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Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Department of Urban and Rural Development

A place to embrace

- A design proposal for Mkamasini, a public space in Old Ng'ambo, Zanzibar



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Jenny Fält & Louise Rådberg
Uppsala, 2016.



Abstract

For the first time in history more than half of the world's population lives in towns or cities. Developing countries are facing the highest urban growth without having capacity to provide shelter for urban dwellers. As a result, large-scaled areas with informal settlements have emerged.

Zanzibar, an autonomous part of Tanzania, has been experiencing increasing problems associated with informal settlements. The population density is high within these neighbourhoods and the private space is restricted. Therefore public open spaces are an important asset in informal settlements. They have the significance of being a living room for everyday life, where domestic work as well as social meetings take place. On Unguja, the main island of Zanzibar, the informal settlements are concentrated in Old Ng'ambo and Ng'ambo. Here, the haphazard streetscape consists of

irregularly placed low-rise buildings and a cluster of paths and alleyways. Larger open public spaces are rare in this context and existing spaces are threatened by house owners expanding their properties.

During a ten week field study, sponsored by a SIDA scholarship, the public space of Mkamasini in Old Ng'ambo was explored. The research was conducted in order to develop a design proposal for Mkamasini. The design will benefit the surrounding area and should be well anchored in its context. A proper plan of the space will ensure its future existence.

Mkamasini is a sun-exposed open space, defined by irregularly built surrounding residential houses. The vegetation is concentrated in the border zones and the space is scattered with trash and piles of building materials. Primarily Mkamasini is used as a passage although

the space has potential to comprise functions and activities to a greater extent.

The design proposal intends to strengthen and improve the present qualities of Mkamasini as well as upgrading its weaknesses. This is achieved by focusing on seven design guidelines, which was the result of the site study, dialogues and literature studies.

Our ambition is to present a design proposal that is realistic and able to implement in the context of Zanzibar. Therefore the design is adapted to limitations such as low maintenance, local materials and conventional construction traditions.

In a wider context, this project can serve as an inspiration of how to design public spaces on Zanzibar as well developing countries in general.

Sammanfattning

Inledning:

Detta examensarbete inom landskapsarkitektur innefattar ett gestaltungsförslag för den allmänna platsen Mkamasini i Old Ng'ambo, Zanzibar, Tanzania.

Utgångspunkten i arbetet var ett gemensamt intresse för landskapsarkitektur i utvecklingsländer. Ett Minor Field Study stipendium (MFS) gav oss möjligheten att basera uppsatsen på en 10 veckor lång fältstudie på Zanzibar.

Syftet med uppsatsen är att utforma ett gestaltungsförslag som ämnar att utveckla en allmän plats inom ett informellt bostadsområde i Old Ng'ambo. Designen ska gynna närområdet och vara välförankrat i dess kontext.

Förslaget grundar sig i en teoretisk- och en kontextbaserad bakgrund, dialoger med brukare av Mkamasini och lokala planerare på Zanzibar samt observationer, inventering och analyser av Mkamasini och dess närområde.

Uppsatsens huvudsakliga frågeställningar är:

- Hur fungerar Mkamasini som en allmän plats i dagsläget?
- Vilka kvalitéer kan utvecklas eller tilläggas för att Mkamasini ska bli en uppskattad allmän plats?

Ambition

Vi tror att en omgestaltning av en allmän plats i Old Ng'ambo kan höja livsstandarden för invånarna lika mycket som upprustning av själva husen. Utgångspunkten i projektet är att arbeta med den befintliga fysiska miljön i Mkamasini. Vår ambition är att undersöka hur en allmän plats kan gestaltas med små medel för att vara realistisk och genomförbar för stadsplaneringskontoret på Zanzibar.

Avgränsningar

Informella bostäder och små, oplanerade allmänna platser i täta bostadsområden är ett problem på hela Zanzibar. Vi var dock tvungna att avgränsa arbetet till ett specifikt område för att kunna koncentrera uppsatsen och dra relevanta slutsatser. Med uppmaning från vår lokala handledare på Zanzibar begränsades därför arbetet och gestaltungsförslaget geografiskt till Mkamasini i Old Ng'ambo.

Gestaltungsförslaget beskrivs genom illustrationsplaner, sektioner och visualiseringar på en konceptuell nivå. Vi har valt att fokusera på att skapa en bild av vad vår gestaltning skulle medföra med tanke på rumsliga kvalitéer, planerad aktivitet och funktioner. Därför inkluderar uppsatsen inte detaljriktningar eller budgetering.

För att säkerställa att förslaget är kontextuellt knutet till Zanzibar valde vi att i gestaltningen lyfta fram existerande kvalitéer i den fysiska miljön som vi identifierat under fältstudien. Som resultat omfattar förslaget ekonomiskt genomförbara lösningar samt inhemskt växt- och byggmaterial.

Målgrupp

Uppsatsen riktar sig till stadsplaneringskontoret på Zanzibar som inspiration för framtida utveckling av Mkamasini. Genom att föreslå en ny användning av Mkamasini kan arbetet även vara av intresse för de boende i området. Uppsatsen riktar sig också till andra studerande och yrkesverksamma inom landskapsarkitektur som ett exempel på hur



ZANZIBAR är en del av Tanzania och består av två öar, Pemba och Unguja. Old Ng'ambo är belägen i Zanzibar Town- huvudstaden på Zanzibar.

landskapsarkitekter kan arbeta med allmänna platser i ett utvecklingsland.

Metod

För att utforma ett gestaltungsförslag knutet till Zanzibar och skapa förståelse för allmänna platser generellt innefattar uppsatsen en platsstudie, dialoger med lokala planerare och brukare av Mkamasini, en workshop samt litteraturstudier.

Platsstudien introduceras med en kategorisering av allmänna platser i Old Ng'ambo. Vidare utgörs den av observation, inventering och analys av Mkamasini för att få en uppfattning om platsen och dess koppling till omgivningen.

Dialogerna genomfördes som kvalitativa intervjuer för att få nyanserade beskrivningar av hur människor på Zanzibar uppfattar Mkamasini och andra allmänna platser. Workshopen var utformad som ett spontant möte mellan oss och lokala konstnärer. I första hand utfördes den som inspiration i gestaltungsprocessen.

Litteraturstudierna består av en kontextuell bakgrund och en teoretisk bakgrund. Den kontextuella bakgrunden fokuserar på rådande förutsättningar på Zanzibar. Den teoretiska bakgrunden hanterar allmänna platser i allmänhet och vad som är viktigt att ha i åtanke vid planering av en allmän plats, oavsett kontext.

Bakgrund/Kontext

För första gången i historien bor mer än halva jordens befolkning i städer och över 90 procent av den urbana tillväxten sker i utvecklingsländer (The World Bank, 2009). Den snabba urbaniseringen har inneburit ett växande behov av bostäder och har som följd resulterat i en förändring i stadslandskapet. I utvecklingsländer, som tampas med problematik inom beslutande myndigheter samt fattigdom bland befolkningen, kan stora informella bostadsområden växa fram. Utvidgningen av slumområden hindrar en modern urban utveckling (Ohlsson 2013).

Trots att Zanzibar har en lång historia av fysisk planering upplever landet en ökning av problem kopplade till växande informella bostadsområden. Urbaniseringen i kombination med brister i

administration och planeringspolitik på Zanzibar gör att landet inte klarar av att möta kraven på exploatering och nya bostäder (Ali & Sulaiman 2006).

På en av Zanzibars två öar, Unguja, är de informella bostäderna koncentrerade i området Old Ng'ambo och Ng'ambo i Zanzibar Town. Här består stadslandskapet av låga, oregelbundet placerade hus och smala vägar. Området har utvecklats organiskt vilket skapar små öppningar som fungerar som allmänna platser (Ostergaard Nielsen & Kollerup Larsen 2012). Eftersom befolkningstätheten är hög och bostadshusen är små och trångbodda fungerar de allmänna platserna i Old Ng'ambo som invånarnas vardagsrum. Hushållssysslor så väl som sociala interaktioner tar plats i utemiljön (Ohlsson 2013).

På Zanzibars stadsplaneringskontor är allmänna platser betraktade som en viktig tillgång. Dessa platser kan gestaltas för att erbjuda större variation i aktivitet och funktion än idag. En annan fördel med planerade allmänna platser är att husägare hindras från att expandera sina hus på allmän mark¹.

Bakgrund- Mkamasini

Området Old Ng'ambo började utvecklas informellt på 1700-talet och har sedan dess återkommit som ett problemområde i Zanzibars alla översiktsplaner. Den allmänna platsen Mkamasini ligger i nordvästra delen av Old Ng'ambo, en bit från Stone Town. Platsen ramar in av oregelbundet placerade bostadshus och dess öppenhet är unik för det annars tätbebyggda området. Markbeläggningen utgörs av sand och grönskan är koncentrerad till kantzoner.

Under dagen utnyttjas Mkamasini framförallt som en passage. På platsen finns en Madrasa (islamisk skola) som bidrar till viss aktivitet. På kvällen fylls Mkamasini av barn som spelar fotboll eller basket. Leken slutar dock vid solnedgången eftersom gatubelysning saknas på platsen.

Mkamasini karakteriseras av att vara en mycket solexponerad plats. Utöver ett fåtal träd är det få element på platsen skuggar. Mkamasini upplevs även som misskött då det ligger mycket skräp spritt på platsen.

1. Rashid M. Azzan, Stadsplanerare och chef för Utredningsavdelningen på Stadsplaneringskontoret på Zanzibar. Intervjuades tisdagen den 1a mars 2016

Tack vare platsens värdefulla öppenhet och de människor som dagligen passerar, har Mkamasini potential att bli en välbesökt och omtyckt allmän plats. En lyckad omgestaltning kan innebära att Mkamasini fyller en självklar funktion som rekreations- och mötesplats för människor i närområdet.

Gestaltningförslag

Kunskapen vi tog med oss under arbetets gång sammanfattades i sju gestaltningsprinciper. Med hjälp av dem kunde vi göra relevanta designval i omgestaltningsarbetet av Mkamasini. Nedan följer de sju principerna och hur vi tolkade dem i förslaget.



Stay during the day! **(Stanna under dagen!)**

I den nya gestaltningen presenteras två aktivitetsnoder: en lekyta och en strukturerad sittyta med matförsäljning. Platsens mitt lämnas öppen för flexibel användning. De nya funktionerna och aktiviteterna är tänkta att göra Mkamasini till en allmän plats där människor vill uppehålla sig på en längre tid.



Cope with climate! **(Hantera klimatet!)**

Anpassa gestaltningen till det tropiska klimatet på Zanzibar. Det innebär att skapa bättre mikroklimat på platsen och att hantera stora vattenmängder vid monsunregn.



Include and involve! **(Inkludera och Involvera!)**

Mkamasini kopplas till omkringliggande vägar för att bli en naturlig nod att ta sig till för potentiella besökare. Platsen ska vara ett offentligt rum där alla är välkomna oavsett ålder eller kön.



Maintain to remain! **(Sköta för att bevara!)**

Skötsel är ett problem på många offentliga platser på Zanzibar. Platsen ska finansiera sin egen skötsel genom lokal försäljning. Dessutom ska platsen klara av att ge ett gott intryck trots låg skötselnivå.



Back to the roots! **(Tillbaka till ursprunget!)**

Förslaget tar hänsyn till Mkamasinis historia och ger nytt liv till bortglömda kvalitéer. Från intervjuer har vi fått veta att ett stort träd växte på platsen, att Mkamasini var mycket grönare förr och att det var mer folkliv.



Preserve but improve! **(Bevara men förbättra!)**

Mkamasini är en uppskattad plats. Genom små förändringar kan befintliga kvalitéer, till exempel platsens öppenhet, bevaras och svagheter förbättras.



Consider the context! **(Hänsyn till kontexten!)**

För att gestaltningen ska upplevas välanpassad till omgivningen var kontexten, kulturen och religionen viktig att förstå och ta hänsyn till. Genom att använda ett formspråk och material som lokalbefolkningen är vana vid kommer Mkamasinis nya utformning harmonisera med omgivningen.

Diskussion/Reflektion

Uppsatsen har bidragit till nya perspektiv på kunskap vi erhållit under utbildningen. Kontrasten mellan västerländska förhållanden och utvecklingsländer är stor, vilket innebar att vi fick anpassa vår kunskap till en nytt sammanhang.

Vår tid på Zanzibar var begränsad och vi är medvetna om att vi inte har en heltäckande förståelse för kulturen och människors behov. Det förslag vi presenterar är därför utformat utifrån våra praktiska förutsättningar och den kunskap vi har inom landskapsarkitektur.

Om detta projekt ska realiseras bör flera steg tas innan förslaget implementeras i Mkamasini. Det är viktigt att kommunen, stadsplaneringskontoret och brukare av platsen kommunicerar så platsen förvaltas väl. Vi har försökt att gestalta en plats som kräver minimal skötsel för att fungera i en kontext där skötsel av allmänna platser är oregelbunden eller helt saknas.

Abbreviations & Definitions

Baraza:

Stone benches that are part of the built structure of many traditional Swahili-style houses (Gunnarsson & Johansson, 2004, p.86).

Dala-dala:

Privately owned local mini-buses or pick-ups used for public transportation (Gunnarsson & Johansson, 2004, p.86).

Kanga

Colourful pieces of fabric, mostly worn by East African women (Gunnarsson & Johansson, 2004, p.86).

Madrasa

An Islamic school.

Mascan

Gathering spaces for men in public spaces, commonly in the shade underneath trees.

MFS

Minor Field Studies

"A scholarship programme for field studies in developing countries. It is intended for students at universities and university colleges with an international interest, who wish to gather material for their Bachelor or Master dissertations for periods of 8-10 weeks. (SIDA, 2016)"

Public space:

"A public space refers to an area or place that is open and accessible to all peoples, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, age or socio-economic level. These are public gathering spaces such as plazas, squares and parks. Connecting spaces, such as sidewalks and streets, are also public spaces" (UN-Habitat, no date).

Shehias:

Administrative units that are responsible for a certain geographical area.

SIDA

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

"Sida is a government agency working on behalf of the Swedish parliament and government, with the mission to reduce poverty in the world. Through our work and in cooperation with others, we contribute to implementing Sweden's Policy for Global Development (PGU) (Sida, 2014)."

Surrounding area:

The residents that will be affected by the redesign of Mkamasini. They live in a set geographical area around Mkamasini. See map on page 11.

Urujo

A traditional Zanzibari soup commonly sold in public spaces around Zanzibar Town.

Vibanda:

A small, local grocery shop in Swahili.

ZanPlan

The main comprehensive planning document on Zanzibar. It was conducted in 2015 with support from the World Bank and IDA (International Development Association) (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 25).

Table of contents

Introduction.....	9	Mkamasini in the surrounding area in Old Ng'ambo.....	23	A place to embrace.....	43
Preface and project background	10	-Site study		- The design	
Aim	10			Kanga: The concept of the design	44
Limitations	11	Categorisation of public space in Old Ng'ambo	24	Conceptual drawings	45
Target group	11	Representative types of public space in Old Ng'ambo	24	A place to embrace	46
		Representative physical elements found in public space	25	Illustrative plan	48
Methodology.....	12	Representative activities in public space	26	Visualisations	49
Work process	13	Analysis of the surrounding area	27	Sections	50
Site study	13	Map surrounding area	28	Illustraion light sealing	50
Dialouge	14	Inventory and observation of Mkamasini	29	Discussion & Reflections.....	51
Supporting litterature	14	Colours, materials and patterns	30	Discussion	52
Design process	14	Vegetation	30	Methodology discussion	53
		Activity at different times during the day	31	Personal reflections	54
Successful public space.....	15	Lynch analysis of Mkamasini	32	References	55
- Theoretical background		PPS and Swot	34		
Why is public space important?	16	Design considerations	35		
How can a public space be developed to become successful?	16	site study			
-Access and Linkages	16	Voices of Mkamasini.....	36		
-Comfort and Image	16	-Dialouges- interviews & workshop			
-Users and Activity	17	Interviews	37		
-Sociability	18	-Interviews with users of Mkamasini	37		
Design considerations	18	-Interviews with stakeholders	38		
theoretical background		Workshop			
		Design considerations dialouges	40		
Planning, people and public space on Zanzibar.....	19	From passage to place.....	41		
- Contextual background		- Seven design guidelines			
Current situation and history	20	Design guidelines	42		
-Location and administrative structure	20				
-History	21				
-Urbanisation och informal settlements	21				
-Economy	21				
-Climate	21				
-The Swahili culture and islamic religion	22				
Design considerations	22				
contextual background					

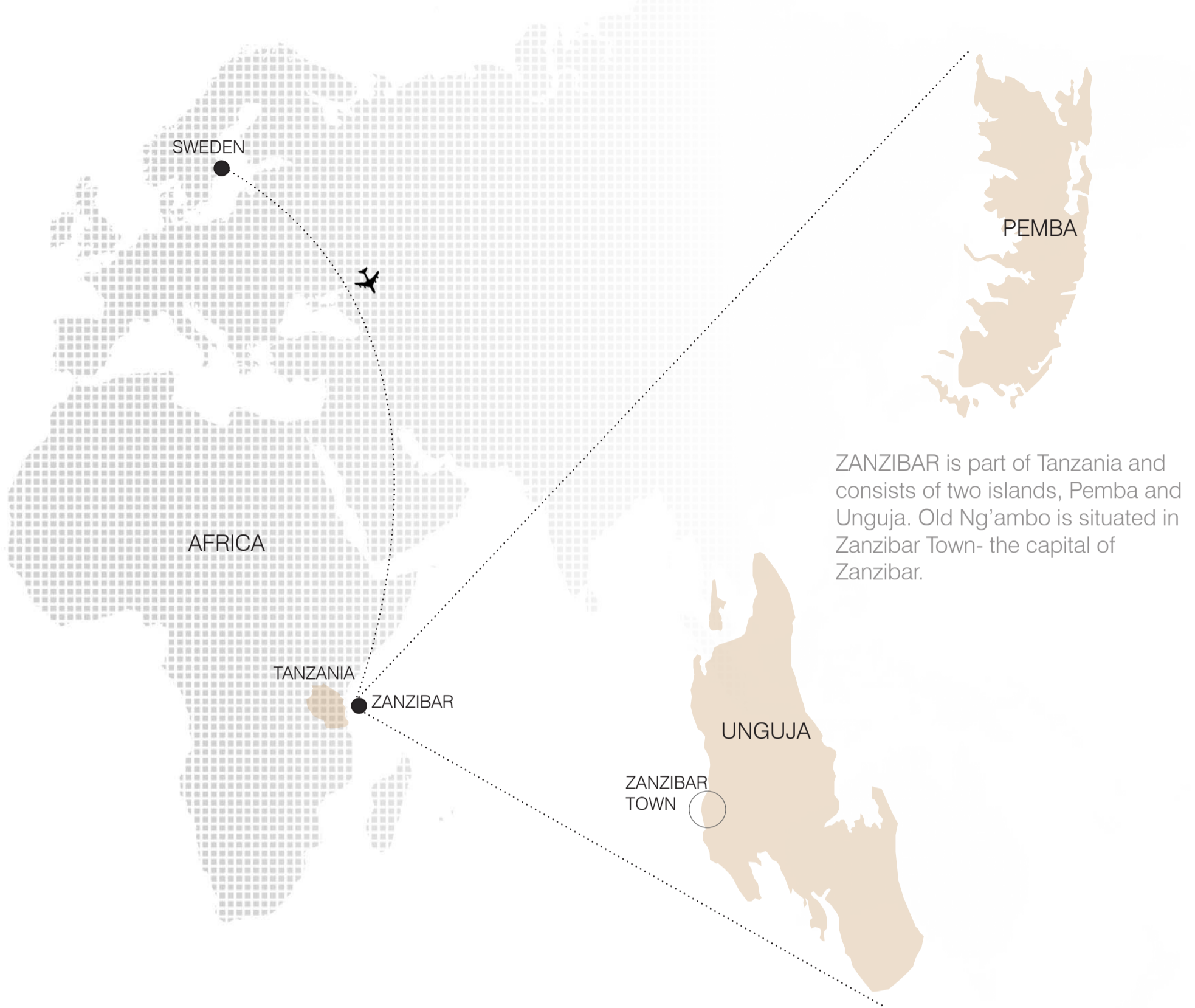
Picture of a public open space near Darajani Market in Zanzibar Town.

Many functions are accumulated in the same spot. Men have gathered on benches in the shade underneath the canopy of trees, a basketball game is going on, people are passing by and some are shopping groceries in the market stands to the left in the picture.



Introduction

The following chapter describes how this thesis was developed by introducing the aim of the project, project background, research questions, limitations and target group.



ZANZIBAR is part of Tanzania and consists of two islands, Pemba and Unguja. Old Ng'ambo is situated in Zanzibar Town- the capital of Zanzibar.

Preface

For our masters thesis in landscape architecture, we have developed a design proposal for Mkamasini, a public space in Old Ng'ambo, Zanzibar, Tanzania.

This thesis is conducted as a Minor Field Study (MFS), a scholarship founded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). An ambition to operate in the field of landscape architecture in a developing country inspired us to apply for the scholarship and carry out the study. The study was conducted in 20 weeks and consisted of three phases; a preparatory phase, 10 weeks field research on Zanzibar and a compiling phase in Sweden.

Project background

"A common feature of most urban inhabitants of cities in developing countries is their very modest living standard. It is precisely in those housing areas with a high population density and few economic resources that outdoor space has a particularly large bearing on living conditions."

- (Gehl, 2001, p. 217)

For the first time in history, more than half of the world's population lives in towns or cities. Over 90 percent of the urban growth is occurring in developing countries, which adds an estimated 70 million new urban residents each year (The World Bank, 2009). The rapid urbanisation leads to a changing urban landscape and an emerging need for shelter. Problems in urban governances and lack of

affordable housing contributes to an increased number of large-scaled unplanned and informal settlements. In fact, slum growth is outpacing all other forms of urban development (Ohlsson, 2013).

Zanzibar, despite having a long history of physical planning, has been experiencing increasing problems associated with informal settlements. The root cause is urbanisation in combination with the land administration and planning policies who are failing to meet the increasing demands for housing (Ali & Sulaiman, 2006).

On the island of Unguja, the informal settlements are concentrated in Old Ng'ambo and Ng'ambo, situated in Zanzibar Town. Here, the haphazard streetscape consists of irregularly placed low-rise buildings and a cluster of paths and alleyways. The area has developed in an organic pattern creating openings and junctions, that together with the streets account for the public space (Østergaard Nielsen & Kollerup Larsen, 2012). Since the population density is high and the private space restricted, these open spaces have the significance of being a living room for everyday life. Domestic and productive work takes place in the outdoor space as well as the interactive social aspect (Ohlsson, 2013).

Rashid M. Azzan², Senior Urban Planner and Head of the Research Unit at the Department of Urban

² Rashid M. Azzan, Senior Urban Planner and Head of the Research Unit at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar, interview Tuesday 1st of March 2016

and Rural Planning in Zanzibar, considers open public spaces as important assets. These spaces can be designed to comprise a wider range of functions and activities than today. Also, the decrease of public space followed by house owners expanding their properties can be prevented by properly planned public spaces.

We believe that upgrading public space to serve the needs of people can be as important for the quality of life as an upgradation of the houses. The point of departure in this project is to work with existing physical structures. Our ambition is to research how public space can be redesigned with small means in order to make implementation as realistic as possible. We hope that this approach will inspire local planners at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar in future projects.

Aim

The aim of this thesis is to create a design proposal that intends to develop a *public space* within the residential neighbourhood of Old Ng'ambo. The design will benefit the surrounding area and should be well anchored in its context.

In order to fulfil this purpose, we chose Mkamasini in dialogue with our local supervisor. Due to its open character, this outdoor space is unique in the densely built urban landscape.

ZANZIBAR TOWN consists of Stone Town, Old Ng'ambo and Ng'ambo.

SURROUNDING AREA is the area that we believe will be benefited by the new design of Mkamasini.



Research questions:

- How does Mkamasini work as a public space today?
- Which qualities can be developed or added to make our site function as a successful public space?

Limitations

The research was limited to Old Ng'ambo which was encouraged by the local planners at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning. Although informal settlement and unplanned public spaces is a problem on all of Zanzibar we had to limit our research area in order to conduct site specific information.

Regarding the design proposal it includes illustrative plans, sections and visualizations to describe the design on a conceptual level. They aim to explain the planned activities, functions and illustrate the spatial experience we want to create in Mkamasini. Therefore we have chosen not to propose a detailed construction drawing or budget plan in this thesis.

The design is inspired by features in the physical environment that we observed during our field study on Zanzibar. This was a strategy to ensure that our proposal would be contextually anchored and possible to realise. Therefore we limited ourselves to local plant material and conventional building material on Zanzibar. We also had to consider the cultural use of existing public spaces, low maintenance level and a impoverished national budget.

Target group

This project can serve as an inspiration to the Department of Urban and Rural planning on Zanzibar regarding the future development of the open space of Mkamasini. This thesis may also be interesting for the residents of Mkamasini by introducing a new use of their everyday outdoor environment. Furthermore, this thesis aims to inspire students and the existing workforce within the field of landscape architecture as an example of how to operate in a dense urban context in a developing country.

Finally this project turns to SIDA and the scholarship that sponsored this thesis, making the field study in Zanzibar possible.

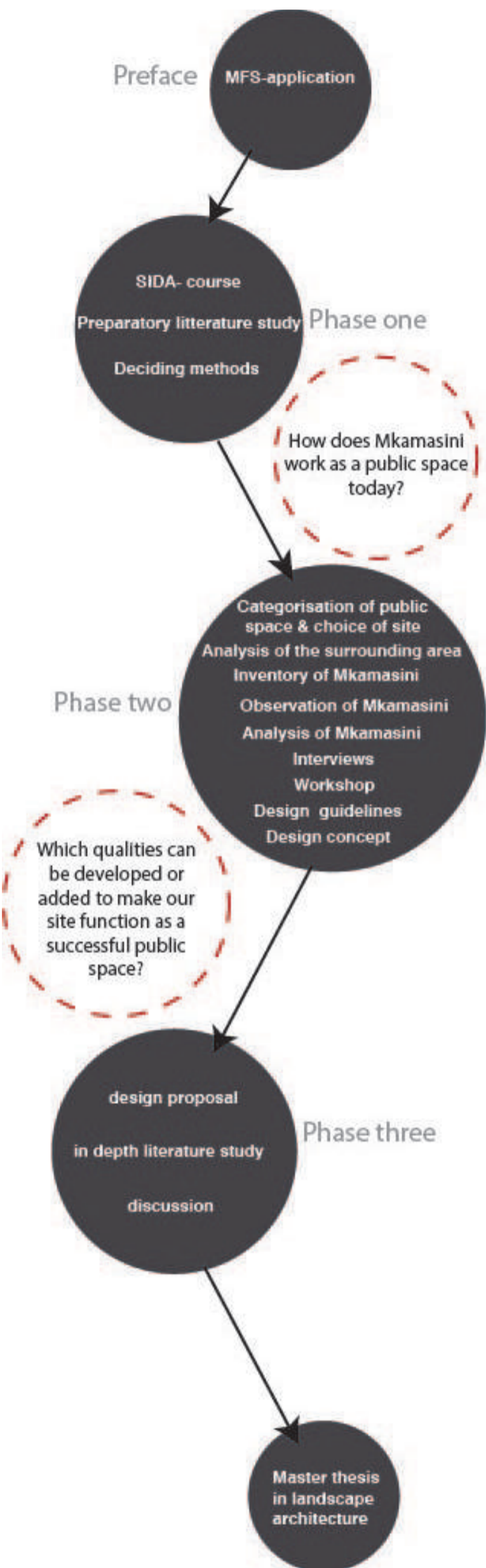
Picture of an urujo-stand outside the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Stone Town. Public spaces are widely used for cooking and eating food. Many Zanzibarians buy lunch from food stands such as this one. It is a social place where friends, acquaintances and strangers meet and sit down next to each other.



Methodology

This chapter starts with an overview of our work process. Further on it describes the different methods we have used in order to meet the aim of this thesis.

Work process



The three phases

Preface- MFS-application

The process started some months prior to the application deadline for MFS, Minor Field Studies, in September 2015. Rolf Johansson at our institution helped us investigate suitable topics of research. When our interest was caught on Africa and public spaces within informal settlements, Rolf shared his contact in the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar. We formulated the aim of the thesis and through a series of email correspondence it was confirmed that the Department was interested in our topic of research and able to take us in.

Phase one - preparation in Sweden

Prior to our departure to Zanzibar, it was mandatory to attend a preparation course held by Sida in Härnösand. During these three days, we gained important insights to the challenges associated with working in a third world context such as culture differences and safety matters. Through discussions with the other students at the course about their topics and method of research, we received valuable advice that benefited us later on in the preparation process.

For the remaining time, we focused on collecting background material for our thesis. To get a broader understanding of our subject, we researched informal settlements in general and the context Zanzibar in particular. We also discussed our method with each other and our supervisor at our institution to get a clear idea on how to continue the project upon arrival in Zanzibar. We studied literature and read through earlier master thesis' in order to come to a conclusion regarding which interview techniques and observation methods to choose. Also, we researched tools for conducting site inventory and analysis.

Phase two- field research in Zanzibar

On the first weekday after our arrival we met with our local supervisor to discuss our project and the framework for the thesis. We started by categorising public spaces in Old Ng'ambo. It was important for us to spend many hours in Old Ng'ambo to experience everyday life in public spaces. By observing, sketching and interacting with people we learned about the Swahili culture and mentality of people which has been crucial for our work. Simultaneously we chose Mkamasini as the site for our design proposal.

This phase also included collecting solid background information about our site and reading comprehensive planning documents. We analysed Mkamasini and its surrounding area. Also, we conducted in depth observations and an inventory of Mkamasini. To gain knowledge from local people, we interviewed users of Mkamasini, stakeholders and held a workshop with a group of local Swahili artists. The findings from each part was compiled into design considerations which was summarised into seven design guidelines.

With inspiration from our ten weeks experience of public life in the streets of Zanzibar Town and the design guidelines in mind, we brainstormed suitable concepts for our design proposal.

During our stay in Zanzibar we presented our work multiple times for the staff at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning. It gave both parts an opportunity to ask questions and we received valuable input to our continued work.

Phase three- completion of thesis in Sweden

In Sweden we completed the literature study that we had started in phase one and the contextual background from information gathered during our field research. Simultaneously we worked with the design proposal and produced an illustration plan, visualizations and sections in order to illustrate our

design. We also produced maps and completed the layout work. Lastly we discussed and evaluated the project.

Site study

The site study involved field trips to conduct a categorisation of public space in Old Ng'ambo. This was followed by analysis of the surrounding area and in depth observations, inventory and analysis of Mkamasini.

Categorisation of public spaces in Old Ng'ambo and choice of site

In order to get a perception of the outdoor environment in Old Ng'ambo and we started by categorising public spaces. We documented representative types of public space, physical elements and activities. These representative elements were described in notes and photographed.

Simultaneously as the categorisation, we discussed possible spaces to conduct a design proposal within Old Ng'ambo. Our local supervisor and staff at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning encouraged us to choose Mkamasini because the site was in need of a plan for a possible redesign. In the context of Old Ng'ambo, we found that open spaces like Mkamasini are rare. Also, the site suited the requirements set out by the aim of the thesis.

Analysis of the surrounding area

In order to gain a greater understanding of the physical structure of Mkamasini and how it connects to its surrounding area, we conducted an analysis inspired by Kevin Lynch's methodology. Kevin Lynch was an American city planner and in his book *The Image of the City*, he argues that the city consists of five main elements: *paths*, *edges*, *districts*, *nodes* and *landmarks* (Lynch, 1960, p. 46). These can be studied separately in order to systematically understand the entirety of the area.

Paths: Paths consists of walkways and roads. They are utilised by people and vehicles in order to move around in the city. Other environmental elements are arranged and related to these (Lynch, 1960, p. 47).

Edges: Edges are the linear elements that frame places and differentiate one area from another. They may be more or less penetrable. If an edge is hard to cross it is referred to as a barrier (Lynch, 1960, p. 47).

Districts: Districts divide different parts of the city according to their main character. Because of the common features, people are mentally aware of the act of entering and exiting a district (Lynch, 1960, p. 47).

Nodes: Nodes are primarily junctions and concentrations where people gather. They usually have a high level of activity. A node can be a bus stop or a street crossing (Lynch, 1960, p. 47-48).

Landmarks: Landmarks are a type of point-reference, such as a building or a sign. Some are seen from a far distance and others are local and more intimate. Landmarks are often used by people for orientation purposes (Lynch, 1960, p. 48).

Inventory of Mkamasini

We documented the physical environment of Mkamasini by photographing, sketching and taking notes. We documented the following in detail:

- typologies of the surrounding houses.
- colours, materials and patterns
- the vegetation

Figure 1: Illustration of the work process from start to finish. The figure is showing in which phase we conducted the different parts of the thesis. Also, the figure illustrates when we answered the research questions.

During the inventory of Mkamasini we also produced a map of physical features. We mapped the area by pacing out the measurements of piles of garbage, electricity poles, barazas and location of vegetation.

Observation of Mkamasini

To gain qualitative information about the activity that took place in Mkamasini, we observed the site at various days of the week and hours of the day. In total we spent five days observing the site. We documented the activity by photographing, sketching and taking notes.

We were inspired by the participant observation method. Participant observation always take place in the community settings that is relevant to the research question. It involves observing and participating in various degrees with the community. The work can be performed on a scale from only watching and taking notes of behaviour to fully participating (Mack, Woodsong, M.MacQueen, Guest & Namey, 2015, s. 13).

Analysis of Mkamasini

We conducted three types of analysis of Mkamasini: Lynch, PPS and SWOT. Lynch's methodology is explained in *Analysis of the surrounding area*.

We combined the two methods PPS and SWOT to examine how successful the public space of Mkamasini is today. Applying SWOT on PPS's *four main criteria* explained below, provided us with information on the shortcomings and qualities of Mkamasini today.

PPS

PPS, Project for Public Space, is a planning, design and educational organisation aiming to help people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities. After evaluating thousands of public spaces in the western world and developing countries, PPS conducted The Place Diagram. According to their research, successful public spaces generally share the following *four main criteria* presented in The Place Diagram (Project for Public Space, no date):

- users and activities
- access and linkages
- comfort and image.
- sociability



Figure 2. The Place Diagram. PPS have developed this diagram to evaluate how successful a public space is. The center of the diagram is the public space of research. The following ring shows the four main criteria that successful public spaces generally share. These are judged by the qualitative aspects in the next ring. The outer ring are quantitative aspects that is measured by statistics or research (Project for Public Space, no date). License of picture: PPS.

SWOT

SWOT is a method practised in order to understand the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats within a project or business. Strengths and weaknesses are internal factors, whereas opportunities and threats are affected by external forces. Once completed the SWOT analysis will reveal what obstacles that must be overcome to acquire sought results (Investopedia, 2016).



Figure 3. Illustration of SWOT model.

Dialouge

Dialogues includes the interviews we made with a group of users of Mkamasini and stakeholders as well as a workshop with local Swahili artists. Additionally, spontaneous conversations with people in Zanzibar Town has provided us with an overall understanding of Mkamasini, Zanzibar and the Swahili culture.

Interviews

Interviews were conducted as a method to gather information about Mkamasini from multiple perspectives, both users and stakeholders. We used two different interviewing techniques based on questionnaires. The questionnaires are displayed in the appendix on page 2.

Interviews with users of Mkamasini

A qualitative interviewing technique was applied. The purpose of this technique is to understand the topic from the experienced everyday life of the person being interviewed. It aims to gain a nuanced description of different qualitative aspects perceived by the interviewed person. The method deals with spoken words and not with digits (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2014, p. 41-47).

We formulated an interview questionnaire to gain a greater understanding of how Mkamasini is used today, the history of the site and local wishes for future development. A Swahili-speaking interpreter was used to ease the communication.

The interview questionnaire was based on a thematic and a dynamic dimension. A thematic dimension consider the sought knowledge and the dynamic dimension consider the human factor and integration between the person interviewing and the person being interviewed. A well-formulated interview question should provide knowledge in a thematic way and create a good interaction between the participant and the researcher in a dynamic way. A thematic question relates to the purpose of the interview and is of a theoretical nature. A dynamic question is easy to understand and not expressed in a scientific language. One thematic interview question is divided into several dynamic questions, which increase the chance of receiving rich and varied knowledge (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2014, p. 173-175).

We interviewed eight people of different age and gender, which we assessed was a sufficient number. This number was based on the resources and the time limit of our project as well as the recommended number of participants in a qualitative study. In many cases it is more efficient to do less interviews and spend more time on preparation and analysis (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2014, p. 156-157).

Interviews with stakeholders

The interviews with local planners were designed as a semi-structured interview; in this method the interviewer develops an interview guideline with topics and questions that need to be covered during the interview. This technique allows the conversation to be more spontaneous and gives opportunity to direct the interview towards the most interesting aspects (RWJF, 2008).

Workshop

In order to achieve inspiration for our design process, we organised a workshop together with local artists at the art centre in the Old Fort in Stone Town. Before the workshop we prepared three topics to discuss, maps of Mkamasini and tracing paper for the artists to draw on. The three topics was: the spatial environment in Mkamasini, designs that Zanzibarian people prefer and how public space is used. We asked the participants to sketch possible solutions of how to structure the space related to these topics, which later lead to discussions.

Supporting literature

The main literature has been books, other master thesis', online publications and comprehensive planning documents from the Department of Urban and Rural Planning on Zanzibar. We found relevant literature using Libris and SLU's library database Primo.

The literature can be divided into two categories. The first category focused on our contextual background concerning Zanzibar and the area of Old Ng'ambo. The main literature have consisted of comprehensive planning documents received at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Stone Town. The second category refers to our theoretical background. In order to develop the public space of Mkamasini, we needed to explore which elements make up a successful public space. The chapter is based on the *four main criteria* that successful public spaces share according to PPS's The Place Diagram. Information was also gathered through online publications and books.

When searching for literature on different databases the keywords were: "public space" "informal settlements in Zanzibar" "open space" "urban space".

Design process

The design process was an on-going process from the first words of the MFS- application until the thesis was completed. We have sketched, researched solutions and been inspired during the extent of the thesis. Everything that we have read, seen and experienced has little by little contributed to the final design.

After each chapter, we summarised the key aspects from the findings and theories into design considerations. We used this method to clarify as far as possible what we bring with us from each chapter. This information was later on summarised into seven design guidelines.

We have been discussing possible concepts and design solutions during our entire stay on Zanzibar. When the site study and dialogues were completed we brainstormed possible concepts and made a final decision. The main part of the design work was accomplished when we returned to Sweden.

Various techniques was used when completing the design work. Sketching, AutoCad, Illustrator and Photoshop led to visualizations, illustrative plan and sections to illustrate our design.

Picture of an open public space in the residential neighbourhood of old Ng'ambo.

Public spaces in Zanzibar Town are widely used for socialising, during weekdays as well as weekends. Spaces are used by both children and adults. During the hot hours of the day, adults prefer to congregate in shade whereas children can play in more sun exposed areas.



Successful public space

- Theoretical background

In order to develop the public space of Mkamasini, we needed to explore which elements make up a successful public space. This chapter is the result of our literature study where we have researched the *four main criteria* that successful public spaces generally share according to PPS. These are: users and activities, access and linkages, comfort and image and sociability.

Why is public space important?

"The measure of a city's greatness is to be found in the quality of its public spaces."

(Bain, Gray & Rodgers, 2012, p. 4)

Public space is the physical entity between buildings and a vital component of a prosperous city. These spaces extend beyond the traditional view of public space as parks, green areas and streets (UN-habitat, 2012). Successful urban areas have a variety of public spaces of different types and sizes (Bain, Gray & Rodgers, 2012). These spaces play an important role in everyday life. They are locations in which residents can gather for social, recreational and cultural activities. Therefore, public spaces help to promote connectivity between people which make neighbourhoods more cohesive, lively and attractive to residents as well as investors (UN-habitat, 2012).

The functionality of the city and the possibilities for economic activity is enhanced in well-designed public spaces. Also, the overall visual appearance of the city is improved with aesthetically pleasing outdoor spaces. Appealing outdoor areas with adequate space encourage people to walk, bicycle and use other forms of eco-friendly mobility that reduce carbon emissions and cut down reliance on fossil fuels. Promoting public spaces therefore is part of making cities more environmentally adapted to reach climate goals (UN-Habitat, 2012).

How can a public space be developed to become successful?

Project for Public Spaces have evaluated thousand of public spaces around the world and found that the successful ones generally share the following *four main criteria*:

- access and linkages
- users and activities
- comfort and image.
- sociability

These spaces are *accessible* and provide space for people to engage in *activities*. Also, they have a good image and is *comfortable* in terms of safety, cleanliness and seating. Lastly, they are *sociable* places that facilitate interaction between people (Project for Public Spaces, no date).

Access and Linkages

How accessible a public space is has large bearing on how well it will be used by people. The accessibility can be judged by the connection to its surroundings, both visual and physical. A successful public space is easily reachable by a range of transportation options as well as by foot and bicycle. The edges of the space and the interaction between inside and outside are also important factors that determine how interesting and safe the space is perceived as (Project for Public Spaces, no date).

Convenient movement- coexistence of traffic modes

Plazas, squares and parks and some types of streets, are destinations in themselves. Also, people need to be able to move through them on their way to other destinations (Bain, Gray & Rodgers, 2012). The interplay of necessary pedestrian traffic mixed with recreational and social activities is crucial to understand in order to design for successful places (Gehl, 2001, p. 63).



Being able to move freely across Mkamasini is an asset. It means that people can take a direct route to their destination. On the contrary, interfering objects such as the electricity wire straight ahead in this picture cause inconvenience, especially for people with disabilities.

In developing countries, rapid urban growth and a larger concentrations of urban inhabitants mean great pressure on the traffic infrastructure. The increasing need for parking is stealing space from street trade on sidewalks, street kitchens and other small businesses. For the most impoverished part of the population, ensuring that motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians can coexist in public spaces is crucial to ensure that the opportunities for expression and life quality is not impaired (Gehl, 2001, p. 217-219).

Connection to the surroundings

Public spaces that are located strategically where people are passing by are more likely to become successful than those that are not connected or easily reachable. City life should be a self-reinforcing process supported by the physical structures. People are attracted by activity and the presence of other people and can be spontaneously urged to join in. In city planning it is therefore important to concentrate people in a few areas instead of spreading them out (Gehl, 2001, p. 65).

Edges of the buildings

How the edges of buildings are treated has large impact on city life. The edges limit the visual field and define spaces, therefore they highly contribute to the aesthetic appearance of spaces. The edges are the zones where the buildings meet the outdoor space and the interaction between the inside and the outside takes place (Gehl, 2001, p. 72-83).

In residential neighbourhoods, the edge zone is the most active outdoor area. This is where private meets public and activities of the residents spill out into the public space. Studies underscore the importance of semi-public transitions for life and activity. Only when there is a certain amount of activity going on outside the houses does it become meaningful for residents to spend time on the public side of their property. At the same time, the area is perceived as more welcoming and interesting for by passers if the residents are using the space (Gehl, 2001, p. 72-83).

Semi-public zones are treated differently in areas and households around the world depending on culture, living conditions and economic standards (Gehl, 2001, p. 87). In Old Ng'ambo, few houses have front yards or another type of outdoor space that indicate the transition between the private and public sphere. The few houses that have yards have commonly limited the visual possibilities from the outside by tall fences. In this context, it is rather the barazas that account for the semi-public space and the contact between the buildings and the public. Barazas are stone benches that are part of the built structure of many of the traditional Swahili-style houses (Gunnarsson & Johansson, 2004, p. 86). Rashid M. Azzan³, explains that barazas function as gathering places for both residents and the public and they can also be used for selling goods.

³ Rashid M. Azzan, Senior Urban Planner and Head of the Research Unit at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar, interview Tuesday 1st of March 2016



The barazas are popular places to gather in Mkamasini. They can also be used for selling goods which can be a necessary source of income for many families.

Walking psychology

How far people are prepared to walk depends on the quality of the route. A longer walk is acceptable if the pavement is good quality and the surroundings are interesting. Comfortable and pleasurable walks are those where you can walk freely without interfering obstacles. Having to dart between parked cars or other objects make the walking route less efficient and particularly difficult for people with disabilities. In successful public spaces, pedestrians and bicyclists are being prioritised and given enough space that they feel safe to freely move around (Gehl, 2001, p. 121- 124).

It is a natural phenomenon for people to be energy conscious when walking. When designing public spaces it is necessary to try to foresee the preferred lines of walking and to incorporate them into the design. These lines often inspire fascinating patterns and shapes, resulting in public spaces that look neater than right-angled projects where the corners, lawns and planting beds are trodden on in every direction (Gehl, 2001, p. 126-127).

Comfort and Image

Public spaces that are perceived as safe and clean with a range of comfortable seating possibilities are appealing to people. They present themselves well and therefore they contribute to a good image in the city (Project for Public Spaces, no date).

Physical structures and visual quality

The dimensions of the human body, the human scale, is a key aspect to consider when designing spaces for people. In narrow streets and small spaces, people are able to observe buildings, details and other people at close range (Gehl, 2001, p. 53). Concern must be given to visual quality - the aesthetics, design and architecture. The overall visual expression is a result of the details, materials and colours of individual elements and how they are combined together. To accomplish a convincing whole, spaces should be designed to be visually appealing but also meet practical requirements (Gehl, 2001, p. 176).

Throughout history, art has made valuable quality contributions to cities. Street art can be used to give hidden places a purpose and to enrich the city with visual experiences and human expressions (Magnusson, 2010, p. 20).

Standing and sitting

When people are staying in public spaces they seek places along the edges of the space. Walls can be used as support for people's backs. When standing at an edge, people feel secure because they are out of the way for pedestrian traffic. City spaces that are missing edges provide poor conditions for staying. Therefore framed places with a direct contact with facades are preferred. Providing activities can help change a walk-through space to a staying space. People are experts in finding furniture, corners or niches within the edge zone that provide support for sitting and standing (Gehl, 2001, p. 137- 138).

Good places to sit have many similarities to good places to stand. When choosing to sit, people are usually intending to stay longer in the city space than when they are standing, meaning that the spot is chosen more carefully. According to Jan Gehl (2001, p. 141) there are two types of seating: primary and secondary and both are needed in city spaces. Primary seating consists of actual furniture that have backs and armrests which can offer comfort for a longer period of stay. In addition to proper benches, a great variety of less formal objects can be used for seating when necessary. The secondary seating objects include steps, bollards and rocks. These are often used by children and young people, whereas the senior citizens prefer proper seating (Gehl, 2001, p. 141-143).

What is equally important as the design of the bench is the location in which it is placed. In general, the requirements for good places to sit are a pleasant microclimate, support that covers the back, good view, low noise level and no pollution. The view is what makes the space interesting. If there are special attractions such as water, trees, flowers or good architecture at the site, people's attention are drawn towards these. However, other people are usually the most interesting to watch (Gehl, 2001, p. 141).

Safety and lighting

Being able to walk safely in a city space is a basic requirement that needs to be fulfilled to create inviting and well-functioning spaces for people. For life in the city, both experienced and perceived safety is crucial (Gehl, 2001, p.97).

Jane Jacobs discusses the importance of life in the streets for a crime-preventative effect. She used the expression "eyes on the street" to describe how the presence of others indicate that a place is safe and good. Mixing functions, such as schools, shops and restaurants, helps to keep residential areas lively during more hours a day. In night time, street lights as well as lights from the windows of the buildings contribute to the sense of security (Gehl, 2001, p. 101). It also has a great impact on orientation and visual quality in the dark hours. Lights have potential to contribute to the aesthetic impression (Gehl, 2001, p. 179).

Climate and vegetation

Climate has great significance on comfort and well-being in city space. The climate must be considered both on a regional, local and micro scale. The regional scale is the typical weather for that geographical region and the local scale the climate moderated by the topography, landscape and buildings. The microclimate is the weather condition in one particular spot and it is determined by wind, humidity, temperature and the amount of sun (Gehl, 2001, p. 168).

Depending on the geographical location, people seek different amounts of sun. In tropical places, provision of shade is essential in order to lower temperatures and make outdoor environments bearable (Gehl, 2001, p. 171). It is particularly important to keep temperatures down in urban areas since they already are warmer than their surroundings. Increased temperatures comes from a lack of vegetation and heat stored in hard surfaces such as concrete and asphalt. Therefore, incorporating permeable surfaces and planting trees is important in order to keep temperatures down (Thorsson, 2012, p. 29-30).



Children using concrete blocks as benches. According to Jan Gehl, these so called secondary seating objects are needed in public spaces as a complement to proper benches.

The cooling effect is maximised if trees are planted in groups and placed in locations where they shade hard surfaces. Trees planted near facades can also help cool the inside environment in the houses and contribute to a more pleasant microclimate. Choosing native species that are known to cope well with urban environments gives the best long term effect. The plants should be able to thrive in relatively dry, warm and polluted areas (Thorsson, 2012, p. 29-30).

Proving vegetation in public spaces have additional benefits. Plants have an ability to define city space and to accentuate important sites. A large tree signals that "this is a place" and trees planted in rows enhance a linear direction. Plants in all shapes and sizes improve the aesthetic values by adding smell, sound, colour and light changes to the place (Gehl, 2001, p. 179-180).

Maintenance

Thoughts about management should be included from the beginning in the design. If the available maintenance level is low, the design should thrive against being as self-manageable as possible. Some level on subsequent management is mandatory as people will care for the space if the places is managed in a good way (Marcus & Francis, 1990). This is also important for safety reasons. The presence of graffiti, trash, vandalism and poor maintained planting beds indicates a lack of safety which can lead to that a place gets abandoned by its users (Project for Public Spaces, no date):

Users and Activity

According to Project for Public Space, activities are the basic building blocks of a place. Proving people with things to do gives them a reason to visit the place and to come back. Spaces without activities are likely to be unused and empty. Therefore, the more activities available for people to participate in, the better (Project for Public Space, no date).

Necessary and optional activities

There are two types of activities that take place in public spaces: necessary and optional activities. The necessary activities are conducted regardless of

the quality of the city space, whereas the optional activities occur when the specific site and weather conditions are pleasant. In many developing countries, there is a wider range of necessary activities taking place on daily basis in the public sphere. This includes selling goods, cooking, eating and washing clothes (Gehl, 2001, p. 134).

Activities for all

Inviting people to express themselves, play and exercise in city space is part of creating lively and healthy cities. Children's play is an integrated part of the city and does not require a planned playground as western societies advocate. (Gehl, 2001, p. 158) As for the senior citizens, the demand of a walkable infrastructure is of significant importance. They represent a group who must stay physically active in order to maintain good health (Gehl, 2001, p. 158) Women in public space often search for a greater degree of privacy than men. (Carmona et al, 2010, p. 210) The differences of how individuals of different gender use public space is distinct in the context of Zanzibar. Women tend to use public space when performing necessary activities. Men however are encouraged to use public space for recreational and social purposes⁴.

A city space based on the principles of fixed, flexible and fleeting are key elements to ensure an attractive public space, offering activities for all people. The fixed element is the public space itself providing the framework for city life. The flexible element refers to temporary events. On Zanzibar this includes cultural festivals such as Ramadan and Mawlid. The fleeting elements can be described as minor events and can vary from concerts to street musicians and food stands. Instead of creating special space for certain activities; a fixed, flexible and fleeting public space will inspire different types of activities. As a result the city space will be inviting to all people regardless gender, age or cultural background (Gehl, 2001, p. 161).

Staying activities

Activities that take place in city space can be divided in two categories according to intensity; moving activity and stationary activity. Further on the activity can, as mentioned, be necessary or optional. When talking about public space the optional stationary activity is of great importance. It refers to the recreational benefits people receive from stays on benches allowing them to survey the city life (Gehl, 2001, p. 139). The possibility to buy food or snack play a significant role contributing to optional staying activities. In contrast public space must also be affordable for all people, offering activities that are free of consumption (Carmona et al, 2010, p. 206).

The existence of grocery stores with different opening hours as well as activity throughout the day, evening and night are basic elements for a vivid public space

⁴ Rashid M. Azzan, Senior Urban Planner and Head of the Research Unit at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar, interview Tuesday 1st of March 2016



Forodhani garden in Stone Town is a popular gathering spot during evenings. Being able to use public space during evenings adds another dimension.

(Carmona et al, 2010, p. 206). A high amount of people spending time in the public space is a key factor for a lively and inviting city. Creating opportunities for optional staying activity is therefore fundamental when planning for a successful public space (Gehl, 2001, p. 145-147).

Talkscapes

City benches are commonly designed as long and even where people sit shoulder to shoulder. This construction considers the private space and distance between people but does not encourage communication. If a number of people are seated it is hard to get a conversation going. It is difficult to acknowledge several people when sitting on a row with no overview of the group. When designing "talkscapes" the benches or chairs are placed in groups instead of rows. In order to maintain possibility of sitting alone or private the benches can be twisted or set up at a slightly open angle (Gehl, 2001, p. 155).

Relaxation

An important activity in public space is relaxation. It can be described as state when the individual feel that the mind and the body is at ease. In urban space natural elements such as flowers, trees, water and greenery can create a sense of relaxation. Greenery can however interfere with the visual permeability, creating safety problems. Therefore it is important to keep a balance between greenery and open space preventing the site to be perceived as unsafe (Carmona et al, 2010, p. 209).

Sociability

According to Project for Public Spaces, sociability deals with people's sense of place and attachment to their community. It is a quality that will increase if the public space provides room for different types of social activities where people see friends, meet and greet their neighbours and feel comfortable interacting with stranger (Project for Public Spaces, no date).

Importance of social interaction

Historically the city has functioned as an important meeting place. City dwellers met, made deals, exchanged news, attended events and power was manifested. Yet today city space is used as social meeting places. Without public space, citizens has no virtual arena that provides access and opportunities for all groups of society to express themselves. The quality of a city where people regardless status, religion, age or gender, meet face to face in the public is of great significance. It provides the inhabitants with information about the universality of their society. Meeting places in the city breed social interaction which help to strengthen societies (Gehl, 2001, p. 27-29).

Social activity

A lively public space that offers different activities result in social exchanges. Social activities include passive see and hear contacts, practically perceived just by observing the environment. This form of contact can be planned when creating opportunities for people to meet in the public space. Watching and hearing other people is a springboard to active contacts, such as greetings and small talk. Experiencing city life is stimulating and entertaining; bringing people information about the surrounding society. As the saying goes "man is man's greatest joy" people seek the presence of others and gather where life and activity happens (Gehl, 2001, p. 23-24).

Direct meetings that includes talking are less common than passive activity, but nevertheless a versatile form of contact. They can for example appear as planned meetings, spontaneous meetings, greetings and unexpected meetings. (Gehl, 2001, p. 22-23)



An example from Old Ng'ambo on how people gather where life and activity happens. City life should be a self-reinforcing process supported by the physical structures.

Direct meetings that includes talking are less common than passive activity, but nevertheless a versatile form of contact. They can for example appear as planned meetings, spontaneous meetings, greetings and unexpected meetings. (Gehl, 2001, p. 22-23)

It is a difference between social interaction with people who know each other and encounters with strangers. If strangers in the public space experience something together it is easier to strike up conversation. The term "triangulation" can be used to describe the scenario when two strangers have a conversation due to an external event. Triangulation can be encouraged in public space by the design. For example the planner can leave space for different events or construct an interesting physical object like a sculpture (Gehl & Svarre, 2013, p. 17).

A successful public space should provide opportunities for various degrees of social interaction. This includes passive and active activity but also the possibility to avoid contact (Caroma et al, 2010, p. 211).

Democratic exchanges

The city as a meeting place is also a question of offering space for democratic exchanges. People should be able to express their happiness, sorrow, enthusiasm or anger at street parties, demonstrations of meetings. These manifestations are an important prerequisite for democracy and they need open areas to gather (Gehl, 2001, p. 157).

Design considerations - theoretical background

Climate

Provision of shade is essential in order to lower temperature and make the outdoor space bearable. Permeable surfaces, such as grass and sand, and trees is important to create a pleasant microclimate.

Connections

A public space that is well connected to its surroundings attracts more activity and people. Edge zones are the most attractive outdoor area. Well functioning semi-public transitions result in welcoming and active public spaces.

Design

The human scale is a key aspect to consider when designing public spaces. The visual qualities are important for the overall impression of a place. Art can be used to give meaning to a space and enrich cities with visual experiences. A successful public space is a visually interesting and meet practical requirements.

Green features

Trees planted near faces can help cool the inside temperature and trees places in groups maximizes the cooling effect. Native species that cope with the climate is the best choice for a long time effect. Providing vegetation can also define a city space and function as landmarks. Green elements can create a sense of relaxation which is important in public spaces. However, trees and vegetation must not be perceived as unsafe by interfering with the visual permeability.

Maintenance

If the available maintenance is low, the design should strive against being as self-manageable as possible. A public space with presence of trash, vandalism and poor maintained planting beds can be perceived as unsafe and therefore be abandoned by its users.

Activity

A public space offering necessary and optional activities as well as a variation in activity result in a place inviting all genders and ages. Staying activities are important for a lively public space. It includes the possibility to buy food but also activities free from consumption. Attractive public spaces offers activity throughout the day and in the evenings.

Seating

People prefer to sit in edge zones with a variety of primary and secondary seatings. An attractive place to sit requires a pleasant microclimate, support that covers the back and a good view. Attractions such as trees flowers and other people make the view interesting. Twisted benches or benches places in groups creates opportunity for talkscapes as well as private seatings.

Street Lights

Street lights contribute to a sense of security in public spaces. It also has a great impact on orientation and visual qualities in dark hours.

Security

Experienced and perceived security needs to be fulfilled in public spaces. A mix of functions and presence of others result in lively environments and indicates that a place is safe.

Social values

It is important to create a space that includes passive hearing and seeing activities and active meetings. Passive activities require a pleasant place to sit or stand. Interesting designs and space for events can encourage people to take direct contact. The visually and physically accessibility is fundamental when creating a meeting place.

Traffic

Motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians should be able to coexist in public spaces. Pedestrians and bicycles should be prioritised and given enough space in order to feel safe from motor vehicles. People prefer to walk freely without interfering obstacles and unnecessary detours. Also, necessary pedestrian traffic should be mixed with recreational and social activities.

Picture of a food stand in Forodhani Gardens in Stone Town.

In certain locations, the street life is vibrant even during dark hours. In Forodhani Gardens in Stone Town, both local people and tourists gather to buy food from a variety of food stands. The temperature outdoors is more bearable after sunset, therefore spaces with streetlights where people can congregate in the evenings are important assets.

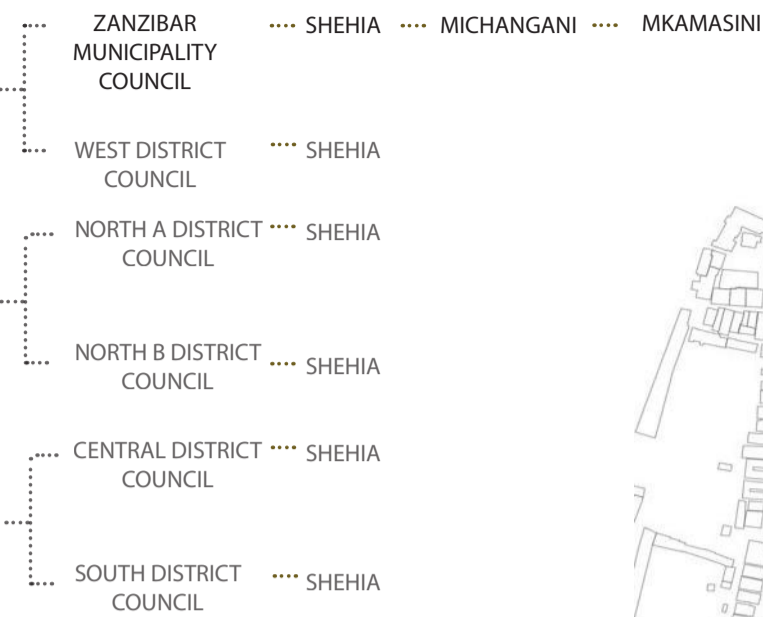
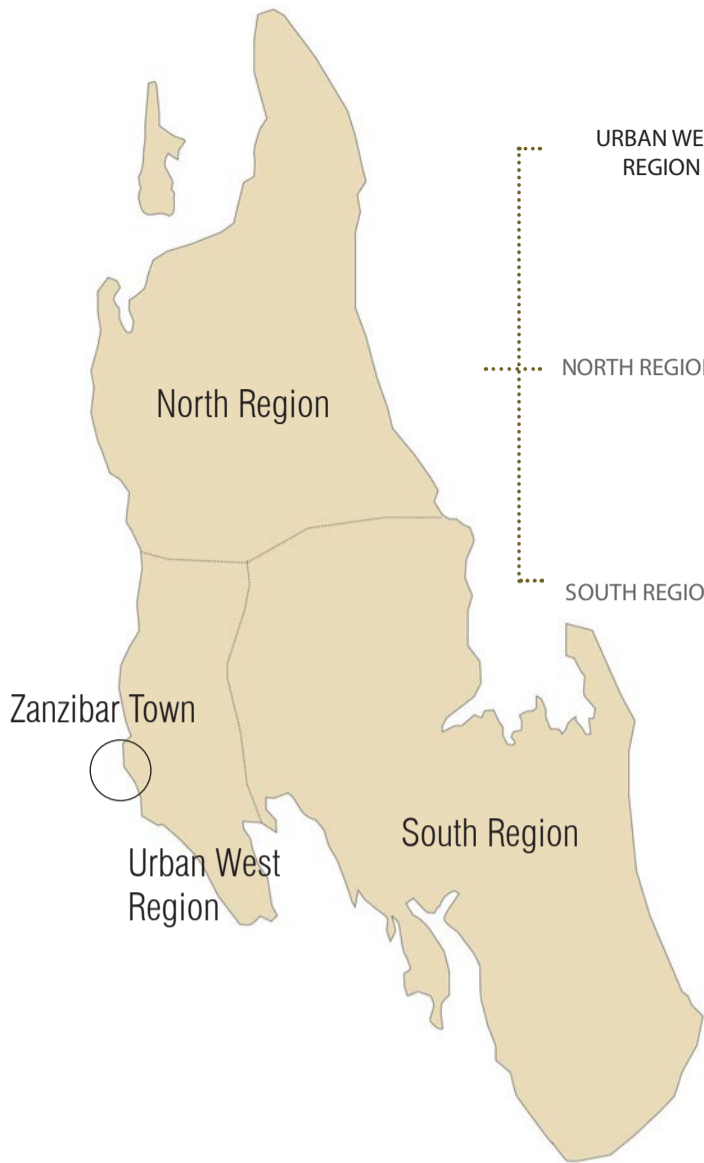


Planning, people & public space on Zanzibar

- Contextual background

This chapter starts with an introduction of Zanzibar's administrative structure. It is followed by brief overviews of the history, economy, urban development and informal settlements, climate and culture of Zanzibar to understand the context in which this thesis is developed.

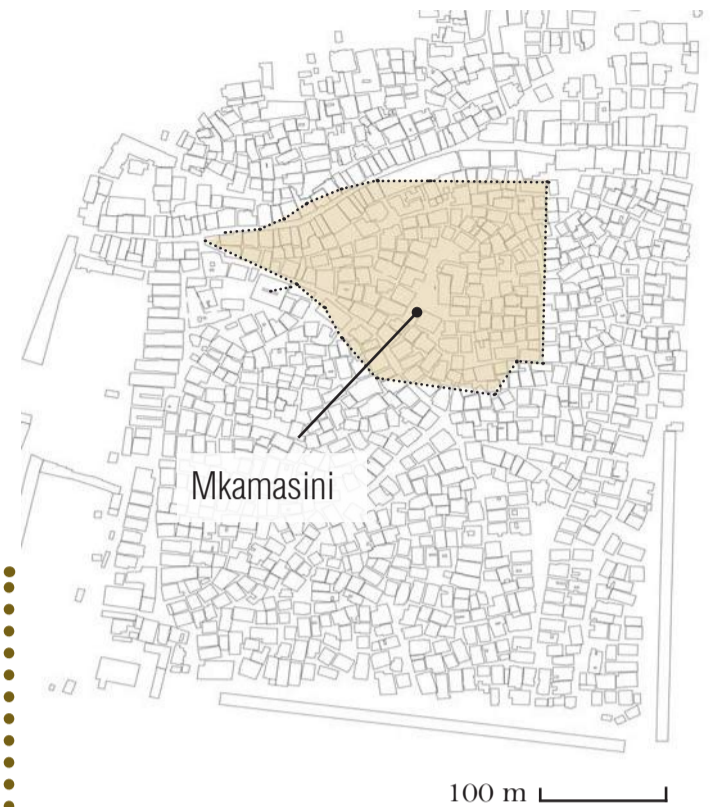
UNGUJA ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



QUICK FACTS ABOUT ZANZIBAR

Country: Tanzania
 Islands: Zanzibar/Unguja & Pemba
 Capital: Zanzibar Town
 Area: 2.461 km²
 Population: 1.300 000
 President: Ali Mohamed Shein
 Religion: Muslim (95%)
 Average income: 700 USD (1.100 060 TSH)
 Life expectancy: 58 years men & 62 years women
 (BBC, 2016)

MICHANGANI is the shehia area where Mkamasini is located



Current situation and history

Location and administrative structure

Zanzibar is located on the East African coast and consists of two larger islands, Unguja and Pemba. The capital is known as Zanzibar Town and is situated on Unguja. The city comprises two parts, Stone Town and Ng'ambo meaning "the other side" in Swahili. The public space of Mkamasini is located in the western part of Ng'ambo, known as Old Ng'ambo.⁵

The islands are an autonomous part of the Republic of Tanzania but has its own legislative government known as the House of Representatives (RGoZ, 2007).

Unguja is divided into three administrative regions, the South region, the North region and the Urban West Region. Each region consists of two districts administered by the districts councils. Zanzibar Town is a part of the Urban West district and its administrative council is known as Zanzibar Municipal Council. The ZMC is the ministry responsible for maintenance and development of public- and open spaces in Zanzibar Town. This includes for example dealing with waste and sewage water (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 458).

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

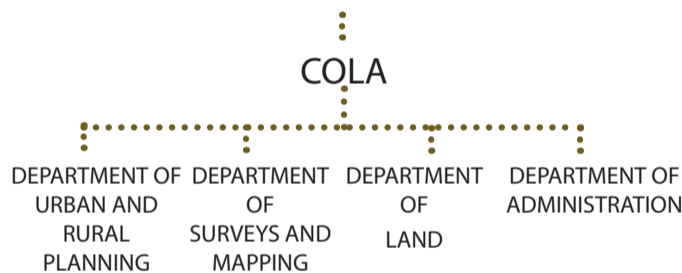


Figure 4. The governmental structure related to public spaces on Zanzibar.

The ZMC is also divided into smaller administrative units, called shehias. Mkamasini is located in Michangani shehia.⁶

All urban development and uses of land on Zanzibar are regulated by the Planning Law. However, it is generally considered to be outdated due to the fact that it was conducted in 1955. It is ineffective with no planning hierarchy, public consultation is not integrated in the planning process and the legislation does not require participation of relevant departments (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 50-51).

The Commission of Land (COLA) underneath the Central Government is in charge of urban development and planning issues. COLA consists of four planning organs; Department of Urban and Rural Planning, Department of Surveys and

Mapping, Department of Land and Department of Administration. These organs are in charge of comprehensive planning and setting the framework for the future urban development. The guidelines should be implemented by the municipal offices.⁷

However, the responsibilities between the departments of COLA are unclear and this is negatively affecting the efficiency of municipal offices. Implementation is also troublesome due to the limited resources available. Another problem is lack of professional manpower that is required to manage mapping, planning, surveying and registering of thousands of plots per year (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 52-53).

The main planning document is called ZanPlan and was conducted in 2015 with support from the World Bank and IDA (International Development Association) (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 25).

ZanPlan acknowledges the scarce amount of open public space available in Zanzibar Town. The spaces are decreasing and over 15 % of public areas have been lost since 2004 (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2015, p. 66). Therefore ZanPlan is presenting public open spaces as an important part of the city's structure and future development. According to ZanPlan, there is also a need to create a wide range of green spaces in Zanzibar Town. This is referred to as a cheap and easy method of improving the quality of the environment

⁵ Rashid M. Azzan, Senior Urban Planner and Head of the Research Unit at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar, interview Tuesday 1st of March 2016

⁶ Abdalla S. Rashid, Head of Urban Planning and Landscape Section at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning Zanzibar. Interview Monday 4th of April 2016.

⁷ Abdalla S. Rashid, Head of Urban Planning and Landscape Section at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning Zanzibar. Interview Monday 4th of April 2016.

Portuguese governance
1500

Sultanate of Oman
1700
Ng'ambo area is developed

British protectorate
1890

Landscape master plan dealing with population problems in Ng'ambo and the importance of public space
1923

A second british master plan
1958

and the quality of life for the city's residents. All spatial planning and development on Zanzibar must therefore include greening of Zanzibar (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2015, p. 138-139).

Over the recent years the development of public open spaces has been an important issue at the Department of Rural and Urban Planning. In 2014 a design workshop with Swiss landscape architects was held in Stone Town. It resulted in new designs of several public spaces and the aim is to find investors in order to realise at least one of the designs (RGoZ & BSLA & Embassy Of Switzerland in Tanzania, 2014).

History

The location of Zanzibar, on the East African coast, and the monsoon trade winds created a natural harbour and trading centre on the island. Still today, Zanzibar consists of an unique cultural and ethnical mix as a result of an integration of Indian, Arab, Persian, European traders as well as the indigenous Swahili people (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2015, p. 1-2).

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to gain control over Zanzibar. From early 1500's and for 200 hundred years they dominated the island until Sultanate of Oman conquered it. Zanzibar became an important harbour for sea trading with slaves, spices and ivory between the countries of India, Arabia and Africa. As a result of the successful trading the Sultan of Oman moved his capital from Muscat in Oman to Zanzibar Town (RGoZ, 2013).

Due to the Oman empire Stone Town quickly expanded and the development of "the other side" or Ng'ambo began to take hold (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 6).

The Sultans dominance continued to expand from Zanzibar to large parts of East Africa making the empire on Zanzibar vulnerable for other influences. Great Britain, Germany and Italy benefited the situation and the Sultan lost many of the island's assets to them. Therefore, in 1890, Zanzibar became a British protectorate (RGoZ, 2013).

The British contributed with the first of many master plans of Zanzibar Town. It was referred to as the Lanchester plan from 1923. The plan covered both Stone town and Ng'ambo, the latter in which 70 % of the inhabitants of Zanzibar Town lived (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 7). The plan dealt with the importance of public space by recommending the construction of a public square by the port. Also, it handled proposals regarding the population problems in Ng'ambo, for example the development of a planned residential area. Unfortunately none of these plans were realized (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 125).

In 1958 the British developed a second master plan. This urban plan was also aiming to find a solution to reduce the population density. The strategy was to encourage people to move to the outskirts of town. Public space was mentioned and described as an important acquisition (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 128).

In 1963 Zanzibar got its independence from Great Britain and became an autonomous part of Tanzania in 1964, a union still existing. However, the relationship is tense and many people of Zanzibar wish to have more influence over economy and politics on Zanzibar.

At the moment independence is an actual and debated question (African Press International, 2010).

German planners conducted a third master plan four years after the revolution and freedom of the British in 1963. One of its main focuses was to improve the living conditions in Ng'ambo area. It recognized five important upgrading steps, one of them were to build legal and good standard apartments for all, or nearly all, residents in Ng'ambo. This failed and overall very little of the original plan was implemented. Although as one result the Michenzani complex was build, but it was not nearly enough to meet the increasing housing demand (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 129).

Yet another master plan was developed before today's ZanPlan. It was drawn by a Chinese team, know as the 1982 Chinese master plan. During this period around 70% of the residential area of Zanzibar Town was considered as informal settlements. As for Ng'ambo, the plan aimed to improve the living standard by upgrading the residential houses to meet at least a minimum standard, but little from this plan was realised (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 132-137).

Today, Zanzibar is known as a tourist paradise. Contradictory, it is one of the poorest countries on earth (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2015, p. 27). In 2000 the city centre, Stone Town, was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2015, p. 65).

Urbanisation and informal settlements

A great proportion of Zanzibar Town has developed with no approved plans which has resulted in areas with poor public infrastructure. The urbanization brought a high demand for planned areas which there were no administrative capacity for. Many residential areas are a result of the 3 acre plot policy, which consist of two types of segmentation of land. The first one is the informal subdivision and is characterized by very small plots, leaving almost no space for public usage. The building material of these houses are often simple and the building process can stretch over many years. The latter one, the formal subdivision, is laid out by a survey and are a bit more reasonable regarding the building materials, road size and plot sizes (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 188).

There are many severe consequences on the environment due to the spread of informal settlements in Zanzibar Town. For example, informal settlement areas built close to the water source intakes are lowering the recharge capacity of the groundwater on the island. This is a huge threat to the water supply on Unguja due to the fact that the main sources of water is gained from the groundwater (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 106).

All construction projects on Zanzibar, including those with license, interfere with the public realm. They are unaesthetic, dangerous with no fencing, noisy and results in air pollution due to the concrete that is being mixed on site. Building shells are a common sight in Zanzibar Town and many houses stand unfinished for years (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 260).

The built structures on Zanzibar are generally of low quality and has low or an irregular level of maintenance. Public spaces in this context are commonly not defined as such. They have developed

organically in openings in the dense urban landscape. These spaces are frequently being intruded upon and used as garbage dumps, storage areas or being built on. The spaces are often dirty and difficult to access (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 24).

This situation can partly be explained by the diffuse difference between public and private space. This causes problems when defining who is responsible for maintenance and development. Usually, the outcome is that both private and public sectors choose to ignore the urging need of maintenance in public spaces. With exception from Stone Town, Government and tourist areas public space is in bad condition with no cleaning or maintenance (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 259).

In informal subdivision areas such as Ng'ambo, the availability of open space and public space is scarce (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 191). Therefore the open space of Mkamasini is a rare and unique site in it context and therefore important to protect.⁸

Economy

Zanzibar has a number of natural resources such as fertile soil and good fishing grounds. Nevertheless, Zanzibar is an underdeveloped country. The weak economy is explicit in Zanzibar Town where infrastructure and other services are insufficient (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 35).

50 % of the available workforce on Zanzibar is unemployed. This high number includes many women who are not working due to social and cultural reasons (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 34-35).

Tourism is the most important source of income to the national budget, although the local people's direct profit is in comparison small. Nevertheless, investments in tourism has contributed to an upgrading of infrastructures which benefits the country as a whole (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 34-35).

Overall Zanzibar Town fails in providing a good quality of life to its inhabitants. The framework, infrastructure and services are not efficient enough (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 5).

Climate

Zanzibar Town has a tropical monsoon climate with precipitation consisting of heavy rainfalls that reaches it peak in April. A short dry season occurs in August. The average temperature is 26.9 degrees (Climate-Data.org, no date).

The islands are characterized by rather flat terrains. In combination with heavy rainfalls this factor causes problems such as flooding of residential areas where water accumulates (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 101).

The large quantities of rain and a high humidity also result in damp environments damaging buildings, outdoor and indoor space as well as infrastructure. Storm water is another issue connected to the rain

⁸ Rashid M. Azzan, Senior Urban Planner and Head of the Research Unit at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar, interview Tuesday 1st of March 2016



Figure 5. Timeline of the history of Zanzibar and development of Ng'ambo

season. The water can stream with a force strong enough to expose the roots of trees and disconnect buildings from the street level (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2013, p. 103).

The location of Zanzibar, close to the equator, contributes to a rapid sunrise and sunset. In the evening, the transformation from bright day to dark night happens fast and abruptly (SMHI, 2015).

The Swahili culture and Islamic religion

The Swahili refers to the people living along a great part of the East African coast. The culture is rich in textiles, food and architecture due to the coastlines trading history. The language spoken is called Ki-Swahili, which is also the official language on Zanzibar (BBC, no date).

The Islamic religion is very interwoven in the culture of Zanzibar. It influences daily life with prayer times, people's clothing, diet, family situations and values (Shapira & Hellerman Planners, 2015, p. 79). Common festivities affects the whole society and open spaces are important places for such events.⁹

Design considerations -contextual background

Business

The unemployment number is high on Zanzibar. The public space of Mkamasini can be utilized as a marketplace, enabling smaller business.

Climate

The strong sun acquires built environments to provide shade. This need is especially important in public spaces where every day life take place.

Culture

The Swahili culture and Islamic religion influences the whole society on Zanzibar. It is therefore an important aspect to consider when designing the open space in Mkamasini.

Green features

Providing green spaces are according to ZanPlan a cheap and easy method to improve the quality of life for the city's residents. The introduction of more trees in Mkamasini is a low cost investment that requires low maintenance, in line with the comprehensive plan.

Street Light

Lighting of the urban landscape is important due to the abrupt sunset. Public spaces cannot be used to their full potential when lighting is missing. Lack of street lights is also unfortunate since the temperature is more bearable after sunset.

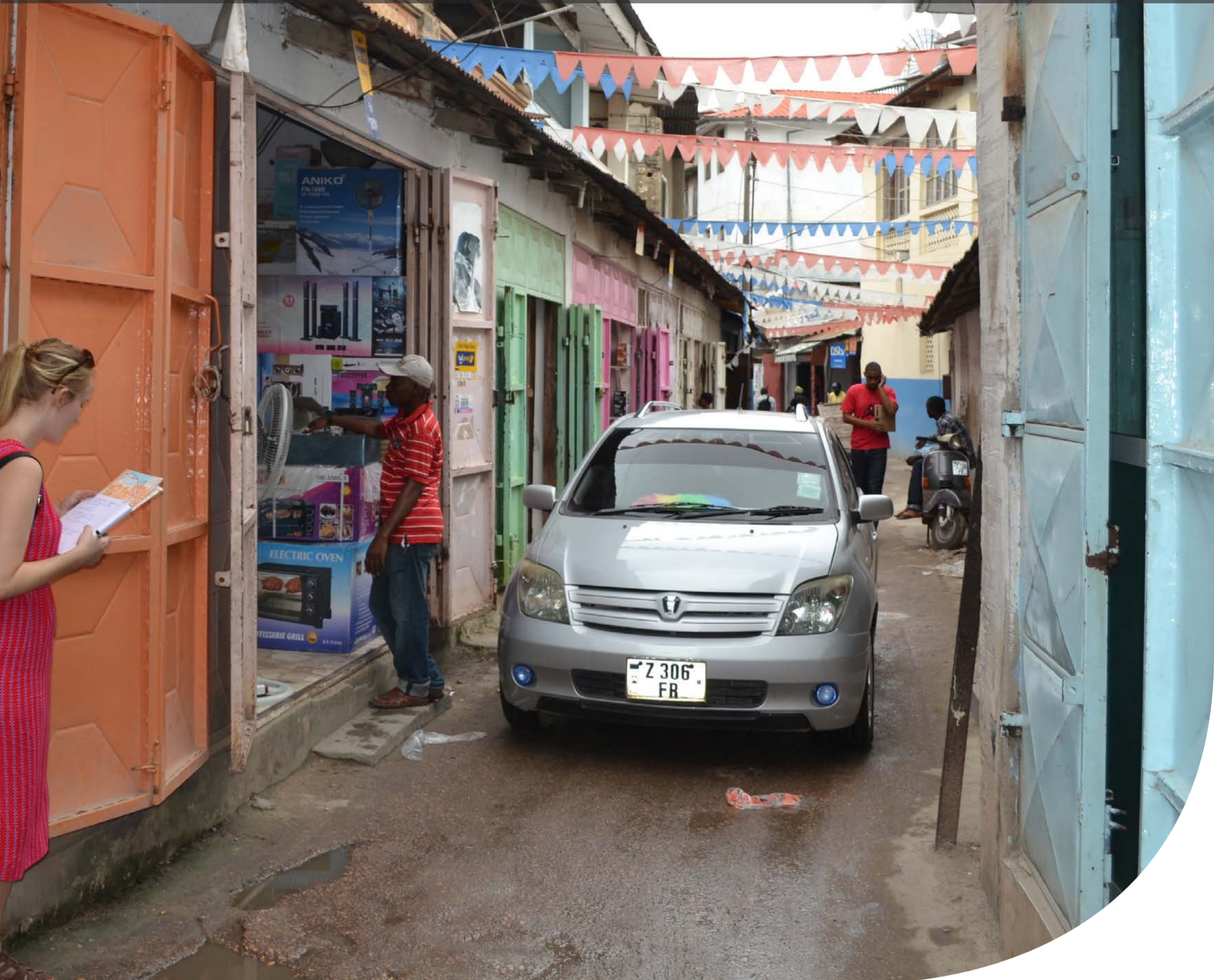
Trash

As ZanPlan describes, public spaces are often being used as garbage dumps and storage areas. It is important to clarify who is responsible for maintenance. Rubbish bins should be introduced and people encouraged not to dump trash in the outdoor space.

⁹ Rashid M. Azzan, Senior Urban Planner and Head of the Research Unit at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar, interview Tuesday 1st of March 2016

Picture of Mtendi street in old Ng'ambo.

The streets in Old Ng'ambo are utilised as public space. They provide room for a variety of activities. Children's play, social interactions and market stands selling local food, clothing or other groceries are common. They are vibrant places where the many colours of doors, facades and other elements contribute to a hive of impressions.



Mkamasini in the surrounding area in Old Ng'ambo - Site study

The first part of the site study consists of a categorisation of public spaces in Old Ng'ambo today. Further on, an analysis of the surrounding area is presented to understand in what context Mkamasini is situated. The remaining chapter deals with Mkamasini and includes in depth observations, inventory and analysis of the space.

Categorisation of public space in Old Ng'ambo

According to our definition of public space; public spaces are often gathering places such as plazas, squares and parks. To make sure that our design proposal would serve the surrounding area of Mkamasini and be contextually anchored we researched the following three aspects:

1. Representative types of public spaces in Old Ng'ambo
2. Representative physical elements in public spaces
3. Representative activities in public spaces



1. Representative types of public space in Old Ng'ambo

Planned areas

Only a few planned public spaces can be identified in Old Ng'ambo. These are often small parks or plazas that include vegetation. Some of them are semi-private and the visitor must pay a fee to enter the space. People use the planned areas for recreational and social purposes. Common features are round benches in concrete and large trees providing shade. The pictures show examples from Jamhuri Gardens and Vikitoni.



Jamhuri Gardens



Vikitoni

Streets

The streets in Old Ng'ambo are often utilised as public spaces. They provide opportunities for a variety of activities such as children's play, social interactions and market stands selling local food, clothing or other groceries. The pictures show examples from Darajani street and a residential street in old Ng'ambo.



Darajani Street



A residential street in Old Ng'ambo

Open spaces within the residential neighbourhood

The open spaces within the residential neighbourhoods are rare, small and irregular in shape. They often lack vegetation and are scattered with trash and piles of building material. Nevertheless, these spaces can serve as gathering places for everyday life activities, as well as cultural celebrations and funerals. They also function as playgrounds for children living close by.



Mapembeani



Backyard belonging to one of the houses of the Michenzani complex

Larger open spaces in the outskirts of the residential neighbourhood

Larger open spaces in the outskirts of the residential neighbourhood are often used as soccer fields. In some cases, these spaces have a border zone with trees where people gather in the shade.



Malindi grounds



Mnazi Mmoja

2. Representative physical elements found in public space

Sitting facilities

Different types of benches are found throughout Old Ng'ambo, both primary and secondary. The primary benches consist mostly of barazas; stone benches that are either separated or part of the built structure of traditional Swahili-style houses. The secondary benches exist in a range of varieties, from roots of trees to tires that are entrenched in the ground.



Secondary seating



Baraza



Sitting tires

Food retail

Food is sold in various ways in public spaces. Urojo is a popular street lunch sold throughout Zanzibar Town. Some people within the residential area use their homes to sell goods, either on the baraza or through a vibanda that is included in the house. Movable food vendors are also common in public spaces.



Urojo stand



Goods sold on barazas



Vibandas



Movable food vendors

Mascans

Mascans are gathering spaces for men in public spaces, commonly in the shade underneath trees. They meet to socialise, discuss politics or play board games. News stands and outdoor TV's are also types of mascans.



News stand



Outdoor TV



Gathering in the shade underneath trees



Animals

Ducks, cats and hens walk freely in public spaces and are therefore a natural part of everyday life in Old Ng'ambo.



Ducks



Cats



Hens

Trash

A lack of waste bins and proper disposal sites for debris, leads to careless dumping and scattering of trash throughout Old Ng'ambo.



Scattered trash



Piles of building material



Vegetation

Trees are appreciated shade providers and are used to spatially differentiate spaces from each other. Also, old trees are saved and incorporated in built structures. Planting beds occasionally occur in small junctions in Old Ng'ambo.



Foliage creating shade



Trees incorporated in built structures



Planting beds with shrubs in Old Ng'ambo

3. Representative activities in public space

Playing

The lack of planned playgrounds results in children using the streets and open spaces for playing. Football is a popular activity among boys. Smaller children often gather on elevated areas where they are separated from bypassers. Due to an absence of proper playing equipment, children are inventive and use elements found in the physical environment for playing.



Playing ball games



Hopscotch on elevated area



Playing with physical elements

Socialising

Board games and playing cards in public spaces are common activities, although more socially acceptable among men. Sitting and relaxing or eating on barzas is an activity that includes all ages and genders. However, generally women do not use public spaces to the same extent as men.



Eating together



Sitting and relaxing on barza



Playing cards and board games

Transportation

Common means of transport are bicycles and mopeds that can move easily through the narrow streets. Cars occur where the streetscape is spacious enough. The dala-dalas are privately owned public transportation. They have fixed routes but no bus stops. Passengers are picked up and dropped off at central locations and by request along the route. At times donkey carriages are used to transport building material or timber.



Dala-dala



Bicycle



Donkey carriage



Mopeds

Household activities

Due to the lack of space inside, the outdoor environment is sometimes used as an extension of the house. It is common to wash and dry clothes in public space and it can also be used for cooking.



Cooking



Washing and drying clothes

Analysis of the surrounding area

To understand our site in its context we conducted one analysis that include the surrounding area. Our analysis is based on the method formulated by Kevin Lynch.

There are some general elements that are characteristic for the surrounding area. Four large roads create a visible and actual barrier which forms the well defined district in which Mkamasini is situated. Along the roads are multi-storey buildings belonging to the Michenzani complex located or rows of market stands that make the district even more distinct and difficult to penetrate. The public spaces mainly consists of small open areas that combine uses such as market stalls, parking lots and trees that provide shade. The topography is rather flat with the exception of a smaller elevation point in the south west of the area. The organic street grid in combination with few landmarks in the area make orientation difficult. Trash is spread out in the whole district, especially in the green areas. The vegetation is scattered within the area and consists mainly of low shrubs and occasional trees.

Districts

Open spaces

Malindi Grounds is a quite large grass and sand area, functioning as a sports field. Mapembeani, Mkamasini and the space in front of the buildings belonging to the Michenzani complex are smaller open spaces within the residential neighbourhood.

Streets- marketplaces

Some streets functions as market places and can be characterized as vibrant and crowded.

Residential neighbourhood

Swahili houses made out of either coral stone or concrete is the dominating building typology in the area. Some buildings have both residential and commercial use. The buildings create an organic pattern making it hard to differ one neighbourhood from another. The pavement consists of sand, with exception of the market streets that are paved with asphalt. Small paved surfaces also occur in close connection to the houses.

Apartment buildings are scattered within the area. They are structured in the same organic pattern as the Swahili houses.

The Michenzani complex is located on Karume street and Mlandege street. They are rectangular multi-storey apartment buildings constructed in the late 1960's. The regular shape and height of these buildings create a dramatic change in character compared to the rest of the residential neighbourhood organised in an organic pattern.

Paths

Creek road

Creek road is a paved, four-lane wide road running along Darajani market. It is overloaded with cars, dala-dalas, mopeds, bicycles and pedestrians. There is an intense activity along the road due to many hot spots, such as Darajani market, car parking and multiple dala-dala terminus. There are traffic lights to facilitate the pedestrian movement across the road where there is a continuous stream of vehicles.

Large trees growing alongside Creek road are provide parts of the area with shade. These trees make activity possible during the hottest part of the day.

Karume Road:

Karume road is an important link to the eastern suburbs in Ng'ambo and to the eastern part of the island. It is a paved, four-lane wide road with a mix of cars, dala-dalas, mopeds, bicycles and pedestrians. There are sidewalks and market stands located on parts of the road. Between the Michenzani complex and the road is a green strip with trees that provide the walkway with shade. The green strip distances the walkway from the road, making the experience more pleasant for pedestrians.

Malawi Road:

Malawi road is a heavily trafficked road that connects Mlandege road and Creek road in the north part of the neighbourhood. It is also the link between Stone Town and the north part of the island. The paved, two-lane wide road faces residential buildings on one side and a swamp at the other side. There are no sidewalks in any direction making it difficult and dangerous for pedestrians to walk along the road. Several petrol stations are situated between the road and the residential buildings, creating a barrier to the neighbourhood.

Mlandege Road:

Mlandege road is a paved four-lane wide road that connects Karume road and Malawi road. The sides of the road is characterized by large stores, warehouses, hotels and banks. There are street parking possibilities and sidewalks on both sides.

Mtendeni Street

Mtendeni street connects to Creek road and runs through the neighbourhood until it reaches the Michenzani complex. The road is one lane wide and used mainly by pedestrians and bicycles. Cars, carriages and mopeds are occasionally interfering with the space and limiting the accessibility for pedestrians. It is a paved road characterized by shops selling electronic devices. The sound level is high due to noise from TV's, music playing and people talking to each other. It creates a stressful environment.

Darajani Street

Darajani street is a one lane paved street that connects Creek road to Mlandege road. It is dominated by pedestrians. It is also trafficked by bicycles, carriages, mopeds and cars that make the streetspace crowded which decrease the space for pedestrians. It is a popular street for selling fabrics and clothes. The shops extend their space for selling items into the streetspace, making the road appear narrow. The small space available for passage in combination with a high intensity of people creates a stressful environment.

Paths within the neighbourhood

The streetscape within the residential neighbourhood creates an organic pattern between the houses. The paths consists of sand. The streets are mainly used by the residents in the area, contributing to a low intensity and a calm environment. The streetlife consists of people passing, gathering on barazas and children playing in the street. Small shops in residential houses are the only form of commercial activity.

Landmarks

The Michenzani complex

They differ in expression compared to the surrounding single-storey Swahili houses and are visually seen from many parts of Old Ng'ambo. The Michenzani complex creates a barrier, separating the residential neighbourhood from the larger roads; Mlandege road and Karume road.

Edges

Surrounding roads

Malawi road, Mlandege road, Karume road, Creek road encloses the area and creates a barrier to the rest of Old Ng'ambo and Stone Town.

Open space

Malindi Grounds is perceived as an edge in the area due to its open character.

Buildings in border zones

There are concentrations of multi-storey buildings in the border zones that limits the access into the area. These are either apartment buildings, warehouses, institutions or petrol stations. Their large size and occasional surrounding walls, make them more or less penetrable and are therefore perceived as barriers.

Nodes

Michenzani roundabout

The roundabout is located in the middle of a characteristic cross that Malawi road, Mlandege road, Karume road, Creek road create in Old Ng'ambo. A lot of activity is concentrated around it, for example people gathering under the trees, shops and market stands.

Dala-Dala Terminus

The dala-dala terminus are vibrant nodes where people gather to catch busses departing to other parts of the island.

Open space by the market in Vikitoni

An open space with large trees where people gather on benches in the shade. There are some market stands.

Malindi Grounds

An open space with large trees concentrated in the border zones. People relax in the shade and it also functions as a sports field mainly used by men.

Darajani Market

A popular market offering a large variety of food, clothes and electronic devices. It stretches along Creek Road and is a vibrant place from early morning until it closes at sunset which is around 7 pm.

Market streets within the residential neighbourhood

Darajani street and Mtendeni street are important gathering places for people from all of Old Ng'ambo and Stone Town.

Surrounding area



Mapembeani, Mkamasini and the spaces in front of the buildings belonging to the Michenzani complex are the only *open spaces within the residential neighbourhood* in the surrounding area.



The Michenzani complex was constructed in late 1960's to meet the increasing housing demand in Old Ng'ambo. As a result six blocks was built alongside Karume and Mlandege Road.



The Michenzani Roundabout is a node in Old Ng'ambo with much activity concentrated around it. The roundabout is surrounded by the Michenzani Complex.



Vikitoni open space is a planned public space with trees and benches. Opposite Vikitoni and Creek Road is the Darajani Market which is a crowded and popular market place in Zanzibar Town.



Malindi Grounds is a large open space with trees in the boarder zones. Here, people gather in the shade of the trees or play football in the open space.



Inventory and observation of Mkamasini

A public space within Old Ng'ambo categorised as an "open space within the residential neighbourhood"

The public space of Mkamasini is one of the few open spaces in the organic street grid of Old Ng'ambo. It is approximately 65 meters between house number 1 to house number 10. The narrow part between the paved surface and house number 13 is around 10 meters. The space is defined by the surrounding buildings, mostly single-storey residential houses in traditional Swahili-style architecture. For detail pictures of the houses, see appendix page 1.

During most part of the day, Mkamasini is used as a passage. People walk through the space without staying or having a seat. In the evening, the site is full of playing children. The open space is very sun exposed. The trees are concentrated in the edge zones of the space making the central parts sun exposed from sunrise to sunset.

One of the houses surrounding Mkamasini is a Madrasa, which is an Islamic school for children. Children pass back and forth to the school during the day and the sound of singing from the classrooms can be heard in the public space. In the north part of Mkamasini is a vibanda: a small grocery shop. It is open from the morning until sunset.

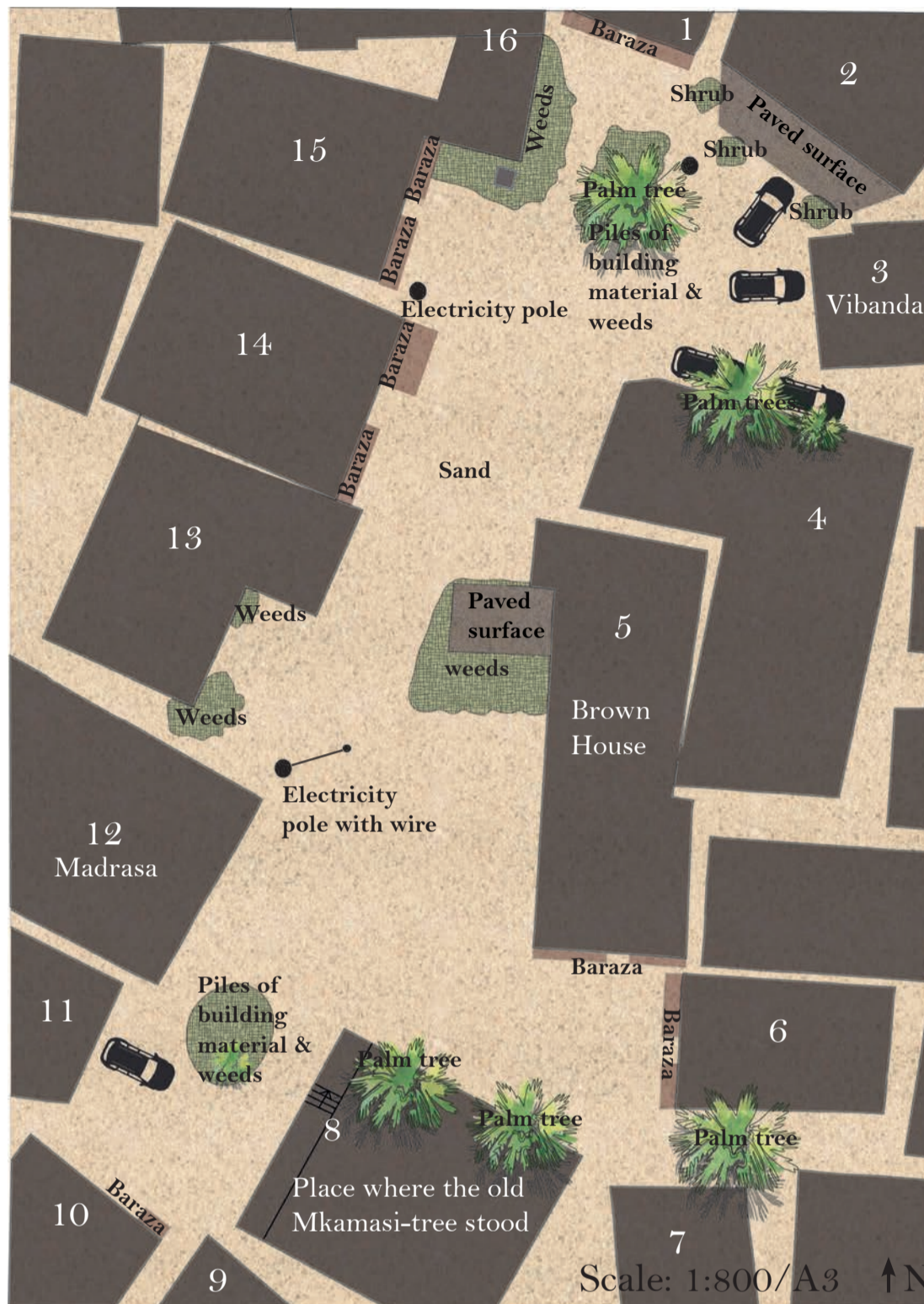
The old Mkamasini tree was located in the south part of Mkamasini (picture on p. 37). Still today, the users of Mkamasini remember the tree and how the shade provided by the canopy was a popular gathering spot.

Mkamasini is decorated with posters promoting the opposition party of Zanzibar, CUF (Civic United Front). The colours of the party are also represented at the site by garlands, hanging between the electricity poles, creating an impression of a ceiling. Similar garlands that represent different political parties is common in streets throughout Zanzibar Town as a whole.

Characteristic for Mkamasini is scattered trash and piles of leftover building material from house construction. The waste is concentrated around the weeds. Also, there are two electricity poles, one with a connecting wire that disturbs the movement across the space.

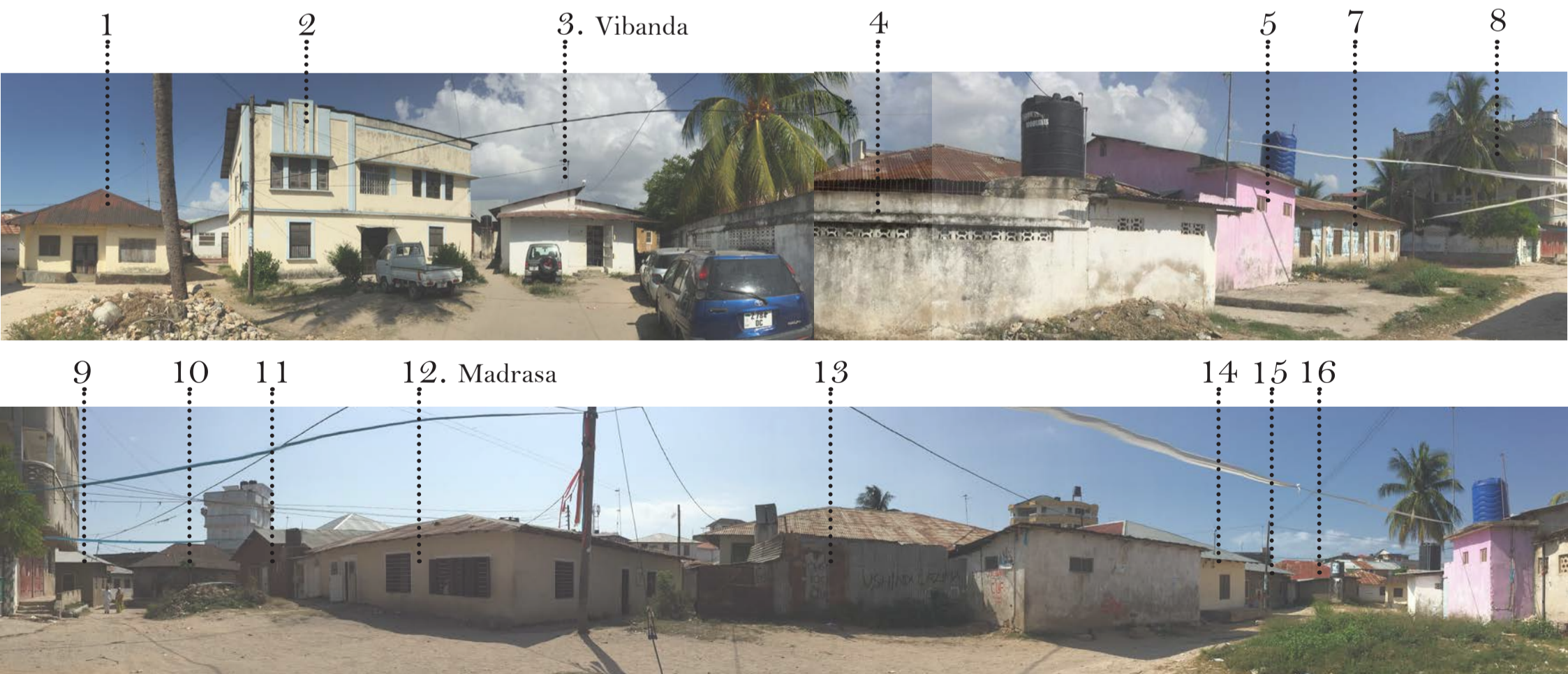
Barazas is a common feature in Mkamasini. Despite the close connection to the house, the baraza is considered to be a semi-public zone. They are a part of the public space where anyone can have a seat. However, the barazas in Mkamasini are not frequently used during the day.

Map of physical features



The map is showing the location of different physical features in the public space of Mkamasini. Also, the location of the Madrasa, vibanda, the brown house and where the old Mkamasini-tree stood is highlighted.

Typologies of the surrounding houses



Panorama photos showing the houses surrounding the site.

Colours, materials and patterns

A documentation of representative colours, materials and patterns at Mkamasini with an aim to make it easier for us to adapt the redesign to suit the present architectural expression.

Colours

There is a range of colours in Mkamasini found on barazas, facades and doors. Pastel colours are most common although brighter paint occur. They are either combined together or solitary. Rust is also common on metal objects.



Red baraza with a green door frame



Combination of colour on door and facade



Rust



Red metal door

Materials

The majority of the houses surrounding Mkamasini are traditional Swahili-houses made out of coral stone. The barazas and door steps are made out of concrete and are round or straight in shape. Mosaic tiles on barazas and doorsteps are common. Also, traditional wooden Swahili doors occur in Mkamasini.



Doorstep with round shapes



Traditional wooden door



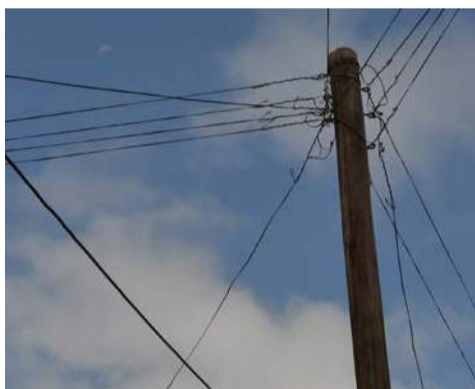
Tiles



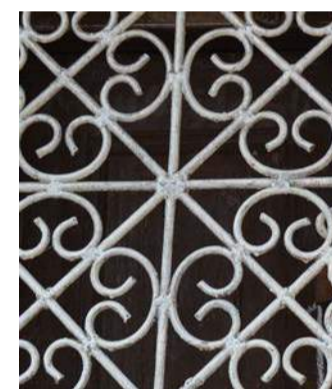
Swahili-houses of coral stone

Patterns

At a careful sight, there are many patterns in Mkamasini. The electricity wires from wooden poles leading in a range of directions is a common sight in Mkamasini as well as in Old Ng'ambo as a whole. Also, window grating is made in a range of patterns and colours.



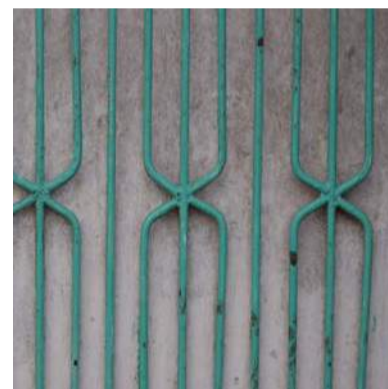
Electricity wires



Window grating



Mosaic pattern



Window grating

Vegetation

The following trees and shrubs together with the weeds, account for the vegetation at the site today. These species have a limited ability to provide shade.

Palm trees

There is a total of four palm trees in Mkamasini. One is placed in the north end of Mkamasini and is high enough to be visible throughout the open space. Another palm tree is located in the south east part of the open space. The remaining two palm trees are situated on private property.



Palm tree in the north end



Placed in the open space



Placed on private property



Placed on private property

Deciduous trees

There is a total of four trees in Mkamasini and all of them are placed on private property. Only the foliage is visible in the open space.



Placed on private property



Placed on private property



Placed on private property



Placed on private property

Shrubs

There is three types of shrubs in Mkamasini, all placed in the open space.



Placed in the open space



Placed in the open space



Placed in the open space

Activity at different times during the day

To get an idea of how Mkamasini is used today, we observed the space at different times throughout the day. We found that the space is mostly used as a passage during the hot hours of the day. However, there is more activity later on in the afternoon before the sun sets.

9-10 am

In the morning hours people are mostly passing through the space, either by foot, bicycle, moped or car.



Man passing



Man passing on moped



Man passing with wheelbarrow

12-1 pm

At this time, the majority of the activity is passage. Some children are playing for a short period of time.



Man passing



Children playing



Group of women passing

3-4 pm

In the afternoon, children are starting to stay a longer period of time in the space. Most of the activity is concentrated around the Madrasa where the students are playing after school.



Boy bicycling around the site



Children around the madrasa



Boy passing

6-7 pm

Most of the activity is concentrated to this time. Children use the space to play ballgames. There are no proper goals, therefore they take turns shaping goals with their arms in basketball and by using two rocks in football. Other children and adolescents are watching the game from the barazas. When the sun sets the space is cleared with people.



Children playing basketball



Children playing football



People watching the football game

Lynch analysis of Mkamasini

The open space is defined by the built elements; houses, walls and concrete surfaces that are surrounding it. The ground cover consists of sand with exception of a few patches of weeds. There are no formal pathways, but the open character of the space allows for movement in multiple directions across the space. There are numerous paths from the surrounding organic street grid that leads to the space, which contributes to a large variety of routes through the space. People are primarily walking by foot, but bicycles and mopeds are common modes of transport across the space. Cars enter from Mtendeni street to park in the space, but there is not a wide enough connecting street that allows thoroughfare. The whole area is scattered with trash which gives it an untidy impression.

Districts

1. The southern part of the space is visually linked to Mtendeni street. The fact that two well used paths cross this area and that the madrasa is situated here makes the district an active passage during the day. This part turns into a popular space for playing basketball when the sun sets.

2. The passage between the two parts is a thin strip defined by an area with weeds in the east and a residential building in the west. The narrowness of the space limits its usage to being mainly a passage.

3. The northern part of the space is poorly linked to Darajani street. A great part of the space functions as a parking lot. This district is less active than the north part but people occasionally pass or have a seat at the barazas or by the shop. In the late afternoon this district changes in intensity with children using it as a soccer pitch.



1. South part

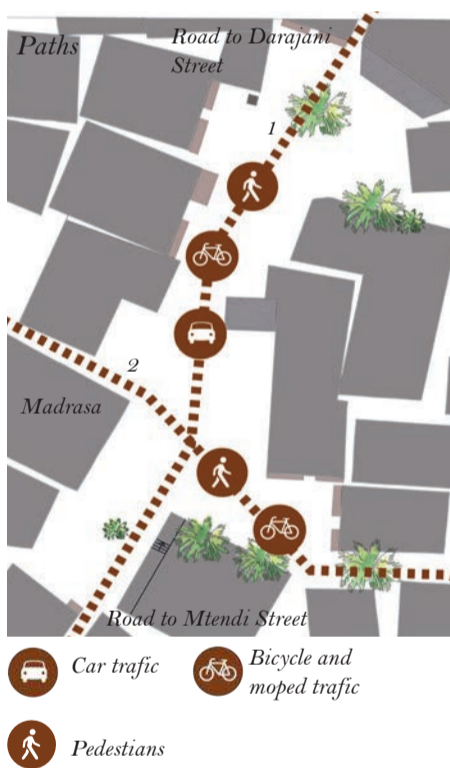
2. Passage

3. North part

Paths

1. From south to north and north to south, from Darajani street to Mtendeni Street and vice versa, is the main direction of movement across the space. These main entrances are not visually clear. Darajani Street and Mtendi Street are important nodes surrounding Mkamasini and people that walk, bicycle or ride mopeds are mainly travelling in this direction.

2. From the Madrasa to the east or south and vice versa is the second most common movement pattern. It is mainly the children that are enrolled at the Madrasa that walk in this direction. Occasionally the children are accompanied by adults.



Path from Mtendi Street



Path towards the Madrasa

Edges

1. The brown house has a wide facade that creates an edge. It is perceived as mediocre compared to the surrounding buildings that are more decorative and interesting in shape and design.

2. The electricity pole with a connected wire is placed in the middle of the path and creates a barrier. People are forced to walk around it and is therefore a very inconvenient interruption in the movement through the open space.

3. The area with weeds is covered with trash and is not inviting the visitors to walk or drive through, even if it is possible. The size of the area with weeds makes the path between the districts quite small which is a problem when people and vehicles pass at the same time.

4. The piles of building materials are barriers that are blocking the way for bypassers. They are not decorative features at the site and they lack purpose.



Piles of building materials



Electricity pole with a connected wire

Landmarks

1. The mosque is visually present from some parts of the open space and is also an important meeting point.
2. The eclectic house stands out in the neighbourhood because of its unique design compared to the surrounding classic Swahili houses. It is also located at the same spot as an old Mkamasi tree once were. The tree was cut down when this house was built. Many users of Mkamasini still refers to the building as the place where the tree stood.
3. The palm tree is the highest element situated on the open space and can be seen from most parts of the site.



The eclectic house



Palm tree in the northern part

Nodes

1. The Madrasa in Mkamasini is situated in a classic Swahili house and functions as an important meeting point for the children in the neighbourhood. From Monday to Friday, which are school days, the Madrasa is full of activity and brings life and vividness to Mkamasini.
2. Small shops are located in two buildings on, and close to, the open space of Mkamasini. The selection of groceries is limited but the shops provide for example water, sodas and vegetables. They are important as they, in connection to the open space, gather potential visitors to it.
3. Darajani street is an important node in the area that holds a lot of people and activity during the day.
4. Mtendeni street is similar to Darajani street, but with slightly less activity. Both streets mentioned are very important as links to the open space and should be more defined to create a better access to the open space.
5. The barazas provide seating possibilities for the visitors of Mkamasini. There are no other formal benches which makes the barazas very important for the open space.
6. Soccer and basketball-games in the late afternoon create temporary nodes that gather a lot of children from the neighbourhood.



Vibanda



Baraza

SWOT & PPS

Sociability

S

- * People meet their friends in Mkamasini and many seem to know each other by face and name.
- * The space is used for celebrations and other gatherings, for example funerals and political meetings.
- * People from other parts of Old Ng'ambo seem familiar with Mkamasini.
- * People seem to be proud of the place and are interested in keeping the memory of the place alive.

W

- * The space is not used by the whole community. It is mainly used by children.

O

- * The positive attitude towards the space gives it great potential to be attached in a larger scale of the community. Today, it is only used by the adjacent neighbourhood.

T

- * New design of the space might make it more popular for a larger area of Old Ng'ambo, making it less "homelike" for the people living there and the people that use it today.

Users & Activities

S

- * Many people pass the area because of its strategic location.
- * In the late afternoon children gather to play soccer and basketball.
- * There are small shops located in the space.

W

- * During most of the day people are only passing, few are sitting down or using the space in other ways.
- * The lack of shade makes it almost impossible to use the space during the hottest hours of the day.
- * There are no street lights in the open space, which means that Mkamasini cannot be utilised after sunset.
- * There are not enough choices of activities to satisfy people of different ages, genders and interests.

O

- * More places in shade would create opportunities to stay and use the space during the whole day.
- * If street lights are installed, the space can potentially become an active place after the sunset.
- * By highlighting the small shops, they can become popular meeting places in the space.
- * By increasing the amount of optional activities, the space can potentially satisfy more people.

T

- * If the space is made accessible in the evening, it might attract more people which can be disturbing for people living in the adjacent buildings.

Access & Linkages

S

- * Numerous paths lead to Mkamasini.
- * It is easy to move around the space due to its open character.
- * It is an unique space because of its large size compared to other open spaces in the area.
- * Occupants of adjacent buildings use the space.
- * The facades are interesting with different textures and the houses have different typologies.
- * It is possible to reach the space by foot, bicycle, moped and car.
- * The beaten paths through the space follows the natural movement pattern.
- * The barazas link the houses to the space in an efficient way, creating semi-public zones.

W

- * The place is not visible from a distance which means that only people that know where it is are able to find it.
- * The place does not function well for people with disabilities. The ground material is uneven with sharp rocks.
- * There are no formal pathways.

O

- * Strengthening the link between Darajani Street, Mkamasini and Mtendeni street would possibly increase the movement through the open space which would bring more potential users to the area.
- * Mkamasini can potentially become an important node and public space for the residents in the surrounding area.

T

- * Uncoordinated authorities may lead to situations where regulations regarding open spaces are being ignored and people extend their houses-making the open space smaller.

Comfort & Image

S

- * There are many barazas to sit on in the edges of the space with the back covered by the houses.
- * The area is perceived as safe during the day.
- * The area is perceived as a calm in a pleasant way.
- * Pedestrians are dominating the space.
- * There are many interesting sounds in the space, for example birds singing, roosters crowing and people talking. It creates a comfortable feeling at the site.

W

- * There are more men than women.
- * The space is scattered with trash and it is not clear who is responsible for collecting it.
- * The area can be perceived as unsafe during night time because there are no streetlights.
- * Cars and mopeds that are driving fast interrupt the movement of pedestrians.
- * People do not have many choices of seating other than the barzazas that are in close connection to the houses. The center part of the space are lacking seating possibilities.
- * The space is missing spatial elements that give the site a clear identity.

O

- * The size of the space makes it different from the surrounding area and it has potential to become an attractive site.

T

- * There are problems with maintenance because it is not clear who is responsible for the space.

Design considerations -site study

Activity

The shape and size of the site allows for multiple activities simultaneously.

The space is dominated by activities that are more welcoming to men than to women. In the design it is important to offer appealing activities for both genders and for a variety of ages.

Business

The small shops have the possibility to extend their business out into the space in order to create attractive hot spots in Mkamasini.

Connections

Mtendeni street and Darajani street are vibrant places where many people gather. Mkamasini is located between these streets which helps to feed people into the space. Due to the strategic location, the amount of people visiting Mkamasini can potentially increase. Mkamasini is only likely to serve as a public space for people within the surrounding area, due to the large barriers in the border zones.

Children

Mkamasini serves as a playground for children living in the neighbourhood. In addition, many children pass the space on their way to the Madrasa. A children's perspective should therefore be considered in a future design.

Design

The facades of the adjacent buildings have different textures and the houses have different typologies.

The design must harmonize with the existing mix of architectural expressions.

Important experiential qualities in the space are for example that it is perceived as safe during the day and calm in a pleasant way. This should be emphasized in the design. The facade of the brown house needs to be redesigned in order to interact better with the space. The design can be affected negatively by factors that are beyond our control. Examples include that the residents extend their homes into the public space and that poor maintenance leads to a degradation in quality.

Green features

The site is in need of more green features that provides a pleasant microclimate. Today the site is very sun exposed.

Orientation

The surrounding area consists of an urban landscape with few landmarks. The irregularly scattered houses and organic street grid cut off sightlines. These factors in combination lead to difficulties in orientation and can therefore affect the probability of people visiting Mkamasini. Entrances to the space are not highlighted, making localisation of Mkamasini difficult from the surrounding area.

Open space

Mkamasini is one of few open spaces within the surrounding area. The residential neighbourhood is densely built and there is an absence of outdoor meeting places where people can gather for common activities. It is therefore important to preserve the quality of Mkamasini as an open space.

Paths

Due to the open character of the space, a large variety of passage routes are available across it. This possibility is important to preserve since numerous paths from the surrounding organic street grid lead to the space. The presence of people using the space as a passage today serves as a good starting point to create a place where people are tempted to stay.

Social values

There are great social values in Mkamasini since many people that use the space are acquainted with each other. This intimate character is hard to enforce and should therefore be preserved.

There is a need among residents in the area to use public space for commercial, social and recreational activities. This general desire should be considered and dealt with in a future design.

The space is occasionally used for cultural and social events and the design should allow these activities to take place in the future.

The history of the Mkamasi tree is commonly known and should be recognized in a future design.

Street Light

The lack of streetlights makes the space difficult to use during dark hours. It can also be perceived as unsafe during this time. If streetlights are introduced and the space is populated during evenings, the design proposal should find a solution to make sure that the people living in the adjacent building will not be disturbed.

Surfaces

There are surfaces within the space that are poorly accessible and therefore not utilized. The design should strive against using all the potential space for public activities.

The absence of paved surfaces and the occurrence of obstacles in the middle of the passage routes, makes movement inconvenient and inaccessible. This is especially problematic for people with disabilities.

Seating

The barazas create a well functioning transition between the private houses and the public space. These semi-public zones are interesting from a cultural perspective and are therefore important to preserve.

There is a need of a larger amount of formal and informal seating possibilities at different locations at the site, especially in the shade.

The space is used by the residents of adjacent buildings as well as people from other parts of Old Ng'ambo.

Trash

Trash and piles of building material gives the space an untidy impression. It should be removed and a new solution on how to deal with waste management in the future needs to be considered.

Traffic

Vehicular traffic interferes with pedestrian movement, which causes safety issues in Mkamasini and the surrounding area as a whole.

Car parking should be regulated to prevent that parked cars interfere with other activities.

Picture of children dressed in traditional islamic costumes in Mkamasini, Old Ng'ambo.
The Swahili and Islamic culture is visible in Zanzibar Town. It influences daily life of the local people and it is expressed in people's clothing, diet, family situations and values. Calls to prayer are heard throughout Zanzibar Town multiple times of day.



Voices of Mkamasini - Dialogues: interviews & workshop

In this chapter, the dialogues with users of Mkamasini, stakeholders and workshop with local artists are presented.

Interviews

Collecting information from local people has been vital in order to understand Mkamasini both from the users as well as from the stakeholders perspective. The users contributed with knowledge about past and present use of the site and what their wishes are for the future. The stakeholders that we interviewed were two urban planners from different offices and the shehia responsible for Mkamasini together with two friends of his. With the stakeholders we discussed difficulties as well as possibilities associated with redesigning public spaces such as Mkamasini.

Interviews with users of Mkamasini

Eight people of different age and gender were interviewed. The interviews was conducted on Thursday the 25th of February 2016 in Mkamasini.



Salum Said Nassov

Age: 80
Gender: Male
Occupation: Retired
Lives close by Mkamasini

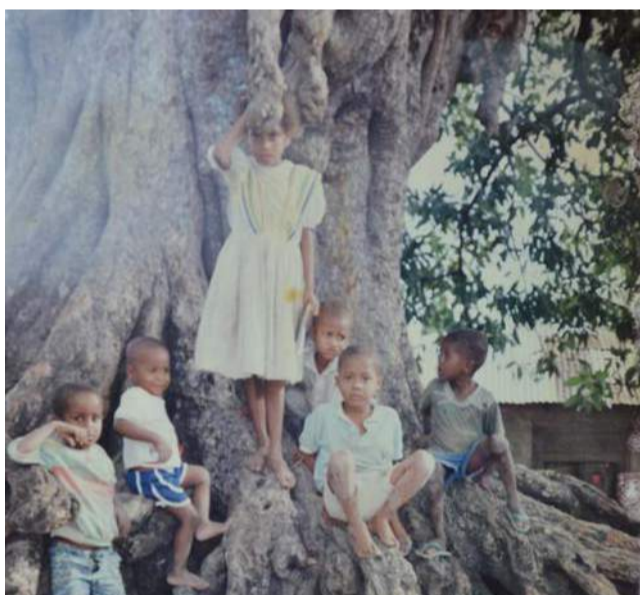
Salum Said Nassov visits Mkamasini almost every morning until 12 pm. He likes to come here because it is more vibrant than in his neighbourhood. He likes the small vibanda in Mkamasini but wishes that there was less sewage water on the ground. He sits in different places on the site and socialises with the neighbours. There are more comfortable benches and amount of shade during the hot hours of the day in Malini grounds, Mapembeani and Forodhani garden in Stone Town. Therefore those are his favourite places in Zanzibar Town. He remembers when the large Mkamasini-tree was still in Mkamasini and how people used to sit on its big roots. It was an important landmark for the community and used by many local people because of the shade it provided. It also gave

the space its name. Since the space is large and can fit many people, Mkamasini is sometimes used for different types of ceremonies. Salum Said Nassov says that sometimes friends and relatives gather here to eat lunch after a wedding.

Ali Abdalla Mohd and Amani Abrahmani

Age: 49 and 43
Gender: Males
Occupation: Shop owner and friend
Ali lives in one of the houses on the site and Amani lives close by.

Ali Abdalla Mohd is at the site all day because his home and his vibanda is located in the same house in Mkamasini. Ali says this is a very social place to live in with many friendly neighbours. Apart for Mkamasini, his favourite outdoor places in Zanzibar Town are Mapembeani and Mbuyuni grounds. Ali likes places that are properly planned and designed with trees that provide shade. He does not like that Mkamasini lacks parking regulations or rules that prohibit the house owners to expand their property into the open space. He explains that one of the house owners recently put up a wall around his house and used part of the open space for this. Actions like these intrude on the space available for recreation which is not good. Children use this space to play sports in the evening and future generations should be able to do the same. He remembers when he was little and used to play here, but at that time the space was larger than today and there were no cars. He also remembers when the Mkamasini-tree was here and when it was cut down around 1995. It was sad because the tree was around 200 years old and provided a lot of shade. Before that, in the 1960's there was an Indian graveyard located here. Mkamasini has also been used as a garbage dump which was later turned into a garden by the authorities. Unfortunately the garden dried up and then the space was used more freely as a playground.



A picture of children and the old Mkamasini-tree that was cut down around 1995. This tree gave the public space of Mkamasini its name.



Mohammed Omar

Age: 12
Gender: Male
Occupation: Student
Lives close by Mkamasini

Mohammad Omar lives nearby Mkamasini and he often visits the space in the afternoon to play football. His favourite place is Malindi playground because there is a large football pitch with grass that is much better for playing football than in Mkamasini. But he likes Mkamasini because it is close to his home and he enjoys playing there with his friends. He would like the space to be planted with grass and he thinks it should be properly cleaned. He does not remember much about the site's history but he has heard stories about a big tree in the space. The tree was cut down when a house was built, making the open space of Mkamasini smaller than before.



Maryam Awadh

Age: 52
Gender: Woman
Occupation: Housewife
Lives close by Mkamasini

Maryam Awadh lives nearby and passes the open space daily. Her favourite outdoor space on Zanzibar Town is Jamhuri gardens, a green garden with trees that provide shade. In Mkamasini, she likes that the children living in the neighbourhood can play in the open space. However, she thinks that cars driving in the space and lack of proper parking spaces is a problem because children can get hurt when cars are passing by in the middle of their football games.

Maryam Awadh moved to Mkamasini five years ago. Therefore, she does not know much about the site's history except that it used to be larger and greener. She also says that the site was used for weddings to a larger extent than today. Sometimes there are still funerals held here.



Ali Abdalla Mohd and Amani Abrahmani in the vibanda together with our interpreter Muchi Juma Ameir- an architect from the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar.



Ahmed Abdalla
Age: 19
Gender: Male
Occupation: Student
 Lives close by Mkamasini

Ahmed Abdalla lives in one of the houses facing the open space. Mkamasini is his favourite place because he and his friends feel that it is their place. Ahmed thinks that it is positive that the site is close to his home. On the other hand, he considers the scattered trash to be a problem and he thinks that the area should be cleaner. He is also concerned about the electricity poles with connecting wires and wonder if they might be dangerous, especially for the kids who are playing there. Ahmed Abdalla explains that there are occasional rallies at the site because the opposition party has a meeting hall nearby. He has a clear memory of what the open space looked like when he was little and thinks that it was better then. There was a richer street life in the past with people playing sports and traditional Swahili music.



Zubeida Hassan
Age: 31
Gender: Female
Occupation: Housewife
 Lives close by Mkamasini

Zubeida Hassan lives nearby and passes Mkamasini every day. Sometimes she visits the site for a funeral or on the date of the Muslim holiday Mawlid. Her favourite places in Zanzibar Town are Jamhuri Garden and Forodhani park because of the greenery and shade at those sites. One positive thing about Mkamasini is that the site is near her home but she dislikes the trash and piles of building materials laying around. She remembers that the site was used for cultural activities and that it was bigger and greener in the past. She can recall that there used to be a large Mkamasi-tree at the site which provided shade to a large area of the open space. She explains that the tree was cut down and a house was built where the tree once were.

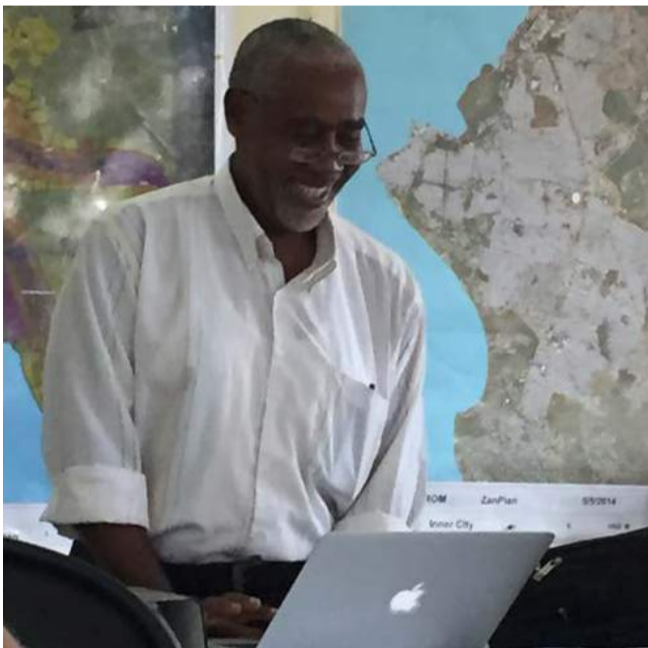


Hassan Mohammed
Age: 30
Gender: Male
Occupation: Carpenter
 Lives in Masingini

Hassan Mohammed only passes the site sometimes. His favourite place in Zanzibar Town is Komba Wapya, which is a football field in Ng'ambo. He likes it because it is a bigger space than Mkamasini with more activity. He can not say anything in particular that he likes most about the open space of Mkamasini because he is not here often enough. However, he thinks that it needs to be cleaned more regularly, have better pavement and streetlights. He has heard that there used to be a big tree here but does not know much more about the sites history.

Interviews with stakeholders

Two urban planners were interviewed, one from the Department of Urban and Rural Planning and one from the Municipal Council in Zanzibar. At these two offices they have different approach to urban space. The Department of Urban and Rural Planning set regulations and the task of the Municipal council is to implement these in Zanzibar Town. The meeting at the shehias office resulted in an informal chat where we discussed Mkamasini, gender issues and cultural aspects in general together with him and two friends of his.



Rashid M. Azzan
 Senior Urban Planner
 Head of Research Unit at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar
 Interviewed on Tuesday 1st of March 2016

"The open spaces are very, very important to the community"

- Rashid M. Azzan

Asan explains that there has been many physical changes in Old Ng'ambo over the last decades. The narrow street network was built to accommodate pedestrians and donkey carriages, not vehicular traffic. In 1950- 1960 some houses were demolished to widen the road and give access to the increasing amount of

cars. More recently, many residents in the area have extended their property size by building a larger house or putting up walls to frame their space. Not only does this intrude on the open spaces available for the public, it changes the architectural character of the neighbourhood and the increasing number of walls creates inconveniences. Mkamasini used to be a much larger space than it is today.

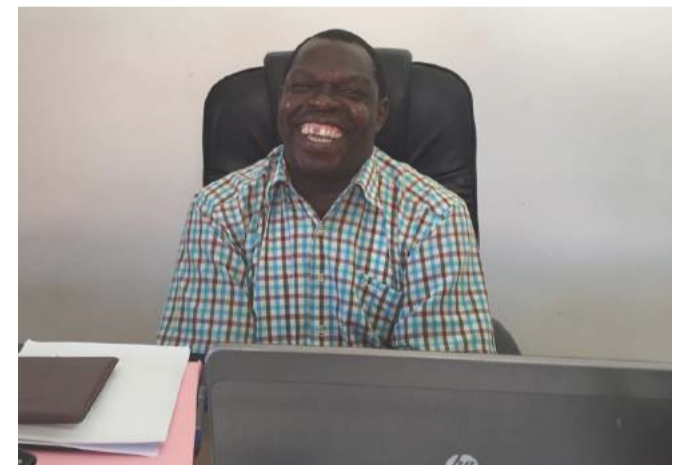
There is a lack of urban planning control in Zanzibar that has contributed to a decreasing amount of public space. Asan explains that this problem partly depends on uncoordinated authorities. Land use regulations is not a single-bodied organisation, it is divided between multiple departments and municipal councils. Some may be favour of one type of reconstruction while others will not, therefore as a house owner you are likely to receive permission to carry out construction if you ask at multiple offices.

Asan continues to explain that all open spaces need to be maintained and properly cleaned by the authorities. Right now there is a conflict between the local people and the authorities about who is responsible for waste management. He thinks that it is important that the municipal council work together with the community to educate the people about the importance of proper waste management. This can change the mindset of people to enforce a sense of ownership and towards a more caring attitude for the outside environment.

We ask Asan what his views are on public spaces such as Mkamasini and if they are important parts of Old Ng'ambo as a whole. On this question he answers that the "open spaces are very, very important to the community". They are used everyday for recreational purposes and social gatherings, as well as for special occasions such as ceremonies after weddings and funerals. During the Muslim holidays Ramadan and Mawlid, it is tradition to eat together in open spaces. Also, open spaces play a large role in emergency situations as meeting points.

Inadequate street infrastructure such as overhead electricity is a problem in Zanzibar Town. It is a safety concern during the rainy season because the poles can break and it can take a long time before they are repaired. In the future, the Department of Urban and Rural Planning is planning to establish underground electricity cables in Old Ng'ambo.

Another safety concern is vehicles, cars and mopeds, travelling at high speed in the narrow streets and in the open spaces. This makes pedestrians and playing children feel unsafe. Asan says that physical restrictions such as signs and bumps that reduce the driver's speed are more efficient than regulations on paper because these can be ignored.



Mzee Khamis Juma
 Drainage Engineer and Head of the Municipal Council in Zanzibar
 Interviewed on Friday 18th of March 2016

"The most important features in public spaces are benches to sit on, shade, some pleasant vegetation to watch and the possibility to buy food"

- Mzee Khamis Juma

Mzee Khamis Juma explains that the municipality is responsible for the maintenance of all the open spaces in Zanzibar Town. It is problematic to carry out a successful execution of maintenance because many open spaces are not properly registered and are therefore unknown to the municipality. Another problem with nonregistered open spaces is that it is not clear who is the owner of the space. The municipality does not have the legal right to maintain an area which they are not by law responsible for.

Mzee Khamis Juma describes the maintenance process in three steps. First of all the municipality must apply to the Department of Urban and Rural Planning and request for a survey of existing open spaces. This is to be able to register the spaces and to clarify who is responsible for them. Mzee Khamis Juma tells us that the mapping of open spaces in Zanzibar Town is in process and the first step was to identify the large open spaces. Spaces such as Mkamasini have not been registered yet and are therefore not included in the maintenance plan conducted by the municipality.

The second step is to develop bylaws that regulates the municipality's control over the spaces. When this is done, the municipality will be obligated to maintain the open spaces in terms of cutting grass and dealing with waste and sewage water management.

The final step is to finance the maintenance. Preferably it should be founded locally by different fees connected to the open space itself. These can for example be parking fees, service charges and licenses for running business. Mzee Khamis Juma says that it is necessary to plan for some kind of kiosk or vibanda in the open spaces. This is positive for two reasons; firstly they will fund the maintenance and secondly, the people of Zanzibar like to gather in places where they can buy food and snacks.

We ask Mzee Khamis Juma if there are other ways to finance maintenance of public spaces without encouraging consumption. He explains that funds can be collected in other ways but it is more troublesome due to the fact that the authority does not have a reliable income, for example taxes, to finance the municipality's maintenance. Therefore it is better to have the source of funding at the site to make it self-supporting.

Mzee Khamis Juma continues by talking about the people of Zanzibar Town and their relation to public spaces. He says that many residents that dump trash in public spaces shares the belief that the space belongs to them and therefore they can do whatever they want. In cases where the municipality is the actual owner of the space, they have to react and come up with solutions to manage this. However if the area is owned by the community or if it is unclear who is responsible, enforcement is missing. If the community is responsible for an open space, the outcome in terms of waste management and maintenance is usually of inferior quality. According to Mzee Khamis Juma it is better if the municipality is responsible for all open spaces to make sure they are properly maintained.

When it comes to the piles of building material from construction of houses that are seen all around Old Ng'ambo, Mzee Khamis Juma explains that there are laws regulating that the material has to be put in good order. In reality, many Zanzibarian people do not follow such restrictions and the municipality do not have the capacity to control it.

Mzee Khamis Juma shares his views on how to create a successful public space in the context of Old Ng'ambo. According to him, the most important features in public spaces are benches to sit on, shade, some pleasant vegetation to look at and the possibility to buy food. When we ask about the problems with trash he tells us that signs informing people of the requirements and conditions to use the space are necessary. Waste bins in concrete with holes in the bottom are preferable. They are solid and the holes are important for drainage. He refers a lot to Forodhani garden as a successful example of a public space.



An example from Forodhani garden of a bench where people can sit in the shade in close connection to vegetation.



An example from Forodhani garden of a waste bin in concrete with holes in the bottom for drainage.

Mzee Khamis Juma explains that street lights, preferably driven by solar panels, must be installed and that there has to be regulations regarding which time the open spaces can be used by the society. Involving the shehia and community police is a good idea to make sure that the restrictions are not being ignored. He tells us that surface water can be infiltrated in planting beds, by trees and in permeable surfaces. We ask him about the problem with sewage water in Mkamasini and he says that the site is connected to the municipal sewage water network.



Mr Nassir- Shehia of Michangani
Farid Himid Fazach- Historian and cultural expert
Ahmed Mgemli- Literature scholar and resident in Mkamasini
Interviewed on Thursday 24th of March 2016

"The barazas in Mkamasini today are not enough and the space is missing adequate places for older people to socialise with each other"

- Mr Mgemli

Mr Nassir is the shehia responsible for the Michangani local area and he is also the secretary shehia in the whole Old Ng'ambo area. Originally, our meeting was scheduled as an interview with him alone. During our visit he invited two friends of his, Mr Fazach and Mr Mgemli, to answer questions that he did not have knowledge about. The meeting resulted in an informal chat where we discussed Mkamasini, gender issues and cultural aspects in general. Mr Nassir, Mr Fazach and Mr Mgemli sometimes had different opinions which gave us a nuanced picture on how the Islamic culture can be interpreted differently according to personal preferences and beliefs.

We began by asking what their views are on the future development of Mkamasini. Mr Nassir thinks that the space is good enough as it is today. He sees great qualities in the open character of the space and is

afraid that a redesign will limit children's ability to use it for playing sports. He is aware of the fact that it is only boys that play sports there, but says that girls prefer to play inside. Mr Fazach, does not agree. He believes that the situation today is unfair and that more activities for girls and women should be provided in public spaces. He thinks that women would like to congregate more outside but that they are limited by cultural reasons. He suggest business opportunities for women at Mkamasini, such as small shops by the houses and street food stands to make them more independent from their husbands. Also, weddings and ceremonies are important events when women are able to socialise with each other and this should be possible in the space in the future.

The three men all agree that the space is too sun exposed and trees are needed to provide shade. However, the trees should not be too large with root systems that can interfere with the structure of the houses. Preferably they should be placed to the sides to keep the middle open. It is important that trees does not hamper the circulation of air around the space, because fresh air makes the living environment inside the houses much more pleasant. Flowers such as jasmine, lang lang and cilua are appreciated by people for their pleasant smell and should therefore be added to the space. Also, women traditionally pick these and use them as perfume.

Mr Fazach and Mr Mgemli thinks that there should be more seating possibilities at the space. The barazas in Mkamasini are not enough and the space does not have adequate places for older people to socialize with each other. Also, if the ground was more even and did not have as many rocks, people could spread out mats and have picnics here. An even terrain would also benefit the elderly and the disabled people that have troubles moving around today.

Mr Mgemli says that the space used to be a lot bigger in the past. The space has decreased because house owners have extended their houses into the place. Before the revolution it was important as a social meeting place and for dancing. He remembers some people that use to live close by, particularly one woman that was famous for making good chapati bread.

Workshop

The Art Centre in the Old Fort in Stone Town is a studio where local artists can paint and sell their work. Mr Kududu, who is responsible for the studio, helped us organise the workshop. During the workshop, we discuss the spatial environment in Mkamasini, designs that Zanzibarian people prefer and how public space is used. It resulted in an informal chat where we simultaneously sketched together.



Mr Kadudu - Responsible Artist at the Art Centre in the Old Fort in Stone Town

Local artists

Conducted on Tuesday 29th of March 2016

"Zanzibarian people like to socialise and therefore it is important to be able to sit face to face"

- Mr Kadudu

The workshop participants consisted of Mr. Kadudu and young male artists. They paint most of their artwork using aquarelle and oil painting techniques. One of the men told us that he had been asked to paint a larger mural painting. He encouraged us to go and have a look at his work at Safina Hotel in Stone Town. He said that it could serve as inspiration to us if we wanted to add visual 3D-experiences in Mkamasini, for example on a long facade.



The mural painting on Safina Hotel. The white balcony to the left continues in the painting, creating a 3D effect.

We continued by discussing the spatial environment of Mkamasini. We showed a map of the physical features of the space and how the site is shaped by the surrounding houses. Mr Kadudu pointed out that the lack of trees is a problem and told us that it is important to be able to sit in the shade. He illustrated a round bench with a tree in the middle. He said that Zanzibarian people like to socialize and therefore it is important to be able to sit face to face.

We talked about the problems regarding cars and parking in Mkamasini. The artists did not think that parking should be allowed outside the vibanda, because this space has potential to be used as a gathering space.

The artist told us that the Swahili people prefer bright colours, especially on fabric and artwork. They therefore recommended us to use lighter colour schemes if we incorporated a painting or some other work of art in the space. When talking about public space they referred to Forodhani garden as a good example.

Design considerations - dialogues

The dialogues presented a space that people care for and want to develop. The planners also see great potential in the space. Many people remember what the space was like before and want to bring back these elements.

Interviews with users of Mkamasini

Positive experiences from the space today:

- The size and openness of the space makes it possible to use for different types of activities, for example ceremonies where many people can gather at the same time.
- It is a social place with many friendly neighbours.
- It provides a place for children to play sports in the evening.
- It is a quality that Mkamasini is located in the residential neighbourhood- close to home and easily reachable. It is a natural meeting place for children in the neighbourhood.
- A sense of ownership and local pride.
- Occasional political rallies.

Negative experiences from the space today:

- Sewage water on the ground.
- No parking regulations or rules that prohibit house owners to expand their property into the open space.
- Garbage and piles of building material is considered a problem.
- Passing cars make it unsafe for children to play here.
- Too little activity at the space.
- The uneven pavement makes the space difficult to access, in particular for seniors citizens.
- No streetlights.
- Electricity poles creates inconveniences and might be dangerous, especially for kids that are playing there.

What people appreciate in public spaces:

- Opportunities for socialising.
- Comfortable benches.
- Seating possibilities in the shade.
- Vibandas.
- Properly planned and designed spaces.
- Large football pitches with grass.
- Green spaces.

Memories from the space:

- The big Mkamasi tree was an important landmark and people used to sit on the big roots in the shade. The tree gave Mkamasini its name and its age made it unique in the surroundings.
- The space has gradually decreased in size.
- No cars.
- Mkamasini has been used as a garbage dump that later turned into a garden. When garden dried up the space was used more freely as a playground for children.
- More music and activity in the space than today.

Interviews with stakeholders

Activity

The space should provide more activities for girls and women. For example playing equipment for girls and business opportunities for women.

Business

It is necessary to plan for some kind of kiosk or vibanda in the open spaces of Mkamasini. It will not only fund the maintenance but the people of Zanzibar like to gather in places where they can buy food and snacks.

Children

The recreation possibility for children in Mkamasini needs to be preserved in the future design.

Green features

Trees are appreciated for creating shade and flowers for their pleasant scent. Trees should be placed to the sides to keep the middle open. The trees should not be too large or have root systems that can interfere with the structure of the houses.

Open space

The openness of Mkamasini is important to preserve for multiple reasons, for example social and emergency situations. The open area is used for special occasions such as ceremonies after weddings and funerals. During the Muslim holidays Ramadan and Mawlid, it is tradition to eat together in open outdoor spaces. There are plans to establish underground electricity cables in Old Ng'ambo.

Restrictions

Signs informing people of the requirements and conditions to use the space of Mkamasini are necessary. Physical restrictions such as signs and bumps can reduce the speed of the cars.

Seating

There should be more seating possibilities at the space. Mkamasini is missing adequate places for older people to socialize with each other.

Surfaces

An even terrain would benefit the elderly and the disabled people that have troubles moving in Mkamasini today. Surface water can be collected by vegetation.

Trash

An upgradation of Mkamasini might encourage a more caring attitude for the outside environment and lead to less dumping of trash. There should be waste bins in Mkamasini.

Workshop

Design

Mural paintings can bring life to an uninteresting facades. Swahili people prefer bright colours.

Seating

Sitting opportunities in shade are important. Round benches are preferable so people can sit face to face and socialize.

Picture of the Mkamasini today.

Mkamasini is mostly used as a passage. Due to the openness of the space, it has great potential to become a well-used location in the future. The present architectural expression and bright colours of the site should be incorporated in the new design.



From passage to place

- Seven design guidelines

All the knowledge from the design considerations are summarised into seven design guidelines in this chapter.

Design Guidelines



Stay during the day!

Aim:

Create a space where people feel invited and where they have reason to stay for longer periods of time. The design should also enable activity during more hours of the day.



Introducing more activities will give people a reason to stay in Mkamasini and not just use it as a passage.



Cope with climate!

Aim:

Consider and design according to the tropical climate on Zanzibar. This includes creating a good microclimate to manage the heat and to use permeable ground covers that infiltrate large quantities of rain.



Examples from Zanzibar Town of how to create a good microclimate using trees with a covering foliage.



Include and involve!

Aim:

The design should make room for all people in the surrounding area, regardless of age and gender. The connection between Mkamasini and the two main streets within the surrounding area, Darajani street and Mtendi street, should be strengthened to improve the access and people's ability to locate the space.



Girls and women should feel as included as boys and men in the new design of Mkamasini.



Maintain to remain!

Aim:

The maintenance should be funded locally at the site itself. Also, the design should strive towards giving a pleasant impression despite a low or irregular level of maintenance.



Removing scattered trash and piles of building material at Mkamasini today will give the site a more pleasant impression.



Back to the Roots!

Aim:

Reinforce appreciated qualities that have been lost at the site that are well known by the residents in the surrounding area.



The Mkamasi- the tree in the left picture gave name to the public space of Mkamasini. The natural gathering space that the tree provided is missed by the residents today.



Preserve but improve!

Aim:

There are many existing qualities in Mkamasini that must be preserved in the new design. These should be developed to make Mkamasini function even better as a public space.



The many qualities, such as the openness of the space and the barazas, should be preserved but developed to function even better for the users of Mkamasini.



Consider the context!

Aim:

The design must harmonize with the existing architectural expressions in Mkamasini. The design should be contextually anchored to the Swahili culture and the possibilities for religious activities must be maintained. The design should be conducted with small means in order to make implementation of the plans as realistic as possible.



Example of the Swahili-culture's social use of public space to the left and architectural expression of two houses in Mkamasini to the right.

Picture of women wearing kangas, Old Ng'ambo .

Kangas are a national dress worn by women and occasionally men. Kangas are seen in a wide range of settings on Zanzibar and they exist in a variety of colours and patterns. Kangas can be worn in multiple ways and used as decorations inside houses. They contribute to the colourful expression of public spaces in Zanzibar.



A place to embrace - The design

This chapter presents the overall concept of the design and appurtenant conceptual drawings. The design is explained in relation to the design guidelines as well as through an illustrative plan, sections and visualisations.

Kanga: The concept of the design

Embracing the culture

A kanga is a rectangular piece of fabric printed in bright colors and patterns. The Swahili people use kangas in various ways, some examples are for clothing, as curtains and for decoration. Apart from a multifunctional use, the kanga is worn both day and night, in everyday life and on festive occasions. Kangas can be designed in an endless variations of colors and patterns. However, the structure and size of a kanga is always alike. It has an outer margin called Pindo, a center motive called Miji and a message known as Jina. The Jina is a Swahili saying printed on a white stripe on the long side of a kanga. The Miji occupy a large area of the fabric and the Jina reveal the special meaning of the kanga. Through this message the user of the kanga communicate to other people. The kanga has a strong connection to the culture on Zanzibar and is commonly seen in public spaces. They way kangas embraces the Swahili culture and people of Zanzibar was the springboard and inspiration to this concept. Our goal is to make Mkamasini an equally natural part of the surrounding area as the kanga is for everyday life.



Old woman wearing kanga



(Guarino, 2011) Kangas used for decoration



Dressed for everyday life



The Miji with large dots. The outer margin, Pindo, and the white stripe with the message, Jina



Colorful houses



Day and night activities



Colorful details



Flexible usage



Everyday life

Embracing Mkamsini

A resemblance between the use of public space and the use of a kanga was revealed during our field research. Public spaces have a flexible usage, they function as a common living room for everyday life and as arena for cultural and festive events. The outdoor environment is colorful with painted houses and doors, garlands and other colorful details. The social attitude of Zanzibar is reflected in the kangas function as a mean of communication through the Jina. Apart from being culturally anchored, the spatial qualities in Mkamasini could be structured by implementing the composition of a kanga. Therefore we sought to embrace Mkamasini as a public space using the kanga as inspiration for spatial divisions and for its multifunctional use.



Common living room



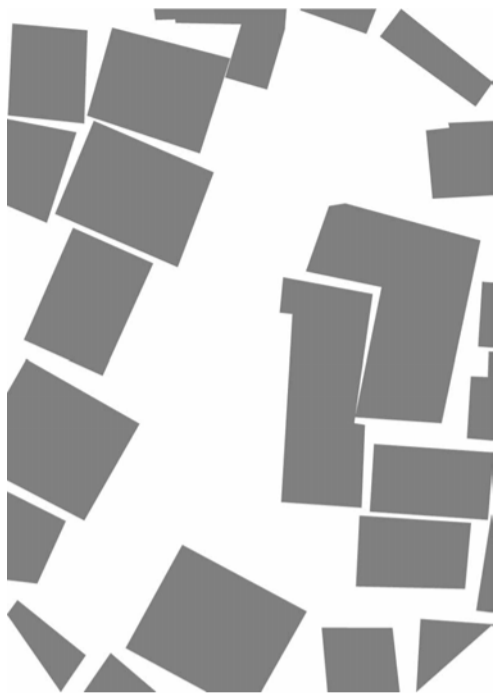
Social culture



Social gatherings

Conceptual drawings

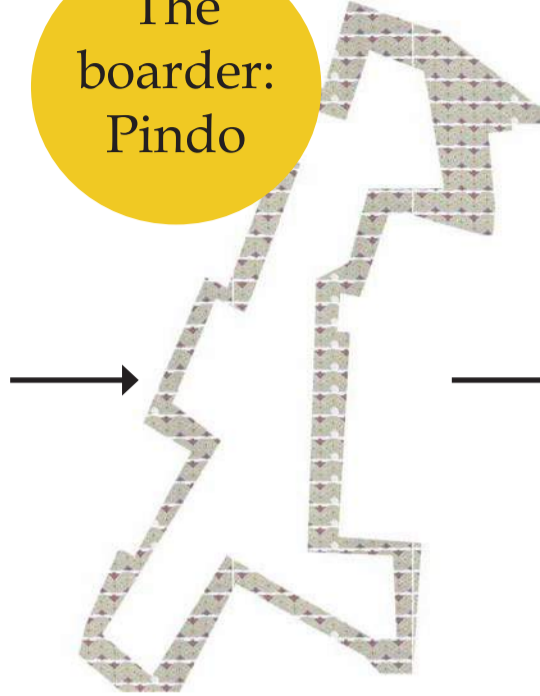
The space today



A passage with little activity and public life. The space can not be accessed to its full potential due to scattered trash, weeds, piles of building materials, absence of parking regulations and other disturbing elements.

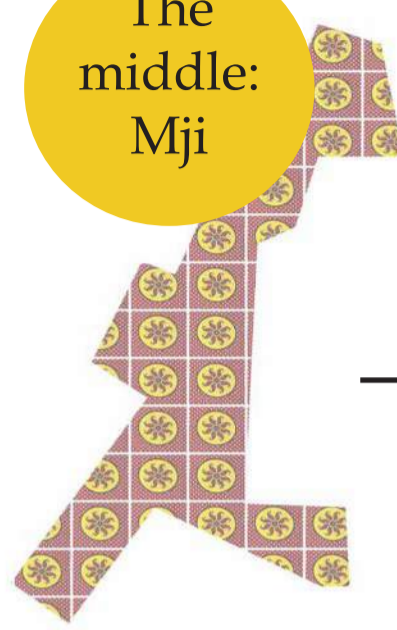
Apply the concept

The
border:
Pindo



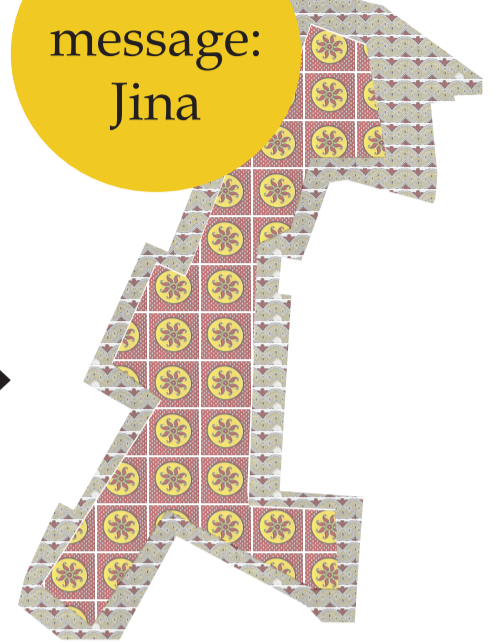
The edge zone is embraced and will become the main area for activities and solid functions.

The
middle:
Mji



The important openness of the space is preserved and made more accessible through removal of disturbing elements. It will offer more room for cultural events and other spontaneous activities.

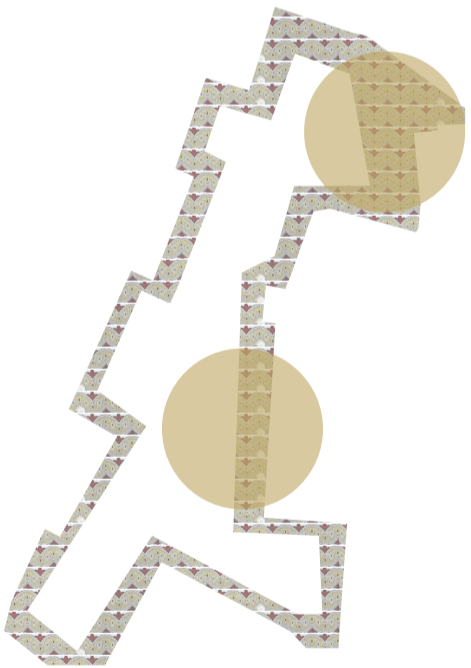
The
message:
Jina



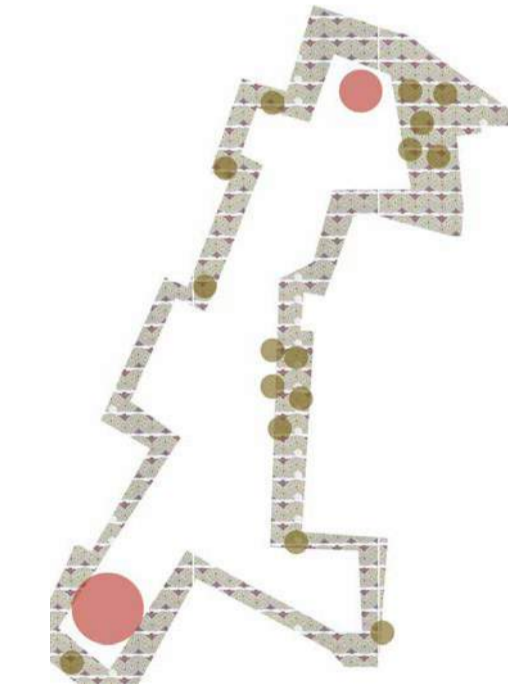
Together this becomes A Place to Embrace.

Two spatial divisions - different usages

The border: Pindo



Main activities such as eating, playing and seating are concentrated in two activity nodes in the edge zones.



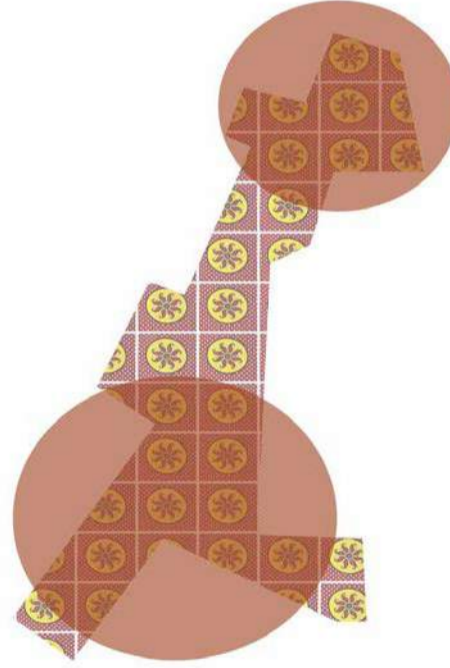
Trees are placed in groups to create a ceiling of shade on the two activity nodes.

Single trees providing shade are placed by the existing barazas.

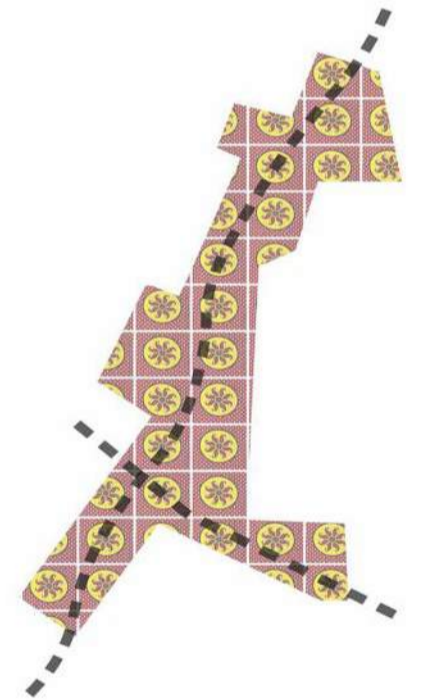
A large solitary tree inspired by the old Mkamasi tree is planted near the Madrasa.

The existing palm tree will function as a landmark.

The middle: Mji



Keeping the middle open means that spontaneous activities which includes ballgames and ceremonies can take place in the same locations as they do in the space today.



The existing movement patterns are preserved. The connections between Darajani street and Mtendi streets are highlighted.

A place to embrace

The public space of Mkamasini gets a new design to serve the needs and wishes of the residents living in the surrounding area. The starting point of the design is to work with the current shape of the space without changing any physical structures. The design is carried out with ambition to develop the space with small means in order to make implementation as realistic as possible.

The message of the design- A place to embrace- sought to recognise the potential of Mkamasini as an open space in the dense street grid of Old Ng'ambo and to develop it to function better as a public space. The ambition is to turn Mkamasini from a passage into a natural gathering place for children and adults. Activities and functions are added to the space without destroying the open character. This will give the residents a new platform for everyday activities but the present use of the space for celebrations and religious ceremonies will be preserved. A proper design will prevent house owners from extending their property into the open space.

The design related to the design guidelines:



Stay during the day!

Create a space where people feel invited and where they have reason to stay longer periods of time. In the design we focus on two activity-nodes; an elevated play area and a food area. These account for the programmed areas of Mkamasini and the remaining space is left unprogrammed for flexible activities. The open middle can also be used for necessary household activities such as washing and drying clothes.

We believe that the provision of activities is important to make Mkamasini function better as a public space. On the other hand, we wanted to find balance between offering certain activities but also leave the space open since it is considered to be a valuable asset.

The two activity-nodes

The *elevated play area* is a playground for children and for young adults. Due to the limited space available, we chose to focus on a few fixed play equipment that can be used in flexible ways to serve a range of ages. The rest is left open. The fixed equipment consists of a basketball goal, sitting stones and a metal arc that varies in height. The metal arc can be used by children to climb on and as an exercise equipment for young adults and adults. It is connected to a swing that suits children of all ages. The ground cover used is rubber asphalt to make the area safe for children. In the other end of the area, a hopscotch is traced but when unused the space can serve for other activities. The elevated area is 45 cm high above the ground. The edge of the area is divided into two parts; one part consists of two steps leading up to the area and the other one of a seating baraza. On the seating baraza, parents can sit and watch the children. The steps can be used as secondary seating possibilities for children.



The metal arc on the elevated play area is inspired by this metal installation in Frodeparken, Uppsala.

The *food area* consists of a curved baraza, a vibanda and an urojo-stand. Locating the urojo-stand and the new baraza close to the existing vibanda is deliberate in order to provide seating opportunities in connection to food retail. The facilities are concentrated together to attract people to eat here during the day. This

baraza is part of the public space, meaning that people are not obliged to consume in order to be able to sit there.



The curved seating baraza is inspired by these round benches in Old Ng'ambo.



A hopscotch on an elevated play area in Stone Town contributed with inspiration to our design.



Cope with climate!

The design is adjusted to the tropical monsoon climate on Zanzibar with an average temperature of 26.9 degrees. The aim is to create a good microclimate at the site and to propose a design that can deal with heavy rainfalls to prevent flooding of streets and houses.

Trees

A good microclimate is achieved by implementing trees. We placed trees in the edges of the space and in strategic places near activities. The aim is to achieve a cooling effect both in the public space and inside the houses. The cooling effect is created by the foliage that provide shade and the leaves that let water vapour out into the air. We put some trees in groups of three to ensure that a covering shade is produced by overlapping foliage. Other benefits of trees include cleaning the air from pollution and preventing soil erosion during heavy rainfalls.

We propose two types of tree species that might be suitable:

Schinus terebinthifolius- Christmas berry tree. It is a small, attractive tree that reach up to 7 meter in height (Dharani, 2011). These are used as shade providers and to create spatiality around the elevated play area, barazas by the houses and the curved seating baraza. The Christmas berry tree is chosen since it is relatively low in height with branches that spreads horizontally, creating the impression of a roof. Also, its leaves are placed tightly together which creates a covering shade.

Albizia grandibracteata- Large leafed albizia. It is a graceful tree that grow up to 15 m in height, with either a round or flat crown (Dharani, 2011). This one is used as a single accent tree near the Madrasa. Large leafed albizia is chosen because it is larger than the Christmas berry tree and will function as a landmark in the south part of Mkamasini. Also, it's leaves are large which creates a covering shade.



Picture of a *Schinus terebinthifolius* to the left and an *Albizia grandibracteata* (Starr, 2006) to the right.

Permeable ground covers

Permeable ground covers are used to handle large quantities of water from heavy rainfalls. These are sand, reinforced grass and planting beds with shrubs.



Welcome to Mkamasini!

Hours: 8am to 9pm

The ceiling lights are lit between 6.30pm and 9pm

Use assigned parking spaces

Mind the children- drive slow

Use wastebins for garbage

Please don't store construction material here

New welcome sign for Mkamasini. The sign is informing the visitors about the conditions of use.

The *sand* at the site today is preserved as the dominating type of ground cover. To increase the accessibility for elderly and disabled people, the ground is flattened to eliminate unevenness. This includes holes and removal of sharp rocks.

Reinforced grass is used by the food area. It helps to differentiate the area from the rest of Mkamasini and to make it visually clear that it is a place in itself. Also, reinforced grass contributes to greening of the space and it is possible to walk on. It is a more durable ground cover than lawns and is therefore more suitable to use on spaces with a high level of activity.

The *planting beds with shrubs* are placed in strategic locations in the edge zones of the space to keep the middle open, but where they are visible from benches connected to the elevated play area, the food area and barazas by the houses.

We propose three types of shrub species that might be suitable:

Hypericum kiboense- St. John's wort
Leonotis nepetifolia- White leonotis
Rumex usambarensis- Rumex

All range is height between 0,5-2.5 m and have bright coloured flowers that make them attractive garden shrubs (Dharani, 2011). They should be planted with the tallest shrub at the back and the shortest as the front to create a dynamic planting bed.



(Rosenberg, 2010) (Starr, 2013) (Starr, 2008)
The three types of shrubs and the colour of their flowers.



Include and involve!

The space should make room for all people in the surrounding area and have a clearer connection to the main streets to improve the access and people's ability to locate the space.

Include

Mkamasini becomes more inclusive for both genders and all ages with a greater amount of activities. The new activities are the two activity-nodes; the *food area* and the *elevated play area*. The curved seating baraza by the food area gives people an opportunity to socialise with each other. The elevated play area includes activities that are suitable for both girls and boys from early age until young adults. Also, a better microclimate provided by the new trees on the existing barazas creates an opportunity for the residents to use the baraza for selling groceries. This is common in old Ng'ambo but not seen in Mkamasini. According to Mr Fazach, this is a good business opportunity for women.



Example of groceries being sold on barazas in Old Ng'ambo.

Involve

The connection between Mkamasini and the two main streets within the surrounding area, Darajani and Mtendi street, are highlighted through ceiling lights. The lights are inspired by the garlands and electricity wires that create ceilings over many streets in Zanzibar Town. The lights will ease the orientation between the main streets through Mkamasini and contribute with aesthetic qualities during dark hours..

The introduction of streetlights means that Mkamasini can be used as a gathering place for residents in the surrounding area after sunset. This is valuable in the context of Zanzibar where the sun sets rapidly and the transition between light and dark results in a more pleasant temperature. Usage after dark will strengthen the site's position as a public space in the surrounding area. In order to keep disturbance of the neighbours to a minimum, the lights will be turned off after 9 pm. A welcome sign (see picture on the page above) will be placed at the entrance to Mkamasini to inform the users about the conditions of use.



Inspiration picture from a square in New Orleans showing the same type of streetlights that we are proposing in Mkamasini.



Maintain to remain!

The lack of maintenance is an issue in Mkamasini today. In the new design, the maintenance is funded locally at the site itself. Nevertheless, the design should thrive against giving a pleasant impression despite a low or irregular level of maintenance. The ambition with the redesign is also that the users of Mkamasini will feel a stronger sense of local pride and care for the space once it is implemented.

Locally funded maintenance

Engaging the owners of the vibanda and the introduction of the urojo-stand helps to finance maintenance at the site. The permit that the two businesses pay to the municipality funds collection of waste from the preparation of food and emptying of rubbish bins. Four new rubbish bins are placed in strategic locations close to where people are sitting: two by the curved seating baraza, one outside the vibanda and one by the elevated play area. The same design as the rubbish bins in Forodhani Garden,

concrete structures with holes in the bottom for drainage, is used. See picture on page 39.

Low maintenance design

The overall design is proposed from a low-maintenance design stand point. The materials used are therefore solid and common in the context of Old Ng'ambo. All the proposed new seating, barazas as well as the seating are made out of concrete. The exception was the choice of rubber asphalt underneath the swing. We had to consider the safety issue if falling on the concrete baraza. In terms of plants, reinforced grass is more durable than lawns and shrubs require less maintenance than perennial planting beds.



Back to the Roots!

The interviews with users of Mkamasini provided us with information about the history of the space. It was a larger open space than today, much greener and a lively place with music and dancing people. These appreciated qualities are reinforced in the new design.

A large solitary tree

The old Mkamsi-tree, located where house number 8 stands today, was a popular gathering spot. The tree also gave Mkamasini its name. In order to emphasize this history, an *Albizia grandibracteata*- a new large solitary tree symbolising the Mkamasi-tree, is planted outside the Madrasa. It is placed close to the original position. The intention by placing it here is also that the shade underneath its canopy can be used as an outdoor classroom by the Madrasa. The same sitting stones that we propose here is used on the elevated play area as equipment for sitting, playing or exercising. The *Albizia grandibracteata* is larger than the other new trees in Mkamasini. Therefore it will become a landmark, just like the old Mkamasi-tree was.

Greening of the space

Trees and shrubs on mostly private property as well as weeds in the public space, account for the greenery in Mkamasini today. In the new design, the weeds are replaced by fixed positions for vegetation. The space will be greener than today by incorporating a greater amount of trees, planting beds with shrubs and reinforced grass.

Children and music

Mixing fixed play equipment in the elevated play area with a flexible middle, means that Mkamasini can be used more extensively as a playground for children. Also, by preserving the openness there are possibilities for street musicians to play and concerts to take place in Mkamasini. The streetlights facilitate that activity can take place after sunset.



Preserve but improve!

In our design, we strive against preserving existing qualities and to develop them in order to make Mkamasini function better as a public space. Through dialogues with users and stakeholders, we assessed that the openness is the considered to be the most valuable asset of the space today. Although the space is open, it is not used to its full potential today. The space is filled with disturbing elements such as piles of building materials and a careless placement of electricity wires create inconveniences when moving through the space. Also, the open space is threatened by the uncontrolled use of cars and mopeds. The availability for motor vehicles to use Mkamasini for thoroughfare must be preserved but the traffic situation can be handled differently to make Mkamasini function better as a public space.

The flexible middle

The openness of Mkamasini is rare in the context of Old Ng'ambo. According to our concept, we therefore leave the middle of the space unprogrammed to enable a variety of different activities. The open space can be used for cultural celebrations and by children for playing ball games. If an accident occurs the openness is of great importance and will serve as a gathering place. In the design, we want to maximize the open space. We therefore remove the piles of building material and inform people that it is prohibited to dump debris in the space. In our design we remove the electricity poles that create disturbances and replace the overhead electricity with underground electricity. According to Rashid M. Azzan, overhead electricity is a safety concern and there are plans to establish underground electricity cables in Old Ng'ambo.

Speed bumps

Two speed bumps will be introduced in Mkamasini. The intention is to lower the speed of motor vehicles and bicycles. This will create a safer environment for children using Mkamasini on daily basis.

Parking spaces

The design suggests two assigned parking spaces. They are placed in strategic locations close to where people park their cars today. Parking is not allowed anywhere else in Mkamasini. The parking regulations will prevent cars from creating inconveniences for pedestrians and bicyclists. Also, the cars should not intrude on the new functions and the openness of the space.



Consider the context!

In order to make our design harmonize with the current architectural expression, we had to consider shapes and styles of existing elements in Zanzibar Town. Also the intimate character in Mkamasini will be preserved by maintaining the local connection. The design must be conducted according to the needs and wished of today's users. That refers to the many children playing there and to keep the movement pattern free for passage.

Material

Concrete is used for construction of the curved baraza, the elevated play area and the sitting stones. It is a conventional building material on Zanzibar. Also, using a local material make it easier for local carpenters to manage the construction.

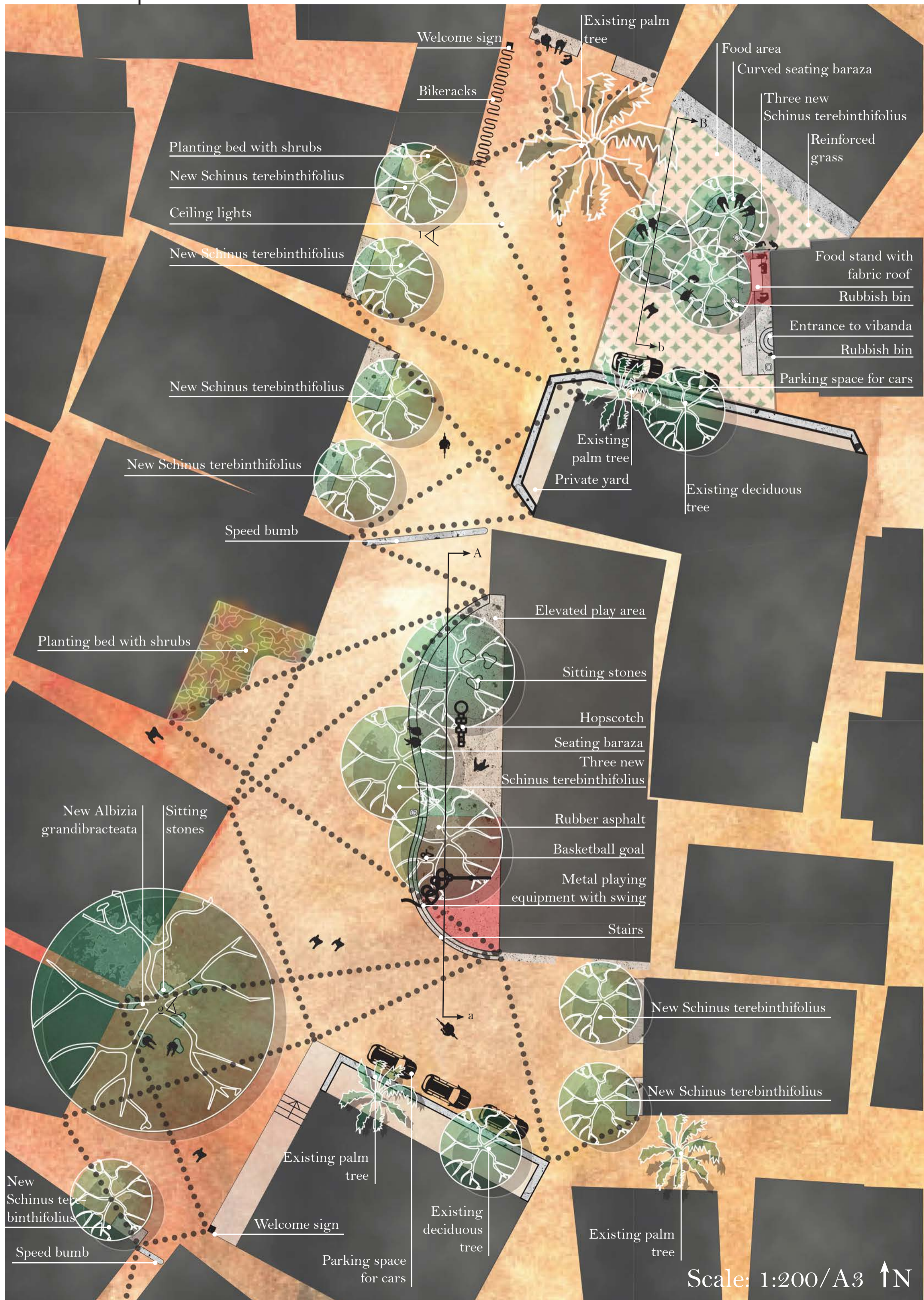
Design

The curved baraza and the elevated play area are both examples inspired by existing designs we have seen in Zanzibar Town. Children's play often take place on elevated areas and the barazas are commonly curved in planned public spaces. However we have interpreted these physical elements and placed our personal touch on them. The ambition is that people will recognise the style but discover a new variety in expression. The sitting stones are inspired by the formation of a mascan, but with a playful design. The intention is to attract other users than exclusively men.

Mural painting

The mural painting intends to bring life to the monotone facade. Also, it wants to show an example of how local, talented artists can be incorporated in public projects.

Illustrative plan





1. *Visualization of the food area.* The curved baraza creates a "talkscape" encouraging social interaction. The location by the new urojo-stand and the existing vibanda provides seating opportunities in connection to food retail, an appreciated quality in public space on Zanzibar. However, the curved baraza is a part of the public space and people can have a seat without feeling obliged to consume. The ground cover of the food area is reinforced grass. It defines the space in contrast to the sand area, creating a place in itself. Also the reinforced grass functions as a permeable surface and can handle large quantities of water. It is a low maintenance and durable groundcover and can handle a high level of activity without affecting the visual green impression.



2. *Visualization of the elevated play area.* The elevated area consists of primary seating; the baraza and secondary seating; the stairs. It is a flexible area with three fixed elements; a metal arc with a connected swing, a basketball goal and sitting stones. The metal arc and sitting stones are multifunctional and can be used for other activities, for example as exercise equipment. The ground cover underneath the swing consists of rubber asphalt in order to create a safe area for playing. The mural painting, designed by a local artist, bring life to the monotone brown facade.



A-a Section of the elevated play area. Scale 1:100. The open space of the area can be used for flexible activities.



B-b Section of the food area. Scale 1:50. The food area functions as a meeting place where people of different age and gender can eat and socialise with each other.



Visualization of the light ceiling. Lamps connected to the houses create a ceiling over Mkamasini making it possible to utilize the space during dark hours. The lamp ceiling stretches from the space and reaches Darajani street and Mtendi Street to ease the orientation to Mkamasini.

Picture of a family outside their home, Old Ng'ambo .

The immediate space outside houses is a natural part of everyday life. The elderly, especially, seem to spend much time on barazas in close connection to the houses. Also, it is an important space for children to play.



Discussion and reflection

Reflections on the research questions, methodology used and personal experiences in terms of the most important lessons learned during the thesis.

Discussion

In this thesis, the topic of public space has been investigated in several aspects. The research began with a categorisation of public space in Old Ng'ambo to get a perception of the outside environment, the elements it consists of and the activities that take place. Simultaneously, we chose Mkamasini as the site for the design proposal. Here we performed an in-depth site study and conducted dialogues with users and stakeholders. Lastly, we studied the factors that according to theories in landscape architecture make up a successful public space.

The aim of this thesis has been to develop a design proposal that intends to create one successful public space within the residential neighbourhood of Old Ng'ambo. The design will serve the surrounding area and should be well anchored in its context.

In order to achieve this aim we asked two questions:

•How does Mkamasini work as a public space today?

•Which qualities can be developed or added to make our site function better as a public space?

Research questions

The point of departure when reflecting on how we managed to answer the two research questions and achieve the aim of the thesis, is our knowledge within the field of landscape architecture from university studies in Sweden. Human beings process information and react differently on the world around us depending on past experiences. Therefore, our references from the western world might have influenced the site study, design guidelines and later on how we chose to conduct the design proposal.

How does Mkamasini work as a public space today?

In our search for a perception on this matter, we spent many hours at the site. We began by spontaneous trips and continued by regularly observing the activity at different times of day. After having done this, we conducted an inventory of the physical elements of the site, analysis and dialogues. In the time available, we assessed that we had gathered enough information to answer the research question and to formulate the shortcomings into design guidelines. However, how the space is used today could be researched far more thorough than what our time frame allowed. That might have contributed to a more accurate design proposal regarding the needs of the people that use the space today.

In our research, some aspects recurred from both people at the site and from stakeholders. For example, we found that the openness of the site that allows for a flexible usage was considered a valuable asset. Therefore, we decided to preserve this quality and to restrict the new physical elements to the edges of the space. If we would have spent more time conducting interviews with users, perhaps more valuable assets would have reached our understanding.

We found that the site was not used to its full potential as a public space. The main users of Mkamasini was children that played sports in the evenings. Adults used the space mostly as a passage which we considered a weakness of the site. Having this in mind, we tried to make the site more appealing to all people and user groups of the surrounding area of Mkamasini. One outstanding factor that made this difficult to implement was that women are more likely to congregate inside than in public spaces due to Islamic culture on Zanzibar. It was obvious in our observation of Old Ng'ambo that men are dominating

the public sphere and using spaces as meeting places. We realised that we cannot change behaviours of people that is deeply rooted in culture. On the other hand, we can strive towards proposing a design that is inclusive instead of exclusive. During conversations with users, we tried to be perceptive and listen to what the different user groups want in public spaces.

Which qualities can be developed or added to make our site function better as a public space?

In order to answer this question, we compiled all the relevant findings in the different chapters into design considerations. This was information that we judged would be important for us to consider in order to give the space an accurate design. Later on we summarised this into seven guidelines to transform Mkamasini from passage to place. The continued discussion is therefore a reflection on the design and how it responds to the design guidelines: Stay during the day!, Cope with climate!, Include and involve!, Maintain to remain!, Back to the roots!, Preserve but improve! and Consider the context!.



Stay during the day!

Through observations and many hours spent in Mkamasini it became clear that the space was used mostly by children in the evenings. The space is mainly a passage in remaining times. To change this, we incorporated activities of different nature to give people a reason to stay.

Two activity nodes

In the design we focused on two activity-nodes; the elevated play area and a food area. In connection to these spaces, we planted trees to provide shade and improve the microclimate during the day. These account for the programmed areas of Mkamasini and the remaining space is left unprogrammed.

The limitations of the space and the desire from users to keep Mkamasini open, made the design simpler than we had first thought. We therefore strived to design fixed elements with a multifunctional use to maximize the variation in activity.

On the limited space available on the elevated play area, we chose to focus on a few fixed play equipment and to leave the rest as flexible as possible in order to serve a range of ages. The metal arc can be used both by children and as an exercise equipment for young adults and adults. The stair to the elevated area provides informal seatings and the sitting stones can be involved in children's play. However we can not control if the fixed elements are used in a multifunctional way. We discussed the risk of creating a space too flexible, making people confused of how to approach the space. In many western societies the residents are accustomed to bold designs and multifunctional uses of space. Zanzibar has few planned public spaces and the residents might therefore lack references of how to use flexible planned elements. But during our field research we witnessed a diverse and inventive use of space, both in public and private zones. The mentality and imagination amongst the residents in Zanzibar Town help making us more confident in our flexible design. Hopefully the uses of Mkamasini will take advantage of the flexibility and use the space for multifunctional purposes.

One weakness with our design is that we never specifically asked children living in the surrounding area of Mkamasini about which play equipment they prefer. Therefore, we had to make assumptions based on what we had experienced during our 10 weeks in Zanzibar Town.

The flexible middle

According to our concept, we left the middle of the space free to enable a variety of different activities. This means that ball games and ceremonies that need large space can still take place in the future design. When the new Albizia grandibracteata-tree by the Madrasa is fully grown, the shady space underneath the canopy can be used by children as an outdoor classroom.

We have not seen any examples of outdoor classrooms during our field research. Therefore we can not tell if the space is going to be utilised for that purpose. However, the microclimate underneath the canopy will be pleasant and attractive regardless educational use or not.



Cope with climate!

During our 10 weeks stay in Zanzibar Town we found that the climate postulate a different approach to design of public spaces compared to what we are used to in Sweden. The tropical monsoon climate in Zanzibar Town requires protection from the sun to make the outside environment bearable. Also, heavy rainfalls in a short period of time causes flooding of streets and houses.

Vegetation

We realised during our visits to Mkamasini that the space was highly sun exposed. It became clear that the microclimate needed to be improved in order to make Mkamasini a place where people want to gather during the day. We discussed different ways to provide shade and decided to focus on trees. However, the negative aspect of trees is that they need time to establish and to reach their full potential as shade providers. We decided to only incorporate native species that are adapted to the local climate in our design because they are easier established. Also, we suggested to use native species that are as full-grown as possible to shorten the process. A problem can be to obtain full-grown trees of native species. Nurseries are not as conventional on Zanzibar as in the Western world. Also, depending on size of the chosen species the cost of full-grown trees can be very high.

Infiltration

The existing ground cover in Mkamasini consists of sand and weeds. In our design, we decided to retain as much of the permeable sand as possible and to keep hard surfaces to a minimum. Our original ambition was to focus more on design with storm water and to incorporate rain gardens in Mkamasini. We thought about open rain channels, but we came to the conclusion that it was unrealistic since such systems does not exist anywhere else in Old Ng'ambo. Also, this design would require that we researched the surrounding area closely in order to know where to lead the water. This would take focus from our design of Mkamasini and also be difficult because at the Department of Urban and Rural planning they did not have access to topographical maps of the area. In dialogue with our supervisor in Sweden, we decided to solve groundwater infiltration by focusing on permeable ground covers.



Include and involve!

We aimed to propose a design that would make room for all people, regardless of age and gender.

Include

The physical environment in our redesign is not excluding, however the society of Zanzibar is. Women of all ages, expect smaller children, does not have the

same premises as men when using the public space. Therefore it was difficult to propose a design that would encourage women to use the outdoor space.

The curved baraza is placed in connection to the vibanda and urojo-stand but belongs to the public space, which means that people does not have to consume in order to be able to sit there. This is important in order to avoid that the space becomes exclusive.

Involve

The connection between Mtendi street and Darajani street is strengthened by a ceiling lights. It is inspired by the garlands and electricity wires that are creating a ceiling over many streets in Zanzibar Town. Hopefully it will help people to locate the site and also contribute with aesthetic qualities during dark hours.

The lights will require a great quantity of electricity. Today many public areas in Zanzibar Town lacks street lights. It might be difficult to argue for such investment in a residential area. Also, a low level of maintenance can reduce the standard and visual impression of the lighting. If a light bulb breaks it has to be replaced to maintain the function and aesthetic of the light ceiling.



Maintain to remain!

The lack of maintenance is an issue in Mkamasini today. The responsibilities of waste management in public spaces are not clear between local people and the authorities. This conflict in combination with the fact that many Zanzibarian people do not show a caring attitude for the outdoor environment creates an untidy impression of Mkamasini. However dialogues revealed that people prefer to stay in well-maintained public spaces. We can not change the mindset of the residents in Mkamasini through a redesign. Nevertheless, we can encourage people not to throw trash in the public space by introducing waste bins on strategic places on the site.

Locally funded maintenance and low maintenance design

By engaging small businesses as the vibanda and food sales, licences can hopefully fund the maintenance. Overall we focused on creating a low-maintenance design. The materials used are therefore solid and common in the context of Old Ng'ambo. The exception was the choice of rubber asphalt underneath the swing and reinforced grass by the vibanda and parking lots. Together they account for materials we have not seen examples of in public spaces in Zanzibar Town. When considering the municipality's capacity to maintain public spaces in general it is a risk to introduce new materials that require special knowledge of how to maintain. We are therefore aware of the fact that the rubber asphalt and reinforced grass might not be managed properly. However, we had to consider the safety issue if children fall off the swing and we assessed that reinforced grass is a better option than a lawn to achieve greening of the space. Reinforced grass is more durable than lawns and therefore more suitable to use on spaces with a high level of activity. We considered these functions more important than the risk of the materials being mismanaged.

The design proposes planting of new trees and shrubs. Initially they will require a high level of maintenance to establish properly. Who is responsible for watering and checking on these needs to be clear, otherwise the risk is that they will not survive.



Back to the roots!

In order to reinforce appreciated qualities to Mkamasini we gained information about the history of the space through dialogues. Mkamasini was larger than it is today, which is a fact we can not affect by our design. Nevertheless, we can ensure that the site is used to its full potential through removal of trash and weeds that make parts of the space inaccessible today.

A large solitary tree

A new tree, symbolising the Mkamasi tree, was placed by the madrasa close to its original location. We thought about planting an actual Mkamasi-tree, but according to the local planners this specie is too big for the space. Also, it has a large root system that can interfere with the built structure. The new *Albizia grandibracteata*- tree will be the largest tree in the space and will hopefully function as a landmark, as the old Mkamasi tree did.

Greening of the space

In the design proposal we focused on bringing the greenery back by planting trees and shrubs. We decided to focus on planting beds with shrubs since we assessed that these are more self-maintained than planting beds with perennials. We have seen examples of planted shrubs in Old Ng'ambo that thrive. We made sure that we chose species with flowers since blossom is appreciated by users of Mkamasini.

Children and music

People remember Mkamasini as an active area with music and dancing. Hopefully a redesign will encourage residents to reactivate the space. The intrusion of street lights can contribute to making the space possible to use for a longer period of time.



Preserve but improve!

In our design, we strive towards preserving existing qualities and to develop them in order to make Mkamasini function better as a public space. Through dialogues with users and stakeholders, we assessed that the openness is the considered to be the most valuable asset of the space today. After having researched Old Ng'ambo, we found that open spaces such as Mkamasini are rare and therefore understood the significance of preserving the open character.

Disturbing elements

Although the space is open, it is not used to its full potential. Weeds throughout the space steals valuable room that can be used for other purposes. We also thought that it was a big problem that the sand is uneven with rocks which makes walking difficult for pedestrians with disabilities and unsafe for children that are playing barefooted. On top of this, a careless placement of electricity wires and piles of building material creates inconveniences when moving through the space.

In our design, the weeds are replaced by planting beds with shrubs and the piles of trash taken away. Our ambition is that people will feel more strongly about keeping the space clean and cease to leave trash here once the space is upgraded. According to the interview with Rashid M. Azzan, overhead electricity is a safety concern and there are plans to establish underground electricity cables in Old Ng'ambo. In our design, ideally, the electricity poles that create disturbances can be replaced and underground electricity installed. We are aware that this installation may lay far in the future and we do not want to create a situation where the possibility to implement our design is determined by this. Therefore we have not proposed any new physical elements where the electricity poles are standing today.



Consider the context!

In order to make our design harmonize with the surrounding architectural expression, we had to consider shapes and styles of existing elements in Zanzibar Town. We used elements as inspiration and tried to come up with a similar design. The effect we are trying to achieve is that people recognise the style but it is in a new variety. Examples of these include the curved baraza, elevated play area and the reinforced grass.

One problem is that Old Ng'ambo is missing properly designed public spaces and we did not have successful examples to take inspiration from. Therefore, we had to gather most of the inspiration from Stone Town.

It is difficult to evaluate whether our design meet the desires of the people of Mkamasini. An advanced design might be more appreciated. However, Zanzibar is a developing country. Fundings for upgrading and maintaining a public space within a residential area is difficult to motivate when the government can not provide basic living standards for the residents of Zanzibar Town.

During the design process, we therefore spent much time discussing what is likely to be implemented and not. We strived towards proposing a design that would be realistic to apply and later become as successful as possible. Also, the design turned out simpler than we thought from the beginning because we wanted to cut down on costs.

Methodology discussion

Site study

In order to understand what a public space can appear as on Zanzibar we intended to categorise all of the public spaces in Old Ng'ambo. We realised that it was difficult to identify these places. The structure of the cityscape is irregular and has developed without planning strategies. There are very few planned public places to identify. Therefore we categorized representative types of spaces, according to us. When practicing this method we could summarize the public spaces into four general types; streets, open space within the residential neighbourhood, planned areas and larger open spaces in the outskirts of the residential neighbourhood. It was a challenge to re-evaluate our western perception of public spaces.

To get a perception of Mkamasini and the surrounding area we conducted site observations and site inventory. It was difficult to get an overview of the physical elements and the value of these, for example the piles of building material. We did not find out if these belong to someone and were located in Mkamasini for a purpose or if they were just stealing space from Mkamasini.

The observations could have been conducted in more detail. For example, we never witnessed the site being used for a ceremony or religious celebration. This would have been interesting in order to get a perception of how many people gather here and how much space they need. Then we could have facilitated these kind of gatherings more accurately in our design.

Lynch's methodology was used when studying the readability and visual qualities of Mkamasini and the surrounding area. Although being a Western world methodology applied in the context of Zanzibar, we found it as an adequate approach in practise. The five elements; nodes, paths, landmarks, districts and edges appeared in one way or another in Old Ng'ambo. Nevertheless, the streetscape of Old Ng'ambo is completely different from what we are used to. It worked for us to think in terms of Lynch's methodology when conducting the analysis, but maybe

the residents have a different way of orientating themselves.

Another method used was SWOT in combination with PPS. SWOT is a Western world method aiming to identify and evaluate strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of a given site. In this case the method was used to analyse the space of Mkamasini. However, we experienced that SWOT was lacking directions of how to approach the site as a public space. We needed further guidance to ensure that the elements important for a successful public space was evaluated in the SWOT-analysis. Therefore we examined the four main criteria of PPS (uses and activities, access and linkages, comfort and image and sociability) and conducted a SWOT-analysis on each category. We had to adjust PPS to fit into the context on Zanzibar. Some of the questions that was presented in the PPS-guide were not applicable to our space. For example: "Are people taking pictures? Are there many photo opportunities available?" or "Are transit stops conveniently located next to destinations such as libraries, post offices, park entrances, etc.?" On the contrary, we put more emphasis on other factors such as making the space inclusive for both genders and all ages, than PPS does.

Dialogues

Dialogues were an important method to receive qualitative information about Mkamasini. Due to language barriers we had help from an interpreter when interviewing users of Mkamasini. We formulated short questions to make it as easy as possible for the interviewed person to understand what we were after. We prepared the interviews by writing a script based on a thematic and a dynamic dimension. The interpreter received the dynamic questions and translated them to Swahili. We are aware of the fact that information was lost in the interpreters translation of the interviewed peoples answers from Swahili to English. Also, some of the interviews became long conversations that extended beyond the short questions that we had prepared. It would have been interesting to hear their discussion to gain a deeper understanding of the interviewed peoples opinions.

When interviewing official stakeholders we did not need an interpreter. In comparison to interviews with residents of Mkamasini, we could therefore understand the whole conversation and it was more of a spontaneous character. The script was less strict and consisted of a few questions and themes. Although receiving substantial qualitative information about Mkamasini through various dialogues, it was frustrating not knowing if the perceived impression was accurate.

As for the workshop it was problematic to have a professional discussion with the local artists. Language barriers caused difficulties and we used terms differently. Therefore it was difficult to understand if we shared the same perceptions and if they completely understood what we were asking them. In general people on Zanzibar are very sociable and positive. As a foreigner it was difficult to evaluate if people answered the questions true to their opinion or if they answered in order to please us.

Design process

The design process started from the beginning of this thesis but accelerated when we arrived on Zanzibar when we tried to grasp and understand the new context. However, we considered it important to conduct the site study and dialogues before brainstorming possible concepts for Mkamasini. As a result, this systematic method first appeared a bit square and uninspiring. We found it difficult to switch from a strategic way of working to a more creative. First, we had trouble coming up with a concept, but we realised that this strategic method made the design process steady and comprehensible. It was a necessary order to work to understand this context.

Personal Reflections

From start to finish, this project has been a great learning experience that has extended our frame of references both personally and professionally in the field of landscape architecture. This thesis has put perspective on the knowledge that we have gained during our degree and education in landscape architecture.

Working in a new context without tacit knowledge requires a high measure of sensitivity and an open minded approach. We have time after time been amazed by how well things work, it is just not in the same way that we are used to. Therefore, we learned to keep presumptions to a minimum and instead try to listen as much as possible.

Trying to grasp a whole new culture has been a great learning experience and we are very thankful that we got the chance. We are very touched by the people of Zanzibar's willingness to help which has meant a lot to the realisation of this thesis.

Further Research

The topic of public space can be researched from a vast number of perspectives and in different contexts. During our field study, many questions and possible directions of research arouse. We particularly discussed the following subjects as interesting to research further:

- Women and public space. According to Islamic culture on Zanzibar, women are more likely to congregate inside than in public spaces. How can public space be designed to ease coexistence between men and women?
- Children's play in Old Ng'ambo. What playing equipment does boys and girls that live in Old Ng'ambo wish to have in playgrounds?
- Storm water management in Old Ng'ambo. How can large amount of water during rain periods be incorporated in design of public spaces in Old Ng'ambo?

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Picture of a newsstand in Darajani market in old Ng'ambo.

The markets are vibrant places for necessary activities but also natural gathering spots. One particular spot where many people gather is by newsstands. This seem like an important way for people to get updatet on the laterst news, whereas this takes place more and more digitally in Sweden.



Appendix

Additional material from the site study and dialogues.

Typologies of the houses surrounding Mkamasini

The houses have the same numbering as the panorama photos on page 29.

1. Classic Swahili



Building condition: average
Building structure: coralstone and lime

2. Art deco



Building condition: average
Building structure: cement blocks

3. Classic Swahili



Building condition: average
Building structure: cement blocks

4. Classic Swahili



Building condition: average
Building structure: cement blocks

5. Classic Swahili



Building condition: average
Building structure: coralstone and lime

6. Classic Swahili



Building condition: average
Building structure: cement blocks

7. Classic Swahili



Building condition: average
Building structure: cement blocks

8. Eclectic



Building condition: good
Building structure: concrete frame and cement blocks

9. Classic Swahili



Building condition: average
Building structure: coralstone and lime

10. Classic Swahili



Building condition: average
Building structure: cement blocks

11. Eclectic



Building condition: average
Building structure: cement blocks

12. Classic Swahili, madrasa



Building condition: average
Building structure: cement blocks

13. Classic Swahili



Building condition: average
Building structure: cement blocks

14. Classic Swahili



Building condition: good
Building structure: cement blocks

15. Classic Swahili



Building condition: good
Building structure: cement blocks

16. Eclectic



Building condition: average
Building structure: cement blocks

Interview questionnaire and guideline

The questions used when interviewing users and stakeholders. The dynamic questions in the *Interview questionnaire for users of Mkamasini* are translated into Swahili because an interpreter was used during the interviews. The *Interview guideline for stakeholders* presents the general topics discussed which allowed us to be more spontaneous during the interview.

Interview questionnaire for users of Mkamasini:

- Name:**
- Age:**
- Gender:**
- Occupation:**
- Live close by?**

Thematic questions:

1. How do the users of Mkamasini utilize the site today?
2. What could be added to the site that would benefit the users and contribute to making it a better functioning public space?
3. What common memories do the users have of the site in a historical context?

Dynamic questions:

1. How often do you visit the site?
Mara ngapi umeweza kulitembelea eneo hilo.
2. What do you do at the site?
Unafanya nini kwenye eneo hilo.

3. Which outdoor site is your favourite in Zanzibar Town?

Maeneo yepi ya nje ni mazuri kwa upande wako

4. Which qualities does that site have that is missing in Mkamasini?

Kuna vitu gani unahisi havipi kwenye eneo hilo la mkamasini.

If the answer to question 4 is Mkamasini:

5. Which qualities does this site have that is missing in other places?

Kuna vitu ganivipo hapo na havipo maeneo mengine.

6. What do you like the most about this site?

Nini unachopendea zaidi kwenye eneo hili.

7. What do you dislike the most about this site?

Nini haupendelei katika eneo hilo.

8. Tell us about your memories from this site.

Tuambie kuhusu kumbukumbu zako kuhusu eneo hili.

9. Describe what the space looked like.

Elezea eneo lilikua likionekanaaje.

10. Describe what has happened here.

Elezea Nini kilikua kikitokea.

Interview guideline for stakeholders:

1. Plans.
Are there any current plans for the site? Or any similar sites close by?
2. General opinion regarding public space.
How do you, as a planner on Zanzibar, value public space like the one in Mkamasini? Which possibilities do you see for sites like this one? Are they important for the neighborhood?
3. Land regulations.
Land regulations concerning sites like this one? What is allowed, build fences and extend the houses? Can we remove the electricity pole and wire connected to it?
4. Maintenance.
What kind of maintenance do you have at the site today and what could be a potential maintenance? (money, knowledge ect)
5. History.
Tell us about the history of the site.
7. Regulations for vehicular traffic.
Are there any regulations for motorbikes and mopeds? Do you think that they contribute negatively to the streetlife because people might feel unsafe?
8. Local peoples relationship with the outside environment
What is your perception on how the local people view their outside environments? Trash etc.