UNITY IN DIVERSITY
PROPOSAL: APARTHEID

Tell me why some of us are light-skinned and others dark-skinned. Why do we have to separate black from white? “That’s just the way it is,” they say. “Some things will never change.” Who said it has to be this way? Am I, are you, are we strong enough to fight the deeply-rooted prejudice that encircles us? Are we brave enough to move past the wounds of the devastating past? Is our voice loud enough to make a difference or is this just all in vain? Does it have to be an eye for an eye and a tooth? Have we still not moved past that level of immaturity or am I too blind to see the wounds that have not yet been healed? I dare say, let us break the rules, this game is ours to play.

This paper aims to propose deeper research into apartheid policy and its negative effect on the lives of the people in and out of South Africa. It also aims at suggesting ways in which architecture can solve these bruises of the past.

I intend to propose a way to create a better future for Africa while concentrating on SDG 10 – Reduced inequality. I have used dance and spoken word, YouTube videos, poems on my blog, pictures and captions on Instagram, and photo collages, 3-dimensional drawings, elevations, and plans as a means of communicating my ideas. I chose dance and poetry because dance tells a story that can be understood by even the deaf and blind. Dance speaks to the emotions. “they use no words, no sound is heard from them, yet their voice goes out into the whole earth, their words to the ------very end of the earth.”

I am a female Ugandan student who completed my first year Bachelor of Architectural Studies at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. When I first went to Cape town, I had no idea of what it meant to be black, coloured, white, Asian, etc. in South Africa. To me,
everyone was the same. I hardly understood the magnitude of what I was dealing with; racism, apartheid, xenophobia, you name it. One year later, I can try to tell the difference between a black person and a coloured, a Zulu and a Xhosa, I have learnt a bit of their language but I still feel very far apart from everyone even when I am close to them. I do not seem to fit in, even if I can speak vernacular, my accent sells me.

https://youtu.be/2hXudgjXPis
https://youtu.be/ujZ__matyxM
https://medium.com/@dedechemonges/a-twisted-version-of-shakespeare-705de49ed423
https://medium.com/@dedechemonges/her-cry-7f74343aa732
https://medium.com/@dedechemonges/african-skin-melanin-too-black-too-black-for-my-eyes-to-see-2a7ebe49d304
https://www.instagram.com/p/CVhzT9BLXqV/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

REFERENCES;

Photo collages inspired by Khensani de Klerk
https://youtu.be/Ba3E-Ha5Efc
KEY
- TREES
- PEDESTRIAN ACCESS ROUTES
- WIND DIRECTION
- VIEWS
- NOISE
- OBSTACLE (PERIMETER WALL)

RECYCLED PLASTIC PAVERS

FERROCK SCULPTURE

PLAN
UNITY IN DIVERSITY

DESIGN DETAILS

SITE
I chose the Company Gardens in Cape Town because Cape Town is known for being the most racially divided city in the world, and Company Gardens is a historical site where the Khoisan first settled and were then displaced by the Dutch. Its history ties back to my concept. In addition, Company Gardens is a tourist attraction in Cape Town, therefore, many tourists visit the gardens, school children use it as a resting area, it is a perfect location for a date, it has a lot of traders and street beggars. It has a collection of the old, young, rich, poor, etc. that’s why I chose these gardens. I also specifically chose the VOC gardens because its close to one of the entrances and will be easy to access by pedestrians, but also because it has clear views of Table Mountain at the East and the city in the North.

CHOICE OF ARCHITECTURE
A Pavilion, similar to the 2021 Serpentine Pavilion by Counterspace Architects. I chose a pavilion to provide a space for people to relax and interact with each other.

MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY
Recycled plastic pavers;
Grass pavers UG is a female-led project whose goal is contributing towards a more sustainable construction industry in Uganda. It also attempts to solve the plastic pollution problem in local communities by providing a plastic disposal pathway. It does so by developing an affordable eco-friendly hardscaping material made from recycled plastic waste and sand. The grass pavers we make are a modern concept of permeable pavers that allow water to easily drain between them, reach the soil beneath and re-circulate safely into the water cycle. They are an alternative to the traditional concrete pavers and can be used by both businesses and homeowners to pave their compounds, patios, driveways, and walkways in an environmentally friendly manner. They are an affordable housing material that not only adds an aesthetic feel to modern architecture but are also stronger, cheaper, have lightweight, and are more durable.

The intention with these is that we are specifically using heart shaped pavers.
By Agaba Mercy Sabiiti
https://www.linkedin.com/in/mercy-sabiiti-atukunda-804833132/
**Ferrock;**
- Stronger than concrete
- Uses recycled material such as steel and ferrous rock
- It is carbon neutral
- More weather resistant than concrete

**Mycelium;**
- Natural
- Has a root structure
- Lightweight
- Flexible
- Can withstand extreme temperature

**THEME COLOURS**
Black, white and red

**EXTRA NOTES**
The sculpture of the hands is made in such a way that they blend towards the ground signifying the problem of racism being solved from the routes. Preferred to be a monumental size for significance.

**EXPERIENCE**
I hope for people to feel the spirit of unity and love. The inner space will have creeping plants to show growth and revival. I intend for it to feel a bit more intimate and interactive.
RESOURCES
https://inhabitat.com/11-green-building-materials-that-are-way-better-than-concrete/
https://youtu.be/6CJ58jVF3W8
https://startupper.totalenergies.com/en/juries/yOg0JZaUZ8rQi6ssU6BfAQ/participations/12489/vote?order=random&scope=all#
SITE ANALYSIS: COMPANY GARDENS

CLIMATE

MACRO LANDMARK
Is a major landmark in Cape Town located in the city bowl with Devil’s peak on the East and Lion’s head on the West.

TOPOGRAPHY

HISTORY

100BC

Four sided fort of Good Hope built with mud and timber located in the city bowl with Devil’s peak on the East and Lion’s head on the West.

VEGETATION

Many trees with large canopies that provide shade and make the environment cool.

ACCESS

VEGETATION INTIMATE SPACES

Vegetation

Intimate spaces

Monumental size

Black and white

PRECEDENT STUDIES
2021 serpentine pavilion

counterspace architects

Black and white

VIEW

EAST

NORTH

SOUTH

WEST

SITE PICTURES

MATERIALS

1842 Stone wall

Timber

ACCESS

USAGE

REFERENCES

1842 Stone wall

Coetzer, N., 2021. UCT21 HATA2 1a.2 mp4. University of Cape Town