‘Mapping’ Westfort Village at Pretoria, Tshwane

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1 Introduction

South Africa does not only have a well-known shared past with the former Dutch Republic. There is also the rich residue of a shared heritage in Tshwane/Pretoria, Johannesburg and elsewhere from the period of the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek (ZAR) and later. Here, Dutch-born architects actively contributed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century to construction and infrastructure developments. This period coincides partly with the life of the Dutch queen Wilhelmina (1880–1962), after whom the term ‘ZA Wilhelmiens’ is coined (Bakker, Clarke & Fisher 2014).

The inner city of Tshwane/Pretoria, as well as the former Leprosy Asylum near Westfort show the direct influence of the Dutch-born architects Sytze Wierda and Klaas van Rijssen who worked for the national Departement Publieke Werken (DPW) in and around Pretoria during the heydays of President Kruger’s ZAR.

After the initial Heritage Field Academy (organised as a joint project between the Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency (RCE), the University of Pretoria (UP) and ArchAfrika in 2009) (see Corten 2010), more projects and missions followed on raising awareness, training and advise about built South African-Dutch Heritage, in particular the ‘ZA Wilhelmiens’ legacy.

The training and advisory missions are part of the Dutch Policy on Shared Heritage. They are undertaken in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding as signed by the South African and Dutch governments on March 21, 2004.

The recent Shared Heritage ‘Westfort’ Mission (March 2015) was a joint project in close collaboration with UP, RCE, Delft University of Technology (TUD) and the Royal Dutch Embassy. The activities were partly supported by the cross-faculty research project Capital Cities: Space, Justice and Belonging of UP that aims to address the global challenge for cities to become more creative, productive, liveable and sustainable, specifically by ‘bringing together’ humanities to activities in law, architecture, and related fields. Within this framework the living conditions of the South African capital city in general are investigated and this brings the issues of revitalisation of historic environments beyond the inner city of Tshwane.

Prompted by an initiative of the community that nowadays occupies the former Leprosy Asylum near Westfort (founded in 1897–98 and partly designed by Wierda and Van Rijssen of ZAR-DPW) this settlement was identified as a ‘Shared Heritage’ site in 2014. The 2015 mission – executed by prof Mariëtte Kuipers (RCE/TUD), Jean-Paul Corten (RCE) and Job Roos (co-director of Braaksma-Roos architects/TUD) – aimed at both the training of young professionals and students in methodologies of ‘mapping’ potential heritage values of the Westfort colony and bringing stakeholders together.

This advisory report summarizes the main observations of the Round Table stakeholder discussion and the students’ analyses of the shared heritage of Westfort in a preliminary attempt to provide a contextual concept for future perspectives for the site. Ideally, this report will contribute to a next step in the process of policy-making of the City of Tshwane and assist in its challenge to draft possible strategies for an integrated conservation and sustainable appropriate re-use of the built heritage in Westfort Village.
Aerial view of the Leprosy Institute about 1956 (source: NASA collection, UP).
2 Westfort Village
a challenging legacy

Just as the name already indicates, the former Westfort Leper Colony – a ‘ZA Wilhelmiens’ ZAR legacy – is situated west of Pretoria, adjacent to the Lotus Gardens and Danville suburbs. It lies at the foot of the former ZAR fort near Daspoortrand. This Boer fortification was initially called after its location but renamed Westfort in 1901 and already left by the British infanterists in 1904 (Van Vollenhoven 1992; Van Zijl 1989). This latter name has also come in use for the adjacent leprosy institution and its buildings from 1927 onward.

The village-like settlement ‘Westfort’ has a very complicated multi-layered history, and, as a consequence, ambivalent heritage values, both tangible and intangible, ‘shared’ and segregated. The buildings represent various stages of the historical evolution of the settlement and the oldest are directly associated with the ZAR and Dutch sources of inspiration. After the site had served as a medical hospital during the post-World War II decades, it was finally closed down in 1997 and its services disconnected.

Nevertheless, the neglected site is presently inhabited by about 4000 persons who have appropriated the abandoned site. The inhabitants are of all ages and from various origins, speaking a combination of Sotho, Zulu, English and Afrikaans (Saggacci and Delport, 2015: 42). Living conditions are appalling and facilities are missing. To relieve some of the urgent needs the Tshwane Metro Municipality has installed five water tanks, which are filled daily and ten portable toilets as a provisional solution to the immediate needs of the ‘informal’ community.

The Fort West Community Forum (FWCF) keeps control over the community and the settlement. It holds monthly meetings in the octagonal Dutch Reformed Church at the entrance of the site (originally designed by Klaas van Rijsse).
Historical background

The ‘New Leprosy Asylum’ (or Leprozen-Inrichting) was founded as a permanent multiracial residence for leprosy patients during 1897-1898 on the slope of the Witwatersrandberg. It was constructed as public work by the ZAR government. The asylum was called new to distinct it from the provisional sheds that were erected some years earlier near the Daspoort Hospital after the first case of leprosy had been recorded in Pretoria in 1888 (Le Roux 1953).

The institution was designed by Sytze Wierda and his ZAR-DPW staff. According to the medical insights of their time, leprosy was a contagious and incurable illness. The unfortunate sufferers were, therefore, forced to live in a separate settlement at a safe distance from the capital for the rest of their lives. If they were still able to work, they could do some farming and grow vegetables.

Wierda, who grew up in north east Netherlands, was certainly familiar with various remoted institutions that were built during the 19th century to accommodate mentally or physically ill or poor people and also with the first small garden village-like housing schemes for factory or railway labourers, such as the Veenhuizen colony, Agneta Park at Delft and Snouck van Loosen Park at Enkhuizen. With these models in mind, the Leper Institute was conceived as a self-supporting village-like settlement with not only a small clinic, dispensary, staff accommodation in cottages and one-story terraced houses in distinct clusters, but also churches, an administration building, a post-office, a police station, a jail, shops and a school (Clarke 2014: 166-169).

After the Anglo-Boer War had made an end to the ZAR in 1902, the Leprosy Aylum continued its function under British rule. Over time, the segregation and control increased (Horwitz 2006). The institute was divided into four compounds according to race and gender (European, native male and female and Asian). New farming, recreational and religious facilities as well as a cemetery were added. Walls and watch towers, since removed, were constructed in order to prevent patients from escaping (Grunewald & Breed 2013: 57-58).
During the 1920-1930s dozens of other leprosy patients were transferred to Westfort after the closure of other leprosy institutions in South Africa. Various face-brick buildings were constructed, including a hostel for nurses, kitchen complex, theatre and store, as well as concrete rondavel-like structures for the native patients (Van Zijl 1989: 76). Many of these new additions still survive.

Apart from all these buildings, the site has been shaped as a typical cultural landscape by the intentional use of the adjacent agricultural land and the gardens surrounding the houses and the planting of (exotic) trees along the roads and near the cemetery (including eucalyptus, jacarandas and palms); other site works from early 20th century are the low walls of brick or sandstone around several wards and the partially remaining drainage and water systems (Grunewald & Breed 2013: 59-60).
Recent transformations and challenges

By the end of the 20th century, the medical treatment of leprosy had made such progress that the illness was no longer incurable. Consequently, sufferers no longer needed to be institutionally isolated and leprosy patients could remain within their own communities. Finally it was decided in 1997 to close down Westfort, the last remaining leprosy institution in South Africa. The site was abandoned, the buildings and gardens were neglected and partly vandalised. Tree avenues were cut down as part of a process aimed at eradicating invasive alien species and so a process of degradation started. Graves have also been damaged.

Yet, Westfort Village undoubtedly remains a special place with a very rich, partly painful, history that deserves to be remembered for the sake of a common understanding of the complicated past. At the same time, the present situation calls for a value-based strategy that will bring an improvement to both the living conditions of the inhabitants as well as the state of the buildings and cultural landscape. As a site with buildings and other structures over 60 years old, Westfort Village receives automatic protection from the South African National Heritage Resources Act (25 of 1999). This mandates that the heritage values present on the site need to be ‘mapped’ and explicated.

While on the one hand one can still appreciate the material authenticity of many of the historical buildings and their typical ‘Eclectic ZA Wilhelmiens’ detailing, it is obvious that all buildings are urgently in need of repair and maintenance on the other hand. This includes at the very least technical upgrades to ensure a basic living comfort.
One of the major issues that needs to be addressed is whether all buildings and structures need to be retained and, eventually, conserved as protected monuments, or if some parts may eventually be replaced? Another major question relates to the capacity of the site to partially absorb new developments. Can such infill enhance the architectural/landscape and (socio-) cultural historical qualities of Westfort, and if so, where and how?

The intent of the mission and its related Master class was to collect data on the opportunities and risks of the site and to undertake an overview-investigation of current needs of the community.

As we have learned during our mission, the site is earmarked for a mixed housing development, but it is unclear what the current status of these plans is and to what extent they will take the outcomes of the legally required Heritage Impact Assessment (National Heritage Resources Act 25 of 1999) into account. Thus far, the mission has been unable to consult the Heritage Impact Assessment report, but it is likely that this will be possible in the near future.

In short, Westfort presents a challenging legacy that requires an appropriate strategy to balance the needs of this site, which is in daily use, and those of built heritage conservation.

The current complex situation has been discussed during the Round Table session at UP, chaired by Prof Alan Mabin (Director of the Capital Cities institutional Research Theme at the University of Pretoria) as a first step in bringing stakeholders together (see chapter 3). The participants were also invited to see the provisional studies that the group of Honours students of UP had made on the history, landscaping, social and urban networks of the site as well as their ideas about the development of future ‘nodes’ at Westfort. Their work was followed by additional analyses that zoomed in on the particular heritage values and potentials for reframing the identities of Westfort (see chapter 4).
The Round Table meeting on the significance and future of the Wesfort cultural landscape, originating from the ZAR period, was chaired by prof Alan Mabin (UP/Head of Capital Cities research project) and held at the Faculty of Architecture, UP. This UP premise proved a convenient meeting place for the attending stakeholders (from the Ward Councillor for the Westfort Village to staff members of the Department of Public Works). It was, actually, the first occasion that representatives of such a broad spectrum had met and talked about the complicated situation of the Westfort settlement.

There is a great need to improve the local living conditions and infrastructure, while at the same time safeguarding the heritage character of the site (buildings and cultural landscape). Those who are living there have a great concern about the site, they respect the historic fabric of the heritage but they cannot afford great investments for the urgent improvements and do not have a permanent right of tenure either. The suggestion that UP could eventually help the Westfort community with developing visions of the future came from its Ward Councillor and other inhabitants who care about this special place and the people.

During the Round Table meeting, Prof Mabin explained the supportive role of UP and its interdisciplinary Capital Cities research programme to provide more opportunities for citizens of the South African Capital to improve their lives and facilities in general. The Round Table was intended to bring diverse actors together and to search for common ground where the position, values and opportunities of Westfort could be discussed. Drafting plans for a future for this settlement, with partially shared but also contested heritage, is a big collective exercise that has to be further elaborated.

The adoption of Westfort Village as a laboratory for the Honours students of UP is an attempt to engage students with social issues, and providing fresh input for understanding the place, its opportunities and risks for future conservation and development. Ideally these two should be combined. In the first phase of their investigations (presented in the venue of the Round Table discussion), the students have started to map the urban features of Westfort, which is now home to a thriving community. In doing so they have noticed dramatic changes in aesthetics, materials and uses of the South African-Dutch heritage.

The next phase will be informed by the experience for drafting strategies of integrated conservation and Shared Heritage that the mission brings from the Netherlands and other parts of the world. The situation of the Westfort site brings to mind, for instance, the case of Surabaya (Indonesia) where people lived in dire circumstances around and in a dilapidated graveyard. Through the Shared Heritage Programme a
A redevelopment plan for the graveyard was agreed to by the municipality. This provided one part of the graveyard to be restored and become accessible for tourists and another part transformed into public green space to better the lives of the people living there.

Such a holistic approach is new for Tshwane. This kind of discussion on how to adapt a heritage place that no longer responds to current (social and technical) needs can definitely contribute to shaping the ways the city moves forward. The experience of the rehabilitation project of the shared heritage settlement Genadendal also taught that the role of the architect has changed. A more bottom-up communication is essential to obtain socially and culturally feasible results.

One of the challenges at Westfort is a proposal to build about 6000 new subsidised low-income houses to serve not only the Westfort community but others as well. This requires a partial relocation of the Westfort inhabitants. What UP can contribute to these discussions is an effort to empower the people to participate in public hearings and developing a vision of the future. Additionally assistance can be given in prioritizing needs.

As far as education for understanding the place is concerned, a lot of research particularly in the fields of archaeology and anthropology has already been done with special focus on Westfort Village. Up to date the connection with the now abandoned fort itself and its special historical features (it is the only one built by the French) has not been fully explored. One proposal suggests that the fort could form part of a larger redevelopment plan. This could unlock a latent potential as tourist attraction of the larger area, should the Westfort settlement too be improved to meet the current needs of the community and the heritage buildings be rehabilitated. This suggestion was made because visitors to the fort now have to pass by the settlement, which infringes on community life. The creation of a by-pass would be preferable, certainly should the number of tourists increase. Tourist potential is also dependent on future perspectives for the preservation and presentation of the, now abandoned, military fort as a cultural heritage site.

All participants of the Round Table meeting agreed that Westfort is a cultural landscape site that deserves to be further investigated. In this respect, the UP Honours student investigations could be a supportive tool for providing insight in the opportunities and risks of the heritage values and development potentials. It was also agreed that the Fort West community has a crucial role to play in ensuring the longevity of the historic features and the appropriation of the heritage.
An important issue within the policy framework for Shared Heritage is capacity building. One of the focus areas is the development and adoption of urban heritage strategies through an ‘integrated conservation’ approach in the built environment and cultural landscapes. The Round Table and the Masterclass with UP Honours students in architecture both served the goal of raising awareness for Westfort as a significant cultural landscape and allowed for sharing views on the past and present of the site and possibly its future.

Students provide the capacity to record the site in greater detail (in terms of both physical and intangible aspects) and document such a process for public dissemination in a format that could be shared with stakeholders. Their work will contribute to a further ‘understanding of the place’ and its values. According to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, the timely recognition and identification of a layering and interconnection of natural and cultural, tangible and intangible, international and local values present in any city, is required. These values should be taken as a point of departure in the overall management and development of the city. This is equally valid for Westfort Village.

The students had already explored some general themes before the commencement of the Masterclass. These included the urban framework (existing networks, primary and secondary spatial structures, social connections), ecological zones, landscape connections (water systems, vegetable gardens, semi-private agriculture networks, spatial hierarchy). They had observed both opportunities (e.g. ecological corridors, adding new connections and mixed uses) and constraints (e.g. lack of services, risks of flooding). During the Masterclass the focus was directed more towards the documentation of heritage values, and the drafting of rough strategies to support future policies of ‘integrated conservation’.

4 Contextual concept for future perspectives
For this purpose, a site visit was undertaken as part of the mission, during which small groups of students ‘mapped’ typical elements of the built and ‘green’ heritage (dating from the ‘Eclectic ZA Wilhelmiens’ period and later), and the historical and current pathways that traverse the cultural landscape. They also looked for possible options for densification that do not disturb the values of the cultural landscape.

The Masterclass resulted in a series of four group presentations on:
- evolution of the site and typical features
- heritage values (locations and ‘weight’)
- potentials for future planning
- urban heritage strategies.

The common conclusion of the Masterclass is that Westfort Village can be visualised as ‘flower’ with three petals connected to form a whole. This flower concept expresses the potentials of Westfort for beauty, resilience and growth (the petals). These can be utilised for the benefit of the community and other concerned parties. It can also provide a contextual concept of future planning and design activities to meet the need for re-framing Westfort as a special place with a multitude of memories for various communities. Further it expresses the range of potentials that can be realised through an engagement with and continuation of the cultural landscape and heritage resources in the dynamic and constantly changing environments of Tshwane.

These provisional results will be further elaborated during the next stages of the architectural education programme at UP. The intention is to organise a follow-up meeting during September 2015, for which all stakeholders will again be invited in order to discuss the significance and future of the Westfort cultural landscape.
5 Fringe activities

Heritage Inventorizing

In the fringe of its stay the mission had an informative meeting with the Heritage Resources Department of the City of Tshwane (Ishmael Mbokodo and James Bohale) concerning issues of built heritage inventorizing and raising public awareness of the values of built heritage in the City of Tshwane. The department is very interested in the experiences and methodologies that the RCE has developed over time for heritage valuation, value mapping, adaptive reuse and ‘integrated conservation’, including contested heritage. Extending knowledge about these matters is identified as an urgent need for capacity building on valuating built heritage and developing urban heritage strategies in Tshwane.

Re-centring Tshwane project

After the previous mission on Re-centring Tshwane the issue on reuse and integrated conservation in the inner city kept drawing attention for the exchange of knowledge. One of the fringe activities was directed on further elaborating the results of the Masterclass by means of a collaborative report that is meant to be circulated among stakeholders and others who are interested in urban heritage strategies. The collective commitment of the authors, including representatives from the Heritage Resources Department of the City of Tshwane, the National Department of Public Works, UP, RCE and Delft University of Technology, hold promise for further steps to be taken in the complex process of ‘integrated conservation’ in the historic core of Tshwane.

The adaptive reuse of currently vacant public buildings (and shared heritage) around the Church Square was expressed as an urgent issue by staff of the National Department of Public Works (NDPW). Most of these buildings are protected by the South African National Heritage Resources Act. Decisions about their future uses are partly dependent on yet to be finalised policies on how and where to accommodate the national administration in the Capital. In this context, a site visit was paid to Church Square and the TPA building by the mission, accompanied by UP students, staff members and representatives of NDPW, in order to get a better understanding of the actual problems and potentials of revitalising the historic core of Tshwane. During the mission the need was identified for a follow-up project to develop an integrated conservation strategy focused on the block abutting the south-western quadrant of Church Square.
Preservation and management of museum collections

Another fringe activity addressed the topic of preservation and management of Dutch related artefacts in South African museum collections. A number of stakeholders were engaged. These explorative discussions give a first impression of the needs and urgencies. All parties met with, stress the willingness to cooperation with Dutch parties in the field of museum management and preservation of museum collections.

Discussions with representatives of the South African Museum Association (SAMA, Mr. I. Mbhokodo) and of the Department of Arts and Culture of the City of Tshwane (Mr. D. Oegema) highlighted the lack of interpretation and understanding of especially the collections as kept in the Northern provinces by local museum. The same had been stated by the curator of the University of Pretoria Museums and Collections (Mr. G. de Kamper) at an earlier meeting. At UP, the interpretation and valuation of Dutch related artefacts is also considered a topical issue.

These parties all stress the current lack of restoration skills (regarding paintings, ceramics, furniture, wall paper, etc.), a lack of knowledge in maintenance of specific materials (textiles, metals, paper, wood, etc.) and a deficiency of expertise in preservation conditions (storage, climate control, safety matters etc.). All parties are open for training and advice relating to these issues.

A more thorough discussion on present needs and urgencies was held with representatives of the Engelenburg House Museum (Mrs. D. Prinsloo, Mrs. A. Karelse and Mrs. L. Brink). Topical issues identified are the interpretation and valuation (authenticity and integrity) of the Dutch related artefacts and house interior, safety and disaster preparedness, climate risk and public exposure.

In a meeting with University of Pretoria (Prof A. Mabin and Mrs. C. Kros) the current plans for the formation of a Centre for Museum Curators were revealed. The centre is envisaged to deal with interpretation as well as with preservation of museum artefacts and the hope is that this will serve the geographical area of Africa south of the Sahara. The centre may offer opportunities for eventual future cooperation with Dutch parties. During the preparatory discussions with the Dutch embassy (Mr. J.L. Martens) it was stressed that the Dutch involvement should be based on a thorough investigation of the local needs and urgencies. The embassy is prepared to support the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands in further identifying the current needs and urgencies.
Former Post Office along the entrance road of Westfort Village.
6 Conclusions and recommendations

The Westfort Shared Heritage mission aimed at knowledge exchange and capacity building for advancing strategies for integrated conservation of an originally ‘Eclectic ZA Wilhelmiens’ settlement in Tshwane. This was achieved through the involvement of students from the University of Pretoria, public lectures, the Round Table meeting and fringe activities. The mission is very thankful to UP for hosting various events and especially for the support by the Capital Cities IRT programme in hosting the Round Table session. The mission was also actively supported by the Dutch Embassy, which underlines the common efforts of the Shared Heritage Programme.

Since the site is subject to the South African National Heritage Resources Act, further training, capacity building and awareness raising is desirable in order to underline the particular values of the built heritage from the ZAR period. This period has only recently become acknowledged as a Shared Heritage with the Netherlands and it is recommended that the knowledge gained from this and previous missions be disseminated through publications, meetings and other activities, not only in Tshwane but also in the Netherlands.

Generally speaking, this training and advisory mission was very fruitful for exchanging knowledge and sharing views with the stakeholders dealing with South African-Dutch Shared Heritage sites such as Westfort and the historic city centre around Church Square. Westfort’s historical features, including its Dutch traces, are related to the structure of the historic urban landscape and the architecture of individual buildings. The preliminary analyses by the UP Masterclass show that the site needs a broader recognition of the present heritage values as well as a holistic approach of the historical urban landscape. Such an approach, if somewhat experimental, is essential for providing a sustainable future for Westfort but it needs a wider involvement from planning departments than has been shown thus far.

It is strongly recommended that a second Round Table meeting be organised with attendance of all the relevant stakeholders in order to sustain and continue the progress already made with regards to the perspectives for sustainable future for Westfort. At such a meeting, the results of the student’s investigations could be used as a tool to further explore possible opportunities for inclusion in future planning strategies and heritage preservation. For this purpose a follow-up mission to Tshwane has been scheduled for September 2015 as part of a joint project run between UP, TUD and invited stakeholders.

This event will also provide new opportunities for professional exchanges on issues of urban heritage strategies with South African counterparts.

After the well-orchestrated mission, we may conclude that various parties in Tshwane/Pretoria are very committed to the subject of Shared Built Heritage, both in its valuation and conservation as integral part of their dynamic Capital.

Yet a strong point of attention is the need for a more explicit engagement from the side of the local authorities on urban planning and development to advance an ‘integrated conservation’ strategy in physical planning and to develop positive perspectives for a sustainable future for the Shared Heritage sites.
Bibliography (selected)

Introduction

This project concerns the rehabilitation of the former leper colony of Westfort (originally designed by the Dutch-born ZAR-DPW head architect Sytze Wierda). It is based on the outcomes of previous missions on Shared Heritage in Tshwane and particularly the historic core of Pretoria (2009, 2011 and 2014). The training and advisory mission is part of the Dutch Policy on Shared Heritage and will be undertaken in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding as signed by the South African and Dutch governments on March 21, 2004.

Goal

The project aims at a sustainable conservation and sustainable appropriate re-use of the shared heritage of the Westfort colony. Young professionals will be trained for that reason in identifying, evaluating, and conserving through adaptive re-use of heritage. The outcomes of their efforts will be used as an advisory for the local policymakers and property owner.

Project outline

The Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science) will deploy a team of three Dutch experts on heritage inventory and valuation, architectural interventions and urban conservation to Tshwane.

The project will take place for one week in March 2015. The project will be executed in close collaboration with the South African counterparts and responsible authorities in Tshwane as well as with experts and students of the University of Pretoria.

The project consists of exchange of expertise on:
- Methods for the inventory and valuation of built heritage of the ‘Wilhelmiens’ period and their ‘cultural carrying capacity’.
- Architectural and urban analytical tools to support future strategies for ‘integrated urban planning’.
- Methods for the ‘research by design’ approach for the assignment of adaptive interventions for the preservation and integrated development of historic sites/built heritage based on their cultural carrying capacity.

Dutch team

The Dutch team consists of:
- prof. dr. M.C. Kuipers, senior expert on the valuation of 19th and 20th century built heritage of The Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science)/Professor of Cultural Heritage TU Delft, head of the team,
- drs. J.P. Corten, expert on integrated conservation of The Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency (Ministry of Education, Culture and Science),
- ir. Job Roos, heritage architect and partner of Braaksma-Roos architects/Associate Professor of Conservation and Intervention TU Delft.

South African counterparts

The South African counterparts for this mission are:
- the National Department of Public Works,
- the City of Tshwane Municipal Planning Department,
- the City of Tshwane Municipal Department for Heritage Resources Management,
- other representatives responsible for (former) ZAR buildings in the historic city core,
- representatives responsible for current planning processes in the vicinity of the historical Westfort,
- the Department of Architecture of the University of Pretoria,
- the Capital Cities Institutional Research Theme programme of the University of Pretoria.

In addition, the Royal Dutch Embassy at Pretoria will be consulted.
Results

The expected results of the project will consist of an elaborated advise to the main stakeholders involved in drawing future plans for the Westfort colony, as well as an extended knowledge on conservation issues to young professionals and municipal officers through Master classes and public lectures. The team will produce a brief report on the mission’s findings and recommendations, which will serve as a base for an already scheduled follow-up joint studio of universities of Pretoria and Delft.

Fringe activities

Peripheral to its stay in Pretoria, the mission will elaborate on the outcomes of the ‘Re-Centring Tshwane’-project of 2014, to be published in the near future. Additionally it will aim at identifying future possibilities for cooperation on the use of shared heritage in the revitalisation of Pretoria’s historical core. Finally the possibilities for cooperation in investigating the 20th century shared Wilhemiens architecture will be identified during the mission.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>22.03.2015</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Evening</strong>&lt;br&gt;Arrival Marieke Kuipers, Job Roos, Jean-Paul Corten</td>
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| 23.03.2015 | Monday   | **Morning**<br>Meeting at University of Pretoria with staff and preparations for Round Table  
**Afternoon**<br>Honours Students’ presentations on Westfort comments by mission team |
| 24.03.2015 | Tuesday  | **Full day**<br>Round Table workshop and discussions with representatives of the Westfort Community, Heritage Resource Management of Tshwane, National Department of Public Works, metro Planning, Museum, UP researchers and Honours Students; chaired by prof Alan Mabin (UP/Head of Capital Cities research project) introductions by Jean-Paul Corten (RCE) on Shared Heritage and Nicholas Clarke (UP/TUD) on Westfort’s history  
**Fringe:**<br>consultation with the Head and Assistant of the Heritage Resources Management of Tshwane and Preparation Publication Re-Centring Tshwane Report |
| 25.03.2015 | Wednesday | **Morning**<br>Lectures on Valuation methodologies of (Shared) Heritage and Integrated Conservation Strategies to UP Honours Students (MK, JPC and JR)  
**Afternoon**<br>Mission site visit Westfort with students and Dutch Ambassador Marisa Gerards and Jeroen Martens (Dutch Embassy).  
**Evening**<br>Working dinner with Jeroen Martens (Dutch Embassy) |
| 26.03.2015 | Thursday  | **Morning**<br>Exchange at UP on Westfort typologies, value mapping, master-planning ideas, strategies for ‘integrated conservation’  
**Afternoon**<br>Site visit to TPA Building in city centre with representatives of DPW in framework Re-centring Tshwane |
| 27.03.2015 | Friday    | **Morning**<br>Preparing presentations of students analyses and maps  
**Afternoon**<br>Student presentation of results of mapping exercise to Stake-holders of Westfort  
**Evening**<br>Dinner with Dutch Embassy staff at Jeroen Martens’ residence |
| 28.03.2015 | Saturday  | **Morning/Afternoon**<br>visit to Shared Heritage site Irene Dairy Farm  
Author discussions Re-Centring Tshwane Report with Edna Peres (UP), Frandah Loock (DPW) and Adrian De Villiers (DPW)  
**Evening**<br>Job Roos Departs |
| 29.03.2015 | Sunday    | Free                                                                                                                                     |
| 30.03.2015 | Monday    | **Morning/Afternoon**<br>UP Dept Architecture meeting with Roger Fisher and Johan Swart on Shared Heritage projects.  
**Evening**<br>Marieke Kuipers and Jean-Paul Corten depart |
The village-like settlement ‘Westfort’ near Pretoria was founded as a Leprosy Asylum and partly designed by the Dutch-born architects Sytze Wierda and Klaas van Rijisse in 1897-1898. The institute was closed down one century later. The settlement is presently inhabited by an ‘informal’ community that seeks advise for the future of this multi-layered cultural landscape and its heritage buildings. In March 2015, the Netherlands Cultural Heritage Agency executed a Shared Heritage Mission to Tshwane, in close collaboration with the University of Pretoria and other partners. This Advisory Report summarizes the main observations made during the mission, including a Round Table discussion, a Honours students Masterclass at the University of Pretoria, site visits and fringe activities.