

INTEGRATE

REGISTRATION NUMBER: 2015_20

DESIGN INTENT: THE PROBLEMS

1. The death of a parent from *HIV/AIDS* accounts for 70% of Zimbabwe's estimated 1.2 million orphans. The majority of these orphans live with their extended families in their communities, and most transition easily into adulthood within the context of their communities. This is not so for those orphans placed in institutions in urban/semi-urban contexts. At the age of 18, these vulnerable young people find themselves in a society with a very unforgiving socio-economic climate. Most of these young people join the ranks of the unemployed.

The *unemployment* rate in Zimbabwe is currently 94%. Statistics show that in order to survive, within 3 months most of the young men and women resort to prostitution, begging and theft. These young people face particular hardships and very rarely are they able to escape the cycle of poverty.

2. Many Zimbabweans earn their living from trading at informal markets around Harare, however, the incredibly steep price to rent a stall space makes it near impossible for the system to remain profitable without people being driven to corruption and illegal activities.

In the Avondale Flea Market, one of the most established informal markets, it costs \$10/day for a 1m x 2m stand, and \$30 /day on Saturdays, and there are no public toilets, cooking & eating facilities or secure storage for the stall owners. With around 200 stall operators and many more customers, that is appalling.

THE SOLUTION

Architecture cannot change this world in its own right, but it can inject life into a community. I believe that Zimbabweans need to begin to tackle these huge issues affecting the country, and thus, the scale of this project is rather large, contrary to the typical scale of a home. My interpretation of "LIVING TOMORROW" has everything to do with community integration, and this project is design around the idea that with better infrastructure and design the Harare community will be able to thrive once again.

By strengthening a community could we positively change the way we shall live tomorrow?

The New Avondale Market has been designed to facilitate not only the growing number of traders but also learning centres, workshops, all focused on equipping 18 year old orphans with the necessary craft skills to be able to make a living. The produce sold in the marketplace is manufactured in the workshops, and the already skilled traders will get a reduced rental fee for teaching their skills to the youngsters in the community. The design also provides small living units for the craftsmen and students of the skills centre, and attempts to better their idea of home through empowering the community around them.