

ALPHA 1 : RECREATIONAL LOUNGE
DESIGN REPORT ST3
NOVEMBER 2018



Design Report (Update)

Alpha One is situated on the South Eastern edge of Robben Island and has noteworthy views of the West Coast shoreline and Table Bay with Table Mountain very prominent. It consists of two buildings and parking areas for the busses which stop there regularly as part of the island tour. The primary functions at present is as a 'coffee shop and cafe' and an 'ablution stop'. The buildings are generally well kept with signs of historical renovations. There are two separate buildings with the main building used as 'shop' and the 'pump house' also providing limited toilet facilities. There are also temporary toilet structures on the property and disabled access has been addressed through a steel ramp addition. The last known renovations of the buildings took place in late 2011 under a SAHRA permit granted in November 2010

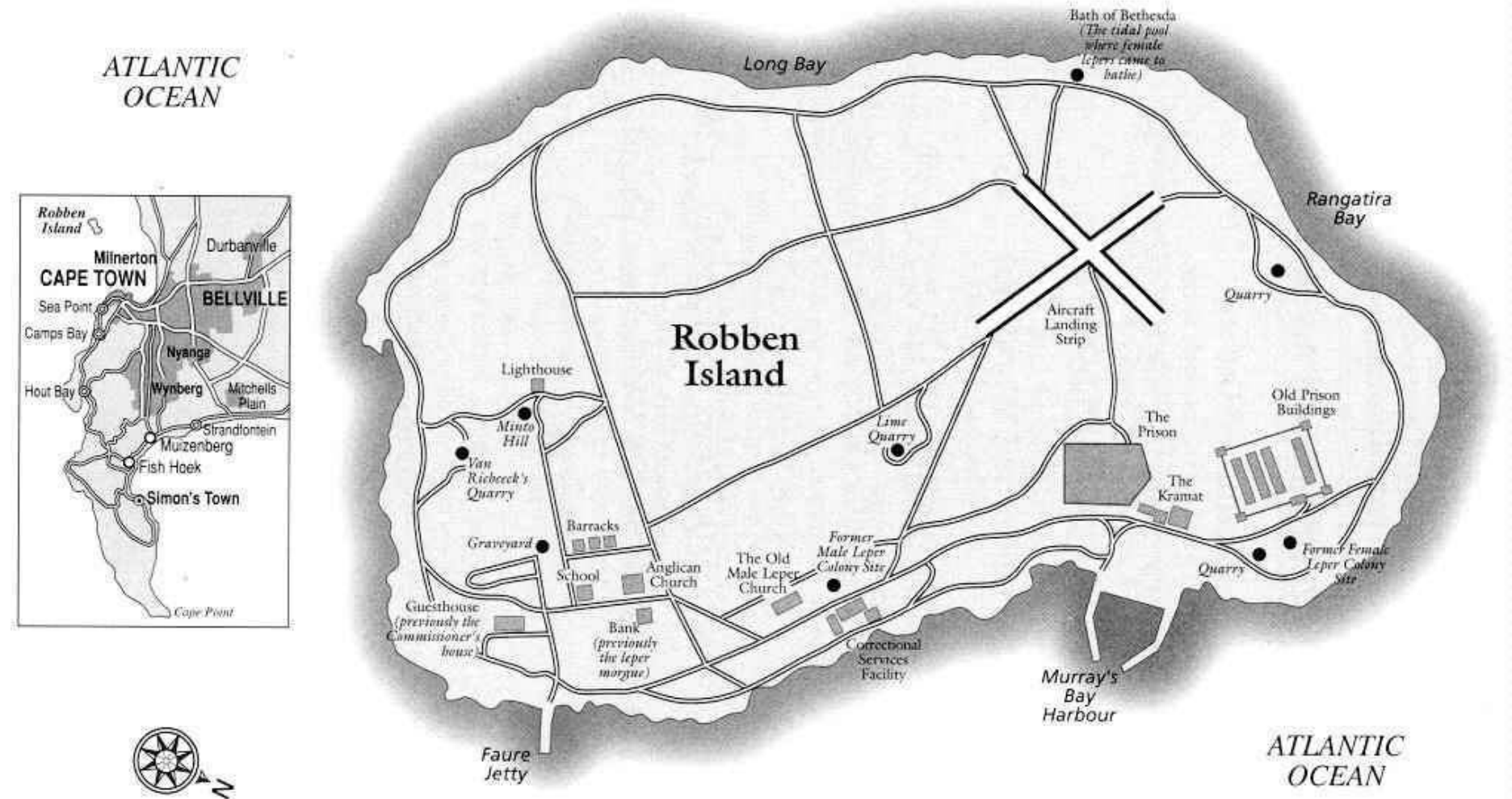
The earliest reference on record (Deacon, H., (M3/22), RIM 2000), refers to the outcrop as 'Franse Kelder' (1786). Subsequent references refers to 'Lady's Rock' from circa 1858 and 'Butcher's Shop' (1891). There are references to the general area which was used for braais and overnight stays during WWII period and later in the 1980's the buildings being used by officers for recreational activities (Moolman, J., Interview by Deacon, H. & Ramoupi, N. Robben Island, 16 October 2000).

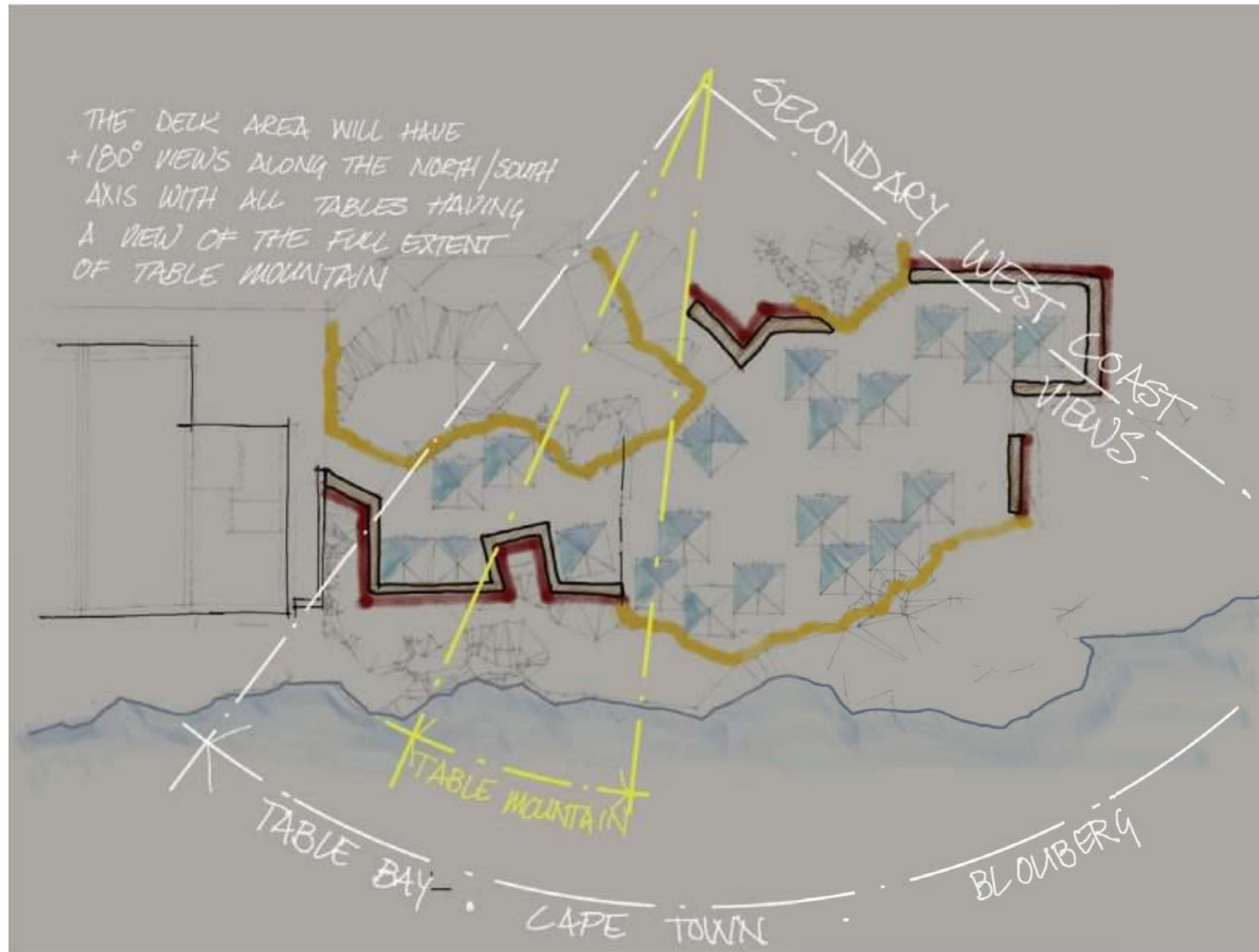
R Fisher Comment: This is not a prison building nor part of the prison complex or associated activities or practices so its sensitivity in terms of relating to the Universal Human Values is low – hence a degree of change should be acceptable.

The opportunity exists to contextualise the building and past activities through creating a display of documentary and interpretative material relating to its past uses and associated personages. In this exercise it must not be forgotten that even the most recent history as the building being a scheduled stop for most visitors has become part of the embodied memory of the site and building and should be included in the interpretative narrative.

The story to be told through displays etc. would have to incorporate the 'symbolism of separation' as highlighted by RIM management themselves in briefing for this project.

Through the creation of a facility where more time, than what is the norm currently, can be spent it will encourage visitors to relax and reflect on both connection with and separation from the mainland and primarily through the visual connection with Table Mountain as an iconic image. Except for the ferry journey to and from the island this would be the best view of Cape Town and the symbolism of 'the divide' or 'separation' would be emphasised.



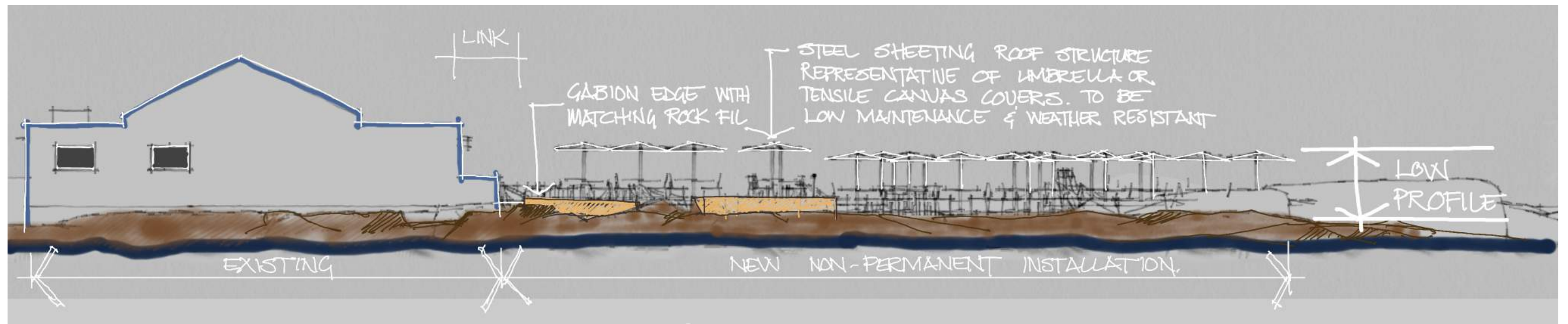


- Orientation confirmed
- View confirmed - Table Mountain as primary focus - main portion of mountain will be visible from any position in the demarcated area with the extreme extents including Lions head and the 2010 soccer stadium in view for more than 80% of all tables.
-





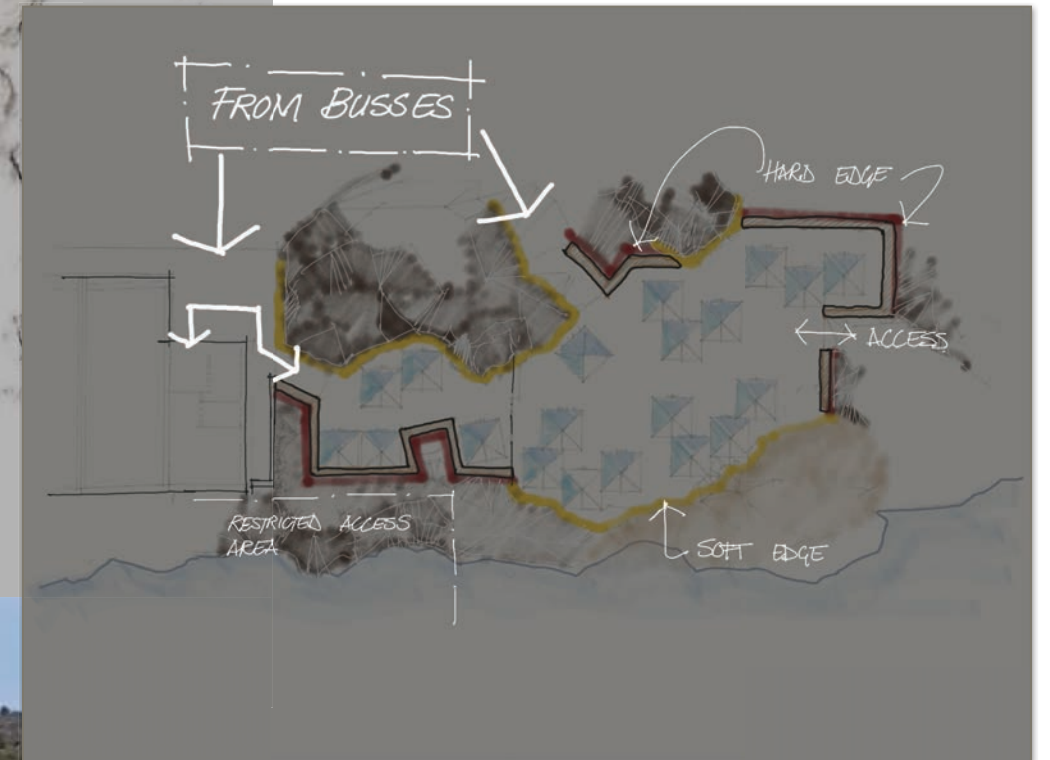
- Low profile
- Material to blend in
- Structure to be light and resemble canvas or umbrella
 - Roof sheeting to be 3mm powder coated finish fixed to 25 x 4 x 2.5mm hot dip galvanised sub-frame with 75 x 50 x 3mm hot dip galvanised main frame structure.
 - 30mm thick timber table tops to be fixed to 30 x 20 x 2.5mm hot dip galvanised table sub-frame.
 - Modular concrete blocks will be utilised to secure the structure





1. Main Entrance to 'Coffee shop' and recreational lounge
2. Access to permanent and temporary ablutions including disabled access
3. Direct alternate access to recreational lounge
4. Access to and from possible 'braai area'

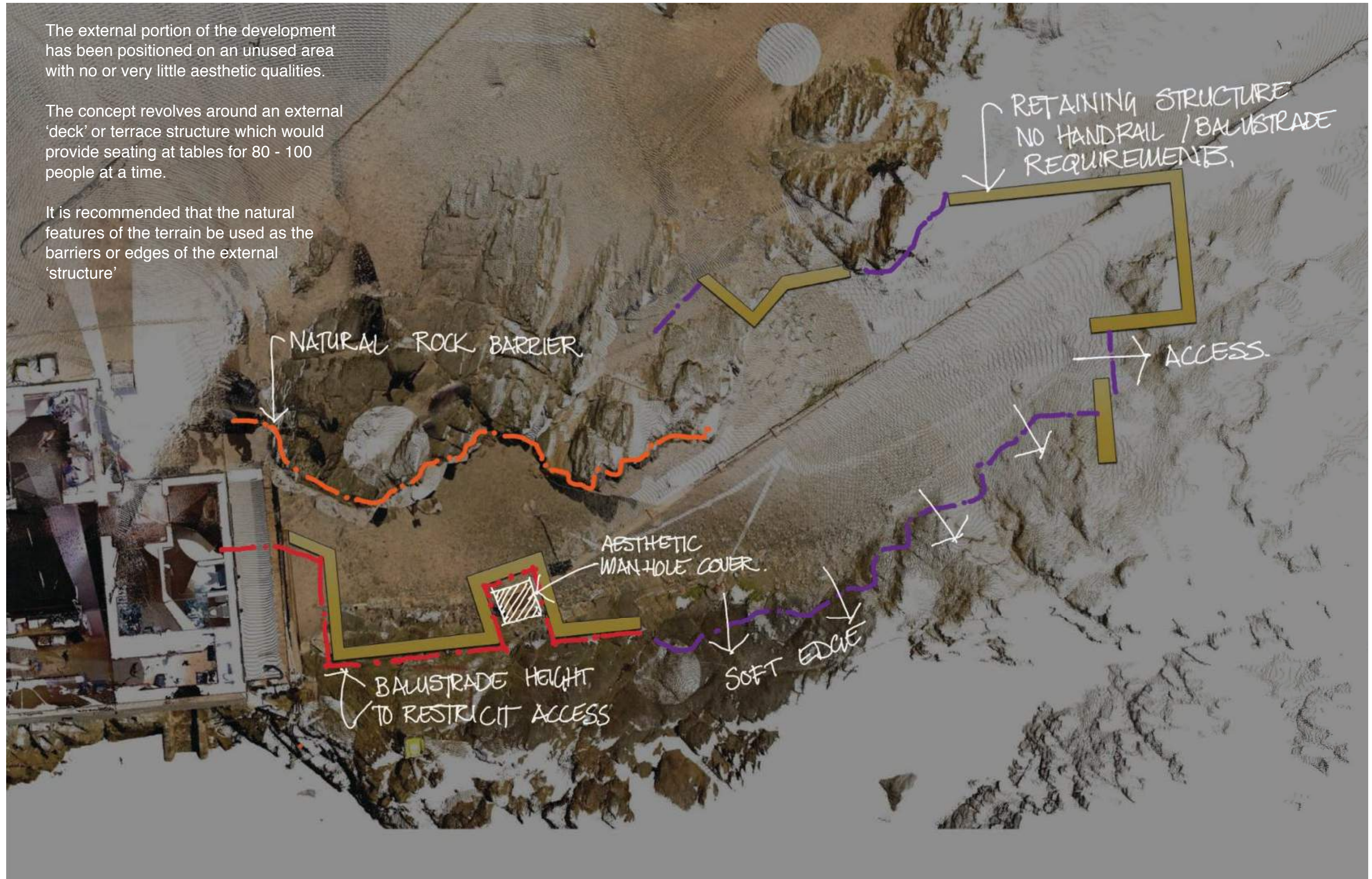
- Visual impact
- Way-finding & signage
- Disabled access



The external portion of the development has been positioned on an unused area with no or very little aesthetic qualities.

The concept revolves around an external 'deck' or terrace structure which would provide seating at tables for 80 - 100 people at a time.

It is recommended that the natural features of the terrain be used as the barriers or edges of the external 'structure'

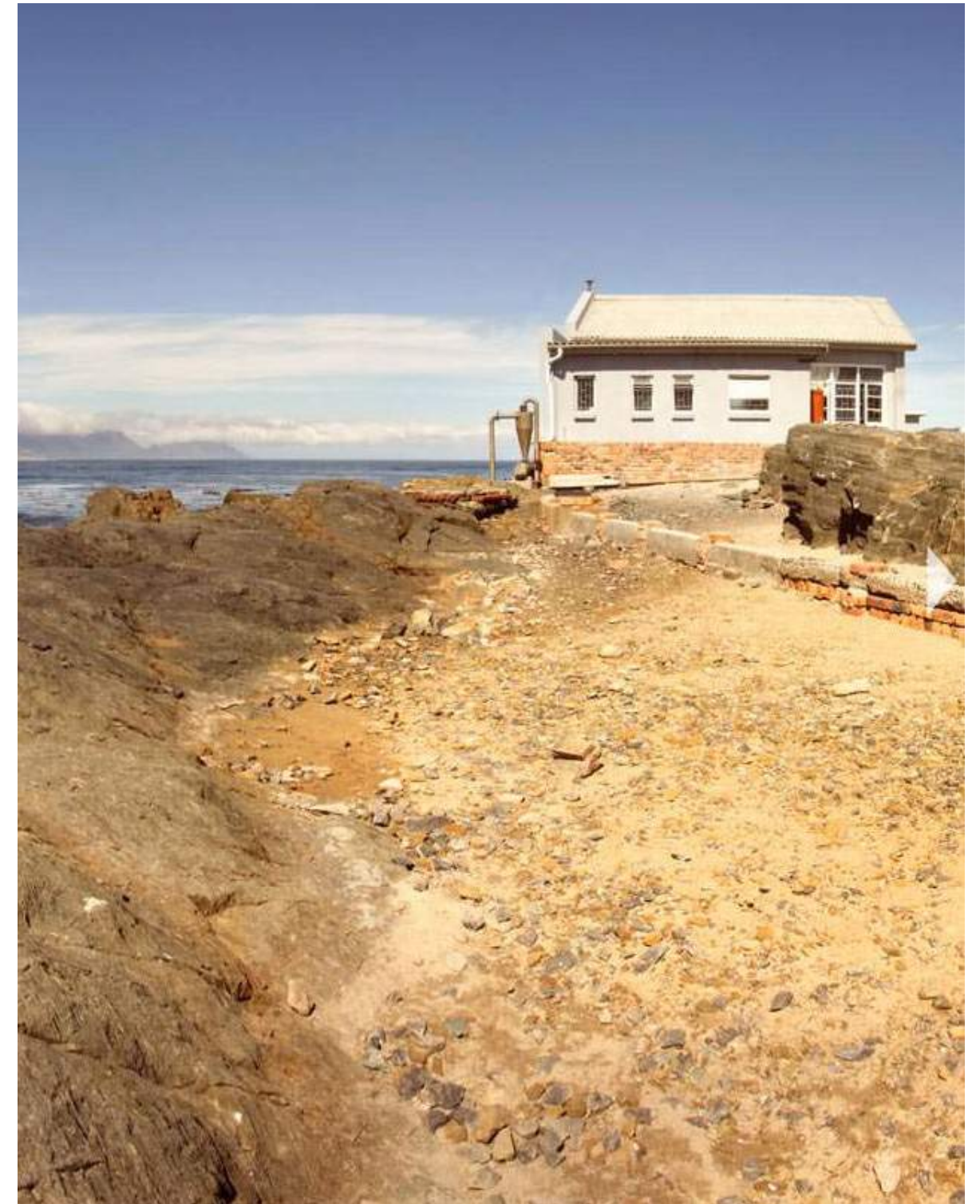


ROBBEN ISLAND MUSEUM

Material choices



ALPHA 1 RECREATIONAL LOUNGE



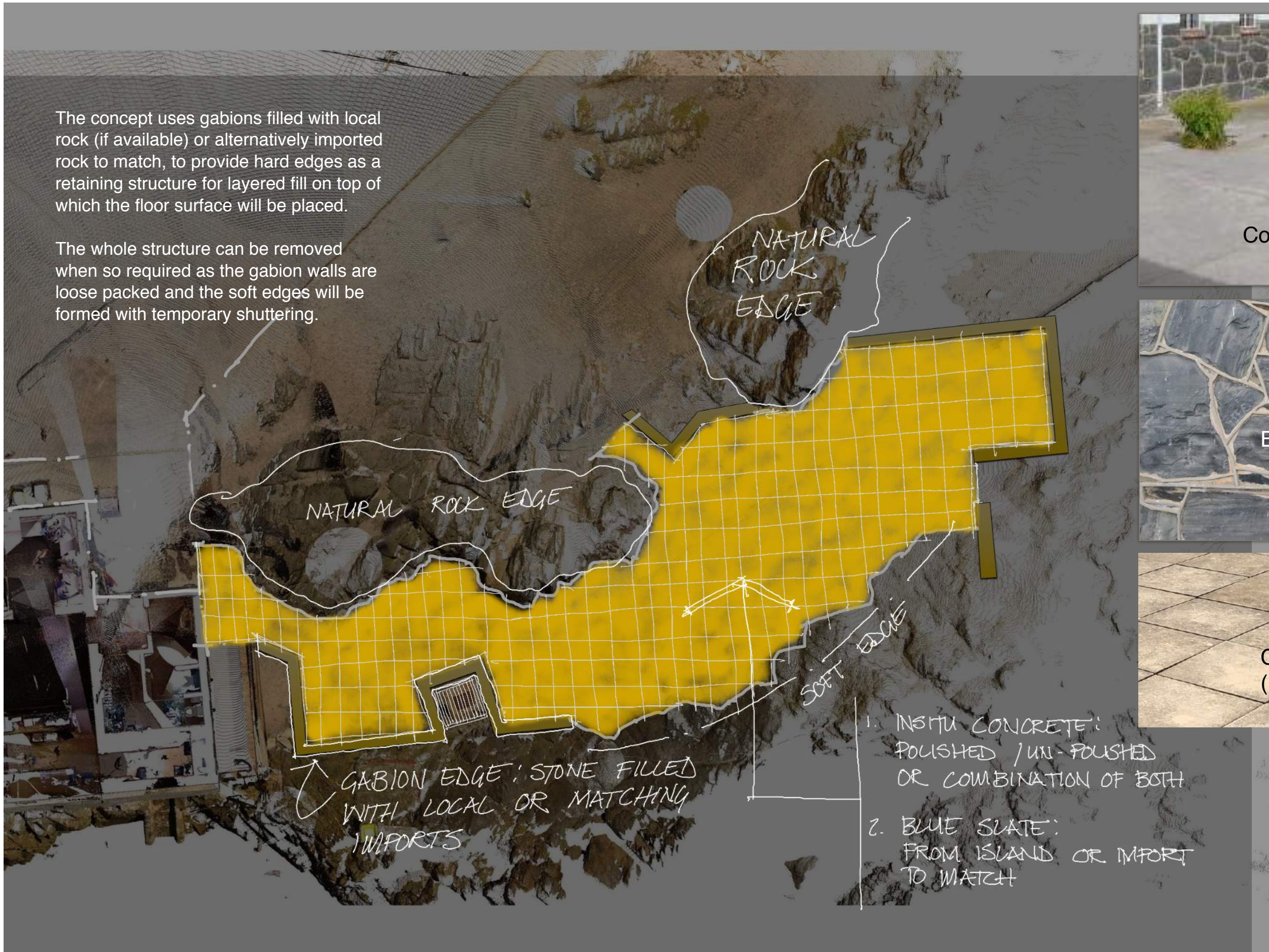
Material References

Material found on the island and referenced in this design include:

- Slate (Blue slate)
- Sandstone
- Concrete
- Face brick
- Steel (Prison bars, gates, windows, doors, fencing, poles etc.)
- Plaster & paint
- Corrugated roof sheeting (Asbestos and zinc)

The concept uses gabions filled with local rock (if available) or alternatively imported rock to match, to provide hard edges as a retaining structure for layered fill on top of which the floor surface will be placed.

The whole structure can be removed when so required as the gabion walls are loose packed and the soft edges will be formed with temporary shuttering.



Concrete finish



Blue Slate



Concrete Tiles
(Possible alternative)

1. IN SITU CONCRETE: POLISHED / UN-POLISHED OR COMBINATION OF BOTH
2. BLUE SLATE: FROM ISLAND OR IMPORT TO MATCH



In-Situ Concrete

Concrete symbolises the cold hard floors of the prison cells. It is also the most common floor finish found on the island both indoors and outdoors.

The concrete can be wood troweled, steel troweled, power floated or polished. Alternatively a combination of these finishes can be used. There is also a further option of using concrete paving slabs, in this instance 800 x 800 mm would be a recommended minimum size.

It is a low maintenance finish and even when weathered, will still fit in with the Island

Concrete can be removed relatively easily if/when reinstatement is required



Blue Slate

The local slate is characterised by a whitish marbled effect caused by sandstone impurities in the rock. It was mostly used as vertical applications to embellish walls on the island.

Slate can in this instance be applied as a flooring material, as an alternative to a concrete finish.

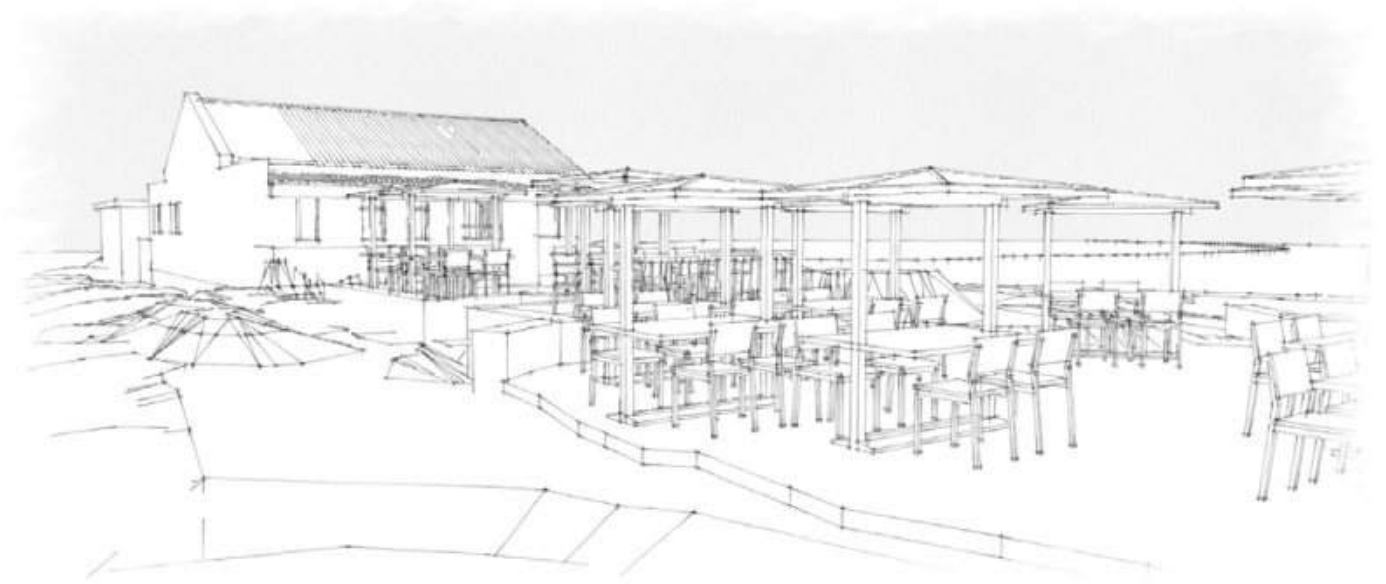
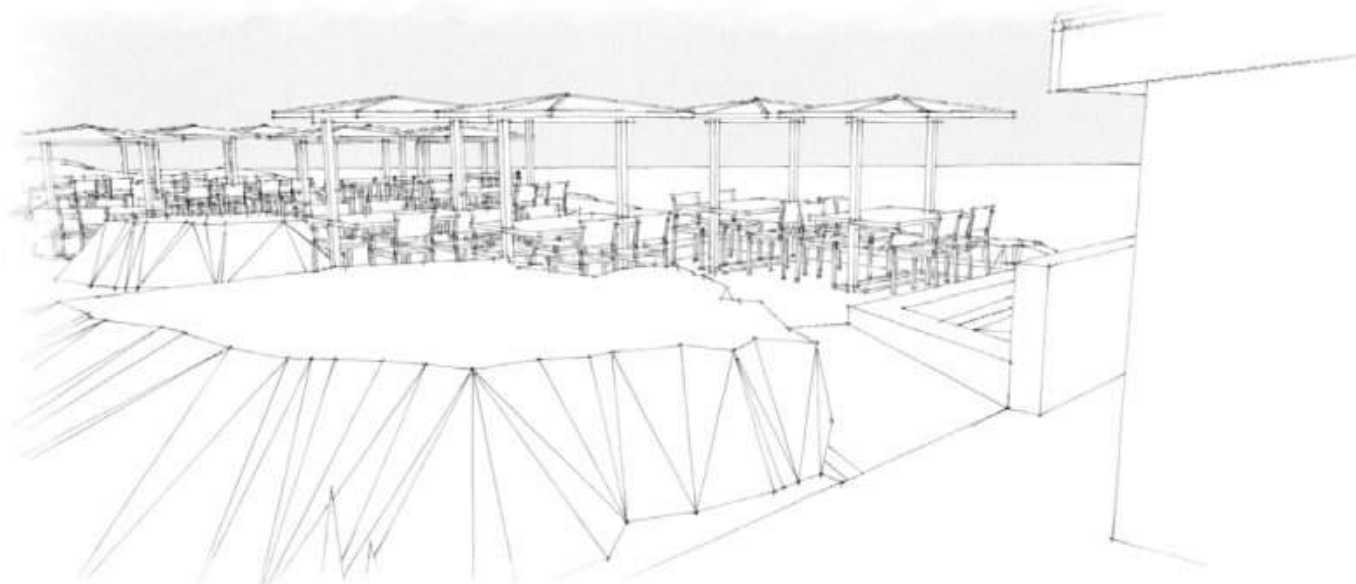
It is a low maintenance finish and even when weathered, will still fit in with the Island



The overhead view shows the deck structure in context with the existing buildings.

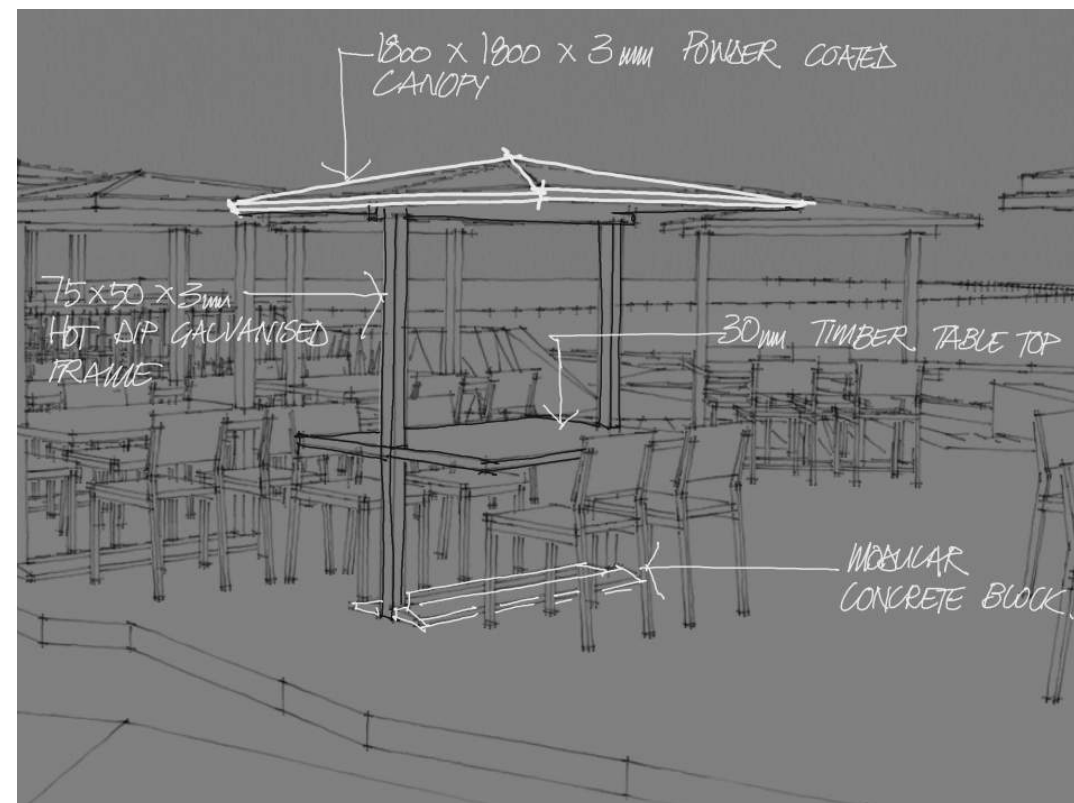
Visitors naturally gravitate to this area currently as it provides them with the best views across the bay towards Cape Town and Blouberg Strand.

All effort will be made to blend the facility into the surrounding landscape



ROBBEN ISLAND MUSEUM

Outside seating



ALPHA 1 RECREATIONAL LOUNGE

Outside Seating Area

The design aims to blend in with the environment as much as possible. Effort is made not to try and change or compete with the natural landscape and the shape of the new structure has been designed to use natural elements to determine and define the edges.

Large rock formations on the inland approach side provides both physical and visual shelter

On the sea edge, the lower rock outcrops are used more as visual boundary or softer edge. Because there is no need for a balustrade on this side, a less intrusive kind of barrier is being considered - currently there are single chain barriers.

The seating area has been designed with a split level in order to use the natural topography but both areas will be wheel chair accessible.

At this stage all steel work like the balustrades shown here will be hot dip galvanised steel. Stainless steel can be considered as an alternative.

The canopies or roofs of the structures are meant to be canvas or umbrella like in shape but materially it has to be able to withstand extreme weather conditions, wind, rain and sun.

The structures are meant to be modular and will be connected together to provide adequate bulk and stability. It will be 'loose' furniture placed on the ground and weighted down with modular concrete blocks.

- Roof sheeting to be 3mm powder coated finish fixed to 25 x 4 x 2.5mm hot dip galvanised sub-frame with 75 x 50 x 3mm hot dip galvanised main frame structure.
- 30mm thick timber table tops to be fixed to 30 x 20 x 2.5mm hot dip galvanised table sub-frame.
- Modular concrete blocks will be utilised to secure the structure

ROBBEN ISLAND MUSEUM

Outside seating

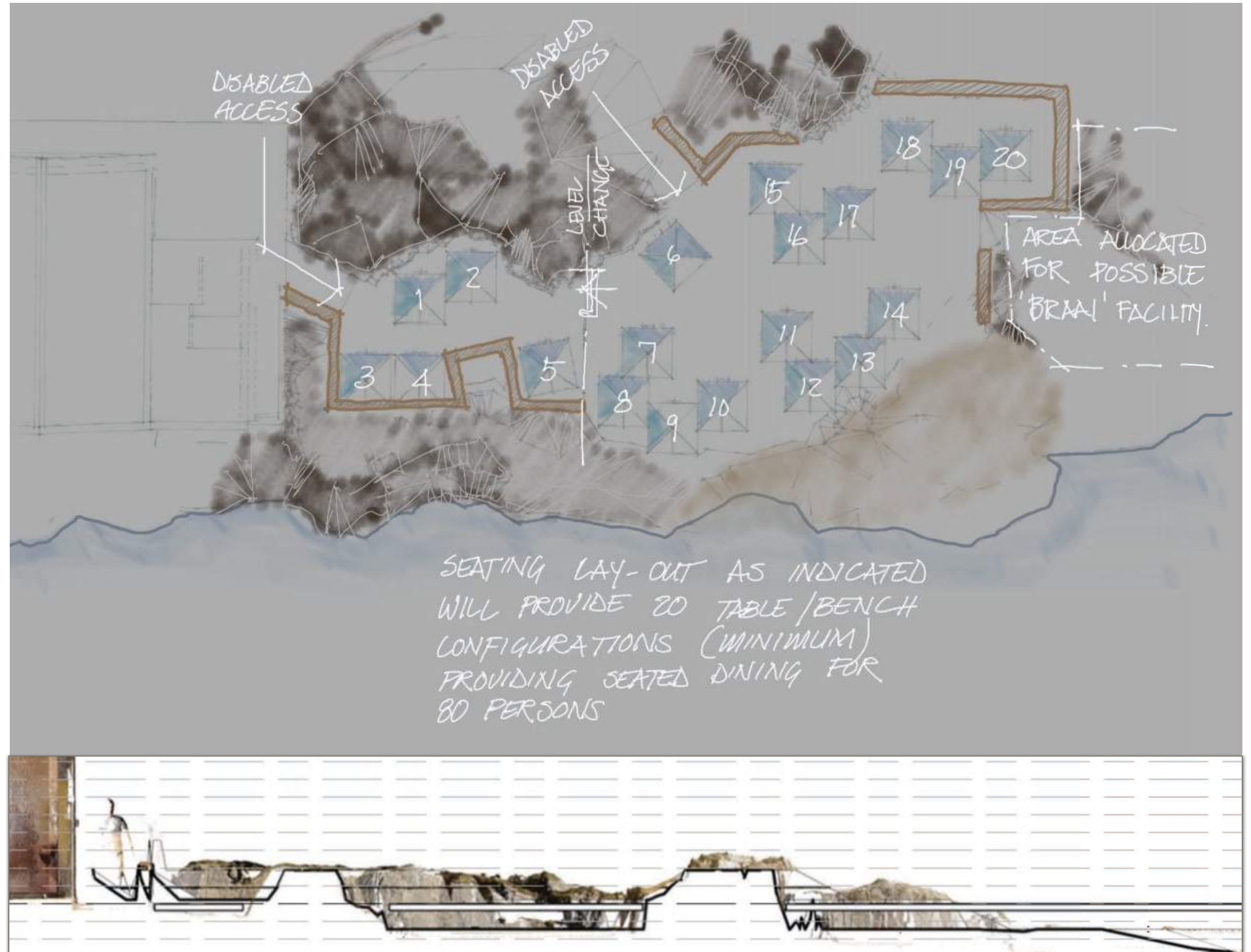
ALPHA 1 RECREATIONAL LOUNGE

External structure

The external structure will compliment the existing shop/lounge and will have beautiful views of Table Bay and Table Mountain specifically.

With the internal seating of about 40 people and the external seating on the South side of also about 40 people, the 80 plus seats provided here, will bring the total capacity to a combined 160 seats.

The deck will be on two levels to accommodate the natural slope of the site and will have wheel chair access to both levels.

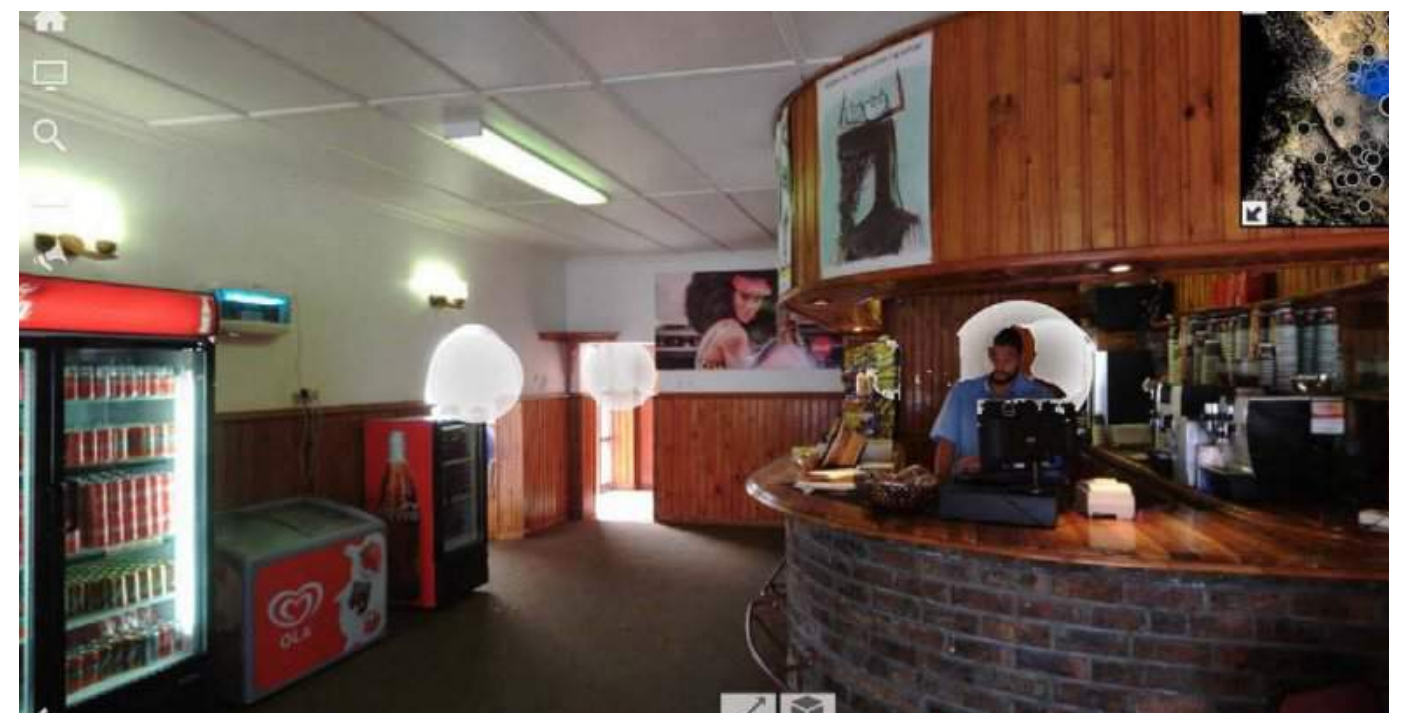


Existing Shop: Internal Building Changes

The existing building has been documented and scanned using a 3D laser point cloud scanner which has captured the current state and configuration in great detail for record purposes.

A portion of the building, has been sub divided and is used for general storage and this will have to be removed. RIM has indicated that an off-site storage solution will be considered as there is no intention to try and create any new structures which could possibly accommodate the storage needs. The current layout and furnishing which is not conducive to relaxing and is awkward in configuration should be removed (fixed half round benches) and opened up to provide much more seating space.

The existing service counter (historic bar counter) can be retained and adapted and refurbished to function better with the enlarged kitchen/preparation area. The rest of the wood panelling on the walls can also be incorporated into the new interior.



ROBBEN ISLAND MUSEUM

Existing facility upgrade & changes

ALPHA 1 RECREATIONAL LOUNGE



EXISTING CONFIGURATION



PROPOSED CONFIGURATION

Existing Shop: Internal Building Changes

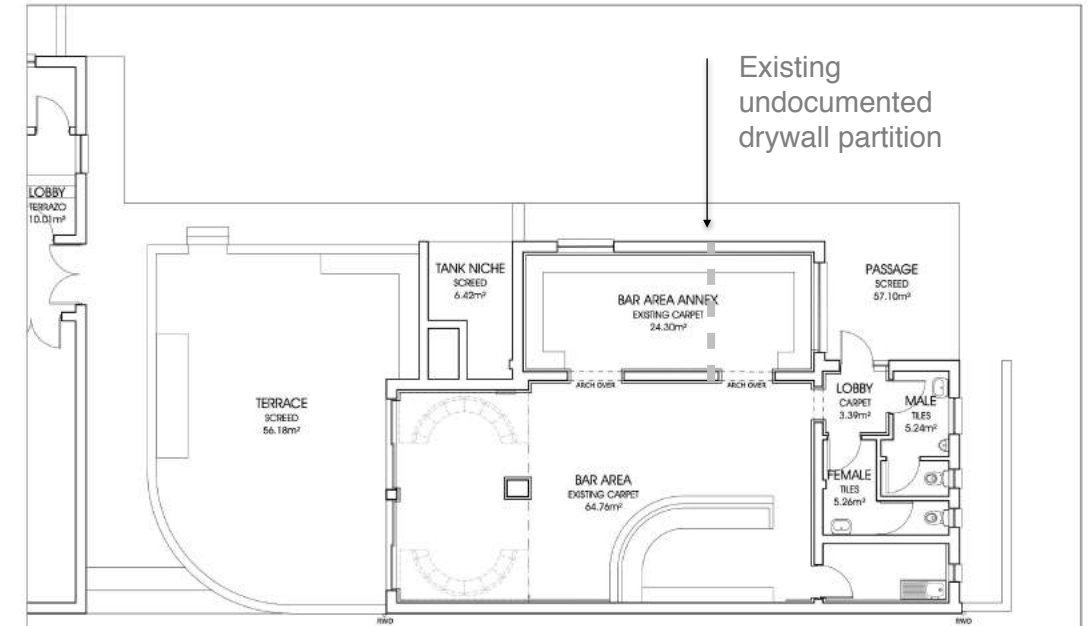
The existing building was renovated in circa 2011 during which exercise the plaster was fixed, painting internal and external done and bathrooms in the main building and the pump house / ablution block upgraded.

A portion of the area shown as Bar Area Annex or Dining Room, has been sub divided and is used for general storage. The current layout and furnishing is not conducive to relaxing and eating as the furniture and configuration is awkward.

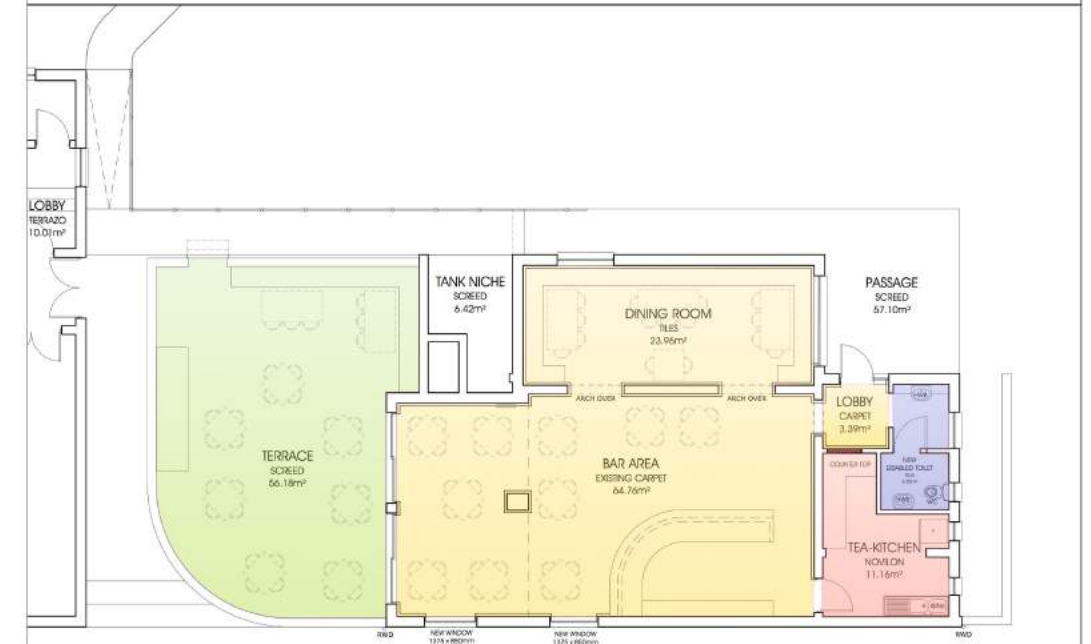
The aim is to brighten up the place and make it more airy and light. The addition of two new windows in the eastern wall will provide much needed light and beautiful views of Table Bay and Table Mountain specifically.

With the provisional table and seating arrangements as indicated on the sketch plan, some 36 patrons can be seated at tables. The outside terrace is estimated to provide a further 40 seats at tables which would bring the total for this facility to nearly 80 people.

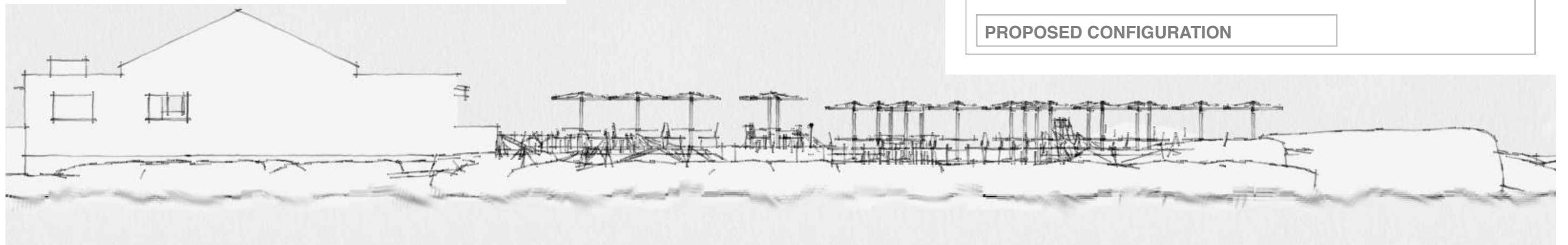
The proposed new outside seating area will also provide a minimum of 80 seats which would mean that a combined 160 seats would go a long way to accommodate a couple of busses arriving at the same time.



EXISTING CONFIGURATION



PROPOSED CONFIGURATION



ROBBEN ISLAND MUSEUM

Existing facility upgrade & changes



ALPHA 1 RECREATIONAL LOUNGE



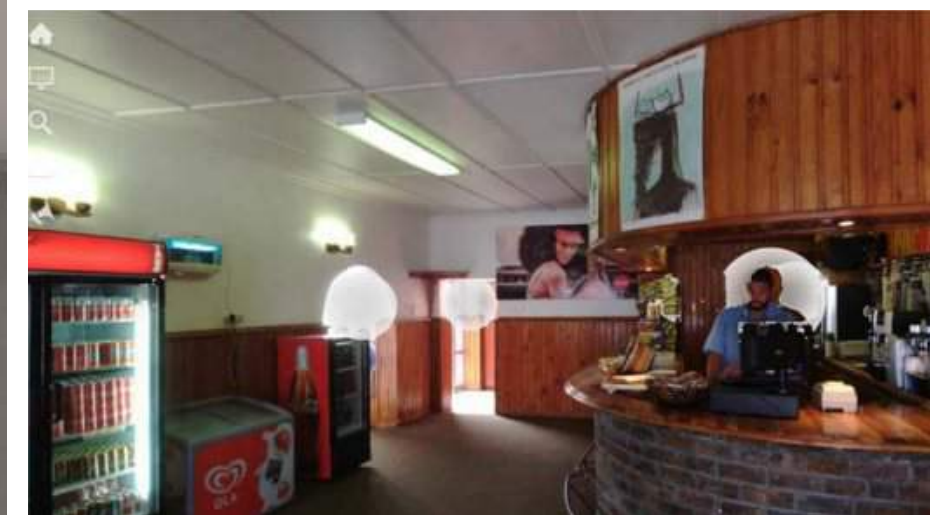
Existing Shop: Internal Building Changes

The opportunity exists to contextualise the building and past activities through creating a display of documentary and interpretative material relating to its past uses and associated personages. In this exercise it must not be forgotten that even the most recent history as the building being a scheduled stop for most visitors has become part of the embodied memory of the site and building and should be included in the interpretative narrative.

The story to be told through displays etc. would have to incorporate the 'symbolism of separation' as highlighted by RIM management themselves in briefing for this project.

The interior can be improved visually without any drastic changes to the fabric of the building.

The primary outcome will be the provision of cafe/bistro type seating with external views and walls with displays referencing the history of the facility.



Ablution upgrade

The current ablution block can not cope with the demand. If arrival of one or more busses, especially in very short intervals creates a tremendous demand for toilet facilities.

Currently the situation is improved slightly with the provision of temporary facilities.

As part of this design, a desktop study was done and a provisional cost shown on the latest cost estimate

This drawing shows a generic toilet block in one of many possible positions.

