

STRANDFONTEIN CULTURAL MAPPING

A REIMAGINED STRANDFONTEIN PAVILION AND SURROUNDS

The findings from the historical research and cultural mapping process, while by no means comprehensive, begin to depict a Strandfontein narrative that is layered with a unique Strandfontein flavour and feel while, at the same time, forms part of a larger Cape Flats and city narrative.

What stands out as unique is how many stories and local cultural heritage (tangible and intangible) are connected to and informed by the area's **natural history and environment**. What is common, is a social history deeply connected to the making of the Cape Flats and Cape Town as an **apartheid city**. And, as importantly, how the people of Mitchell's Plain/Strandfontein, like so many communities across the Cape Flats, **refashioned and built socially and culturally vibrant communities** despite the social dislocation and trauma in the 60s and early 70s.

The findings emerging from the cultural mapping process point towards an urban concept design that needs to embrace and celebrate the area's tangible and intangible social and cultural heritage at both form and functional levels. What happens at the revitalised Strandfontein Pavilion and, who spends time there, as a visitor, tenant, or local resident, are as important as its **reimagined built form**. Reinterpreted and reimagined, the Strandfontein Pavilion Upgrade creates a unique opportunity to transform and extend our understanding of life and living along the False Bay coastline and in its surrounding suburbs and spaces of individual and collective memory by commemorating and celebrating it in and through a **new, post-apartheid public space, connected to its natural, social, and cultural heritage**.

