

TITLE	Klipgat Cave Gateway
CLIENT	Cape Nature
DATE	November 2005
AREA/EXTENT	305 sqm
LOCALITY	Klipgat Caves, Walker Bay Reserve
	<i>Project by: Design Studio Cape Town CC</i>

The Project Challenge

With the increase of access to reserves such as the Klipgat Caves, the potential role of these satellite archaeological and culturally significant sites is such that they can benefit a broader group of visitors and tourists as well as serving as local community venues and places of significance. The site is located on the spectacular ridge above the caves and overlooking the coastal edge of Walker Bay Reserve. It has a meaningful role in this broader context.

In 2005, Cape Nature put the brief out to competition. Design Studio were the winning entry.

Principles and Approach

The Brief requested of the competitors, the following:

- The environmental, archaeological, formal and social dimensions of the project is to be realised in conjunction with each other.
- The making and management of the facility to be used to activate memories, histories, traditions of the associated community and stakeholders. (allow for celebrations, gatherings and everyday activities to inform its making.)
- Establish a general and identifiable arrival precinct to form the Gateway to the Klipgat caves and Walker Bay Reserve- where knowledge of the environment and archaeological interpretation is visible.
- Implementation to make use of material from the site and minimise the environmental impact in the building and long term usage of the precinct.

In response to the above, the programme required accommodation of the following: Exhibition areas (65m), Pergola Structure (60m), Kiosk (16m), Ablution Facility (23m), Storage (7m), Pedestrian Surfaces (540m), Bus and car park (750m).

The approach to the intervention: was such that the built form ameliorated the natural quality of the landscape. The physical siting allowed the facility to be sheltered from the southerly wind while celebrating the linear quality of the cliff outcrops below. The following is an extract from the submission.



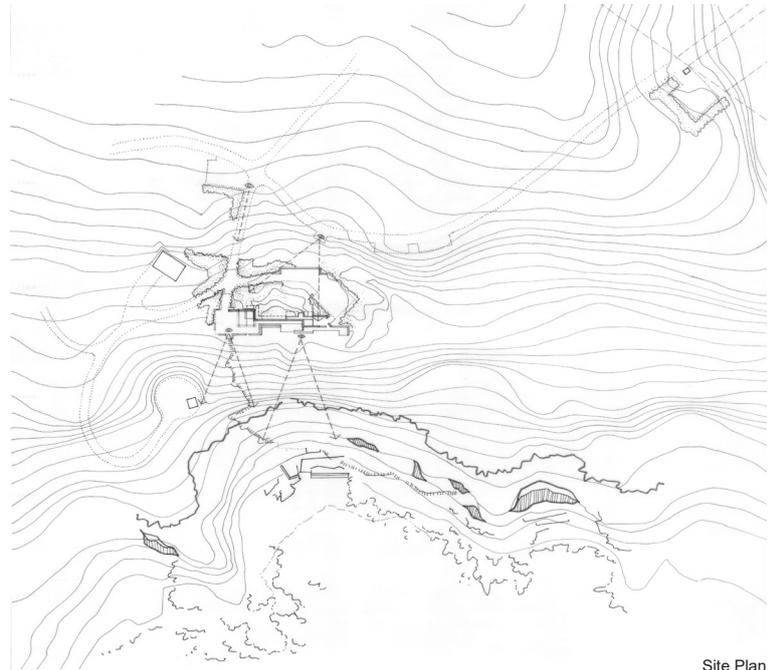
Precinct Edges: The berm edge into which the facilities are tucked establishes a robust structure of rough off-shutter concrete and packed stone walls. The concrete overhead shelf allows this wall edge to be sheltered and protected. The wall to the forecourt retains the vegetated embankment and is defined in accommodating a series of functions along its length.

The Pergola Structure: Provides a place of filtered light and shade, placed at the focal point of the forecourt. The space provides a gathering place for both everyday activities and special events of exhibition and celebration. Special exhibits can extend to the pergola as a series of demountable panels hung from the structure.

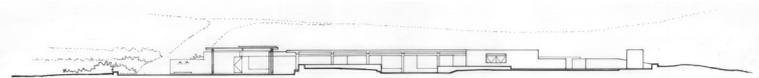
The Display Wall: Reveals the viewing windows to the court. The wall undulates to the south with the kiosk servery, and is moulded to provide a shower area and carpark threshold.

Public Facilities: Such as public telephones, water points, information boards and general lighting are accommodated along the length of the wall with the entrance to the ablutions to the southern end.

Efficient Energy Systems: It is proposed to establish a series of 'platforms' and information areas to highlight the simple technologies for solar power, grey water use, water conservation, and waste management on the site.



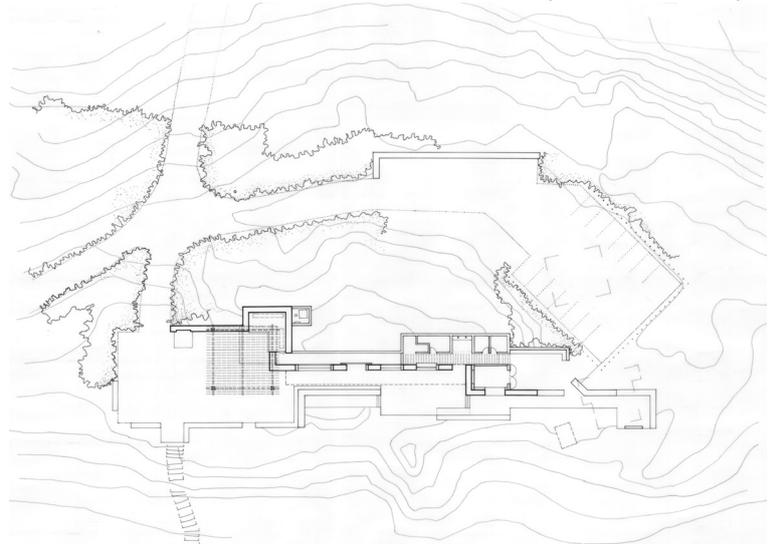
Site Plan



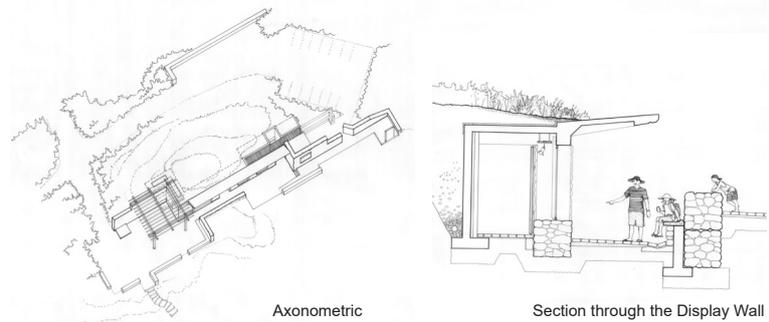
Forecourt West Elevation



Section through exhibition area and Pergola



Layout Plan



Axonometric

Section through the Display Wall