

# Kuyasa Library Complex

Khayelitsha, Cape Town, Western Cape

Architects: CCNI Architects  
 Project Team: Charlotte Chamberlain, Nicola Irving, Mark Thomas  
 Structural Engineers: De Villiers Sheard  
 Mechanical Engineers: Sparq Consulting Mechanical & Fire Engineers  
 Electrical Engineers: B2A Consulting Engineers  
 Landscape Architect: Tarna Klitzner Landscape Architects [TKLA]  
 Quantity Surveyor: Talani Quantity Surveyors  
 Project Management: SUN Development  
 Acoustic Engineers: Mackenzie Hoy Acoustic Engineers  
 Environmental: Group Five Coastal  
 Photographers: Mark Thomas, Blue Bennington  
 Text: Nicola Irving, Kathryn Ewing

34° 03'13.8"S  
 18° 41'39.4"E

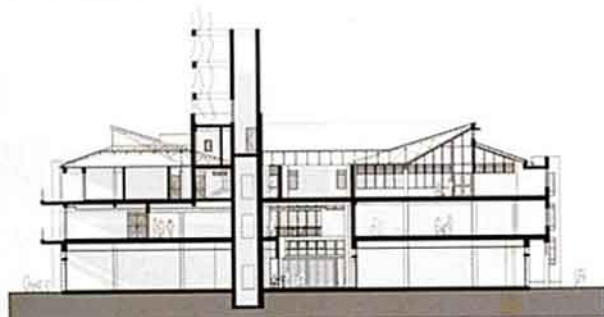
The Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading [VPUU] programme is a partnership between the City of Cape Town, the German Development Bank [KfW] and the communities of the Safe Node Areas. The programme is implemented by VPUU NPC with AHT AG Group and SUN Development, and supported with National Treasury funding. The Carnegie Corporation provided the City of Cape Town with a grant to equip the library.

VPUU aims to improve the quality of life of residents in low-income neighbourhoods, with a specific focus on safety. The new Kuyasa Regional Library Complex on Walter Sisulu Drive forms part of the larger Kuyasa Station precinct development. The precinct is envisaged as a higher-order node in Khayelitsha where proposed facilities serve the needs not only of local residents but also of residents in surrounding areas. The Development Framework has been designed using the VPUU Urban Design Safety Principles and Design Tools for a Safe Neighbourhood.

The design of the new Kuyasa Regional Library Complex was a collaborative process between CCNI Architects, TKLA and SUN Development. It positions itself firmly within the existing public square that was designed as part of the Kuyasa Public Transport Interchange by Meyer Vorster in 2012.

An intention of the project is to reinforce the notion of a multi-storey typology, which is beginning to take shape in Khayelitsha. A point of difference of this project is the desire to embed the possibility of a mixed-use city-natured project in our everyday environment, with living, working, learning and shopping happening in an integrated manner.

The project comprises retail spaces on the ground floor, with a regional library, meeting and training rooms, two apartments and subcouncil offices on the next two levels. The retail spaces can accommodate a variety of scaled shops. The role of the Library Complex is to activate the existing square and new



Section AA

Ground floor legend

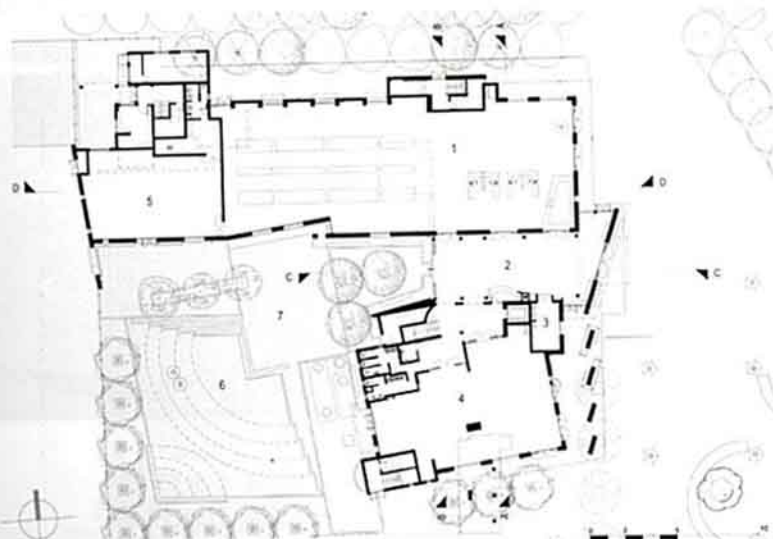
- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Retail             | 6 Landscaped amphitheatre |
| 2 Lobby/entrance     | 7 Stage                   |
| 3 Store              |                           |
| 4 Retail and offices |                           |
| 5 Store              |                           |



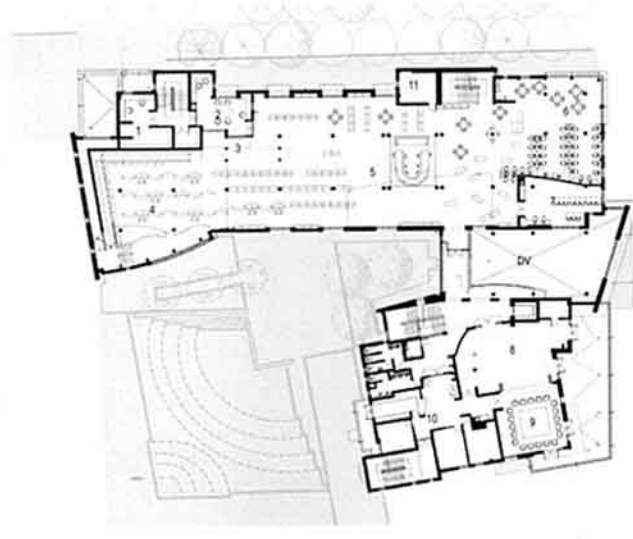
Section CC

First floor legend

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Book delivery      | 6 Smart Cape computers    |
| 2 Staff workroom     | 7 Senior room             |
| 3 Computers          | 8 Meeting hall            |
| 4 Children's section | 9 Subcouncil meeting room |
| 5 Entrance area      | 10 Offices                |



Ground floor plan



First floor plan

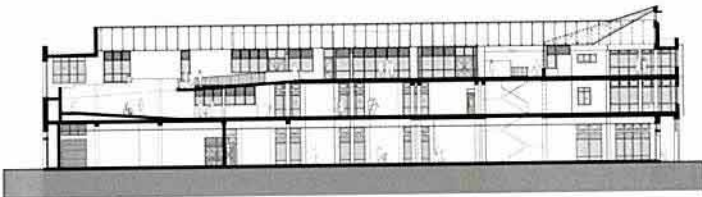
pedestrian link to the north. This is achieved through a series of balconies and large glazed screens that bring programme and activity to the building edge.

The mass of the building is fragmented by differently scaled geometric planes that favour the human scale, with the intention of settling the building into the square as opposed to setting it apart as an object to be viewed from a distance. The main entrance takes on the scale of the collective and links through to a more private green courtyard that offers protection from the wind. This courtyard is overlooked by the library and offices, with the trees and greenery providing respite.

Sensible design decisions govern the choices of building materials and building systems. The interior of the library is carefully considered to achieve a sense of play and relaxation.



Kuyasa landscape development plan



Section DD

Second floor legend

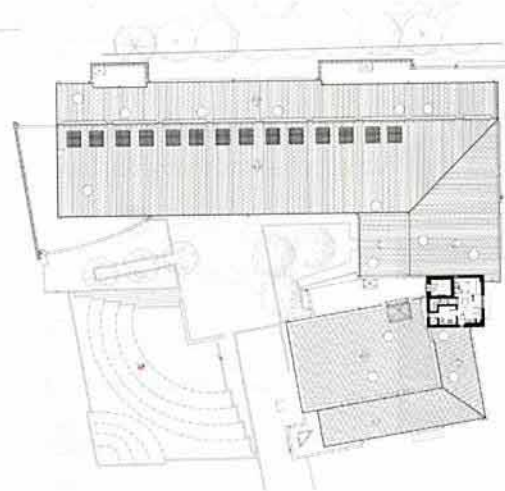
- |                  |                   |                      |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Staff workroom | 6 General seating | 11 Flat 1            |
| 2 Staff room     | 7 Staff desk      | 12 Flat 2            |
| 3 Office         | 8 Study room      | 13 File server store |
| 4 Teens' area    | 9 Training room   | 14 Meeting room      |
| 5 Reference area | 10 Office         | 15 Offices           |

Roof plan legend

- 1 Flat 1



Second floor plan



Roof plan

## St Joseph's Home for Chronically Ill Children – Upgrade

Montana, Cape Town, Western Cape

Architects: CCNI Architects  
Project Team: Charlotte Chamberlain, Nicola Irving, Abdurazaq Chafeker, Catherine Moronell  
Structural Engineers: Meny-Gibert & Associates  
Mechanical Engineers: Tom Esterhuizen & Associates  
Electrical Engineers: ACE Consulting Engineers  
Landscape Architect: Tarna Klitzner  
Landscape Architects [TKLA]  
Quantity Surveyor: Simpson Heath  
Quantity Surveyors  
Acoustic Engineers: Mackenzie Hoy  
Acoustic Engineers  
Environmental: Ecolution Consulting  
Heritage: Bridget O'Donoghue  
Contractor: Habitat Decorators  
Photographers: Catherine Moronell, Rese Boshoff, Nicola Irving  
Text: Nicola Irving

33° 57'51.5"S  
18° 34'22.9"E

The property on Pallotti Road, Cape Town, is owned by the Pallottine Sisters who began St Joseph's Home for Chronically Ill Children to provide care for children during the 1950s. The home continues to offer step-down care to 150 of society's most vulnerable children.

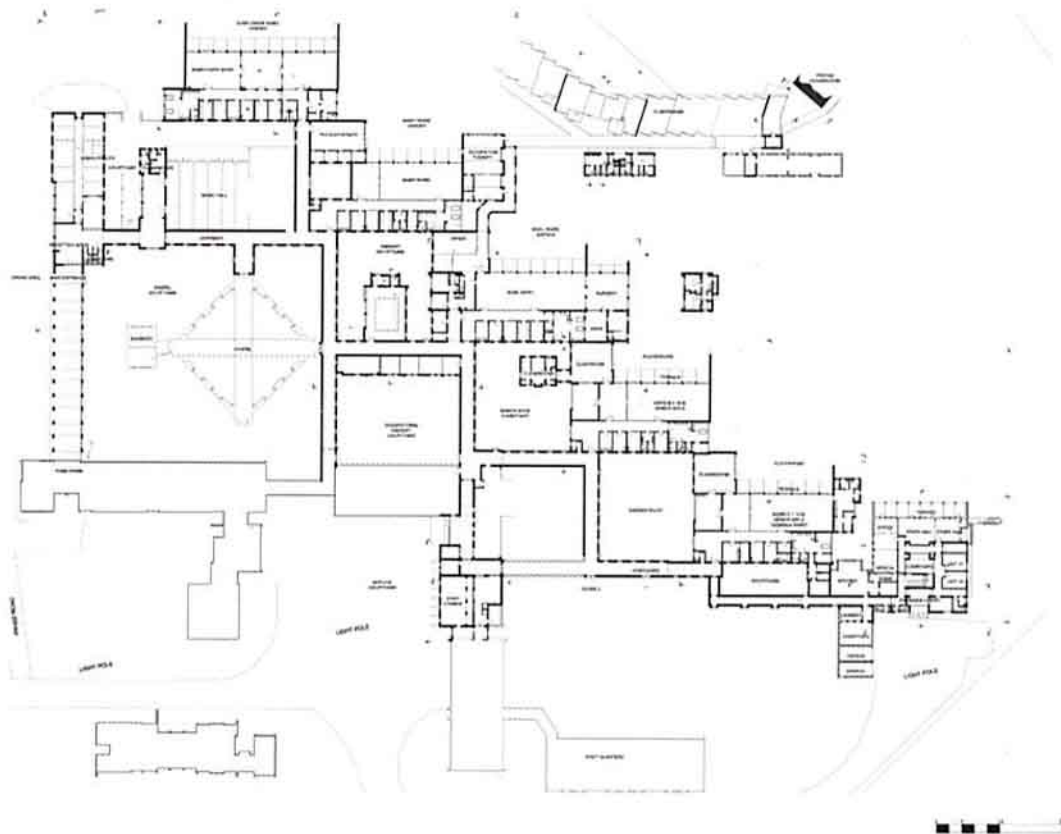
The existing buildings were designed and built in the 1960s during the height of apartheid. The sisters purchased land in a racially undesignated area to look after children from all races. However, in line with the laws of the country at the time, five wards were built to keep children from various races apart, resulting in a building with the overriding spatial paradigm of separation.

The new project attempts to shift the emphasis from that of 'institution' to 'home' by reconnecting on as many levels as possible, with the existing endless passages now populated with therapeutic programme and parent/children meeting spaces. The main intention of the project, which was made possible by a private donation, has been to create a safe and happy 'container' for the children. After presenting the idea that this is best done by happy staff, ie that caring for the carers to enable them to care for the children is the key, the donation was increased from R7 million to R40 million.

Primarily, the project started by placing therapeutic programmes at the heart of the complex with the view that this would be the place where all the carers of the child interact – the parents, the nursing staff, the administrators and the therapists. The position chosen was a set of former service yards. These were interconnected through a series of landscaped courts and carefully scaled openings.

There was also a major upgrade of the existing five wards, which previously were just banks of beds and cots against the outer walls. In each case, the carer is brought into the ward, to a position where she can see the children and they can see her. Smaller groupings of beds were created, each with a thickened wall to accommodate a sense of one's own place to put things. Roofs were lifted so that if children had to remain in bed, they could see the sky. These high-level windows also provide natural light and ventilation. Thick-walled bays were added with low ledges scaled around the child, and large sliding windows that open onto gardens.

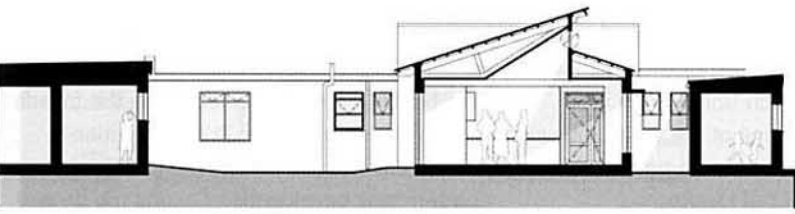
The project was a complex exercise in reusing, repairing and shifting systems [electricity, water, etc] to leave St Joseph's Home with an efficient and robust environment.



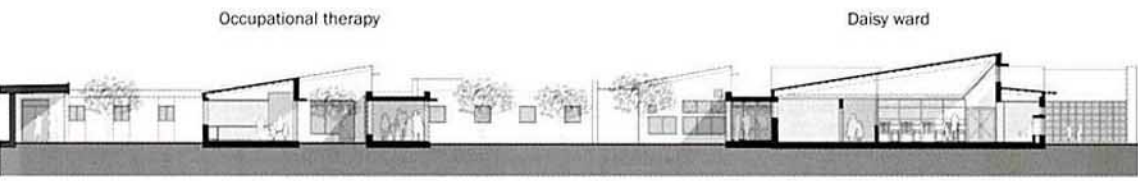
Plan of existing



Detail section through typical ward



Detail section CC through new staff lounge



Section BB



Plan of upgrade



- Legend**
- 1 New offices
  - 2 New sanctuary
  - 3 Therapy hub
  - 4 Occupational therapy hub
  - 5 New staff lounge
  - 6 Existing staff lounge
  - 7 Workshop
  - 8 Sunflower ward
  - 9 Daisy ward
  - 10 Basil ward
  - 11 Ward
  - 12 Freesia ward
  - 13 Nurses' quarters
  - 14 Parents' accommodation
- Wards  
 Staff therapy areas