

TITLE Fulani Meeting Place: Alterations and Additions
CLIENT VPUU
DATE 2010- 2013
AREA/EXTENT -
LOCALITY Site C, Khayelitsha
Project by: Design Studio Cape Town CC

The Project Challenge

The site is that of the existing Fulani Hall which plays an important community function and which was in need of upgrading. The newly upgraded Fulani Meeting Place is expected to accommodate the various needs of present users and provide for a manageable and accessible facility to cater for youth in the area. Furthermore, it is expected to accommodate and support celebrations, plays, music, educational and information disseminating programmes.

The project forms part of a larger group of urban upgrade projects managed by the VPUU within Khayelitsha, which aim to address crime levels and uplift the local communities.

Principles and Approach

The approach required that the present Fulani Hall be retained in its extent, with the height of the roof raised to provide a civic scale to the space. The additional accommodation in the form of support areas to the hall, were clipped on to the edges of the main hall space.

Other spatial considerations were to:

- Retain the existing role of the site as a link between Kiyane and Amandla Roads and beyond. This link role reinforces the foyer's function as a vibrant and robust space that can support exhibitions, information sharing, and informal gathering while simultaneously acting as a covered spill out space to the hall. This area will have a well-lit wall, display space, public telephones, seating, and storage areas.
- Ensure that the venue becomes a positive platform for the community by involving youth and elders in capturing the struggle history and events associated to the hall and Site C.
- Create an interactive built interface and in so doing engage the community. One of the means of achieving this was by providing a kitchen that could open up directly to the road while simultaneously servicing the hall, and for the caretaker unit to be raised on the first floor level to provide visual surveillance over Kiyane Road and the facility.

Proposals

The building is tiered with the roof stepped on 3 levels to the southwest. This enables natural lighting and cross ventilation for both the hall as well as the main support areas.

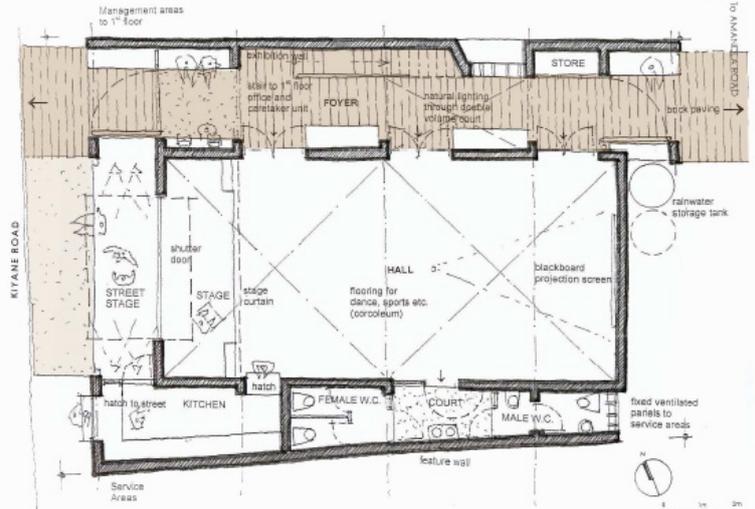
Both the service area and the foyer/management areas are organised around 'court' spaces that allow for natural light and ventilation and form focus areas associated off the hall.

The additions provide a civic scale to the hall with the management support facilities being visible above the residential fabric. Lighting to the exterior of the building and signage is designed to allow increased visibility of the facility.

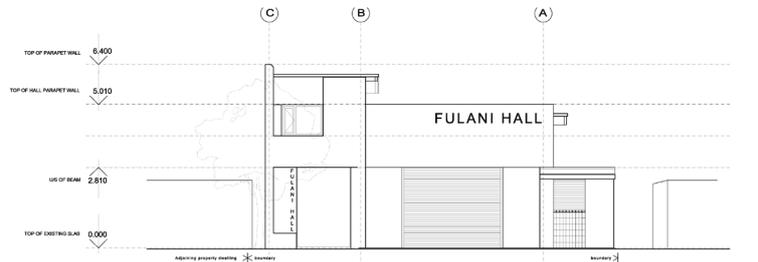
The interior of the foyer and service areas is proposed to be painted in vibrant colours that are intended to be visible when the facility is open and to make evident the distinction between the old hall and the additions.

Large entrance doors to the hall address the domestic scale of the building. The main foyer doors are metal pivot units painted with a mural that tells the history of the hall and its location, as developed through a public art process.

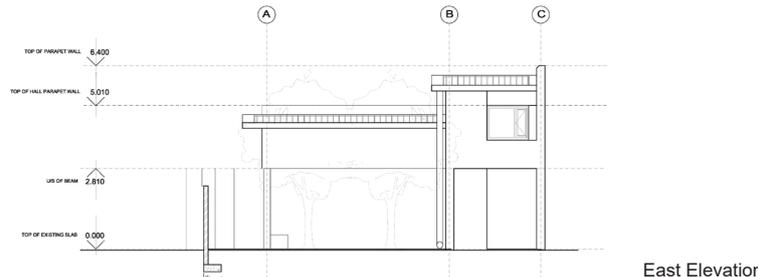
The structure of the old hall could not be unduly loaded. All additional accommodation was therefore housed within a separate structural section, comprising a concrete frame that stabilises the existing Hall walls. The concrete frame also allows the roof of the hall to be raised. The old hall's laminae rafter purlins were restored and re-used for the raised roof.



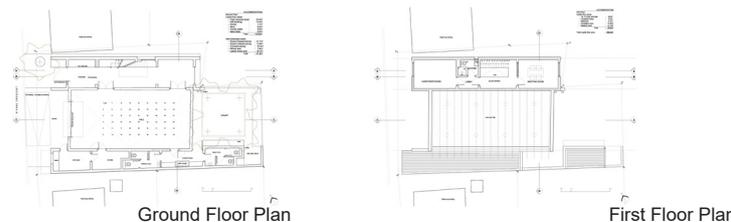
Ground Floor Sketch Design Plan



Kiyane Street West Elevation



East Elevation



Ground Floor Plan

First Floor Plan



Left: View of model from Kiyane Street; Right (top): View of roof; Right (bottom): South view of model.