

The Problems

The current condition in Zimbabwe is in dire need of positive change in so many different areas, however, I have chosen to address two major issues within the scope of "Living Tomorrow" within Harare.

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.

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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.

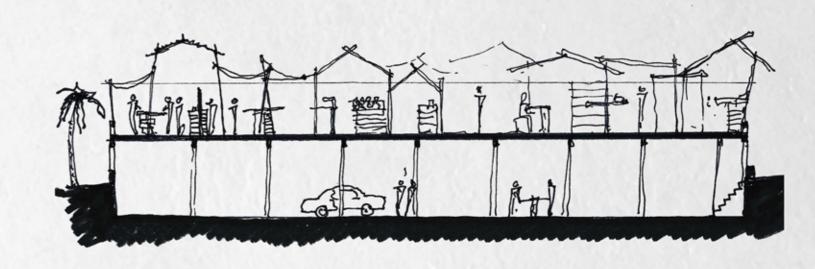
In the Avondale Flea Market, one of the most established informal markets, it costs \$10/day for a 1m x 2m stand, and \$30 /day on Saturdays, and there are no public toilets, cooking & eating facilities or secure storage for the stall owners. With around 200 stall operators and many more customers, that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

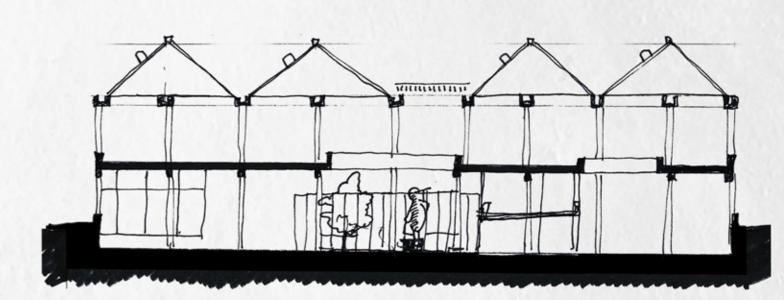
By strengthening a community could we positively change the way we shall live tomorrow?

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 thorugh empowering the community around them.



BASIC SKETCH: CURRENT CONDITION

The current infrastructure in place was actually an overflow car park to serve the Avondale Shopping centre, however, over time the traders moved into the double storey structure. The entire upper floor is dominated by small stalls, however, due to the lack of amenities and severe lack of light in the lower level there is little to no positive occupation there, making way for dubious activities.



BASIC SKETCH: PROPOSED MARKET

In order to utilize the entire parking structure, large light wells puncture the existing upper slab to make for a far more inviting space on the lower ground floor. The new living spaces for the orphans are set beside the workshops, I.T. room and classrooms on the lower level, while the main market spaces are regulated to fit as many vendors in as possible without compromising the flow in the market.

The lightweight roofing structure sits upon sturdy beams resting on the existing column grid, and a suspended floor is added to provide 50% more market stall spaces, as well as temporary accommodation spaces.

