A COMMUNITY CENTRE FOR AWE:

Space Organization as Stimulus for Social Interaction

by

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A thesis submitted to the Post-graduate School, Ahmadu Bello University, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of M.Sc. Architecture.

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July, 1984.

'TO MY PARENTS'

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my gratitude to the following for their contributions to the thesis report and subsequent design; my mentor Mr. E.A. Beeko for his contribution and guidance throughout the various stages of the thesis design, the Head of Department, Professor E.A. Adeyemi, the members of staff of the Department of Architecture with special reference to Mr. S. Adesina, Mr. J.S. Gniadzik the Department of Town Planning, Ibadan Polytechnic; Mr. F.A. Fayinka of Western Livestock Company Limited; the Awe Development Corporation; my colleagues who have contributed through constructive criticisms and suggestions to the scheme; and all who have contributed in one way or the other to bring the thesis report and design to completion.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The community centre's historic role is first of building a sense of identity, then a spirit of self help to tackle community problems, combined with an immediate program of educational and cultural activities based on local needs and interests to enrich the daily life of residents.

Community centres have to do with stimulating, maintaining and deepening a "sense of community". It is also characterized by its unique role in the creative use of leisure time and for a variety of different activities. It is an appropriate form equivalent to the agora, the forum, the cathedral dominating a main plaza, the eastern European Korzo or the village green.

A Community Centre should ideally have the following characteristics:

(i) a stimulating architectural form

(ii) a gathering together of as many institutions as possible that draw people out of their homes

(iii) an easy transition from passive to many kinds of active involvement, with abundant chances for people to meet and greet informally

(iv) a mixing of different types of people.

This project was conceived as a result of the efforts of Awe, a town of 30,000 in Oyo State to transform itself through a concept known as opticom.

Opticom which is a combination of two words - Optimum Community - is the idea of a community occupying a particular territory where people engage in productive and social activities for the optimal well being of the people. Basic to the opticom project is the we-feeling and a strong sense of commitment to interdependence. This requires the appropriation of a number of linkage relations which could be physical, economic, social, managerial, cultural, political, or administrative. A community center would thus help in efforts to draw Awe citizens together.

According to the present Awe Development Plan the purposes of the centre are:

(i) For large scale assembly of Awe citizens or representational meetings.

(ii) It should provide for the recreational needs of different age groups within the town.

(iii) It should serve as the seat of administration of the community.

SCOPE

(i) Multipurpose Hall.

The multipurpose hall shall be an adaptable space for meetings, receptions, plays and indoor sports.

(ii) Amphitheatre:

The Amphitheatre will be for open air activities like dramas, cultural shows, public gatherings and cinema.

(iii) Library:

The library will cater for both literate and illiterate people.

(iv) Offices:

Office space will be provided for the Awe Development Corporation as well as for commercial firms like banks and insurance companies.

(v) Services

This will consist of various shops, a restaurant and a bar.

(vi) Park

The park will be used for passive recreational activities such as sitting tiredly, reading or working, showing off, keeping an appointment, getting closer to a bit of nature, and almost always being entertained by the sight of other people.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The project will feature as a social interaction centre stimulated by the organization of space. This would involve evaluation of relationship between the physical environment and behaviour, which requires collecting and analysis of information about what activities occur in the environment, the people who participate in them, the areas in which they occur, and the circulation and equipment used in the environment.

In the past, the Oba or Bale's palace was the meeting place of the town and where important communal activities took place. Due to various factors, this is no longer feasible and other alternatives have replaced this. An ideal way would have to be found in which to interpose what is

essentially a mordern urban phenomenon into a transitional society.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A centre that will encourage development and stimulate social interaction among members of the community and provision of a place that would be run and maintained by revenue earned from it.

CHAPTER II

AWE TOWN

2.1 CLIENT/USER

The Awe Development Corporation which is the operative organ of the "Egbe Omo Ibile Awe" a broad based organization with unrestricted membership to all sons and daughters of Awe, is a legal entity accountable in all its actions and decisions to the association. Its legal existence as a body corporate makes it possible for it to enter into various relations and negotiations effectively on behalf of the people of Awe. The community centre is meant for use by all Awe citizens.

Aweland is an almost rectangular block of land bounded on the north by the Oyo-Ogbomosho road, on the east by the Oba hills, on the west by the road from Awe through Akinmorin to Alayin-Oke and on the south by a line from Eleranko on the east to Alayin-Oke on the southwest corner. In all Aweland has a total area of approximately 422 square kilimetres.

The pivotal settlement in Aweland is the town of Awe itself. The town is about 2.5 kilometres east of Oyo, 30 kilometres west of Iwo, 50 kilometres north of Ibadan, and 55 kilometres south of Ogbomoso. It sits astride the major trunk road linking Oyo to Iwo.

2.2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE TOWN

Awe was one of the Egba Gbagura towns founded in the 13th to 14th centrury. According to the prevailing myth, the town is supposed to have been founded by one Ladun who came from Ile-Ife. Ladun is said to have

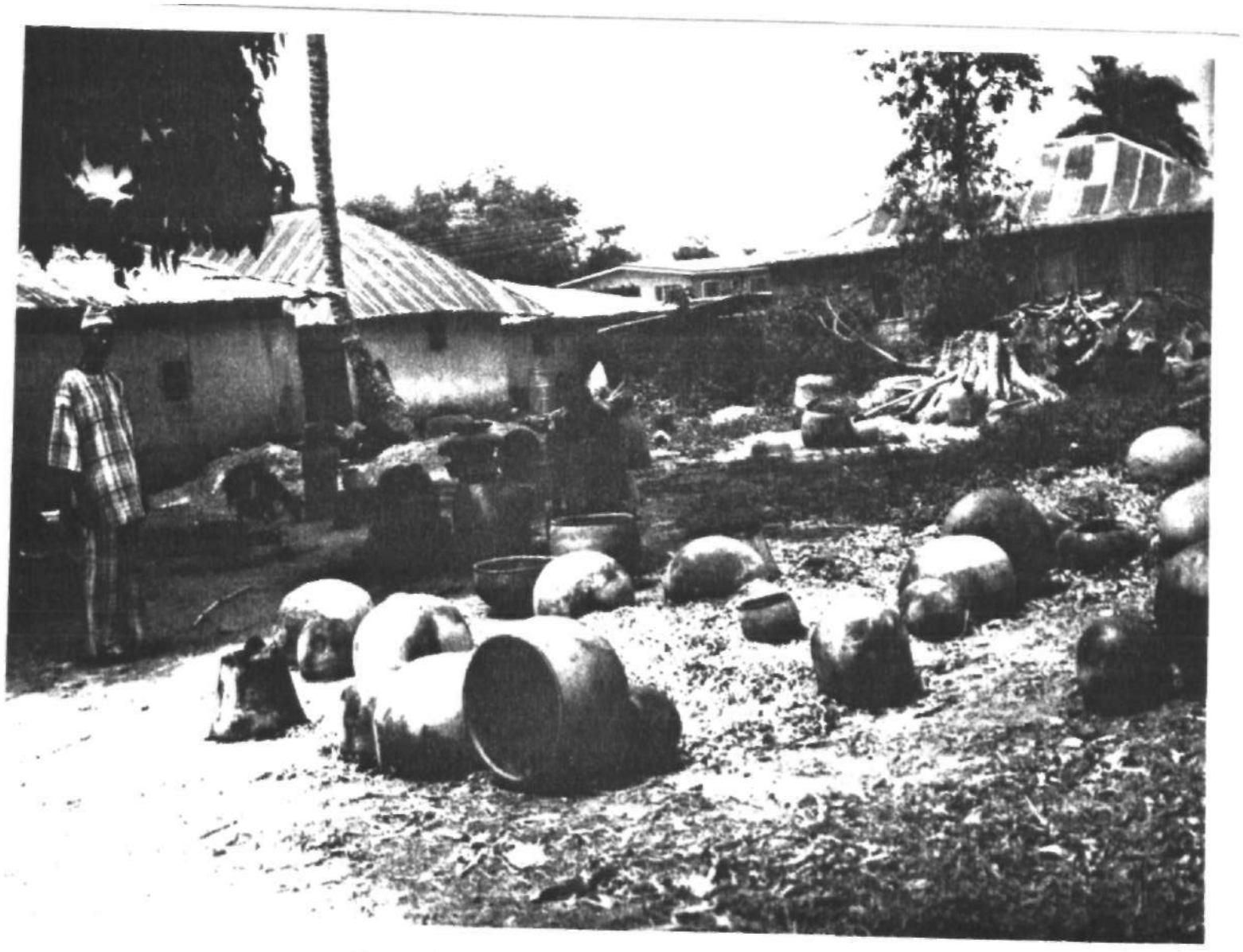


Plate (i) Pot-making

settled first at Olaromi, a town a few kilometres from Awe, before finally moving to Awe. After his move, his first stop was under an Aruwewe tree around which the town grew and from which the town got its name.

When the Fulani invaded Oyo around 1839; the Oyo population moved south and found a new capital at Ago-Oja near Awe, which is part of Aweland. After the establishment of the Afin in Oyo, Awe in effect became a vassal town of Oyo like all surrounding towns. In spite of this, its special status as the town on whose land, the Oyo population settled after its crisis is well known.

2.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

The main economic base is Agriculture, with trading and craft activities also contributing towards the economic life of the town. Recently other activities like production of animal feeds and poultry farms have spring up while the traditional crafts have declined in importance.

The increased presence of young adults either as students or workers is changing the social and economic life of Awe. In cases where these people have come from outside the town there have been an increase in improved housing stock because of their need for mordern accomodation.

2.4. AWE TOWN: OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

The town of Awe has embarked on a community self development project based on the concept of "opticom". The term opticom is an amalgam of the two words 'optimum' and 'community'. As a concept, it means the application



Plate (ii) Amo Farm Industries



Plate (iii) Pineapple Farm

of rational thought to the mobilization and utilization of the fundamental resources of labour, and productive land in improving the maetial conditions of the community.

The opticom comprises at least four levels of hierarchical organization. At the base of the hierachy is the individual hamlets or villages under Awe, comprising a few farming families. This is known as settlement units (S.U.).

The second level of the hierachy consists of not less than three organizational groups of hamlets or villages together and is refered to as Primary Productive Unit (P.P.U.).

The third level in the organization is the development area (D.A) which has an agro-service center as its focal point. Such a center caters for the needs of between five and ten PPU's which comprise the D.A.

The fourth and highest level of the Opticom is Awe which will serve the whole opticom. It is the central point where the more important social services will be located and where primary repair facilities for the machinery of the farmers are established. It is also where some critical steps in the processing and transformation of the agricultural produce from the PPU's will take place.

Under the broad opticom project, Awe expects to be entirely self sufficient in food and to export food to nearby communities in a matter of time. Already, economic and social infrastructural facilities for such a time are being laid down now.



Plate (iv): Blacksmith at work



Plate V: First Bank, Awe.

The Development of Awe Town

The Awe Development Plan was produced by the Central Planning Committee of the 'Egbe Omo Ibile Awe' in November 1982, and has since been given full approval by the Oyo State Government.

Financial Development

A branch of the First Bank of Nigeria Limited was opened in Awe on January 26th 1984. The bank makes funds available for investment on farmland through its Agricultrual Credit Guarantee Scheme.

This is easier if farmers have a cooperative or community farmers organization to represent their interest. The bank is able to give loans at 7% interest if suitable arrangements are worked out.

Industrial Development

It has as one of its basic premise that increased agricultural production in the rural areas around Awe would have an impact on industrial activities linked to agricultural produce within the town. It has therefore put forward some proposals already being implemented for the revitalization of the surrounding rural area. Already in the town there are 19 industrial establishments. The industrial development in Awe in the period 1982-1987 is seen along the following lines: Food processing, Agro Allied Industries, Pottery and Ceramics, Metal Works and Machine Repair.

Commercial Development:

A central agency wholesaling organization which will coordinate all marketing activities within the community and give general directions will be set up. It is also supposed to assist in educating traders on financial facilities and investing in the construction of a shopping complex.

Development of Infrastructural Facilities:

(i) Electricity Supply

There are proposals for increasing the existing electricity supply to the town and making it more reliable by making internal arrangements within the town to purchase electricity generators. These are meant primarily for factories and commercial establishments.

(ii) Water Supply

The existing water consumption in the town is around 22.7-36.4 litres per capita per day and comes from a large reservoir which serves Oyo town. A new reservoir is to be constructed which will increase the water consumption to 136.4 litres.

(iii) Road Network

The town at present is traversed by 14 kilometers of road. To induce industrial/commercial growth the town would have to improve on the existing network and construct new ones.

(iv) Schools and Health Facilities

The focus is more on the problem of making the existing schools which are deemed adequate in number, more functional in terms

of current social and economic objectives of the community. On health services, it is proposed that the Primary Health Clinic, one of the four health establishments in the town be up-graded to the level of a District Hospital.

(v) Community Center

As part of its plans for development there is a proposal for a Community Centre. The purposes of which is listed below:

(a) For large scale assembly of Awe citizens or representational meetings.

(b) Provision of recreational needs of different age groups within the town.

(c) It should serve as the seat of administration of the community.

(d) Provision of library services for the community.

Concerning provison of library services for the community a temporary library was opened in Awe on January 28, 1984. The library shelves children's books in the ladybird series for primary, pre-primary pupils, text books for secondary school pupils, encyclopedia, periodicals, magazines, maps and newspapers in English and Yoruba. However, it is little more than a reading room at present and a permanent one with adequate supporting facilities will be provided in the community centre.

2.5 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

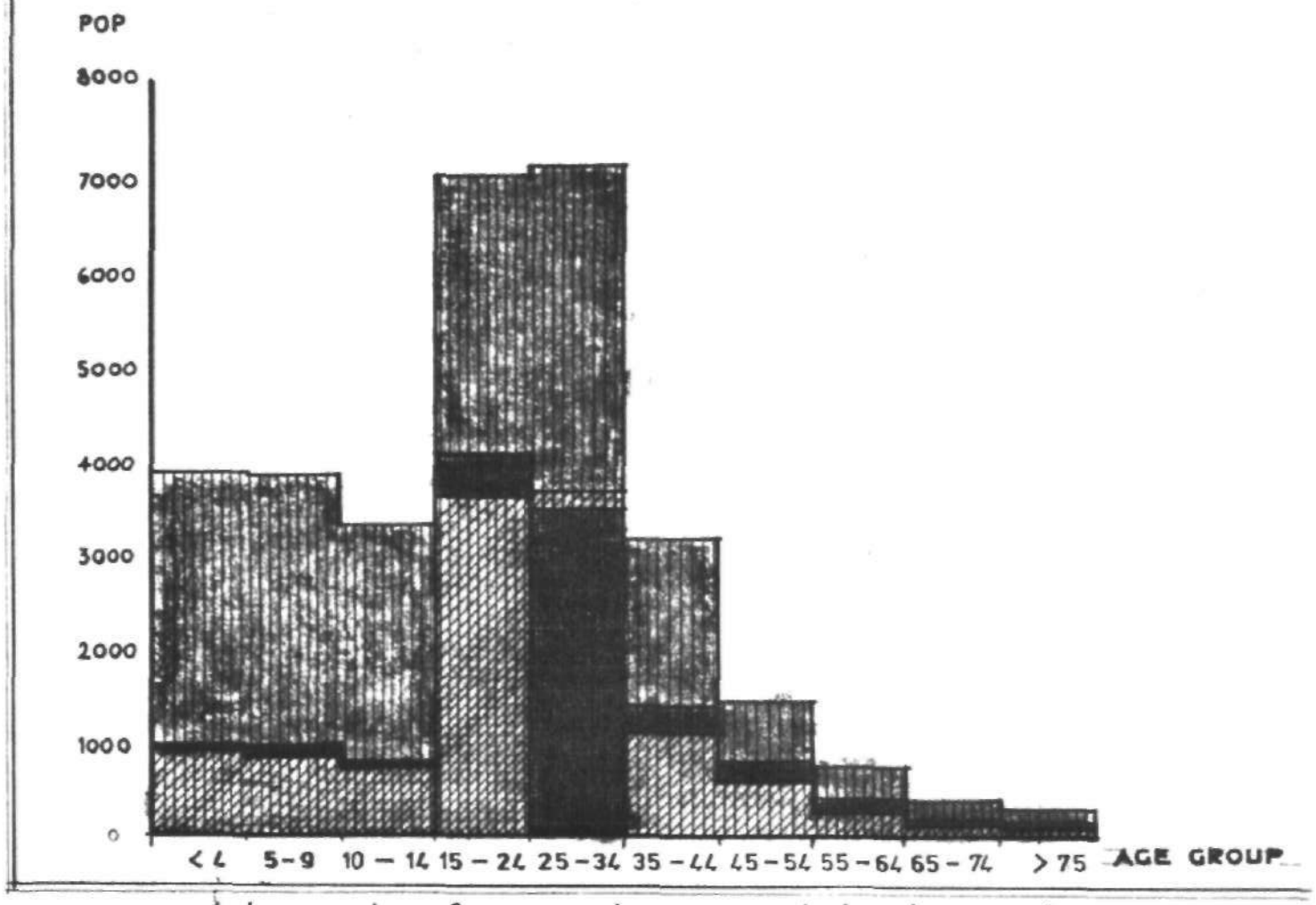
Table 2.1. Age & Sex Distribution of Population in Awe - 1983

Age Group	No. of Male	No. of Female	Total
Under 4	1,936	1,957	3,893
5-9	1,983	1,862	3,845
10-14	1,810	1,503	3,313
15-24	4,093	3,609	7,702
25-34	3,482	3,632	7,114
35-44	1,717	1,450	3,167
45-54	818	610	1,428
55-64	413	294	707
65-74	222	148	370
75	182	114	296
Total	16,656	15,179	31,835

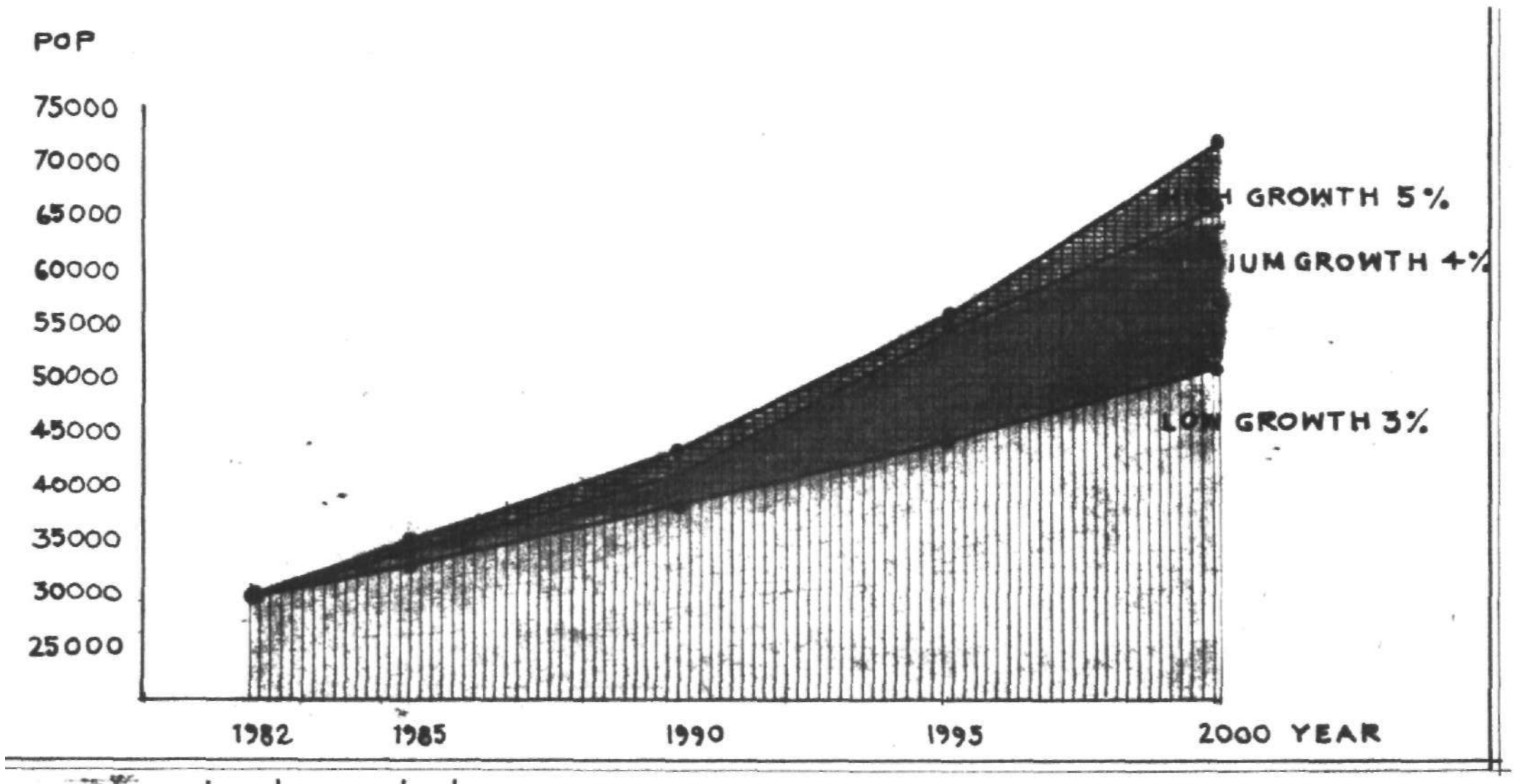
Source: Oyo State Ministry of Economic Planning and Development.

Studying table 2.1, it can be observed that the age group with the most population for both male and female is the 25 years to 34 years age group, closely followed by the 15 years to 24 years age group. These figures should be reflected in the centres design.

AGE & SEX DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION



source oyo state ministry of enomic planning and development



ource: Awe development plan

Fig 2: Projected Population 1984-2000.

In projecting the existing population figures into the future to reflect the anticipated changes in the socio-economic situation of the town, the various developments is conceived as giving rise to relatively slow, medium or rapid growth on the towns population.

Table 2.2. Projected Population of Awe Town 1982-2000

Year	Low Growth 3%	Medium Growth 4%	High Growth 5%
1982	29,684	29,684	29,684
1985	32,445	33,395	34,374
1990	37,610	40,637	43,843
1995	43,606	49,424	55,984
2000	50,522	66,140	71,449

Source: Awe Development Plan

2.6. AN ANALYSIS OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

Schools

Schools particularly secondary schools are one of the major centres of community interest and activity. They provide a wide range of facilities like assembly halls, science laboratories, kitchens, home economics rooms and all kind of sport facilities. Football games, theatrical e.g. musical productions and the involvement of many parents in good eduction, generates considerable participation and interaction. Schools are also used as recreation centres for children after school hours and during the holidays.



Plate (vi): Technical College, Awe.

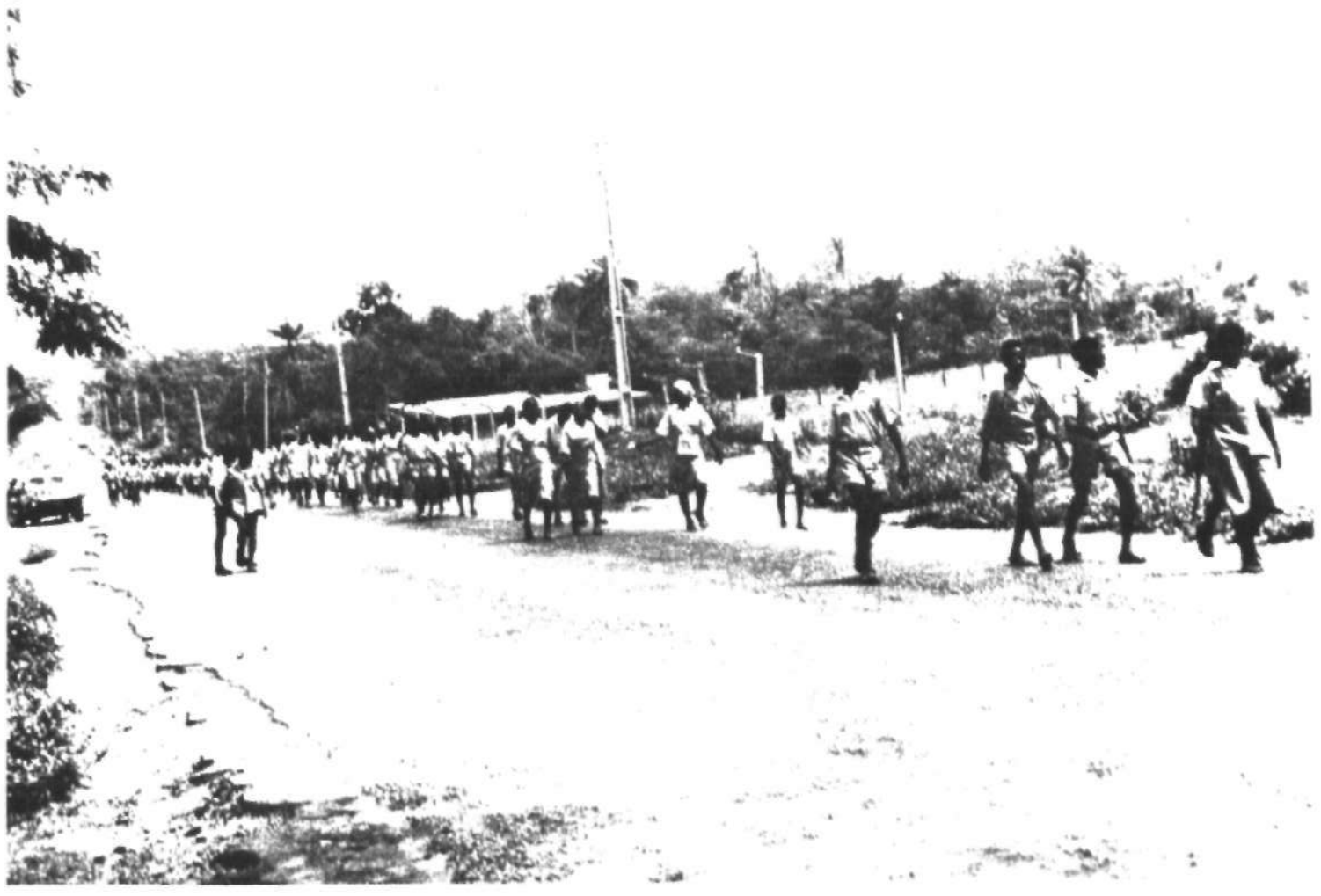


Plate (vii): Students Going To School

Town Square

The town square is known as Ibosa and is located opposite the Bales's residence. It contains a number of shrines which were actively used during religious ceremonies but at present the shrines are delapidated as they are no longer in active use because of the advent of Christianity and Islam. Ibosa is also utilized for public assembly of the towns citizens. In order to revitalize the square, the Awe Development Corporation has put forward a proposal to preserve the shrines, landscape the square and incorporate into it a small park where people can either sit or study the shrines and learn a bit of Awe history displayed on plaques and reliefs.

Churches and Mosques

These are important institutions serving as places that encourage social interaction amongst their members. However, this is on a small scale as there are a number of these religious institutions within the town giving rise to various heterogenous groups.

Hotels and Bars

Hotels and bars are utilized mainly by men to drink and exchange information with their friends. Judging by prevailing social norms, these places are not considered suitable for women and young adults.



Plate Viii: First Baptist Church, Awe.



Plate (ix): Central Mosque, Awe.



Plate (x): International Hotel, Awe.

Library

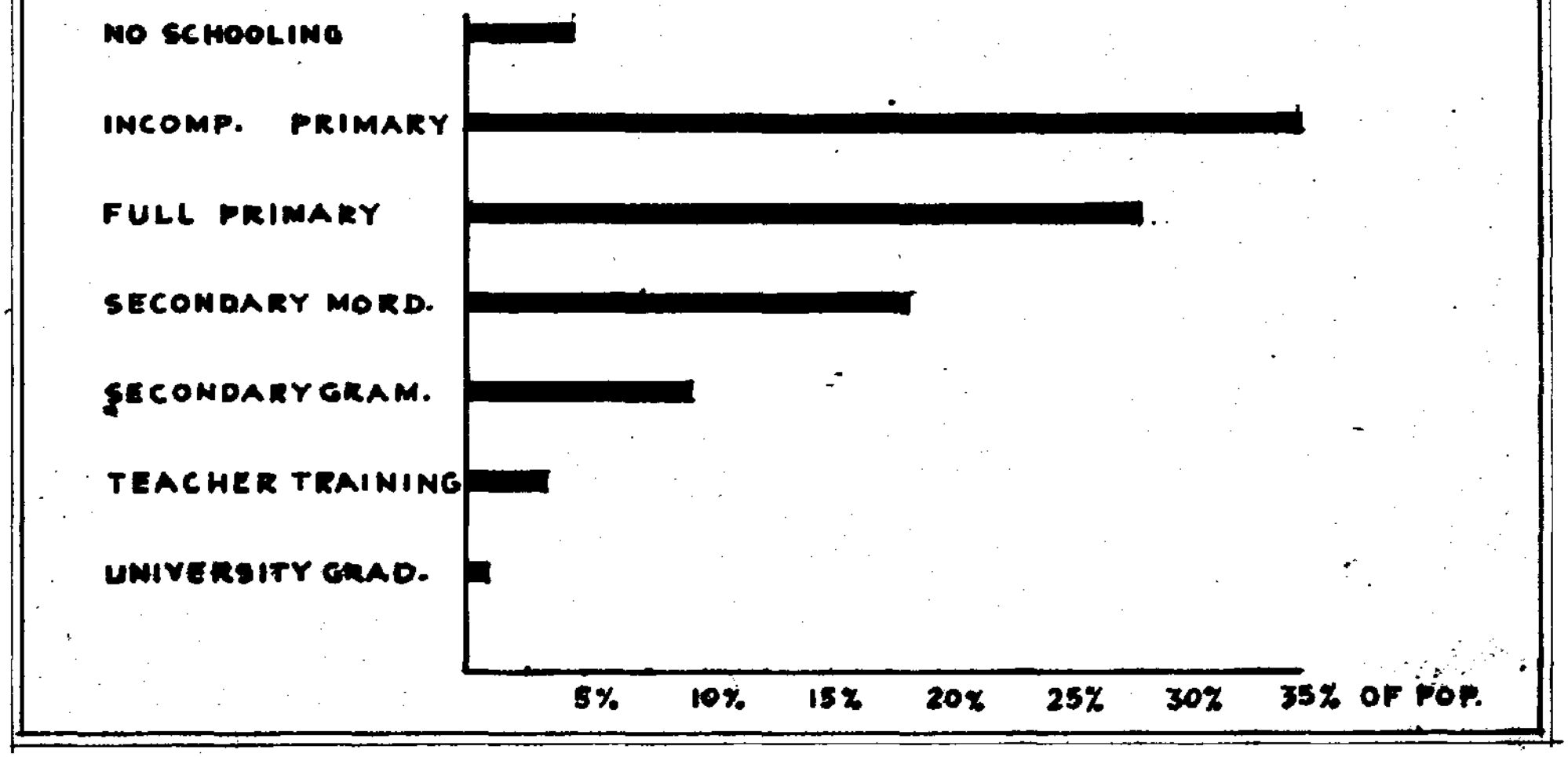
The existing library is a temporary one, its shelves stocking children's books in the ladybird series for primary and pre-primary pupils, textbooks for secondary school pupils, encyclopedia, periodicals, magazines, maps and newspapers in english and yoruba. However, it is little more than a reading room at present.

The community library should be able to cater for both literate and non-literate persons. To aid in achieving this goal a study is currently going on at the University of Ibadan on Rural Development Information System (RUDIS). As part of the study, there is an experimental project going on in Badeku village near Ibadan, the purpose of which is to give library and information services in a community where most people cannot read or write. Each community or neighbourhood should develop the type of library services that suits and enhances its social goals and objectives.

Table 2.3. Level of Education In Awe

School Type	% of Population
No Schooling	4.60
Incomplete Primary	34.90
Full Primary	28.30
Secondary Mordern	18.50
Secondary Grammar	9.40
Teacher Training	3.30
University Graduates	1.00
Total	100.00

Source: Town Planning Department, Ibadan Polytechnic, Ibadan.



source town planning dept ibadan polytechnic

Fig 1: ...vel of Education...

From the table, it is seen that less than 5% of the population have never received any form of formal education. About 35% of the population have a smattering of formal education and a greater percentage of people are literate in yoruba and arabic.

Since the main economic base is farming, there will be need for information geared towards the farmers' needs. The library should also cater for the information needs of people engaged in petty trading, building activities, repair services etc.

Awe Development Corporation

The Corporation has no fixed designated space in the town. Its meetings are carried out on school premises and its materials like files, records, and maps are kept with individual members.

2.7. Existing Constraints and Limiting Conditions

The main constraint facing the community centre is financing the project. The community is embarking on its development projects solely on its own without government support. The Awe Development Corporation (ADC) would therefore have to make studies on how the money can be raised which might be in form of loans, donations and fund raising activities. Furthermore, because of the financial constraint, the project would have to be constructed in phases, so as to make effective use of funds.

2.8 General Trends That Exist In Community Centres

Urban Renewal For Decaying Central Areas

For decaying downtown areas there is urban renewal which has the net effect of making available high rise luxury apartments and buildings for commerce. In American cities, there has been a rediscovery of the potential for architectural excellence and exitement in the new civic centres and the need to preserve the cities historical heritage. The role that unique urban places have in generating a good self image and community pride in cities is also being appreciated.

Model Cities for the Grey Areas

For the grey or twilight areas - housing mixed with industries in the process of decline there is the "Model Cities" program. In the program, stress is placed on the residents being involved in plans to upgrade houses, supplying needed community facilities and keeping the general environment clean. Emphasis is also being placed on the multi-function multi-service centre. These are neighbourhood centres that house needed social and recreational facilities and serve as headquarters of the local community action councils. Specific social services supplied are job training, employment service, food stamps, welfare, day care centres, head start nurseries, facilities for the aged and the handicapped etc.

Suburbs

The suburbs have been left largely to private developers who exploit the lucky escapees from the cities noise, congestion and problems. A proposal has been put forward by a Canadian developer, Humphey Carver on

developing a series of well planned, politically self governing cities in the surburbs focussed upon town centres. Initially the inhabitants are to be embodied in the form of a public trustee who has the power to buy land and start to develop plans for the town centre in terms of buildings and open spaces. Eventually as the community grows and the town centre matures the powers of the trustees would be taken over by the local government. The proposal combines practical proposals for creating a focus for the new suburbs with an earnest belief that excellence in architecture, civic design, sculpture and all aspects of the arts must be embodied in the community centres. The most innovative town centres in suburbs are being built in Sweden which is pioneering a new approach to the development of community life.

Seattle: A 26.3 Million Dollar Proposal for a Metropolitan System of Community Centres

This proposal was as a result of intensive study by one of Seattle's Forward Thrust Task Forces. It involves the provision of a series of well planned community centres acessible to an entire metropolitan area. The original proposal was to increase and improve factilities at the Seattle Centre (the cultural and recreational residue of the World Fair) to improve the centre for the metropolis and to enable it to be used as a community centre by the local inhabitants of the area immediately surrounding it. Since the community centres will constitute a country wide system under which the costs of acquisition and maintenance would be reduced and duplication of facilities and personel avoided, it is intended that existing parks, play grounds and other community facilities be utilized.

The proposed centres are to include but are not limited to performing arts auditorium, multipurpose recreation and meeting rooms, facilities for the teaching, practise and exibition of arts and crafts, office and service rooms, and necessary parking landscape and equipment.

Community Centres in New Towns

The sites for community facilities (commercial, educational and recreational) were set aside in the various master plans. These range from town centres which are concious examples of architecturally sound, pedestrian safe focuses of community life to smaller neighbourhood centres or sometimes sub-neighbourhood centres.

(i) Brackwell - A new Town with Community centres in Each Neighbourhood

Brackwell is a new town in England, decanting population from the Greater London area. The original plan had four neighbourhoods, with populations varying from 2000 to 9000. Each neighbourhood had a centre with shops, pub, church site, public gardens, space for a community centre and a primary school. The large neighbourhoods also have subcentres.

(ii) Cumbernauld - One Community, One Cenre

Cumbernauld is a British town, 48 kilometres from Glasgow. If neighbourhood unit planning were used in its design there was the possibility that the result would be strong local units which have no interest in the purposes of the town as a whole. The major facilities are therefore concentrated in a central area easily accessible to all inhabitants. The town is planned as a unified, dense, frankly urban settlement concentrating housing and the imaginative multilevel towncentre

at the top of wind blown hills, leaving most of the open space and sports grounds in the surrounding valleys. The town centre is regarded by some authorities as being perhaps the only genuinely new socio-architectural element that New Towns have added to the urban design vocabulary.

(iii) Community Centres in a Linear New Town

The plan for a new town at Hook in South East England has generated a lot of interest but unfortunately it was never built. The plan utilized densities considerably higher than those usually adopted in new towns, placing community facilities such as schools and community centres so as to give residents a choice of comparable facilities all within walking distance.

The town centre is a rectangular spine, surrounded by high-density residential areas around which are the lower density housing areas and dispersed areas for industry. Open space within the town is kept to a minimum, so that it is possible for the town to be very compact; all 100,000 residents are within ten minutes walking distance of both open country and the town centre.

(iv) New Town with Schools as Community Centres

The new town of Runcorn in Cheshire is being designed to promote social interaction between people at the same time giving them adequate privacy and reasonable choice of possible relationships.

The smallest unit consists of residential groups of 100-200 people with neighbourly contact facilitated by the physical layout. These primary groups are gathered into layouts of 2000 people, carefully planned together so that services can be economically provided for

communities of 8,000 and 16,000 people. Local centres are placed in communities of 8,000 people and contains primary schools designed to serve out of school educational, cultural and recreational activities, shopping and a new bus stop for the specially designed new transit bus which links the whole town together. The town centre will contain a central shopping area with four arms extending into the town. Distributed among these are a technical college, indoor sports building, un-interdenominational church, hotel, youth centre, cinema, dance hall, civic buildings, banks, office buildings, library, theatre and concert hall set in a park with provision for cafes and exhibitions.

(v) Drouten and its Agora

The Dutch New Town is experimenting with one of the really few new ideas about how to create a successful community centre. All the cultural, recreational and social facilities needed by the entire town was pulled into a flexible glass enclosure, roofed and heated, right next to the central shops, bus park, the park and the town hall site. All ages and income groups use the Agora for everything from having a beer, watching T.V. or special films to a game of basket ball or bowling, attendance at a theatre performance or concert; or a stroll around an agricultural or art exhibition. At its peak the Agora can accomodate 5,000 visitors a day.

CHAPTER III

SITE ANALYSIS

3.1 The Site

The site located along the major Oyo-Iwo road which passes through the centre of town has already been set aside by the town for community purposes. Although at present it lies on the outskirts of the traditional sector of Awe it is strategically placed between the traditional town and a new housing estate being planned for Awe by the Town Planning Authority in Oyo.

Traffic

The site is triangular in shape and is bounded by three roads, these being the Oyo-Iwo road a major traffic arterial along its north-eastern portion, Alafia road leading also to the town centre along its southern portion and along the western portion a road leading to farm settlements outside the town. Centrally located on the site is a spring which is an attraction for people who come to appreciate the cool environment and occasionally during periods of water shortage it draws people who come to fetch water.

Environs

On the edges of the site closest to the main Oyo-Iwo road are found some residential houses. Although these are rater delapidated, no demolition would be carried out. The First Baptist Church and Hall, and a primary school are located across the main road while all other edges of the site are surrounded by thick vegetation.





Plate (xi): Existing View of Site.

Geology

The 422 square kilometres of Aweland is underlain wholly by old crystalline rocks of the basement complex which are very rich in silica and quartz and therefore generally acidic. The ground mass consists of migmalites and gueisses but there are inclusions of schists and amphibolites especially in the southern and south-western parts of the area. These latter rocks give rise to soils that are generally more clayey and richer than the migmalites and gueisses. Quartzite formations are also found within the area and the town lies on such a formation.

Vegetation

Awe lies within the derived Savanna Zone, a transitional belt between forest and savanna vegetation which is characterized by open grassland with scattered trees and shrubs.

Landscape Potential

The terrain falls steeply towards the spring although the relief immediately around the spring is gentle, with cool and inviting vegetation which should as much as possible be left undisturbed. The community centre should ideally be located at a higher level over-looking the spring.

3.2 Feasibility and Viability

The activities to be provided in the centre were obtained from the client, the ADC which acts on behalf of Awe citizens. The main objective of the project is increased interaction between the members

of the community on a large scale. The users include out of town members of the community who go to their home town regularly on week-ends and public holidays and need a meeting place.

The centre would be constructed in phases because of the scarcity of funds, the first being the multipurpose hall and the amphitheatre, the second being the office and shopping complex and the third the construction of the library.

Revenue from the Centre:

(i) Box office receipts - Cinema

(ii) Box office receipts - Theatre

(iii) Box office receipts - Discotheque

(iv) Bar profits

(v) Restaurant profits

(vi) Leasing of shop and office space

(vii) Hiring of hall for public use e.g. marriage receptions, meetings, parties etc.

The money generated by the use of these spaces is meant solely for maintenance of and provision of services for the community centre.

Accessibility

The community centre's location is close to the town centre and is within easy walking distance from adjoining residential area. When the proposed housing estate is developed the community centre will act as a link between the old and the new sections of the town.

3.3 Climate

The climate of Western Nigeria is typical tropical sub-humid with marked wet and dry seasons. The wet season is from April to October, with the period between July and August being dominated by southwesterly winds and the dry season dominated by north-easterly winds from November to March.

Rainfall

The highest rainfall in the area ranging from 45mm to 230mm is between April and October, with the dual peaks recorded in April and October. The rainfall in the dry season is as low as 1mm or less.

Temperature

Mean temperatures are high throughout the year ranging from 25°C to 28°C. Mean daily maximum temperature is about 32°C while mean daily minimum temperature is about 21°C.

Relative Humidity

Relative humidity is between 95% and 100% at dawn throughout the year and usually decreases to a minimum of between 70% and 80% in the afternoon. Seasonal variation is also very slight but periods of low humidity may occur in January and February.

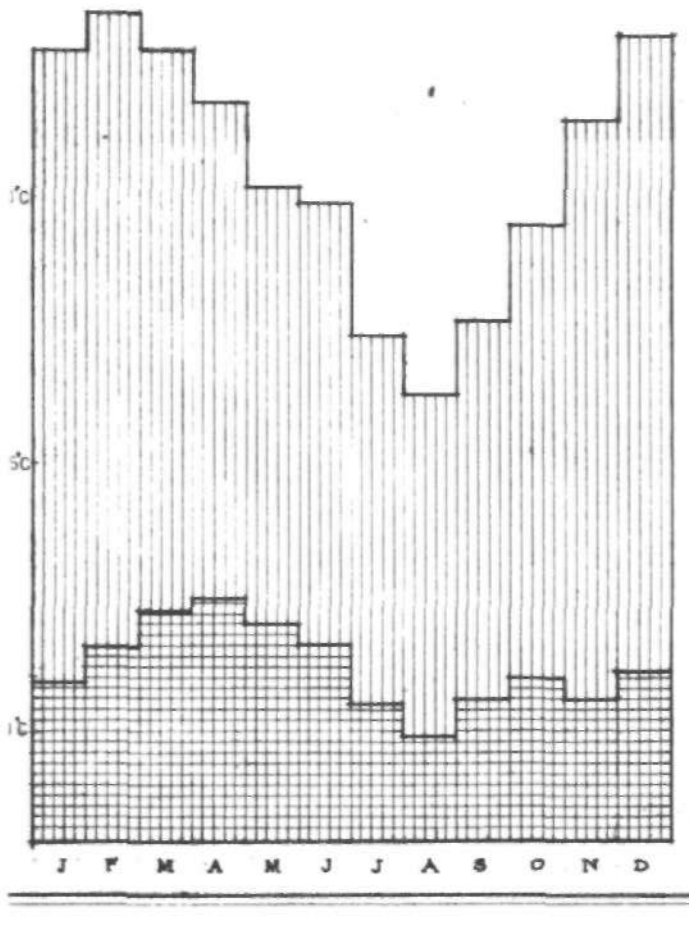
Winds

Southwesterly winds dominate during the rainy season from March to October. The dry and dusty north easterly winds from the Sahara are dominant in January and December.

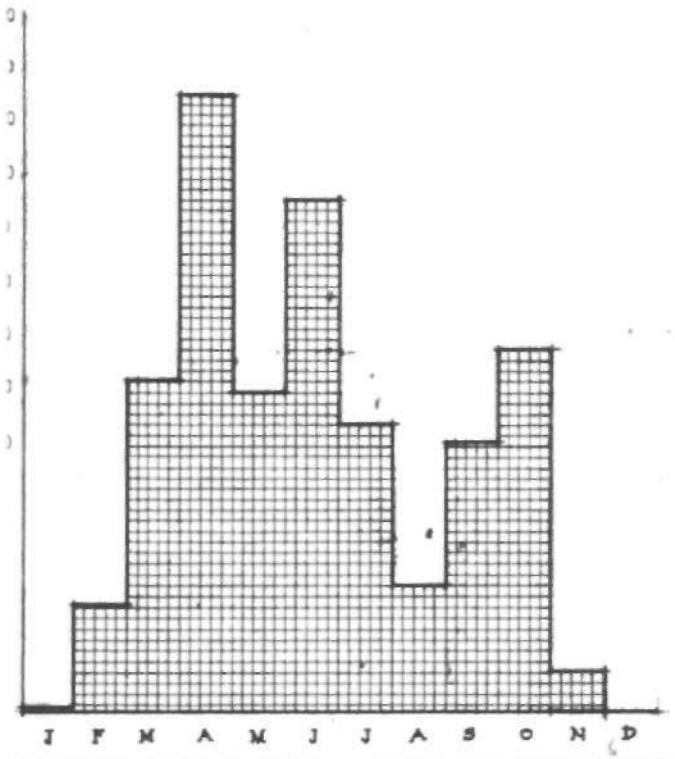
Sunshine

The sun shines from the north from March to September and from the south for the rest of the year. Direct solar radiation is

THE CLIMATE OF WESTERN NIGERIA IS TYPICAL TROPICAL SUB-HUMID WITH MARKED WET AND DRY SEASONS. MEAN TEMPERATURES ARE HIGH THROUGHOUT THE YEAR RANGING FROM 25°C TO 28°C. MEAN DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE IS ABOUT 32°C WHILE MEAN DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE IS ABOUT 21°C



AWE LIES WITHIN THE DERIVED SAVANNA ZONE A TRANSITIONAL BELT BETWEEN FOREST AND SAVANNA VEGETATION. THE ZONE IS CHARACTERISED BY OPEN GRASSLAND WITH SCATTERED TREES AND SHRUBS. DURING THE RAINY SEASON THE HIGHEST RAINFALL RANGING FROM 45 mm TO 230 mm IS BETWEEN APRIL & OCTOBER. THE DUAL PEAKS ARE RECORDED IN APRIL & OCTOBER THE RAINFALL IN THE DRY SEASON IS AS LOW AS 1 mm OR LESS.



SOURCE METROLOGICAL STATION IBADAN

Fig. 5.

relatively rare because of the cloudy sky due to a high relative humidity during the wet season. Reflection of the sky is the main source of heat and glare.

CHAPTER IV

CASE STUDIES

4.1. The Dronten, Agora, Holland

Project: Community Centre

Architect: Van Klingeren

Clients: Development Authority of Dronten New Town

Total Capital Cost: $600,000

Site: On the eastern side of a central square at the junction of main roads leading into the town; surrounded by shops and providing space for bus parks, car park, and town hall.

Scope: A theatre with capacity ranging from 350 to 700 people, a series of restaurant spaces, variety of eating and drinking facilitites on platforms at different levels. An open area used for sport has movable suspended screen from the roof for showing projected films and television visible from most restaurant tables and bar stools. The area is also used for exibitions, conferences and similar meetings.

Problems: The list of facilities to be provided for was long and the budget was very limited. The facilities were to be housed in premises that were inexpensive, easy to construct, flexible in use and proof against extremes of weather.

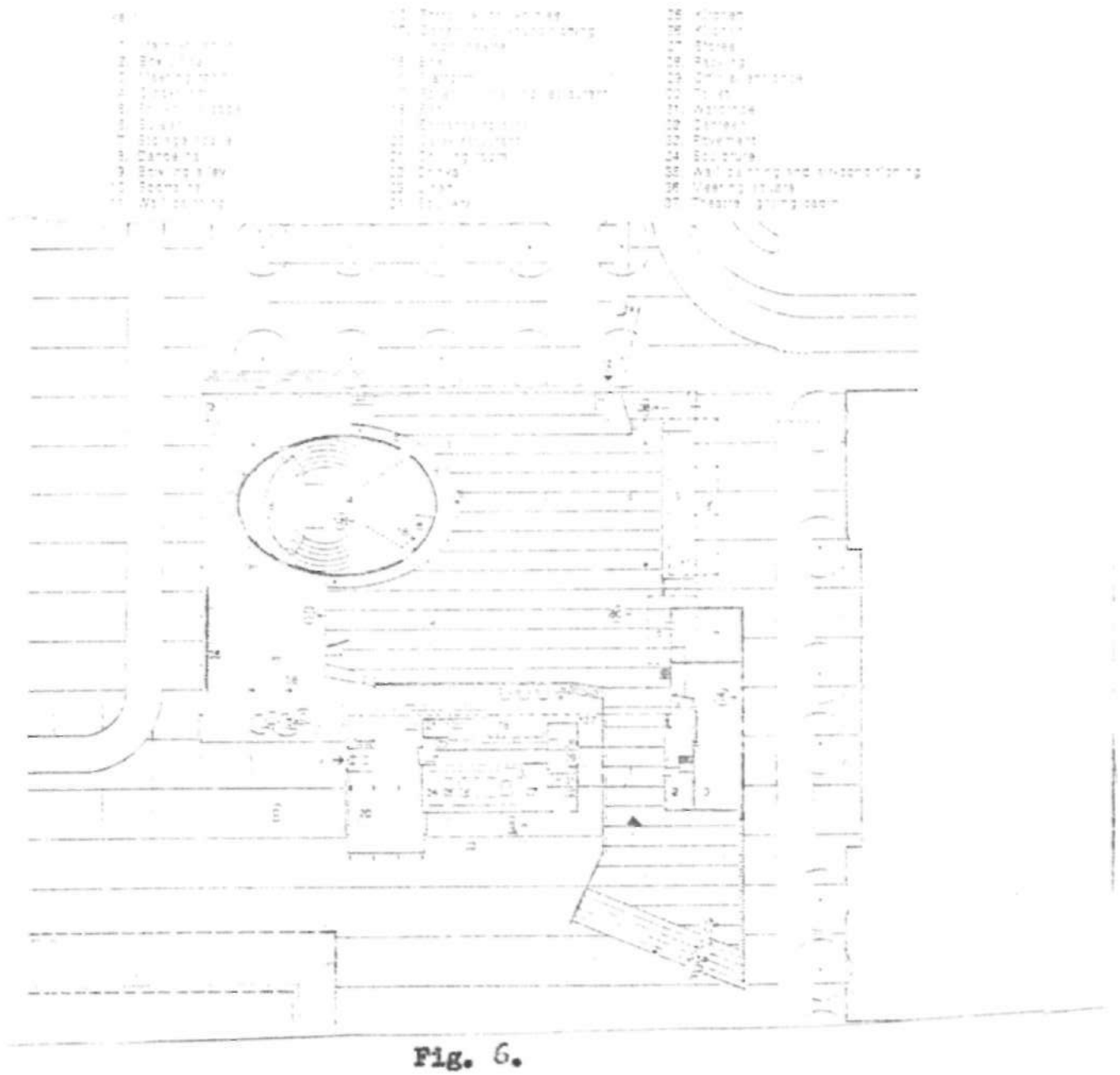


Fig. 6.

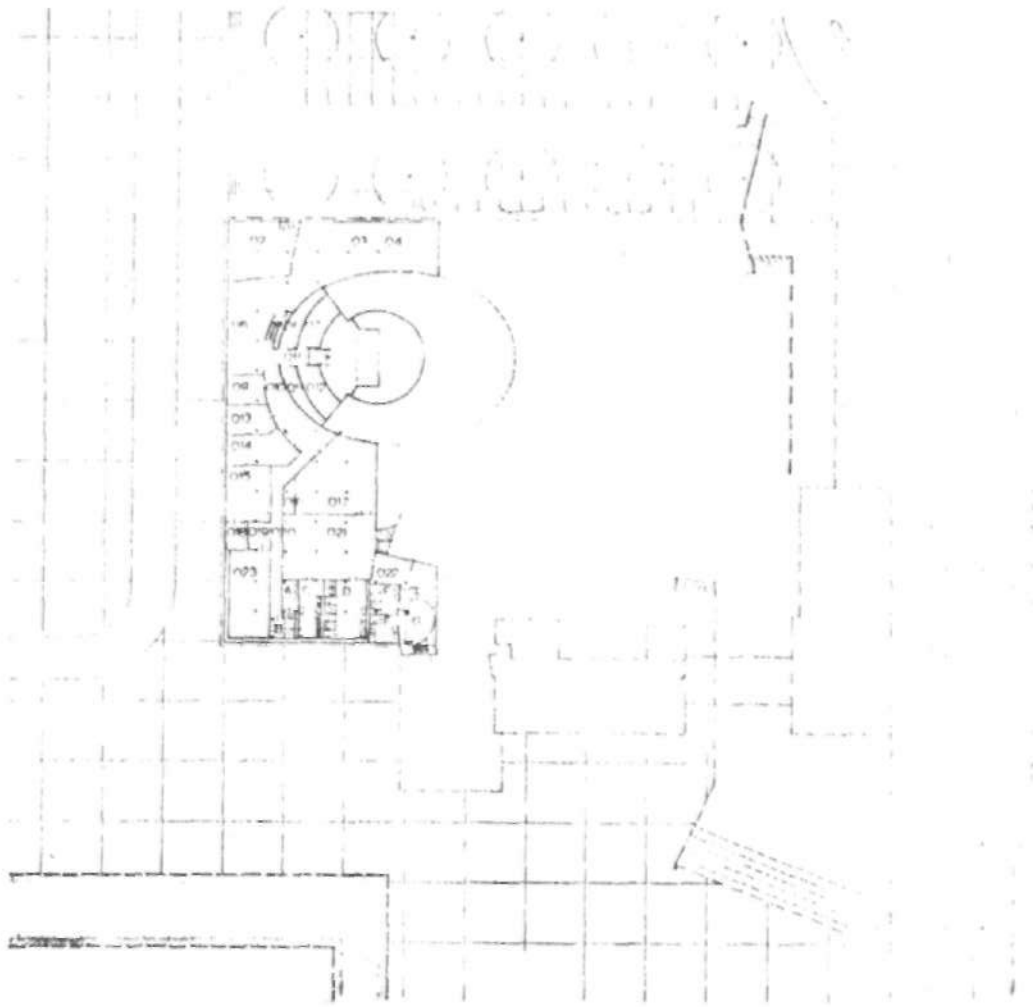


Fig. 7.

Concept: The need for shelter from the Dutch climate precluded a plan for outdoor activities in an open Agora. The design is based on the concept of a Greek Agora which approached the ideal as a community meeting place where public discussion, informal meetings, buying and selling of goods and formal oratory takes place. To have provided separate spaces for all the needed facilities would have more than doubled the project cost, so the facilities are designed to function less exclusively. The building has an unfinished nature and is constantly being adapted for a variety of special uses. All the facilities are contained in a single structure.

Structure/Construction: The Agora is contained in a flexible, steel framed glass enclosure, roofed and heated. More than half the area is open, flanked by a long bar. The only fixed point is the amphitheatre with rounded, arched bays. Because subsoil had to be removed, the ground floor is about 1 meter below street level which gives an inviting slope down to the main concourse.

Space Areas:

Box Office

Meeting room

Cloak room

Projection cage

Storage space

Dance Hall

Bowling alley

Sports hall

Basement air conditioning

Amphitheare

Cafe-restaurant

Chilling room

Platform

Kitchen

Stores

Service Area

Parking

Canteen

Meeting square

Theater lighting cabin

Female changing rooms

Male changing rooms

Administrative Offices

Conference room

Appraisal:

Positive Aspects:

(i) All ages and age groups use the centre. At its peak, the Agora can support 5,000 visitors a day.

(ii) The framed glass box is designed to function as many different spaces at different times. This provides for all required uses as well as providing for individual experiment and spontaneous activity.

(iii) Six kinds of performances can be given in the theatre: concerts in the round, plays on a traditional proscenum or open stage, opera or ballet with a partly open or fully closed orchestra pit, movie or fashion shows with seating on the raised stage.

(iv) Film and television is projected outside the amphitheatre on suspended screens.

(v) The open space is used for sports, for exhibition of paintings and sculpure as a retail market and for projection of films and television.

(vi) Because of the design, everyone going into it becomes involved in what others are doing, whether they intend to or not.

Negative Aspects

(i) The organization of space sometimes leads to clashes and distractions between different uses.

4.2. Kibbutz Geva, Israel

Project: Assembly Hall

Architects: Arieh Sharon, B. Idelson, Eldar Sharon

Scope: A Multipurpose hall which serves as theatre, cinema, gymnasium, assembly hall and dining room on festive occasions

Concept: The building consists of four elements; an auditorium for 500 people, an amphitheater for 800 people, a stage serving both and the entrance courtyard. When the big doors are opened all the

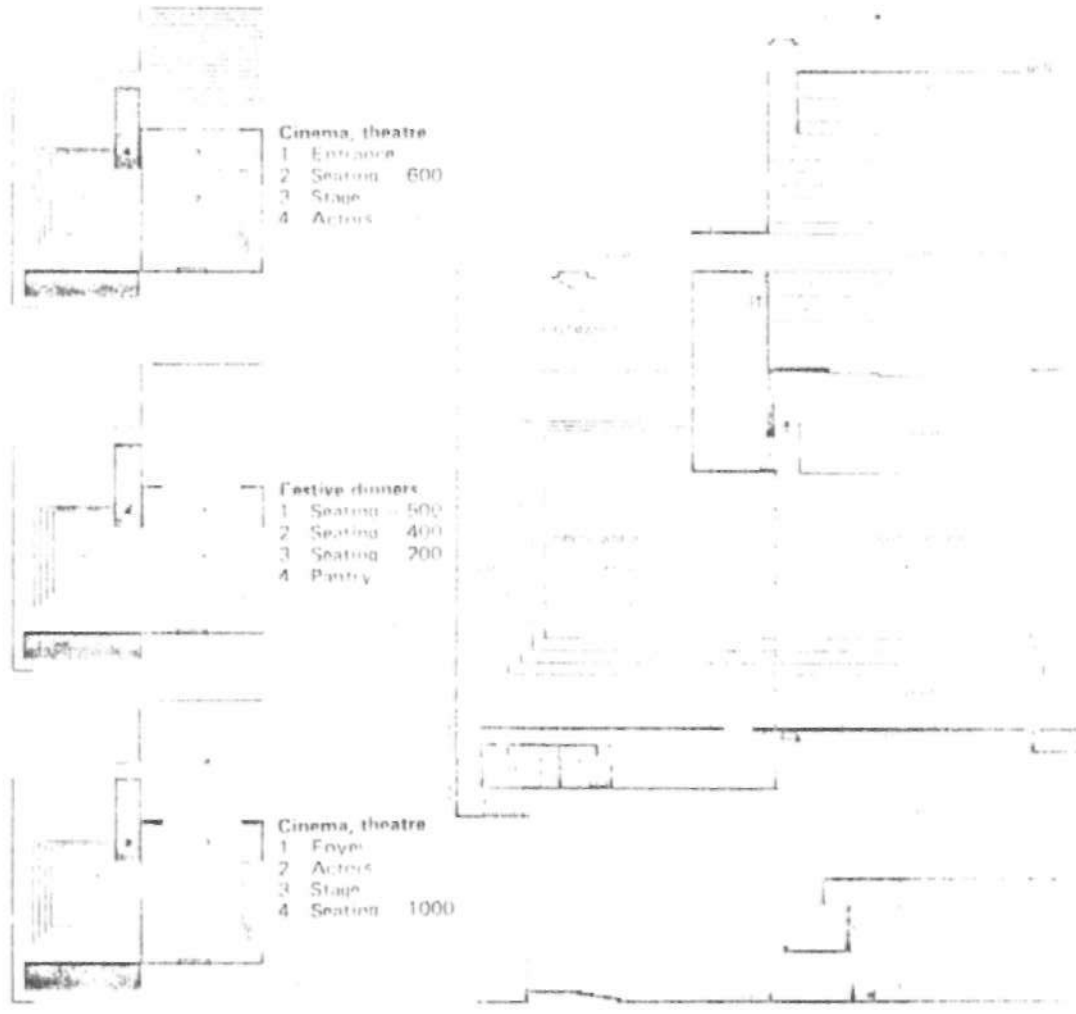

Cinema, theatre
1 Entrance
2 Seating 600
3 Stage
4 Actors
Festive dinners
1 Seating 500
2 Seating 400
3 Seating 200
4 Pantry
Cinema, theatre
1 Foyer
2 Actors
3 Stage
4 Seating 1000

Fig. 8.

elements create one architectural space entity. Various combinations of these four spaces serve the many needs of the community.

Structure: The construction is of reinforced concrete with a roof consisting of precast elements mounted on steel girders and ventilation panels of fibre glass.

Space Areas:

Foyer

Auditorium

Stage

Amphitheatre

Male changing room

Female changing room

Pantry/Actors room

Appraisal: Positive Aspects:

(i) The assembly hall is extremely flexible, it serves a variety of purposes for the Kibbutz.

(ii) It meets daily needs and is the setting for cultural, festive and religious celebrations.

4.3. The Forum of The Technion, Haifa, Israel

Project: The Forum of the Technion.

Architect: Arieh Sharon, B. Idelson and M. Kletter.

Site: The forum covers 2.43 hectares and is situated slopes of Mount Carmel overlooking the town of Haifa and its attractive bay.

Scope: It consists of three main buildings, the auditorium which seats 750 people and serves as lecture hall, cinema, theatre and meeting hall. The library and senate which houses archives and student service rooms on the lower floor, administrative office on the higher floor and executive rooms and senate chamber on the top.

Concept: The architectural quality of the complex is based on the space relationship between the three horizontal elements, piazzetta, piazza and the sunken garden and the three building cubes. The three buildings are located on terraces connected by ramps and stairs for pedestrians. The upper piazzetta forms the entrance to the Churchill auditorium connected by wide steps to the main piazza which forms the entrance to the library and senate. From this piazza a wide ramp and stairs lead to the sunken garden which continues under the piazza bridge to the faculties.

Structure/Construction:

All buildings are constructed of exposed reinforced concrete in a module of 1.60 metres - the maximum width of Israeli glass which criss-crosses all building elements: floors, ceilings, doors, windows and even the piazzas' flag stones.

Space Areas:

Meeting rooms

Offices

Archives

Piazetta

Sunken garden

Piazza

Entrance hall

Lounge

Patios

Deans Offices

Conference room

Auditorium

Periodicals

Reading

Terrace

Post-graduate reading room

Open shelves

Appraisal:

Positive Aspects:

(a) A visual space relationship between the three open spaces and the three buildings has been created.

(b) The two different spaces within the forum have been combined into an architectural entity that relates both to the human scale of the students it serves and the physical scale of its surroundings.

4.4. Cultural Centre, Juba, Sudan

Project: Cultural Centre

Architect: Norman Westwood.

Site: A ridge in Juba, regional capital of Southern Sudan.

Scope: A 1,000 seat amphitheatre art and music rooms, administration offices, bar and restaurant, a library, a projection and control room and changing rooms.

Problems: Finding a solution that was both sympathetic to local culture and recognised the severe limitations in building resources and materials available. Traditional dance and music take place outdoors; to seal it in an enclosed air conditioned theatre with sophisticated lighting would have been totally unsympathetic and also impractical to build, run and maintain.

Concept: The cultural centre is sheltered beneath a large, long, low roof. The different spaces are therefore protected from sun and rain, but open to cooling breezes.

Structure/Construction: The major structural element is a steel portal frame with a plastic coated sheet steel roof with insulation manufactured in the U.S.A., shipped to Mombasa and transported by road through Kenya and Uganda. This required only assembly on site on block foundations, economical of precious cement; the topography of the site accommodated the theatre with minimal earth moving. The roof is white above with black painted frame and

black PVC sheet ceiling below. The low walls are white and constructed in traditional wattle and daub with modern steel door frames and louvred windows. These walls are flood lit at night to dramatic effect by fluorescent tubes behind vertical concrete reflections.

Space Areas:

Main entrance

Box office

Projection room

VIP box

Terracing for 1000 spectators

Presentation area

Dressing rooms

Library

Children's department

Music room

Fine Arts room

Bar and Dining area

Kitchen

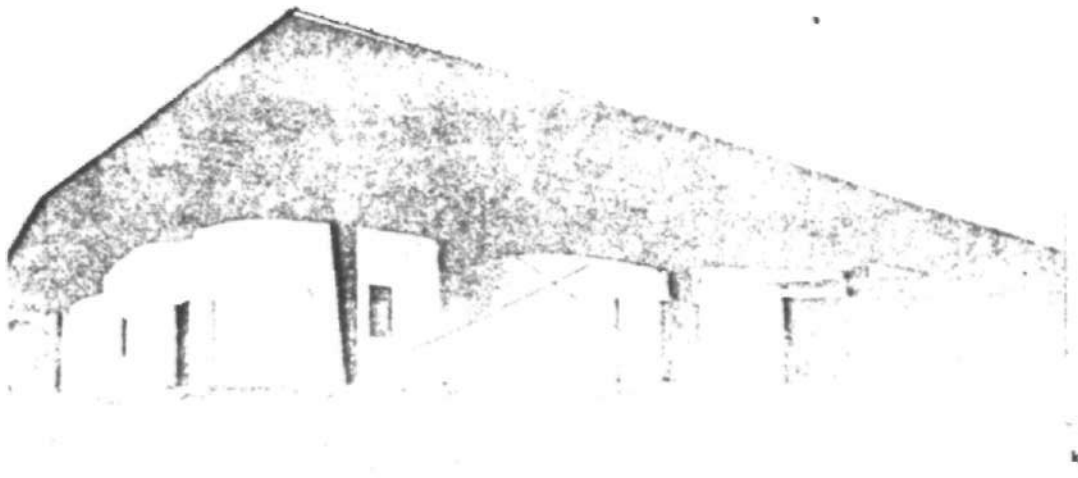
Bar

Store

Administration

Director

Presentation room



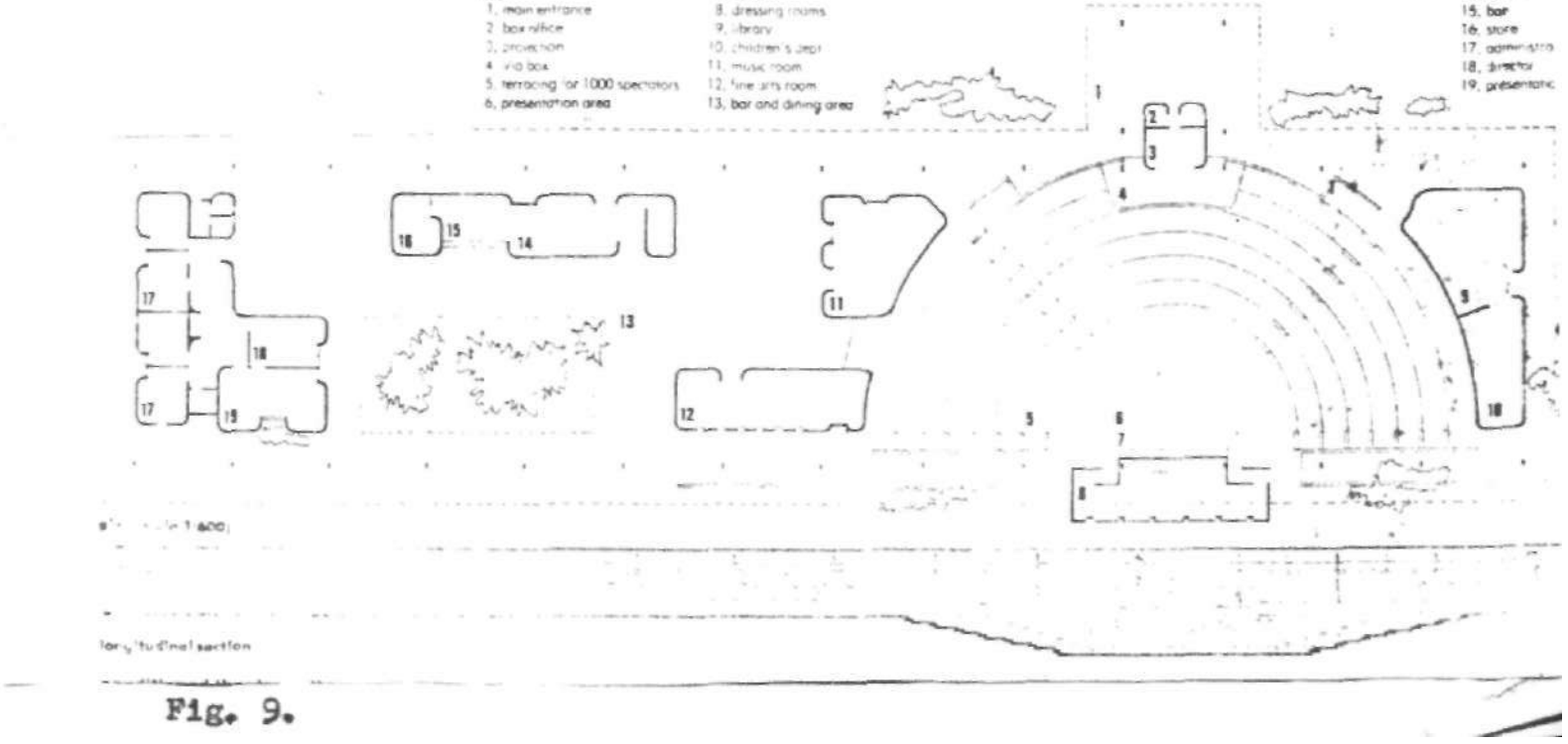

key
1. main entrance
2. box office
3. projection
4. vip box
5. terracing for 1000 spectators
6. presentation area
7. screen
8. dressing rooms
9. library
10. children's dept
11. music room
12. fine arts room
13. bar and dining area
14. kitchen
15. bar
16. store
17. administration
18. director
19. presentation

Fig. 9.

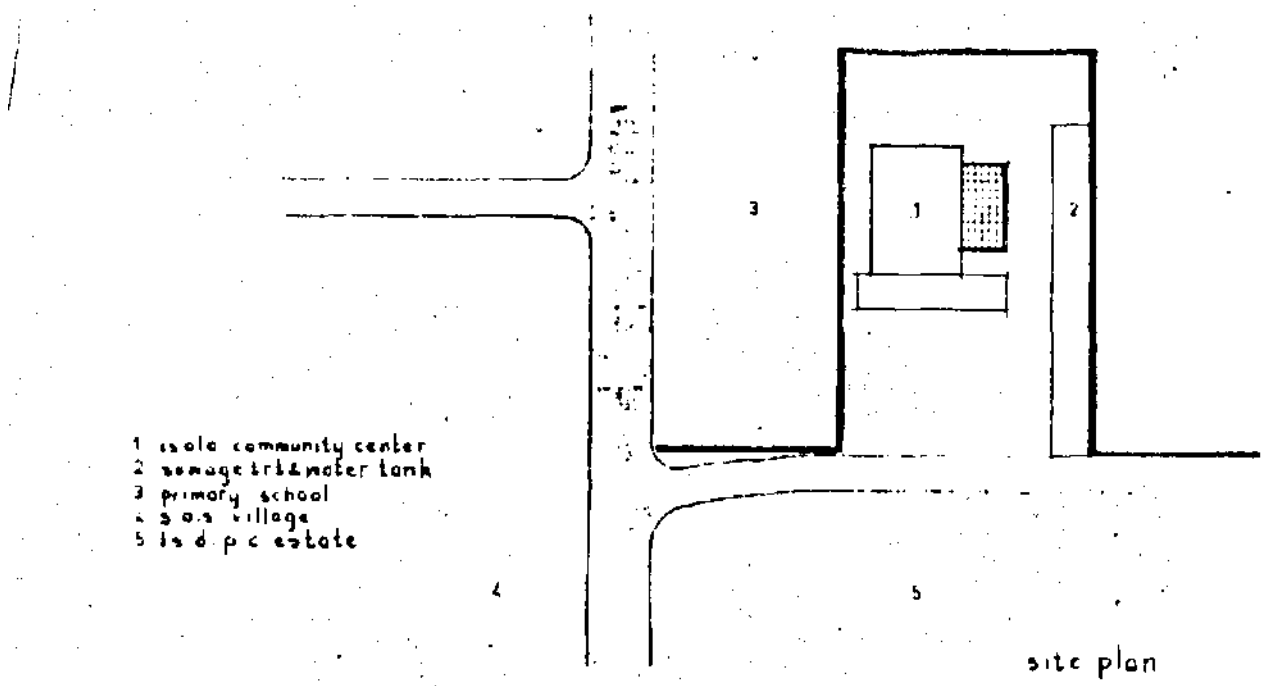
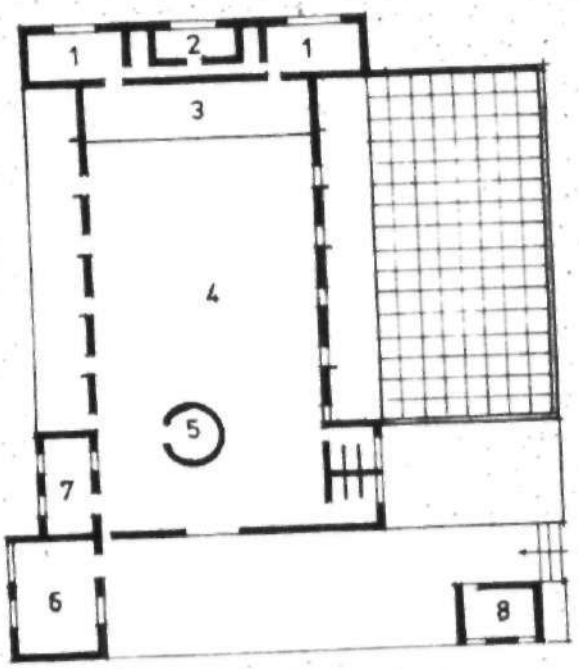

1 isola community center
2 sewage trt&water tank
3 primary school
4 s.o.s village
5 isola p c estate
1
2
3
4
5
site plan

Fig. 10.



1 dressing room
2 store
3 stage
4 multipurpose hall
5 projection room
6 library
7 clinic
8 kitchen

ground floor plan

Fig. 11.



Fig. 12.

Space Areas:

Multipurpose hall

Stage

Projection room

Library

Medical Clinic

Kitchen

Stores

Courtyard

Toilets

Parking

Appraisal:

Positive Aspects

(i) The porch provides entrance to almost all the functional spaces within the building and this makes circulation easier.

(ii) The orientation and openings of the buildings enhances natural cross ventilation and glare is reduced to a minium.

(iii) The location is appropriate and accessible both to people in the area and nearby schools who want to make use of the centre.

Negative Aspects

(i) A one-storey structure is uneconomical use of land in Lagos where land is very scarce.

(ii) Emphasis in this centre is more on provision of social services like a medical clinic and a library and less on recreational activities, although future proposals for some outdoor games are in the pipeline. There is no lively activity that will attract and bring people together.

(iii) The toilets lead directly to the hall, in the alternative there should be a filter space between the toilet and the hall.

(iv) The projection room should have been on a higher level, being accidental and not planned.

4.6. Yaba Community Centre, Lagos

Project: Community Centre

Architect: Professor O. Adeolu

Client: Saint Dominic's Catholic Church, Yaba, Laogs.

Funding: Joint effort by the German and Nigerian People.

Total Capital Cost: ₦300,000

Site: The site is located along Agege Motor road - Ikorodu road and Lagos Ebute-Metta road, a few metres from Yaba College of Technology. The site area is 2.1 hectares and it shares the same site with Saint Dominic's Church and Saint Patricks' Catholic Primary School.

Scope: The centre consists of a medical clinic, a catering department, a library with about 3,000 volumes and space for 65 readers, a career counselling clinic, a multi-purpose hall which seats 300 people and administrative offices.

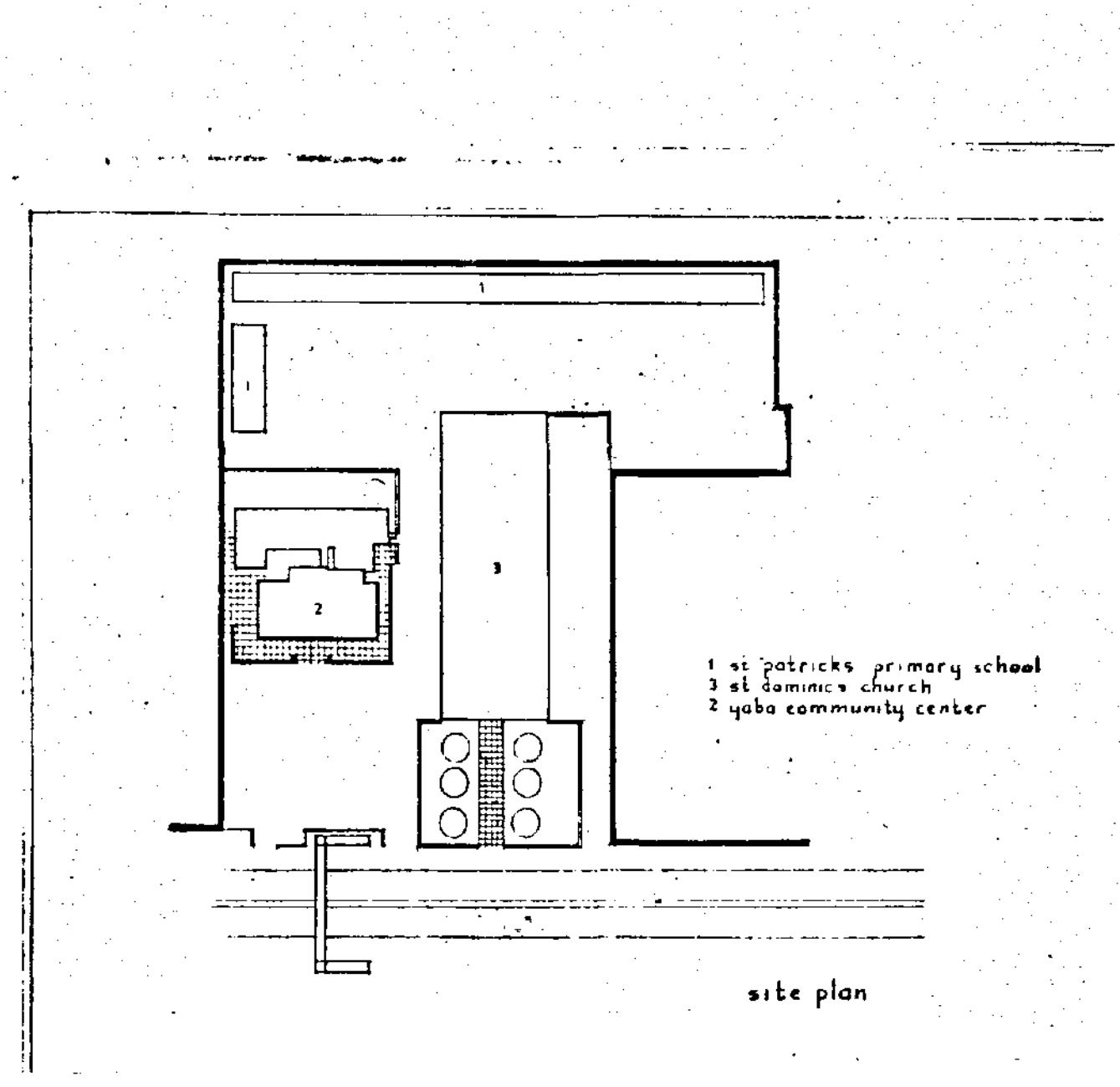
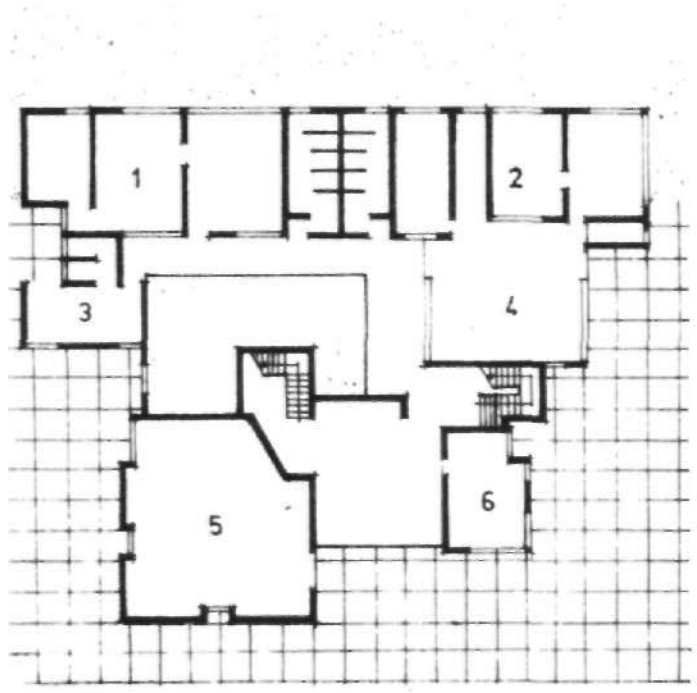
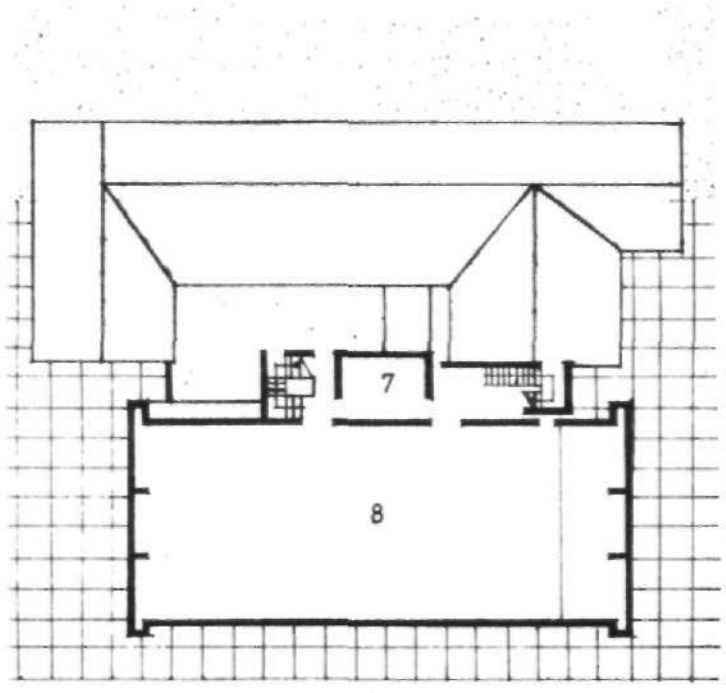

1
2
3
1 st patricks primary school
3 st dominics church
2 yaba community center
site plan

Fig. 13.



ground floor plan



first floor plan

1 catering dept
2 medical clinic
3 office
4 waiting room
5 library
6 career counsel rm
7 store
8 multipurpose hall

Fig. 14.

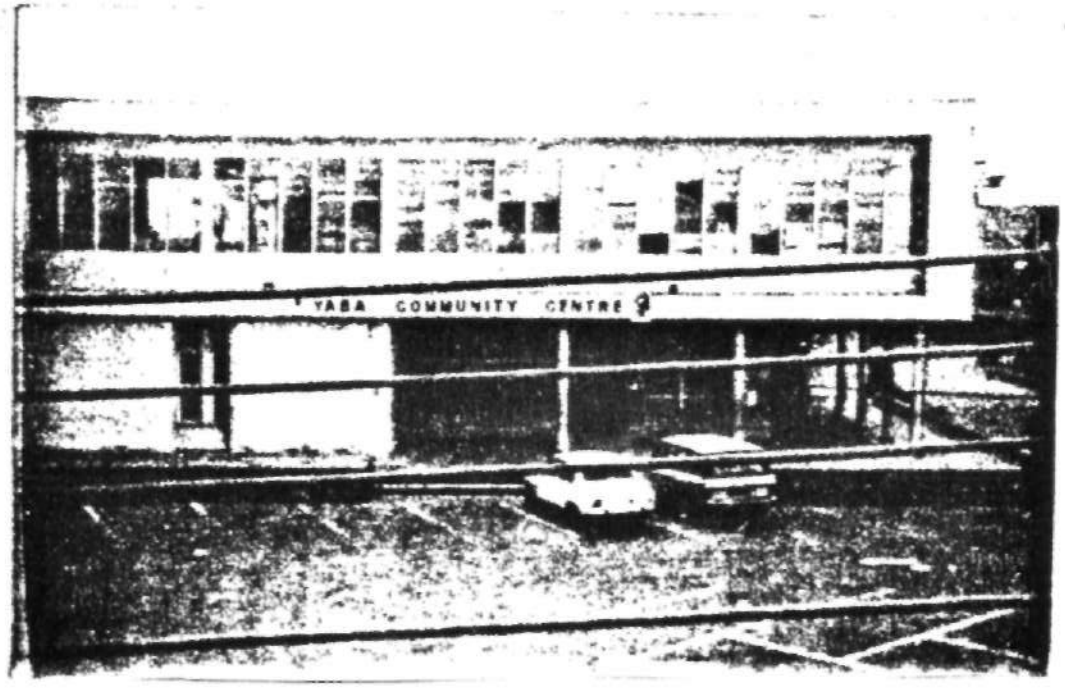


Fig. 15.

Problems: Financial constraints, as the money used for construction was got through donations. There is also problem of land restriction as there were already existing facilities on the site.

Concept: The building is a combination of two and one storey structure arranged around a central courtyard.

Access: The center has two entrances, a main entrance leading into an entrance hall and another leading to the medical clinic.

Structure/Construction:

The building construction is of sand-crete blocks. Timber roof trusses are used on the ground floor while a concrete roof is used on the multipurpose hall which makes up the first floor.

Space Areas:

Entrance hall

Career counselling clinic

Courtyard

Waiting room

Consulting room

Treatment rooms

Toilets

Classroom

Kitchen

Store

Offices

Multipurpose hall

parking

Appraisal:

Positive Aspects:

(i) All spaces are put into full use and are used as designated.

Negative Aspects:

(i) In the centre, emphasis is more on provision of social and philantropic services and less on recreational facilities.

CHAPTER V

DESIGN CRITERIA

5.1. DESIGNING FOR SOCIAL INTERACTION

> "Theory in Architecture has concentrated on aesthetics, or glorified the expression of the ordinary or looked to utopian tomorrows. A more meaningful theory focussing on people's needs, seen dynamically, is hampered by half truths about the relationship between behaviour and buildings. Human beings are not directly affected by architecture, for the social organization that affects them must be considered. On the other hand, it is false to suggest there is no connection between design and design decisions, for decisions determine life time configurations of people".[1]

This thesis is primarily concerned with the arrangement of space within the Awe Community Centre and its effect on stimulation of social interaction amongst the various members of the community, resident both in and out of the town.

No matter how much a man tries it is impossible to divest himself from his culture which always has a decisive influence on his behaviour. However there are some constant underlying modes of behaviour which occurs again and again amongst the various cultures.

---

1. Heimsath, C. Behavioural Architecture Toward an Accountable Design Process (Mc Graw Hill 1977) P.46

According to Humphrey Osmond social space can be divided into two broad groups, sociofugal and sociopetal spaces. Sociofugal spaces are spaces such as airport terminals which are perhaps the most sociofugal spaces. In the terminal it is almost impossible to converse comfortably for any length of time. Either the chairs are bolted together or they are arranged in rows "theater" style or back to back. If they are arranged facing each other the distances between the chairs are so wide that it is impossible to converse normally. The motive seems to be to drive people out of the waiting areas into shops bars or restaurants where they will spend money. Sociopetal spaces on the other hand are spaces such as booths in the old fashioned drugstore or the tables at a French cafe which tend to bring people together. The characteristics of sociopetal spaces is related to furniture arrangement, proxemics and space dimensions.

The major social spaces of institutions are lobbies, halls, explicitly designated social areas and outdoor spaces. Some qualities that define these areas as social are their uses as traffic ways, their location near centres of activity, the presence of markers such as seats, TV sets or other equipment and their names such as dayroom, community room and so on.

The concepts of sociopetal space and behaviour watching may be applied to explicit social areas as well as lobbies and hallways. Every natural traffic pathway is a potential supply of encounters which can become interactions.

In the late 1950s there was a study carried out by Robert Sommer, an Environmental Psychologist on the spatial factors in different types of face-to-face interactions in Saskatchewan hospitals, cafeterias and mental institutions. He found that the most comfortable talking distance

was 1.68 metres, nose to nose. Studying tables of different shapes and sizes he also found out that congenial conversations most often occur when people sit at right angles, cooperative tasks occur when they sit side by side, independent behavious like eating alone happen at corner locations and competitive tasks or arguments normally occur when people sit directly opposite across the short dimensions of tables or other spaces.

The anthropologist Edward T. Hall also did exhaustive studies on proxemics. He found out that there were four main distance zones. These being:

(i) Intimate Distance: 0.15 meters - 0.46 meters. At this distance the presence of the other person is unmistakable and may at times be overwhelming because of the greatly stepped up sensory imputs.

(ii) Personal Distance: 0.46 meters - 1.22 metres. Subjects of personal interest and involvement can be discussed at this distance.

(iii) Social Distance: 1.22 meters - 3.66 meters. Impersonal business occurs at this distance. People who work together tend to use close social distance. It is also a common distance for people who are attending a casual gathering.

(iv) Public Distance: 3.66 meters - 7.62 meters or more. This distance is not restricted to public figures but can be used by anyone on public occasions.

Although more research still needs to be done, Edward T. Halls generalizations are useful about making maximum and minimum dimensions of rooms, lounges, meeting halls, seminar rooms and so on for various inter personal, social and public interactions.

Proxemic distances for various activities are a small part of small group ecology which is the consideration of the critical environment-behaviour relations in small group situation. Other things such as dimensions, shape and character of space need to be taken into consideration. The types of spaces best for meetings, seminars, informal discussions and so on. The types of small group interactions which take place in coridors, nooks and plazzas.

Studies have shown that in a group situation like a seminar people respond and interact better if they can fully see all other people. Seminar rooms that are long and narrow show less interaction among the people who use them. Ideally the seminar room should be square with "escape areas" around so that people might go to escape areas without leaving the room when the intensity of the discussion gets too much for them.

Privacy may be defined as the claims of individuals, groups or institutions to control access to themselves and to determine for themselves when, how and to what extent information about themselves will be communicated.

Social interaction and communication are the opposite of privacy. Chermayeff and Alexander developed a scheme of six realms of community and privacy from individual private space to urban public space. The realms are as follows:

(i) Individual private areas, relating to the person - for example a persons private space.

(ii) Family or small group private areas relating to the primary group - for example home or dormitory suite.

(iii) Large group private areas, relating to a secondary group - for example management control of privacy on behalf of all residents in an apartment building.

(iv) Large group public areas, involving the interaction of the large group within the public - such as semi-controlled public sidewalks or an area of group mailboxes.

(v) Urban semi-public areas that maybe government or institution controlled with public access if purpose warrants such as banks, post offices, airports, city halls.

(vi) Urban public areas, characterized by public ownership and complete public access including parks, malls, and streets.

The most successful urban public spaces incorporate all of those realms in a nested hierarchy of community and private spaces.

Three dimensions underlie the differences between architectural and non-architectural influences on social interaction: homogeneity and heterogeneity of the population, kinship, professional contacts and status as a basis for friendship and length of residence.

In situations where there is group life, the ability to exercise freedom to experience or not experience group life is important. Freedom of choice in general is not only a function of social systems but also of the physical setting.

5.2. MULTIPURPOSE HALL

The multipurpose hall should be organized in the form of an arena, a public forum, equipped with a sound system, benches, walls to put up notices, where people are free to gather, a place which belongs to the community where

people would naturally come whenever they think something should be done about the community.

Capacity: 880 people.

Planning: The major parts are

(i) the foyer

(ii) the social hall - gymnasium

(iii) the stage

(iv) changing rooms

(v) stores

The Foyer: This is mainly for circulation. It provides space for

(i) entrance

(ii) box office

(iii) queues

(iv) movement into stairs, snack bars, etc.

Social Hall - Gymnasium: The social hall - gymnasium is used for a variety of social activities such as dancing, banquets, basket ball and other forms of athletics, general meetings, social recreation, active table games, drama and concerts. The hall should be equipped with a public address system, permanently installed with match speakers and with outlets for additional microphones and phonographic equipment. All stage lighting should be modern and should be controlled from a dimmer control cabinet equipped with a rheostat. Provision should be made for television installation.

The hall as gymnasium: A hall of 29m x 26m can accomodate four badmington games or two basket ball games or one hockey game or ten to twelve table tennis games or two volleyball games, all of recreational

standard. The same floor may provide for international standard in one or two sports and at the same time offer a wide variety of other activities at a lower standard.

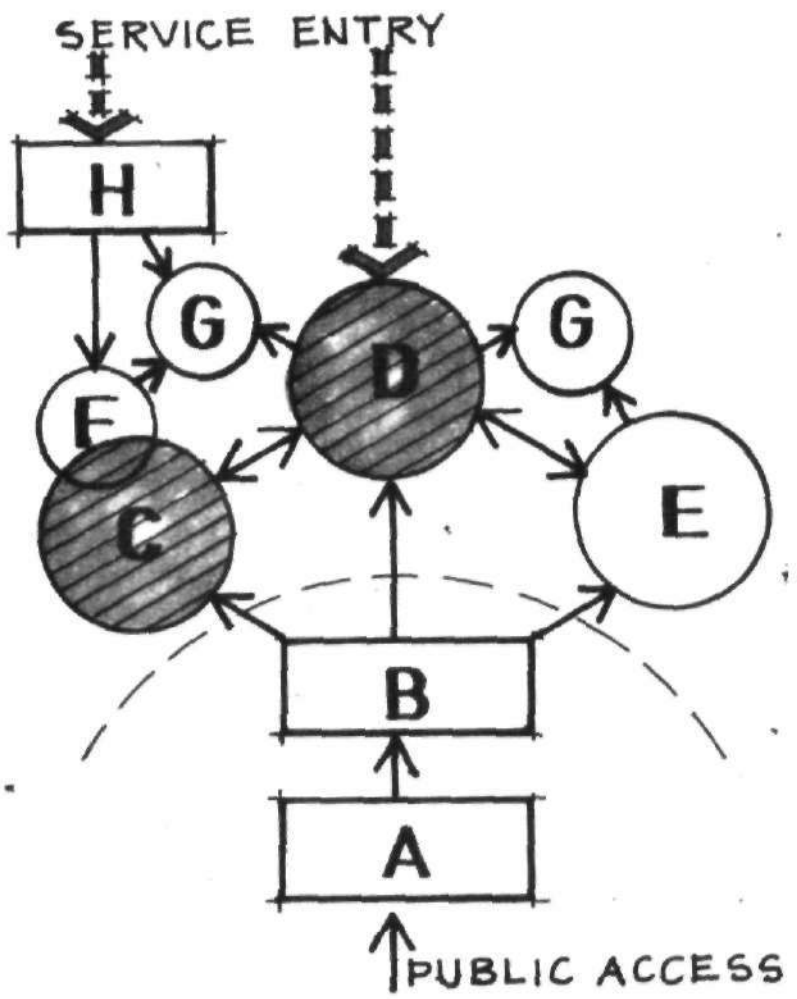
Gymnasiums are general purpose spaces intended to cater for a variety of activities some of which take place simultaneously while others need exclusive use for a time.

The hall as discotheque: The discotheque is to cater for juju dancing and disco dancing. In the case of recorded music, a disc-jockey would be necessary to select and play the records. As the master of ceremony, he controls the mood and the music.

The lighting consists mainly of rotating mirrowed sphere and the pulsating strobe lighting. Popular disco lighting includes spot light, floodlights, coloured filters all of which can be ceiling mounted and synchronized with the sound so that by frequency banding, the light produced becomes an analogue to the music or alternatively they may be controlled by a dimmer switch. Other types of lighting are the freshnett wash effect, chaser lights and the ultraviolet light which makes clothing appear luminescent. The music equipment may consist of two disc turn-tables, space for storing discs, two cassette players and a control panel. The number, order and space necessary for the accomodation of stereophonic speakers depends on the dance area and available finances.

The Stage : The stage proper should be about 6.1m in depth and the opening should be at least two-thirds the width of the room.

Changing Room: A room for the purpose of changing clothes is necessary and should be in close proximity to the hall. The changing rooms should be provided with enough shower heads and toilets.



DISCOTHEQUE: space rel. diagram

A ENTRANCE FOY.E
B BOX OFFICE
C DANCE FLOOR
D SNACKS/BAR
E SOCIALISING SP.
F DJ & STAGE
G TOILETS
H DRESSING

Fig. 16.

Stores:

(i) The equipment storage room should be at least $23m^2$ with an opening 1.8m wide with louvered flush doors between the hall and the store.

(ii) Furniture storage room.

(iii) Discotheque equipment store.

Space Areas:

Foyer	- $169m^2$
Hall	- $764m^2$
Stage	- $133m^2$
Male changing room	- $25m^2$
Female changing room	- $25m^2$
Sports equipment store	- $27.5m^2$
Discotheque equipment store	- $27.5m^2$
Table store	- $25m^2$
Chair store	- $25m^2$

5.3. AMPHITHEATRE

No fixed specifications have yet been drawn which are applicable to outdoor theatres everywhere.

Capacity: 1000 people

Planning: The major parts are:

(i) The Entrance

(ii) The Box Office

(iii) The Auditorium

(iv) The Stage

(v) Backstage

(vi) Dressing rooms.

The Entrance: The entrance should be well marked, simple and attractive and near enough to the parking lot in order to keep older people from tiring themselves while getting to the theatre. There should be a separate entrance for cast and crew.

The Box Office: The box office should be convenient to both parking lot and entrance to the theatre. It should be provided with windows for advanced sales and reserve seats and should be near toilet facilities.

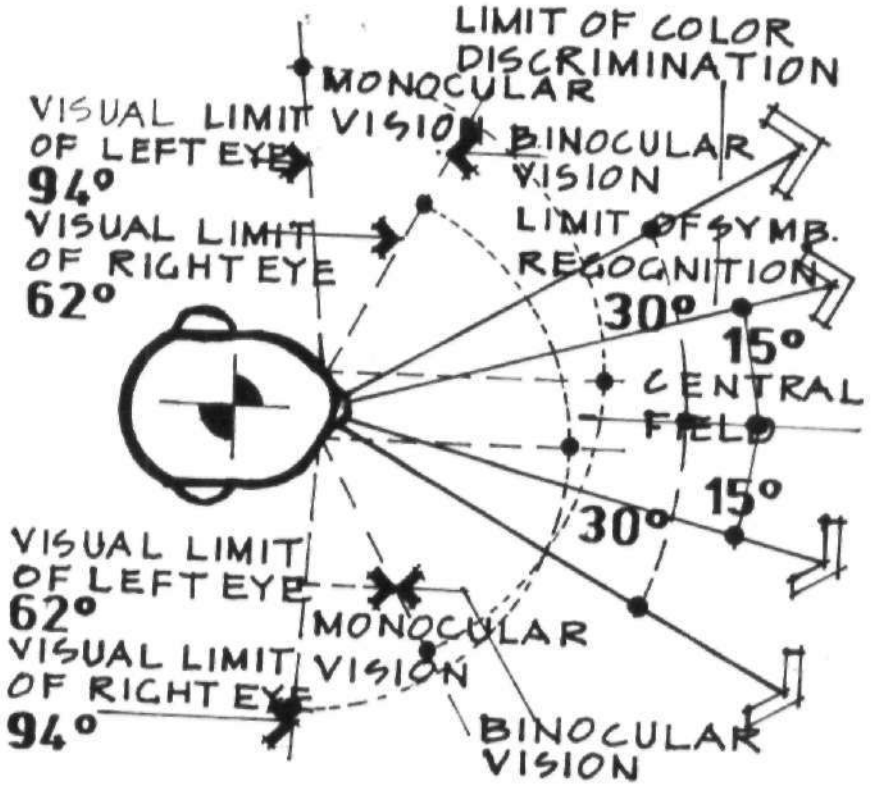
The Auditorium: Of primary importance are good hearing and good sight lines to every part of the performance areas. A very wide auditorium may have good acoustics but poor sight lines, while a very narrow auditorium will tend towards the reverse. It should be noted however that in African theatre the emphasis is not on sight lines but more on the relationship between the actors and the audience.

Acoustics: Effective acoustical planning depends on the correct placement of reflective surfaces for all sounds involved in the performance.

Sightlines: One of the first aids to good sightlines is an effective slope. Seats may be set on a rising parabolic curve or on two different inclines, a fairly mild slope for the lower half of the auditorium 12° or a rise of 1 minute in 7 and a steeper slope for the upper rear half 24° or a rise of 1 minute in $3\frac{1}{2}$ or steeper.

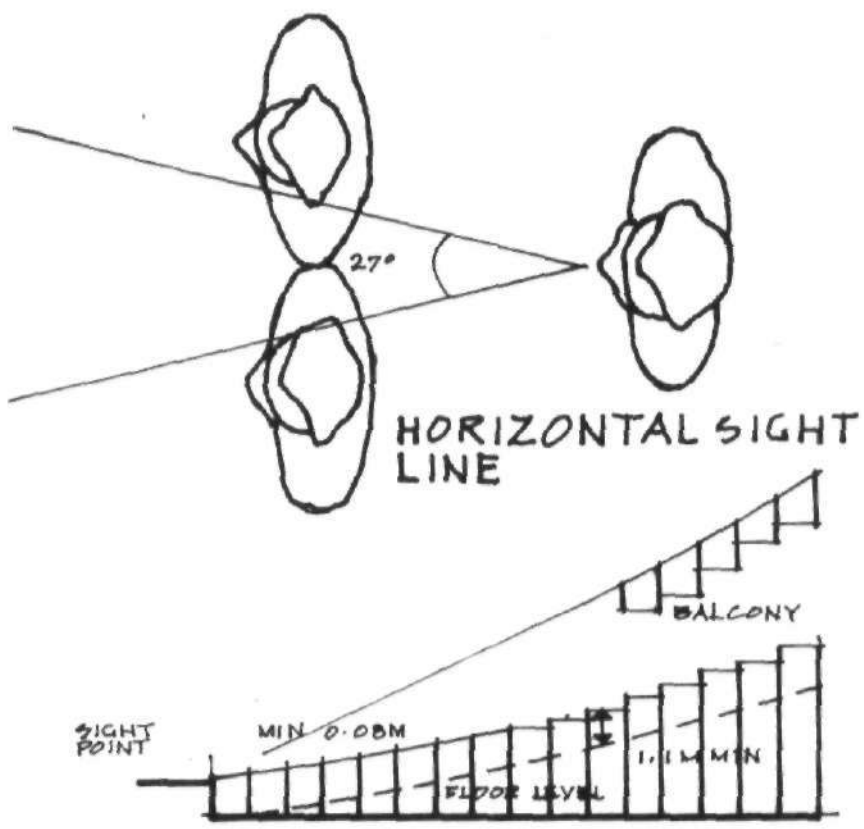
Aisles: There should be at least five aisles, two down the centre, two down the outside and one cross aisle at the break between the two slopes.

If the central seating area in the back section is very wide, it can be broken by an additional longitudinal aisle extending from the top down to the cross aisle. All stepped sections should be illuminated by small hooded lights.



VISUAL FIELDS

Fig. 17.



GEOMETRIC DETERMINATION OF SIGHT LINES

Fig. 18.

Seating: The seating may be provided by sturdy wooden benches with plank backs by benches surmounted by clamped on plastic sport seats or by individual metal seats with or without arms. The most satisfactory seats seems to be either study metal and canvas folding chairs or chairs with tough preformed plastic seats. All seats should be clearly numbered. The width of each seat should not be less than 0.46m and need not be more than 0.58m. A comfortable width is about 0.53m.

Additional Facilities:

(i) Toilets whould be placed and housed where they are convenient to both sides of the auditorium but should not be noisy and be of sufficient number to accomodate the peak requirements which occur just before a performance and during an intermission.

(ii) Rain shelters should be provided on both sides of the seating area or at the back, for use in case of sudden showers.

(iii) Concession booths should be provided on each side of the auditorium.

(iv) There should be good paving (not loose gravel which is very noisy) and good drainage everywhere.

(v) There should be sufficient auditorium lighting to let patrons read their programs easily and high enough to be out of their eyes.

(vi) Signs should be provided, placed where they will indicate clearly to the patrons where the various sections of the seats are, as well as the toilets and the refreshment centres.

(vii) There should be provision of a public address system for announce-ents to the audience on rainy nights.

The Stage: Recommended Features:

(i) Level ground, well drained and preferably surfaced with either cement or asphalt.

(ii) In some cases, it will be necessary to include anchoring devices for jacks, flanges and stage braces, supporting heavy movable scenery set directly and permanently into the hard surface of the stage floor.

(iii) Electrical outlets for stage lighting and for the convenient attachment of special effects such as camp fires.

(iv) Unless a steep embarkment or a clump of tall trees can serve as an acoustical background, a high wooden or masonry wall should be errected behind the stage to provide a sounding board at the rear of the acting areas.

Backstage: Recommended Features:

(i) There should be plenty of free space for the assembling of actors, the organizing of groups and the massing of crowd voices for off stage effects.

(ii) Property tables should be placed in locations convenient to both sides of the main stage.

(iii) There should be adequate spaces for the storing and sheltering of the portable scenery units and properties.

(iv) There should be proper drainage in every part.

(v) All the permanent wiring should be run underground where it cannot strip the actors or interfere with the movement of scenery and properties.

(vi) Some controlled illunination should be provided for back stage operations, well shielded so no direct or reflected lighting will be seen by the spectators.

(vii) There should be sufficient space for the drying of scenery, costumes and properties the morning after a rain.

(viii) A bulletin board for nighly directions to actors and technicians should be set upon a free and convenient spot, a little away from any of the main fraffic lanes onto the stage.

The Dressing Rooms: Recommended Features:

(i) The placement and size of the dressing rooms will depend to a large extent on local topography and on the number of actors in the show.

(ii) The dressing rooms should be as near the wings as possible without interfering in any way with the back stage movement of scenery and actors.

(iii) The dressing rooms should be completely out of the view of the audience. Care should be taken to see that no light shining through a door or window finds its way directly or indirectly to the eyes of the spectator and that noises in the dressing rooms are not heard out front.

(iv) The dressing rooms may be laid out as a group of small units to take care of small groups of actors or as larger rooms capable of taking care of big groups of men and women.

(v) A shelf-type make up table of 0.46m width and 0.76m height should be built round the walls of the dressing rooms with a 0.76m or 0.91m space for each actor. In front of each actor will be a

make up mirror with a 75-watt light on each side. Benches or chairs 0.46m high sufficient for all make up positions should be provided.

(vi) Showers, lavatories and toilet facilities must be supplied for each large dressing room or dressing room area. there should be at least

. one toilet for each six persons

. one shower for each six persons

. one wash basin for each four persons

. several urinals for men

. more toilets for women.

Lighting Control Equipment:

The lighting control booth should allow the operator full vision of all acting areas which are to be lighted. The best location in the theatre is above the rain shelter higher over the rear of the audience.

Amphitheatre as Cinema: The principle accomodation of the cinema comprises the auditorium, projection suite and ancillary accomodation.

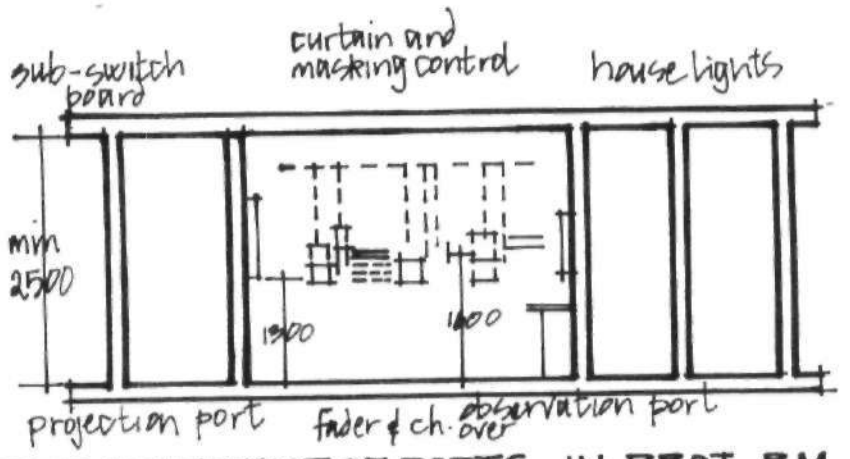
The Auditorium: The auditorium used will be the auditorium of the amphitheatre.

Capacity: 1000 persons

Stage Screens: Where auditoria are to be equipped for both stage performance and cinema exibitions, many compromises are necessary. The picture screen is flat in use and is about 6.0m in length. The cinematograph screens should be kept as low as possible and if necessary the front rows of stalls left empty during film shows.

Projection Suite: Recommended features:

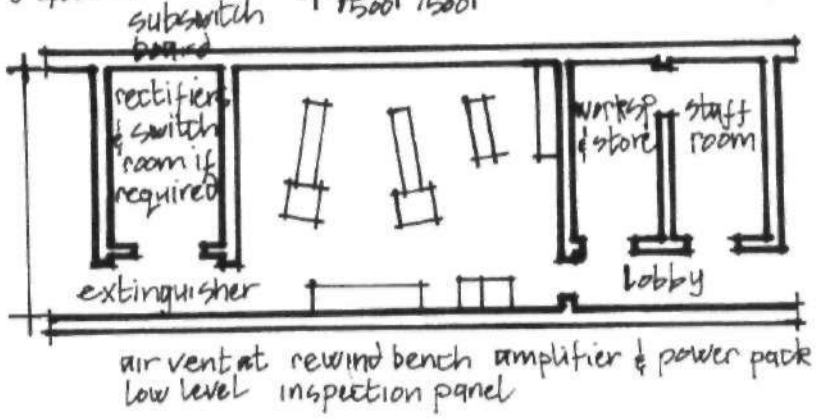
(i) The projection suite has no connection to the auditorium except through projection openings.



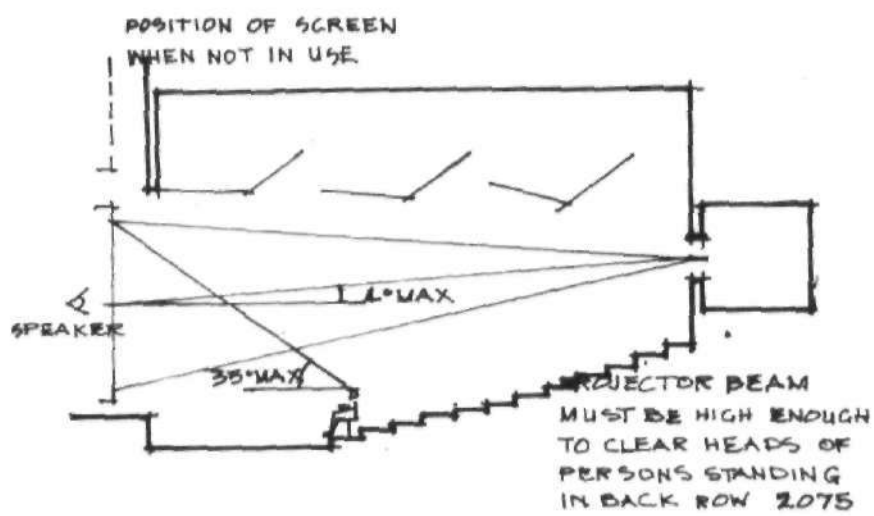
ARRANGEMENT OF PORTS IN PROJ. RM

a 4000 mm
b 3900 mm
c 4600 mm

a : 3900 min equip.
b : 5500 effects lantern. spot light incl.
c : 1300 most mordern commercial cin



LAYOUT OF PROJECTION SUITE



FILM PROJECTION

Fig. 20.

(ii) Windows must be open outside.

(iii) One exit must lead directly to the open.

(iv) Walls and ceiling must be fireproof.

(v) Smallest height should not be less than 2.8m.

Space Areas:

Box Office	- $4.5m^2$
Auditorium	- $1129.5m^2$
Lighting control booth	- $25m^2$
Projection suite	- $28m^2$
Stage	- $85.5m^2$
Male dressing room	- $30m^2$
Female dressing room	- $30m^2$

5.4 LIBRARY

Most libraries tend to ellicit some kind of submissive behaviour from its users, this consists of tip-toeing and hush-hush type of self control which are not really necessary if the library is properly designed. To encourage exploration,stacks should be made as attractive as possible. Special displays which are often kept in the lobbies where they are not needed should be incorporated directly on the stacks. Also stacks should not be too close together so that two people looking at opposite shelf spaces can bend down at the same time without bumping into each other. Making the stacks part of the reading room environment is inefficient in terms of space use but is more efficient in getting people to explore a pleasant and book loaded environment.

There should be lounging areas provided where conversation is acceptable. A reading room that has round tables surrounded by four or five chairs is a design that strongly ecourages personal interaction. For demanding tasks, a modularized area is needed. The periodical room should be abolished as a separate room and should be incorporated into the reading room. The informal areas should occupy the bulk of the space. These areas should be as pleasant as possible with lots of plants, comfortable chairs and pleasing colour schemes.

Recommended Features:

(i) The library should be sited so as to ensure maximum accessibility.

  (a) It should be at street level entrance with as little setback as possible.

  (b) It should have enough windows on street frontage so that books and people within serve as constant invitation to use the library.

(ii) The design concept should be simple.

  (a) Load bearing walls should be kept to a minimum and maximum use of shelving and furniture made to separate different service areas.

  (b) When space permits, it should be a one floor plan with all public service on the ground floor.

(iii) There should be ease of supervision by library staff.

  (a) There should be a single public entrance within short distance of the circulation desk.

  (b) A librarian or assistant should not be responsible for areas more than 16.7m beyond his desk.

  (c) Public toilets, telephones and display cases should be located where they can be supervised by circulation desk personnel.

(iv) There should be provision for future expansion.

Specific Areas:

(a) Exhibit Area: The ideal location is between the entrance and the desk.

(b) Circulation Desk: It should be located so as to provide maximum control of entrance, exits and reading areas.

(c) Meeting Room: The traffic to this area should not conflict with regular library operations.

(d) Reference Area: It should be planned as a dead end area with little or no traffic through it to other parts of the library

Planning:

(i) Entrance

(ii) Meeting room

(iii) Adult lending area

(iv) Adult reference area

(v) Periodicals and Newspapers area

(vi) Childrens lending area

(vii) Coffee lounge

(viii) Kitchen and lavatories

(ix) Staff offices

(x) Staff room

(xi) Workroom

(xii) Stack/bookstore

(xiii) Rest room.

Entrance: The entrance should be welcoming and should reduce entry of noise and draught. Visual stimulation should be provided. Adequate control is needed to prevent loss of books through the exit.

Meeting Room: Meeting rooms meet general classes of need. They can be utilized for children's story hours, discussion groups, staff meetings and other library sponsored activities. To be of maximum value, the room should be arranged for easy and effective use of audio-visual equipment. In addition, there should be adjacent closet space for storage of blackboards, folding tables, chairs and related equipment.

Adult Lending Area: The adult lending area should allow for circulation of readers, accomodation of staff,counters and catalogues, and for thirty informal seats without table space. The number of volumes to be provided is 18,600 volumes.

Adult Reference Area: The adult reference area should accomodate 1,200 volumes and twenty-five readers.

Periodicals and Newspapers: The periodicals and newspapers area should accomodate twenty readers.

Childrens Lending: The childrens lending areas should accomodate 6,000 volumes and twenty readers.

Staff Offices: Administrative offices should include a combination of librarains office - trusteee room, spaces for assistant librarian and a secretary typist, business office and other related office spaces.

Workroom: Workroom areas should provide for technical processing, reference, circulation, extension, subject specialists and supply storage.

Staffroom and Restroom: Comfort facilities for the staff should include cooking and lunch room areas as well as appropriate locker, lounge and toilet facilities for both men and women.

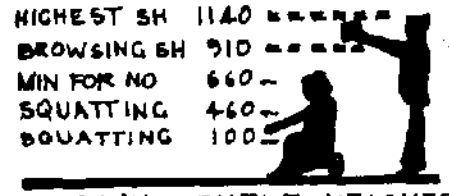
Stack/Bookstore: Load bearing stack units are no longer favoured. Multi-floor closet stacks inhibit flexibility and require book hoist, with staff captive on each floor. Large area stacks are more flexible, the maximum horizontal distance from bookshelf to exit or book elevator is 33m. A variation for closed stack storage is compact moveable shelving of which the most common is the right angle roller type. It saves 50% of floor space compared with static units but it is expensive and creates extra floor loading. However, there is space saving of 40% in static shelving if the aisles are reduced from 0.9m to 0.55m wide.

Furniture:

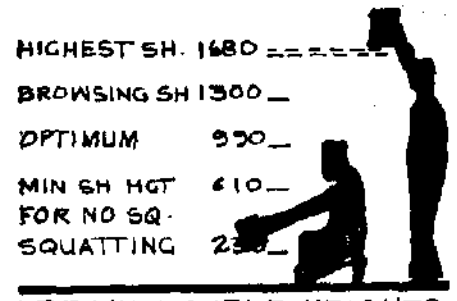
Shelving Units: The most widely used type is metal shelving, individually adjustable, single sided and double sided. The unit height is 2.0m for the loan area, 1.5m for the childrens area and 2.3m for bookstack area. The shelf depth is 0.2-0.3m for children's books, 0.2m for fiction, literature, history, politics, economics and law books and 0.3m for scientific, technical and medical books.

The width of a shelving unit is generally 0.9m. The main routes in open access areas have a clear width of 1.8m while minor routes have widths of 1.2m.

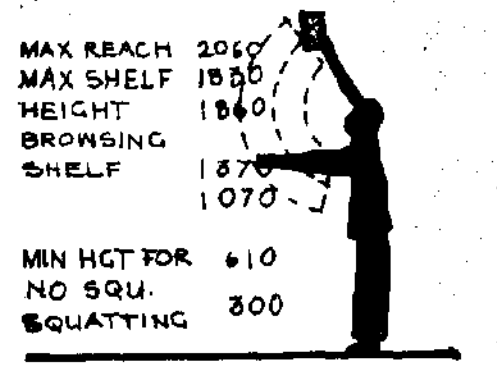
Book Stacks: The optimum length of shelving is 6 units (5.4m) while the maximum length is 8 units (7.2m) but 4 units (3.6m) were accessible only from one end. Where the shelving is open stack, the centres of islands are



OPTIMUM SHELF HEIGHTS
FOR CHILDREN

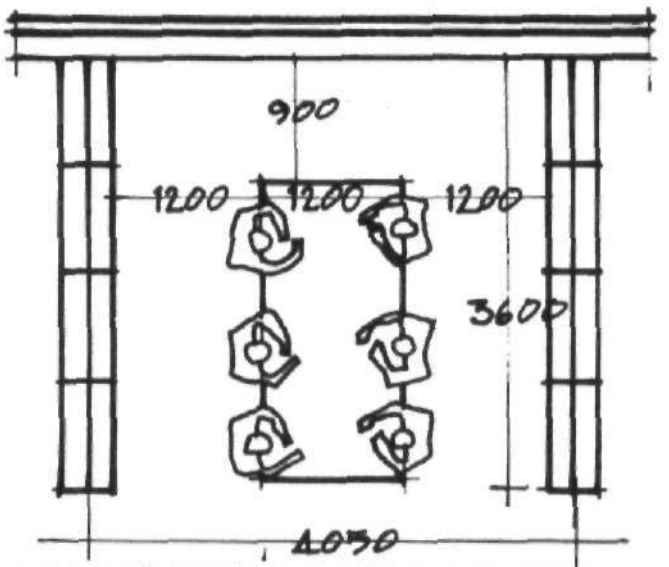


OPTIMUM SHELF HEIGHTS
FOR TEENAGERS

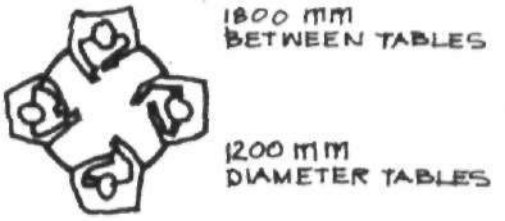


OPTIMUM SHELF HEIGHTS
FOR ADULTS

Fig. 21.



RECOMMENDED MIN FOR OPEN ACCESS BOOKSHELVES ARRANGED AS ALCOVES WITH TABLES



ROUND READING TABLES

Fig. 22.

1.28m-1.54m giving a standard of 164 vol/m^2. Where it is closed stack, the centres are 1.06m to 1.28m giving a standard of 200-215 vol/m^2. Derivations from stack centre figures will give choice of economic structural grid dimensions at centres of 5.4m, 6.0m, 6.85m, 7.31m, 7.62m, 7.75m and 8.35m.

The work table should be 0.9m x 0.6m per reader. In community libraries the trend is away from formal reading rooms towards small scattered alcoves and nooks.

Finishes and Services: The general floor areas should be carpeted except for the stack and work areas. The floor of the stack area should be in a pale colour to reflect light to books on the lowest shelves. For the walls and columns natural wood, fabric or quiet paint colours should be considered. Allowance for an air conditioning plant should be made.

Space Areas

Entrance	- 20.44m^2
Meeting Room	- 91.9m^2
Adult lending area	- 279.0m^2
Adult reference area	- 68.4m^2
Periodicals and Newspapers area	- 60.0m^2
Childrens lending	- 138.0m^2
Coffee lounge	- 41.0m^2
Kitchen and lavatories	- 20m^2
Staff Offices	- 11.48m^2
Staff Room	- 41.80m^2
Workroom	- 39.2m^2
Stack/Book Store	- 28.6m^2
Rest room	- 14.02m^2

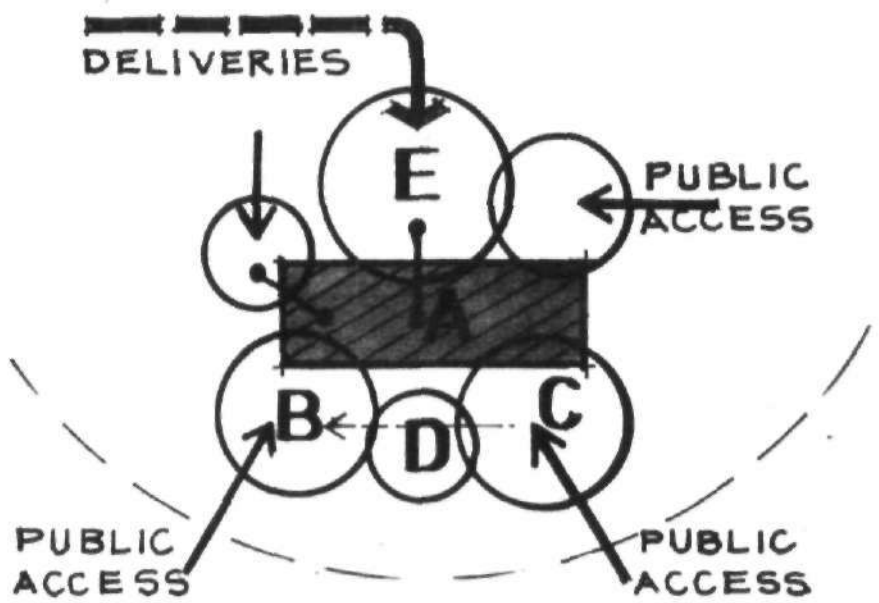
5.5. BAR

Bars are public houses designed for sociability. One can find amusement and commodities that will change the mood and relieve anxiety, companionship and escape from family or office. This is not due solely to the availability of alchohol, as the same atmosphere is found in Oriental tea houses, Arabian coffee houses and American taverns. In the bar, it should be possible to play indoor games, have a hot meal, and discuss politics.

Most bar rooms have long rectangular bars. The tables and chairs provided should be easily movable to encourage the formation of small informal groups and easy contacts among persons seated at different tables. An irregular arrangement of tables forces a person wanting to walk from one end of the bar to another to almost weave his way through. This creates some discomfort as far as efficient movement is concerned but it also makes possible greater eye contact and more exposure and gives a more informal atmosphere.

Most working class bars share one interesting feature - they have windows, suggesting a social attitude towards drinking. Anyone on the street can go in or not. It should be well lit, modest in decor and the bar should be long and straight. Prices of drinks always low are prominently displayed. Usually there is a juke box, which is normally silent. There should be an area for indoor games like darts and ayo.

Decor should be simple - plain wooden tables and chairs. Most of the patrons would be regulars, they would know each other and gather in the evening to drink, nibble and amuse themselves at relatively low cost. Ideally, the bar should contain a delicatessen-style kitchen offering



BARS: space relationship diagram.

A SERVERY
B DRINKING ROOM
C DRINKING ROOM
D LAVATORIES
E STORAGE

Fig. 23.

inexpensive but filling food during the lunch hour as well as in the evening.

Planning: Bars can be divided into two parts

(i) Public areas - one or more bars, together with lavatories where the customers are allowed.

(ii) Private areas - confined to staff use. These include services, cellars, kitchen and staff accomodation.

Requirements peculiar to the pub are:

(i) drink delivery

(ii) drink storage

(iii) drink dispensing

Drink Delivery: In Nigeria, vehicles deliver by bottle or kegs (palmwine)

Drink Storage: The vehicular access must be convenient for the cellars which may be below ground, at ground level or in rare cases at an upper level. The cellar must be planned to store the following in an economic manner:

(a) Kegs

(b) Bottles, usually in cases stacked on top of one another

(c) Wines and spirits, usually stacked in a separate store on shelves.

Dispensing: There are three elements to the servery, i.e. the bar counter, the back bar fitting and servery space between. The bar counter should accomodate at least one sink, glasses may be stored in racks above the counter and standard heights are important. The back bar fitting will comprise a sideboard top, below this level will be stored bottled beer,

sometimes, on cooled shelves. Above the sideboard top will be a display fitting which will accomodate spirits, glasses and other items. The servery space is governed by ease of working as opposed to economy of area.

Space Areas

Seating space for 60 people	- 120m^2
Cold store	- 6.5m^2
Empties store	- 6.5m^2
Store	- 6.5m^2
Manager	- 12.0m^2
Male toilet	- 3.0m^2
Female toilet	- 3.0m^2

5.6 RESTAURANT

The tables should be set close together and should have colourful and stimulating place settings. If possible, sidewalk cafes should be incorporated into the restaurant using several stacks of folding chairs, tables, and coloured umbrellas. Food draws people and they draw more people.

Planning:

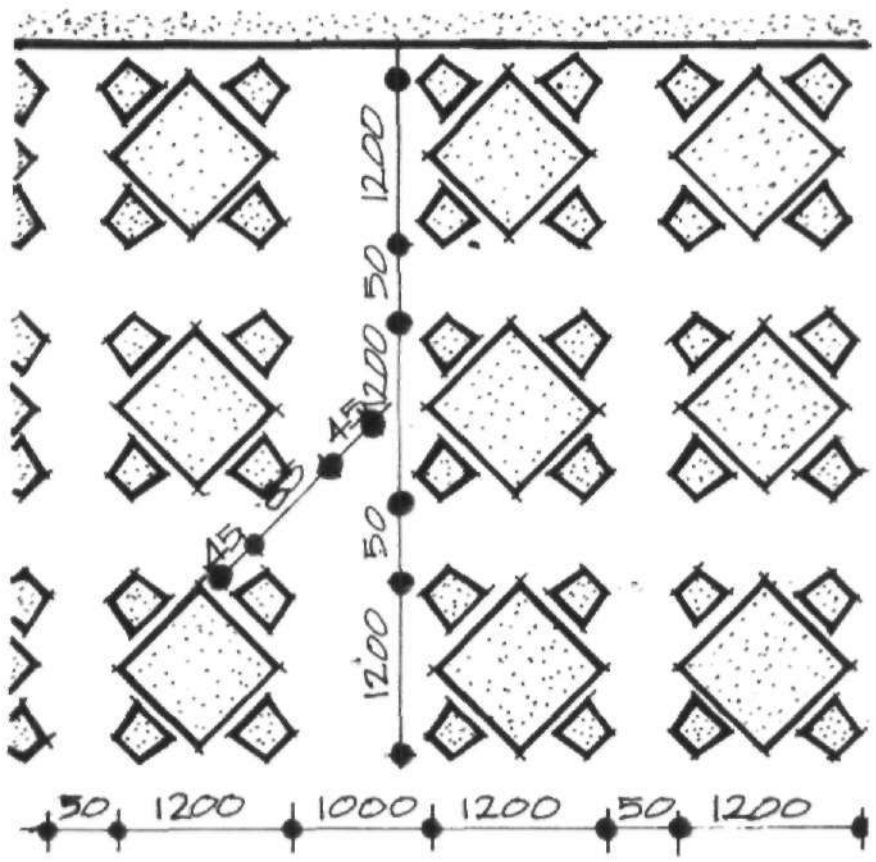
(i) Seating.

(ii) Service.

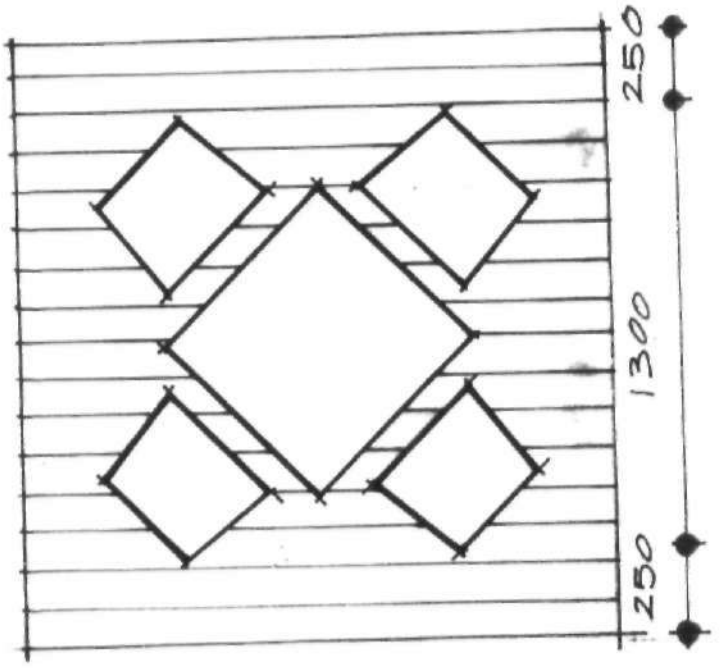
Seating: A diagonal seating arrangement which seats four provides economy of space.

Service:

Kitchen: The kitchen is to be equipped for both traditional and foreign menus. The ratio of dining to kitchen area is 2:1. The ratio of



DIAGONAL TABLE
ARRANGEMENT

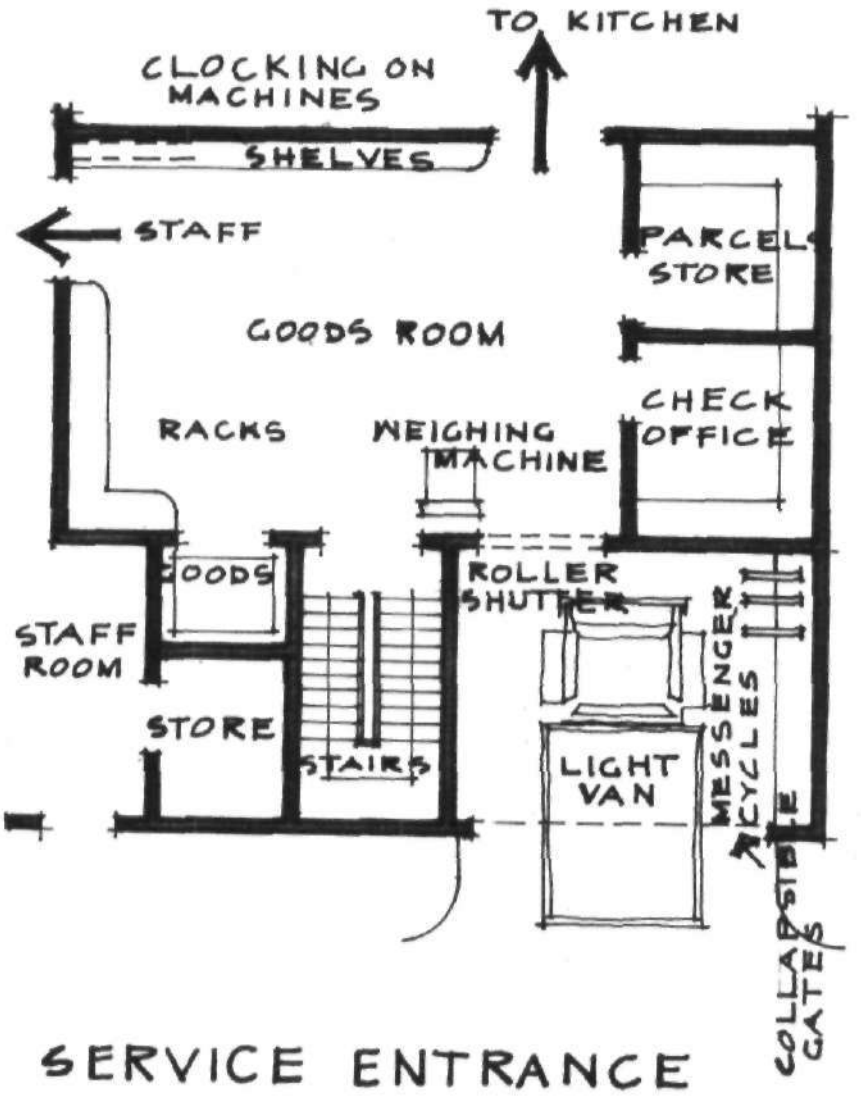


SQUARE TABLE : DIAGONAL LAYOUT

Fig. 25.

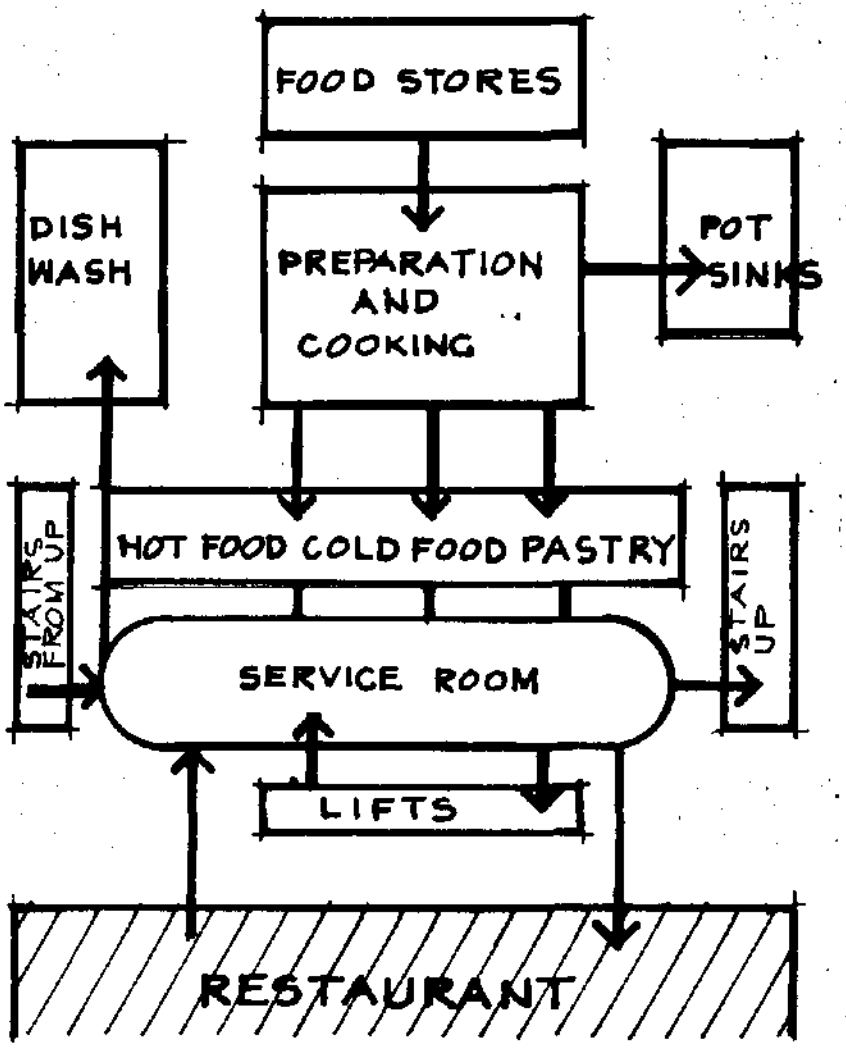


Fig. 26.



SERVICE ENTRANCE

Fig. 27.



KITCHEN SERVICE CIRCULATION

Fig. 2

total kitchen area to area required for servery, stores, offices and staff facilities is 2:1

Space Areas:

Restaurant	- 90.0m^2
Preparation	- 7.5m^2
Service	- 10.0m^2
Staff facilities	- 6.0m^2
Cooking area	- 10.0m^2
Wash up area	- 4.0m^2
Vegetable store	- 1.75m^2
Dry goods store	- 2.0m^2
Deep freeze store	- 1.0m^2
Cold room	- 1.2m^2
Goods entry area	- 1.50m^2
Refuse storage area	- 1.50m^2

5.7 SHOPS

(i) Supermarket: Supermarkets sell food and similar domestic necessities on self services lines. The goods are arranged on a proprietory display system, with shelves against the walls of the shops or in a central areas in islands known as gondolas. Supermarkets need properly organised unloading and storage facilities.

(ii) Pharmacy: A pharmacy handles prescriptions, sundries and cosmetics. It may also have departments for tobacco, film, greeting cards, books and certain household items. The prescription department is usually in the rear of the store, with a small seating or waiting area.

(iii) Bookshop: Each customer in a bookshop requires privacy, direct access to the books displayed and efficient light for comfortable vision. While reading books, buying customers like to browse and nothing is less attractive to them than crowded circulation. A plan which by means of low book shelving provides alcoves or selling recesses into which customers can be drawn out of the main circulation is ideal. Fairly high intensities of lighting should be assured, not only on shelves and displays, but everywhere to permit book reading without discomfort in any part of the shop.

Non-selling areas consist of wrapping and cash register space, small office and employees lavatory and necessary space for mechanical system equipment. In small one-man shops, wrapping, cash register and office space may be combined and located near the entrance for easy supervision.

Lighting is preferably high in intensity and without glare. Direct lighting concentrated on the fixtures selling zone - the area of the counter and of the two or three shelves immediately above counter height has been found satisfactory. Complete air conditioning will aid in preserving stock and is often necessary to increase the comfort of customers in the rather confined alcove spaces.

Space Areas

Supermarket	- $200m^2$
Pharmacy	- $75m^2$
Bookshop	- $75m^2$
Shops	- $60m^2$

5.8 OFFICES

The design concept of office landscaping was introduced in the 1950s. A series of post occupancy studies were carried out in Sweden on both open plan offices as opposed to traditional ones. They found out that the two qualities giving the most problems in open plan offices were acoustics and ventilation, but that light and layout were also crucial factors. Other studies have shown that in open-plan versus closed-plan offices the following apply:

(i) There is no significant difference in the amount of management time spent on most activities.

(ii) Conferences are the only activity which are held for longer periods of time.

(iii) There is no overall improvement in worker efficiency

(iv) There is more collaboration and communication among workers.

(v) Some workers feel greater amount of tension and irritability.

(vi) Some have a greater feeling of supervision and being checked upon.

(vii) Many management personnel felt a decrease in stature by virtue of loss of clear territorial and status images and therefore

(i) there is more use of objects and the organization of space as territorial markers

(ii) there are great individual differences, some employees definitely preferring the open structure, open visual appearance and open information access.

Open-plan offices seem most suitable for groups not having high individual privacy or high territorial needs and for groups who are internally cohesive or who are relatively homogenous with respect to personality and tasks.

Awe Development Corporation:

The most appropriate form for the Awe Development Corporation would be a design office because intensely interactive project based groups can keep in loose touch with one another. Landscaped offices are very suitable for this form which has the following characteristics:

(i) Group identity and territorial definition is sustained with day to day re-arrangement potential.

(ii) It allows easy access for visitors.

(iii) High interaction, low subdivision, low bureaucracy, low differentiation.

Bank: Bank space can be divided into three - these are public space, operations and executive suite.

(i) Public Space:

(a) The lobby must be easily accessible to the public, it contains reception/information, loan officers, tellers and cheque writing tables.

(b) Access to the safety deposit vault should be provided for customers and access to the money vault for tellers.

(ii) Operations:

This is the department that makes sure the bank is run on a steady professional basis. It takes care of all the clerical work required to run the bank and keep its records in order. Sections under operations include book-keeping, proof department, data

processing area, clerical, mail and other various services, fireproof records vault, safety deposit vault, general services, trust department and meeting room.

Executive Suite: This usually contains offices for management personnel

Planning Small Banks:

(i) In a small bank, each employee usually performs several functions, which must be considered when locating work areas. The teller area and the book keeping area should therefore be adjacent, allowing employees to move between the two quickly and with a minimum of steps.

(ii) The tellers and employees in the book keeping and machine area should have visual contact with the vault area to control access to the vault.

(iii) In small banks, the vault serves the dual purpose of money and record storage and safe deposit location therefore some control of customer traffic to this area is necessary.

(iv) The vault should have a ventilator to supply oxygen to the area in case someone is advertently locked inside.

(v) The small bank generally has three types of customers - those seeing the general teller, those writing cheques and making deposits and those seeing bank officials concerning loans and notes.

(vi) The bank officers desks should be located away from the main lobby.

Space Areas

Awe Development Corporation -

Bank -

Office -

5.9. OUTDOOR SPACE AND PLAZAS

Studies by Christopher Alexander have shown that public squares work best when they have a diameter of about 18 meters. At this diameter people often go to them, they become favourite places and people feel confortable. When the diameter goes above 21 meters, the square begin to seem deserted and unpleasant, the functional basis for this, being that a space begins to seem deserted when it has more than about 28 square meters per person. People feel half consciously tied together in plazas that have diameters of 21 meters, where they can make out the faces and half hear the talk of the people around them.

The life of a plaza forms naturally around its edge, if the edge fails, then the space never becomes lively. A plaza should therefore be surrounded by pockets of activity like shops, stands, benches, displays, rails, courts, gardens and new racks. The pockets of activity must alternate with access points and the edge must surround the space entirely.

Outdoor spaces which are merely left over between buildings will in general not be used. The space should have a definite shape and some degree of enclosure, in addition any place where people can feel confortable has a back and a view into a larger space. In any public space where people loiter there should be a few steps at the edge with the raised area being immediately accessible from below so that people may congregate and sit to watch.

A public space without a middle is quite likely to stay empty. Between the natural paths which cross a plaza, something should be placed roughly in the middle - a fountain, a tree, a statue, a clock tower with seats, a windmill or a bandstand. An object which gives a strong and steady pulse to the square, drawing people to its center.

People tend to sit most where there are places to sit. Sitting should be socially comfortable. This means choice - sitting up front, at the back, to the side, in the sun, in the shade, in groups, off alone. Choice should be built into the basic design, inherent suitability of basic features should be maximized for example by making ledges sittable or making other flat surfaces serve double duty as table tops or seats. Sitting heights should be between 0.30 meters and 0.91 meters. Ledges and spaces two backsides deep, seat more people comfortably than those that are not so deep, the ideal width is 0.76 meters to 0.91 meters. Benches and chairs should not be fixed as opposed to ledges and steps which are fixed. Fixed individual seats are not good. Social distance is a subtle measure, ever changing and the distances of fixed seats do not change, which is why they are rarely right for anybody. They also happen to be akward in open spaces because there is so much space around them. The square meters of sitting space on the best used plazas range between 6 and 10% of the total open space. In terms of linear meters, on the most popular plazas there were almost as many meters of sitting space as there were perimeter feet. The requirement is 0.3 linear meters of sitting space for every 3.0 square meters of plaza. Trees should be combined with sitting places because they provide a satisfying enclosure, people feel cuddled, protected, very much as they do under the awning of a street cafe.

5.10. PARK

The park to be provided is mainly for passive recreation. There, people can sit tiredly, sometimes to play or watch a game, to read or work, to show off, to keep an appointment, sometimes in the hopes of finding acquaintances, to get closer to a bit of nature, to keep a child occupied, sometimes

to see what is offered and almost always to be entertained by the sight of other people. The park should be a place where there are quiet walks, where people go to think, or pause, or have a private talk. If the park is to be quiet, a place where you can hear only natural sounds i.e. wind, birds, water, it is critical that it be protected and at the same time be away from the building it serves.

CHAPTER VI

THE DESIGN

6.1 CONCEPTS IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

The character or expression of any building can only be achieved if it is itself a total expression. Like any work of art, it must be dominated by a strong, simple concept with all of its parts being an active part of one dominant attitude.

A building must have a strong idea that is architectural rather than sculptural or painterly, one related to the activity taking place in the building. Buildings that come to be recognized as good architecture are generally those that accomodate a number of communications into a totality and succintly and elegantly express them. Forming a total architectural compostion, however can be extremely difficult. The communication content of a building may be extremely subtle and require the careful balancing of form to create the right order. Although a successful composition is seldom appreciated by the user, it does not mean that it hasn't affected them in someway. If the architectural form is not thought of as a sum total of its contents, strong contrasts will occur that will give totally misleading information.

6.1. DESIGN CONCEPT

The different spaces which make up the community centre are arranged around a central plaza, on three levels, thereby stressing the slope of the site. The concept of a large central plaza was adopted because it gives the different spaces a feeling of togetherness, thus encouraging a sense of community.

6.3 SITE PLANNING

The main entrance into the community centre is formal, giving a transition space from the outside to within. To give the entrance visual expression, it was formed as a figure against the background of the building. Many examples in architecture exist where there is no differentiation between the entry and the rest of the building making it difficult to differentiate between them both which can be extremely confusing and aggravating. The other entrances are looser and less formal. The shops/ offices blocks and the library are closer to the main entrance, with the multipurpose hall and the amphitheatre being further away because the shops/ offices block and the library are utilized on a continuous basis. A service entrance exist by the multipurpose hall which can be used by theatre companies, or for delivery for the various services within the centre.

6.4. BUILDING DESIGN

The buildings are regular in shape and arranged so as to relate well with the central plaza. Extensive use is made of corridors and balconies, which serve as a form of indoor street. In order for them not to become sterile and isolated, they have the following characteristics:

(i) They act as a thoroughfare, with spaces to stop and loiter and watch the scene.

(ii) They have enough width so that people can feel comfortable.

(iii) The indoor street is a continuation of the outside circulation.

(iv) The streets have a continuum of various involvements along its edge.

6.5. CIRCULATION

The main circulation route is around the plaza, with subsidiary circulation along the internal streets. Because of the many changes in level there is a ramped pedestrian walk straight across the plaza, for people handicapped by disabilities or by old age. An underground actors lobby serves as a connection path between the ground floor of the multipurpose hall and the amphitheatre stage and dressing rooms, having to be mechanically ventilated and provided with roof light.

6.6. STRUCTURE DESIGN

The structure for shops/offices block and library block is reinforced concrete A-frames spanning a distance of 14.5 meters, repeated at 6.0 meter intervals. The multipurpose hall has a different structural concept, a hyperbolic paraboloid shell structure being utilized to cover its span of 56 meters.

CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION

Although this design for a community centre for Awe might be regarded as being too radical considering the present level of development of the town, it should be noted that the town is already undergoing some major changes in order to achieve its aim of total transformation of the Awe community.

As previously mentioned the centre would have to be constructed in phases because of the problem of finance. The first phase would be the multipurpose hall and the amphitheatre, the second phase the office and shopping complex and the third phase the construction of the library.

The architectural character of the centre shall be such that it is appealing, welcoming and interesting enough to attract, sustain and retain the users long enough to achieve its goal and at the same time invite them on future dates.

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