

STRANDFONTEIN CULTURAL MAPPING

NATURE AND NATURAL LIVING HERITAGE



The location and natural environment within which the Strandfontein Pavilion is located is the most dominant and overwhelming feature emerging from the cultural mapping process and, because of this, needs to be carefully considered in any future urban design concept.

Although much of the natural beauty has been degraded by time or obliterated with the building of the pavilion and large parking area between 1974 and the early 1980s, the natural living heritage and beauty still dominates the terrain. Importantly, it informs the social and cultural/living heritage in the present.

In other words, one can begin to see Mitchell's Plain/Strandfontein/Pelican Park and the Strandfontein Pavilion as spaces surrounded on all sides by this natural environment and natural living heritage that is topped off by the False Bay coastline and ocean to the east. It may be safe to say that no other area in Cape Town finds itself surrounded by the ocean and such a a biodiverse natural environment.

Recent visits to the pavilion and surrounds revealed the abundance of daisies that adorn the area. One of the interviewees, Bertram Richards, who lived in the area in his youth, makes an annual pilgrimage to Strandfontein to see the flowers. Several others, like the Floris sisters who lived here during their adolescent years, say that everyone who lived in the area has a childhood photo taken with the daisies.

