

REPURPOSE

THE PROBLEM

Unemployment of the youth in Zimbabwe is a crisis that has increasingly led to many youths losing hope for the country. Most of the youths do not realise their potential and thus fail to envision the certainty of their future as they live far below their potential.

THE SOLUTION

Architecture won't literally create employment for all the youths, but it can metaphysically unlock the youths' potential to realise the possibilities from what is around them.

This proposal aims to repurpose an abandoned factory along Kingsway in Plumtree, into a youth and entrepreneurship centre. Its new purpose is to enhance the skills of the youth and enable social change to discover their potential through the empowerment of the local youth.

From my research, most youth centres on Zimbabwe have turned into white elephants. This is because architecture has always been approached from a rational point of view, as something palpable, something that is created only for the physical purpose of giving shelter and aesthetics.

Therefore there is high need for architecture to communicate to the mind.

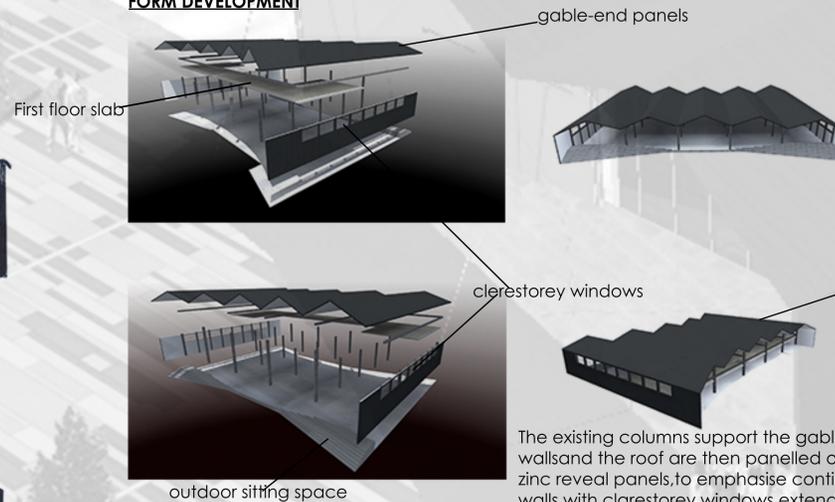
By repurposing the abandoned factory into a youth and entrepreneurship centre, it will help them to repurpose in their minds and resuscitate their spirit to unlock their potential.

LOCATION PLUMTREE TOWN



SECTION VIEW SHOWING THE ENTRANCE THE HANGOUT/ LOUNGE SPACE AND THE INDOOR CASUAL SPORTING SPACE

FORM DEVELOPMENT



REVEAL PANEL DETAIL



SECTION VIEW SHOWING THE OVERALL VIEW OF THE INTERIOR SPACES



SKETCH SHOWING THE EXISTING FACTORY

The existing structure was used to store goods. Due to the economic crisis, it has been abandoned for quite a long time. Its exterior facade is made up of brick walls, with a monopitched roof of corrugated sheets on steel trusses. It has a double volume height with clerestory windows on one side of the monopitch roof that allow light into the building.



SKETCH SHOWING THE PROPOSED YOUTH AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTRE

To the new proposal, there is an addition of a few partitioning walls that enclose the administration offices. The interior is mostly partitioned with wire-mesh which enhances the transparency within the Centre, allowing light to flow throughout the building. The roof structure has been changed to a gable roof that configures with the facade walls and the interior columns thus enhancing the continuity of the structure. The exterior facades are panelled with corrugated facade panels.

The existing columns support the gable roof structure. The walls and the roof are then panelled or cladded with the zinc reveal panels, to emphasise continuity. The facade walls with clerestory windows extend to meet the roof edge to act as a shading device. The sitting space is also provide to raise the curtain wall and protect the interior from the harmful light.

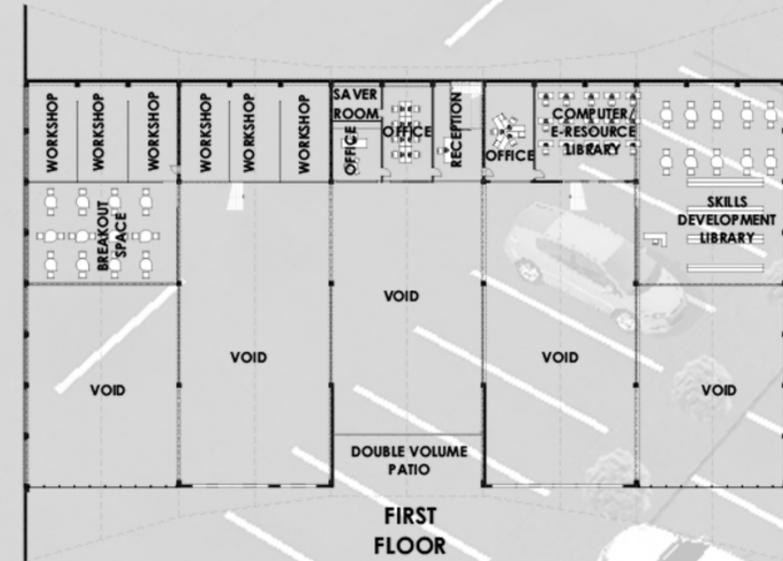
The lower level has most of the common spaces such as the lounge/hangout space, the two auditoriums, the exhibition space, the indoor casual sporting space, and the restaurant. Wire-mesh is used for the partitioning of the common spaces to enhance transparency throughout the building. Brick walls are used to enclose the management offices and the kitchen. The glazed curtain walls on the front facades allow light to flow into the building.



BUBLE DIAGRAM



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR