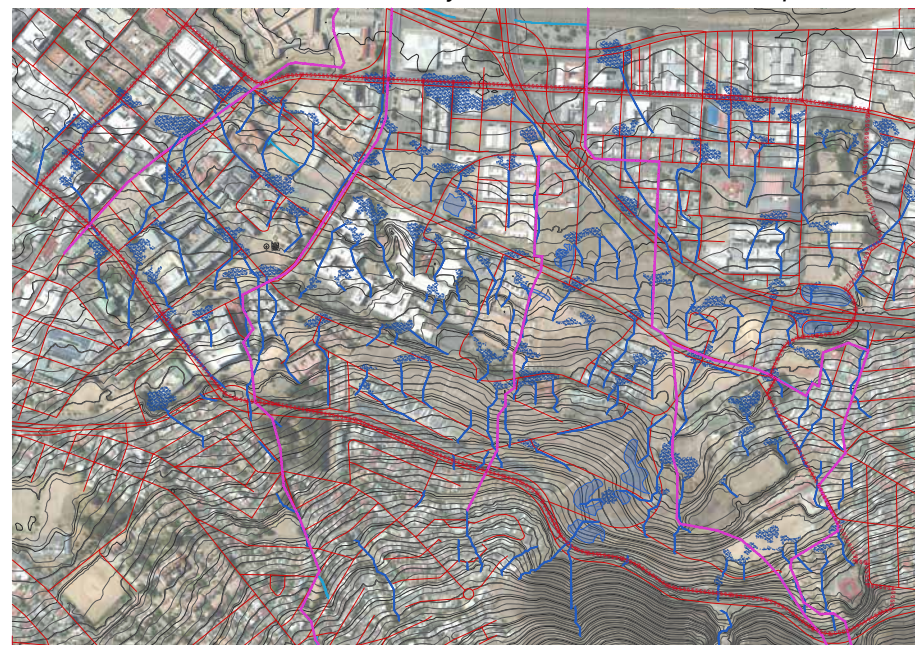


Fig. 2.23. Drainage lines still visible in streets and mountain run-off piped in underground storm-water systems

Texture and Materials

The textures of District Six comprise of an array of surface materials. Material used was often dictated by its particular function, availability and accessibility at the time. The early streets which follow the drainage lines are cobbled to limit erosion and allow for the practical management of storm-water. The material was often sandstone or a smaller stone chip embedded in a surface bed.



Fig. 2.21. Typical Section - cobble and pavement relationship

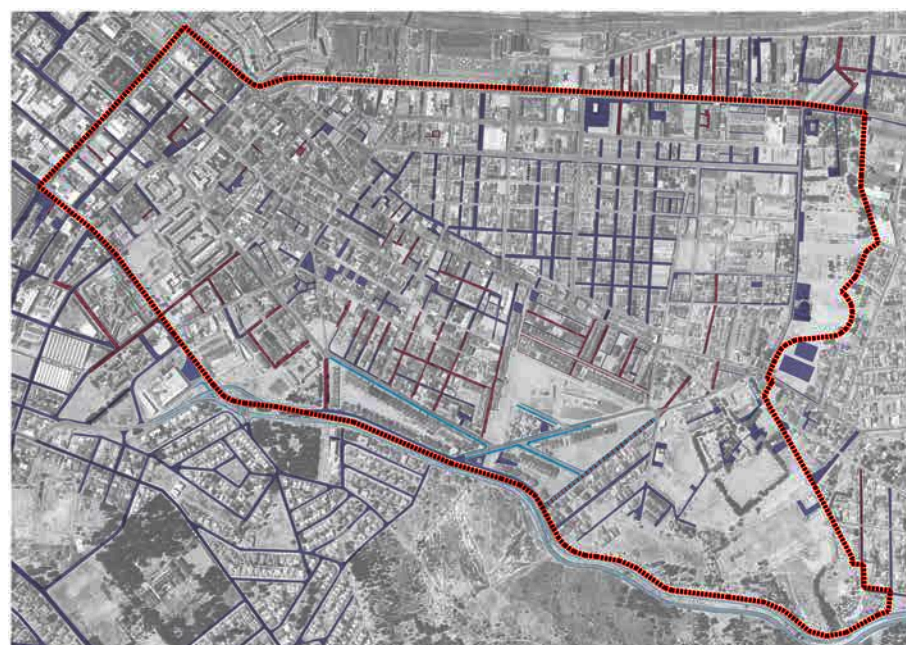


Fig. 2.24. Figure ground - cobbles, concrete and undefined surfaces

Open Space & greening of open space

The green matrix evident in the historical layout describes the high density of the urban layout, with limited "green spaces", and the crucial connection to mountain and sea which was severed fairly early on through large infrastructure projects. There is a significant link to the mountain which was retained through Trafalgar Park and the Zonnebloem farm ground and is still present today. Further urban greening was ad-hoc through the planting of kitchen gardens, ornamental planting on verandas and stoeps and courtyard trees.



Fig. 2.22. Typical Section - Ad-hoc Greening



Fig. 2.25. Tree figure ground and Network to the mountain



CONTEXT

2.4. TOWN PLANNING MAPPING

2.4.1. Overview of Mapping - Zoning, Ownership, Restitution, Land Use and Overlay zones

The ownership, zoning, overlay zones, land use and status within the restitution process have been mapped and considered throughout the project.

In conjunction with the 2012 Draft Spatial Development Framework, the 2022 LSDF inputs and the co-design process, the **technical details** of the erven provided key indicators of the structure of open spaces in District Six and helped to inform the Public Realm Investment Framework (See Section 5). These technical planning details provide insight into the statutory status quo of the land and potential planning processes associated with each land parcel. Zoning, ownership and the status within the restitution process were used as criteria for prioritisation and are show in more detail on the following pages.

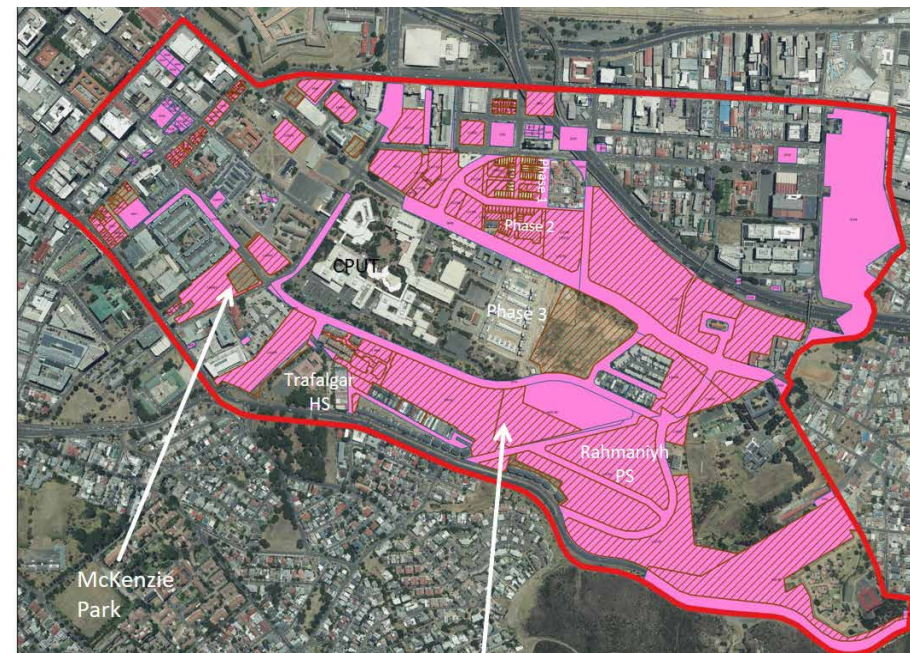


Fig. 2.29. Current Land Restitution Parcels

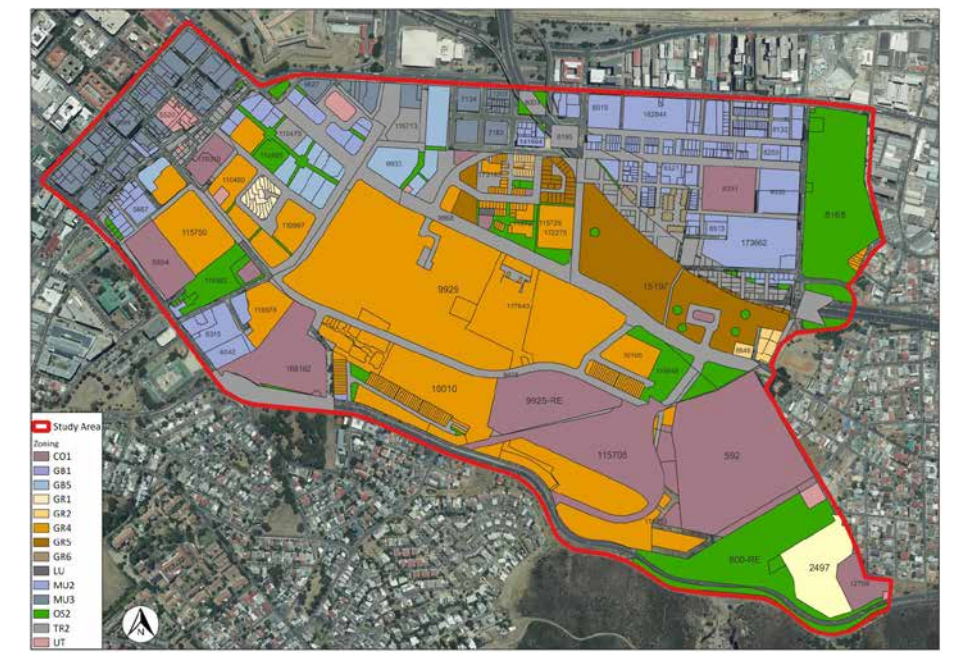


Fig. 2.28. Current Zoning

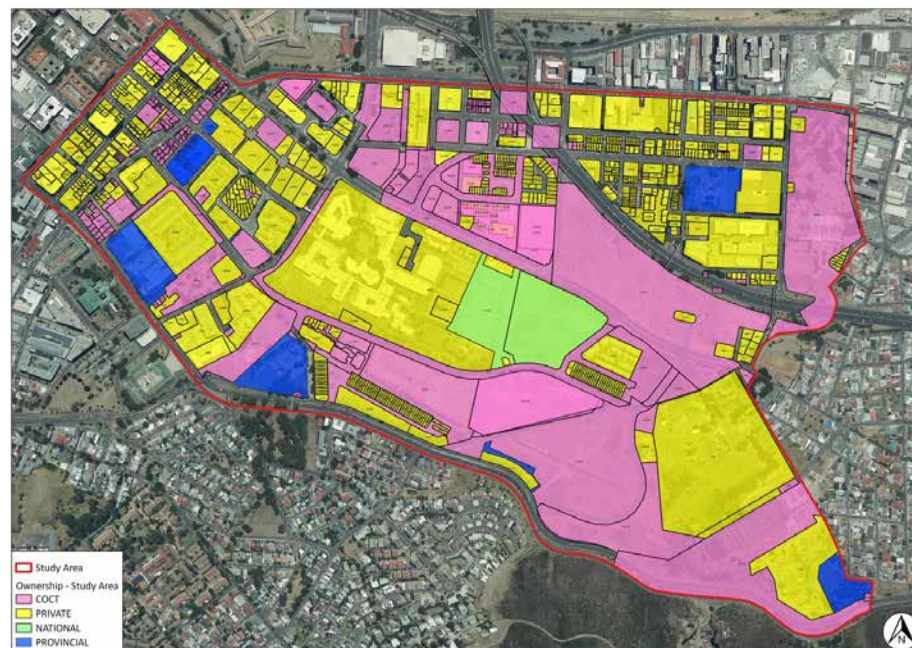


Fig. 2.30. Current Ownership

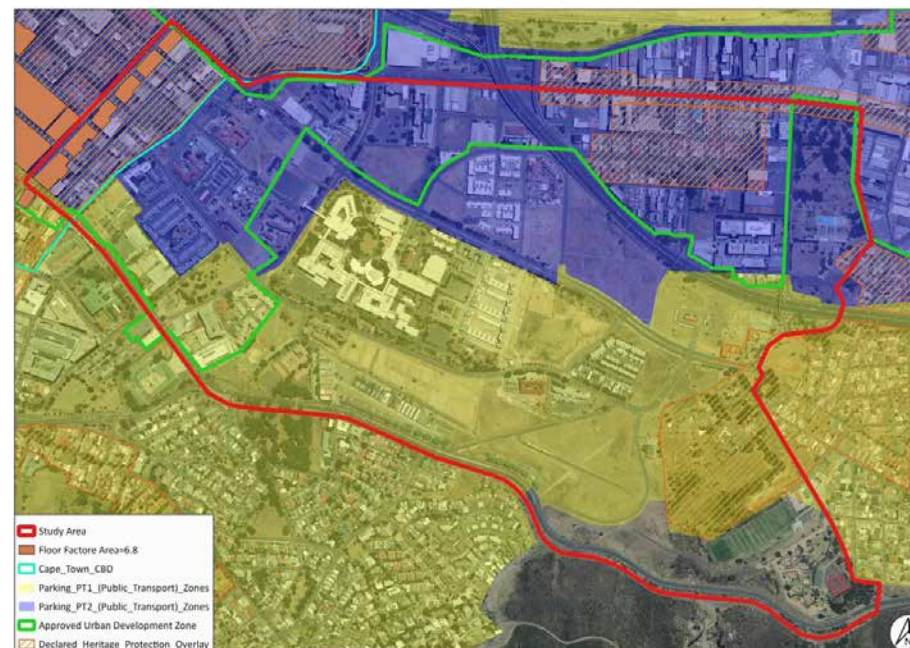


Fig. 2.27. Current Zoning Overlay Zones

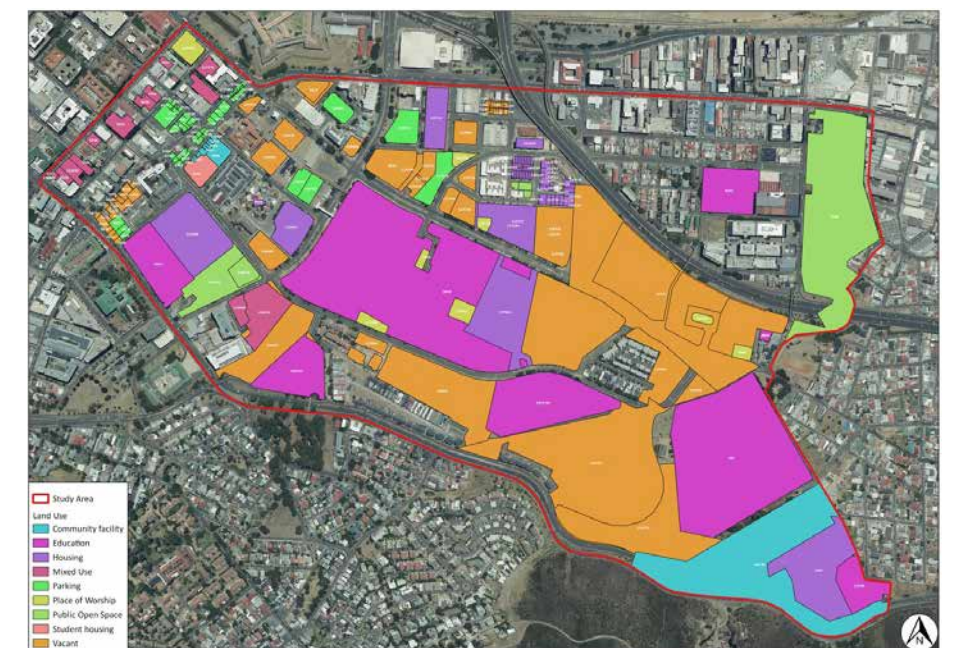


Fig. 2.26. Current Land Use



2.4.2. Ownership

Ownership

The Map alongside indicates the ownership of land parcels in District Six. (Erf numbers have been approved by SG and registered in Deed's Office)

- ▶ The map alongside illustrates existing registered properties within the project's study area.
- ▶ The City of Cape Town currently serves as a custodian of a large portion of the restitution land parcels prior to their development by National Government and their transfer to beneficiaries.
- ▶ Existing key public spaces and amenities, such as Trafalgar Park, Rahmanyeh Primary School and the Cambridge Sportsfields, are also owned and maintained by the City of Cape Town.
- ▶ Phase 3 of the Restitution Project has recently been completed. Thus, in the map alongside, these parcels are still indicated with National Government as the registered owner, although SG approved properties (subdivisions) have been made available and will be transferred to beneficiaries.
- ▶ Vacant land adjacent to the Phase 3 Project is owned by National Government.
- ▶ Not all City-owned properties within the study area form part of the land restitution project. Some restitution projects have already been implemented.
- ▶ Once a housing restitution project is developed, any public open space created as part of the project, should be zoned Open Space (OS2) which then automatically vests with the City. (e.g. McKenzie Park where ownership is NDPW)

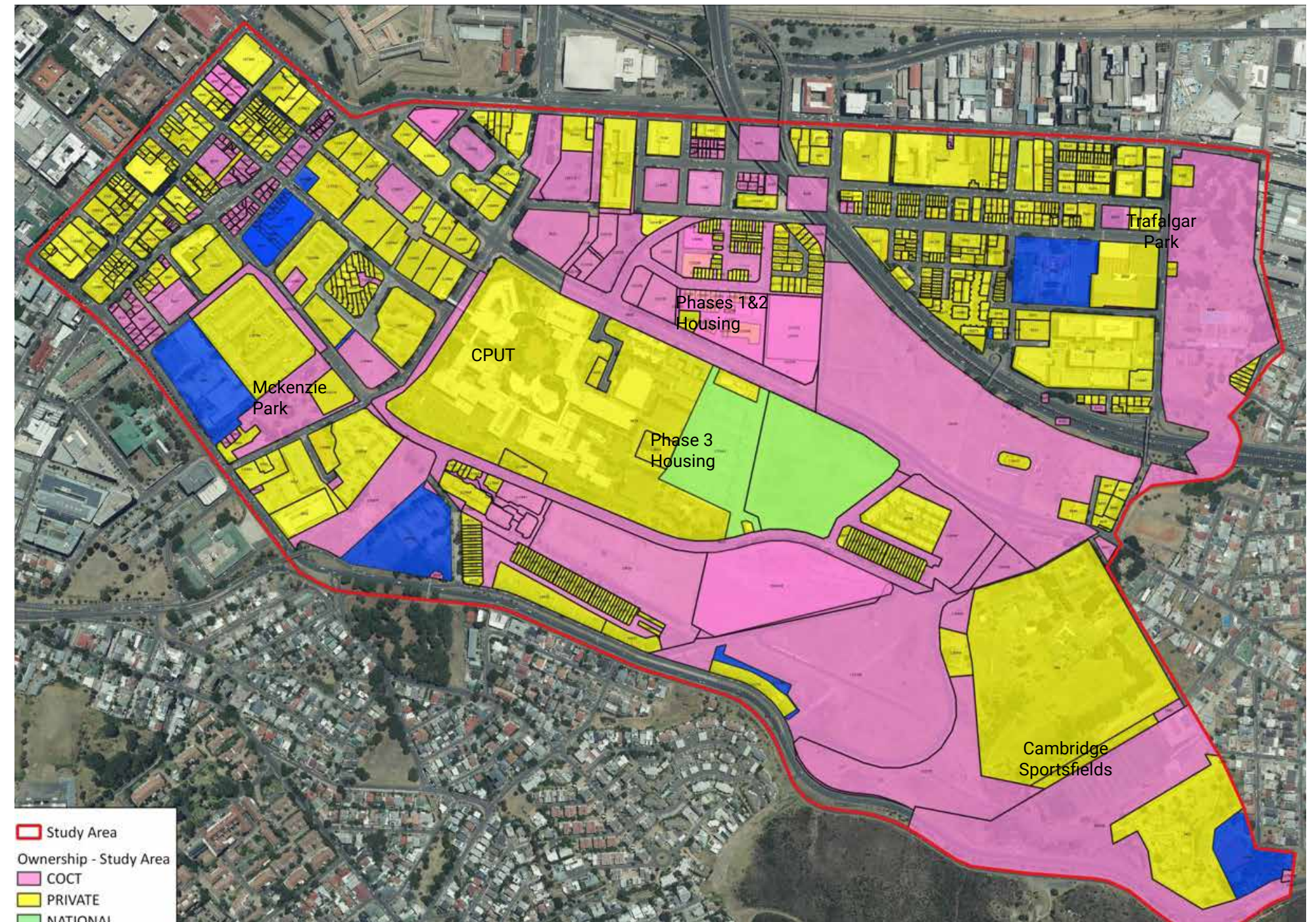


Fig. 2.31. Current Ownership



2.4.3. Zoning

Zoning

Significant zones within the study area include:

- ▶ General residential GR4 & GR5
- ▶ Community Zone C01
- ▶ Mixed Use MU2 & MU3
- ▶ Open Space OS2

Green circles on Erf 15197 depict notional future open space that must be provided when the property is developed for residential purposes. Although a number of large erven are zoned for residential use within the restitution process, public spaces and streets will also need to be included as part of developments, and the land parcels will subsequently be subdivided and zoned accordingly.

The existing zoning should not be considered fixed; rather it suggests where additional planning processes will be necessary in order to change zoning to accommodate future planning and align with the visions of larger processes such as the LSDF.

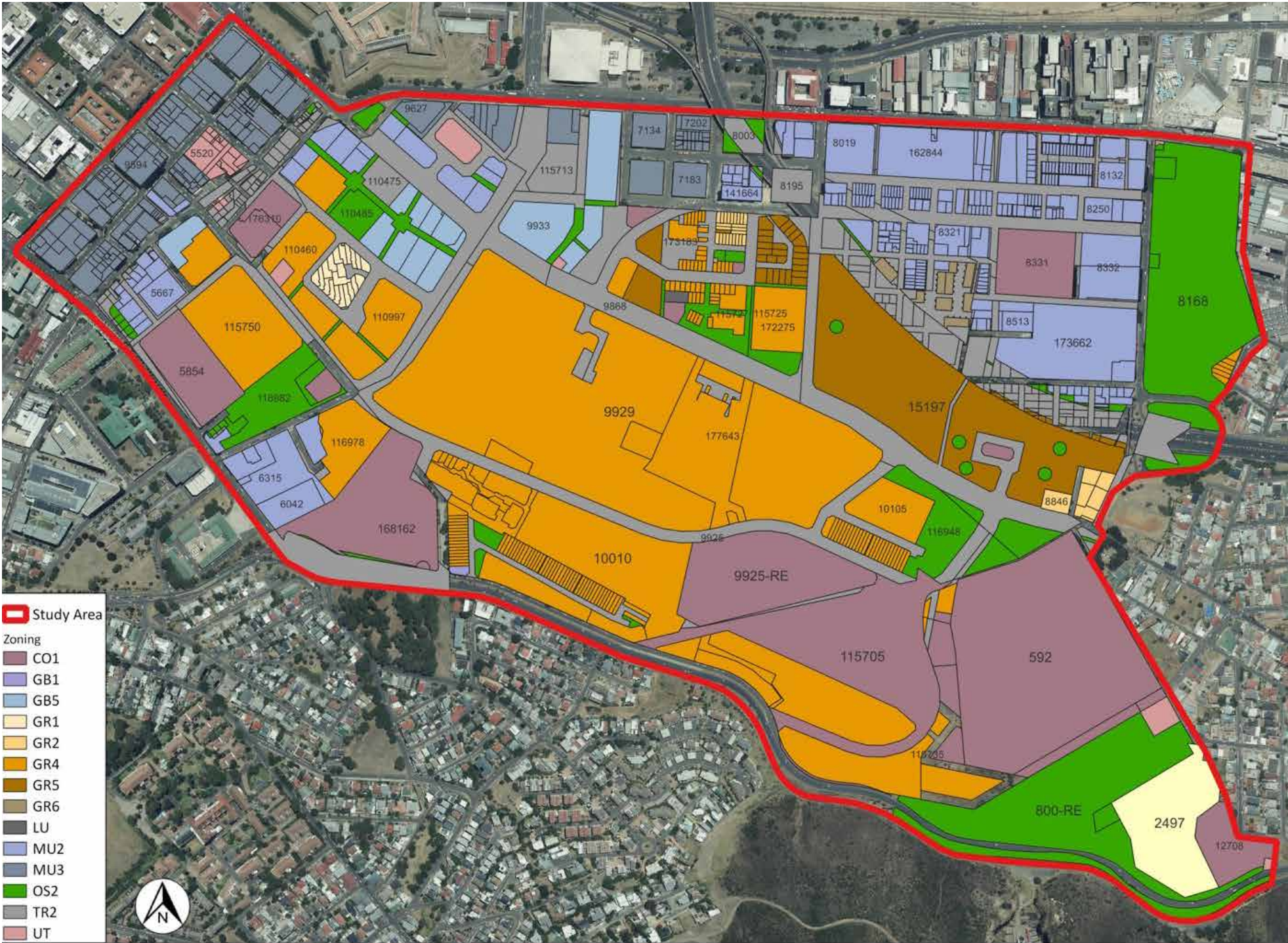


Fig. 2.32. Current Zoning



2.4.4. Restitution

Land Earmarked for Restitution

Land restitution areas (indicated with brown hatch patterns) are superimposed onto City-owned land (indicated in pink).

- ▶ Not all City-owned properties within the study area, form part of the land restitution project, and some restitution projects have already been implemented.
- ▶ Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Restitution Project (24 & 115 units) have been constructed to date. Phase 3 has recently been completed with 108 units.
- ▶ The majority of Canterbury Street's deproclaimed properties were part of a restitution project.
- ▶ Once a housing restitution project is developed, any public open space created as part of the project, should be zoned Open Space OS2 which then automatically vest with the City. (e.g. McKenzie Park where ownership is NDPW).

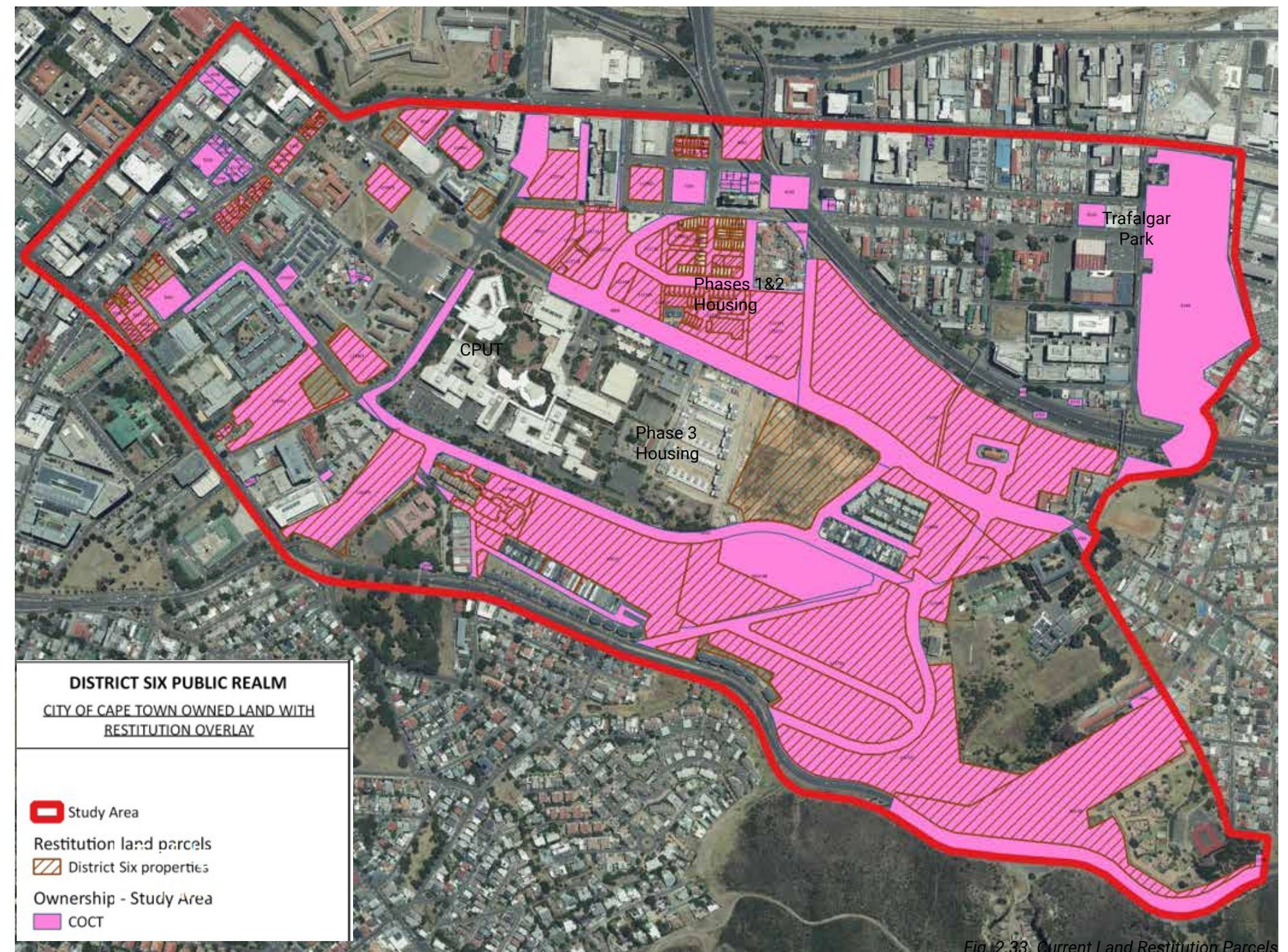


Fig. 2.33. Current Land Restitution Parcels



2.4.5. Conclusion

At present the site is seemingly characterised by much open space or rather openness – But little of this is exclusively zoned open space for recreational purposes. In contrast to the density the area was known for prior to its destruction, it is now experienced as a void, a harsh scar within the city's fabric that tells the narrative of our country's racism and the wounds that segregation inflicted on our urban environments and people who lived within them. District Six is now often experienced from a car, driving past a vacant portion that severs the City Centre from the rest of the metropolitan area. The vacancy, peppered with once embedded religious landmarks, is what orientates the viewer.

Much of the daily life played out within the public realm, at schools, outside religious institutions, and more informally, on the street edges, outside corner stores or next to stoeps. The demolition of District Six and the removal of people to far-flung suburbs, all but halted the continuum of public life in the open spaces and vibrant streets of District Six. A few of the events are still continued today, with people returning weekly to their sites of worship, Carnival moving through Chapel Street and school kids going about their daily routine.

Previous documentation of the urban fabric of District Six has focused on describing the physical built form (Pistorius, et al. 2002; LeGrange, 2003). While this documentation is invaluable, the team did not seek to replicate work done so comprehensively by others. Our analysis sought to contribute to the understanding of District Six as a cultural landscape, through the lens of narratives and themes. The team has focused on the public life and the stories that the public realm holds.

During the course of the “reading the landscape” analysis for District Six, a contextual analysis was done not only of the physical layers of the landscape, but of the historical, cultural and social life of District Six. The contextual analysis mapped out different features of the landscape of District Six. It considered the status quo informants that characterise the present day experience of place. Technical town planning mapping has been done to better understand the statutory status quo and planning processes of the site.

In addition to the analysis of the tangible metrics mentioned above, District Six is framed as an area that holds a multitude of stories told from varied perspectives. This contextual reading offers themes that invite different readings, and lines of inquiry for a varied audience.



Fig.1.34. Narrative Montage - Recreation and Childhood Play



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Context: Base Drawing Information

Base cadastral data (source: Open Data Portal https://web1.capetown.gov.za/web1/opendataportal/ & CapeFarmMapper)
Zoning data (source: Open Data Portal https://web1.capetown.gov.za/web1/opendataportal/)
Ownership data (requested from citymaps@capetown.gov.za and some properties confirmed on Deed's Web)
Land Restitution data (list of properties and plan received from Property Management – all dated March 2007)
Land Use data (site visit conducted on 12 August 2021)
Plans from the City of Cape Town Archives:
City of Cape Town - Environmental and Heritage Management Archives, Undated C.1950-60s. Town Planning Scheme District 6 – Residential.
City of Cape Town Archives, Undated C.1950-60s. Town Planning Scheme District 6 – Uses of Land.
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