

DAVID GOLDBLATT: CAPTIONS

Exhibition Title: Structures of Dominion and Democracy

Photograph_2



Mineworkers' bunks in the abandoned "Chinese" compound of the Simmer and Jack Gold Mine, Germiston, July 1965. To meet a shortage of labour, mine-owners brought some 63 000 indentured Chinese labourers to the gold mines between 1904 and 1910. To ensure control of their movements, closed compounds, similar to those used on the Kimberley diamond mines, were built to house them. Outer walls had no windows. Entry and exit were via a guarded gate. The men were repatriated to China in 1910. However, the advantages of closed quadrangular compounds in the housing and control of labour had been clearly demonstrated. Until the late 20th century, the design was generally applied to housing for black migrant workers on our mines. Rooms sleeping 20 to 40 men were common. Metal beds later replaced concrete. Late in the 20th century compounds came to be called "hostels" and the latest are "open" in design.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Where do I see the word "structure"?
 - Is it in an object, idea or reference? Name and Identify.
 - Does it relate to the past or present? Why?
 - What elements in the photograph inform me of a past/present place and time?
- 2) Where do I see the word "domain"? Is it in an object, idea or reference?
 - Is it in an object, idea or reference? Name and Identify.
 - Does it relate to the past or present? Why?
 - What elements in the photograph inform me of a past/present place and time?
- 3) How is the word 'democracy' articulated in this photograph?
 - What elements of the photograph leads me to say this?
- 4) Why was this photograph created?
- 5) What is this photograph about?