

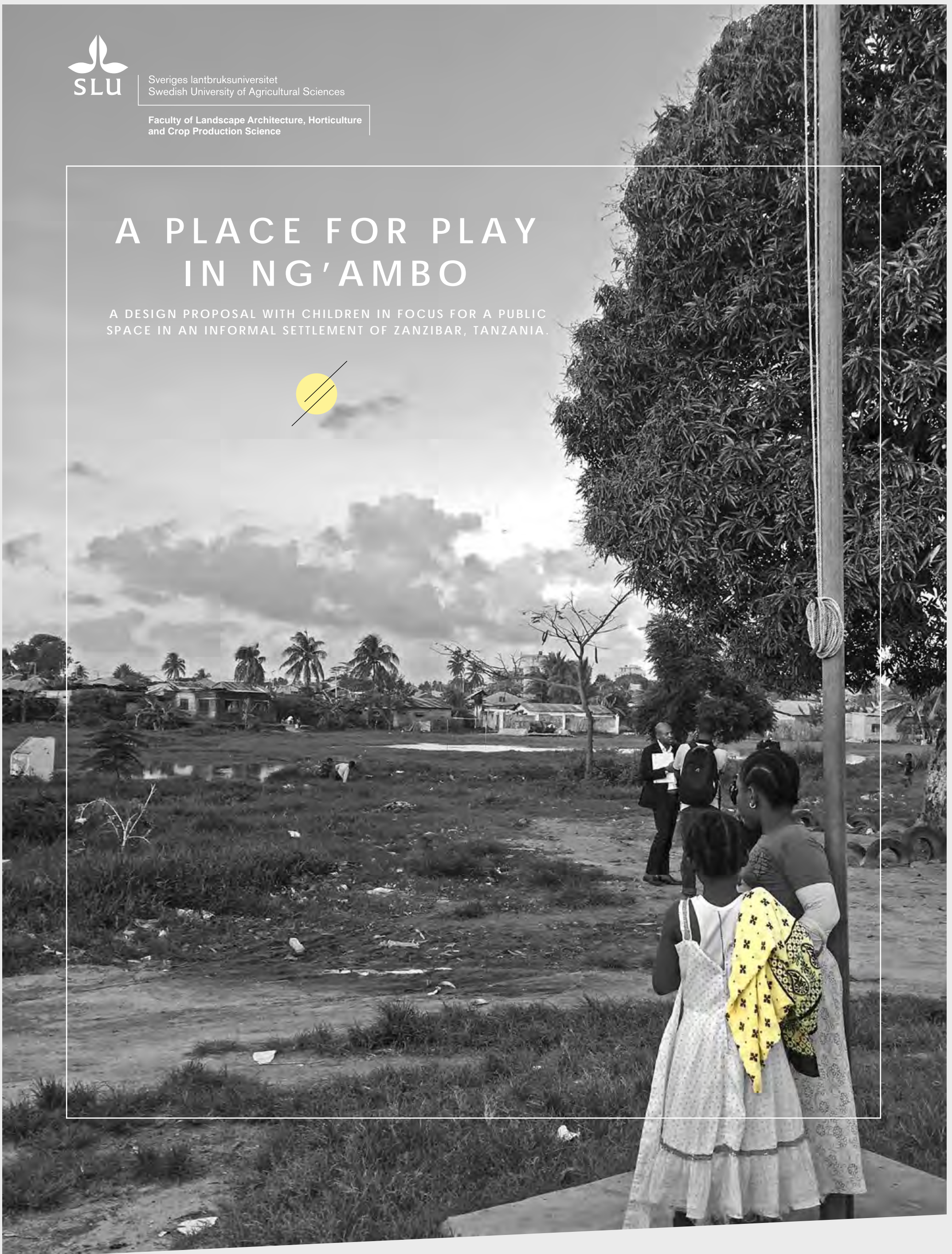
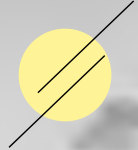


Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Faculty of Landscape Architecture, Horticulture
and Crop Production Science

A PLACE FOR PLAY IN NG'AMBO

A DESIGN PROPOSAL WITH CHILDREN IN FOCUS FOR A PUBLIC
SPACE IN AN INFORMAL SETTLEMENT OF ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA.



A PLACE FOR PLAY IN NG'AMBO

A design proposal with children in focus for a public space in an informal settlement of Zanzibar, Tanzania.

EN PLATS FÖR LEK I NG'AMBO

Ett gestaltungsförslag med barn i fokus för en allmän plats i ett informellt bostadsområde i Zanzibar, Tanzania.

Anna Eklund

Supervisor: Antoinette Wärnbäck, SLU, Department of Urban and Rural Development

Co-supervisor: Maria Wisselgren, SLU, Department of Urban and Rural Development

Examiner: Maria Kylin, SLU, Department of Landscape Architecture, Management and Planning

Co-examiner: Christopher Raymond, SLU, Department of Landscape Architecture, Management and Planning

Credits: 30

Project Level: A2E

Course title: Master Project in Landscape Architecture

Course code: EX0814

Subject: Landscape Architecture

Programme: Landscape Architecture programme

Place of publication: Alnarp

Year of publication: 2018

Cover image: Anna Eklund 2017. Image showing Uwanja wa Farasi

Online Publication: <http://stud.epsilon.slu.se>

Keywords: developing country, designing for play, children's perspective, informal settlements in Zanzibar, Ng'ambo, Uwanja wa Farasi, Minor Field Studies.

© 2018 Anna Eklund: anna.reklund@gmail.com

All photographs and illustrations belong to the author if nothing else is stated.

SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Faculty of Landscape Architecture, Horticulture and Crop Production Science
Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management



Asante sana, Thank you, Tack!

There are several people who have contributed to this Master thesis in different ways, and without them this work would not have been possible.

I would therefore like to thank **Dr. Muhammad Juma**, Director of the Department of Urban and Rural Planning and my local supervisor in Zanzibar, whose dedication to the profession has been truly inspiring. Without his guidance and engagement in my project, it would never have been the same. I would also like to thank my supervisor **Antoienette Wärnbäck**, who have supported me since the very beginning and given me invaluable input all the way through. Also, thanks to my co-supervisor **Maria Wisselgren** whose positive energy was greatly appreciated. I also want to acknowledge **Rolf Johansson** for connecting me with Dr. Juma, and thereby enabling the field studies in Zanzibar.

I want to thank the staff I met at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning, who always made me feel at home at their office; and especially **Muhammed Badruddin, Yussuf** and **Muarabu**, who invested a lot of their time in assisting me at the site visits. A special thanks to **Thomas, Elias** and **Axel** for the everyday lunch company and for making my stay in Zanzibar much more enjoyable. A great thanks to **Liljewall Arkitekter** for providing me with a desk space and unlimited cups of coffee back in Stockholm.

Thank you to my **family**, who always support me when I challenge myself, and believe in me more than I do. And thanks to **dad** for supporting me from above, I know that you would have been proud.

Last but not least, thank you to all **the professionals in Stone Town** and to all the **residents in Kwahani** that I met through the interviews, whose kindness and willingness to share knowledge will always be remembered and appreciated.

“It takes a village to raise a child”

African Saying.

ABSTRACT

Almost all the countries of the world have signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Convention is an international agreement that aims to give children the right to be heard and treated with respect, no matter where in the world the child is born. Article 31 of the Convention speaks, among other things, of the child's right to engage in play. Play is crucial for the child's mental and physical development, and the right to play should not be determined by where or in what conditions the child is born into.

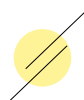
The existence of public places that encourage play should therefore be relevant worldwide, especially in areas that are neglected due to poverty. Informal settlements in developing countries are examples of areas that only have limited resources to provide their residents with a stimulating outdoor environment. This issue applies to the informal settlements in Zanzibar, which is one of the most densely populated regions in Africa.

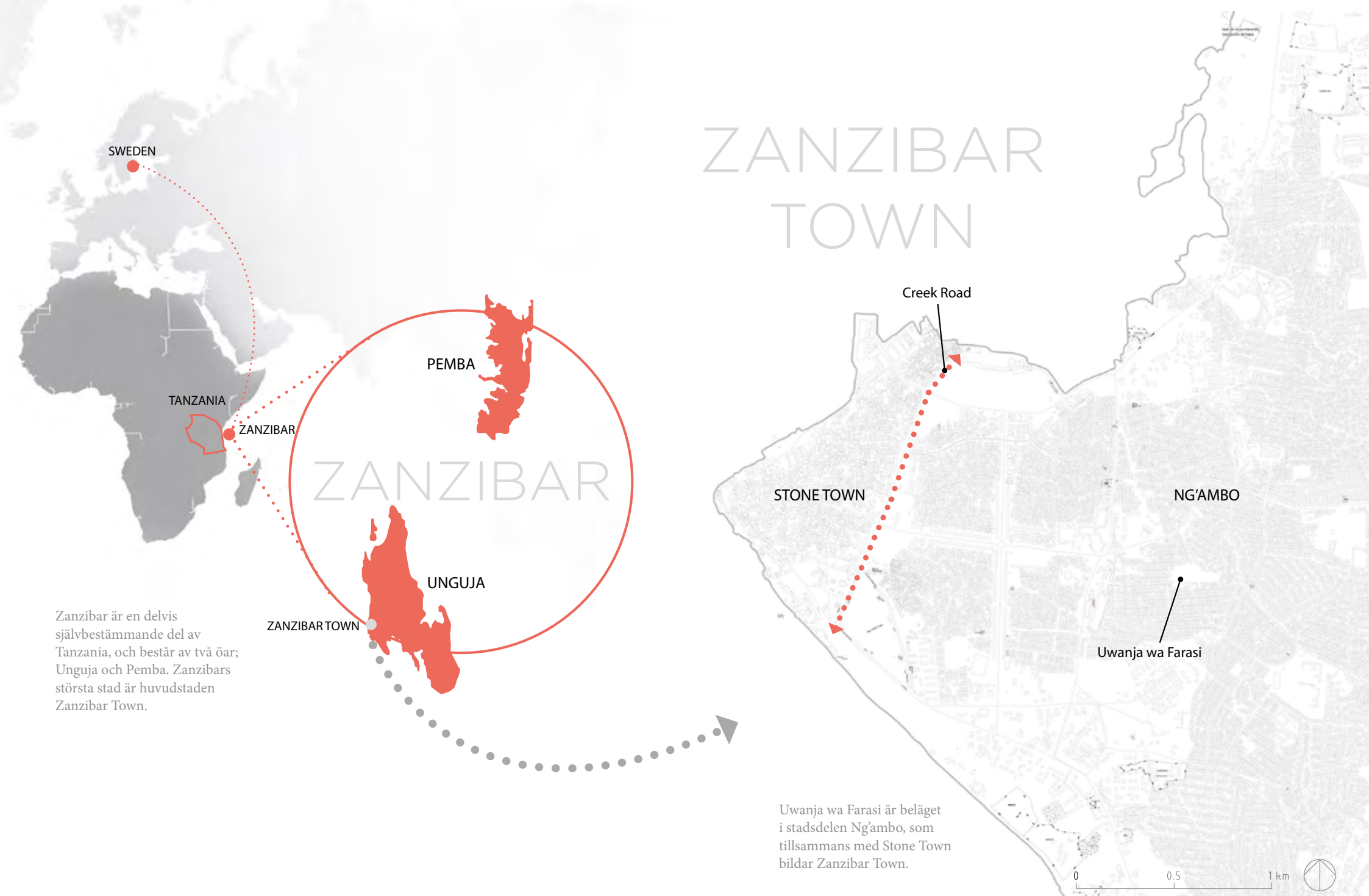
The largest and most crowded city in Zanzibar is Zanzibar Town, which is visibly divided into two areas; Stone Town and Ng'ambo. Stone Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, while Ng'ambo (meaning “*The other side*” in Swahili) consists of informal settlements, where the houses are built by the residents without any elaborated plan from authorities, which means that a minimum of space have been left to roads and public places.

Located within the informal settlements of Ng'ambo is the site called Uwanja wa Farasi. During a nine-week field study sponsored by a Sida scholarship, research on this site was conducted to develop a design proposal that encourage children's play. The research consisted of literature studies, site studies and interviews with locals.

Uwanja wa Farasi was originally a Polo Ground, established by the British during the colonial times. Today, it is an open, green field that suffers from littering and flooding during the rainy seasons. It is mainly used as a passage or for football games, although the large quantities of open space have the potential to contain multiple functions that could contribute to an upgrade of the neighbourhood and encourage children's play.

The design proposal intends to turn Uwanja wa Farasi into an inclusive, urban park by keeping the existing qualities and adding new elements and environments that stimulate children and encourage play. This is achieved by the implementation of eight design strategies that derived from a compilation of the literature studies and field studies. The ambition is that the design proposal will serve as an inspiration and set the direction for a future sustainable development of the neighbourhood. The ideas on how to design with children's perspective in mind could also be applicable to other sites with similar issues in other contexts.





Zanzibar är en delvis självbestämmande del av Tanzania, och består av två öar; Unguja och Pemba. Zanzibars största stad är huvudstaden Zanzibar Town.

Uwanja wa Farasi är beläget i stadsdelen Ng'ambo, som tillsammans med Stone Town bildar Zanzibar Town.

SAMMANFATTNING

Nästan alla världens länder har skrivit under FN:s Barnkonvention. Konventionen är en internationell överenskommelse som syftar till att ge barn rätten att bli hörda och behandlade med respekt, oavsett vart i världen barnet är fött. Barnkonventionens artikel 31 talar bland annat om barnets rätt att delta i lek. Lek är avgörande för barnets mentala och fysiska utveckling, och rätten att leka bör inte bestämmas utav var eller under vilka förhållanden barnet är fött.

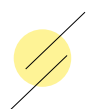
Förekomsten av offentliga miljöer som uppmuntrar till lek borde därför vara relevant världen över, särskilt i områden som är försummade på grund av fattigdom. Informella bostadsområden i utvecklingsländer är exempel på områden som endast har begränsade resurser att förse sina invånare med en stimulerande utemiljö. Denna problematik gäller även de informella bostadsområdena i Zanzibar, som är en av Afrikas mest tätbefolkade regioner.

Den största och mest trångbebodda staden i Zanzibar heter Zanzibar Town, och är tydligt uppdelad i två olika områden; Stone Town och Ng'ambo. Stone Town är med på UNESCO:s världsarvslista, medan Ng'ambo (som betyder "Den andra sidan" på swahili) består av informella bostadsområden, där husen är byggda av invånarna utan någon utarbetad plan från högre instanser, vilket betyder att minimalt med utrymme har lämnats för vägar och allmänna platser.

I Ng'ambos informella bostadsområden ligger platsen Uwanja wa Farasi. Under en nio veckor lång fältstudie (sponsrad av ett stipendium från Sida) undersöktes denna plats i syfte att utveckla ett gestaltungs-förslag som uppmuntrar barns lek. Undersökningarna bestod utav litteraturstudier, platsstudier och intervjuer med lokalbefolkningen.

Uwanja wa Farasi var ursprungligen en spelplan för hästpolo som grundades utav britterna under kolonialtiden. Idag är det ett öppet, grönt fält som lider utav nedskräpning och översvämningar under regnperioderna. Platsen används huvudsakligen som en passage eller som fotbollsplan, även om de stora, öppna ytorna har potential att innehålla flera funktioner som kan bidra till en uppgradering av grannskapet samt uppmuntra barns lek.

Gestaltungs-förslaget avser att omvandla Uwanja wa Farasi till en inkluderande, urban park genom att bevara dess nuvarande kvaliteter, samt addera nya element och miljöer som stimulerar barn och uppmuntrar lek. Detta uppnåddes genom att implementera de åtta design strategier som framkom genom en sammanställning av litteraturstudierna och fältstudierna. Ambitionen är att gestaltungs-förslaget ska fungera som en inspiration, samt ange riktningen för en framtida hållbar utveckling av närområdet. Idéerna gällande gestaltning med barns perspektiv i åtanke skulle också kunna tillämpas på andra platser med liknande problem i andra kontexter.



DEFINITIONS & TERMINOLOGY

Child

The definition in this thesis follows the one that is done by the UN; “The Convention defines a ‘child’ as a person below the age of 18” (UNICEF 2017).

Children’s perspective

Using personal and professional tools in order to approach a situation with children’s best in mind.

CRC

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

DoURP

Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar.

Eid

Traditional Islamic celebration.

Informal settlements

Settlements that have arisen due to an urgent need for housing, which means that the residents themselves have distributed the land, and built their homes without any elaborated overall control from a higher instance.

IPA

International Play Association.

Madrasa

an Islamic School.

MFS – Minor Field Studies

Scholarship for bachelor or master students for gathering material on-site in a developing country for their degree essay.

Nyarugoe

Spinach-like crop growing in Zanzibar.

Nage

Local Zanzibari game, where two children try to stop the third person from filling up an empty bottle with sand through hitting that person with a small ball.

NGO

Non-Governmental Organisation.

Playground

A site where children play, either a formal (planned) or informal (unplanned).

PPI

Practical Permaculture Institution in Zanzibar.

RGoZ

Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar

Sida

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Swedish government agency that works on the behalf of the Swedish parliament and government with the mission to reduce poverty in the world (Sida 2014).

Sheha

The person who is head over the Shehia region.

Shehia

The smallest administrative unit in Zanzibar.

TNSB

Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics.

ZanPlan

The main comprehensive planning document on Zanzibar, conducted in 2015 (Folkers & Juma 2016, p.35).

ZEMA

Zanzibar Environment Management Authority.

ZMC

Zanzibar Municipal Council.

DISPOSITION

Chapter 2-6 ends with the paragraph “Aspects to consider in the design proposal”, where the conclusions from each chapter that needs to be considered in the design work are listed.

1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the subject and the background of this thesis and methods used. It also presents the aim, the research question, limitations and target group of the thesis.

2. ZANZIBAR

This section is the first part of the theoretical framework of the thesis. It describes the historical, geographical, economic and cultural context in a larger scale and introduces the complexity of Zanzibar Town.

3. CHILDREN & OUTDOOR SPACE

The second part of the theoretical framework explores the relationship between children, play and the outdoor environment. Further it describes characteristics in the outdoor environment that encourage play.

4. CHILDREN IN ZANZIBAR TOWN

This is the first part covering the field studies in Zanzibar, consisting of a presentation and categorisation of visited places for children in Zanzibar Town.

5. THE SITE: UWANJA WA FARASI

The second part that covers the field studies in Zanzibar introduces Uwanja wa Farasi - the site for the design proposal, and presents the inventories and the site analyses of the site and its surroundings.

6. LOCAL OPINION

The third and last section that covers the field studies in Zanzibar. This chapter presents the results from the interviews with the local stakeholders and residents, as well as the result from the drawing workshop with the children.

7. DESIGN STRATEGIES

In this section, the knowledge from the “Aspects to consider in the design proposal” (presented at the end of chapter 2-6) are compiled into eight design strategies.

8. DESIGN PROPOSAL

This chapter shows the concept of the design and the design proposal. The presentation of the design is based on the eight design strategies and is illustrated by an illustrative plan, visualisations and sections.

9. DISCUSSION

This chapter reconnects to the introducing chapter and discusses the result of the thesis in relation to the aim and the background.

THEORETICAL STUDIES

FIELD STUDIES

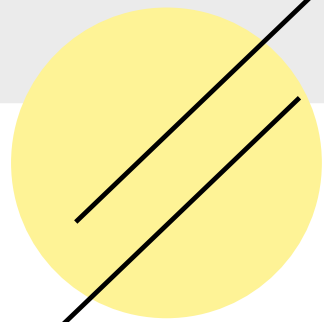
TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	09	5. THE SITE: UWANJA WA FARASI.....	44
1.1 Aim	11	5.1 Historical Context	45
1.2 Question	11	5.1.1. The history of Uwanja wa Farasi	
1.3 Work Process	12	5.1.2. Morphological development of Uwanja wa Farasi	
1.4 Methods	13	5.1.3. The heritage of the site	
1.4.1 Literature Studies		5.2 Current situation: The Surroundings	50
1.4.2 Observations in Zanzibar Town		5.2.1. Inventory of the surrounding area	
1.4.3 Inventories of the site and its surroundings		5.2.2. Settlements	
1.4.4 Site Analyses		5.2.3. Connections and streetscape	
1.4.5 Local Opinion (Interviews & workshop)		5.2.4. Vegetation & open space	
1.4.6 Design Process		5.2.5. Children & play	
1.4.7 Selection of Methods		5.3 Current situation: The Site	55
1.5 Limitations	18	5.3.1. Inventory & Observations done on site	
1.6 Target Group	18	5.3.2. Climate & Topography	
2. ZANZIBAR.....	19	5.3.3. Surfaces & Vegetation	
2.1 Getting to know Zanzibar	20	5.4 Site Analyses	58
2.1.1 History		5.4.1 Lynch-Analysis of the site	
2.1.2 Climate		5.4.2 SWOT-Analysis of the site	
2.1.3 Economy		5.3 Aspects to consider in the design proposal IV	62
2.1.4 People & Culture		6. LOCAL OPINION.....	63
2.1.5 Planning Policies		6.1 Interviews with users of Uwanja wa Farasi	64
2.1.6 Significant Master Plans throughout the ages		6.1.1 Interviews with the elders	
2.2 The two sides of Zanzibar Town	25	6.1.2 Interviews & workshop with children	
2.2.1 Stone Town - a world heritage site		6.2 Interviews with stakeholders	69
2.2.2 The informal settlements of Ng'ambo		6.3 Aspects to consider in the design proposal V	73
2.2.3 Informal settlements or slum?		7. DESIGN STRATEGIES.....	74
2.3 Aspects to consider in the design proposal I	28	8. DESIGN PROPOSAL.....	76
3. CHILDREN & OUTDOOR SPACE.....	29	8.1 Future development of the Kwahani area	77
3.1 Defining Childhood	30	8.2 The Link: the concept for the design	78
3.2 Children's Rights	31	8.3 Design process	79
3.3 The Importance of Play	31	8.4 Illustrative plan	80
3.4 Children & the Outdoors	32	8.5 Design proposal	81
3.5 Planning for Play	32	8.6 Implementing the design strategies	82
3.6 Play in Developing Countries	34	8.7 Three areas of different character	85
3.7 Aspects to consider in the design proposal II	35	9. DISCUSSION.....	95
4. CHILDREN IN ZANZIBAR TOWN.....	36	9.1 The thesis in a larger context	96
4.1 Reference sites	37	9.2 Aim & questions	96
4.2 Representative activities in Zanzibar Town	42	9.3 The result	97
4.3 Aspects to consider in the design proposal III	43	9.3.1 General discussion	
		9.3.2 Design strategies	
		9.4 Methods	100
		9.5 Further research	102
		9.6 Personal reflections	102
		10. REFERENCES.....	103

1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the subject and the background of this thesis and methods used. It also presents the aim, research questions, limitations and target group of the thesis.



INTRODUCTION

This Master Thesis in Landscape Architecture presents a design proposal for Uwanja wa Farasi, a public space in Ng'ambo, which is a district of informal settlements in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The project is based on Minor Field Studies (MFS) conducted in Zanzibar during the 29th of August and the 1st of November 2017, which was made possible through received scholarship from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

The thesis consists of a **theoretical part**, that together with the **field studies** are providing all the foundational knowledge to the **practical part**, where the gathered information is summarized into a design proposal.

The Global Right of Every Child

Just like almost all the countries of the world, Tanzania has signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). The Convention is a legally binding international agreement that enhances children's rights and aim to give children the right to be heard and treated with respect, no matter where in the world the child is born (UNICEF 2017). Article 31 of the convention speaks of that the all States Parties shall:

"1. Recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

2. Respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity."

(UNICEF 1989)

The International Play Association (2013) states that the rights presented in article 31 are represented in the child's right to play, which is central to childhood itself and to the development of children both as individuals and as members of the society. They claim that article 31 contributes to the social, cultural and economic development of the society as a whole. However, in developing countries, lack of financial resources can result in difficulties with meeting the standards of the Convention. Children living in poverty, in home environments with little scope for play and in neglected neighbourhoods, therefore require particular attention to realize their rights under Article 31 (IPA 2013).

Urbanisation leading to informal settlements

According to the United Nations Population Division (2015) the number of young people are higher than ever in the world. Tanzania is one of many other developing countries experiencing an increasing population, mostly because of the high birth rate of previous generations and in the wake of urbanisation. Right now, about half of the population in Tanzania is under 15 years old (UNDP 2015).

Tannerfeldt & Ljung (2006) discuss the effects of urbanisation in their book *"More Urban – Less Poor"*, where they write that although urbanisation indicates that the country has grown stronger economically, in developing countries it often results in negative consequences due to lack of financial resources, such as not being able to offer their citizens houses, infrastructure and other basic services. Rapid population growth in developing countries can therefore result in the upcoming of informal settlements; which in this case refers to residential areas that have arisen due to an urgent need for housing, which has resulted in the residents themselves distributing the land use and building their homes without any elaborated overall plan from a higher authority (UN-Habitat 2010).

Informal settlements in Zanzibar

Informal settlements are as earlier mentioned the result of informal land subdivision and unplanned spatial growth (UN-Habitat 2010). Tumsifu Jonas Nnkya (2007) considers the ineffective planning result of informal settlements being a national issue in Tanzania, stating that that the lack of transparency and accountability in the country's planning practice serves the interests of more powerful and influential groups and keep neglecting those already in disadvantage.

With a population of about 1,3 million, Zanzibar is one of the most densely populated regions in Africa (TNBS 2012). The largest and most crowded city in Zanzibar is Zanzibar Town, which is visibly divided into two areas; Stone Town and Ng'ambo (McIntyre 2013, p. 117).

With a history of being the main Eastern-African coastal trading town for more than a millennium, merchants from Africa, India and the Arab-countries were attracted to Zanzibar Town. The melting pot of the countries diverse cultures is reflected on the architecture of Stone Town, which is one of the reasons why it nowadays is a valuable tourist destination and classified as a world heritage site (UNESCO 2015). Travel agencies profit from neighbourhoods like Stone Town and from the stunning beaches when it comes to promoting Zanzibar, but there are still parts of the city that do not serve as tourist attractions (McIntyre 2013, p. 117).

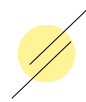
Ng'ambo, the other part of Zanzibar Town, is rarely described with the purpose to attract tourists (McIntyre 2013, p. 118). Ng'ambo means "*The other side*" in Swahili and is, with a population of 2581 people per square kilometre, part of the region with the second highest population density in all of Tanzania (TNBS 2012). Ng'ambo consists of informal settlements; which in this case refers to semi-planned or unplanned residential areas (UN-Habitat 2010).

The informal settlements in Zanzibar have very vague regulations regarding plot size, which means that inhabitants often exploit as much land as they have been given (Ali & Sulaiman 2006). Ali & Sulaiman (2006) state that this leaves minimum space for roads and limited open spaces for social services like schools or children's playgrounds. Furthermore, the residents in these areas often have to walk for long distances to reach areas that serve their basic needs in terms of what a social society should offer (Ali & Sulaiman 2006). Architect and lecturer Hernández-García (2013) is however stating that there is a lot to learn from investigating informal settlements, as they are very much affected by their residents in a way that traditionally planned areas might not be.

Using public space in informal settlements to help fulfil the standards of the Convention

Since the upcoming of the informal settlements in Ng'ambo is driven by urbanisation and the immediate needs of an increasing number of citizens, rather than the ambitions of an urban planner, the public spaces of the area follow no planned pattern but consist of leftover space between buildings. This non-restricted use of space between buildings could provide an opportunity to create outdoor spaces that improve the everyday life for its inhabitants. However, there is a risk that the freedom of the non-regulated land use also results in a neglect of responsibility. This could imply difficulties with establishing and maintaining areas for public use.

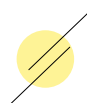
In countries that are less privileged economically, such as Tanzania, public space provides an opportunity to become an important complement to the indoor environment, where the outdoor environment could be a way of catering children's right to meet the standards of Article 31 of the Convention (IPA 2013). As children's well-being and their prerequisites are shaped by where they live, the quality of play is shaped by the environments it happens in (Bartlett et al. 1999). This means that no matter where in the world children live, the lack of play will affect them. Upgrading public space in informal settlements with the ambition to encourage play could therefore be a way of contributing to a more stimulating life for children.



1.1 AIM

The aim of this thesis is to identify how public space in informal settlements can be improved through interventions in the physical environment from children's perspective, and how that can be implemented through a design proposal.

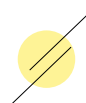
The purpose is to add the children's perspective when investigating design solutions for public space in informal settlements, and to create a conceptual design proposal that is relevant for the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar to develop further. The purpose for this thesis is also to serve as an example of how to work with landscape architecture in areas with similar conditions in developing countries. The design proposal is based on design strategies developed through a combination of literature studies, interviews and observations and analyses done on site in Zanzibar.



1.2 QUESTION

- *How can a design proposal be developed and applied to the context of the informal settlements of Ng'ambo, Zanzibar, in order to improve the public space to stimulate children's play?*

In order to investigate the question above, it was relevant to study how the public spaces of Ng'ambo are used by children today, as well as what needs these existing places fulfil and what they are lacking. It was also necessary to study why it is important to take children's perspective into consideration when planning public space, and what characteristics the outdoor environment should possess in order to contribute to children's everyday life through encouraging play.



1.3 WORK PROCESS

The work progress of this Master Thesis can be divided into four stages.

STAGE 1 - PREPARATIONS

After spending months thinking about conducting the Master Thesis in a developing country, the final decision on subject and country was made during the application for the MFS scholarship. Johansson¹ put me in touch with Dr. Muhammad Juma; architect, planner and Director of the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar, who confirmed the interest in the suggested subject and welcomed me to their office in Zanzibar. When the scholarship was received, the mandatory Sida preparation course was conducted in Härnösand on the 16th-18th of August 2017.

STAGE 2 - THEORETICAL PART

The theoretical part created the contextual framework for the thesis and covers the literature studies that were carried out in Stockholm. This stage also included practical preparations to structure the stay in Zanzibar and to develop, plan and refine the methods to be as time efficient as possible. The literature studies were a recurring process throughout the thesis, but were the most intense in the beginning.

STAGE 3 - FIELD STUDIES

The field studies in Zanzibar are consisting of observations, site studies and interviews conducted within the timeframe of 29th of August – 1st of November 2017. The Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar is located in Stone Town, and the Director of DoURP was my local supervisor on site. DoURP form the institution that register and survey plots, design roads and public spaces and develop all master plans for Zanzibar. The subject of the thesis was discussed during the first meeting with the Director, and a time schedule was set up to structure the stay. Several potential sites for the design proposal were visited before deciding to work with Uwanja wa Farasi, whose conditions were considered to be the most compatible with the subject of the thesis.

The site studies and interviews were supervised by the Director or his colleagues at DoURP, and the gradual work progress was presented to them during four occasions of studio sessions at the office. In addition to the invaluable input from the staff at DoURP, the two month stay in the narrow alleys of Stone Town contributed to an increased understanding of the local culture. The stay in Zanzibar ended with a visit to Uwanja wa Farasi, where a draft of the design proposal was presented to the locals (and translated to Swahili by staff from DoURP). This was mainly done in order show respect and gratitude to the residents for their engagement and contribution with information during the interviews.

Besides from being a part of the Master Thesis, the produced material was used to create a pamphlet to highlight importance of preserving Uwanja wa Farasi as a public space and initiate a redevelopment of the Kwahani area. The pamphlet was presented to, and approved by the President of Zanzibar, and will hopefully motivate the Government to invest in the area.

STAGE 4 - PRACTICAL PART

The gathered knowledge from the literature studies and the perceived experiences in Zanzibar were compiled into eight design strategies that lead to the development of the concept and the design proposal. Just like the literature studies, the design process was an ongoing procedure for the whole Master Thesis, although it was the most intense as soon as the literature studies and the site visits were done. The first draft of the design proposal was made in Zanzibar, and thereafter refined and illustrated in detail back home in Sweden. When the illustrative plan was made, illustrations such as visualisations, perspectives and sections were produced. When the production of illustrations was done, the layout was updated, and the result of the thesis was evaluated and discussed.

¹ Johansson, Rolf. Professor Emeritus and Researcher in Landscape Architecture at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, e-mail 2017-02-10.

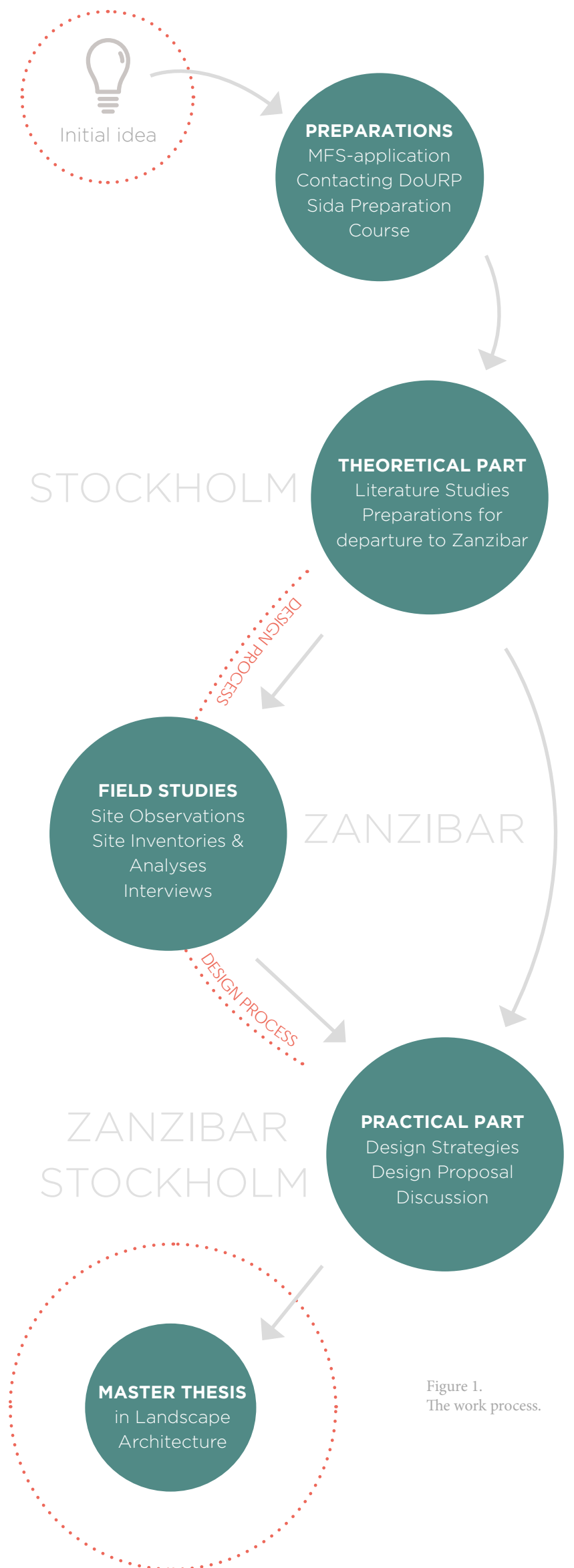


Figure 1.
The work process.

STOCKHOLM

ZANZIBAR

ZANZIBAR
STOCKHOLM

1.4 METHODS

The interdisciplinary character of this thesis requires a mixed methodology approach consisting of the methods and tools presented below.

1.4.1. Literature Studies

Literature studies were conducted to create a theoretical framework that would build the base of this thesis and be helpful during both field studies and the design process. The literature was chosen with two main focuses; firstly, to gain a broader understanding of Zanzibar by studying the **local context**, and secondly to study **children in relation to outdoor space**.

The literature that has been used is mainly consisting of books and online publications. The books have been found by searching through the database of the City Library of Stockholm and the Library of SLU Ultuna, using the same keywords as when searching for online publications. The online publications have been found through searching via data bases such as Epsilon, Google and Google Scholar. Keywords that have been used are: urban planning AND informal settlements, urban planning AND developing countries, children AND informal settlements, children AND urban planning, children AND outdoor play.

Local context

Contextual literature studies were conducted to be well-informed about the historical, political and cultural aspects of Zanzibar and Zanzibar Town, and how they have affected how the city has developed to gain a broader understanding of its specific premises and needs. Literature studies on the definition of informal settlements and their appearances in Zanzibar Town were also conducted in order to understand the context of which the site for the design proposal is situated in.

Children and outdoor space

The second focus was to study literature more specifically on the subject of this thesis; exploring the relationship between children, play and outdoor environment. It was also to investigate and prepare methods that could be suitable when planning for children. The second focus also included studies on characteristics in the outdoor environment that are important to children, preferably adapted to the premises of a developing country.



1.4.2. Observations in Zanzibar Town

To be able to propose a design in an unfamiliar cultural context, it was essential to get to know the city and the culture as much as possible to gather a local understanding of how places for children look like, and how public spaces are used by children in general.

Therefore, un-structured direct observations (Trochim 2006) were carried out in several sites to gain a deeper insight of how places for children are represented and used in Zanzibar Town. To visit the reference sites, as well as spending everyday life in Stone Town, also contributed to an increased knowledge about local plants and elements represented in public places. The observed reference sites were found through recommendations by the Director of the Department of Urban and Rural Planning, and the general observations of children's usage of public space mainly occurred during spontaneous walks in the city. The planned site visits were always accompanied by staff from DoURP, who introduced the site while the observations were documented through taking notes and photographing.

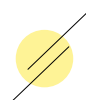
The findings of the observations were divided into two categories;

Reference sites

Seven planned site visits were conducted to demonstrate different characteristics of places for children in Zanzibar Town. The findings from each visit were documented and later categorised. The assets and flaws of these places were identified to be able to draw conclusions of what strategies to use in the design proposal. Observations of material, vegetation and other physical elements that were found at the visited sites were also an essential tool in the process of developing an accurate design proposal, well-adapted to the existing context.

Representative activities in Zanzibar Town

The overall aim with the observations of children's activities, was to identify in what settings children in Zanzibar Town gathered, and how they mainly chose to use the public space.



1.4.3. Inventories of the site and its surroundings

The inventories were conducted in order to identify existing features and conditions of the chosen site and its surroundings, to be able to determine the preconditions that were relevant for the design proposal. This was done in a smaller and a larger scale, in order to understand the current situation of Uwanja wa Farasi and how it is connected to a larger context.

The inventories and site analyses were done through compiling notes and photographs from a total of five site visits, each lasting for about 30 minutes, and were always accompanied by the Sheha of Kwahani and staff from DoURP. The site visits took place during various days of the week, either in the morning or in the afternoon.

The Surroundings of the Site (inventories in a larger scale):

To be able to create a design proposal that interacts with its surroundings, inventories in a larger scale were conducted. To better understand the context of the site, the inventories of the surroundings were limited to include the following aspects; **settlements** (styles and conditions of the buildings as well as the location of social services), **connections and streetscape, vegetation and open space, and children and play.**

The inventories of the surroundings were conducted during the site visits with the Sheha of Kwahani and an interpreter from DoURP. The information that was gathered while walking around in the area was documented by mapping, photographing, sketching and taking notes.

Because of the informal character of the neighbourhood, there is no registered information about social services in the area. Maps of three different scales (covering the site and the Kwahani area) were therefore brought to a meeting with the Sheha of Kwahani, where he was asked to locate relevant buildings and places in the maps. The Sheha was chosen to assist with the mapping due to his local expertise about the area. In addition to the information that was gathered during the site visits, the inventories of the vegetation, open spaces and infrastructure are based on a drone image that covers the relevant area. The drone image was taken in 2017 and received digitally (with the permission to use) from the Department of Surveying and Mapping in Zanzibar.

The findings from the inventories of the surroundings were mapped out and categorised in thematic maps that present an overview of the existing situation in a larger scale.

The Site: Uwanja wa Farasi (inventories in a smaller scale)

To become familiar with the site and gather relevant information about its current condition and components, the inventories of the site were limited to include the following aspects; **important features of the site, climate and topography, and surfaces and vegetation.**

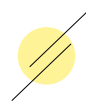
The inventories were conducted while walking around at the site during the site visits together with the Sheha of Kwahani. Information that concerned the selected aspects was identified and mapped out on the printed drone image, or documented through photographing and taking notes. During the site visits, spontaneous conversations with the Sheha and people that were passing by gave a broader understanding of the site. The gathered information from the site inventories of Uwanja wa Farasi are presented through an overview of the current situation, where important features are connected to the drone image of the site.

Historical Inventory of the Site

In order to develop a design proposal that is well-anchored in its cultural context, it was important to understand why the site looks like it does today. Therefore, a historical inventory focusing on the development of the site was conducted. Due to the lack of written information about Uwanja wa Farasi, the main source of historical information was the interviews with the locals who have spent the main part of their lives by the site.

To complete the oral stories, the morphological development of the site was investigated by collecting and photographing historical maps and master plans covering or concerning Uwanja wa Farasi. The maps and masterplans were found either digitally or physically at the Department of Surveys and Mapping in Zanzibar, and are used with permission from the Director of DoURP.

The summary of the stories about the history and a selection of the historical maps forms the historical context that is presented in the beginning of chapter 5.



1.4.4. Site Analyses

In addition to the previous inventories of the site and its surroundings, the following methods for site analysis were used:

Lynch's site analysis

To structure the physical attributes of Uwanja wa Farasi and classify them in terms of how they are perceived, site analysis based on the American urban planner Kevin Lynch's method (1960) was used. In his book "*The Image of the City*", Lynch presents five definitions to help categorize the perception of landscape. Following are his definitions and how they are described (Lynch 1960, p. 47-48):

Paths: All channels in which people travel, such as streets, sidewalks and trails. Lynch noted that paths were often predominant in people's mind since all other elements are related or arranged along paths.

Edges: Boundaries that frames an area. Either (more or less penetrable) barriers that closes one region off from another, or seams that lines two regions and make them related or joined together.

Districts: A relatively large area that is defined by common characters identified by the observer. The observer is often aware of entering or exiting a district as it can be separated from its surroundings due to its perceived identity.

Nodes: Focal points of high usage in the city, such as junctions or areas with concentrated characteristics.

Landmarks: Identifiable external reference in its context that can serve as an orientation point for the observer.

SWOT-analysis

Finally, the SWOT-analysis (Bell 2008, p. 12) is used to sum up the most relevant information from the inventories and analyses done on site, and to create an overview of the site's characteristics. SWOT is an abbreviation for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, and the method is an effective way of clarifying and evaluating the existing values and challenges of the site to identify key questions for further work with the design.



1.4.5. Local Opinion (interviews & workshop)

In addition to the inventories and the site analyses, semi-structured interviews (Kvale & Brinkman 2014) and a drawing workshop were used to interact with the local citizens. This was done to gain a broader understanding of the chosen site and to get the local perspective on children in relation to the outdoor environment. The interviews were held with stakeholders within the planning field, and with local citizens living close to the site (which makes them potential users). To ease the communication with the locals outside the planning office, a Swahili speaking colleague from DoURP was interpreting. The questions were written down and explained to the interpreter in English, who posed the questions to the interviewees in Swahili. The answers of the interviewees were then interpreted to English and documented through notes.

The qualitative research interview as a method is used to receive nuanced descriptions through words (not digits) and is a quick way of hearing people expressing opinions and views with their own words, and through that understand the site and situation through the eyes of the interviewee (Kvale & Brinkman 2014, p. 36). It is essential to clarify that the conversations were not carried out with the purpose of compiling statistically generalizable conclusions, but to add a local perspective to the information that the literature studies provided. The questions that were posed either had a thematic or a dynamic purpose, where the thematic questions were related to the subject of the thesis, and the dynamic questions were posed to encourage a positive interaction and a flowing conversation during the interview (Kvale & Brinkman 2014, p. 121).

When choosing a number of interviewees, Kvale & Brinkman (2014, p. 97) are advising to interview as many as needed to find out what you want to know. The number of interviewees was therefore determined by access to possible interviewees and a relevant representation.

Unplanned interviews

While visiting the reference sites and the site for the design proposal, spontaneous conversations with people that were passing by or hanging out at the site sometimes occurred. These unplanned meetings were documented by taking notes, and contributed to a broader understanding of the perception and usage of both the reference sites and Uwanja wa Farasi.

Semi-structured interviews with stakeholders

The interviews with the local stakeholders were carried out to gain a broader understanding of the site, and also to hear their perspective on children's relationship with the outdoor environment. After deciding to work with Uwanja wa Farasi as the site for the design proposal, five different stakeholders with knowledge relevant to the project was chosen through recommendations by the Director of DoURP. The interviewees work at different institutions in Stone Town and the meetings were set up by contacting each of them individually by a formal letter signed by the Director. The interviews were conducted at four separate occasions and lasted from 30 minutes to 1 hour.

During the interviews, an interview guide with prepared questions (see p.105) was used. These questions were used as a starting point for supplementary questions, and the answers of the interviewees steered the conversations rather than sticking to a strict, formal interview. No interpreter was needed during the interviews with the stakeholders, as the interviews were conducted in English.

Semi-structured interviews with users

The semi-structured interviews with the users had two main purposes; firstly, to fill the information gap on the history of the site, and secondly to get the local children's perspective on play and the site in general. To achieve these purposes, two categories of interviewees were chosen; children (in the age between 9 and 15) and elders living in the neighbourhood.

The purpose of the interviews was explained to the Sheha of Kwahani, and he managed to gather five elders and six children that were informed about the purpose, and were willing to be interviewed and having their picture taken. All the elders that were interviewed have spent the main part of their lives living close to the site, and therefore possessed valuable knowledge regarding the historical development.

The potential users of Uwanja wa Farasi were interviewed during one four-hour long session in a kindergarden located just by the site on the 24th of September 2017. The elders were interviewed one by one, using prepared questions that were translated from English to Swahili.

Semi-structured interviews and drawing workshop with children

The purpose of interviewing the children was to investigate their relationship with the outdoor environment and how they mainly use the site in their everyday life. It was also to determine positive examples of places, objects or activities and reasons for liking these.

The interviewees were consisting of six children of both genders in the age between 9 and 15, all of them living close to Uwanja wa Farasi. The children were chosen and contacted by the Sheha after an agreement of ruling out children that might be too young to understand the questions, or too old to represent children in the neighbourhood who play. A lower number of children was chosen so there would be enough time to talk to each of them individually instead of as a group.

The interviews with the children were intended to hold an informal atmosphere, but prepared questions (see p.114) were used as a starting point for the conversation. The wording of the prepared questions was inspired by conclusions drawn from previous work regarding children's participation in planning (Bergström & Thorén 2015, Cele 2006, Hagströmer 2009, Kylin 2004).

In addition to the interviews with the children, a drawing workshop was held to help understand what they are lacking and what they require. After reading Sofia Cele's (2006) doctoral thesis on suitable methods for understanding children's experience of place, the decision to use drawings as a communication tool was made. Unlike communicating through conversation, drawing allows the child to get in touch with his or her creative side and could result in a more active participation (Cele 2006). The drawings were made to complete the interviews and the other way around.

The children were given pens in various colours to share and two sheets of paper each (and more if they wanted to). Then they were given a quick introduction (translated to Swahili) to understand the purpose of the workshop, and were thereafter asked to:

1. *Draw your favourite outdoor place*
2. *Draw yourself doing something you love doing outdoors*

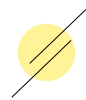
The drawings were used as a starting point for the interviews, followed by the prepared questions that were posed to each child after they had finished their drawings. Letting the child explain what he or she had drawn became a natural start to a relaxed conversation related to the subject. Each interview was intentionally kept short to keep the child focused.



1.4.6. Design Process

The design process was an on-going progress during the whole time-frame for this Master Thesis. Sketching by hand was done parallelly to the literature studies and the site studies, as it was essential to remember and visualise the ideas they inspired to. However, the main part of the design work was accomplished when the contextual framework of the thesis was formed by the literature studies, site inventories and analyses.

The ambition to create an inspiring design for children, grounded in research based conclusions, local opinion and the premises of the site, led the way to the eight design strategies. The design strategies then steered the direction of the design proposal, which is illustrated by a master plan, sections and illustrations. Several techniques were used to develop ideas and to communicate the design. Sketching by hand was the most necessary tool when transferring theories and ideas into design solutions, but several programs such as AutoCAD, Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator were used to refine and illustrate the thesis.



1.4.7. Selection of Methods

Literature Studies

Studying literature about Zanzibar was an important preparation for working and living in a unfamiliar cultural context. The literature studies on children and the outdoors were a necessary complement to the lived experiences in Zanzibar, since many of the visited sites that were designed for children are lacking components that encourage play in the outdoor environment, according to research.

When Uwanja wa Farasi was chosen to be the site for the design proposal, specific literature studies regarding the area were intended, especially to understand the history of the site. This was however proven to be difficult, as no written information was found either on the internet, in the history books at DoURP, or at the National Archives in Zanzibar. The lack of written information was therefore compensated by map studies and interviews.

Site studies

Observations of reference sites

Direct observations in contrast to participant observations were a suitable choice for the situation, since the ambition was to observe certain sampled situations or people, rather than trying to become immersed in the entire context. The initial intention was to exclusively observe reference sites that were of public character, something that proved to be difficult due to the lack of public, planned places for children in Zanzibar Town. The decision to include private sites was therefore made, which turned out to give interesting input since the design ambition in these places in general were higher.

Site inventories and analyses

The site inventories and analyses were necessary to perform to get to know the physical attributes of the site and the context it is located within, and to understand how the site is used. This knowledge was important to gain in order to conduct a relevant design proposal in a foreign country.

The site analysis according to Lynch is, despite being a western method, still considered relevant to be applied in the Zanzibari context because of the possibility to adapt the categorisations of the method (paths, nodes, districts, landmarks and edges) to the existing conditions. The same applies to the SWOT-analysis, which was considered an effective tool for compiling and structuring an overview of relevant information from the site inventories and analysis, since there were many aspects to consider and a lot of them were concerning the whole site.

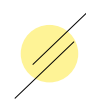
Interviews & workshop

In order to understand the usage and local perception of the site, it was necessary to complement the site visits with interviews. Even though the result of the interviews can be discussed in many ways, the conversations with the locals and stakeholders contributed with much more than just theoretical information. Their stories added another dimension to the site and contributed with an increased understanding of the Zanzibari culture. Using interviews as a method to gain further knowledge about the site was considered important from the very beginning, but proved to be even more essential due to the difficulties with finding written information about Uwanja wa Farasi.

The drawing workshop with the children were initially seen as a way to complement the interviews, and turned out to be an invaluable conversation starter. The drawings also helped to steer the conversations in the right direction.

Design Process

It was necessary to initiate the design process early on in order take care of ideas and thoughts that were connected to the literature studies in the beginning of the thesis. Compiling all the information into design strategies and later to a design proposal simplified the transition from theory to design.



1.5 LIMITATIONS

Improvement of informal settlements can be done in numerous ways, but will in this thesis be delimited to focus on improvements that mainly benefit children.

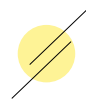
The areas of informal settlements in Zanzibar is far more geographically extensive than what is possible to include in the design proposal in this thesis. The design proposal for Uwanja wa Farasi is an example of how an approach towards improving informal settlements can be presented. Therefore, in order to limit the scope of the design proposal, a concrete site was selected carefully in consultation with the local supervisors on site. Although several possible sites for the design proposal were identified, only one of them was selected. This was done to be able to present an elaborated design proposal within the time frame of the thesis.

The site inventories covered the whole neighbourhood of Kwahani, but the design proposal was delimited to cover Uwanja wa Farasi, who's boundaries are defined by the surrounding houses. This was decided in agreement with the local planners at DoURP. Once again considering the time frame, the design proposal is presented at a conceptual level and is not including detailed plans.

Since the design proposal is partly based on theoretical studies, the limitation of the literature was significant. There is a lot of literature that deals with research on children's play in relation to outdoor environment, which enhanced the importance of choosing relevant literature that was suitable for the circumstances and did the context justice.

Given that this thesis is presenting a design proposal in a developing country, the financial level of the design proposal was decided through continuous discussions with the Director of DoURP. It was decided that Uwanja wa Farasi requires a redevelopment that cannot be reduced to consist of lowkey changes in order to truly have an impact on the neighbourhood, and that the design proposal should manifest the importance of developing public, green areas. The limited economic conditions were considered in terms of choosing local plant material and conventional building material that are easier to access.

In this thesis, no further definition or division of children in terms of categorization by age will be done. Level of stimulation, needs and interests among children are individual and do not have to be related to a certain age, although age might serve as an indication. Therefore, the decision was made to create a design with an overall focus to stimulate as many of the children in the area as possible, rather than focusing on a certain age group.

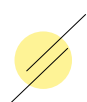


1.6 TARGET GROUP

This Master Thesis is primarily directed towards Landscape Architect students and professionals within the field who have an interest in how to work with designing public space for children in developing countries. It is also directed towards other students who are interested in testing their acquired knowledge towards another context.

This thesis is also directed towards the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar, and is conducted with the ambition to function as an inspiration on how to deal with the outdoor environment for future development of the areas presented in the thesis. According to an agreement with the Department, the final result of the project will be sent to Zanzibar.

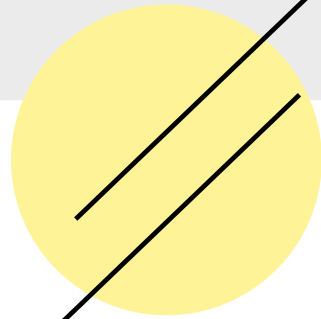
In accordance with the intentions for the MFS scholarship; to achieve knowledge of developing countries and developing issues, this thesis is also directed to Sida who made the field studies possible.



2

ZANZIBAR

This section is the first part of the theoretical framework of the thesis. It describes the historical, geographical, economic and cultural context in a larger scale and introduces the complexity of Zanzibar Town.



ZANZIBAR

Country: Tanzania

Islands: Zanzibar (Unguja), Pemba and approx. 50 small islands & islets.

Capital: Zanzibar Town.

Area: 2654 sq km (1666 sq km for Unguja and 988 sq km for Pemba).

Population: Zanzibar - 1 424 292, Zanzibar Town - 594 000.

President: Ali Mohammed Shein.

Currency: Tanzanian Shilling (TZS), US dollar.

Language: Swahili (official), English, and Arabic.

Religion: Islam (97%), Christianity & Hindu.

Average income: 1,3 million TZS

(equivalent to 4613 sek) p.a.

Life expectancy: 65,2 years.

(TNBS 2012)



2.1 GETTING TO KNOW ZANZIBAR

2.1.1. History

Zanzibar is an autonomous part of the Republic of Tanzania and consists of two larger islands; Unguja and Pemba. Thanks to the monsoons that flow across the Indian Ocean, an infrastructural contact between Zanzibar and Persia, Arabia and India have been established for over 2000 years. At the end of the 15th century, Portuguese navigators trying to set up a trade route to India were the first Europeans to arrive in Zanzibar. The Portuguese needed repair bases for their journeys to the Far East, and used Zanzibar's advantageous location to establish garrisons and trading stations there. By 1525, almost the whole African East Coast was under Portuguese control, and gold, ebony, ivory and slaves were exported to Portuguese colonies in India or all the way to Portugal. The trading settlements the Portuguese set up on Unguja was later to become Zanzibar Town (McIntyre 2013, p. 3-7).

The Portuguese domination in the region were overthrown by Omani Arabs in the end of the 17th century, and they gradually overtook the Portuguese role of dominating the entire African East Coast (Bissell 2011, p.26). By 1710, Oman had become an important trading nation, with dates being their most important export. The expansion of the date plantations created a demand for cheap slave labour, and since enslavement of Muslims were forbidden, Africans were imported in large numbers, and many of them were transported via Zanzibar. This was the start of Zanzibar becoming a major slave trading centre (McIntyre 2013, p. 7-10).

In the beginning of the 19th century, the Oman's did business with the British Empire, where a resistance against slave trade was growing stronger. The British tried to convince the Omani Arabs to stop the slave trading, but the recent introduction of clove tree plantations on Zanzibar required cheap work force and increased the demand for slaves. Zanzibar's political importance peaked in 1840, when the Omani Sultan Said moved his court from Muscat (the capital of Oman) to Zanzibar and made the island an Arab state, and an important centre of trade and politics in the region. When the Sultan arrived in Zanzibar in the 1820's, the buildings mostly consisted of huts made of mud and coconut fronds, but Zanzibar Town expanded quickly under his rule, and many impressive stone constructions were built by the new immigrants from Oman. The clove trading was a lucrative industry as cloves had a high price abroad, and in the end of Sultan Said's regime, Zanzibar was one of the world's leading clove producers (McIntyre 2013, p. 10-13).

In April 1861, it was declared that Zanzibar and Oman were going to become separate states, but Zanzibar was still going to remain an Arabic sultanate. At the same time, prices on cloves dropped and an increasing production of coconut, sugar and rubber began. Since the Sultan of Zanzibar still was under pressure from Great Britain, he finally signed an Anglo-Zanzibari treaty which lastly ended the legal slave trade in 1873 (McIntyre 2013, p. 20).

In the wake of signing the anti-slavery agreement with the British Government, Zanzibar became a full British protectorate in 1890 to guard their Indian Ocean trade routes, and remained so until 1963 (Bissell 2011, p. 28).

After World War II, the people of Zanzibar gradually were allowed by the British to become involved with the Government and form local political parties. Britain eventually realised that internal self-government for Zanzibar was unavoidable, and Zanzibar gained their independence from Great Britain in 1963 (McIntyre 2013, p. 24).

Zanzibar was ruled by the Arab sultanate even after the independence, which made the dissatisfaction grow stronger amongst the African population. This resulted in a bloody revolution organised by John Okello, who was a member of the ASP (Afro-Shirazi Party). Thousands of Arabs were killed, and the Arab Government was eventually brought down in Stone Town. The leader of ASP, Sheik Abeid Amani Karume, was installed as the new president, and formed together with other prominent members of the party "*The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar*". In April 1964, president Julius Nyerere of the newly independent mainland Tanganyika approached Karume, and after negotiations the two countries joined together and formed "*The United Republic of Tanzania*" (McIntyre 2013, p. 25-26).



2.1.2. Climate

The climate on Zanzibar is determined by the movements of the Indian monsoons sweeping across the island, which is resulting in a wet and a dry season rather than the four seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter. The climate is humid tropical throughout the year, even though the humidity can be lower in the rainy seasons and relieved by winds and sea breezes during the rest of the year. The climate in combination with Zanzibar's fertile soil means that the conditions for urban agriculture are very good (McIntyre 2013, p. 45, Shapira & Hellerman Planners 2015).

Thanks to Zanzibar's location just south of the equator, the island has an average temperature of 24-27 °C degrees all year around. The longer rains of the wet season occur between mid-March and May, and shorter rains can occur in November. Heavily downfall is to be expected during the longer rains, and it is not unusual that substantial amounts of water are flowing through the low-lying areas. These are however normally soaked up quite quickly by the sun during the day (Expert Africa 2017).

Sulaiman & Ali (2006) are however clarifying that the large amounts of water that occur during the rainy seasons are likely to cause flooding in the informal settlements of Zanzibar Town, where the irregular construction of houses has blocked many natural waterways. Besides from causing soil erosion and thereby destruction of houses and unpaved roads, flooding could entail an increased health risk caused by overflow of latrines or by puddles becoming breeding places for mosquitoes (Sulaiman & Ali 2006).

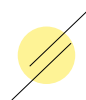


2.1.3. Economy

Tanzania has remained politically stable for the last years, which has been a prerequisite for the country's relatively stable economic situation. Being stable is however not the same as being wealthy; according to the World Bank (2017) about 12 million Tanzanians live in extreme poverty based on a daily income of less than US\$ 0.60 a day, even though the poverty rate fell from 60 % in 2007 to 47% in 2016. The fast population growth in combination with the decreasing poverty rate unfortunately made the number of poor residents remain almost the same as before. Many Tanzanians are also hovering just above the poverty line, risking to fall back in case of any socio-economic downfall (World Bank 2017).

In Zanzibar, 49 % of the population are living below the poverty line, and poverty seems to be equally spread throughout the whole island. However, Zanzibar is lucky to benefit from several natural resources, such as fishing grounds, natural beauty, an amiable climate and fertile soil, all of which are beneficial to the island's economy in terms of enabling farming and attracting tourists. In the 19th century, Zanzibar's economy was depending on the large export of cloves to the rest of the world, and even though the price of cloves dropped in the 1980's, the flavourful spice still is an important export along with coconuts, coffee, cardamom, vanilla and seaweed (McIntyre 2013, p. 50, Shapira & Hellerman Planners 2015).

In addition to the export of farming produce, tourism is another large source of income. The Zanzibar Commission for Tourism was founded in 1987 to help promote Zanzibar as a tourist destination, which proved to be successful as over 56 000 visitors were arriving in Zanzibar in 1995, and gave the local economy an up-swing. Today, tourism is counted for 20% of Zanzibar's gross domestic product, while the clove export accounts for around 45%. A negative aspect of the heavily increased tourism was the sudden pressure on the island's natural resources, although it has improved since the Government of Zanzibar introduced their first National Environmental Policy in 1992 (RGoZ 2013).



2.1.4. People & Culture

Zanzibar's multicultural history has resulted in a heterogeneity among its inhabitants that is characteristic for the city, since the citizens are very diverse in origin, wealth and status. The cultural heritage from its motley past is still to be experienced today (Bissell 2011).

The origin language of Zanzibar is Swahili, locally referred to as *Kiswahili*. Swahili is a widely-spread native language along the East African Coast, but is considered to be spoken in its purest form in Zanzibar (McIntyre 2013, p. 34). Arabic also occurs in Zanzibar, but English is the primary language when it comes to higher education, commerce and administration (Central Intelligence Agency 2016).

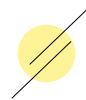
There are small populations of Christians and Hindus in Zanzibar, but the main religion (practised by 97% of the population) is Islam (TNBS 2012). This is clearly noticeable in several ways; for example, all the villages on Zanzibar Island and Pemba have mosques, whose minarets are calling people to prayer every evening. The domination of Islam also affects how Zanzibaris are dressing. Women usually cover their hair, and both men and women are recommended to wear clothes that cover their knees and shoulders to dress respectfully (McIntyre 2013, p.34). Turner (2009) mentions that the ignorance towards Islam traditions made the Government restrict tourism to the islands in the 1960's and 1970's, and to enforce strict regulations regarding their clothing and behaviour. This has gradually been liberalised, but acting and dressing sensitively accordingly to Muslim preferences is recommended to remain respectful towards the local citizens (Turner 2009).

Besides from the callings from the minarets, all kinds of music are to be heard in Zanzibar Town. Zanzibar has many local music forms, with "*Taarab*" being the most well-known. Much of the traditional taarab music sound like an Africanised version of Egyptian classical orchestras, accompanied by lyrics of Swahili poetry. Closely related to taarab is "*Kidumbak*", a music style that has emerged from the suburb of Ng'ambo, and is very characteristic for the area (McIntyre 2013, p. 35-39).

Another thing that is to be seen everywhere in shops and souvenir stalls is art of the contemporary style *Tingatinga*. This art form is characterized by paintings, usually picturing African animals painted by bold colours and a drawing technique that often includes countless dots and small circles surrounded by solid outlines (Indigo Arts Gallery 2017). In addition to that, the very architecture of Stone Town can be seen as an art form, displaying oriental stone buildings and massive, ornamentally carved doors around every corner.

One of the favourite activities among the inhabitants of Zanzibar Town is the game of *Bao*. Bao is played with a wooden board and counters (usually seeds or pebbles), and a game of bao can go on for days. The rules and name of this game vary trough Africa, western India and the Caribbean, but the Swahili people are very proud of their version, which they claim to be the original and therefore the purest of versions. Bao is a very popular activity that brings people together, and even children learn to play bao as soon as the know how to count. The closest western equivalent to this strategic game is chess. A less tranquil but just as popular game in Zanzibar is *Keram*. Keram is easiest described as a more spartan version of pool, with a piece of wood instead of a pool table, where pucks are cannoned onto one another instead of balls (McIntyre 2013, p. 42-43).

Despite having a rich local tradition of music and socializing, the public realm itself is generally not developed in Zanzibar. Public spaces are often undefined, rarely managed or used as garbage dumps or storage areas. Public spaces are therefore often dirty, unaesthetic and sometimes hard to pass even by foot due to potholes, piles of waste or uncontrolled traffic (Shapira & Hellerman Planners 2015).

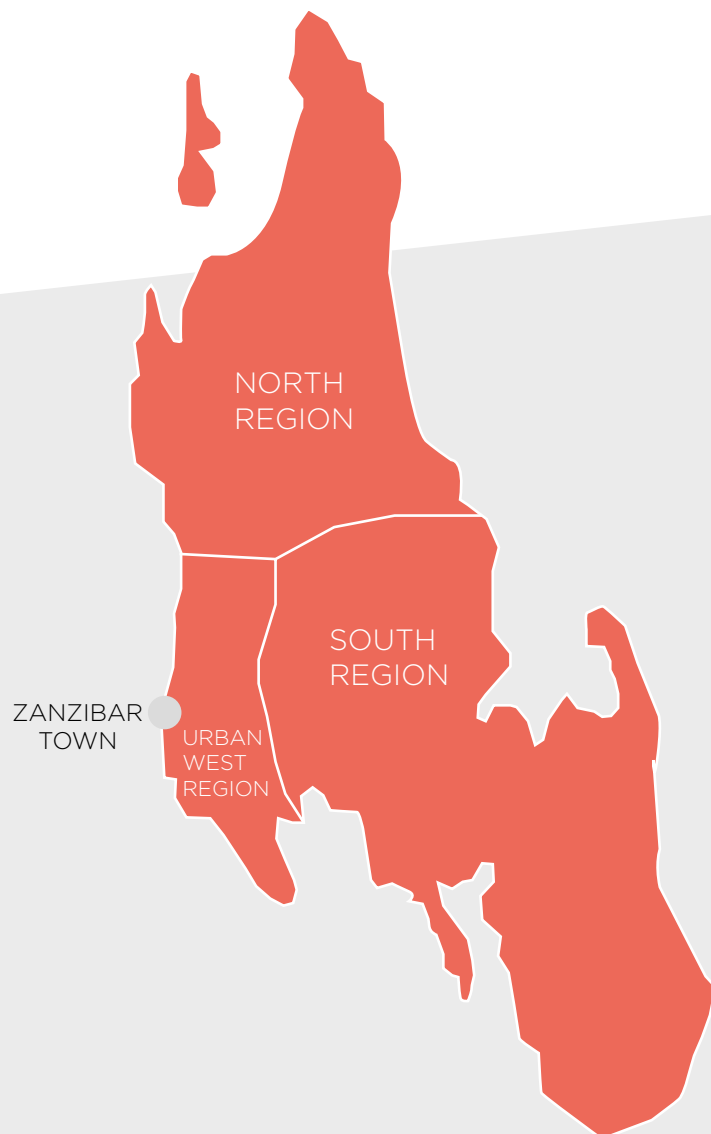


Sign asking the tourists to respect the local dress code.



Tingatinga-paintings for sale in the narrow alleys of Stone Town.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF UNGUJA



REGIONS:	DISTRICTS:	SHEHIAS:
NORTH REGION	North A District Council	Shehia
	North B District Council	Shehia
URBAN WEST REGION	West A District Council	Shehia
	Zanzibar Municipality Council	Shehia - Kwahani (Uwanja Wa Farasi)
	West B District Council	Shehia
SOUTH REGION	Central District Council	Shehia
	South District Council	Shehia

UWANJA WA FARASI is located within the Shehia of Kwahani

2.1.5. Planning Policies

The local government in Zanzibar is entirely regulated by Zanzibar legislation and divided into regional and district administration. Zanzibar's urban development is regulated by the Planning Law, and the Commission of Land (COLA) is in charge of the urban development and planning issues on the entire island. The Planning Law enables and regulates all development of land, but is in many ways considered to be outdated and inadequate. Furthermore, due to unclear responsibilities and lack of financial resources, the realization of COLA's visions is limited (Shapira & Hellerman Planners 2015).

Zanzibar governance is divided into five administrative regions, three of which are in Unguja and two in Pemba, each of them having a Regional Commissioner appointed by the President. Each region is then divided into two districts; six in Unguja and four in Pemba, which adds up to ten districts for both islands. Every district has a District Commissioner (also appointed by the president), a District Administrative Officer, a Planning Officer and Community Development Officer. The districts are then divided into smaller administrative units called *Shehias*, and the person who is head of the Shehia is called the *Sheha*. Zanzibar Town belongs to Zanzibar Municipal Council, which is a part of the most densely populated district Urban West (RGoZ 2014, Shapira & Hellerman Planners 2015).

THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR



Figure 2. The governmental structure of Zanzibar's planning organs.



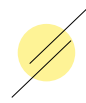
2.1.6 Significant Master Plans throughout the ages

History shows that the British regime started an institutionalized land administration in Zanzibar when they came to power in 1890. To get an overview of the population and investigate their possibilities to pay taxes, the Government decided in 1897 to categorize all the buildings of Zanzibar Town into permanent (stone houses) or semi-permanent (huts with roofs made of coconut leaves). This became a way of creating a racial zoning, as the natives lived in huts in the eastern part of the town, and the wealthier Indian, Arabs and Europeans lived in houses in the western part. This segregation of race became even more established in 1923, when the *1923 Lanchester Plan* was introduced by the British. This was one of the earliest city master plans drawn by the colonial Government for an East African city, and the aim of the Lanchester Plan was to recommend better types of houses and a system for waste management in Swahili areas, which were considered to be a great health risk. To achieve this, they categorized the areas of Zanzibar Town after what origin their inhabitants were of (Folkers & Juma 2016, Sulaiman & Ali 2006).

The first President of Zanzibar wanted to start afresh after being free from the British colonialism, and a new urban development plan was founded in 1967 by the German Democratic Republic (GDR). The aim of this master plan was to modernize the entire Zanzibar Town, and resulted in large apartment blocks unsensitively replacing native neighbourhoods in the informal settlements of the city. Luckily the construction stopped due to lack of economic resources and the entire plan was never realized (Folkers & Juma 2006).

The first developing scheme that covered all the town areas in Unguja and Pemba was the Zanzibar Town Master Plan (1978 – 1998). The first master plan was planned to be renewed every five years, something that never happened due to manpower issues. The master plan was done by a Chinese company that was sponsored by the Chinese Government, and went therefore by the name “*The 1982 Chinese Master Plan*”. They were the first to present development proposals for all town areas of Unguja and Pemba. Before the Zanzibar Town Master Plan, the only land use plans that existed were sporadic ones made by the Surveys Department whenever they were needed (Abdullah 2006).

In 2011, the Department of Urban and Rural Planning (DoURP) was established within the Ministry of Lands, Housing, Water and Energy of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. Their mission was to regulate the uncontrolled city expansion and densification of Zanzibar, and set a functioning framework for the country’s future planning and development. The new structure plan for Zanzibar Metropolitan area, *ZanPlan 2015*, was the first legal planning document to be produced, and was together with regional plans for Unguja and Pemba the start of a planning network focusing on new policies. The new policies that were considered to be the most important were; the one that promotes non-motorized transport, the one that promotes mixed-use urban areas to preserve agricultural land and nature, and the one that promotes culture as a driving force for development (Folkers & Juma, 2016). Some other important goals and targets of *ZanPlan* was to upgrade the environment in terms of adding more greenery and higher the cleaning standards to improve the health and well-being of the citizens. The importance of developing available and functioning public space was also recognized (Shapira & Hellerman Planners 2015).



Large apartment blocks were built to modernize Zanzibar Town according to the German Master Plan from 1967.



2.2 THE TWO SIDES OF ZANZIBAR TOWN

Zanzibar Town is situated along the western coast of Zanzibar and is the largest city and the capital of the islands. During the colonial time it used to be the largest settlement in the entire East African region, and today, with a population of 223 033 people (TNBS 2012) Zanzibar Town is the sixth largest settlement in Tanzania.

Zanzibar Town is visibly consisting of two parts, with Creek Road figuring as a dividing line; Stone Town on the west side and Ng'ambo on the east side.

2.2.1. Stone Town - a world heritage site

Stone Town is the heart of the mixture of diverse cultures that Zanzibar's complex history has led to. It is now a crowded neighbourhood consisting of both ancient palaces with ornamentally carved doors and tiny souvenir shops selling colourful art and cheap jewellery, everything bound together by the winding, narrow alleys. Being a trading town for centuries led to the economic wealth that resulted in Stone Town's various range of beautifully decorated buildings.

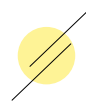
Today, Stone Town is a major tourist attraction because of its preserved architectural heritage and sense of living history. In 2000, the preservation of this cultural fusion earned Stone Town the classification of being a world heritage site by UNESCO (2017). The racial segregation that was established by the Lanchester Plan in 1923 is still present in the city, as the World Heritage zone exactly follows Lanchester's racial division line between Arabs, Indians and Europeans on the west side, and natives on the east side (Folkers & Juma 2016).

In the end of the 19th century, the civil surgeon at the British agency stated the already confirmed western view on the urban regions of Zanzibar:

"In Zanzibar there is hardly a single street worthy of the name, as we think of it. The town has a curious and haphazard jumble of misleading lanes and provoking culs-de-sac. To a stranger they are extremely bewildering"

(Robb 1879 cited in Bissell 2011, p. 32)

The western men that came to Zanzibar during that time shared this view, considering it impossible to improve the city based on its current conditions, as they wanted to make the existing narrow streets wider and straighter to keep them clean and civilized (Bissell 2011 p. 23). Nowadays, areas like Stone Town are unlikely to be built again, and is therefore part of a legacy and a memory of a bygone era. The preserved heritage makes it one of Zanzibar's major tourist attractions.



2.2.2. The Informal Settlements of Ng'ambo

The area east of Creek Road is referred to as Ng'ambo, which is Swahili for "*The other side*". In the past, while the wealthy Arabs, Europeans and Indians lived in Stone Town and contributed to its architectural glory, Ng'ambo was a Swahili area where the poorer Africans lived. This unfair economic division never really leveled out, and the areas' different socio-economic statuses are remaining (McIntyre 2013, p. 117).

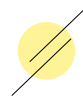
Ng'ambo covers a large area of Zanzibar Town (much bigger than Stone Town) and consists of informal settlements with mainly housing, local shops and some offices. In this case, "informal settlements" is the definition of the residential areas without formal planning approval that have arisen due to an increasing population and an urgent need for housing. The buildings in this area are, according to Swahili building traditions, one-storey, with the exception of a high-rise complex in the Michenzani area that was built according to the German Master Plan from 1967. Unlike Stone Town, the standard and status of Ng'ambo makes it an area where tourists rarely go (McIntyre 2013, p. 117).

Ng'ambo started out as a community for African slaves and natives, and continued to grow rapidly throughout the years as the population increased. Despite its economic and social differences from Stone Town, the two cities were intimately connected and successfully coexisting. Folkers & Juma (2016) claim that the most distinct reason for the start of the real segregation between Stone Town and Ng'ambo was during the early years of the British colonialism, when the main investments in planning and infrastructure went into Stone Town. This resulted in a noticeable improvement of standards regarding piped water, sewage, street lighting, electricity and road paving in Stone Town, while it barely existed in Ng'ambo (Folkers & Juma 2016).

The population of Ng'ambo continued to grow, and after the Zanzibar Revolution of 1964, the first president Abeid Karume wanted to start the new era of power with replacing the old city (both Stone Town and Ng'ambo) with a modern "Zanzibar New Town". As previously mentioned, the master plan was founded in collaboration with the German Democratic Republic (GDR), and they eventually advised the president to produce a masterplan that preserved Stone Town, but replaced the Swahili fabric in Ng'ambo with blocks of modernist multi-storey buildings. The large apartments were never popular among the inhabitants, and the construction stopped around 1970 due to lack of governmental financial resources (Folkers & Juma 2016).

This unsensitive attempt of establishing Zanzibar New Town in Ng'ambo resulted in a discontinued development of the remaining Swahili urban tissue. Although the construction stopped in the 1970's, no further investments were being made in Ng'ambo until the end of the century, when a new wave of modernization started. Multi-storey buildings consisting of modern materials were built to replace some of the one-storey Swahili houses, but this time with a design that interacted with the existing buildings. The new buildings consisted of bright colours, modern details and traditional Zanzibari elements, and became the introduction of a new architectural typology called "*Postmodern Multi-Storied Swahili House*" (Folkers & Juma 2016).

To regain the control of the spatial development in Ng'ambo, the project Ng'ambo Tuitakayo (meaning "*The Ng'ambo we want*") was initiated in 2013 by DoURP, African Architecture Matters and UNESCO. The mission of the project was to elaborate on Karume's vision to make Ng'ambo the center of the "New city", but this time with the respect towards the existing built structure and historical heritage that was lacking in the 1960's (Folkers & Juma 2016).



Survey of Zanzibar Town from 1982, showing the built settlements of Stone Town and Ng'ambo in orange.



Aerial photograph of Zanzibar Town from 2014, showing the widespread expansion and densification of the informal settlements in Ng'ambo compared to the map from 1982.

2.2.3. Informal Settlements or Slum?

One reason for the upcoming of informal settlements such as Ng'ambo, is high urbanisation rates combined with slow economic growth. Urbanisation refers to the population shift from rural to urban areas, which causes an increased population and larger cities. In Zanzibar, the increased population has resulted in a demand for housing that the cities are unable to provide (Sulaiman & Ali 2006). Tannerfeldt & Ljung (2006) argues though, that urbanisation is a natural consequence of economic development, and also a requirement for the country to keep developing economically. Thus will a phenomenon that originally is a positive indicator of economic growth, cause big issues in developing countries as they do not have financial resources to adapt quickly enough to the demographic shift (Tannerfeldt & Ljung 2006, p. 12-13).

According to the UN-Habitat programme (2015), informal settlements are defined as:

“ i) residential areas where a group of housing units has been constructed on land to which the occupants have no legal claim, or which they occupy illegally

ii) unplanned settlements and areas where housing is not in compliance with current planning and building regulations”

(UN-Habitat 2015, p. 1)

Informal settlements in developing countries are often referred to as “slums”. That is however not the optimal definition of what is occurring in Tanzania and Zanzibar. UN-Habitat (2010, p.6) defines slums by having the issues of “*inadequate access to safe water, inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure, overcrowding, insecure residential status and poor structural quality of housing*”. Further on, they state that the Tanzanian situation is different in at least three important aspects; tenure security, structural quality of housing and the nature of people who live in these settlements (UN-Habitat 2010).

People who build their houses in informal settlements in Tanzania often know that they have some “perceived” security because of previous actions and statements from higher authorities. Since the 1970's, the Government have remained respectful towards the development of these settlements, and investments have been made to upgrade some of them. The National Land Policy (NLP) was established in 1995 and promised to fully compensate to any person whose right of occupancy (or recognized long-standing occupation or customary use) of land was interfered with. This perceived security is likely to have led the residents in the informal settlements to dare invest in permanent and modern building materials, which is why the quality of the houses vary, but in general are of relatively high standard.



Many of the houses in Ng'ambo consist of modern, permanent building material.

It is therefore not uncommon to find a wide range of social economic groups living side by side in informal settlements, which makes it harder to ascribe the inhabitants any generalizing social or physical attributes (UN-Habitat 2010).

Nevertheless, even if the main part of the informal settlements in Zanzibar might be of better standard than unplanned areas in other developing countries, they are often lacking basic infrastructure and social services, whose existence is an indicator of a higher socio-economic standard (Bissell 2011, p. 7). Sulaiman & Ali (2006) also mention the environmental and health related problems that often occur in unplanned settlements, such as pollution of water sources, deforestation and pollution from waste and flooding. Shapira & Hellerman Planners (2015) speak of the lack of proper waste management as a fundamental issue in the informal settlements of Zanzibar, not only impacting on the residents' health but also affecting the urban image.

In addition to that, Bissell (2011) claims that residents of the informal settlements in Zanzibar will feel marginalized in the society as long as they do not have the full right to the ground they build their houses on, or the right to demand attention and support from planning authorities:

“...Place – and what stays in place – is always linked to social processes and to broader questions of power. To take but one example: the marginal status of residents in informal settlements, slums, or squats is inextricably linked to the fact that they are denied enduring rights to the spaces they inhabit”

(Bissell 2011, p. 7)

This argues that the view on the informal settlements in Zanzibar Town can be twofold. It can be considered positive, since informal settlements are providing people in need with housing, or problematic due to their underdevelopment and uncontrolled expansion.



2.3 ASPECTS TO CONSIDER IN THE DESIGN PROPOSAL I

The information from **Chapter 2** that is relevant to consider in the design proposal is summarized in the following paragraphs:



• CLIMATE

Zanzibar has a climate that requires protection, both from sun and rain. Shelter from the sun is necessary to encourage physical activity outdoors, and the periodically occurrence of heavy rainfall should be taken into consideration.

• CULTURAL HERITAGE

Zanzibar Town has a cultural richness that needs to be respected. Not only within the borders of the World Heritage Site, but also the native Swahili culture that is represented in Ng'ambo. Both areas have valuable architectural, cultural and social traditions that should be taken into consideration.

• RELIGION

Since Islam is the dominating religion in the area, it is affecting the society and how people behave. The religious traditions are often interwoven in the sounds of the city, people's clothing, culture and festivities, and it even affects the rhythm of the day. The religion is also contributing to that public realms are used differently by men and women.

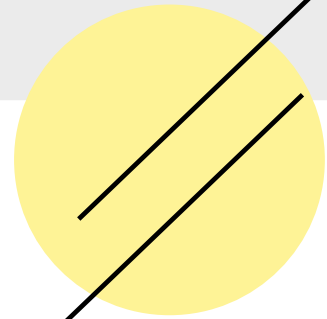
• ADAPT TO EXISTING CONDITIONS

The existing values of the site should be respected instead of replaced with a design that lacks adequate connection with the context, both physical and social.

3

CHILDREN & OUTDOOR SPACE

The second part of the theoretical framework explores the relationship between children, play and the outdoor environment. Further it describes characteristics in the outdoor environment that encourage play.



“Where children live affects what childhood they have”

(Karen Wells 2015, p. 1)

3.1 DEFINING CHILDHOOD

In her book *“Childhood in a Global Perspective”*, Dr. Karen Wells (2015) determines that childhood is a socially constructed phenomenon, as children’s lives are affected by the social and cultural expectations adults and peers have on them. How this construction appears are determined by many external factors, for example by age, origin, gender and class (Wells 2015, p.2).

Wells (2015, p. 3) uses recent research on the sociology of childhood to problematise the meaning of the actual word. She mentions that childhood can be presented as a specific moment in life that includes common experiences, but that these experiences are separated through different circumstances that prevent a generalized picture. Wells (ibid) also highlights the difficulty of describing and analysing the overall contemporary sociology of childhood, as research tends to focus on white and middle-class children.

Wells (2015) attempts to broaden the perspective through compiling research on children’s lived experiences tied to a geographical context. However, she explains that there are no general surveys that describe the African children’s world, and that research on the social concept of childhood in Africa is very limited. She states that the colonization of major parts of the continent affected the history for African children, as it turned the experience of childhood into a racialized question. White settlers often forced children to work instead of attending school, which is likely to have affected their childhood in numerous ways. The possibilities for African children to shape their own lives have therefore been restrained due to the history of belonging to a society strongly affected by racist ideologies (Wells 2006, p. 8-10). It is however significant to remember that Africa is a large, diverse continent, and that stories related to specific countries are absent in Wells’ general description.

Since the definition of childhood is shaped by place and context, it means that profoundly different expectations can be had on children depending on the society or culture they grow up in. Yet, it is possible to identify some universal characteristics of childhood as the immaturity of a young human implies similar needs and limitations. Children’s need for physical care and emotional attachment is such an example (Wells 2015, p. 13-14).

In conclusion, it is of significance to mention UNICEF’s (2005) perspective on childhood. They state the following:

“[Childhood] is a precious time in which children should live free from fear, safe from violence and protected from abuse and exploitation. As such, childhood means much more than just the space between birth and the attainment of adulthood. It refers to the state and condition of a child’s life, to the quality of those years”

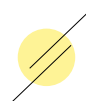
Regardless of the academic discussions about the definition of childhood, UNICEF emphasizes that there has always been an important degree of shared understanding (based on the progress of the legal acknowledgement of children’s rights) that childhood at all times should imply a separated and safe space (UNICEF 2005).

CYCLOPEDIA DEFINITION:

Childhood: the state or period of being a child

Child: a person between birth and full growth; a boy or girl.

(Dictionary.com 2017)



3.2 CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Although research claims that there are as many definitions of childhood as there are children, international laws and institutions are generalizing childhood in an attempt to regulate it on a global scale. One of the most important regulations is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNICEF 2017).

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is a legally binding international agreement that was created by the UN General Assembly Resolution in 1989, and UNICEF (2017) states that the Convention is “*the most rapidly and widely ratified international human rights treaty in history*”. The actual wording of the CRC is significant, as it describes children as human beings with individual rights instead of passive objects that need to be taken care of. Today, Tanzania is one of 196 countries that have signed the Convention and thereby committed to follow the regulations (UNICEF 2017). Olsson (2010) mentions however, that even if the countries sign to follow the Convention, there are no legal consequences for those who commit actions that violates it. Critique and pressure are the only possible consequences if a country does not meet the standards of the Convention (Olsson 2010).

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child consists of 54 articles, all of which are related to each other and considered important as whole (UNICEF 2017). However, in accordance with the purpose of this thesis, it is relevant to highlight Article 31 of the Convention;

”1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

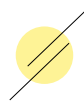
2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.”

(UNICEF 1989)

One way to help fulfil the ambitions of Article 31 is to promote the child's right to play. The International Play Association (IPA) state that children's play is a form of everyday participation in the society, and an important way to establish relations with fellow citizens, which in the longer run can promote and strengthen the society. IPA state furthermore that playing is a vital, universal behaviour, and should be treated thereafter (IPA 2014).

The definition of play is just as diverse as the definition of childhood, but IPA (2014, p. 3) describe play as follows:

“Children's play is behaviour, activity or processes initiated, controlled and structured by children themselves and it takes place whenever and wherever opportunities arise”.



3.3 THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

Bartlett et al. (1999) underline the importance of play by explaining that “play” is the term we use to describe children's urge to explore the world, and that this urge is what makes them active participants in their own development process. Children have a deep desire to understand their environment, which drives them to watch, touch, imitate, experiment and explore. Furthermore, Bartlett et al. claim that play is important enough to be considered the child's work (Bartlett et al. 1999, p. 22).

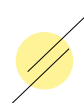
Lester & Russell (2010) state that play is fundamental to children's health and well-being, and that the countries who signed the CRC therefore should recognise, respect and promote play as a fundamental right. They claim that play should be considered an essential and integral component of any child's basic needs, not a luxury that is prioritised after the other rights of the child are fulfilled (Lester & Russell 2010).

Playing is necessary for children in both social, cognitive and biological ways. Play stimulates physical health, coordination and balance, and it also stimulates the brain development and teaches children to regulate their emotions. Furthermore, it is a way

of understanding relationships and attachment to other people, language and social structures, and to stimulate creativity and optimism (Bartlett et al. 1999, p. 22-23, Lester & Russell 2010).

Thus research states the numerous benefits with play, yet it is often dismissed as a trivial activity with no deeper meaning, and considered less important than other activities such as formal schooling or working (Bartlett et al. 1999, Lester & Russell 2010, Wells 2015). Lester & Russell (2010) note that this shows upon a widespread lack of understanding of the value of play, and that play should be recognized as a right by adults.

Since the quality of play is affected by the environments it happens within, children coming from less privileged backgrounds where the environment limits their right to play, are likely to be negatively affected. Therefore, the child's perspective and the right to play should be considered in urban planning (IPA 2014).



3.4 CHILDREN & THE OUTDOORS

The outdoor environment in public places are even more important to children that are growing up in urban poverty without a home environment that is ideal for playing (Bartlett et al. 1999, p. 84, Chatterjee 2015).

Although this thesis aims to include children in general with less focus on age, there are some guidelines regarding younger and older children that are relevant to bear in mind. According to Bartlett et al. (1999, p. 134), young children's play requires; *“physical safety, social security, diverse and stimulating physical surroundings, the presence of other children, a lack of temporal pressure and the proximity of adults”*. There is no need for expensive equipment to fulfil these requirements, since young children are inventive and good at activating themselves using whatever that comes in hand. Formal playgrounds are therefore not necessarily where children prefer to play, and even poor neighbourhoods can provide a rich, stimulating environment. What really restricts children's play is an unsafe environment, whether it is due to traffic or social insecurity. It is also important for young children to be able to play close to home (Bartlett et al. 1999, p. 134-136).

As children grow older, their need for large surfaces increases, since ballgames and sports become more popular. Bartlett et al. (1999) recommend a multisport field with seating instead of a plain football field to encourage a varied use and to help create cohesion between different users (Bartlett et al. 1999, p. 137-138).

To state that interest in sport is a natural development of getting older is however not applicable to all children, especially not in terms of gender.

In their book from 2006, Lenninger & Olsson discuss what children need to create their own places in cities. Despite being written from a Scandinavian perspective, the book contains several valuable reflections that could apply to children worldwide. Lenninger & Olsson write that children use their entire bodies and minds when they are exploring the outdoor environment, and that different materials, vegetation and surfaces are creating an environment that stimulates the child's urge to discover. Furthermore, they write that playgrounds that are too programmed with nonflexible equipment could cause the child to lose interest. Children need an outdoor environment that both encourages them to move around and contains stimulating elements that tempt them into staying (Lenninger & Olsson 2006, p. 16-17).

Providing children with formal playgrounds is therefore not a guarantee for play to occur. Play is not created by the playground itself, but by the fact that it is used by children. Olsson (2010) states that a place where the child feel safe and stimulated by the environment is a place that encourage play (Olsson 2010).



3.5 PLANNING FOR PLAY

Children can and will play in most places, but the outdoor environment should be interesting and varied in order to encourage excitement and curiosity, and to offer new challenges (IPA 2014, Olsson 2010). To offer children a rich environment and provide the opportunity to play, the following aspects should be taken into consideration;

3.5.1. Landscape instead of islands

Humans have an outstanding ability to read their environments and figure out what possible activities the physical elements in a place can offer. Instead of focusing too much on different functions of the elements, the dynamics between them should be considered. The aim should therefore be to create a coherent play landscape instead of isolated islands with play equipment (Lenninger & Olsson 2006). Studies have shown that the play equipment itself is less important than the context it is placed within, which makes the arrangement of the equipment as well as its connection to the surrounding context important factors to consider when planning for play (Mårtensson 2004).

3.5.2. Independent mobility

The outdoor environment should give children the opportunity to move freely within their local neighbourhoods, where they can learn how to navigate and what places to avoid or access. This knowledge can then be shared with other children. Children greatly appreciate places that allow multiple activities, and places that have the potential of temporary ownership (hence the popularity of playing in streets). Informal and unplanned open spaces sometimes allow children to territorialise space and use their imagination more easily than in formal “adult-designed” open spaces (Lester & Russell 2010).

3.5.3. Places with natural elements

There is a significant amount of research that ensures the cognitive and psychological benefits of natural environment experiences (Kaplan, R. & Kaplan, S. 1989). Even viewing vegetation from a window can offer a sense of nature and contribute to positive reactions on the physical health (Wells 2000). Research also shows that children often prefer to play in natural spaces, and that nature can offer children complex environmental conditions that stimulates the child's imagination and fascination. Playing in nature may also contribute to physical well-being and improve mental health, and is furthermore said to establish environmental knowledge and respect for nature (IPA 2014, Lester & Russell 2010).

Wells (2000) states that the presence of trees and vegetation in outdoor public spaces is associated with a greater use of these spaces by both children and adults. Nature is also unlikely to grow tiresome, since it provides an endless space for children's play and reflection (Wells 2000). Bartlett et al. (1999) agree, stating that an environment with a range of different vegetation offers children the best opportunities for play, and that the restorative powers of nature are well-documented and should be available to all, especially those who are living under the stress of urban poverty. Prioritising green areas in low-income communities could however be an issue due to insufficient land access (Bartlett et al. 1999, p. 141).

3.5.4. Spaces for children to create their own space

Children's desire to create their own places seems to be universal phenomenon, despite being expressed differently due to various cultural and environmental conditions. Forts and dens (not necessarily a built element but also hideaways in vegetation) are being created by children all around the world, as they offer a feeling of calmness and escape. The opportunity to "disappear" and hide behind hills, vegetation or other elements are also important to stimulate dynamic play. A place that is protected from insight can result in a more secret environment, while areas that are less protected from insight can become the location for more social dens. Elements that creates different "rooms" in the environment are important, and something as simple as a gathering of shrubs can create a separate area that becomes a different world. Children often value places where they can feel free, private, safe and relaxed (Kylin 2004, Lenninger & Olsson 2006).

It is during the calmer moments children notice and explore details on a smaller scale in the physical environment, and loose material such as leaves, sticks and stones are often appreciated to play with (Mårtensson 2004, p.13). Small playhouses or dens can encourage role play and social development through cooperation and communication between children (Nilsson 2007).

3.5.5. Physical challenges

The degree of participation in physical activities is depending on the built and natural environments, as well as on the social environment and other factors such as age or gender. Physical activity is especially important for a healthy development of children and young people, and it can make a profound difference for their well-being as adults (Edwards & Tsouros 2006).

Play should offer opportunities for risk and challenge (IPA 2014), and children need to jump, run, dance and swing, since the brain mature as they learn to navigate in the three-dimensional room (Lenninger & Olsson 2006). Hilly terrains and level differences are just as important as play equipment when it comes to stimulate physical activity among children. Mårtensson (2004) adds that quality cannot replace quantity when it comes to areas for play, since both the size of an area as well as the existence of open space are important to allow children to run around freely (Mårtensson 2004).

Climbing is a physical challenge for children of all ages; it helps with developing muscles in legs and the upper body, and children usually like to see the world from another perspective. Balance play is another essential building stone in physical play, as it teaches children how to control their bodies and movements. Sport equipment such as basket cases and football goals are other elements that stimulate physical activity among children by letting them exercise precision and coordination. It is also a valuable opportunity for social interaction (Nilsson 2007).

To swing and to watch other children swing is also said to stimulate children in various ways. In addition to contributing to a sense of freedom, swinging enhances the gross motor development and the sense of balance. Furthermore, the swing's rhythmic movements are pleasant and exciting, and is even said to support the development of language and social skills (Mårtensson 2004, Nilsson 2007).

3.5.6. Stimulate all senses

Since children are using their entire bodies and minds when they explore the environment, it is relevant to add elements that stimulate all the senses (Lenninger & Olsson, 2006, p. 16-17). This is beneficial for all children, but might be extra valuable for children with disabilities.

Nilsson (2007) explains that designing for all the senses means adding elements that stimulate the visual sense, the sense of touch, smell, taste or hearing. This can be done by using different colours, shapes, textures within the play environment, or by adding sand or pebbles to touch, flowers to smell and edible vegetation to taste (Nilsson 2007).

3.5.7. Safety & Identity

For play to occur, safety and defensibility are important factors. The child should feel safe in the environment where she plays, perhaps by knowing how to navigate to and within the site, or by having an overview of the area. Play areas should be located within a protected zone and be separated from hazardous situation such as traffic or other conflicts (Chatterjee 2015, Olsson 2010, p. 8).

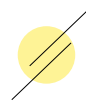
Mårtensson (2004) highlights the advantage of keeping edges between different play areas subtle and soft, for example by using different ground materials instead of framing them with physical obstacles. This makes it easier for children to move in and out of different areas, which enables a flow of movement. This could however contradict with the ambition to keep play areas safe, since fencing sometimes is the best way to separate children from traffic (Mårtensson 2004).

The feeling of safety can also derive from children's ability to navigate within their local environment, which encourages them to play and explore more independently. The character of the environment is important in terms of orientation, but also for

enabling place identity, which in the prolonging is a part of the individual self-identity that is built up through interaction with the physical world. Identity of a place can also be created by the addition of elements that have cultural or historical value (Chatterjee 2015, Mårtensson 2004).

3.5.8. Social Interaction

Whether children are playing together in harmony or having a conflict, they are developing the ability to interact with each other. A playground is supposed to function as a meeting place for children, and according to Gehl (2010, p. 65); "*people come where people are*", and social activity spontaneously inspire and attract people to gather. This is something that also applies to children, who often prefer to be where the action is. Welcoming places signal social interaction and thereby create a positive domino effect on the society (Gehl 2010 p. 65, Mårtensson 2004). Attracting adults to play sites could also be beneficial for younger children who often feel safe in the presence of adults (Nilsson 2007).



3.6 PLAY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

One way for children to cope with crisis is through their ability to spontaneously play with anything in their surroundings, and environments that encourage play help children develop their playing skills, which is preparing them for the future and is vital for the development of their self-esteem (IPA 2016).

After performing studies on informal settlements in India, Chatterjee (2015) argues that these winding and often car-free areas sometimes better support children's spontaneous activities than formally planned neighbourhoods in Indian cities. Abundant parts in slums and informal settlements can offer many opportunities to create play territories, since children might claim the leftover open spaces and use them for spontaneous outdoor activities. Therefore, Chatterjee states that these public realms could be considered child-friendly from an environment-behaviour perspective (Chatterjee 2015).

3.6.1. Finding & sparing space for children's play

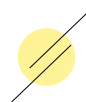
Sparing space for play can be an issue in densely built informal settlements. Bartlett et al. (1999) claim that every Municipality should be interested in seizing and protecting as much land as possible to create recreational opportunities for children and their families. They suggest that unused railways, creeks, pedestrian pathways and informal marketplaces could be cleaned up and upgraded at a low cost to make them available for safe play. Such a project was conducted in Cairo, where several small garbage sites were cleaned up, and vegetation and simple elements were added to encourage children's play.

It is however important to avoid unnecessary improvements, since formal playgrounds not necessarily are better than car-free, safe public spaces or streets where children already play. It is therefore important to respect the existing use of a place to avoid running over existing qualities (Bartlett et al. 1999, p. 139-140).

3.6.2. Gender

In many societies, and especially in those who are economically challenged, children are being treated differently in terms of gender. Boys are more often allowed to play outside while girls tend to have restrictions (such as larger responsibilities of doing chores at home or other cultural or religious restrictions) that prevent them from playing outside (Lester & Russell, 2010).

Bartlett et al. (1999) agree, stating that girls have equal rights to play but in many parts of the world are far more limited to do so. They confirm that religion and cultural traditions might transform into spatial restrictions for girls, and that it is essential to consider girls' needs as well as boys' in local planning of recreational space (Bartlett et al. 1999, p. 138). However, Lester & Russell (2010) highlight that children's different use of the outdoor environment is depending on more than just the gender aspect, and that other factors, such as age, class or access to public transport, are important as well.



3.7 ASPECTS TO CONSIDER IN THE DESIGN PROPOSAL II

The information from **Chapter 3** that is relevant to consider in the design proposal is summarized in the following paragraphs:



• PLAN FOR PLAY

Despite issues with generalising the definition of childhood, it can be stated that the quality of it is affected by where children grow up. Besides from being a human right, play is essential for children's development. The right to play should be considered in urban planning, especially in less privileged areas.

• MEETING PLACE

It is important to create possible meeting places for children, but also places where children and adults can interact. It is also important to create places where adults can socialise close to areas for children, so that children can play while experiencing the safety that derives from the presence of adults.

• IDENTITY & SAFETY

Areas that encourage play should be separated from traffic and contain elements that enable orientation and give character to the site, which can create an increased feeling of identity and safety.

• OPEN & SEPARATED PLACES

A site should contain different spatial qualities that create a variation of separated and open spaces, and also places with varying degrees of insight to enable diverse use.

• ENVIRONMENTAL DIVERSITY

Natural elements are important for the well-being for both adults and children, and especially important to encourage play. The presence of varying trees and diverse vegetation that contribute to recreational, inspirational and ecological qualities are therefore essential.

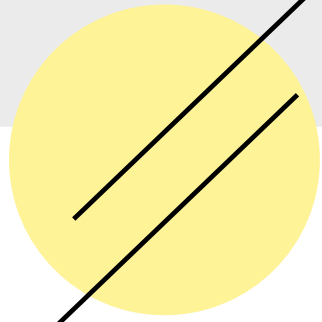
• STIMULATE THE SENSES

Varying topography and challenging play equipment encourage physical activity. The arrangement of the added elements should be dynamic and create a possible flow of movement. Elements that stimulate the senses in terms of varying textures, fragrances, colours and patterns are important for the mental stimulation.

4

CHILDREN IN ZANZIBAR TOWN

This is the first part covering the field studies in Zanzibar, consisting of a presentation and categorisation of visited places for children in Zanzibar Town.



4.1 REFERENCE SITES

In order to gain a deeper insight of how places for children are represented in Zanzibar Town, several site visits were carried out. The observed reference sites demonstrate different characteristics of places for children in Zanzibar Town, and were discussed and chosen in agreement with the Director of the Urban and Rural Planning Department, Zanzibar. The site visits were essential in order to understand what existing places that are valuable for children in Zanzibar Town today, and also what qualities these places hold as well as what they are lacking.

An overall conclusion after talking to planners and locals in Zanzibar Town, is that the city is lacking outdoor places that are dedicated for children only, and furthermore is lacking places that are welcoming for both children and adults and encourage interaction between them.

The site observations were conducted on the 14th and 15th of September, as well as on the 16th of October 2017, and lasted from 30 minutes to 1 hour each. The site visits were always accompanied by staff from DoURP, who introduced the site while notes and photographs were taken. They also helped with conducting unplanned interviews by translating questions about the site to people that were passing by or hanging out at the site.

Different characteristics of the visited sites:



PUBLIC

The site is open for the public and generally accessible for all residents.



PRIVATE

The site is established with a commercial purpose and often have an entrance fee. These places are generally the most well maintained, as the entrance fee usually is the only way of guaranteeing regular maintenance of the place.



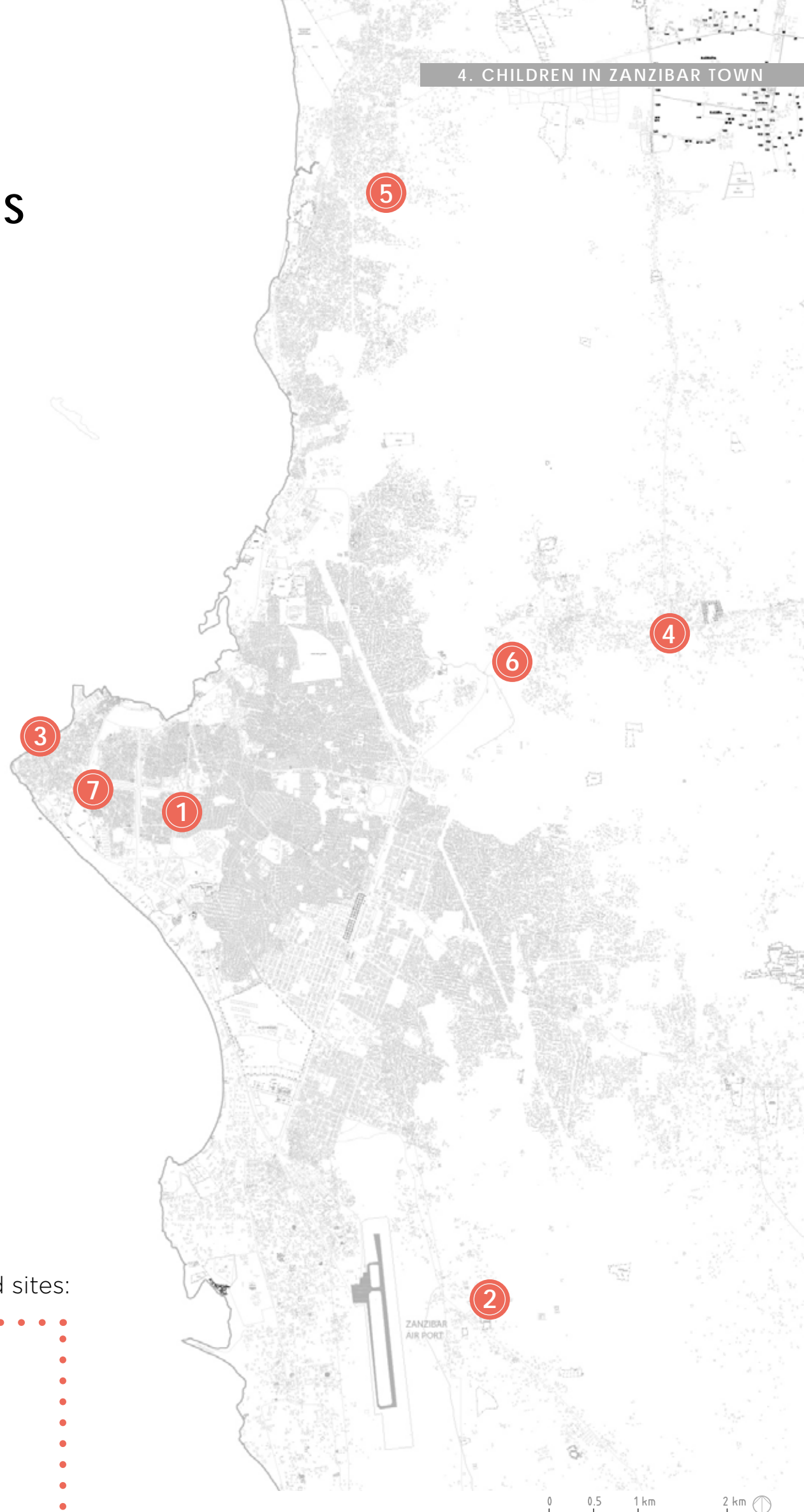
INCLUSIVE

The site is designed for and used by residents of all age categories, but is for varying reasons extra valuable to children.



CHILDREN ONLY

The site is first and foremost designed for and used by children. Adults are mainly present to accompany the children.



Visited sites:

1. Kariakoo Amusement Park
2. Maungani
3. Forodhani Gardens
4. Mwera
5. Uwanja wa Kihinani
6. Zanzibar Park
7. Jamhuri Gardens



1. Kariakoo Amusement Park



Kariakoo is an amusement park located in Ng'ambo, just outside of Stone Town. It used to be free of charge, but nowadays the visitors are charged by a small entrance fee and an additional fee for every attraction. Although this is done with the best intentions (to finance the maintenance of the site and keep it safe and clean), it results in exclusion of visitors with limited economic resources, especially since it becomes more expensive the more children you have.

The amusement park mainly consists of large, paved surfaces and a small number of full-grown trees, as well as some shops and cafés. The park has several rides, such as a roller-coaster and a small water park. There is also a merry-go-round that has become a prominent landmark in the low built neighbourhood. Since the establishment in the 70's until this day, Kariakoo is an extremely popular destination among the local children. Besides from the fact that children love going there, it is fairly popular among adults too, and sometimes they even arrange weddings and conferences there. Everything inside the park seems to be in good condition, and the place is clean but gives a very stiff impression due the lack of vegetation. Because of the pre-determined functions of the rides in the amusement park, it is the equipment that decide how children are going to use them instead of the other way around. This can limit the opportunity for children to create their own ways of playing.



One of the many colourful rides in the amusement park.



Left: The large, paved surfaces in the park.



Right: The entrance gates.



The merry-go-round functioning as a landmark in the neighbourhood.



2. Maungani



Maungani is a football field located in Fumba, on the border of Zanzibar Town. The site is public, but feels private because of the newly built concrete walls that surround the site. It is unsure whether they were built to protect the surrounding houses from the football games, or to prevent the actual football field from being built upon. Maungani is one of the fields in Zanzibar that is registered as a football ground for formal use, which means that teams from the lower divisions sometimes play their official games there. There is barely any vegetation on site, and the only seating provided is two small benches placed alongside the pitch. Unlike the other reference sites consisting of football pitches, the walls make this area feel less integrated with the community.



The framed area consists only of the football pitch.



Left: The only seating opportunity at the site.



Right: The wall that separates the field from the surrounding houses.

3. Forodhani Gardens



Forodhani gardens is a public park situated in Stone Town, just between the ocean and historical heritage buildings such as the Old Fort and the House of Wonders. The park is very unique and an important place in Stone Town, as the vegetation makes the microclimate feel different and cleaner than in the crowded alleys. The central location as well as the green character of the site makes it a popular gathering spot for both tourists and locals during the day, and every evening there is a popular night market where local food is sold. The park is of very good condition and consists of large surfaces of grass (which you are not allowed to enter) and various flowering shrubs and trees. Everywhere in the park, there are concrete barazas of different sizes, which are always in use no matter what time the park is visited.

There is a large, white temple placed in the centre of the park, where people either are resting in the shade or using it as a stage. The park is very much defined by the large, grown up trees in the middle that provide the site with shelter from the sun and a sense of spatial division. Children are visiting the park with their parents, and boys are always jumping from the pier into the water. There are some cafés situated along the pier, but these are mostly visited by tourists.

In the southern edge of the park, there is a small playground for children aged 3-12, surrounded by a low fence. There is a small entrance fee to keep the playground maintained and supervised during the "opening hours" in the evenings, and the fenced surface is packed with play equipment of various styles and functions. What they all have in common is that they are starting to become worn out due to the intense usage in the nights and weekends. Since there are very few places for the residents to take their children, this playground is packed with visitors during the weekends, and people even come from the countryside to Stone Town only to take their children to play in Forodhani Gardens.



The very green character of Forodhani Gardens.



There are many barazas and other seating opportunities in the park.



The popular playground is packed with equipment.



In the daytime, the playground is mostly empty.

4. Mwera



There are two larger open spaces located by the Mwera School. Both are consisting of a mixture of grass and sand, and the larger one has two goal posts and is mainly used for football games and for children to play at after school. The smaller area is the meeting point of the neighbourhood, hosting vendors and food stands during special occasions, just like in Uwanja wa Kihinani. Besides from being a gathering place during special celebrations, the area is mainly used as a passage. This is probably why the residents are not motivated to keep the area clean, and waste is therefore often scattered all over the ground. In one corner of the field, women often gather to prepare food in the shade from a small cluster of trees. The lower height but the solid foliage of the trees create a smaller room in a pleasant scale.



The field in Mwera is mostly used as a passage.



Left: the larger field with goal posts.

Right: the seating area with the small gathering of trees where women often prepare food.



5. Uwanja wa Kihinani

Uwanja wa Kihinani is locally a well-known football pitch, unofficially called “Vila Stadium” by the residents in the area, as it is the home ground for the local football team “Vila”. The field is located just by a busy road and a madrasa, and consists of a large, open field with a ground cover of sand and grass. The eastern edge of the field is framed by tires dug halfway into the ground, functioning both as a border between the pitch and the road, and as an informal seating option. The tires underneath a small gathering of trees in one corner of the pitch is the only place where people can sit down in the shade. There are some trees framing the edges of the site, but vegetation is otherwise absent. A resident of the area says that there are constantly a football game going on there in the afternoons and on weekends, either informal ones where children of all ages participate, or formal ones where teams from the lower national divisions play. During large religious events, such as Eid, the open space becomes a gathering point for people from all the neighbouring areas. They put up food stands and tents where they sell toys or candy, play live music and socialise with each other.

The appearance of Uwanja wa Kihinani may seem modest, but the field is very valuable to the residents. Being an arena for cultural gatherings and hosting the football games give a strong identity to the area, especially since football is very important to the Zanzibaris.



The large football field framed by trees and the rows of tires.

Left: The site is located just by a busy road.

Right: The only place with seating and shelter from the sun.

Cows are often resting by the goal post.



6. Zanzibar Park

Zanzibar Park is (alongside with Kariakoo), the dream destination for children in all of Zanzibar. It is a large, gated park where the visitor must pay an entrance fee to access the multiple playgrounds, see the live animals or swim in the swimming pools. Locals from the whole island and tourists from other countries often come here, especially during weekends. The park was established in 2009, and the condition of a lot of the equipment is starting to become very worn down. The animals are kept in small cages (except from the zebras who are walking around freely in the park), and there is brightly coloured play equipment placed almost everywhere in the park.

Zanzibar park is packed with different functions, which makes this an attraction for all ages, even though the boldly coloured design for the main part of the park probably is directed towards children. Despite the large number of things to do, the position of the equipment and the solid boundaries between the areas with different functions sometimes might hamper the flow of movement, especially for smaller children. There is some vegetation in the park, mainly used to frame the different areas, but it is often of poor condition. It is clear that vegetation is not the main focus of the design, and the large area does not give a strong green impression.



Zebras strolling around on the lawn framed by the play equipment.

Left: The playful entrance that welcome the visitor.

Right: The small cages that keep some of the animals.

The park contains all kinds of different play equipment.



7. Jamhuri Gardens

Jamhuri gardens is a park located in one of the less dense neighbourhoods of Stone Town. It is visibly divided into two parts; the public park and the children's park. The public park consists of lawns, lush vegetation along the edges and trees of middle height, which creates a pleasant scale in the park. There are some waste scattered across the park, but a large container keeps the most of it under control. Jamhuri gardens is part of Stone Town's historical heritage, which is why it has remained a garden and not been threatened by increasing settlements. Many schools are located close to the park, which makes it a popular place for students to hang out in. There are however few places to sit at and almost no shelter in the garden, which makes it a sensitive spot when it rains. The seating is consisting of solid concrete barazas according to the traditional Swahili building style.

The north-eastern section of the park is still open for everyone but clearly focusing on children. Entering the children's part of Jamhuri gardens is very much like diving into a bowl of candy, as there are brightly coloured attractions, sculptures of animals and vegetation of every shade and shape. Entering the children's garden is free of charge for everyone, but riding the attractions cost a small fee. The area is open all day, but the attractions and the small food stands open every afternoon. Besides from the great variety of vegetation, there are benches everywhere for the adults to sit on. This makes it a pleasant area to visit, even without children. The complexity of the plantings is somewhat represented in the rest of the park as well, but not nearly in the same standard as in the children's part. The children's part of Jamhuri gardens is very well maintained.



The public part of the park, consisting of lawns framed by shrubs. Besides from the grass, the stone barazas are the only seating option.



Left: Students are hanging out underneath a temporary shelter.

Right: Colourful shrubs along one of the paths within the park.



The bright and colourful children's part of Jamhuri Gardens.



Multiple rides and vegetation of various shapes and colours.

4.2 REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVITIES IN ZANZIBAR TOWN

Places for play in the built environment can be planned or “natural”, and take many forms such as parks, playgrounds or public open spaces. The previous section mentions the general lack of formal playgrounds or other accessible areas that are designed for children in Zanzibar Town. However, this is not an indicator of how much children are playing. Children are playing wherever they can, which due to the lack of open spaces generally means playing in the narrow streets, even though these are not designed for play. The streets and alleys are therefore the most important areas for play among children in Zanzibar Town, and the most important elements in the urban environment are the concrete benches called “Barazas”. The barazas in the alleys of Stone Town are often connected to the facades of the buildings, and give the children an elevated area where they can play while they are protected from the passing pedestrians, mopeds and bikes.

Because of the culture and religion on Zanzibar, the main part of children and youth being seen outside are boys. When it comes to very young children, the gender representation is more equal, but as soon as they become slightly older, girls and women are not hanging out in public to the same extent as men. According to informal discussions with locals on this subject, women and girls are usually only outdoors when they are on their way somewhere, rarely just to spontaneously socialise. This affects the gender equality of the observations, as the outdoor space mainly was claimed by boys and men.

The observations regarding representative activities for children in the public spaces of Zanzibar Town were carried out at spontaneously during the whole stay in Zanzibar.



Left: Smaller children are often sitting on barazas in front their homes or the of local shops, often accompanied by an older sibling or a parent.

Right: Sometimes the children are just sitting together, sometimes they play with toys or cards.



Left: Boy playing bao in one of the narrow alleys of Stone Town

Right: Older boys playing keram.



There are always a lot of children (a vast majority are boys) jumping from the pier and playing in the ocean by Forodhani Gardens.



Left: Girls on their way to the local market.

Right: Boys walking together on their way to school.



Left: Boys are always seen playing football in the narrow alleys of Stone Town.

Right: Children throwing their shoes up in the tree, trying to get the fruits down. This happens almost everyday according to the owner of the café next to the trees.

4.3 ASPECTS TO CONSIDER IN THE DESIGN PROPOSAL III

The information from **Chapter 4** that is relevant to consider in the design proposal is summarized in the following paragraphs:



- **INTERACTION**

Places in Zanzibar Town are often separating areas that are designed for either adults or children. Places for children are often gated, and a coherent play landscape with softer borders is rarely considered. More inclusive public areas where children and adults can meet and socialise are needed in Zanzibar Town.

- **NATURAL ELEMENTS**

Artificial rather than natural elements and equipment are often prioritised in the existing sites that are designed for children in Zanzibar Town. Natural elements encourage children's play and should be emphasized in the design proposal. However, the bright and happy colours seem to be appreciated among children and adults.

- **CREATIVE ENVIRONMENTS**

Instead of being an area with barely any equipment at all, or an area that is packed with formal play equipment, the design proposal should consist of an environment that includes inspiring elements that encourage the child to create their own ways to play.

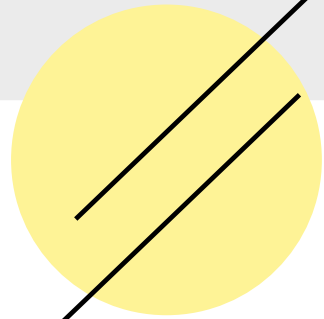
- **FREE ENTRANCE**

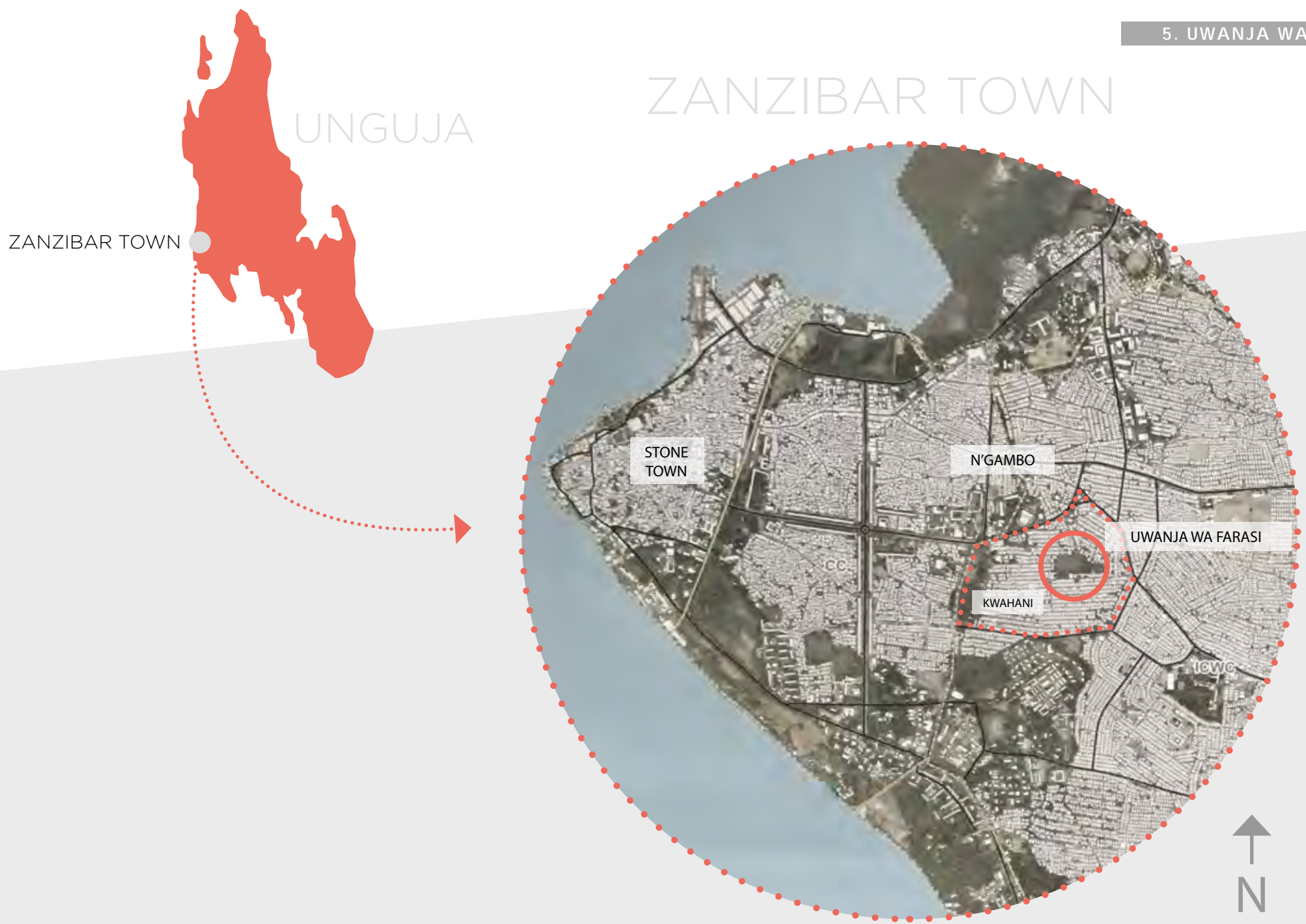
A gated site with an entrance fee limits the access but enables maintenance and a higher standard of the site. In this design proposal, the maintenance needs to be solved in another way, since the site should be accessible for everyone, regardless of financial situation.

5

THE SITE: UWANJA WA FARASI

The second part that covers the field studies in Zanzibar introduces Uwanja wa Farasi - the site for the design proposal, and presents the inventories and the site analyses of the site and its surroundings.





5.1 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Several potential sites for the design proposal were discussed with the Director of DoURP before the decision to work with Uwanja wa Farasi was made. Uwanja wa Farasi was considered a suitable choice due to its open character, something that is rare within the informal settlements in Ng'ambo. Secondly, it is surrounded by densely built residential houses, which means that many inhabitants (and children in particular) would benefit from a potential upgrade of the area.

Uwanja wa Farasi is a green, open space located in Kwahani, which is one of the Shehias in Ng'ambo. The name means "Ground of Horses", and derives from its past as a Polo Ground, established by the British during the colonial times. The site is surrounded by high ridges which makes it the lowest point in the area.

Because of the site's history as a former Polo Ground in the early 20th century, its existence has been fairly well-documented through historical maps and master plans. The settings of the surrounding landscape have changed due to the gradual upcoming of new buildings, and to the development of the infrastructural network. The size and shape of the field has changed over time because of the increased exploitation of residential buildings, but has remained an open space due to the flooding that its low-lying location entails.

The historical maps and plans are confirming the location and the morphological progression of the site, while written information about the site was proven to be more difficult to find. The historical information of the site is therefore based on oral stories told by elder residents who have spent the main part of their lives in the area. This chapter starts with a compilation of their stories, followed by a selection of historical maps and plans that show the field's morphological change over time.

SHEHIA:

The name of the geographical area that is the smallest administrative unit in Zanzibar.



In one of the earliest surveys of Zanzibar Town (1892), the very eastern parts of Ng'ambo were still fairly undeveloped, and the site of Uwanja wa Farasi is not yet mapped out.

5.1.1. The history of Uwanja wa Farasi

When the Sultan moved his court from Oman to Zanzibar around 1840, he did not trust the Zanzibaris enough to be his guardians, and brought soldiers from Oman to be responsible for his security instead. These soldiers were given major portions of land in Zanzibar Town, mainly in Ng'ambo. One of them was Ali Khan, who owned the land where Uwanja wa Farasi is located, and the name of the Kwahani region derives from its former owner. It is unclear whether the land of Kwahani was re-claimed by the Sultan, or if it was sold to him by Ali Khan, but it was during the ownership of the Sultan the Polo Ground was established later on (Mwalimu A. Mwalimu 2017).

From Pond to Polo Ground

Due to its low-lying position, Uwanja wa Farasi originally used to be a waterfilled pond. That changed during the colonial times, when the British decided that the large, open surface was a suitable location for their Polo games. They drained the water away by establishing drainage channels with an outlet that led the water to the west, where Kariakoo Amusement Park is located today. When the water reached Kariakoo, it was connected to the main stormwater line and led further out in the ocean. As soon as the drainage issue was managed, they sowed grass on the ground and started to use it for Polo games. The Polo Ground was used by the British until the beginning of World War II in 1939. Soon after the ground was abandoned by the British, people gradually started to build on the site, which decreased the size of it. Uwanja wa Farasi eventually became too small for Polo games, and became the home ground for the local football team Mwembeladou instead (Abeid Gharib Bilal et al. 2017).

The flooding occurs

When the site was used as a Polo Ground, it had a functioning drainage system and was mainly surrounded by undeveloped land instead of settlements. The water that came from the high ridges was soaked up on the way and therefore never reached the site in any large amounts, and the drainage channels took care of the stormwater on site. But as time passed (and especially after the revolution in 1964), a profound number of houses were built, and the existing settlements were extended and densified. The transformation from natural ground to crowded settlements changed the course of the water, and since Uwanja wa Farasi is the low point of the neighbourhood, the water was coming there from almost every direction. In addition to

that, the original drainage outlet built by the British was blocked and filled up with concrete when Kariakoo Amusement Park was established. This was a successful way to drain the amusement park from water, but the decision was made without taking any regards to the neighbouring area, and it changed the conditions of Uwanja wa Farasi profoundly. The site was now unable to handle the large amounts of water, and started to flood during the rainy season (Abeid Gharib Bilal et al. 2017).

Agricultural activity

Eventually, the occasional flooding changed the vegetation on site. The wet conditions appeared to be an optimal habitat for a spinach-like vegetable called *Nyarugoe*. Every time the site was flooded, large amounts of *Nyarugoe* popped up and were collected by the female residents of the area. Small amounts of *Nyarugoe* still grows at the site, but not nearly as much as it used to (Abeid Gharib Bilal et al. 2017).

Since people continued to build houses on the site, it eventually got too small to host the official football games. Then the residents started to use the ground for rice plantings, especially in the eastern part of the site. This was later forbidden by the Municipality, since private plantings were not allowed on the public ground. Another part of the site that has been claimed for private use is a slightly elevated patch of land, where an Indian business man used to keep his cows. He thought that the cows were holy, and wanted to keep them close to his home to worship them. Traces of this is still to be seen on site; the concrete basin where the kettle drank their water is still remaining, and so are the tires, dug halfway into the ground, that the cows were tied to. However, one day the Regional Commissioner prohibited animals from being kept in the urban areas of Zanzibar Town. The business man had to remove his cows, and the space has been left vacant ever since (Sheha of Kwahani 2017).

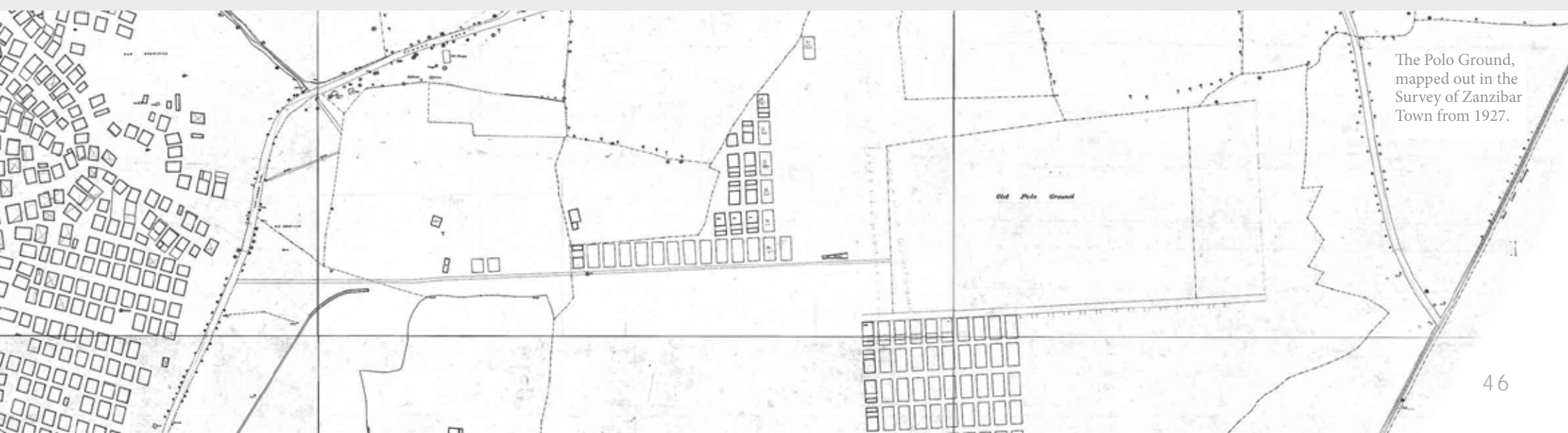
New drainage outlet

To solve the flooding issue, a new drainage outlet (located north of the original one) was recently established by the Zanzibar Municipal Council. However, the outlet is always blocked by waste and therefore not filling its function. The residents of the area claim that regular maintenance of the channels and the current outlet as well as the re-opening of the old one, would be enough to drain the water away and avoid the flooding (Abeid Gharib Bilal et al. 2017).

POLO:

Polo is a team sport played on horseback, where the players score by driving a small ball into the opposing team's goal using a long-handled mallet. The traditional sport of Polo is played on a very large grass field, up to the size of nine football fields.

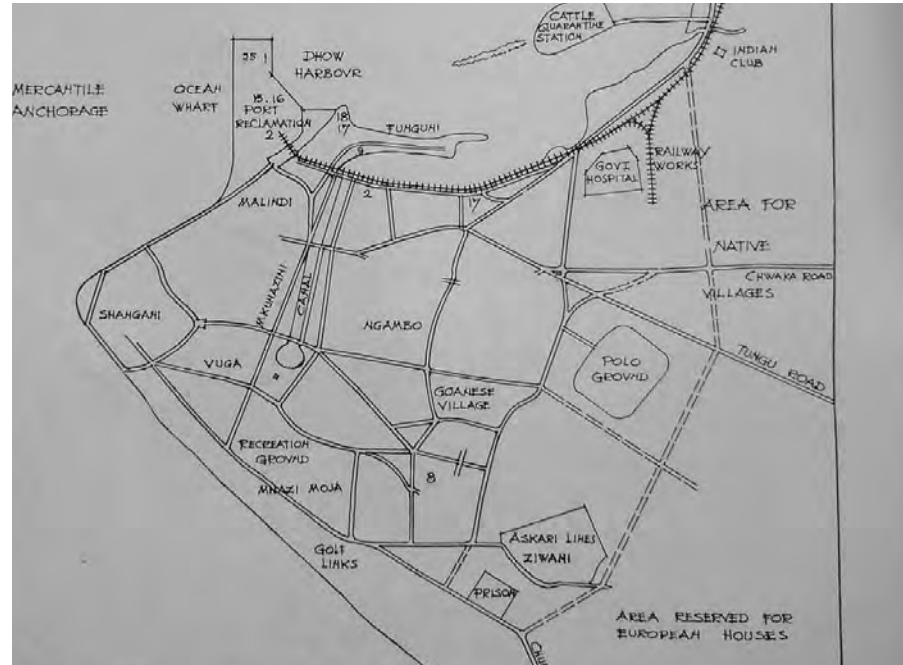
(Museum of Polo 2017)



The Polo Ground, mapped out in the Survey of Zanzibar Town from 1927.

5.1.2. Morphological development of Uwanja wa Farasi

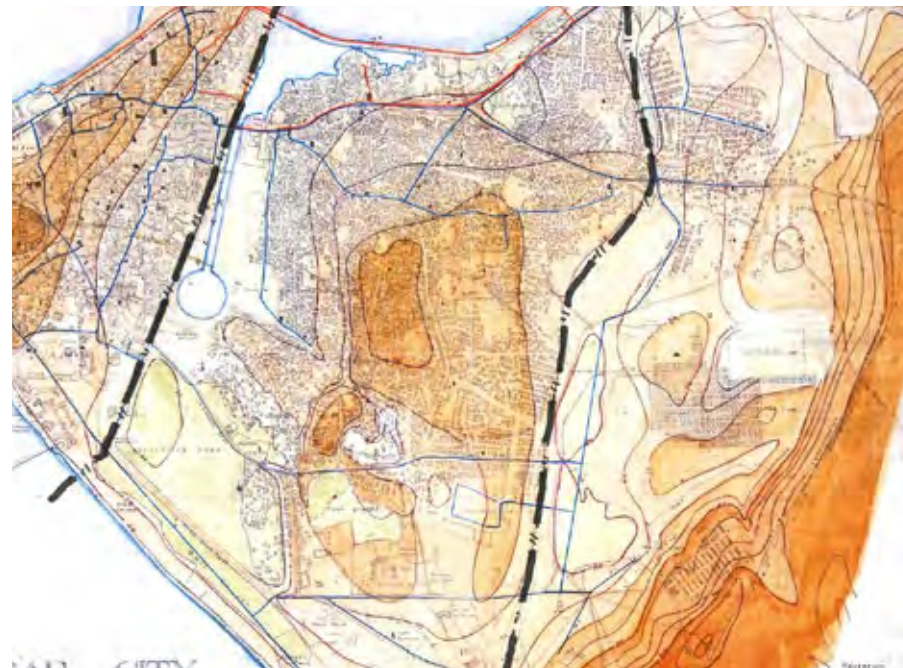
The aim of the Lanchester Plan was to recommend better types of houses and a system for waste management in the Swahili areas. To achieve this, they categorized the areas of Zanzibar Town after what origin their inhabitants were of. The detailed plan is mainly covering Stone Town and the City Centre, but the overview of the areas for extension illustrates Uwanja wa Farasi as "Polo Ground".



Lanchester Plan, 1923

Uwanja wa Farasi is marked as "Polo Ground" for the first time.

The height curves on the geomorphological map distinguish the low-lying site, now named as the "Old Polo Ground". The southeast corner of the site is connected to an area of neatly lined settlements. Besides from them, the field is surrounded by undeveloped land.



Geomorphological map of Zanzibar Town, 1927

The site is almost completely surrounded by undeveloped land. Height-curves indicates low-lying position.

The open space of Uwanja wa Farasi is now defined by the surrounding settlements, however with two large openings that stretch the field from the northern main road and further down south.



Survey of Zanzibar Town, 1954

The left-over area from the Polo Ground is now defined by surrounding settlements.

This town survey shows Uwanja wa Farasi, now completely framed by residential buildings due to the densification of the informal settlements.



Survey of Zanzibar Town, 1959

The field is now completely framed by the unplanned, residential buildings.

The extension of Karume Road is now connecting the existing road network all the way to Stone Town. The area of the site has decreased slightly due to the upcoming of new buildings.



Survey of Zanzibar Town, 1975

Karume Road is connecting the existing road network to Stone Town.

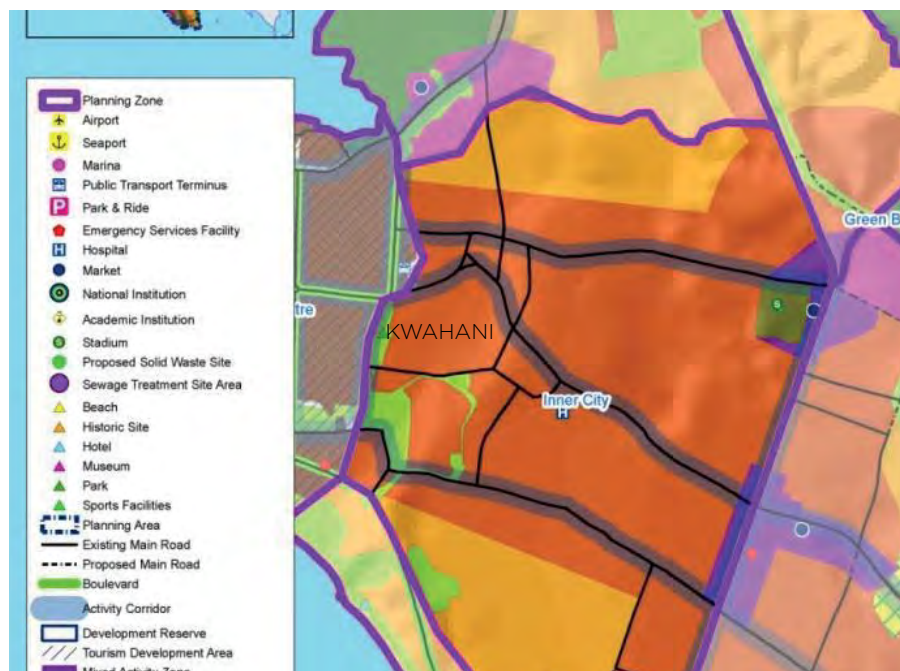
The Chinese Master Plan states that the existing sewer is not enough to drain the stormwater away, and suggests the establishment of an intercepting ditch along the edges of the site to lead the storm water away to the city's main drainage system. The plan is also suggesting to fill up the depression and convert it into a public open space with a football field, kindergarden and a school.



Chinese Master Plan of Kwahani, 1982

Suggested (but never realized) development of the Kwahani area, including the Polo Ground.

ZanPlan 2015 defines the most central areas of Zanzibar Town into three different planning zones; "Stone Town", "City Centre" and "Inner city". Uwanja wa Farasi is located within the boundaries of the Inner city-area, just eastern of the "City Centre".

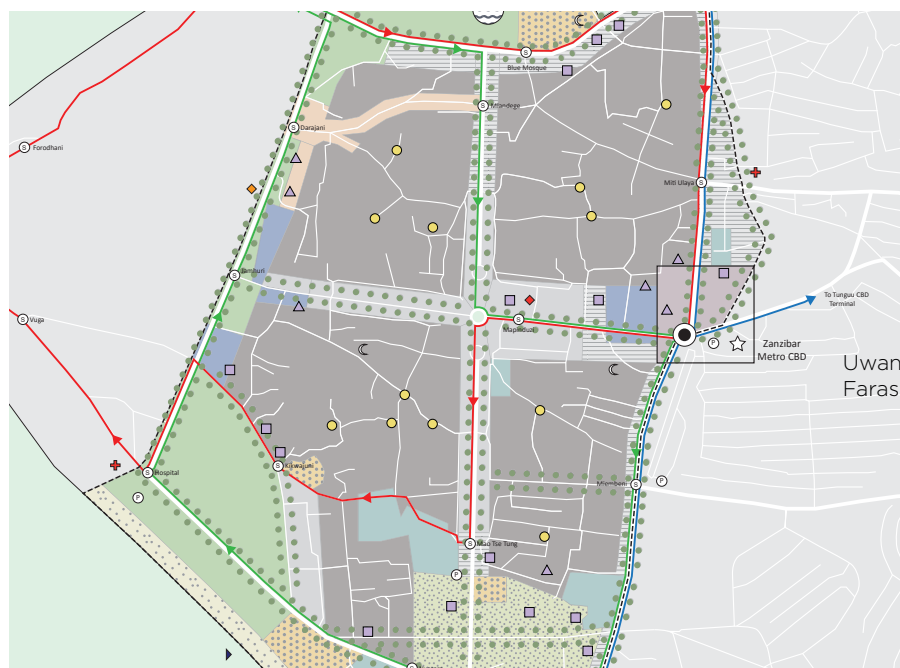


ZanPlan, 2015

According to ZanPlan, Uwanja wa Farasi belongs to the "Inner City" planning zone.

The plan states that a development of the Inner city-area requires "acupuncture" interventions to systematically upgrade and extend public space (Shapira & Helleman Planners 2015).

Ng'ambo Local Area Plan does not cover the Kwahani area, but propose a development of the neighbouring area. A future transport node and commercial centre (Zanzibar Metro CBD) is proposed to be located in the junction of Karume Road and Felix Mounmie Road.



Ng'ambo Local Area Plan, 2016

The region of Kwahani is located just east of the area that Ng'ambo Local Area Plan covers.

Karume Road is proposed to become a green, pedestrian friendly boulevard, and the area just eastern of the junction is considered a possible location for a new landmark.



POLO GROUND



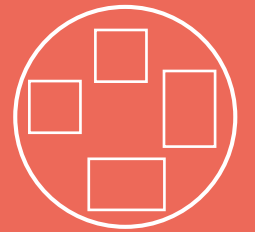
FOOTBALL



FLOODING



AGRICULTURE

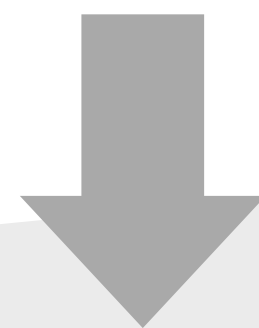


OPEN SPACE

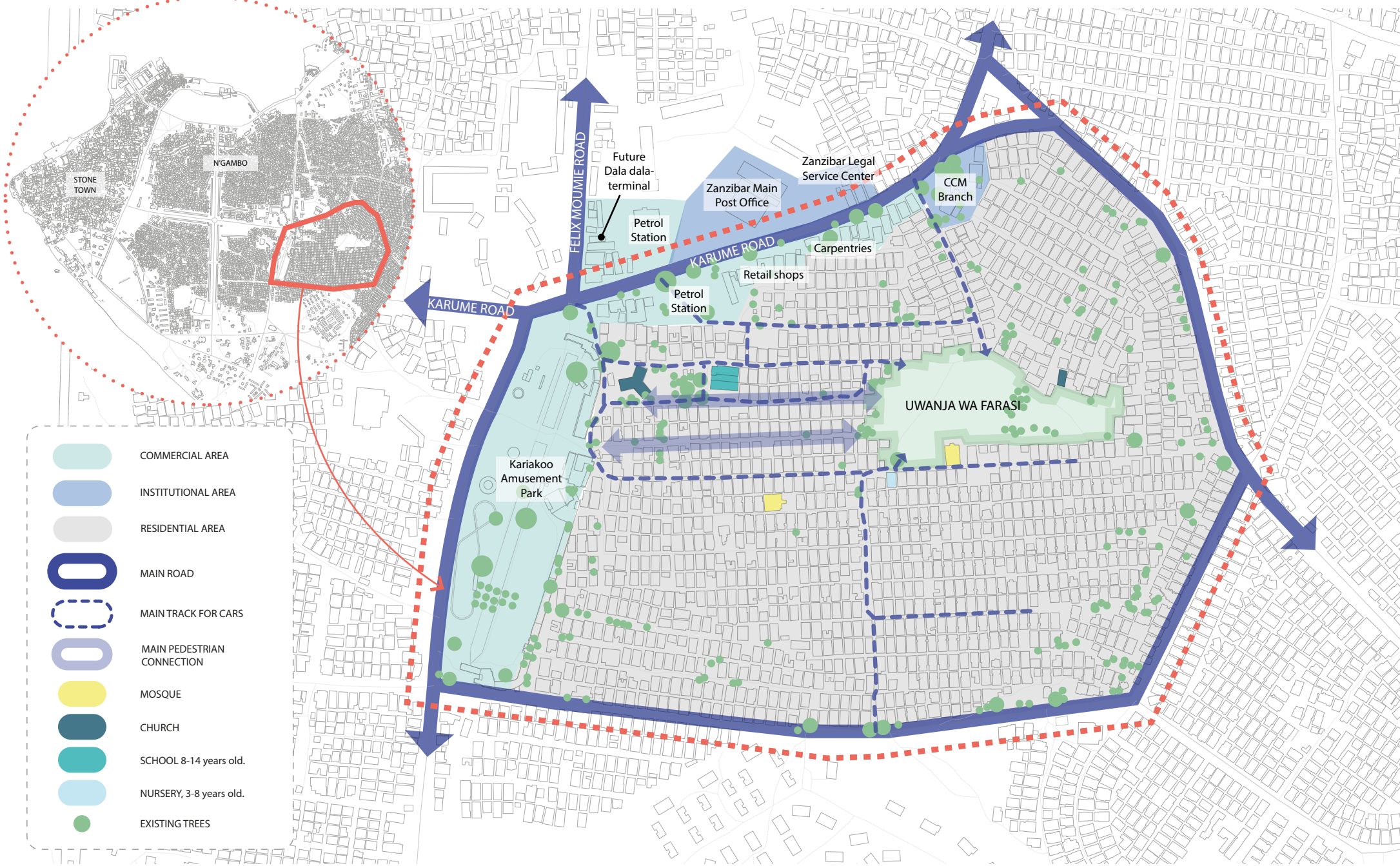
5.1.3. The heritage of the site

The fact that the site was chosen to be the location for the Polo Ground in the beginning of the 20th century has set the conditions for its development until this day. The establishment of the drainage system and the development of the grass field created an opportunity for the residents to actively start using the site, even after the Polo games and the official football games ended. And even though the flooding of the area has caused the residents a lot of problems, it is an important reason to what the site has become. The flooding equals poor building conditions, and has therefore prevented the area from being built upon, which is one of the main reasons for why Uwanja wa Farasi has remained a large, open space within an otherwise densely exploited area.

The heritage of the site is a part of its identity today, and even the name is a reminder of the ground's former use. Uwanja wa Farasi has been a place for activity, sport and recreation for almost a century, which is an important aspect to remember in a future development.



IDENTITY



5.2 CURRENT SITUATION: THE SURROUNDINGS

5.2.1. Inventory of the Surrounding Area

In order to understand the context of the site, it is relevant to show the neighbourhood that Uwanja wa Farasi is situated within. The main roads that surround the neighbourhood determined the borders of the investigated area.

Karume Road (north of the site) is the main road that links Stone Town to the eastern parts of the island. Felix Moumie Road (west of the site) is the main road that leads to the northern parts of the island, and connects to Nyerere Road which leads to the airport and the southern parts of the island. The main roads are functioning as visual and physical borders to the neighbourhood since they affect how people are moving. The roads are wide and heavily trafficked, and the lack of pedestrian crossings over the roads makes crossing them dangerous, especially for children.

The majority of the buildings in the neighbourhood are residential houses. Due to the lack of financial investments from the Government, the standards regarding infrastructure, lighting, waste management and water access are low.

The commercial areas in the neighbourhood include Kariakoo Amusement Park and the retail shops, petrol stations and carpentries along Karume Road. The institutional area consists of Zanzibar Main Post Office, Zanzibar Legal Service Center and the CCM Branch (which is an office for one of the local political parties). The rides in Kariakoo and the mobile tower by the Post Office function as landmarks, and can be seen from almost the whole area.



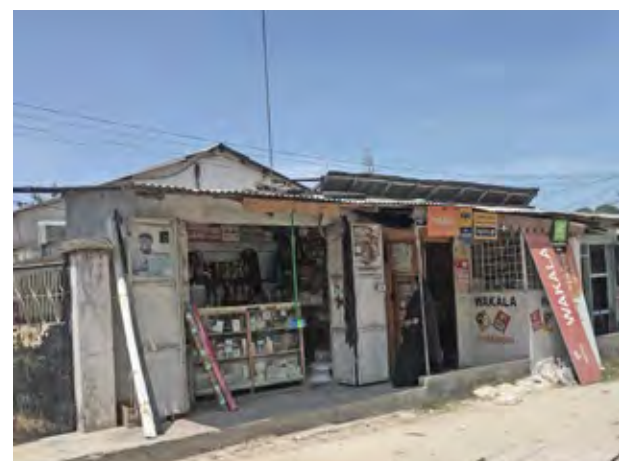
Karume Road



Petrol Station south of Karume Road.



Carpentries along Karume Road



Small retail shops along Karume Road.

Rows of fairly newly built houses of good quality.



Left: Small, local shops are located among the residential houses.



Middle: Residential house in a colourful, eclectic style.



Right: Some abandoned houses are turning into ruins.



5.2.2. Settlements

The buildings within the neighbourhood are mainly residential, one storey houses built according to classical Swahili traditions. There is a large variation of houses in the area, both in terms of appearance and condition, ranging from dilapidated ruins to newly built homes of good standard. Some of the houses are hosting small, local shops and other commercial services. Within the area, there are also two churches and two mosques, as well as a nursery for children between 3-8 years, and Tanzania Global Academy, a secondary school for children between 8-14 years. The church that is located in the western part of the neighbourhood is the only two-storey building within the entire neighbourhood, which makes it easy to locate.

The houses in the area are built on semi-planned or unplanned plots. The straight street grid is the result of the semi-planned plots (see the green circle), and the warped streets are signs of the encroachment of unplanned buildings (see the red circle). The dense settlements and the lack of private courtyards or fenced areas are however contributing to a very vibrant street life.



The wider streets in the area that are accessible for cars range from 2,5 - 4 m.



Left and right: The narrow openings between the houses range from 1,5 - 2m.



Middle: The barazas outside the houses enable a social street life.

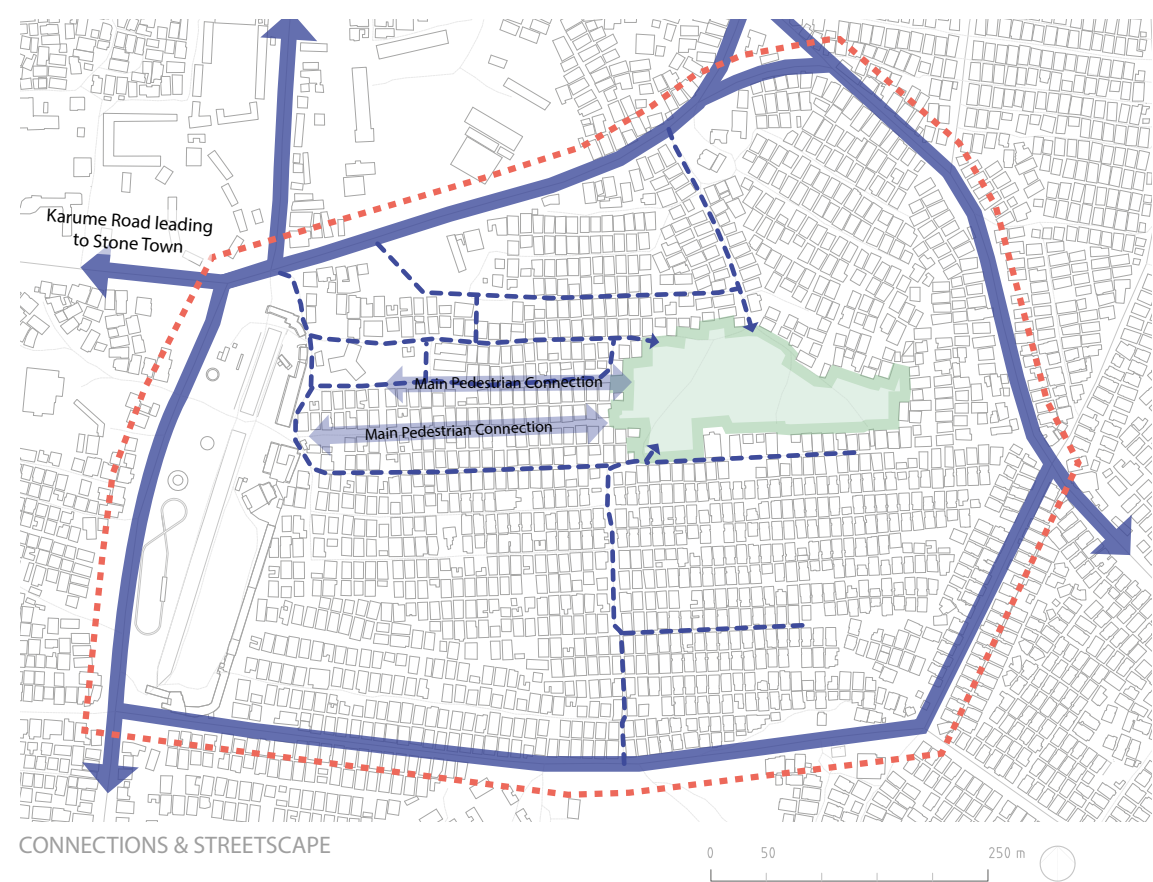
5.2.3. Connections & Streetscape

Even though the neighbourhood is physically linked to Zanzibar's main infrastructural network (Karume Road and Felix Moumie Road etc.), the connections between the site and the main roads are vague, both due to the lack of wider streets whose hierarchy could signalise an entrance to the site, and to the absence of visual features such as vegetation along the roads.

The streets within the area are narrow and hard to access by car, especially in the north-south direction. The gravel roads are of bad condition, and piles of building material or waste are sometimes blocking the streets. Cars and mopeds drive where they can, and share the narrow streets with pedestrians and bikers. Despite the dense road network, there are only three ways to access the site by car from the main roads.

The main pedestrian connections are harder to distinguish, as people simply are using the space between the buildings when they move within the area. The two main pedestrian connections to Uwanja wa Farasi is the one leading from Kariakoo Amusement Park and the one leading from the secondary school.

Despite the issues that the crowded settlements can cause, the narrow streets and the low buildings create an intimate streetscape in the human scale. There is also a very intimate connection between the private indoor environment and the public outdoor environment, and residents of all ages meet and interact in the streets or by the barazas outside their homes.



BARAZAS:

The Baraza benches have been an important social gathering place for Zanzibaris for centuries, and are still to be seen everywhere in Zanzibar Town. They are often made of solid, thick stone and built into the walls of the houses along the narrow streets. The upcoming of the barazas started when Islamic men needed to invite guests over without disturbing the privacy of the women inside their homes. Visitors could therefore meet for a coffee by the semi-public barazas in front of their houses. Until this day, barazas are very important meeting points for all citizens, regardless of social status, as it offers a place where they can relax, socialize, eat or even nap.

(McIntyre 2013, p.41)

The open space located between the church and the school becomes a social node for the residents..



Left: Some residents have small lots with plantings outside their houses.



Middle and right: The occasional green elements within the neighbourhood.



5.2.4. Vegetation & Open Space

There is a small number of trees and other vegetation within the area (mainly located along the edges of the neighbourhood), but no larger, green surfaces except from the one in Uwanja wa Farasi. There is an absence of accessible and green open spaces in Ng'ambo in general, and the size of Uwanja wa Farasi makes it unique within the area. Some of the residents are using small patches of land by their houses for growing edible greens, but the reason for the small number of trees and larger plantations within the neighbourhood are simply because of the narrow streets and the lack of public places.

There is barely any open space located within the neighbourhood, except from a small area between the church and the school. This functions as a social node, and people can sit down on a group of benches underneath a gathering of palm trees. There is a lot of activity on this site, especially in the daytime because of the small shops where food is sold, and since a lot of people are passing the site daily.

According to the Local Area Plan for Ng'ambo, Karume Road is going to be developed into a pedestrian friendly boulevard with extensive greening, to function as a green corridor in Zanzibar Town. This green corridor could connect to Uwanja wa Farasi to strengthen the green infrastructure of the city.



Children playing football in the narrow streets.



Left: The older children are often hanging out by the small shops.



Middle: The younger children are playing on the barazas by their houses.



Right: Students are seeking shade outside the school.



5.2.5. Children & Play

Since Uwanja wa Farasi is located within a residential area, there are children of all ages playing almost everywhere in the neighbourhood. They are playing football or running around in the narrow alleys, sitting on the barazas outside the houses with their parents or just playing with toys. Another popular activity for the younger children is to play the local game Nage (see p. 67) on any of the patches of sand. The larger barazas, and especially those who are located close to street vendors or small shops, become social nodes for the older children.

The dense building pattern of the area limits car traffic, which gives children the opportunity to move around more freely within the area. However, when cars are driving in the streets, they are taking up almost all the space, and there are mopeds who sometimes travel in very high speed, which causes an unsafe environment. Children are often seen in the streets without being accompanied by adults, which indicates a perceived security from the parents that allows a more independent movement pattern for the children.

Despite this freedom of movement within the neighbourhood, there are no obvious destinations where children can go and play, except from Uwanja wa Farasi. Even though there is a school and a nursery within the neighbourhood, there are no schoolyards connected to either of them. There are no public playgrounds or other open spaces where children can play in the area, and children of the neighbourhood are therefore mainly playing in the streets.

The short distance to Kariakoo Amusement Park makes children of the area visually and mentally aware of its presence. For many of the children this is the ultimate place for entertainment and play, but the fact that it is gated and that they charge an entrance fee restrains the usage of it. An upgrade of Uwanja wa Farasi could function as a green complement to the gated, hard surfaced amusement park with very programmed equipment.



Two young girls are waiting for their parents outside the mosque.



5.3 CURRENT SITUATION: THE SITE

Uwanja wa Farasi is one of few remaining open spaces in Ng'ambo. It is a large open field, with one of the drainage channels dividing the site into a larger western part and a smaller eastern part. The site is surrounded by dense settlements, mostly consisting of one storey houses that are built according to Swahili building traditions. Despite the large size of the field, it is not visually present in the narrow streets of the neighbourhood.

Since the field is located in the middle of the Kwahani neighbourhood, it has become a passage for residents living in the area. Nevertheless, just like back in the days, the children (especially boys but sometimes girls as well) mainly use the area for playing football. Patches of sand in the field are often used by the children when they are playing the local game Nage.

There is a waste collection point located by the northern edge of the field. A small NGO is responsible for the waste management of the neighbourhood, going from house to house to collect the garbage and put it into the two large containers at the collection point. ZMC clean the channels on a regular basis, but it is the people who live in the neighbourhood that are taking the main responsibility for keeping Uwanja wa Farasi clean. The residents that live nearby the site usually clean it voluntary every or every second month.

Small patches in the field are used for private farming. The plantings belong to some the residents, which technically is not allowed, since they are situated on public ground that belongs to the Government. The plantings are consisting of various edible vegetation such as banana trees, coconut trees, cassava and other fruits and vegetables.

The two main issues of the site are the occasional flooding and the waste that is scattered all over the area. The waste is often thrown into the drainage channels, which blocks the water flow and stops the water from leaving the area through the outlet. Therefore, almost the whole field is completely flooded during the rainy season, and the water usually stays for 2-3 days before it slowly leaves the area. Besides from the fact that the field is covered in water, the surrounding houses used to be flooded as well, which forced the residents to evacuate their homes until the water had dried out. Thanks to the new drainage outlet established by the Zanzibar Municipal Council in 2000, the situation has become much better, and no evacuating have been necessary in 2017. The drainage channels on the site are supposed to be managed by ZMC, but the residents consider this an issue, since they think that the channels are not cleaned and emptied from waste often enough. The residents want the channels to be privatized and managed by themselves instead, since they are the ones who know exactly when and how often the cleaning is needed.



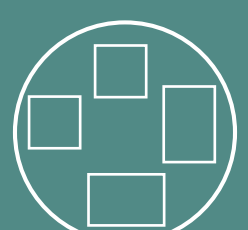
FOOTBALL



RECREATION



FLOODING



OPEN SPACE

5.3.1. Inventory & Observations done on site



1

The large grass area, flooded during raining season and always used as a football pitch as soon as it is dry.

2

The two containers at the waste collection point. A truck comes there to empty them when they are full.

3

Residents of the area are using parts of the site for farming vegetables and fruit.



ORTHOPHOTO OF THE SITE (2017).



4

One of the small bridges creating pathways over the drainage channels, often covered by waste.



5

The slightly elevated area and the remaining water tank from when kettles were kept there.



6

The smaller part of the site, located east of the drainage channel.



7

The large mango tree with tires underneath for seating is functioning as an entrance to the site.



8

The current outlet of the drainage system, often blocked by waste.



9

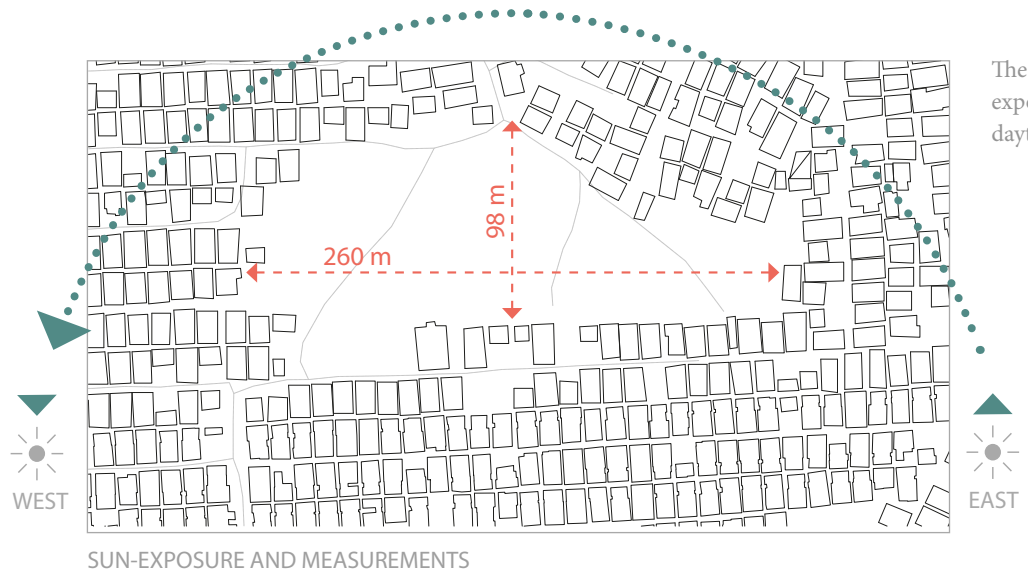
The large open space of Uwanja wa Farasi, a rare sight in Ng'ambo. The area behind the goal posts is sometimes used by a local female football team.



The rise of the settlements reveals the low position of the site.

5.3.2. Climate & Topography

Since Uwanja wa Farasi is surrounded by low buildings, and due to its open character, the site is sun exposed throughout the whole day. The site is lacking elements that provide shelter from the sun, which means that the climate of the site is very hot, especially during the dry season. The warm climate might prevent people from staying there for a longer time, especially small children and older people. The site itself is low-lying compared to its surroundings, but the topography of the actual site is rather flat. The successive rise of settlements just east of the site confirms its low-lying position.



The site is sun-exposed during daytime.

SUN-EXPOSURE AND MEASUREMENTS

5.3.3. Surfaces & Vegetation

Almost all the ground surfaces of the area are covered by grass. There are patches within the area where the grass is wrenched, which indicates high usage. The wider roads that connect to the site are made of sand, and there are no paved surfaces within the site, except from the platform where the containers are standing. There are two larger patches with private plantings on the site, containing banana trees, coconut trees, cassava shrubs, tomatoes and other edible greens. There are also some palm trees and other deciduous trees of middle height along the edges of the site, but the mango tree in the southwest corner is by far the largest and most distinct tree on site. Weeds and some flowers are growing along the southern drainage channel.



The site is mainly covered by grass of varying quality.

SURFACES & VEGETATION



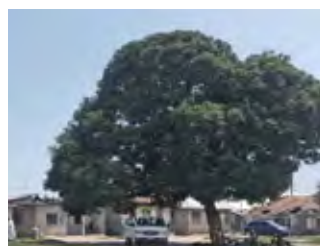
Almost the whole site is flooded during the raining season. The smaller "room" in the east is rarely flooded, and the slightly elevated patch with the plantings remains unflooded as well.

FLOODING

Types of vegetation found on site



The largest private plantings.



Mango tree.



Linear patches of weed and flowers are following the channels.



Some palm trees are situated along the edges of the site.



Natural upcoming of trees and shrubs by the old drainage outlet.

Surfaces



Packed soil showing up where the grass is wrenched.



Grass of varying heights.



Patches or roads of sand.

5.4 SITE ANALYSES

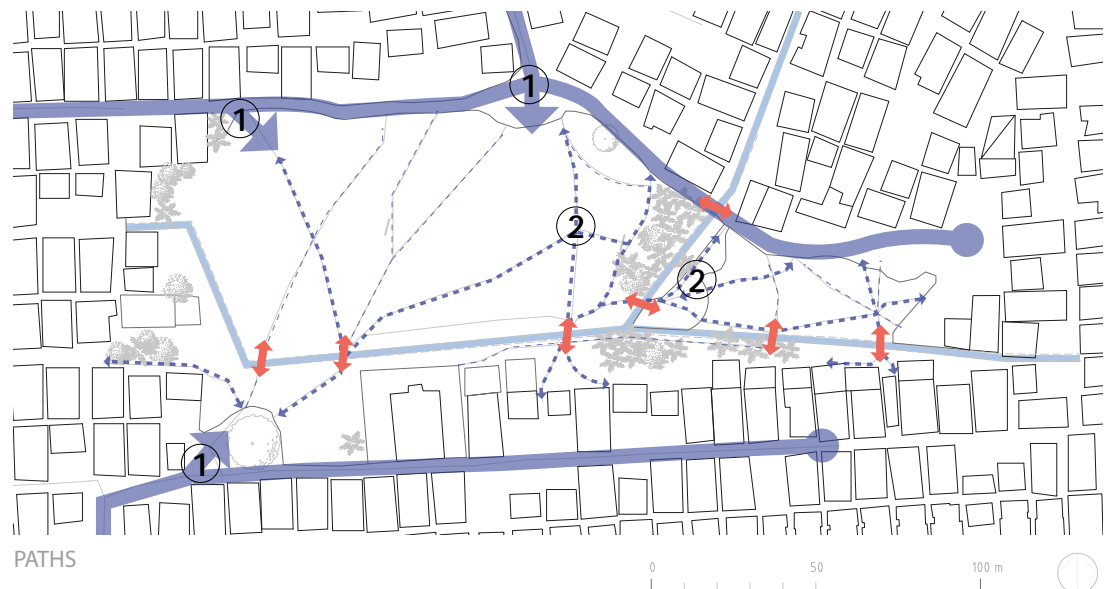
5.4.1. Lynch Analysis of the Site

The physical and experienced structure of the site is presented through this site analysis done according to Lynch's method. The compiled knowledge that is the foundation of this analysis, is gained through the multiple site visits and through spontaneous conversations with residents of the area.

Paths

1. There are three ways to access the site by car, all of which connect the site to the surrounding infrastructural network of main roads. These roads create the three largest openings towards the surrounding settlements, and are therefore categorized as main entrances to the site. The entrance by the Mango tree is the most distinct one, since the tree functions as a focal point. There are no visible indications of the site's presence until reaching these entrances. Along the northern edge of the site, there is a wider sand road (accessible for cars), connecting the two north entrances to each other and leading all the way to the eastern edge of the site.

2. Whether the site is connecting to a linear or organic grid of settlements, the space between the buildings are used to access the site by foot, which means that there are multiple ways for pedestrians to reach the site. This has resulted in an irregular, web-like pattern of informal trails within the site, as people who cross the site are coming from all directions. The main part of the residents are crossing the site by foot, but some are passing by bike. The informal footpaths are traced from an aerial photograph from 2017, which were considered a relevant indication of what routes that are largely used by the residents.



The north-western "entrance" to the site.



One of the informal footpaths on site.

Edges

1. The houses that surround the site are functioning as visual boundaries to the site. The dense building pattern may contribute to the perception of these edges as solid, but the many openings between the buildings creates a transparent edge, letting people entering the site from almost everywhere. The houses that frames the site are of average condition, one storey and of classic Swahili style. All buildings are residential houses, except from the Nursery for children in the ages of 3-8, the Mosque and the Church.

2. The drainage channels are functioning as edges to the inner area of the site. The channels are limiting the free movement pattern, but are on the other hand considered to be penetrable barriers because of the small bridges that enable passing over the channels.

3. Together with the channel, the private plantations divide the site into a larger and a smaller part. The green foliage of the plantings is working as a transparent dividing screen, connecting and separating the two areas at the same time.



The surroundings houses create a transparent edge around the site.



The large plantations, dividing the large space in two.

Landmarks

1. The Mango tree is the largest, most solid tree on the site, and is visually present from almost all parts of the open space. The tree is functioning as a focal point in its context and is something to navigate by.

2. The Mosque has a fairly lowkey appearance, but is an important meeting point in the area and very easy to locate thanks to its minaret tower, whose height makes it visible from almost all parts of the site.

3. The telephone tower by the Zanzibar Main Post Office is located outside the site but is clearly visible from all directions. The towers are an indicator of the proximity to Karume Road, whose existence otherwise is hidden when visiting the site.

4. The existence of Kariakoo Amusement Park is especially important to the children of the area, and some of the rides is slightly visible in the western part of the site.



The Mosque and the Mango tree showing up behind the Minaret tower.



The mobile posts by the Post Office located by Karume Road.

Districts

1. This district is a calmer area with a lower tempo that is very much defined by the presence of the large Mango tree. There are tires dug into the ground underneath the shadow of the tree, which gives the visitor an opportunity to gather and sit down and socialize.

2. The western part of the site is defined by the large surface of grass and is mainly used as a football pitch as long as it is dry. The area has no linear boundaries but is defined by the northern road, the drainage channels and district no. 3. This district is the most active one; partly because of the football games, but also since this is where the most frequently used footpaths are located. This district functions therefore as the main passage between north and south.

3. The central district is defined by the slightly elevated land and the private plantings. It is also the borderline that divides Uwanja wa Farasi into a larger and a smaller part, and the opening in the vegetation between the two parts functions as a portal. The two paths that frames the districts are both well used passages between the north and south, which makes this an active area.

4. The smaller “room” of the site is located in the eastern area. There is more sand and less grass on the ground than in the western part. Due to the size and the more immediate connection with the surrounding houses, the district has a small scale feeling. The outdoor activities in front of the houses contribute to a feeling of presence and activity in the district. This district is also a connection point for trails leading in every direction.



The western part of the site is categorized as the largest district.



The eastern, smaller room of the site.

Nodes

1. The informal seating area underneath the mango tree creates a social node as people gather there to seek shelter from the sun. This place fills an important function, since there are no other options for seating on the site.

2. The nursery is hosting children from 3-8 years, which makes this a gathering point for them and sometimes their parents on weekdays. The environment just outside the nursery is used for play by the older children.

3. The area between the two goal posts is the main football ground of the area, gathering residents of all ages (especially children) to play football or to watch people play. This is an activity that goes on as soon as the area is dry.

4. The very western part of the site functions as a football pitch for the local female football team. This can be considered a temporary node, since it is not used as much as the larger football pitch.

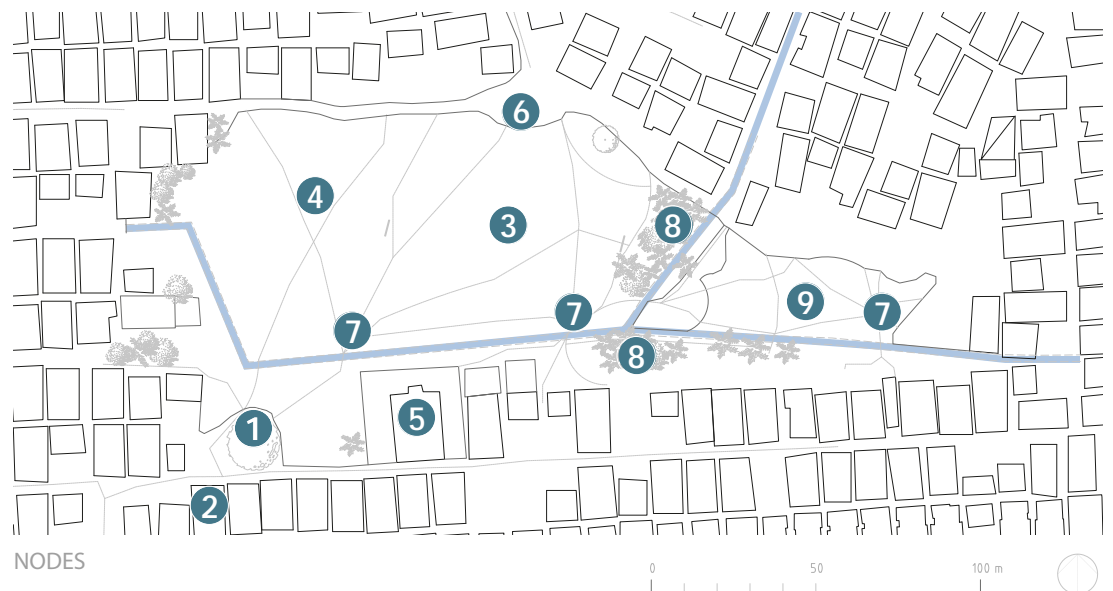
5. The mosque is an important religious and social meeting point for the residents of the area, as it gathers people for prayers and other religious activities all year round.

6. The waste collection point functions as a node in the area, since there is constant activity by residents and people from the waste management organisation who are dumping their trash. A truck comes there to empty the containers when they are full, but since this is not done on a regular basis, this area is often covered by litter.

7. There are a few small junctions where the most frequently used informal trails in different directions meet. Since there are almost unlimited options of how to cross the site, there is no high pressure on any of these junctions despite their narrow size.

8. The areas with plantations attract their owners to look after and harvest their crops. Even though the plantations are located on public ground, most of the residents consider the plantations as private areas.

9. The eastern "room" of the site attracts younger children to play. One of the most popular places to play is a small patch of sand surrounded by grass. This is mainly used by smaller children for playing games or standing in a circle, kicking a ball to each other.



One of the "junctions" where trails in different directions meet.



Looking out to the nursery (the coloured house) from the shaded area underneath the mango tree.

5.4.2. SWOT-analysis of the Site

The SWOT-analysis consists of the compiled results from the site studies.

STRENGTHS

- **Social Node**

Adults and children meet by the site, mainly to play football or to watch people play. Because of its central location, people also meet when they are passing the site to reach other parts of the neighbourhood. Interaction with adults and other children is an important part of children's development.

- **Green Qualities**

The site is experienced as a green area due to the large surfaces of grass. It also has some important vegetation, such as the large mango tree, which is valuable to the site both by giving shade and functioning as a landmark.

- **Identity**

The site has a strong sense of identity because of the awareness of the historical heritage and its current role as a football ground.

- **Separation from Cars**

There are barely any roads that cars can access on the site, which makes it free from high speed vehicles and therefore a safer space for the children of the area.

- **Farming**

The area is always sun-exposed, and the private plantings with edible vegetation on site show that some of the residents express an interest in farming.

WEAKNESSES

- **Poor Connections**

The entrances to the site are unclear, and it is hard to navigate to the site from the dense settlements. The roads within the site are informal trails that does not connect to a larger context.

- **Unvaried Vegetation**

There is a lack of dynamic, varied vegetation that contribute to mental stimulation through colour, shape or smell. There is also a lack of vegetation that provide shade, or that children could interact with and climb, touch or hide behind.

- **Lack of Reasons to Stay**

The lack of seating and shelter limits the usability of the area, and the site does not provide many options for things to do or see. The lack of lighting on site limits the use to exist only during daytime.

- **Small Range of Activities**

There is a lack of equipment or environments for children that stimulate or encourage other activities than football.

- **No Places in a Smaller Scale**

The large open area barely consists of any places in a more intimate scale, or with less insight. It is therefore hard to find any secluded places within the site.

- **Waste**

Lack of places to collect the trash makes it scattered all over the site, especially in the channels. The large containers on site are aesthetically undesirable and smell a lot.

- **Flooding**

The large amounts of water during the heavy rains limits the use of the site, but is said to be solved by ZMC (see p.70) through an improvement of the drainage outlet.

- **Gender**

Despite being used by women from time to time, the site is mainly used by men of different ages.

OPPORTUNITIES

- **Quantity of Open Space**

The site is unique for the area since it consists of large quantities of undeveloped space, which means that the site holds the potential to contain multiple functions and various elements that could encourage many different activities.

- **Location**

The site connects and links the area together and is surrounded by residential settlements, which brings life and activity to the site. The location means that there are a lot of potential users that have easy access to the site.

- **Complement to Kariakoo**

The site could be turned into a place that stimulates children (and adults) in a different way than Kariakoo. A site with high recreational and ecological values, and equipment that is less programmed would be a good complement to the amusement park.

- **School & Nursery**

The easy access to the site from the school and the nursery enables the children to use the site for outdoor education or for after school-activities.

- **Increased Safety**

A multifunctional site could attract many different visitors, whose presence is a way to enhance the experienced safety on site. Lighting of selected parts of the site would also be a way of making the visitors feel safe during the dark hours.

- **A Designed Site**

A designed site would increase the standard of the whole neighbourhood, and is more likely to be respected and taken care of by the residents.

THREATS

- **Waste**

The improvement of the waste management on site (and especially the occurrence of waste in the channels) is largely depending on the engagement of the residents. An eventual lack of engagement would result in huge difficulties in solving this issue.

- **Flooding**

There is a risk that the improvement of the drainage system by ZMC still won't drain the water away, which lies outside the control of the design proposal.

- **Alternative development**

A successful drainage of the area could make the authorities want to build upon the ground instead of using it for recreational values.

- **Gender**

The overrepresentation of male users of the site could continue if the addition of complementary elements or equipment remain absent. This could prevent the site from being inclusive for all residents.

5.5 ASPECTS TO CONSIDER IN THE DESIGN PROPOSAL IV

The information from **Chapter 5** that is relevant to consider in the design proposal is summarized in the following paragraphs:



• OPEN SPACE

The large quantities of unbuilt surfaces are a privilege, but can also be used in a better way through creating a site that is more flexible and diverse, and consists of areas of different scales, without taking away the valuable open character.

• FLOODING

The design of the site should, together with a functioning drainage system, work towards preventing the flooding in a natural way. This could be done by using permeable surfaces, elevating selected areas where the water will run off faster, and by adding trees that will help take care of the water.

• WASTE

The position of the waste collection point should be reconsidered as it affects the impression of a large part of the northern part of the site. There should be more options of where to collect the scattered waste, and a program of how to deal with the future waste management needs to be developed.

• IDENTITY

The history of Uwanja wa Farasi is a part of the site's identity and should to be considered in the new design. The site should also be given a new purpose that can build upon the existing identity, in order to give the residents a place to value and cherish for its current qualities.

• RECREATION & ACTIVITY

The site's quality as a social node should be preserved and extended by adding elements that attracts visitors to stay and interact. This includes everything from adding seating opportunities and shelter from the sun to adding street lights. The green values of the site should be preserved and enhanced to contribute to recreational and ecological qualities.

• INFRASTRUCTURE & CONNECTIONS

Cars and mopeds should be prohibited at the site because of the safety aspect, while bikes and pedestrians should be allowed. Today, it is possible for pedestrians to cross the area in numerous ways, something that should be preserved to maintain the accessibility and flow of movement. Reasons for staying should however be added to the site, to keep it from functioning as a passage only. Connections within the site and to the surrounding environment should be enhanced through more distinct entrances.

• CHILDREN

Children within the area of Kwahani have no access to any play areas except from the gated, hard surfaced amusement park. In addition to creating a safe and stimulating area for children by considering all the aspects mentioned above, they should be prioritised in the new design of the site, without excluding other residents.

6

LOCAL OPINION

The third and last part that covers the field studies in Zanzibar. This chapter presents the results from the interviews with the local stakeholders and residents, as well as the result from the drawing workshop with the children.

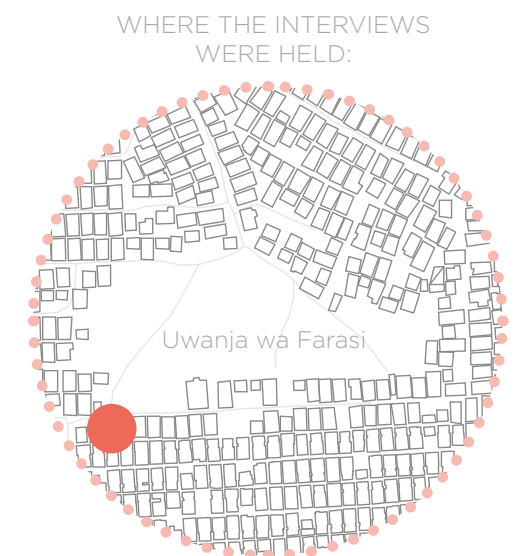


6.1 INTERVIEWS WITH USERS OF UWANJA WA FARASI

The potential users of Uwanja wa Farasi were interviewed during one session in the nursery located by the site on the 24th of September 2017. During a meeting with the Sheha of Kwahani the week before, the aim of the interviews were explained; to gather a deeper understanding of Uwanja wa Farasi by getting to know the local perspective. He managed to gather a group of people that were informed about the purpose and were willing to be interviewed and photographed. The interviews were organised for two main reasons; to get to know the history of the site and to get the local childrens' perspective on play and the site in general. Since Swahili is the spoken and written language in Kwahani, two employees from DoURP were assisting to interpret the questions into Swahili, and the residents' answers into English.

As previously mentioned in the introduction of chapter 5, it is hard to find written information about the history of Uwanja wa Farasi. The only way to gain a clearer picture of the site's history and development was therefore to use this opportunity and talk to the five elders that were chosen by the Sheha. All of them have spent the main part of their lives in the neighbourhood and were an important source of information.

The interview session started with a general request for the elders to explain what they knew about the history of Uwanja wa Farasi. This led to a long discussion where mainly the older men were participating. After the general discussion, they were all interviewed separately about their memories of and opinions about Uwanja wa Farasi.



6.1.1. Interviews with the elders



ABEID GHARIB BILAL

77 years old, male.
Retired, used to work in business.
Lives nearby Uwanja wa Farasi

Abeid visits the site very often, usually just to pass, but sometimes to watch the children play football on the field. He remembers when the field was shaped as a Polo Ground, but he also remembers the settlements coming closer and closer, which gradually decreased the size of the field. Abeid likes the fact that the site is an open ground with a lot of potential space to use. He considers the flooding caused by the blocked channels being the only bad thing about the site, and says that the football pitch has been narrowed

down and divided into two smaller fields because of the large water amounts. He says that the site mainly is used by boys who play football and that girls usually play along the edges of the site, but says that the site has the potential to contain more activities and equipment for play and other sports than football. Abeid also says that outdoor play (and football in particular) is very important and means a lot to the children in the neighbourhood.



MGENI OTHMAN MAJALIWA

67 years old, female.
Retired, used to work in a hotel, is now raising her grandchildren.
Lives nearby Uwanja wa Farasi.

Since Mgeni lives just by the waste collection point, she visits the site all the time. She mainly uses the site as a passage, but says that her grandchildren use it all the time for playing football. Mgeni mentions that she used to go there often when she was younger to collect the vegetable Nyarugoe. The women used to go there to wash their clothes as well, since they used to dig shallow wells at the site. She likes that the site has remained an open space and not been exploited. Just like the others, she states that the only issues with the site are the flooding (that sometimes forces the residents to evacuate their houses) and the large containers with waste.

Since Mgeni lives just by the containers, she is troubled with the smell, especially since it increases after the rain. Mgeni confirms that the field mainly is used for football, but also mentions that it is an important area for the local school children. When the school has "sports days" they use the field for sports and activities. She also says that the field could be used for more activities than just football if it was not for the flooding. She suggests that swings, slides and other play equipment could be added to the site. She also says that, due to the size of the field, it could be used as a meeting point for the residents during festivals and other events.



MARYAM MASIKU KHATIEB

78 years old, female.
Housewife,
Lives nearby Uwanja wa Farasi

Maryam lives nearby Uwanja wa Farasi but rarely visits the site. When she is visiting the site, it is mainly for stopping children from fighting with each other, or for stopping children from trying to enter the drainage channels. She says that she used to go there and fetch water to wash her clothes when there was a shallow well at the site. She also remembers when the eastern part of the site was used for cultivating rice.

Maryam recalls that the site became an important meeting point for both people from Kwahani and a lot of other neighbouring areas when it became a football ground. Maryam likes the fact that the open space is a chance for refreshment for the residents in the area, since the air is better there, but she also says that the flood prone area is a big issue. She states that the site mainly is used for football games (especially by boys), but she thinks that the local football community require financial aid to survive.



BAKARI HAJU MNGWALI

71 years old, male.
Retired from the military,
Lives in Kwahani near Uwanja wa Farasi.

Bakari passes the site very often, almost on a daily basis. As a young boy, he used to play football and do physical exercises like running at the site. He also helped with cultivating the land for the rice plantings. Bakari says that the stagnant water at the site was used for washing clothes back in the days. He also says that the urban sprawl and the extension of the informal settlements has changed the site into the worse.

Bakari likes that the site is an arena for watching local youth play football or participate in running competitions, and says that the worst thing about the site is that it sometimes is impossible for the local residents to reach the waste collection point during the rainy season.



MANENO SULEIMAN BAKARI

85 years old, male.
Retired.
Lives nearby Uwanja wa Farasi.

Maneno lives close to the site and mainly uses it as a passage once or twice a week, when he is visiting his relatives that lives on the other side of the field. Sometimes he stops to watch his grandchildren play football, but says that it is problematic since there is nowhere to sit. To be able to stay at the site for a while, he recognizes that a proper seating area is needed. One of Maneno's first memories of the site is him playing football there with his friends. He also has very vivid memories of when the site was used for Polo games. He says that, at the end of each game, he and his friends used to run out in the field and help the attendances to collect the poles and put them into the shed where they stored the equipment. As a thank you they were given juice, that initially was intended for the Polo players. Besides from the conditions of the field, he says that the biggest change is that the houses kept

coming closer and changed the water course in the area. He appreciates the values of the site's natural open space, something that is unusual in the area since other open spaces have been built upon. Except from the flooding, Maneno considers the large amounts of waste being the biggest issue of the site. He says that a small car used to drive around and collect waste in the colonial times, but that it stopped when the streets grew narrower and when the Municipality stopped prioritising the area. The waste and the occasional flooding forces the children to find other places to play. He says that the older boys go to places further away, but that the small children cannot go as far and play in the streets instead. He finishes by saying that areas like Uwanja wa Farasi means a lot to the children in the neighbourhood since outdoor play is a great part of their lives.



Aqram Abdulmajid Aqram

Asha Mohammed Mussa

Rahima Abdallah Haji

Farida Khafib Haji

Yussra MKubwa Rashid

Abdul-Hamid Mohammed Makame

6.1.2. Interviews & Workshop with Children

The children's perspective was important to consider, since they are the focus of this thesis and also the most frequent users of the site. In agreement with the Sheha of Kwahani, 8 children between the ages of 7 and 15 that are living in the Kwahani area were gathered to participate in the interviews and the drawing workshop. The request was to have a mixed gender group, and 5 girls and 3 boys were initially attending. However, only the answers of 6 children are presented in this thesis, as one of the boys got tired of waiting and ran off to play football instead, and the youngest of the girls (aged 7) did not understand the questions or the drawing task. These two are therefore not included in this thesis.

The children were given snacks and water while they were waiting for the interviews with the elders to finish. When the interviews were almost done, the children were given two blank sheets of paper each and coloured pencils to share. They were given a quick explanation of why they were there, and then asked to draw their favourite outdoor place and to draw something that they loved doing outdoors. This was going on for about 20 minutes, and the drawings were used as a starting point for the following conversations that later were held with one child at a time.

In general, many of the children appreciate the site as it is today. Some of them said that the occasional flooding and the fact that they must go to school were the only two things that kept them from going there all the time. Another general impression was that almost all the children mentioned Kariakoo Amusement Park when they were talking about places that they really liked.

The drawings presented in this chapter are selected due to their ability to illustrate the children's answers. All the drawings that were produced during the workshop are presented in the appendix (see p. 106).

THE CHILDREN WERE ASKED TO:

- "Draw your favourite outdoor place"
- "Draw yourself doing something you love doing outdoors"



The children sitting on the floor in the nursery, busy drawing their favourite outdoor activity.

KWAHAN STADIUM



AQRAM ABDULMAJID AQRAM

15 years old, male.
Student.
Lives nearby Uwanja wa Farasi.

When Aqram was asked to draw his favourite place, he drew a boat sailing along the shore of Forodhani, the area in Stone Town located just by the sea. He says that he loves the environment there, with the ocean and the beach. As his favourite thing to do outdoors, he drew himself playing football in the local team; Kwahani Boys. He says that he visits Uwanja wa Farasi on a daily basis (as long as there is no water) and that he always plays football there on weekends. Aqram also says that it, despite the water, is his favourite place to play football at since it is located so close

to his home. He says that if there were no flooding, children would use it all the time. Aqram likes the fact that the field is a meeting place – a place where children of different ages can hang out and play. He also says that the older children always used to teach the younger children how to ride a bike on the grass in the field, since they fall a lot in the beginning. He says that they stopped doing that as soon as the area became scattered with waste, as they do not want the young kids to fall into garbage that may carry diseases.

ASHA MOHAMMED MUSSA



ASHA MOHAMMED MUSSA

13 years, female.
Student.
Lives nearby Uwanja wa Farasi.

Asha's drawing of her favourite place is picturing Kariakoo Amusement Park, since she loves the rides there. Her favourite outdoor activity is to play the local game Nage (see explanation further down on this page). She does not visit Uwanja wa Farasi every day, she is usually just

passing the site when she is walking to the other side of the neighbourhood, or when she is going to Kariakoo. She says that the site mainly is used by children playing football, and she thinks that there should be more areas for other games such as Nage.

FARIDA KHATIB HAJI 11 YRS



FARIDA KHAFIB HAJI

11 years old, female.
Student.
Lives nearby Uwanja wa Farasi.

Farida's drawing of what she loves doing outdoors is picturing a large, colourful butterfly. She says that she likes to watch beautiful things such as butterflies and flowers. She explains that her favourite place pictured in the drawing is "the village", including pictures of people cultivating the land, playing football, feeding chickens and growing spinach. She says that she likes being where she has her family and all her friends.

She also likes going to the Forodhani area in Stone Town area for swimming at the beach. She says that she is not passing by Uwanja wa Farasi every day, but when she does, it is usually when she is running errands such as buying fish or when she is watching a football game. Farida reckons that the flooding is the only bad thing about the site, and that the football games, playing Nage, and skipping rope are the most fun things to do at the site.

NAGE:

Nage is a local game that is played a lot by the children of Kwahani, and less by the children in Stone Town because of the lack of space or access to surfaces of clean sand.

An empty soda bottle is placed in the middle, and one of the players have the mission to fill it up with sand to score a point, while the two opposite players try to throw a small ball to hit the other player and prevent him or her from filling up the bottle with sand. Nage is mainly played by girls, and even though boys are participating in this game, some people consider it being a game for girls.



ABDUL-HAMID MOHAMMED MAKAME

13 years old, male.
Student.
Lives nearby Uwanja wa Farasi.

Abdul-Hamid's favourite place to be is Foro Café, located by the pier in Forodhani Gardens. He says that he loves going there since he loves swimming in the ocean, and since there are a lot of tourists there to learn English from. His favourite outdoor activities are swimming and playing football. Abdul-Hamid visits the site almost every day to play football there. If his school shift is in the morning, he plays in the afternoon, otherwise he plays in the weekends. He likes that the field provides an opportunity for him and his

friends to practise sports, otherwise they would have to cross the busy street to reach other areas, which can be dangerous. Except from the waste issue, he says that the residents of the area need equipment for taking care of the field, such as a lawn mower. Abdul-Hamid wants the area to be clean, and more grass to be added. He also says that he and his friends have to walk to other areas if they want to play basketball, since there are no basket cases in the Kwahani area.



RAHIMA ABDALLAH HAJI

9 years old, female.
Student.
Lives nearby Uwanja wa Farasi.

Rahima made two drawings of her favourite place; one picturing a large school building and one picturing a girl watching the merry-go-round at Kariakoo Amusement Park. She says that she loves going to school and that they just were taught that they should not pick up fruit or other edible things from the ground. As her favourite activity, she mentions going to Karikaoo, but also shows a drawing of a boat on the sea, saying that she loves being on the ocean. Rahima tells further that she comes to Uwanja wa Farasi as soon as she has time (depending on the

school shift), mainly to play Nage. When she is not playing Nage, she and her friends sometimes play football, but rather just kicking the ball to each other than playing on the large field. She does not like the fact that the field gets covered by water, or all the waste that is scattered all over the area. She says that she is afraid that the waste is spreading diseases. She also says that she really misses swings, slides and other playground equipment at the site, and that she has to go to Kariakoo when she wants to play.



YUSSRA MKUBWA RASHID

11 years old, female.
Student.
Lives nearby Uwanja wa Farasi.

Yussra's favourite place is home, and her drawing is showing a living room and a woman going to the shops. She says that she visits the site at least once a day, mainly for dumping waste at the waste collection point. She says that she likes that the field is an opportunity for the local people to play football, and that she dislikes the fact that it is sometimes flooded.

Except from passing the site to reach the containers, Yussra mainly use it for playing Nage. When she is asked what she would like to do at the field that she cannot do today, she answers that she would like to be able to cultivate vegetables.

6.2 INTERVIEWS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The interviewed stakeholders work at different institutions in Stone Town, and were contacted since they were considered to have professional knowledge that was relevant to the project. The interviews were conducted at four different occasions, and everyone was interviewed in his office, except from Farhat and Abbas who were interviewed at the office at DoURP.

Mr. Mwalimu has worked as an architect dealing with planning issues and heritage preservation in Stone Town during his whole career, and possess a lot of knowledge about the neighbourhood where Uwanja wa Farasi is located.

Mr. Mzee is the Head of the Department of Town Planning and Construction, who oversees the drainage systems in Zanzibar Town, including Uwanja wa Farasi.

Farhat works at the Zanzibar Environment Management Authority (ZEMA), who is monitoring all environment management on the island. She was interviewed about the situation in Uwanja wa Farasi together with Abbas from the Department of Forestry, after they both came from a meeting with the Director of DoURP.

Mr. Cosmas is the Minister of Infrastructure, Communication and Transport in Zanzibar, and was initially contacted to discuss the infrastructural context of Kwahani. The Ministry was however not responsible for the area of Kwahani, which led to a conversation about the site in general instead.



MWALIMU A. MWALIMU

Architect specialised in Conservation,
Former Director of Stone Town Conservatory.
Used to live nearby Kwahani.
Interviewed: 2017-09-27.

Mr. Mwalimu says that original Swahili neighbourhoods like Kwahani are starting to lose their identity. This happens when the economic standard of the neighbourhood is poor and even the residents who have lived their entire lives there choose to move to areas of higher standards as soon as they have the financial opportunity.

He also states that the issues of Uwanja wa Farasi started after the revolution in 1964, when the building regulations got weaker and the settlements started to increase, but that the conditions of the site were fairly good and used by football players until the early 80's, when the informal settlements increased even more, and changed the water course of the site. Mr. Mwalimu says that the multiparty system enforced in 1994 made the Government scared of any uprisings of the people. This, in combination with the lack of educated building inspectors (who were giving out building permits), allowed people to build more or less wherever they wanted to, which resulted in a dense, uncontrolled neighbourhood.

Mr. Mwalimu mentions that the neighbouring areas of Kwahani, (especially the area where Kariakoo now is located) used to be areas for entertainment in the 40's and the 50's, and that it spilled over and affected the Kwahani area in a positive way as well. It used to be an area rich of nightlife, music and culture, mainly for the people of Swahili origin. The only thing remaining from this era are the names of some places that derived during that time.

Mr. Mwalimu thinks that the original area of the Polo Ground should be reclaimed, since the conditions of the current houses are very poor, and the standard of the whole neighbourhood is questionable even if the houses were to be dam proofed. He states although, that open spaces like Uwanja wa Farasi are very valuable to the whole neighbourhood as there is an extreme shortage of them in the whole area of Ng'ambo.

He says that children in general were much more free to play in the open spaces of Zanzibar Town before the arrival of car traffic, and that especially Mnazi Moja grounds, the beaches and Forodhani park were attracting children. Mr. Mwalimu also mentions that kite flying used to be the main leisure for children in Zanzibar Town when he was young. He says that they used to collect the strong thread that came from grocery wrapping, tie them together and use them for building kites, which according to him was the absolute passion among the local children. When groceries started to be delivered in plastic bags instead of wrapped in paper and thread, the kite flying stopped among the children of African origin, since the parents of the Indian children were the only ones who had money to spend on buying the strong thread. He thinks that activities like these were harmless and stimulating to children, and states furthermore that places like Kariakoo as well as the introduction of technology have killed the simplicity of things. Mr. Mwalimu concludes that this is a shame, since to him, "*simplicity is beauty*".

“Simplicity
is beauty”

Mwalimu A. Mwalimu



MZEE KHAMIS JUMA

Sanitary Engineer and Head of the Department of Town Planning and Construction at the Zanzibar Municipal Council.
Interviewed: 2017-10-12.

”In our society, all people like to have an area by their home where children can play”

Mzee Khamis Juma

Mr. Mzee explains that he has become very familiar with the area of Uwanja wa Farasi, because of its extensive drainage issues. He mentions the site’s background as a Polo Ground and how its low-lying position has caused all the flooding issues. He states, however, that the area has improved a lot since they established the new drainage system in 2007, and that the issue in a way already is solved.

In 2005, ZMC initiated the Zanzibar Urban Service Program, funded by the World Bank. This was a program who was supposed to improve areas with drainage issues, and was the reason for the establishment of the current drainage system at Uwanja wa Farasi in 2007. The existing channels were very shallow, only 0,6 m x 0,6 m, while the current ones are dimensioned to 1,5 m x 1,5 m. Mr. Mzee claims that the drainage system is almost perfect, and that the big challenge is the people throwing waste into the channels, which is blocking the water flow. Originally there were screens attached to the channels to prevent waste from falling into them. Eventually, an increased amount of waste was piling up on the screens, which prevented the water from reaching the channels and made the issue even worse. Some of the residents stole the screens to use it as building material, and ultimately all of them were removed. Mr. Mzee states that open channels are the best way to cater the huge amounts of water that reach the site, and that other, more closed solutions are not suitable in this area.

Mr. Mzee says that the maintenance of the channels is under the responsibility of ZMC, but that they have few maintenance workers and many sites to maintain, which makes the maintenance insufficient. Although, he says that the community engagement is very good, and that they help to clean the channels. He says that, if it were not for the blockage by the waste, the current drainage system would be sufficient for Uwanja wa Farasi as soon as they have enlarged the pipes of the final outlet leading out to the sea, which will be done in 2018.

Mr Mzee explains that this improvement has enough capacity to discharge the water on site, but that they also have plans to unblock the outlet passing through Kariakoo, although this takes time due to unsuccessful negotiations with the owner of the amusement park.

Since the drainage issue will be solved in the near future, Mr. Mzee explains that the next step is to develop the site to become attractive for the residents. He says that the size of Uwanja wa Farasi is large enough to be very multifunctional, and that concrete benches, lighting, waste bins, trees, a football pitch, beautiful vegetation and social areas are important. He mentions that the site should contain elements that could generate something that gives back economically to the area, such as a kiosk or a place where events could be held.

Mr. Mzee also says that the lacking waste management is a manpower issue, and that the community should step in. However, he mentions that 80% of the waste composition in Zanzibar is organic, which means that it could be turned into fertile soil through a compost. He says that solutions like this takes time to implement, but that a development of the site into a nice park would be a step in the right direction, since people would care more about a site that is planned and developed.

Mr. Mzee says that open areas like Uwanja wa Farasi is extremely important to the neighbourhoods in Ng’ambo, and especially to children. He says that: “*In our society, all people like to have an area by their home where the children can play*”, but explains that the fast spread of settlements in the urban areas made open spaces disappear, which means that children often have nowhere to play but in the streets. He says that Uwanja wa Farasi has the capacity to be developed into something that would change the whole character of the area for both children and adults.



ABBAT JUMA MZEE

Head of Conservation Section at the Department of Forestry, male.
Interviewed: 2017-10-16.



FARHAT MBAROUK

Head of Environmental and Impact Assessment
at Zanzibar Environment Management Association, female.
Interviewed: 2017-10-16.

Abbas and Farhat were not familiar with the history or the current condition of the Kwahani area or Uwanja wa Farasi, the conversations were therefore mainly concerning the tasks of their professions and the possibilities of the future development of the site.

Abbas likes the thought of preserving the green qualities of Uwanja wa Farasi, since the Department of Forestry work a lot with conservation of nature and trees, and tries to stop residents and the Government from demolishing them and take care of them instead. They try to achieve this by educating the residents, for example by having campaign days where they plant new trees together with the residents, which usually results in that the residents start caring for the vegetation in their area. Their main task right now is to protect and plant ornamental trees in Zanzibar Town.

Abbas says that the residents' interest in farming should be considered and respected, and that the tires found in the channels could be used as pots for growing vegetables or fruit. He also says that trees really are needed in Zanzibar Town in general, especially in densely populated areas, and that fruit trees usually are something the residents gladly help maintaining, since they want to harvest the fruit.

Farhat works very broadly with the many types of environmental issues in Zanzibar. She says that ZEMA is like a watchdog, and that no development in Zanzibar can go through without being investigated and approved by them, since the environmental issue is crosscutting and included in almost every urban development project.

After talking about the waste issue in Uwanja wa Farasi, Farhat mentions the Center for Science and Environment in Zanzibar, who recently started a pilot project in an area called Shaurimoyo, which aims to decentralise the solid waste and add an organic compost to turn the organic waste into fertile soil. She says that the compost solution could be used in public areas, as it is possible to add harmless chemicals to the compost to prevent it from smelling.

After discussing a development of Uwanja wa Farasi with children's perspective in mind, Farhat says that areas for children are very important and that people want to take their children somewhere, but that there are no places to go. She repeats that *"we really need places for children in this city"*. She also says that private places like Kariakoo is too expensive for many parents, and that the playground in Forodhani Gardens is in a very bad condition since it is the one of very few public playgrounds where parents can take their children. Farhat and Abbas both say that the existing play areas designed for children in Zanzibar Town are lacking green elements, and Farhat emphasizes that *"green elements in public spaces are very important both for the environment and for the children's minds"*. They both think that the addition of simple elements, such as benches, vegetation and shade would improve Uwanja wa Farasi and the surrounding area a lot.

"Green elements in public spaces are very important both for the environment and for the children's minds"

Farhat Mbarouk



COSMAS MASOLWA MASOLWA

Minister of Infrastructure, Communication & Transport, male.
Interviewed: 2017-10-17.

”There are very few open spaces in Zanzibar Town”

Cosmas Masolwa Masolwa

Mr. Cosmas says that the Ministry that he works for is responsible for about 80 % of all the infrastructure on Zanzibar, and that ZMC is responsible for the rest. Mr. Cosmas knows of Uwanja wa Farasi, mainly since the area is struggling with the flooding issues. He says that the area right now is a disaster, and that the rain makes the conditions terrible. Mr. Cosmas also says that the Ministry is not entitled by law to maintain the area around Kwahani, but that the Municipality is responsible for the main roads and the interior roads that are located within the Kwahani area.

Mr. Cosmas thinks that the challenges of Uwanja wa Farasi are the flooding and the limited accessibility to the site. He also says that the environment is not protected enough within the area, and that the green field needs someone who is responsible for the maintenance. He thinks that an awareness program for the residents should be organised in conjunction with a new design. He claims that it does not lie within the culture of African people to care about the outdoor environment, and that the establishment of an awareness program to educate about ecological sustainability therefore would be necessary and valuable to maintain a future development of the site.

Mr. Cosmas thinks that an upgraded version of Uwanja wa Farasi should be gated with fences, to prevent the residents from building within the site. A less solid border than walls were discussed, but Mr. Cosmas was of the opinion that nothing else would stop people from building there. Although, he says that the implementation of an educational program with the Sheha and other local stakeholders could be way of introducing a new mindset to the community.

While discussing child-friendly places in Zanzibar Town, Mr. Cosmas says that he does not like Kariakoo Amusement Park at all. He says that it might be popular among children, but that the lack of greenery does not make it environmentally sustainable at all. He thinks that Uwanja wa Farasi should be developed into a place for children and play, but that adults also should be able to go there to sit there and relax. He thinks that the site should have a small place for children, but also places where adults can hang out, relax, socialize and discuss politics. He thinks that streetlights, benches, and trees should be added to improve the site, and says that the site has a lot of potential, since *“There are very few open spaces in Zanzibar Town”*. Mr. Cosmas also says that planting trees or vegetation needs to be combined with maintenance, and claims thereafter that no one will take care of a tree. He stresses that awareness is the most important thing; and that some sort of motivation program should be introduced for a successful redevelopment.

6.3 ASPECTS TO CONSIDER IN THE DESIGN PROPOSAL V

The information from **Chapter 6** that is relevant to consider in the design proposal is summarized in the following paragraphs:



LOCAL OPINION - USERS:

• HISTORICAL VALUES

The history of the site contributes to a strong sense of identity. The Polo ground, the football pitch, the agriculture and the flooding – all these activities are a part of the site's history.

• SPORT & PLAY

Football plays a very central role at the site, especially for the male residents. For the girls, it seems like playing Nage is the most popular activity. Equipment for other types of sports and plays are suggested by the adults and requested by the children.

• MEETING PLACE

Due to the location, a lot of people are connected to the site, either by actively using it or by using it as a passage. Today, the area is not encouraging people to stay since there is nowhere to sit. The area is large enough to host a lot of people during special events.

• WASTE & FLOODING

The failed waste collection and the occasional flooding are the two main issues for the residents of the area.

• PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

The value of an accessible, open space is unique within the neighbourhood and holds qualities to the residents that should be kept. The green qualities are appreciated and should not be taken away.

• CHILDREN

Children are currently the most frequent users of the site, and should remain so in the design proposal. Their presence contributes to life and activity at the site, and the new design should strive towards creating an area where children feel as free and welcome as they do today.

LOCAL OPINION - STAKEHOLDERS:

• FLOODING

The existing drainage channels are of sufficient dimensions, and the flooding issue is going to be solved by the Municipality within the near future. The next step is therefore to develop the site into a functioning public space to make sure that the green qualities are kept and that the land won't be built upon.

• ADDITION OF ELEMENTS

The site needs benches, shelter and street lights to encourage people to stay there. The addition of simpler elements is enough to higher the status of the site. To design a site with children in mind is not the same thing as creating a replica of places like Kariakoo, but rather a greener solution that stimulates children in other ways and works better together with a recreational environment.

• ADDITION OF VEGETATION

It is important to preserve the green qualities of the site. An addition of trees and shrubs would be beneficial both for the environment and for the well-being of the residents. Existing areas for children in Zanzibar Town are lacking green elements, which should be compensated for in the new design. The residents' interest in farming should be respected, and the maintenance of the park could be solved by involving the residents. Fruit trees and edible vegetation are more likely to be appreciated and taken care of.

• WASTE MANAGEMENT

The residents are more likely to care for a planned and developed site, which might minimize the littering. Waste bins should be added to ease the waste collection and to avoid that waste are being thrown on the ground. The area should strive for establishing recycling options, and there should be a compost that turn organic waste into fertile soil, which could be used in the site.

• COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

To manage the maintenance of a new design, it is essential to involve and educate the community. This could be done by introducing awareness programs that educate the Sheha and involve local community organisations. It could also be done by introducing business opportunities, for example by establishing a kiosk where the owner will be able to make financial profit in exchange for being responsible for some parts of the maintenance.

• CHILDREN

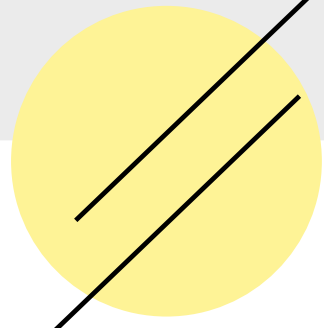
There is a lack of public places where children can go and play in Zanzibar Town today, which motivates the new design to be focusing on a stimulating environment for children.

• OPEN SPACE

The open character of Uwanja wa Farasi is unique and especially valuable for children in the area. The size and settings of the site means that it has the potential to be developed into a multifunctional area.

7 DESIGN STRATEGIES

In this section, the knowledge from the “Aspects to consider in the design proposal” (presented at the end of chapter 2-6) are compiled into eight design strategies.



The “Aspects to consider in the design proposal” (presented in the end of chapter 2-6) and thereby the knowledge from the literature studies, site studies and the interviews are compiled into eight design strategies. The aim of these design strategies is to improve the site and to contribute to children’s everyday life by encouraging play. The **general design strategies** are applicable for the whole site, while the **specific design strategies** are applied to selected parts of the site to create areas with various characters and qualities. All the design strategies are chosen to benefit children, but the specific design strategies have an extra focus on enhancing children’s play, while creating a stimulating environment for the rest of the residents as well.

GENERAL DESIGN STRATEGIES



1. CONNECT TO THE CONTEXT

The connection from the main roads to the site should be strengthened to link the site to a larger context and make it more accessible. This could be done by enhancing the main entrances to the site, as well as linking the pedestrian network within the site to the outer context. Connecting Uwanja wa Farasi to a future green boulevard on Karume Road could be a way of strengthening the green infrastructure in Zanzibar Town.



2. PLACE IDENTITY

The historical heritage is a significant building stone of the site’s identity, and should be preserved and remembered in the new design. It is especially important to preserve the site’s open, green character, as it holds unique recreational qualities for the neighbourhood. It is also essential to take the Swahili and Zanzibari culture into consideration when choosing colours, materials and elements within the park.



3. STOP & STAY

The site should not only function as a passage or a place for those who wish to be physically active, it should also offer the visitor the opportunity to stop and stay there for a while, whether it is during a burning hot summer day or during the rainy season. Providing multiple seating options and shelter from sun and rain enables people to stay and hang out the site.



4. SAFETY & ORIENTATION

The site should be completely separated from car traffic to keep the environment safe, especially for children. Lighting should be added in selected parts of the site to prolong the usage of it even after the sun has set. The site should include areas of different characters and enhance the existing landmarks as well as creating new ones to ease the orientation. The site should also contain functions that attract people and activity, since the presence of other people is a way to enhance the feeling of security.



5. GREEN & CLEAN

It is essential to add more dynamic and biodiverse vegetation to the site in order to enhance the recreational values and make the site ecologically sustainable. Non-permeable surfaces should be used with restriction, and the green character of the site should be kept. The large waste collection point should be relocated, and other options for collecting the trash on site should be provided.

SPECIFIC DESIGN STRATEGIES



6. SOCIAL & UNSOCIAL PLACES

The park should allow the visitor to choose a social or unsocial setting. This can be conceived through creating places of different scales and characters by using room dividing elements such as shrubs, benches or trees. The open space character should be preserved in certain areas to encourage spontaneous activity and enable larger gatherings of people during special events. Different spaces should contain elements that enables interaction between children, but also between children and adults.



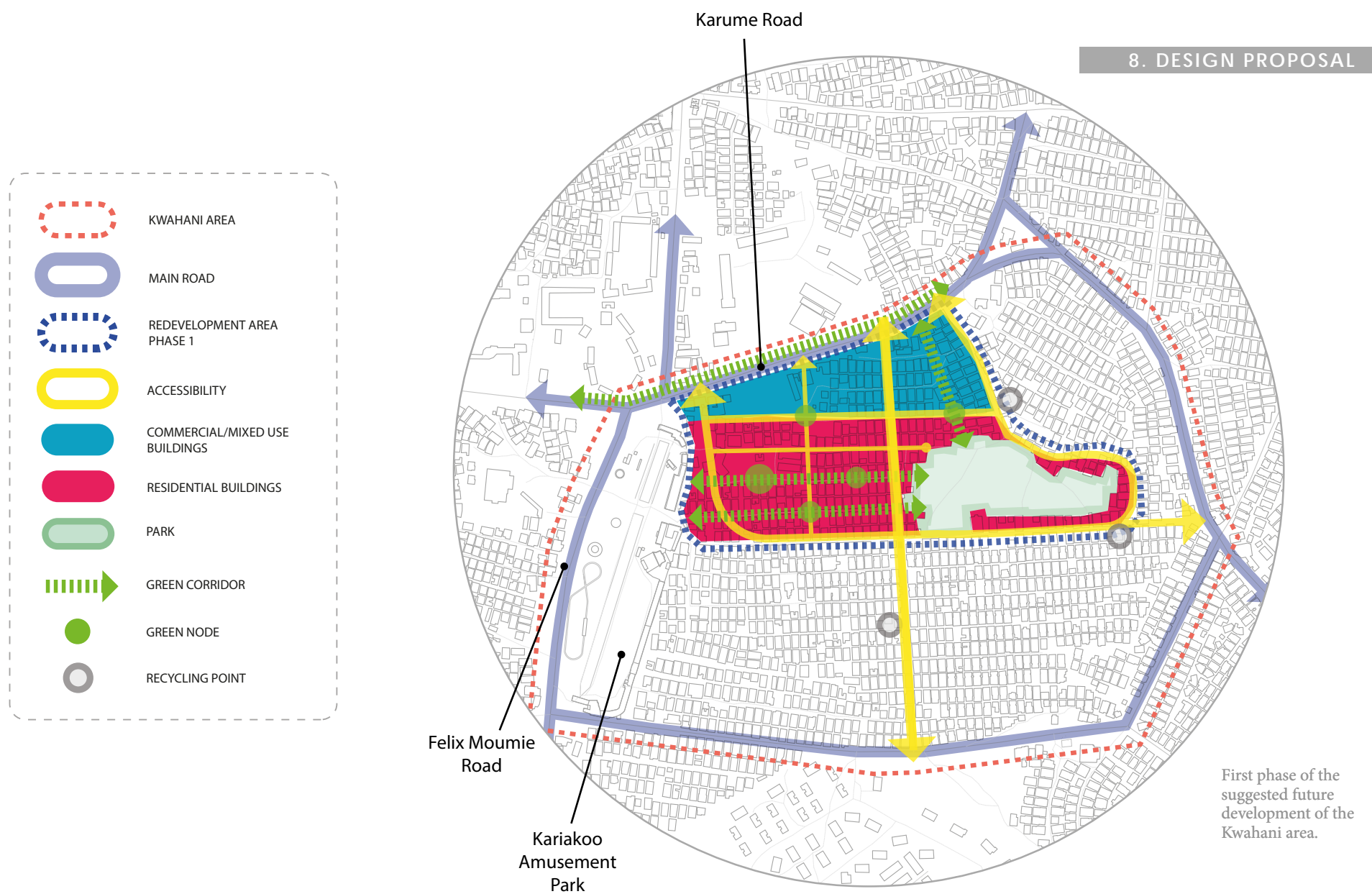
7. PHYSICAL STIMULATION

The site should contain natural elements or equipment that encourage physical activity and promote the possibility for risk and challenge. The opportunity to play football should be preserved, but several other options for children who wants to participate in other activities than sports should be provided. The arrangement of the added elements should be dynamic and enable a possible flow of movement.



8. MENTAL STIMULATION

The site should also contain elements that provide visual richness and stimulate the other senses, such as varying materials, vegetation, textures and colours. Colourful, edible or fragrant vegetation should be added to stimulate both children and adults. Loose materials such as sand and pebbles, or the possibility to gardening should be accessible to stimulate the creativity of the children.



8.1 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE KWAHANI AREA

In order to present a design proposal for Uwanja wa Farasi, an overview of a potential future redevelopment of the surroundings of the site (the Kwahani area) was discussed with the Director of DoURP. The discussion resulted in the decision to propose a four-phase redevelopment of the Kwahani region for the Government of Zanzibar, starting with the area where Uwanja wa Farasi is situated. The design proposal for Uwanja wa Farasi could be used as a catalyzer to encourage a change of the rest of the neighbourhood, for navigating its future development, and for making a statement by suggesting an investment in a public space. The buildings of the area will eventually also be redeveloped, but the commercial/mixed use buildings will be kept alongside Karume Road, and the rest of the area will remain residential buildings in the future. According to the Director, the low-rise buildings and the narrow street grid will be kept but improved, in order to enable accessibility in the area as well as maintaining the heritage of the traditional Swahili neighbourhood.

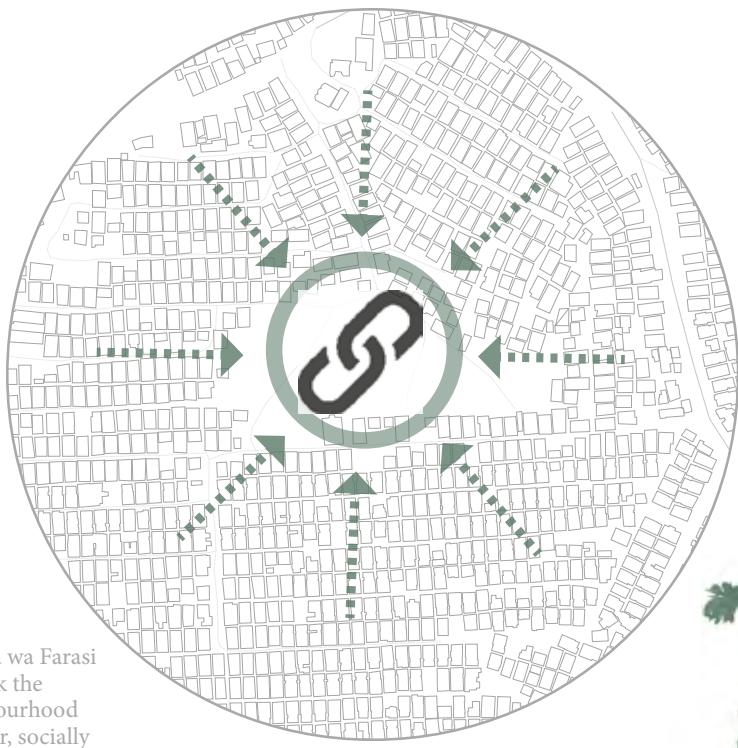
In connection with the redevelopment, existing infrastructural connections will be enhanced, and new ones will be developed. Access to the neighbouring area east of Kwahani will be created through stretching the existing blind alley to connect with one of the main roads.

The main pedestrian connections between Uwanja wa Farasi and the strong entertainment node of Kariakoo Amusement Park will be developed into pedestrian walkways framed with vegetation. This area is a historical, valuable example of a successful Swahili neighbourhood; capturing the social, human-scale environment and street life that this building pattern enables. The measurements of these streets should therefore be kept, but developed into pedestrian promenades surrounded by local shops and houses. Keeping the human scale of this area also enhances the qualities of Uwanja wa Farasi.

Some of the roads leading to the future Karume Boulevard will link the green infrastructure together by rows of street trees and the addition of green nodes, consisting of pocket parks or small gatherings of vegetation combined with seating options. The waste collection point within the site will be replaced with three recycling points situated by car accessible roads, where plastic, glass and metals are separated from the organic waste.



Kwahani area divided into the four development phases suggested by DoURP.



Uwanja wa Farasi will link the neighbourhood together, socially and physically.



TIME



The park will keep evolving alongside with the residents.

8.2 THE LINK - THE CONCEPT FOR THE DESIGN

The size of the open space enables the possibility to contain multiple functions and thereby add new qualities to the neighbourhood. The aim of the concept for the design proposal is therefore to create an inclusive, urban park that links the past, the present and the future together. **The past and present** in terms of keeping existing qualities and adding elements that remind the visitor of the heritage of the site. This could be done by adding signs that inform about the site's history, using play animals shaped as horses (because of the name of the site) and keeping football as an important attraction. Another way to respect the past is to keep the open surfaces of grass since they were once established for the Polo Ground, as well as to keep the drainage channels open, both for the technical convenience but also as a visual reminder of the flooding that in a way preserved the site by preventing it from being built upon.

The past and the present is linked to **the future** by creating a design that benefits children, since children are the future of our society. Another aspect on the futuristic approach is to create a design that will remain sustainable and keep developing over time, for example by adding trees and vegetation that will keep evolving. To create awareness and educate the residents to maintain the park is another way to have the future in mind. In addition to that, the new design of Uwanja wa Farasi has the potential to link the area together and act as a social and recreational meeting point in the neighbourhood.

While the development in Stone Town mainly is motivated by tourism, the main motivation behind the development of Uwanja wa Farasi is to give back to the local residents. As urban sprawl and urbanisation will continue, the presence of recreational areas within exploited settlements are becoming more and more important.

Areas such as Uwanja wa Farasi are unique and should not be exploited, but enhanced. Since it is one of few remaining green open spaces, its qualities should remain and be taken care of, instead of taking an already developed ground and turn that into a park. Except from giving the residents of the area a recreational and stimulating local environment, it is a way of upgrading the whole neighbourhood.

A Site for Children

Today, Zanzibar Town is lacking public parks and places for children's play; the formal playgrounds that exist are being overused, and children are forced to play in leftover spaces. The city needs more places where children can play, and Uwanja wa Farasi is a good example of where it could be appreciated, since many large families and a lot of children are living in the neighbourhoods by the site.

The design of Uwanja wa Farasi should be a complement to existing areas for children in Zanzibar Town. An important focus of the concept is therefore to integrate children's needs in the site by creating a coherent play landscape instead of isolated, separated stations for play, or for that matter, a gated amusement park filled with equipment that might prevent children from using their imagination to create their own ways to play.

Even though this design focuses on children as a user group, it is also likely to benefit the rest of the residents as well, since a lot of the elements that are said to stimulate children, such as increased aesthetical values and places for social interaction, are beneficial to the society in general.

8.3 DESIGN PROCESS

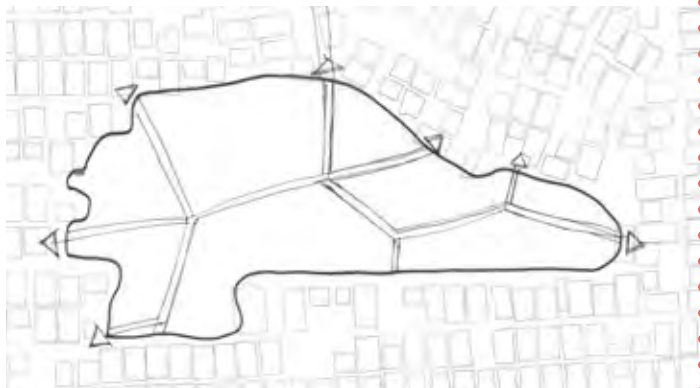
“Nowhere in their pages do we ever see the everyday labours that went into their making: the wrong turns and reverses, the research questions that fell by the wayside, the drafts and revisions, the whole messy and creative process by which books unevenly come to fruition and eventually see the light of day. In this sense, finished text very much resemble the colonial urban designs”

(Bissell 2011, p. 9)

Bissell (ibid) compares the urban plans of Zanzibar that derived during the colonialism with published academic work, claiming that they both hide the messy conditions of their own making, despite being culminations of complex social and cultural processes. Therefore, an explanation of the design process is shown through presenting selected sketches and notes that lead to the final design proposal.

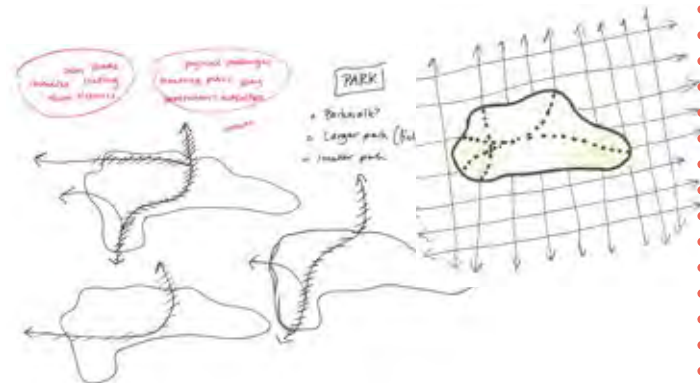
1. The idiom of the design

The first step towards developing the design proposal was to define the most important directions and the shape of the pedestrian paths within the site. They are based on existing movement patterns and future connections to the site, and the first sketches of the site show paths with a rather angular expression. Softly curved paths were however considered to interact in a better way with the organic profile of the park, and to become a welcome contrast to the grid-like pattern represented in the surrounding settlements.

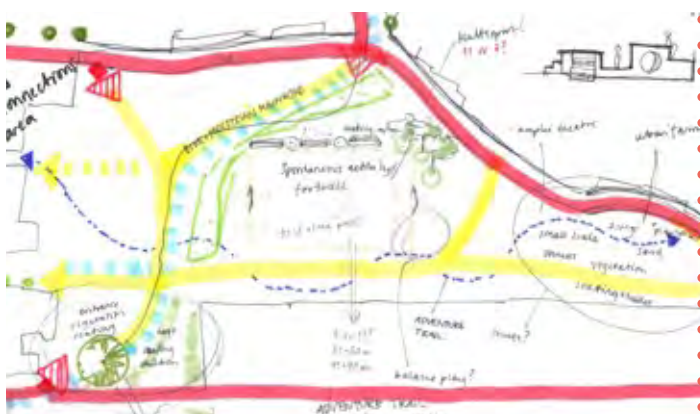


2. Paths and places

The shape of the paths was in a way affected by the flooding of the site, since the wavy, flowing movement of water inspired the final design of the paths. The position of the pedestrian paths defines the different rooms within the park. Creating rooms with different characters but at the same time keeping a cohesive surface became a way to maintain the open character of the site.

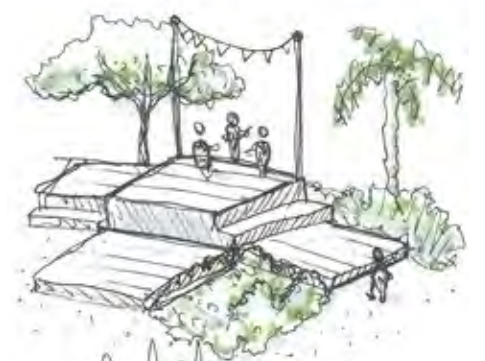


A larger football pitch was initially intended (dimensioned after a standard sized pitch for 11 players per team), but as it nearly took up the whole site it would not have been the solution to a flexible and diverse site. This resulted in a smaller pitch with a less central location. Setting the position and the shape of the paths and the football field became the foundation for the rest of the design.



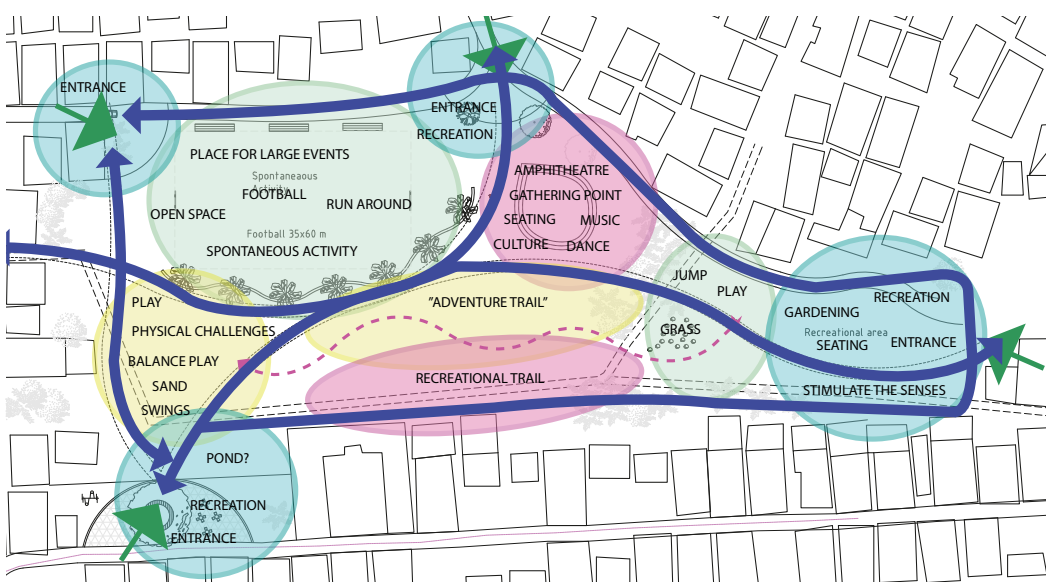
4. The elements within the site

Several of the early sketches of environments and equipment that were drawn after being inspired by the literature studies and the first site visits, were later used in the final design. The elements found on site is therefore a mixture between equipment recommended by the literature and situations inspired by things seen in Zanzibar.



3. Conceptual disposition of the site's different areas

The literature studies and the site studies determined the requested functions of the site, who were placed within the “rooms” that appeared after deciding the position of the paths. This is a late sketch of the purpose of each room, which helped determine what elements that was needed and where they should be placed.



8.4 ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN



- Western entrance**
- Visual entrance to football field
 - Basketball
 - Turning point for cars

- Raingarden**
- Terraced infiltration surface
 - Vegetation that can handle wet and dry conditions
 - Takes care of stormwater from the football field
 - Connected to drainage outlet

- Football field**
- Football pitch
 - Barazas and benches for audience
 - Area for spontaneous activities and special events
 - Kiosk

- Northern entrance**
- Entrance portal with welcome sign
 - Bike parking

- Outdoor stage**
- Meeting point
 - Dance, music, theatre
 - Speaker's corner
 - Seating

- Eastern entrance**
- Relaxing and socialising
 - Sand play area
 - Spice garden

- Secondary entrances**
- Pedestrian connections to Kariakoo
 - Green corridors

- Southern Entrance**
- Relaxing and socialising
 - Formal and informal seating options
 - Sand play area
 - Children's garden

- Adventure trail**
- Rooms of smaller scale
 - Dynamic, varied vegetation
 - Play equipment

- Recreational walk**
- Varied vegetation with flowering shrubs and trees
 - Buffer zone to prevent access to drainage channels
 - Planting beds functioning as flooding surfaces

ILLUSTRATIVE PLAN 1:750 (A3)



8.5 DESIGN PROPOSAL

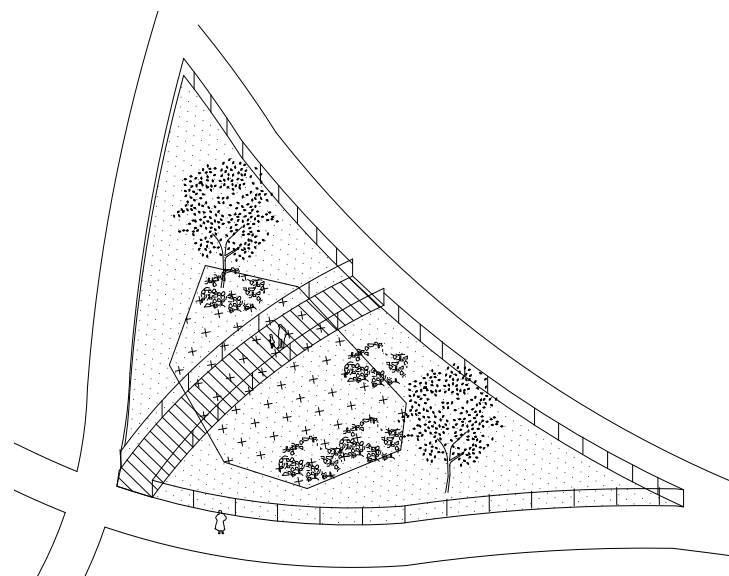
Vision

The vision for the design proposal is to create an inclusive, urban park where people can interact with each other and where children have a lot of opportunities to engage in play. The park's flowing walkways both connect the area and divide it into smaller rooms. The large, open surfaces of the park are big enough for children to run around in, and to set up temporary food stands and gather people during special events. Some areas are programmed with equipment, and some are left unprogrammed for the residents to use in the way they want to. Despite some hard-surfaced areas, the rich vegetation and the large grass-covered areas will result in a site that gives a green impression.

People are gathering here to watch football games, relax in the shade or to socialize with their neighbours. The children of the neighbourhood are coming here to play on their own or with their parents, and school children of the area can use the stage for outdoor lessons. The outdoor stage is lit up during the dark hours and can be used for planned or spontaneous dance shows or theatres.

The Flooding

According to Mr. Mzee (see p. 70), the flooding of Uwanja wa Farasi will be solved in the near future, as the ZMC are currently working on reconstructing the drainage outlet that leads the water from Uwanja wa Farasi into the sea. This, in combination with clean drainage channels that enables the stormwater to run off, would be the solution to the flooding of the site. The design proposal's contribution to the stormwater management consists of the addition of waste bins, keeping the main part of the site's ground surfaces permeable, and a profound addition of trees that in the long run could help with draining the soil from water. There is also a sunken raingarden that mainly facilitates the water runoff from the football field, and vegetated buffer zones along the channels that will help slow down the water flow.

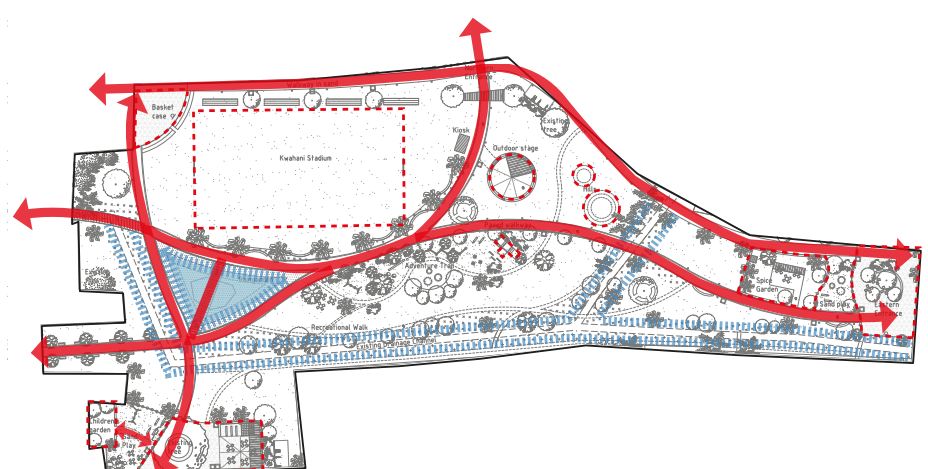




Sketch of the sunken raingarden at the site. The terraced, unaccessible garden is functioning as a bufferzone, mainly taking care of stormwater from the football field.

Circulation on site



Elevated areas and infiltration surfaces on site

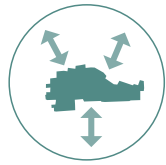


-  PRIMARY PEDESTRIAN PATH
-  SECONDARY PEDESTRIAN PATH

-  ELEVATED WALKWAY
-  ELEVATED AREA
-  INFILTRATION SURFACE

8.6 IMPLEMENTING THE DESIGN STRATEGIES

The thoughts behind the design proposal are explained in relation to the previously presented eight design strategies.



1. Connect to the Context

The site is linked to the surroundings by its infrastructural network and the enhanced entrances. The connection to the future green boulevard on Karume Road is an important step to make Uwanja wa Farasi a part of Zanzibar Town's green infrastructure, which could be done by letting the main roads that lead to the site be framed with trees and benches.

Since the pedestrian connections between the site and Kariakoo are considered two possible links, they are reinforced by becoming connected to the walkway system within the site. The transition from street to site creates two secondary entrances, where benches and vegetation lead the visitor into the site.

Connections within the site

Uwanja wa Farasi has always been a place for the people and should be kept that way. No car traffic is therefore allowed within the site.

The main pedestrian connections are now paved walkways that create access to the whole neighbourhood. People can still use the paths within the site to reach the neighbouring areas, which will keep bringing activity and life to the site.



The paths in Forodhani Garden are 3 meters wide, and the same measurement are used for the main roads in the design proposal.

Many redeveloped areas in Zanzibar are surrounded by walls or fences to protect the site from being built upon by the residents. In this case, the unrestricted access and visual connection to the site are being prioritised, which means that no fences are added. Another way to enhance the connections within the site and enable free movement among the children was to avoid areas with solid boundaries and instead let everything be a part of a coherent landscape.

Enhanced entrances

The four main entrances to the site are enhanced in various degrees and ways. The northern entrance is the connection to the street that leads from Karume Road to the site. A few meters into the park there is a pergola with a sign saying "Uwanja wa Farasi", which creates a portal into the site. When the visitor is approaching the site, the pergola frames the view point towards the character tree that is placed further into the site.

The southern and the eastern entrances are areas for socialising and interacting with the other residents of the neighbourhood. These entrances are inspired by the existing area by the mango tree, where people often gather and socialise in the shade. The entrances are now mixed-used areas, designed to benefit as many of the residents as possible, consisting of multiple seating options, sand play and vegetation.

The western entrance is visually leading the visitor towards the football field, which is the main attraction for the western part of the park.



2. Place Identity

The heritage and the current use of the site are incorporated in the new design. The green, open character that has been characteristic for the site since it was a Polo Ground, is largely preserved. By every entrance, there is a sign that gives a short recap of the site's history in Swahili. Since Uwanja wa Farasi means "Ground of Horses", there are low, wooden horses for children to play with located in several places in the park.

The open drainage channels are kept that way, partly since it is the most sufficient drainage solution, and partly since the water in the open channels is a visual reminder of the flooding that prevented the site from being built upon.

Football is still an important part of the park, but instead of placing a square football field in the middle of the site, it is incorporated in the design. This allows football to take up the space it requires, but at the same time encourage other ways to use the site.

To reconnect with the Swahili culture, barazas are the most frequently used seating element at the site, often covered in colourful, recycled mosaic. The soft sand that is found on the beaches in Zanzibar is used for fall protection in the sand play areas, and colourful ground stones laid in a pattern reminiscing of Tingatinga-paintings are found in the northern, western and southern entrances.



3. Stop & Stay

To invite the visitor to spend time at the site instead of just passing by, several elements and environments that enable activity and recreation are added to the site. There are now multiple seating areas, in terms of formal seating, such as the barazas or wooden benches by the football pitch, and the benches and groups of tables and chairs by the southern and eastern entrance. To prevent the outdoor furniture from being stolen, they are attached to the ground. Elements that enable informal seating are also added, such as blocks of stones or stumps. Many of the barazas are directed towards areas where there are things to look at, whether it is towards vegetation, a football game or towards social areas where people gather and children play. Some barazas are located underneath large trees to create a meeting point, and some benches are directed towards calmer areas that have recreational values.

The addition of areas where larger groups of people can gather and socialise will also offer visitors the opportunity to spend more time at Uwanja wa Farasi. For example, people can gather to discuss politics or play games by the southern entrance, or sing, dance or watch performances by the outdoor stage.

There are now several things at the site that protect the visitor from Zanzibar's climate. The profound addition of trees with solid foliage give natural shelter from sun and rain. There are also shelter in terms of wooden roofs above the outdoor stage and the seating areas by the entrances. The row of trees by the football pitch give shelter to the audience.

The lighting poles along the main walkways guide the visitor during the dark hours, and the ceiling lights by the southern entrance and the outdoor stage extend the usage to include the dark hours as well.



The design proposal is inspired by the many areas in Stone Town where people gather by barazas placed underneath trees with solid foliage.



4. Safety & Orientation

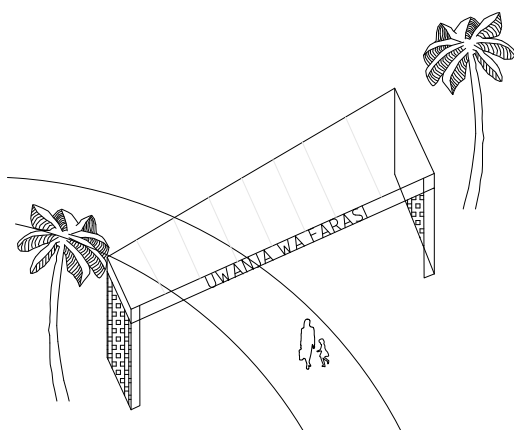
To maintain the feeling of safety that a car free area enables, cars are not allowed at the site. The improvement of the infrastructural network in the Kwahani area enables drivers to navigate more easily, and the design of the entrances prevents cars from entering the site.

The addition of lighting is another way to increase the feeling of safety. Solar powered bollard lights are framing the paved walkways, and ceiling lights are placed by the seating areas where larger groups of people gather.



Ceiling lights, such as these ones in Melbourne, are placed by the southern entrance and the outdoor stage.

In addition to the lighting, the social areas that encourage interaction between children and adults are expected to increase children's experience of safety on site. The usage of local material and elements is another way to create a feeling of safety, because of the aspect of recognition. The division of the site into smaller rooms instead of one large, open area may also increase the feeling of safety.



The portal by the northern entrance welcomes the visitor and frames the viewpoint into the site.

The paved walkways and the entrances with different appearances enable a feeling of entering the site, which is a way to ease the orientation. The large solitary trees with barazas underneath become landmarks and places where people can meet. The views towards the existing landmarks such as the mango tree, mosque and Kariakoo are remaining.



5. Green & Clean

Green - The design proposal is striving towards making Uwanja wa Farasi a biodiverse, ecologically sustainable site. The green character of the site is kept and enhanced through the addition of trees and vegetation. Besides from adding aesthetic qualities to the site, trees are important for the mental well-being. Trees can also contribute to a different microclimate by providing shadow and fresh air. Many of the chosen trees either generate fruit or flowers, since they are greatly appreciated by children and more likely to be maintained by adults. Local plant material is prioritized, but some exotics species from other parts of East Africa are chosen due to their desired qualities.

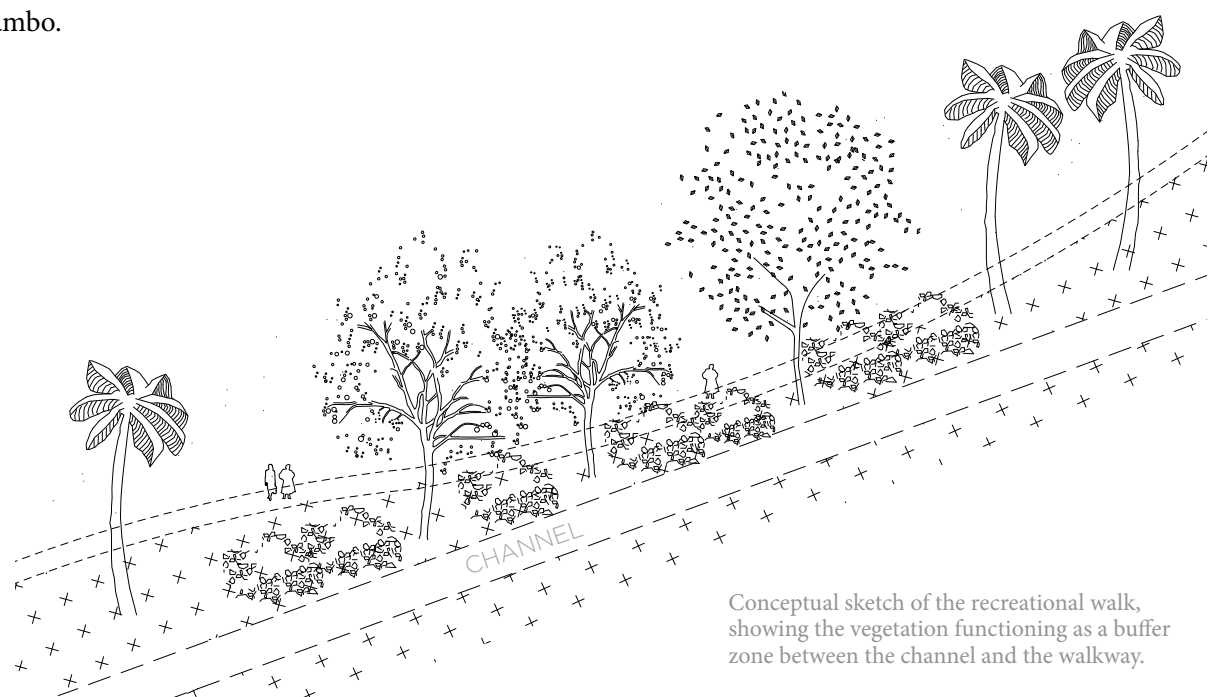
The existing mango tree is given a central role in the design of the southern entrance, and the wild vegetation by the western edge is kept to frame the site. Due to ownership issues, the existing private plantings are removed and the possibility to farm is located within the gardens at the site instead. The children's garden is placed by the south entrance, close to the nursery so that they can use it for educating and exploring. The spice garden by the eastern entrance reconnects with Zanzibar's ancient history of being a spice island. The organic waste that is turned into soil by the composts, is used to maintain the gardens. The spice garden could also spare a corner for local bee-keeping, something that a local NGO called "Practical Permaculture Institute" (PPI) are working hard to promote and implement on Zanzibar. An awareness program created in collaboration with them could educate the residents in how to manage urban farming.

The trees and shrubs divide the area into smaller rooms and generate a dynamic site. These semi-permeable boundaries divide the large space without disconnecting the different areas from each other. An environment with a range of vegetation offer children the best opportunities for free play, and the restorative power of natural elements is extra important in areas such as the informal settlements of Ng'ambo.

Clean - The lack of waste management is one of the main issues at Uwanja wa Farasi, and several actions to prevent the scattering of waste are considered. The waste collection point is removed from the site and replaced with three recycling stations to better meet the demands of the neighbourhood and adapt to a future development. The organic waste is separated into composts by the recycling stations and turned into soil that is used for fertilising the vegetation in the park. Waste bins are placed within the site and should be emptied regularly.

Today, the management workers distributed by ZMC are circulating within the informal settlements only to empty the waste collection points and prevent the worst damage. A redevelopment of Uwanja wa Farasi would mean an increased priority by ZMC. In addition to that, engagement from the community is required for the new design to function. An awareness program to educate the residents about recycling, ecology and maintenance should be introduced by ZEMA and NGO's such as PPI, to educate the Sheha and create responsibility groups within the community. Arranging educational events and developing Uwanja wa Farasi into something for the residents to be proud of, would hopefully contribute to a change of mindset, which could reduce the littering. A clean area that is free from waste would allow children to run around freely, without having them or their parents to worry about waste that might carry diseases.

To prevent waste from being thrown into the drainage channels, planting beds are established along them to create a buffer zone between the channels and the pedestrian trails. This will make the channels less accessible and hopefully create a mental barrier that prevent people from going there and throw waste in it. The planting beds are also functioning as flooding surfaces that will slow down the stormwater.



Conceptual sketch of the recreational walk, showing the vegetation functioning as a buffer zone between the channel and the walkway.



6. Social & Unsocial Places

Overall, the open space character of the site is kept, but the park is now divided into “rooms” of different scales, defined by walkways or by elements such as the trees, shrubs or benches. These places give the child an opportunity to choose between a social or an unsocial setting.

Social

When children are playing together or even having a conflict with each other, they are developing the ability to interact with each other. The areas by the entrances are created to become social places with mixed-use functions such as sand play, gardens, seating opportunities and shading elements. This should attract residents of all ages and enable interaction between them. There are also large, unprogrammed surfaces where residents can gather during special events.

The park contains places that are designed for children to meet with each other (such as the adventure trail) and where children and adults can interact (the eastern and southern entrances, the outdoor stage and the football pitch).

Unsocial

Small “villages” with play houses are located within the sand play areas where children can hide from the outer world. There are also places along the adventure trail with gatherings of low growing shrubs where children can play more or less unseen. In addition to that, the park contains unprogrammed surfaces without seating options and with vegetation that generate less insight, who are less likely to be claimed by adults and thereby give children the opportunity to create dens and places of their own. The site provides enough seating opportunities for the visitors to choose whether they want to sit with other people or by themselves in a more shielded place.



Jaw's corner in Stone Town is a place where people often gather for political discussion or a game of chess, and served as an inspiration for the southern and eastern entrances.



7. Physical stimulation

The whole site aims to be a coherent play landscape that contain areas with different environments and elements, which encourages physical activity and the opportunity for risk and challenge among children.

The football pitch is consisting of an open field with two goal posts instead of a formal, square field. This, and the other large quantities of grass covered, open areas allow children to run around, chase each other and indulge in spontaneous activities. Smaller areas of grass are also left unprogrammed in several places, where the younger children can play ball, just like they are currently doing in the eastern area of the site. In addition to the football field, two basket cases are added in two different corners of the site.



Unprogrammed areas are important to keep to allow children to indulge in spontaneous activities.

Besides from playing football or basketball, other options for physical stimulation are added, which was specifically requested by some of the girls during the interviews. The adventure trail as well as the southern and eastern entrances contain several elements to balance on, things to climb and play animals or play houses. Plastic play equipment and other things that tend to be less sustainable are avoided in favour to either natural elements such as trees or stones, or equipment made of wood or stone. The tires that were thrown into the drainage channels are cleaned and used as pots in the gardens, and to build the swings and the climbing poles.

Except from the small fluctuations in the landscape, the site is rather flat. Two hills are therefore added to the area by the outdoor stage, since a hilly terrain stimulates children's physical development. Children could also use elements in the park (such as the barazas or the seating stones) as informal play equipment to jump up on and challenge their motoric skills. Several children mentioned the local game Nage during the interviews, which is taken into consideration in the new design. Three different areas of sand play are therefore enabling several children to participate in the popular game.

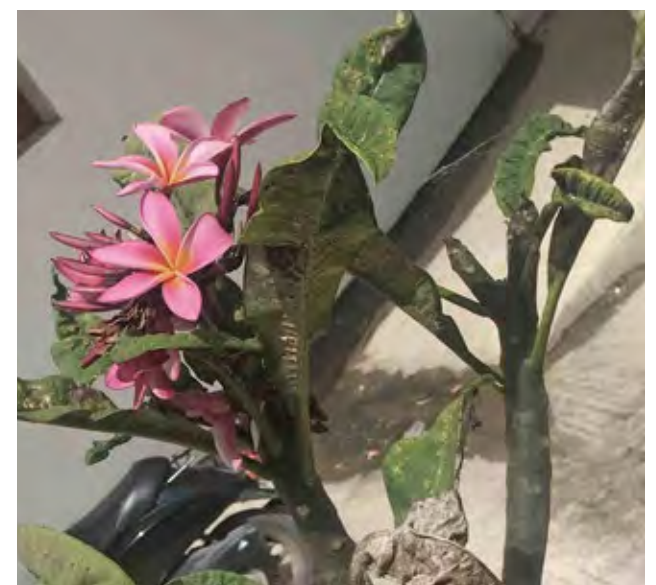


8. Mental stimulation

The new design of the site contains elements that provide visual richness and stimulate other senses than the visual. A lot of the added vegetation is chosen due to its aesthetic qualities, or to its potential to bear scented flowers or edible fruit. The vegetation along the adventure trail and the recreational walk are chosen carefully, with a focus on strong colours, different textures and exciting shapes by the adventure trail, and on pleasant shapes and calm colours by the recreational walk.

The ground covers of the site consist of grass, soft sand and paving stones, who are also stimulating the senses through their varying colours and textures. The different surfaces of the elements are also contributing to various tactile experiences. The addition of vegetation also means that there will be fruits, nuts, leaves and branches from the trees and shrubs for the children to play, build and be creative with.

In addition to contributing with an ecological understanding and harvesting possibilities for the residents, gardening is said to be mentally stimulating for both children and adults, which is why there are two gardens of two different sizes located within the site.



Colourful vegetation are used to enhance the mental stimulation in the park.

8.7 THREE AREAS OF DIFFERENT CHARACTER

This section presents three areas of the design proposal in detail; the football field, the southern entrance and the adventure trail. These three areas are examples of places that possess various qualities that encourage children's play in different ways. The presented sections and perspectives are chosen to communicate the main character of each area.



- A. The Football Field
- B. The Southern Entrance
- C. The Adventure Trail

A. The Football Field

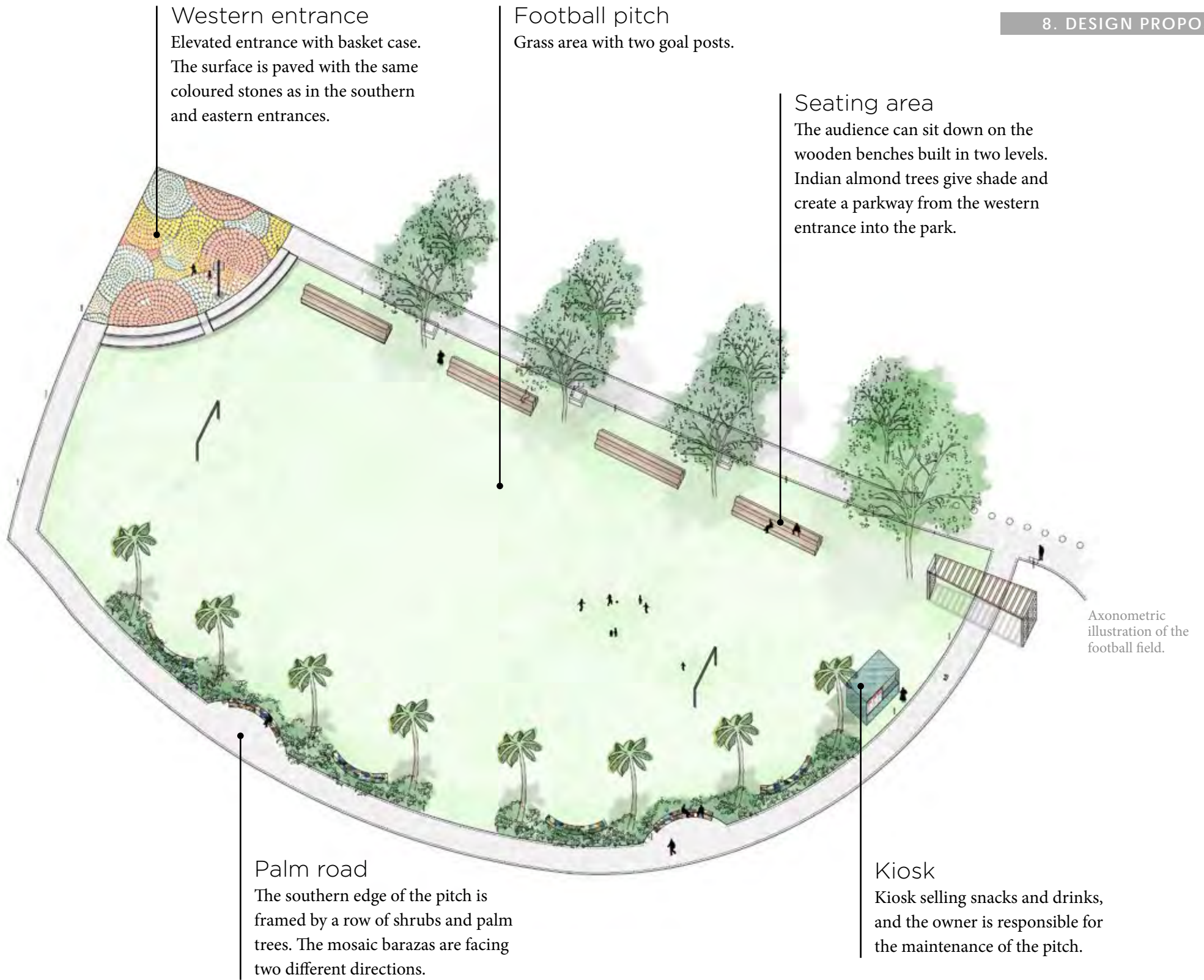
An inclusive, multifunctional area

The opportunity to play football in Uwanja wa Farasi is essential to keep, and the football pitch is now designed as a green, open area (with a size equivalent to a football pitch for 7 players per team) with two goal posts. The pitch is framed with vegetation and wooden benches in two levels along the northern edge, and with colourful barazas along the southern edge. The large quantity of unprogrammed surface with a ground cover of grass invite children to run around, chase each other, and play games and sports that requires a lot of space. The north-eastern corner also has a basket case where children can shoot hoops.

The large open surface allows the site to be used as a gathering point for the residents of the neighbourhood during special celebrations, which means that it can serve as a meeting point for both children and adults. A kiosk where snacks and drinks are sold is located just by the eastern edge of the pitch. The owner of the kiosk has the main responsibility for the maintenance of the football pitch. The surface that surround the pitch is slightly sunken to make the water run off quicker.



Visualisation of the football field, viewed from the northern entrance. The picture is showing the eastern goal post, one of the wooden benches and the mosaic barazas on the other side of the pitch



Left: A variation of different shrubs that could be used by the barazas. Inspiration from Jamhuri Gardens.



Middle: Inspirational picture showing barazas surrounded by shrubs and trees in Stone Town.



Right: The football pitch is inspired by the existing, simple conditions of Uwanja wa Farasi.

Left: Indian almond gives a lot of shade and is placed by the wooden benches.



Middle: The same palm trees that the ones along the beach walk in Forodhani Gardens are used to frame the site.

Right: Mosaic benches in Stone Town inspired to the design of the barazas by the football field.

Trees:

● **Indian almond (*Terminalia catappa*).**

Tall, upright tree that becomes up to 35 meters. The horizontal branches with big leaves creates a symmetrical crown with solid foliage which is good for shading. The large leaves and the small fruits are fun for children to play with.

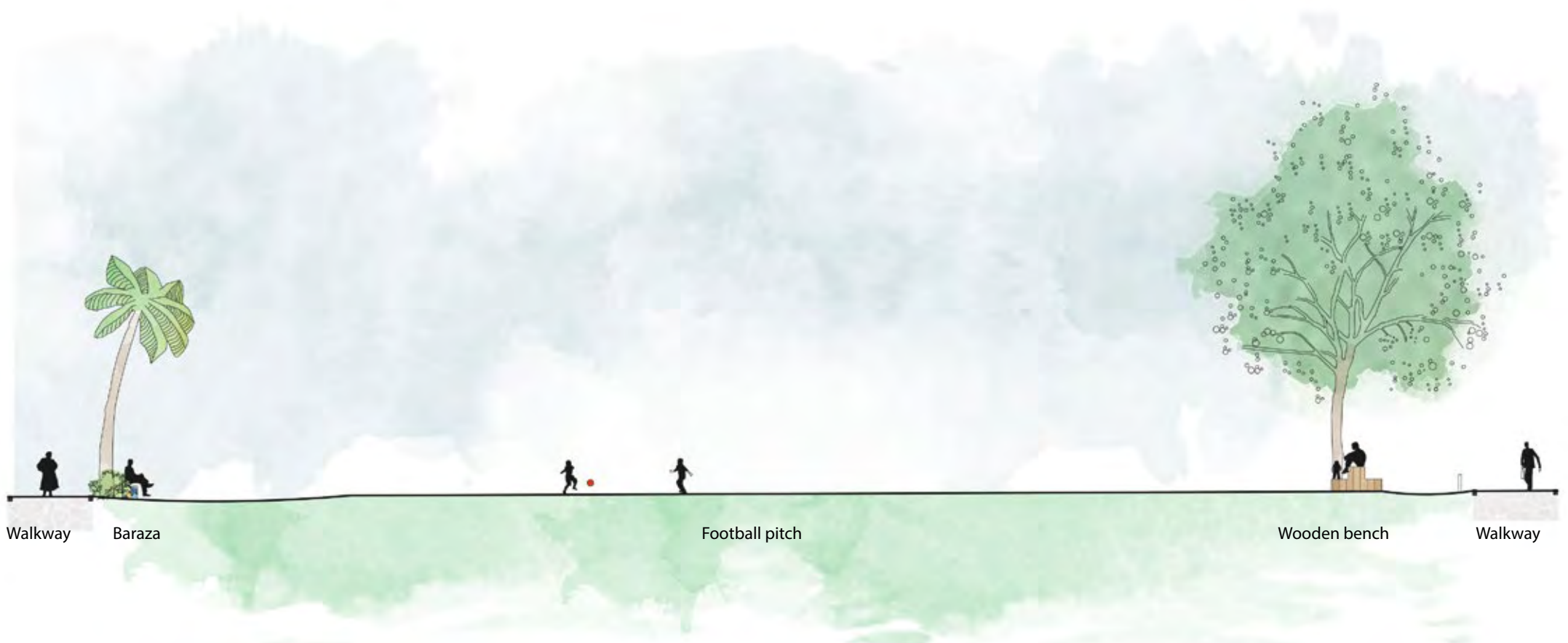
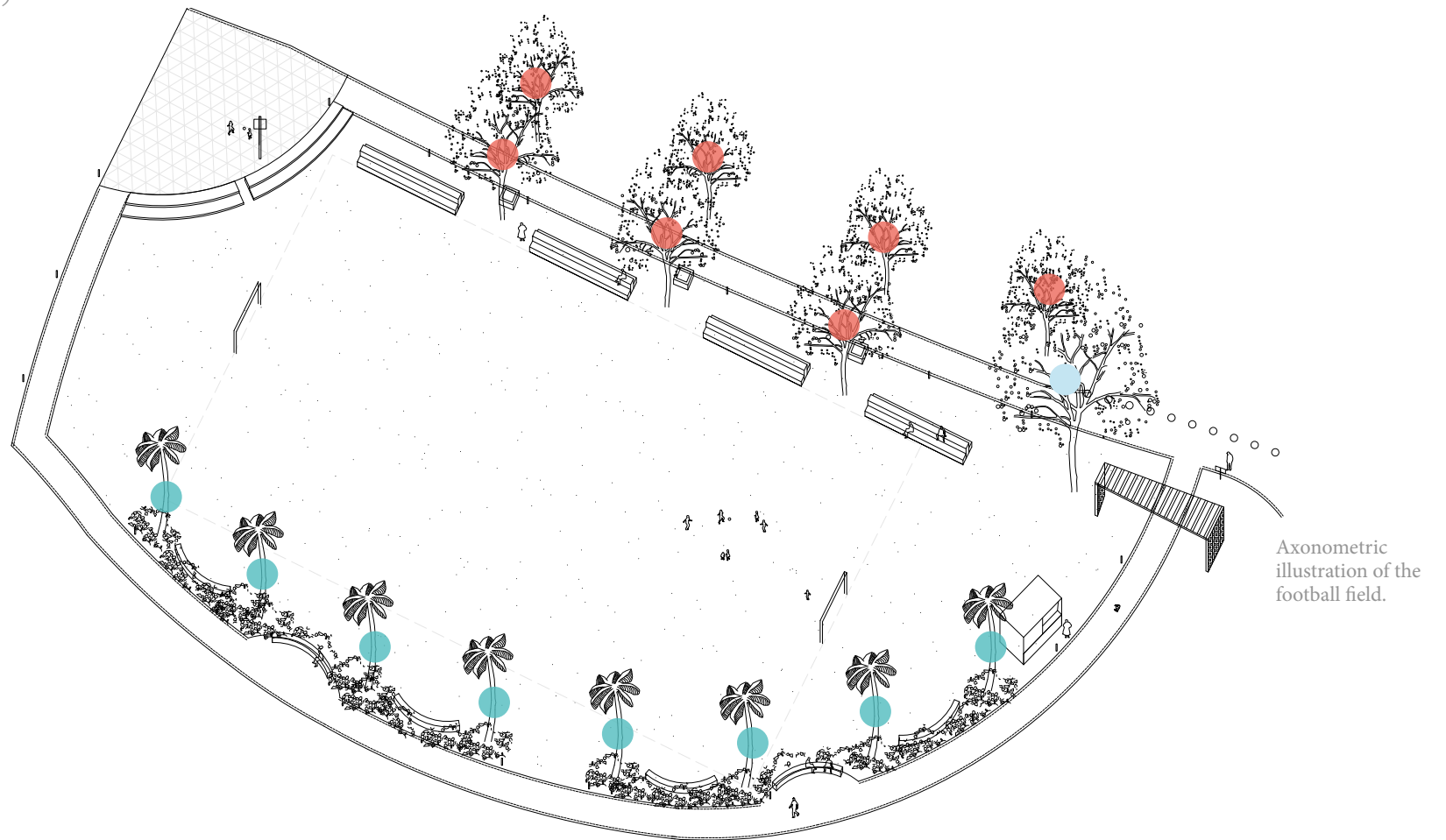
● **Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*).**

An evergreen fast-growing tree, 5-20 meters tall. A good shade tree that bears large, yellow fruits.

● **Palm tree**

Same (unidentified) species as the ones used in Forodhani Gardens. Approximately 15 tall, no visible fruit.

(Dharani 2011)



SECTION A-a, 1:200 (A3)

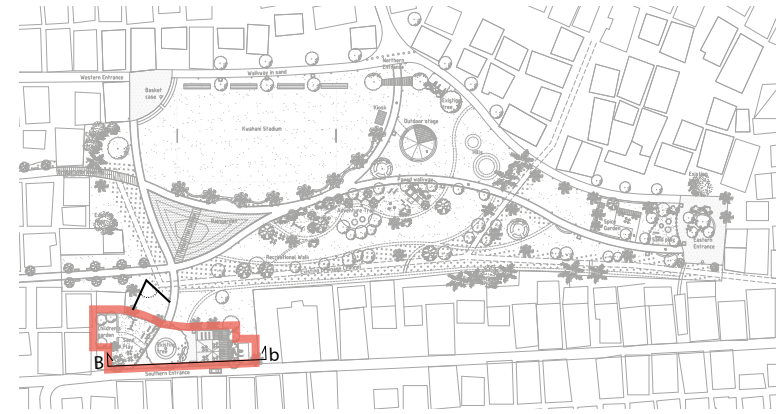
B. The Southern Entrance

An inclusive, programmed area

The southern entrance is a mixed-use area inspired by the existing social qualities that the area by the mango tree accommodate today. The mango tree is therefore kept and embraced by a mosaic baraza, and the wooden benches in the eastern part of the site function as room dividing elements, which creates a room with seating opportunities, outdoor chess and a wooden pergola. This could be place for socialising, political discussions and playing the popular board games bao and keram.

The sand play area consists of swings, play animals and several seating options. There is also enough open space to play the popular game Nage in the sand. The short distance to the nursery invite the younger children to use the children's garden and the sand play area.

The different functions within the area are separated by different ground materials or benches to create permeable boundaries and enable flow of movement among children, and thereby increase the interaction between them and the adults. The seating area that hosts the opportunity to play games are likely to be claimed mainly by men, while looking after children as well as gardening are activities that traditionally are managed by women. By putting these places close to each other, interaction between all residents could be encouraged, and an inclusive area where children can interact with, and learn from both men and women can be created.



Visualisation of the southern entrance, seen when standing on the grass just northwest of the area. The picture is showing the interaction between the social corner, the mango tree and the sand play area.



Left: The white, soft sand from the beaches of Zanzibar is used in the sand play areas.



Middle: The foliage of the Neem tree gives pleasant shade to the social corner.



Right: Barazas built around a solitary tree. Inspiration from Prison Island, Zanzibar.



Left: The carambola tree gives a lot of shade and has edible fruits with an interesting shape.



Middle: The Indian almond creates a small "room" in the sand play area.

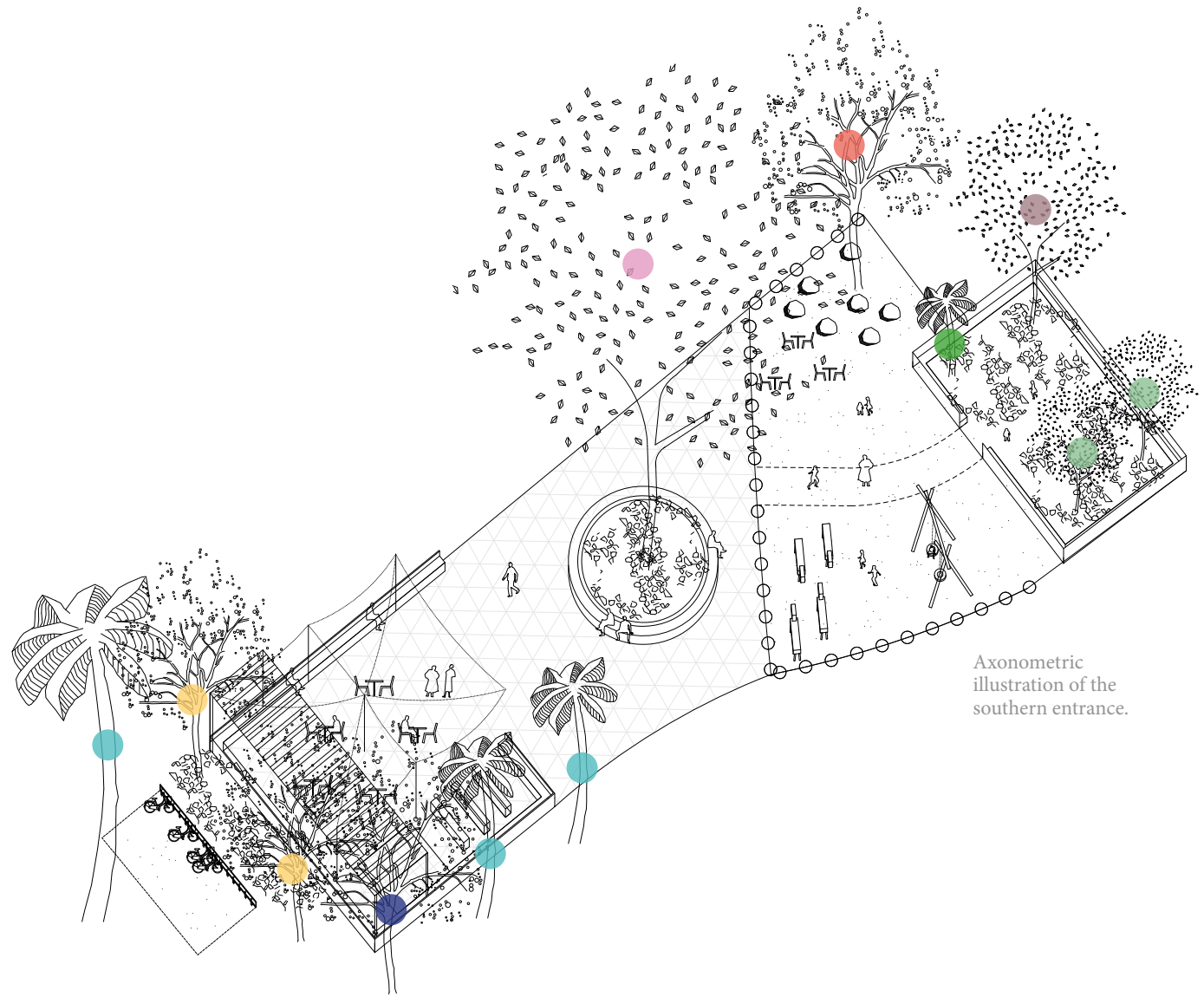


Right: The paved surface consist of stones of different colours layed in a pattern, inspired by this paving in Stone Town and Tinga-tinga-paintings.

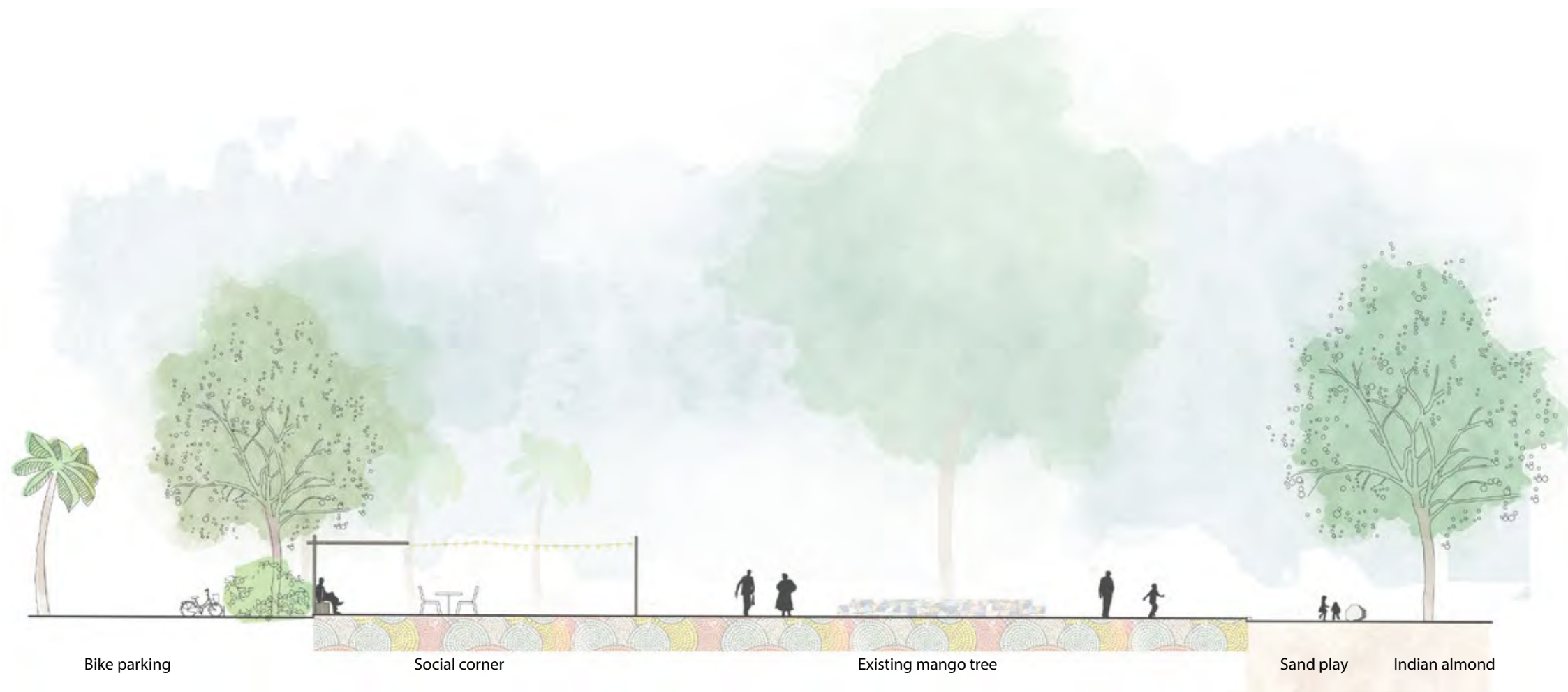
Trees:

- **Banana plant** (*Musa acuminata x balbisiana*).
Small, palm-like plant that is 2-6 meters high.
Gives small, sweet fruits.
- **Carambola tree** (*Averrhoa carambola*).
Short-trunked tree that becomes approximately 5 meters high. Gives star-shaped, edible fruits.
- **Flame tree** (*Erythrina abyssinica*).
6-12 meters, deciduous tree that gives good shade and have extremely decorative flowers.
- **Existing mango tree**
- **Indian almond** (*Terminalia catappa*).
Tall, upright tree that becomes up to 35 meters. The horizontal branches with big leaves creates a symmetrical crown with solid foliage which is good for shading. The large leaves and the small fruits are fun for children to play with.
- **Mulberry tree** (*Morus alba*).
8-10 meters tall, deciduous tree. The fruits are very sweet tasting when ripe.
- **Neem tree** (*Azadirachta indica*).
Evergreen, fast growing and long-lived tree, becomes 15-20 metres tall.
- **Palm tree**
Same (unidentified) species as the ones used in Forodhani Gardens. Approximately 15 tall, no visible fruit.

(Dharani 2011)



Axonometric illustration of the southern entrance.



Bike parking

Social corner

Existing mango tree

Sand play

Indian almond

SECTION B-b, 1:200 (A3)

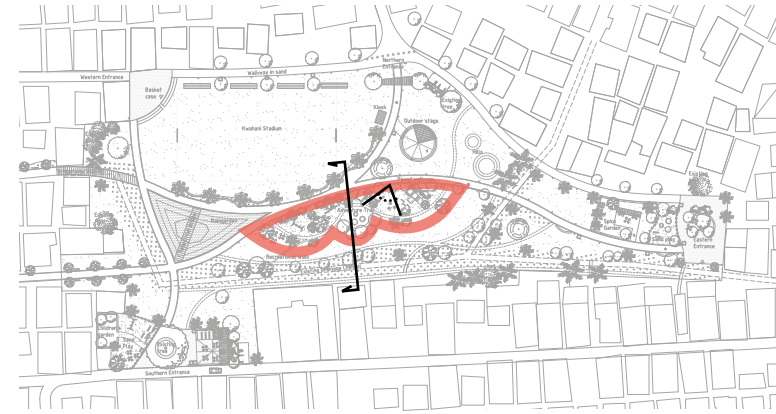
c. The Adventure Trail

A programmed area with children in focus

The adventure trail is a place where children can explore, play and experience, and where they can find places of their own where they can escape from the large, open surfaces in the park. The equipment and vegetation along the trail are chosen to match the human scale to create a more intimate environment for children.

The play equipment consists of swings, climbing poles, logs to jump up or balance on, play animals and a wooden stage built in different levels. The stage can be used as an informal seating area or for spontaneous performances. The equipment is made of recycled material, using old logs for the balance play and old tires for the swings and the climbing poles. South of the trail there is a linear strip of grass where children can play ball or run around.

The vegetation is chosen to contribute with a higher level of detail and excitement, consisting of shrubs of various colours and shapes, and trees that give fruits or have colourful, fragrant flowers. The vegetation is also chosen so that children can hide within it and create dens. The adventure trail is a place where children can go to socialize with other children or to play on their own.



Visualisation of the adventure trail, viewed from the paved walkway north of the area. The illustration is showing the climbing poles, a part of the balance play, and the gathering of indian almonds by the play houses.

Natural play equipment

Besides from the swings, there are stones, logs and other natural materials to sit on or play with.

Physical challenges

Elements for balance play, play animals shaped as horses and climbing poles are placed along the trail.

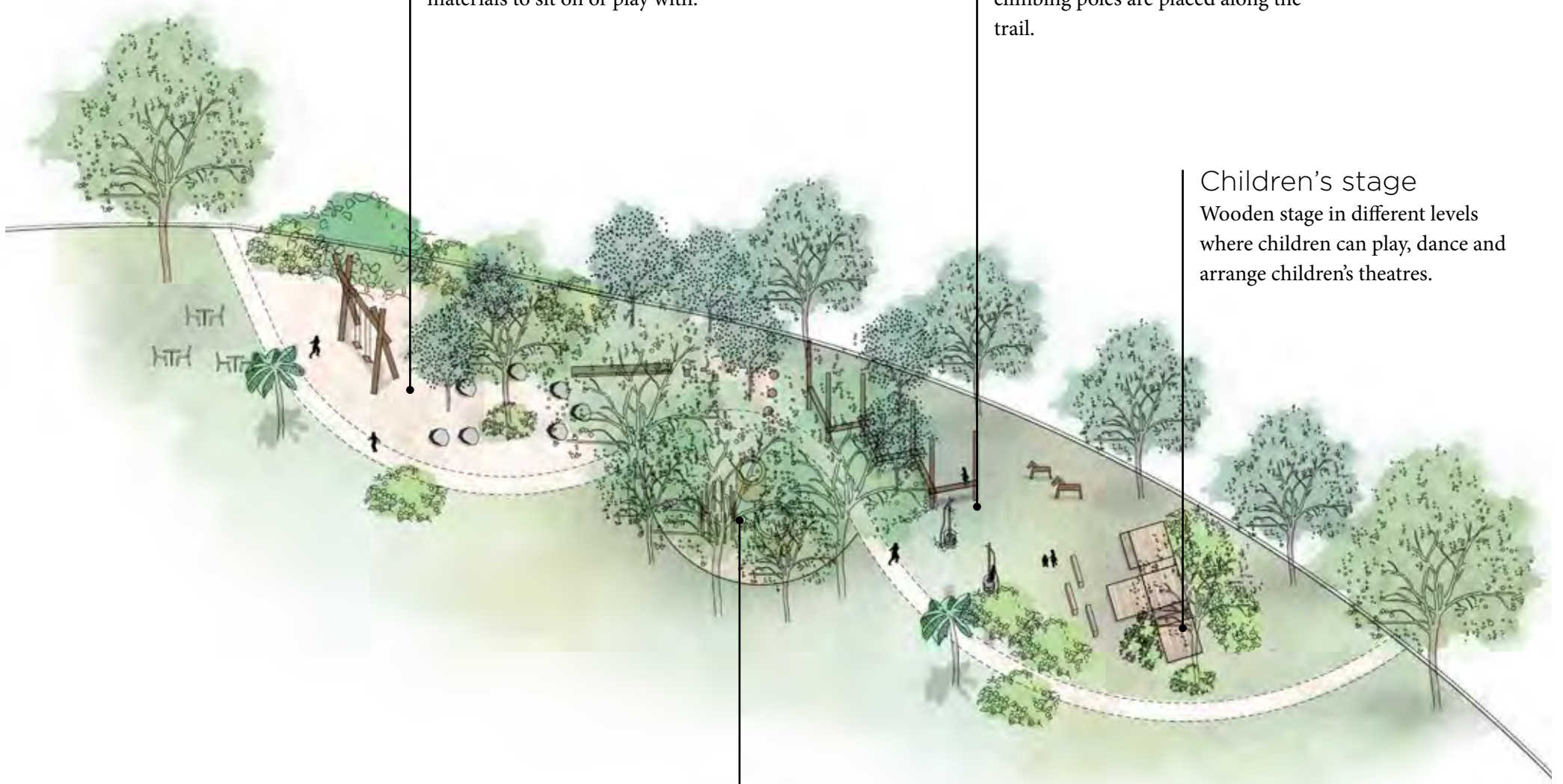
Children's stage

Wooden stage in different levels where children can play, dance and arrange children's theatres.

Play houses

The semicircle of trees are surrounding the circles shaped playhouses made out of wood with cut-outs for doors and windows. There are two doors in every play house to encourage free movement.

Axonometric illustration of the adventure trail.



Left: The indian almond has large leaves and small fruits that can be used for play.

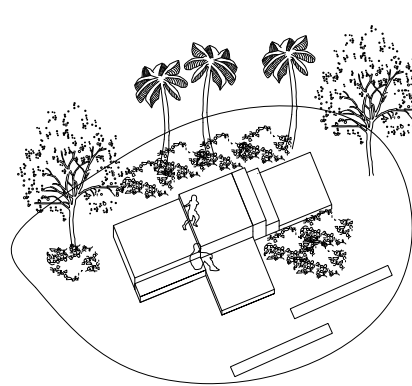


Middle: The peacock flower frame the road that goes along the adventure trail.



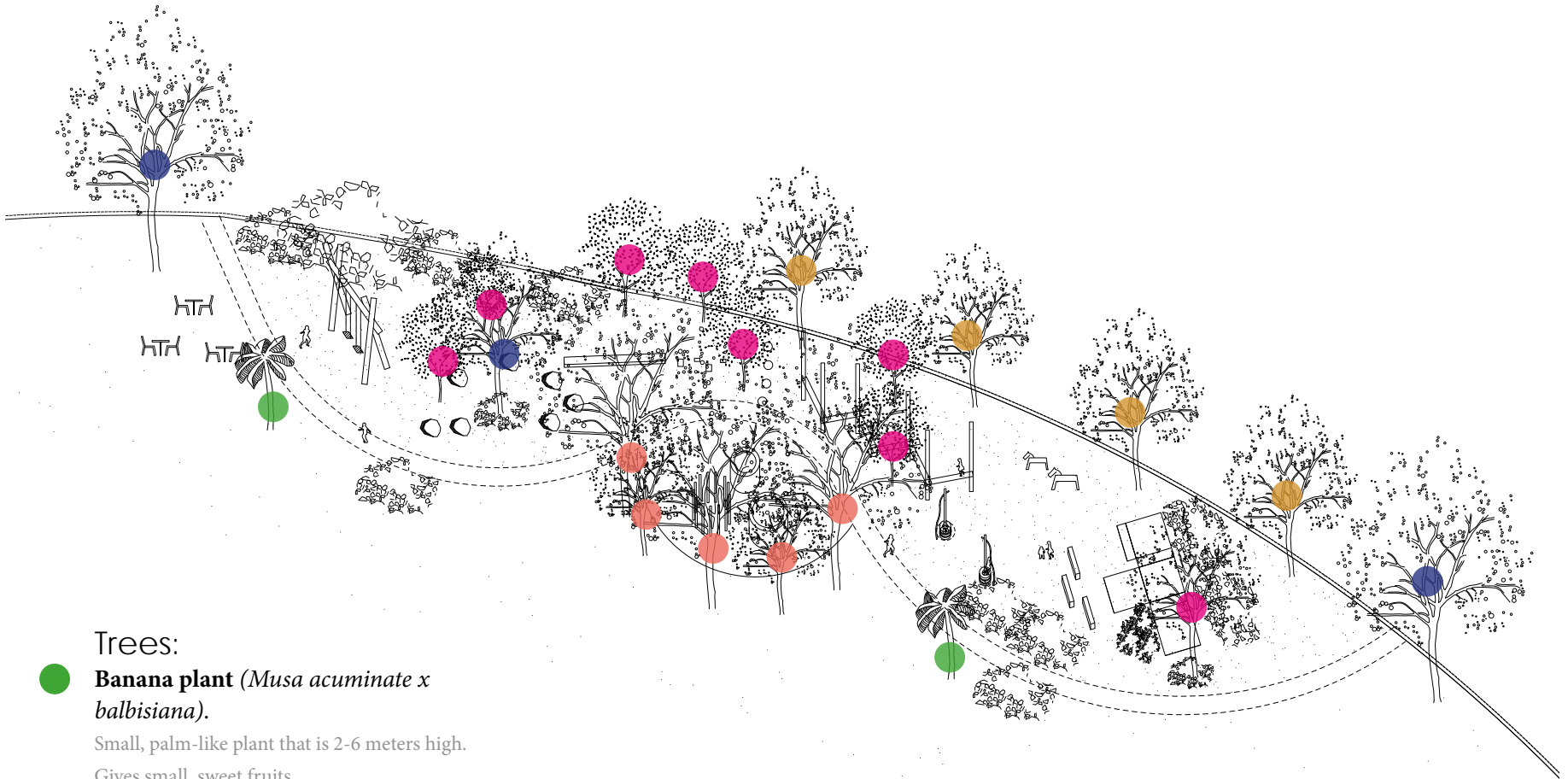
Right: Besides from being a small-scaled shading tree, the Frangipani tree has decorative, scented flowers.

Left: Shrubs of varying colours and shapes, such as these ones in Jamhuri gardens, are creating a dynamic landscape along the trail.



Middle: Axonometric sketch of the children's stage.

Right: Flowering shrubs such as hibiscus are used to contribute with exiting elements along the trail.

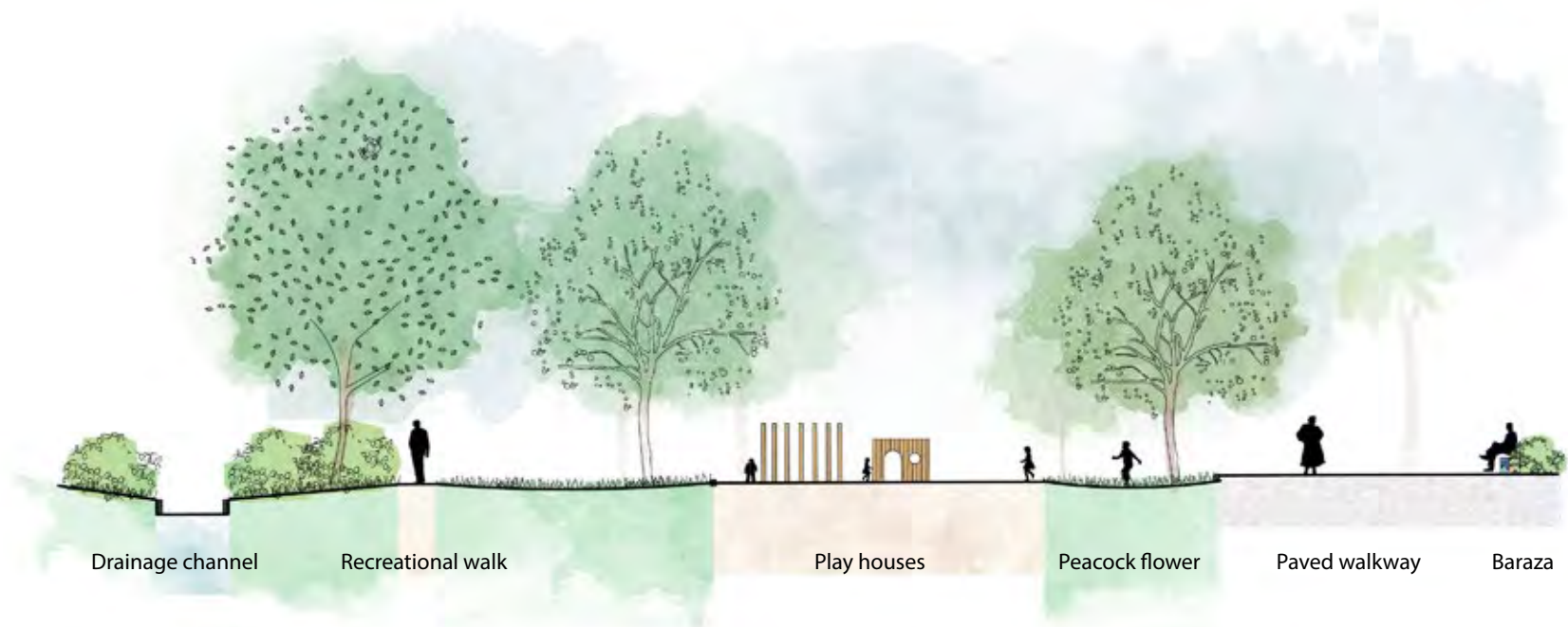


Axonometric illustration of the adventure trail.

Trees:

- **Banana plant (*Musa acuminata x balbisiana*).**
Small, palm-like plant that is 2-6 meters high.
Gives small, sweet fruits.
- **Frangipani tree (*Plumeria obtusa*).**
Exotic, small tree that grows to 6 meters tall. It has a round crown that gives a lot of shade and clustered decorative, scented flowers in white or pink.
- **Indian almond (*Terminalia catappa*).**
Tall, upright tree that becomes up to 35 meters in height. The horizontal branches with big leaves creates a symmetrical crown with solid foliage which is good for shading. The large leaves and the small fruits are fun for children to play with.
- **Neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*).**
Evergreen, fast growing and long-lived tree, becomes 15-20 meters in height.
- **Peacock flower (*Albizia gummifera*).**
Deciduous, fast-growing tree, becomes up to 15 meters tall. Good shade tree that also contributes with soil conservation and improvement. Clustered flowers in yellow, white or pink.

(Dharani 2011)

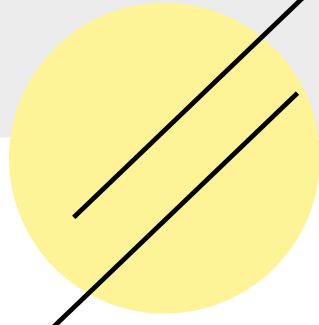


SECTION C-c, 1:200 (A3)

9

DISCUSSION

This chapter reconnects to the introducing chapter and discusses the result of the thesis in relation to the aim and the background.

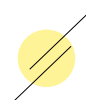


Uwanja wa Farasi in the informal settlements of Ng'ambo was chosen to be the site for the design proposal.

9.1 THE THESIS IN A LARGER CONTEXT

The background of this thesis mentions that the child's right to play is essential for their physical and mental well-being, and a way to meet the standards of Article 31 in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since this makes play a global right for every child, the existence of public environments that encourage play should be relevant worldwide, especially in areas that are neglected due to poverty. Informal settlements in developing countries, such as the ones in Ng'ambo, are examples of areas that only have limited resources to provide their residents with basic social services.

Creating public environments that stimulate play can therefore be considered an international issue, and despite presenting a design that is applied to Uwanja wa Farasi in Zanzibar, the ideas of how to design with children's perspective in mind could be applicable to sites with similar issues in other contexts as well. The design strategies and the design proposal presented in this thesis should however be interpreted and adapted to a site-specific context in order to work successfully.



9.2 AIM AND QUESTION

In this thesis, the importance of designing places that encourage children's play in an informal context has been investigated. The research started with theoretical studies concerning children and the outdoor environment, as well as contextual research on the informal settlements in Zanzibar. When in Zanzibar, several places for children were observed to get an increased understanding of the local conditions. Uwanja wa Farasi was chosen to be the site for the design proposal, and site studies and interviews with locals were conducted.

The aim of this thesis was to identify how public space in informal settlements can be improved through interventions in the physical environment from children's perspective, and how that can be implemented through a design proposal based on design strategies developed through a combination of theoretical and practical knowledge.

The project was meant to add the children's perspective when investigating design solutions for a public space in an informal settlement, and to create a design proposal that is relevant for the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar to develop further.

To achieve this aim, the following question was posed:

- *How can a design proposal be developed and applied to the context of the informal settlements of Ng'ambo, Zanzibar, in order to improve the public space to stimulate children's play?*



9.3 THE RESULT

9.3.1. General dicussion

As previously mentioned, play is essential for the child's physical and mental development, and should be considered and prioritised as a basic human need. To cater the child's right to play, stimulating areas needs to be represented in the child's local environment. During the time spent in Zanzibar, it was confirmed that Zanzibar Town in general has a very limited range of public places that are designed to stimulate children.

This issue applies to the Kwahani area, where Uwanja wa Farasi is situated. The crowded building pattern of the informal settlements leaves very few places where children can play, and the only place that is planned with special attention to children is Kariakoo Amusement Park, where the visitor must pay an entrance fee to enter. There are many children living in the neighbourhood by Uwanja wa Farasi, which further motivates the focus on creating a public space with children in mind in this context.

There is no set recipe on how to successfully plan for play, since children play in environments and situations that stimulate them. Yet, the design proposal has derived from strategies that, according to research, create environments that encourage play. The addition of these qualities in an area that otherwise lacks accessible places for children, is considered a step towards becoming a child-friendly neighbourhood in Ng'ambo.

How would an implementation of the design proposal affect the site?

A realisation of the design proposal would add a lot of qualities to Uwanja wa Farasi, but also change the site's current character. It is unlikely to affect the residents negatively, since the design is developed to respect and maintain the current qualities of the site as much as possible. A general perception based on the conversations with the residents of Kwahani, is that they are very openminded when it comes to an upgrade of the site, as long as the existing qualities, such as the football field and the open space, are kept.

The new design of Uwanja wa Farasi is likely to affect the whole Kwahani area. It would also be a valuable reference for DoURP to use when they are trying to encourage the Government to invest in public spaces outside the tourist areas. If similar investments were made in several public spaces in Ng'ambo, it would be a way of levelling out the huge differences between public and private environments, and furthermore a way to give local children better conditions for play.

Despite the presumed positive outcome of the design proposal, it will not solve the underlying issues of poverty and neglect from authorities. Questions regarding the improvement of other issues in the neighbourhood that affect children (such as sanitation and water supply) are not dealt with in this project. The design proposal is an attempt to show how a transformation of the existing site could be one way to improve the situation for children.

What would it take for the design to be realised?

For this design proposal to be realised, several aspects need to be dealt with. The design proposal will not function if the site keeps getting flooded. Solving the flooding issue is not the focus of this thesis, but will according to Mr. Mzee (see p. 70) be solved by ZMC. If the improvement of the drainage system turns out to be insufficient, the design proposal needs to be adjusted to better handle the stormwater management.

Once the flooding issue is solved, it is crucial that the site is spared to be used as a public space and protected from being built upon. For the design proposal to be realised, financial investments are required from either the Government or a NGO. Investing in the development of a public park could be hard to motivate in a neighbourhood that lacks basic functions such as electricity, water and functioning infrastructure. It is however still vital to provide children with environments that encourage play, and a redesign of Uwanja wa Farasi is assumed to have a positive impact on the entire neighbourhood.

The generalizability of the design

Uwanja wa Farasi is a unique site in Ng'ambo due to its large, open character, and the original thought was to work with a smaller, more representative public space within the informal settlements. However, working with Uwanja wa Farasi became an opportunity to include a lot of the important aspects that were found in the literature studies on children's play. The design strategies and thereby many components of the design proposal could still be applicable and adapted to other sites in Ng'ambo. Due to the size and location of Uwanja wa Farasi, the needs of the other residents in the neighbourhood also had to be considered in the design proposal. This was however not regarded as an issue, since many of the elements and environments that encourage children's play are likely to be appreciated by other residents as well.

Since the target group for the interviews were six children between the age of 9 and 15, the generalizability of their opinions and input is unclear. It is therefore difficult to know if the conclusions drawn from the interviews are applicable to younger or older children as well. Hopefully, the design's flexible character as well as the areas that aim to include all residents will generate certain qualities that children of all ages could benefit from.

Western background and children's perspective

In addition to the knowledge that was received from the literature and the field studies, the design proposal is based on the knowledge that has derived from five years of studying landscape architecture in Sweden. The educational journey is lined with almost exclusively western literature, standards and references, which, in combination with the lack of previous experiences of planning in developing countries, makes it difficult to rule out that some of the decisions regarding the design proposal are based on a western perspective.

For example, the park's inclusive approach regarding different ages and gender might be conflicting with the local religious and cultural traditions, but is not considered an issue due to the site's flexibility and thereby the possibility for the residents to use it in the way they find the most suitable. The focus on ecological sustainability might also be of higher priority in industrialised countries, where issues such as water supply and electricity already are solved. It is however considered a relevant addition in the context of a densely built neighbourhood where green elements are rare.

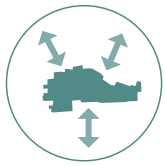
It takes time and engagement to get to know and understand a culture, and a nine-week field study is not nearly enough to provide the whole picture. However, the collaboration with the local planning institution, the site visits and the everyday interaction with locals made it easier to make decisions that felt anchored in the context. To further consolidate the relevance of the design proposal, a longer stay and a more long-term and in-depth study of the site would have been required.

Lastly, since I am not a child, it is impossible to portray reality from the child's own perspective. The site studies, interviews and workshop were held as an attempt to gain a broader understanding of the context (especially from a cultural perspective), but in the end, the decisions when compiling the design proposal were subjectively made, however with a constant ambition to make decisions based on what is the most beneficial from children's perspective.

There are many possible angles to approach when creating a design for children. In this case, elements and environments that are said to encourage children's play were used. These recommendations were also presumed to enhance the design on a general level, since aspects such as safety and a green and clean area are beneficial to the whole society.

9.3.2. Design Strategies

In order to answer the research question, the relevant knowledge from the literature studies, site visits and interviews were summarized in the end of each chapter and compiled into eight design strategies that steered the direction of the design proposal for Uwanja wa Farasi. The following discussion regarding the design is therefore based on the implementation of the eight design strategies; **connect to the context, place identity, stop & stay, safety & orientation, green & clean, social & unsocial places, physical stimulation and mental stimulation.**



1. Connect to the Context

The existing infrastructural connections make it hard to navigate from the dense settlements to the site, and the roads within the site consist only of narrow, informal trails that are disconnected to the surrounding roads. To change this, paved walkways that connect to the main road network are established within the site, and the main entrances in the site are turned into social nodes, using either a colourful ground material or a portal with a welcome sign to enhance them.

Cars are not allowed on the site, which was an important decision. There is no need to access the site by car today, and it is not considered becoming essential in the future either. Keeping the park car free was also necessary to create a safe environment where children can run free.

In order to keep the site accessible and welcoming, there are no gates surrounding the site. This could however become an issue, since there is nothing that prevents unpermitted building on the site. Yet, the immediate physical and visual connection to the surroundings was considered too important to dismiss. Furthermore, it is less likely that residents will start to build on the grounds of a developed park.



2. Place Identity

During the interviews with the residents of the area, it became clear that the historical heritage and current use of the site were essential to keep. The open, green character of the site and the football field is therefore preserved in the new design. Play animals shaped as horses and signs with historical information are also added to the site. The features that are added to enhance the site's identity are rather subtle, and might not be noticed by a visitor. The signs that explain the history of the Polo Ground are therefore a small but important contribution.

The existing open channels are kept to function as a reminder of the flooding, since it is one of the main reasons of why the site has remained an open space. Open channels can be dangerous to children, but the added vegetation alongside the channels as well as the presence of adults and other children will hopefully prevent accidents from happening. An alternative solution could be to add fences along the channels.

Some of the residents might have wished for a larger and more formally shaped football pitch, but the final decision regarding shape and size was made to prevent football from being perceived as the site's main activity, and thereby encourage other activities for children who want to play in different ways. Maintaining the open character and at the same time add enough elements to create a more stimulating environment proved to be rather difficult. This was solved by concentrating the equipment to some parts of the site and leave some of the areas unprogrammed.

Adding local materials and traditional cultural elements such as barazas is another way of strengthening the site's identity, since it often contributes with a feeling of recognition and safety among children. However, the knowledge about suitable local elements is limited to the information that was gathered during the two months in Zanzibar. Visiting the reference sites to evaluate existing places for children were therefore essential. For example, the observed overrepresentation of worn out, plastic play equipment led to the decision to use equipment made of natural material and let vegetation contribute with colour instead.

Since the perception of the site's identity is based on information that has emerged from interviewing a selection of residents and from the five site visits, there is a risk that important details have been omitted. The received information in combination with the supervising from DoURP did however contribute to a design proposal that is considered to be relevant in its context.



3. Stop & Stay

According to the residents, the current use of the site is mainly as a passage or for playing football. To provide the visitor with the opportunity to stay and spend time at the site, shelter from sun and rain as well as seating opportunities are required. Barazas, benches and groups of outdoor furniture are therefore added to the site, many of them placed underneath the shelter of a tree or pergola, and directed towards something that is visually stimulating.

The audience watching the football games finally have somewhere to sit, and children and adults can gather by the pitch or the outdoor stage during cultural events. The southern and the eastern entrance are designed to tempt the visitor to stop and stay there for a while, especially since there are tables where the traditional board games *bao* and *keram* can be played. A reflection regarding similar areas in Stone Town, is that they mainly are claimed by men. This is something that depends on tradition and culture, which is hard to regulate within the design of the site. The short distance between the different areas that traditionally attract men, women or children will hopefully erase any eventual barriers and enable interaction among them. A possible solution could also be to arrange game-nights or other events for women only.

A possible issue with using trees as a natural protection from sun and rain, is that it will take time for the trees to reach a size that is large enough to provide shelter. The climate is however providing good growing conditions, and trees of large qualities can be prioritised for the establishment. It is also unsure whether the sheltering elements will be dense enough for the heavy rains. A solution to that could be to turn the pergolas into wooden roofs, and to extend them to cover a larger area. The residents are however less likely to visit the park during heavy rainfall.



4. Safety & Orientation

As previously mentioned, the park should be car free to enable children to run around freely. The design of the entrance areas is therefore supposed to function as obstacles to prevent cars from entering the site, which is a requirement for the site to reach its full potential.

The new design of Uwanja wa Farasi still allows the visitor to get an overview of the site, and elements such as large trees and coloured ground materials are added to enable orientation. Bollard lights are framing the walkways and ceiling lights are added to the southern entrance and the outdoor stage. The lighting is solar powered, which is suitable for the Zanzibar climate and very cheap once it is up and running. It could however be difficult to motivate an investment in such products, since they often are rather expensive.

The social areas and the open character are ways to increase the feeling of safety at the site. The perceived safety is however depending on more than just the visual appearance of the outdoor environment, but also on the behaviour of the people who attend the site, which is more difficult to control. Kwahani is a low-income area that struggle with crime, and it is hard to guarantee safety in areas with financial issues. The presumed activity on the site is a way to prevent crimes from happening, and the presence of adults in general should increase the feeling of safety among children.



5. Green & Clean

Green - The design proposal aims to turn Uwanja wa Farasi into a biodiverse, ecologically sustainable site by keeping the green character and adding vegetation to the site. This will also provide parts of the site with a different microclimate. Trees with fruits and flowers are prioritised, since they are likely to be appreciated and taken care of by the residents, and to contribute with a stimulating environment for children. Species that are native to either Zanzibar or East Africa are chosen to strengthen the local flora. Nurseries for ornamental trees are rare on Zanzibar, but the chosen trees are growing wildly on the island and should be easy to bring to a nursery for distribution.

It is stated that an environment with a range of different vegetation offer children the best opportunities for free play, which is one of the main reasons for the addition of trees and plantings to the site. However, an environment that resembles too much of a natural environment is less likely to be appreciated to the same extent as it might be in the western world. A balance between natural and programmed areas is therefore used to avoid the perception of an untidy and unstructured area.

The large surfaces of grass will require a lot of maintenance, but no other ground material was considered fulfilling enough to be used in those quantities. The main part of the maintenance will hopefully be governed by ZMC, and groups within the community could be organised and provided with equipment to help maintain the grass.

It will take time for the design proposal to reach its full potential since the trees need to reach a reasonable size. As previously mentioned, this could be solved by establishing large quantities of trees in selected places. An alternative solution would have been to create a design proposal that consisted of more artificial elements, which was considered to work against the purpose of the site and therefore was ruled out. The additional establishment of trees and shrubs is expected to contribute to an upgrade of the site that will benefit both children and adults.

Clean - The waste that is thrown all over the site is a big issue today, and the benefits of the design proposal would be omitted if the waste scattering remained. ZMC would have to clean the site more frequently than they do today, and a waste management program that engages those who is in power as well as the residents needs to be developed and implemented to secure the future maintenance of the site. Turning Uwanja wa Farasi into an urban park for the residents to enjoy will hopefully encourage them to stop the littering and take care of the site. Educating the Sheha and the community is the most sustainable long-term solution for solving the maintenance issue.

Initially, a more low-key design that would have required less maintenance was intended, but in order to change the site into something that could initiate the first step towards a redevelopment of the Kwahani area, a more ambitious design (and thereby a higher maintenance level) was requested by DoURP.



6. Social & Unsocial Places

The open character of the site is appreciated by the residents, and considered to be extra valuable in the densely built informal settlements. The open character of the park is therefore mainly kept, but the site is now divided into smaller “rooms” of different scales that give children the opportunity to choose between a social or an unsocial setting. The outdoor stage, the football field and the mixed-use areas by the southern and eastern entrances are encouraging interaction between children and adults, and the adventure trail is a place where children can interact and play with each other. The unprogrammed areas enable large gatherings and spontaneous activities.

The spatiality of the site is very much depending on the vegetation. It is therefore unsure how the site will be perceived when the vegetation is very young. The environments and elements are chosen to create a flexible site where children can create their own spaces and use them how they want. It is almost impossible to decide where and how children will play, but the areas of different scales and characters will give them a lot to choose from and hopefully benefit as many as possible.

Besides from the social parts of the site, there are also areas where children can hide or play more or less unseen. There is a risk that these “hidden” places will feel unsafe, especially during night-time. This was however not considered a big issue, since these areas are designed with small scaled vegetation and many trees with see-through foliage. In the end, it is not the design of these areas that determines whether the place is going to be social or unsocial, it is determined by how they are used. It is therefore hard to predict if the presumed purposes of these areas will be met, even if they are designed to function in a certain way.



7. Physical stimulation

The design of the site aims to encourage physical activity among children by being a coherent play landscape consisting of various environments. The football pitch, basket cases, adventure trail and sand play areas offer different equipment and elements that children can use to activate themselves physically. Open areas of grass and sand enable football games and games of nage.

It was discussed whether more kinds of play equipment should be added to the site, but to avoid crowded play areas (such as the ones observed at the reference sites) the amount of play equipment is rather restrictive. However, that is considered to be complemented by environments and natural features that also stimulate children's play. Uncertainties of how to use such informal play equipment could occur among the children, although, judging by their inventive ability, that is not considered an issue. There is simply no use that is right or wrong as long as the environments are used for play.

It is difficult to plan for play, since play is occurring when the child feels inspired to play. The design of an area can only provide the prerequisites for physical play, and the multifunctionality of the site will hopefully encourage children to be active.

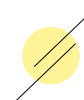
What children require in terms of physical and mental stimulation varies largely from child to child. This design aims to include as many children as possible, and is therefore not focusing on age or gender. Focusing on a certain group of children could have generated another result, but was not prioritised in order to benefit as many children of the neighbourhood as possible.



8. Mental stimulation

Elements that stimulate the senses, such as surfaces of different textures, and trees and shrubs with fragrant flowers or edible fruits are added to the site. The most stimulating vegetation is concentrated along the adventure trail and the recreational walk. The trees and shrubs along the adventure trail are specifically chosen to contain existing shapes and colours to stimulate children. The fragrant flowers might not be appreciated by everybody, but are considered important in order to add a character to the park.

Besides from grass, sand and paving stones, gravel could have been added as a ground material to contribute with another tactile experience. Creating areas that stimulate other senses than the visual is a way to consider children with disabilities in the design. Children that are visually impaired could enjoy different textures and smells, but would have to be accompanied by someone who could lead the way. A flaw within the design is the limited wheelchair accessibility. The paved areas are accessible, but the sand areas as well as the grass areas are more difficult to access. As an alternative, ramps could be added, and the sand play areas could consist of compacted sand to ease the mobility.



9.4 METHODS

Because of the interdisciplinary character of this thesis, multiple methods were chosen to do the subject and the context justice.

Literature Studies

The criteria for the selection of literature that the theoretical part is based on, was the relevance to either the subject or the context of this thesis. This relevance was however subjectively determined. In addition to that, research on children and the outdoors mainly is based on a European or North American perspective, which partly impacted the initial ambition to keep the literature strictly related to the culture. Yet, the chosen literature was a necessary foundation for the rest of the thesis as it helped specify and determine conclusions used in the design proposal. The gathered knowledge from the overall experience in Zanzibar was another way to test the relevance of the literature.

Site studies

Observations of reference sites

The observations helped broaden the picture of the context, but since the time spent in Zanzibar was limited, the choice of reference sites to observe, as well as the timing of the observations, might have affected the perception of the culture and how children play. It is however contributing to the existing knowledge and was considered a necessary part of the field studies.

Due to the lack of knowledge about places for children in Zanzibar Town, the visits to the reference sites affected the general impression of how these places look like. Since the reference sites were chosen by the Director at DoURP, the selection of representative places became somewhat subjective, which means that visits to other places could have given a different impression and led to different conclusions. The Director of DoURP claimed however that the visited sites were relevant to observe, since they are all places where children often gather. The reference sites were rarely in use by children during the observations, since they always took place during school hours. This could have been solved by conducting the site visits in the evenings instead, but requesting the driver and the interpreter from DoURP to work outside office hours was not considered a priority. This led to observations regarding the environment rather than the use of the sites, which still contributed to increased understanding and input for the design proposal.

Site inventories and analyses

The site inventories and analyses might have been affected by the fact that they were conducted by a visitor who only spent a limited time in the country. This was hopefully compensated by the literature studies as well as the received knowledge on site. The site inventories and analyses are therefore considered to have a relevant focus, which is important since they affected the outcome of the design proposal. It is however difficult to avoid a normative perspective, and the site analyses should therefore not be regarded as objective information.

Before the site for the design proposal was chosen, the site visits were intended to sometimes be carried out without assistance from DoURP, which would have resulted in an increased freedom regarding the possibility to visit the site more often, and to stay there for a longer time during each visit. This was however impossible, since the Director of DoURP advised not to visit Uwanja wa Farasi independently due to the fact that this, and many other areas in Ng'ambo, are dealing with high crime rates. For the same reason, he advised not to go there after sunset, which meant that the site only was visited during daytime. This led to limited possibilities to study the use of the site over time, which is considered somehow supplemented by the information that was given by the Sheha and the residents. No special events, such as a religious celebration or large football games, were occurring during the site visits. Receiving that experience would have added another dimension to the site and might have affected the outcome of the design proposal.

The site analysis according to Lynch proved to be efficient when categorising the physical attributes of the site. The categorisations (paths, nodes, districts, landmarks and edges) are based on the predetermined criterias according to Lynch, but are nevertheless subjectively interpreted and categorised. Spending a longer time in the country or at the site may have resulted in other categorisations. The same applies for the SWOT-analysis, and it is essential to bear in mind that the categorisations into Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats are subjectively made from conclusions drawn from reflections and interpretations of the qualitatively empirical material. The SWOT analysis was helpful when evaluating and compiling the gathered information, but the flexibility of the method sometimes makes it hard to use, due to the lack of guidance.

Interviews

Despite attempting to be an objective interviewer, the interpretation of the received answers is subjective. Furthermore, the wordings of the posed questions, what the interviewee chooses to say and how the interpreter translates the answers, are just a few of many reasons why the answers should be regarded as individual stories rather than hard facts. Despite this, the interviews were an important part of getting to know Uwanja wa Farasi and Zanzibar in general.

The interviews with the stakeholders were of a more flowing and in-depth character than the interviews with the local residents. This was partly because of the fact that the conversations were held in English, and partly because the stakeholders were able to discuss the questions from a professional perspective.

The interviews with the users proved to be more complicated due to the language barrier. A planner from DoURP was interpreting the interviews, but had difficulties with the translation of the interviewees' answers due to insufficient English skills. This sometimes resulted in that a long and expressive answer in Swahili was translated to a short sentence in English, and that supplementary questions were misunderstood. Understanding Swahili would have been very helpful, but given the existing premises the translation of the conversations still provided valuable knowledge. The residents often mentioned the flooding and the waste management of the site instead of describing what they wanted the site to become. According to the Director of DoURP, this was probably due to the fact that they are the two most urgent issues at the site. The small number of specific requests regarding the site could depend on lack of personal references.

The interviewees were chosen by the Sheha of Kwahani, after discussing requests such as gender, age, and number of people to interview. The fact that the Sheha chose the representatives could naturally steer the result of the interviews, but was considered the most efficient way to gather relevant people, because of his widespread social network in the neighborhood. To complement the interviews with the elders and the children, other residents of varying ages could have been formally interviewed. But as time was limited, the focus on children and the site's history was prioritized. The unplanned interviews as well as the interviews with stakeholders were also contributing with opinions from people of other ages.

The language barrier became the greatest challenge during the interviews with the children, mainly because of the lack of ability to explain the questions further, and to ask supplementary questions when it was needed. It was also hard to interpret face expressions and body language connected to the answers, since the conversations were held in Swahili. A lot of time was spent on explaining the questions to the interpreters, so that they could explain them correctly to the children. This could have been prepared in advance to be more time efficient. The selection of ages was based on the children's putative ability to successfully participate in the interviews and the workshop, and is not representative for all the children in the area. Additional interviews with children within a broader range of ages would probably have led to a different result. This was however considered too time consuming, as the received answers from the conducted interviews already were a valuable contribution to the understanding of the site.

Workshop

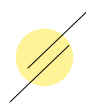
The drawing workshop was carried out as intended and proved to be a successful method to combine with the interviews, especially in the context of speaking different languages. Talking about the drawings became a natural way to start the interviews, and created the informal atmosphere that was desired. The decision to let the children explain their drawings immediately instead of collecting them to analyse them later on, was made to minimize inaccurate interpretations of the motives. Despite being a small group of children, some of the motives were more frequently repeated. It is hard to know whether this depended on the fact that they shared the same opinions, or that they were sitting close together when they were drawing, and thereby affected each other.

Other methods for involving children (such as landscape walks, photographing or drawing on maps) were initially considered, but eventually ruled out due to the limited time frame and to the uncertainty of the mentioned methods' ability to result in useful outcome in this specific situation.

Design Process

Since the design process was an ongoing process for the whole master thesis, the first sketches were made before the field studies in Zanzibar. Some of the early ideas based on the literature studies turned out to be more suitable for western or Scandinavian situations, and had to be adjusted after spending time in Zanzibar to be relevant to the site-specific context. It was therefore important to choose the site before reaching too far in the design process, and the design work accelerated after the site studies and the interviews were conducted.

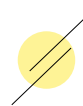
It was a challenge to decide how to visually implement the results from the literature studies and the site visits, which was made easier by using the design strategies as a stepping stone.



9.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

During the work with this project, it became clear that multiple aspects could be investigated further in different contexts and angles. In relation to this thesis, the following subjects would have been particularly interesting to research further;

- In the search for a suitable site for the design proposal, several undeveloped sites in Ng'ambo were visited. Suggestions on how to upgrade these sites into inclusive, public spaces were requested by DoURP and could be the subject of future Master Theses in Landscape Architecture.
- Improving public places from children's perspective can be done in numerous ways. Unlike the general focus of this thesis, it would be interesting to focus more specifically on a certain age category. For example, how can a public space be designed to stimulate and benefit teenagers?
- The religion and culture in Zanzibar contribute to gender inequality when it comes to the usage of public spaces, since women are spending far more time indoors than men. Could the design of public spaces change that? How would a site that is designed specifically for women look like in this context? And how would it be used by the male residents?
- The insufficient waste management in the informal settlements is a widespread and serious issue. Some research has been conducted on the solid waste management in Stone Town, but none is done in Ng'ambo, where the situation is even worse. How can a sustainable system for waste management be developed to improve the situation in the informal settlements?
- Another issue that was discussed a lot during this Master Thesis was the stormwater management in Ng'ambo. Zanzibar's extreme weather conditions with very hot weather and large amounts of rain require improved technical solutions, but also public spaces that can handle large amounts of water. How can sustainable solutions for stormwater management be incorporated in the landscape design of these areas?



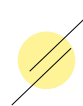
9.6 PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

By doing this Master Thesis, I got to challenge myself both personally and professionally. Extending the frame of references by trying to grasp an unfamiliar culture from scratch was the most valuable experience, and it is something that I think a lot of people would learn from doing.

Studies about the country and the culture were an important mental and practical preparation for this project. Yet, reading about and experiencing a country are two completely different things, and the true understanding of the culture was gained from the actual living experience and interacting with the locals. I also learned a lot from working at Zanzibar's highest planning institution, and I truly admire the planners I met who invest their hearts in fighting for making Zanzibar a better place for the residents, despite the constant struggle with lack of financial resources and governmental support.

Being a tourist and a woman did not always allow me to work like I am used to. This, as well as the Zanzibaris relaxed approach to time, was sometimes very challenging, and I learned along the way that it was essential to remain determined and to have a flexible mindset in order to get things done.

It would be naïve of me to think that two months in Zanzibar gave me enough knowledge to fully understand the culture and the needs of the people, but I do believe that I managed to conduct a relevant design proposal that would be greatly appreciated by the children in the neighbourhood if it were to be realised.



Written sources

- Abdullah, S. R. (2006). *Institutional Developments in Land Administration in Zanzibar*. Available: https://www.fig.net/resources/proceedings/fig_proceedings/fig2006/papers/ts22/ts22_02_abdulla_0289.pdf [2017-08-30]
- Ali Haji, M. & Sulaiman Salim, M. (2006). *The Causes and Consequences of the Informal Settlements in Zanzibar*. Available: http://www.fig.net/resources/proceedings/fig_proceedings/fig2006/papers/ts35/ts35_01_ali_sulaiman_0320.pdf [2017-08-30]
- Bartlett, S., Hart, R., Satterthwaite, D., De La Barra, X. & Missair, A. (1999). *Cities for Children: Children's Rights, Poverty and Urban Management*. London: Earthscan Publications Ltd.
- Bell, S. (2008). *Design for Outdoor Recreation*. Abingdon: Taylor and Francis.
- Bergström, E. & Thorén, A. (2015). *Living, Perceiving and Participating in Uganda: An exploration into methods for adding children's perspective to rural community development project*. Master Thesis, Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management. Alnarp: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Available: https://stud.epsilon.slu.se/8316/7/bergstrom_e_thoren_a_150721.pdf [2017-08-24]
- Bissell, W.C. (2011). *Urban Design, Chaos, and Colonial Power in Zanzibar*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Chatterjee, S. (2015) Making Children Matter in Slum Transformations: Lessons from India's National Urban Renewal Mission. *Journal of Urban Design*, vol. 20 (4), pp. 479-506.
- Cele, S. (2006). *Communicating Place: Methods for Understanding Children's Experience of Place*. Diss., Stockholm: Stockholm University.
- Central Intelligence Agency (2016). *The World Factbook: Tanzania*. Available: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/tz.html> [2017-09-03]
- Dictionary.com (2017). *Child*. Available: <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/child> [2017-09-10]
- Dictionary.com (2017). *Childhood*. Available: <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/childhood> [2017-09-10]
- Dharani, N. (2011). *Field guide to common trees & shrubs of East Africa*. Cape Town: Struik Nature.
- Edwards, P. & Tsouros, A. (2006). *Promoting Physical Activity and Active Living in Urban Environments*. Copenhagen: WHO Regional Office for Europe.
- Expert Africa (2017). *Zanzibar weather and climate*. Available: <https://www.expertafrica.com/zanzibar/info/zanzibar-weather-and-climate> [2017-08-26]
- Folkers, A.S. & Juma, M. (2016). Ng'ambo Tuitakayo: Reconnecting the City. *History, Urbanism, Resilience: Ideas on the Move and Modernisation*, vol. 1, pp. 25-39. Available: <http://journals.library.tudelft.nl/index.php/iphs/article/view/1192/1793> [2017-08-28]
- Gehl, J. (2010). *Cities for People*. Washington: Island Press.
- Hagströmer, E. (2009). *Barns utemiljöer I Hebron: Gestaltungsverktyg för barnperspektiv implementerat på Al Ibrahimyye plats*. Master Thesis, Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management. Alnarp: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Available: https://stud.epsilon.slu.se/723/1/hagstromer_e_100113.pdf [2017-09-24]
- Hernández-García, J. (2013). *Public Space in Informal Settlements*. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Indigo Arts Gallery (2017). *Tinga Tinga Paintings from Tanzania*. Available: <http://indigoarts.com/galleries/tinga-tinga-paintings-tanzania> [2017-09-28]
- IPA, International Play Association (2014). *Declaration on the Importance of Play*. Available: <http://ipaworld.org/ipa-declaration-on-the-importance-of-play/> [2017-09-01]
- IPA, International Play Association (2016). *Children's Right to Play and the Environment*. Available: <http://ipaworld.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/IPA-Play-Environment-Discussion-Paper.pdf> [2017-09-01]
- Kaplan, R. & Kaplan, S. (1989). *The experience of nature: A psychological perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Kvale, S. & Brinkmann, S. (2014). *Den kvalitativa forskningsintervjun*. Lund: Studentlitteratur AB.
- Kylin, M. (2004). *Från koja till plan – om barnperspektiv på utemiljön i planeringssammanhang*. Diss., Alnarp: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.
- Lenninger, A. & Olsson, T. (2006). *Lek äger rum: Planering för barn och ungdomar*. Stockholm: Formas.
- Lester, S. & Russell, W. (2010). *Children's Right to Play: An Examination of the Importance of Play in the Lives of Children Worldwide. Working Paper No. 57*. Hague: Bernard van Leer Foundation.
- Lynch, K. (1960). *Image of the city*. Cambridge: The M. I. T. Press.
- McIntyre, C. & S. (2013). *Zanzibar*. Connecticut: Bradt Travel Guides.
- Museum of Polo (2017). *History of Polo*. Available: <http://www.polomuseum.com/sport-polo/polo-today> [2017-09-27]
- Mårtensson, F. (2004). *Landskapet i Leken: en studie av utomhuslek på förskolegården*. Diss., Alnarp: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.
- Nilsson, N. (2007). *Planera för Utelek!* Tierp: Tierps tryckeri.
- Olsson, T. (2010). *Lekens natur*. Gröna Fakta 3/2005. Movium, SLU.
- RGoZ, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (2013). *Zanzibar economy*. Available: <http://www.zanzibar.go.tz/index.php?rgo=economy> [2017-09-01]
- RGoZ, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (2014). *Comprehensive Multi Year Plan: Zanzibar*. Available: http://www.who.int/immunization/programmes_systems/financing/countries/cmyp/Zanzibar_cMYP_2010-2014.pdf [2017-09-01]
- Shapira & Hellerman Planners (2015). *Structure Plan and Urban Development Policy for Zanzibar Town: Final Report*. Zanzibar: Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.
- Sida (2014). *About us: Our mission*. Available: <http://www.sida.se/English/About-us/Our-mission/> [2017-09-21]
- Tannerfeldt, G. & Ljung, P. (2006). *More Urban Less Poor: an introduction to urban development and management*. London: Earthscan.
- TNBS, Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (2012). *The Population and Housing Census 2012*. Available: <http://www.nbs.go.tz/> [2017-08-30]
- The World Bank (2017). *The World Bank in Tanzania: Overview*. Available: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/tanzania/overview> [2017-08-24]
- Trochim, W. (2006). *Research Methods Knowledge Base: Qualitative Methods*. Available: <https://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/qualmeth.php> [2017-09-24]
- Tumsifu Jonas Nnkya (2007). *Why Planning Does Not Work: Land Use, Planning and Residents Rights in Tanzania*. Oxford: African Books Collective.
- Turner, S. (2009). These Young Men Show No Respect for Local Customs: Globalisation and Islamic Revival in Zanzibar. *Journal of Religion in Africa*, vol. 39 (3), pp. 237-261.
- UNESCO (2017). *Stone Town of Zanzibar*. Available: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/173> [2017-09-13]
- UN-Habitat (2010). *Informal Settlements and Finance in Dar el Salaam, Tanzania*. Nairobi: Publishing Services Section.
- UN-Habitat (2015). *Habitat III Issue Papers: 22 - Informal Settlements*. United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. USA: New York 31 May. Available: https://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Habitat-III-Issue-Paper-22_Informal-Settlements.pdf [2017-09-02]
- UNICEF (1989). *The United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child*. Article 31. Available: https://downloads.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/UNCRC_united_nations_convention_on_the_rights_of_the_child.pdf?_ga=2.76089811.714275015.1498637444-1344215748.1498637444 [2017-09-03]
- UNICEF (2005). *Childhood Defined*. Available: <https://www.unicef.org/sowc05/english/> [2017-09-20]
- UNICEF (2017). *Conventions on the Rights of the Child*. Available: <https://www.unicef.org/crc/> [2017-09-20]
- United Nations Population Division (2015). *Youth population trends and sustainable development*. Available: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/publications/pdf/popfacts/PopFacts_2015-1.pdf [2017-08-30]
- Wells N. M. (2000). At Home with Nature: Effects of "Greenness" on Children's Cognitive Functioning. *Environment and behaviour*, vol. 32 (6), pp. 775-795.
- Wells, K. (2015). *Childhood in a Global Perspective*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Oral sources

Abeid Gharib Bilal, Bakari Haju Mngwali, Maneno Suleiman Bakari, Maryam Masiku Khatieb & Mgeni Othman Majaliwa (2017) Elder residents of Kwahani. Interview 2017-09-24.

Mwalimu A. Mwalimu (2017) Architect specialised in conservation, former resident of Kwahani. Interview 2017-09-24.

Sheha of Kwahani (2017) Head of the Kwahani region. Informal conversation 2017-09-19.

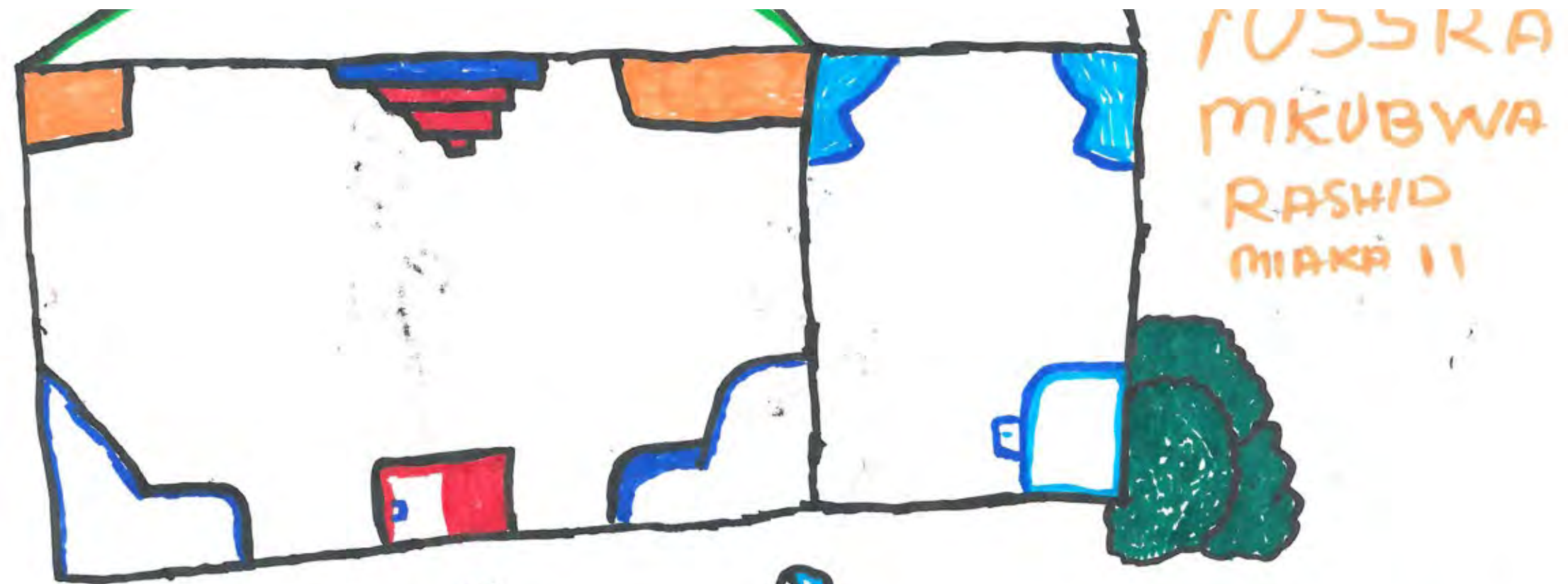
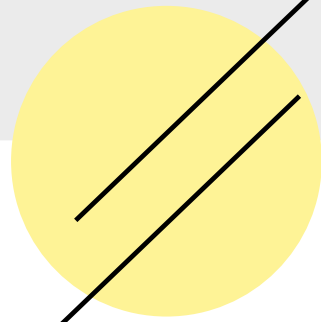
Visual material

All visual material (photos, illustrations, maps etc.) are made by the author.

Orthographical photos and historical maps and master plans are supplied by the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar and are used with permission.

APPENDIX

This section presents the interview guidelines and the children's drawings from the workshop.



Apple



Watermelon



How?



INTERVIEW GUIDELINES

The questions presented below were used as a frame work for the interviews with the stakeholders and the users of Uwanja wa Farasi. The questions were used as a starting point to an informal conversation. The prepared questions to stakeholders were posed in English, and the prepared questions to users of Uwanja wa Farasi were orally translated into Swahili by a colleague from the Department of Urban and Rural Planning.

Questions to stakeholders

Basic facts: Name, Age, Gender, Occupation

- What do you know about Uwanja wa Farasi?
- Are there any current/future plan for this area? *If so, what are those?*
- Besides from the flooding issue, what do you think are the challenges of the site?
- What do you think are the existing values of the site?
- How do you think that a site like this can be improved?
- Are places like these important for children in the area? *Why/why not?*
- What would you say is an example of a good/bad place for children in Zanzibar Town? *What elements makes them good/bad?*
- Do you think there is anything that could be added to the site that children could benefit from?
- Do you think there is anything that could be added to the site that other residents could benefit from?
- Are there any other examples of sites with similar issues that have been solved in Zanzibar?

Questions to elders

Basic facts: Name, Age, Gender, Occupation, Residential area.

- How often do you visit the site?
- What do you usually do when you are visiting the site?
- What are your memories from the site? How has the site changed over time?
- What is good about the site? *Why?*
- What is bad or missing in the site? *Why?*
- How do children use the environment of the site?
- Is there anything you think that children are missing at the site?
- What do you think outdoor play mean to children? *(This question was eventually scratched during the interviews, as it only seemed to cause confusion among the interviewees. There is barely any tradition of indoor play in Zanzibar, which made the interviewees question what they were supposed to answer).*

Questions to children

Basic facts: Name, Age, Gender.

- Where is your favourite outdoor place? *Why? What do you do there?*
- What do you like to do when you are outdoors? *Why?*
- How often do you visit the site?
- What do you usually do at the site?
- What is good about the site?
- What is bad or missing at the site?
- Is there anything you would like to do at the site that you cannot do today?

Drawing instructions

1. Draw your favourite outdoor place
2. Draw yourself doing something you love doing outdoors

DRAWINGS FROM THE WORKSHOP

Presented below are all the drawings that were made during the drawing workshop with the children, even those where the purpose of the exercise was misunderstood.

“Draw yourself doing something you love doing outdoors”



Farida Khafib Haji.



Aqram Abdulmajid Aqram.



Abdul-Hamid Mohammed Makame.



Rahima Abdallah Haji.



Asha Mohammed Mussa.



Yusra Mkubwa Rashid.

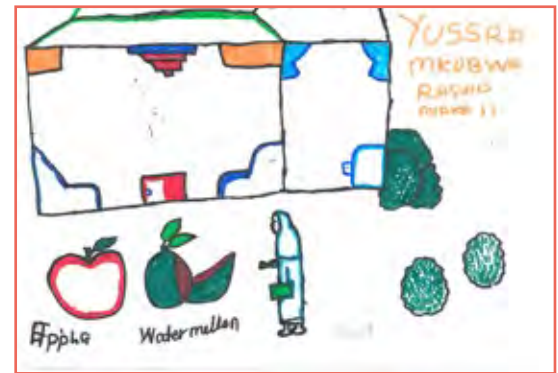
“Draw you favourite outdoor place”



Aqram Abdulmajid Aqram.



Abdul-Hamid Mohammed Makame.



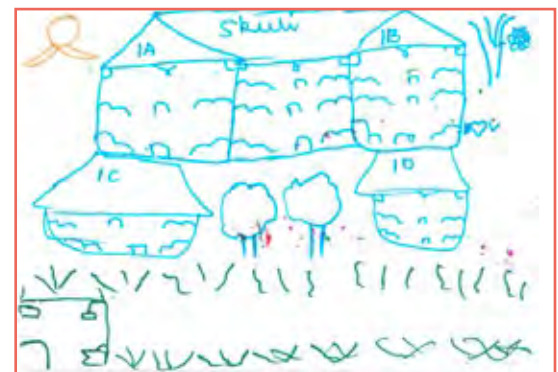
Yusra Mkubwa Rashid.



Asha Mohammed Mussa.



Rahima Abdallah Haji.



Rahima Abdallah Haji.

Not counted:



Farida Khafib Haji.



Fatma Shabani Abdallah.



Fatma Shabani Abdallah.

