

1. INTRODUCTION

Key words: **Interactive landscape**
Multi-layered
Meeting place
Publicness

The realm of entering the city of Pretoria is multi-layered and complex to the rural immigrant. Hard surfaces and concrete towers dominate the urban matrix. The grid dominates the built form of the city. The grid is functional and logical, conditioned to maximize movement and usage. It allows man to force a capital culture onto nature.

However, humans are more diverse and complicated than the grid. Communication, culture and interaction are non-linear activities. The built fabric in the Pretoria Central Business District (CBD) is very dense, and leaves little space for public interaction. Public spaces have been renegade to side-walks, urban parks and destination facilities such as libraries and art galleries. Side-walks are congested and do not allow for paused activities such as eating and drinking. Urban parks are scattered within the building fabric. Destination facilities are public to a quantifiable client.

Architecture must therefore become a public interface. Okwui Enwezor (2006; 9) states that public space "is not so much the institution or building designated as such, rather it is the silent obvious amenities ... public space is not a thing but a value-added quality".

Architecture must go beyond the obvious of creating public spaces and rather see the city as a public space. Buildings and built structure have a relation to human interaction. The human mind perceives the built environment and reacts with emotion. Architecture is therefore an emotional experience. The city rigid must accommodate and invite human emotions. This anomaly creates an opportunity for a meeting place between the rigid city and the flexible human mind.

This meeting place is the focus of this dissertation. The meeting place forms part of the social and interactive landscape. It extends beyond the market and street into the building itself. Horizontal movement and vertical hierarchy must be integrated within structure. It is not only the spaces in between buildings that are home to the character and activities of the city. The buildings themselves must create 'publicness', a sense of belonging and interacting.

The meeting place celebrates the urban context. It is a transition between the rural environment and the urban context.



Fig 1.1 : Hard urban surface

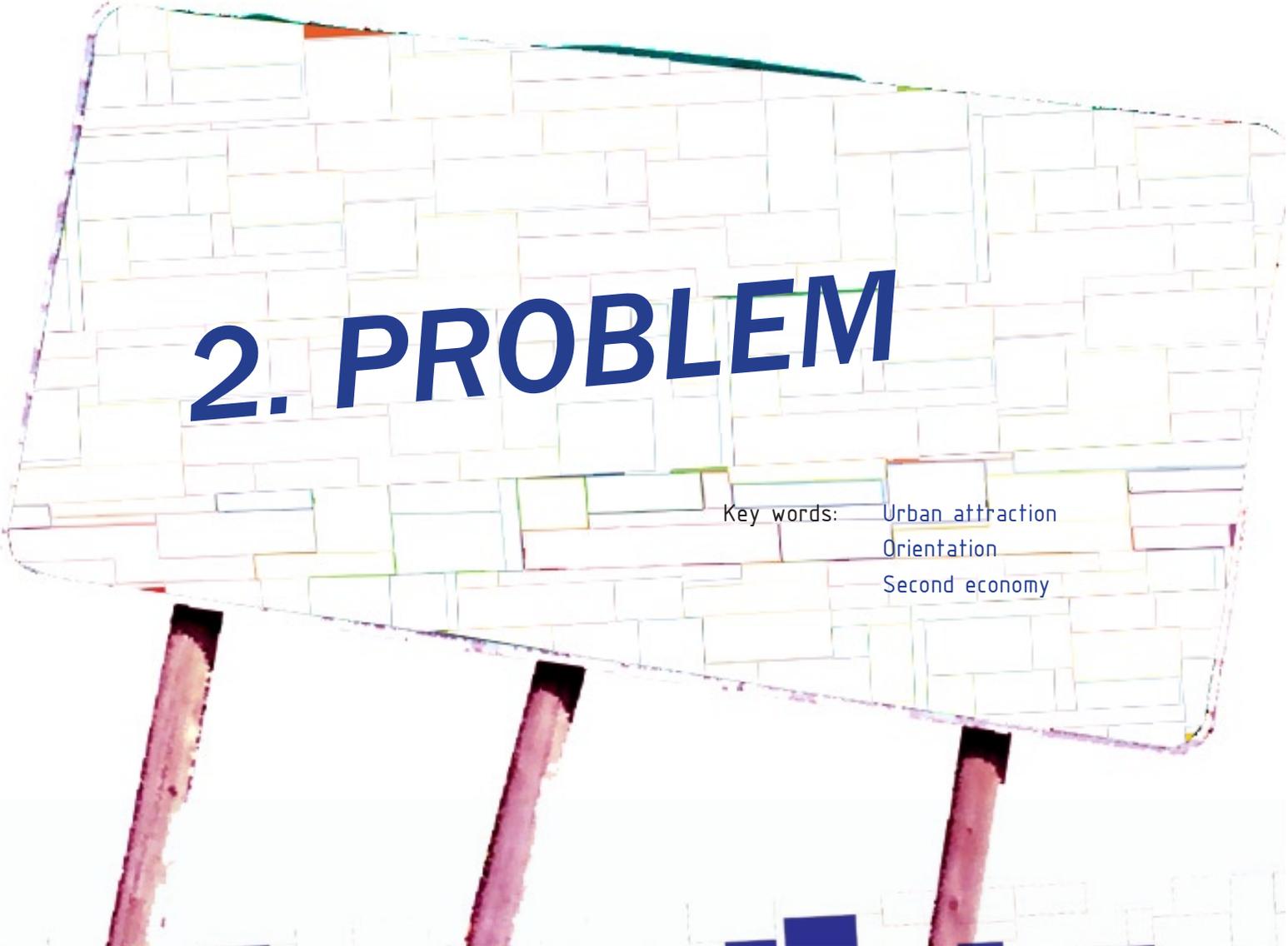


Fig 1.2 : Dispersed urban parks



Fig 1.3 : Side-walk activities





2. PROBLEM

Key words: Urban attraction
Orientation
Second economy

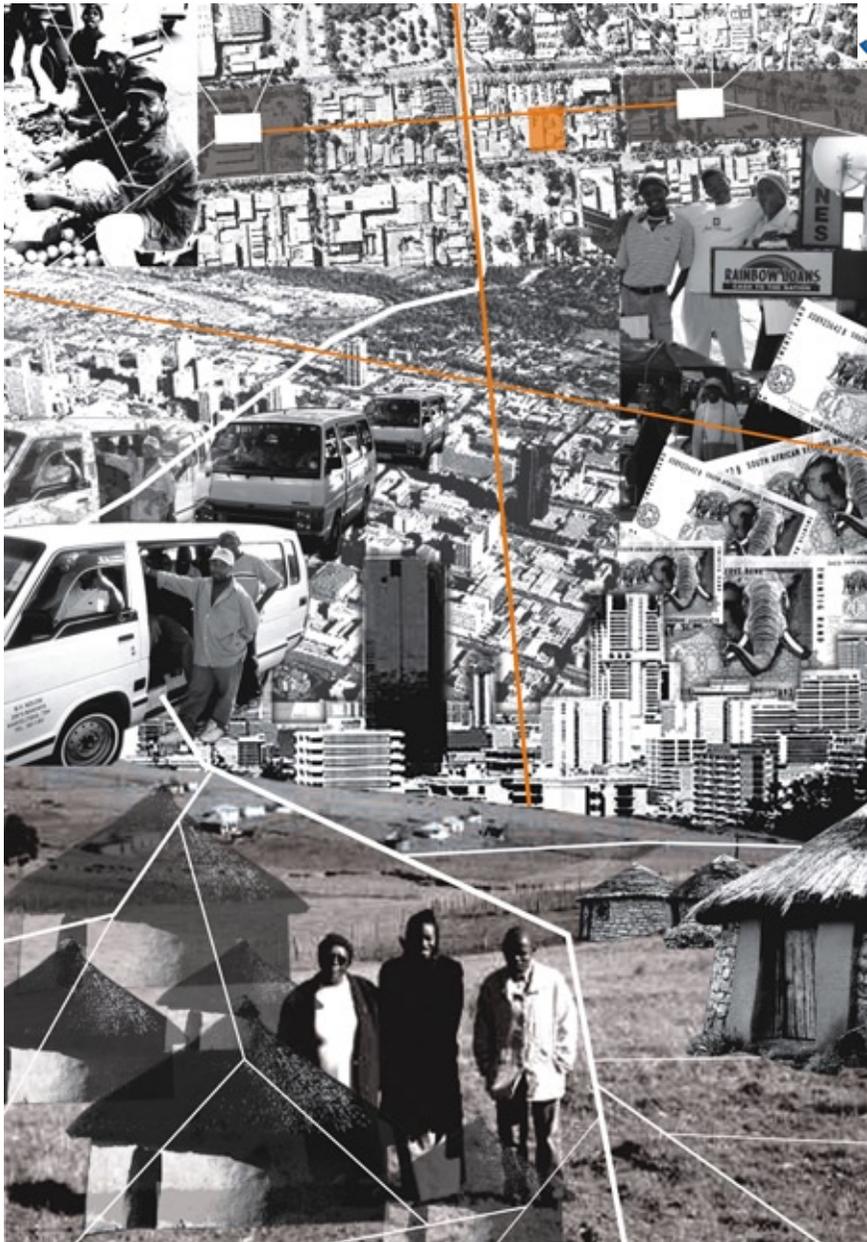


Fig 2.1: Journey from rural to urban

The African landscape is transforming. People are moving from the rural environment into the urban environment. South Africa is no exception as the annual growth in urban population between 2000 and 2005 has been 1.6%. The 2006 urban population in South Africa was 59.3%, the projected urban population for 2030 is 71.3% (United Nations, 2006).



Population dynamics

The 2001 South African Census estimates the population of Tshwane at 1.986.019 people. This represents 4.43% of the total population (44.819.778 people) of South Africa in 2001. According to Statistics SA the metropolitan municipality of Tshwane experienced a net in-migration of 7.15% of the total population in 2006. Gauteng province has the highest urbanization level in South Africa at 96% (Kok and Collison 2006: 22).

Table 2.1 illustrates the urban attraction of municipal areas in South Africa in 2001 (Statistics SA). Graph 2.1 illustrates the number of people moving into the metropolitan municipality of Tshwane and the Pretoria CBD from 1999 to 2001. Fig 2.3 is a graphic representation of the urban attraction of the Pretoria CBD relative to the surrounding municipalities according to the Census 2001 data.

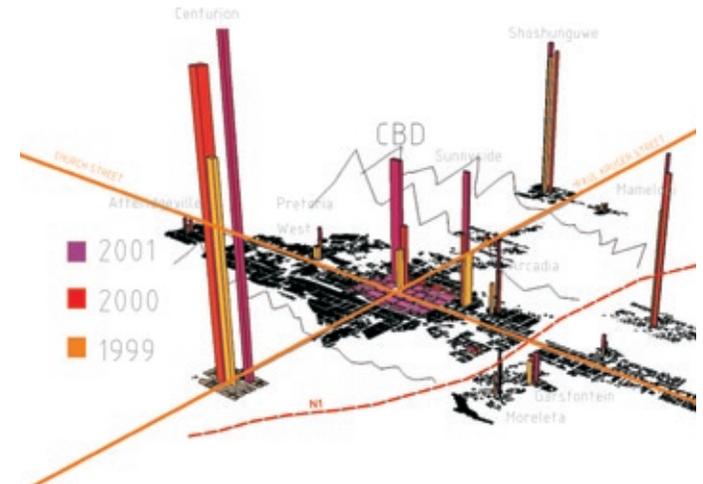


Fig 2.3: Urban attraction: Tshwane

Table 2.1: Urban attraction in 2001

Province	Municipality Name	Sub-Place	2001
Western Cape	City of Cape Town		144570
Eastern Cape	Port Elizabeth	Cape Town CBD	199
		PE Central	1798
Northern Cape	Sol Plaatje	Kimberley Central	161
			27099
Free State	Mangaung	Bloemfontein Central	1479
Kwazulu-Natal	Durban		108676
		Durban CBD	3120
North West	Rustenburg	Rustenburg Central	1056
			183130
Gauteng	City Of Johannesburg	Johannesburg CBD	1225
		City of Tshwane	108896
		Pretoria CBD	5663
Mpumalanga	Mbombela	Nelspruit Central	617
Northern	Polokwane		20623
			1253

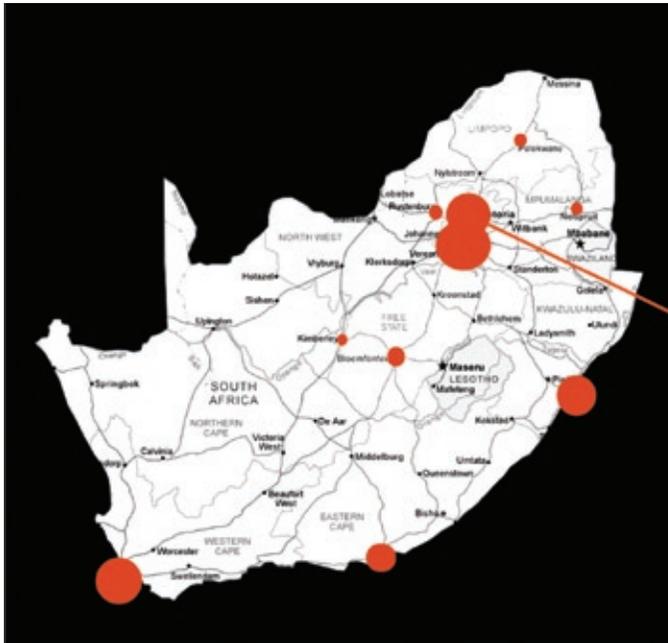
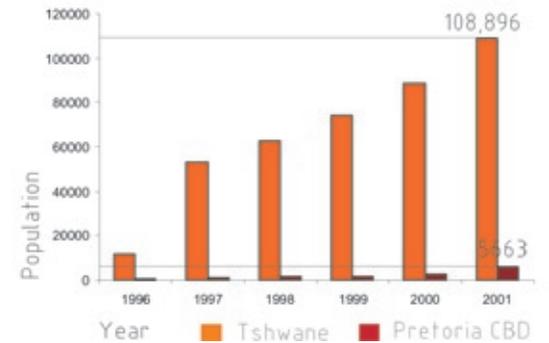


Fig 2.2: Urban attraction: South Africa



Graph 2.1: Number of people moving into district

PROBLEM

Urbanization process

A difference exists between the rural environment and the urban landscape in South Africa. In general, the rural context is situated in a natural environment. It is comparatively small and self-sustaining, tradition and culture are essential components to identity and social hierarchy within the community is very important.

In comparison, the urban landscape in South Africa is large and focused mainly on monetary exchange. The urban landscape is predominantly hard, and made of unnatural materials such as concrete, steel and asphalt. Cities are structured on a grid system with little reference to the natural environment. Tradition and culture are often exchanged for western conformity and fashion. Social hierarchy is less prevalent because of the multicultural context.

The urban landscape is illegible when one's reference point is the rural environment. It is not limited to geographical navigation. Orientation includes information on housing, health care, work, education and business skills. In order to facilitate a meaningful transition, this information needs to be grouped, structured and readily accessible.



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Informality

The urbanization process in South Africa is often associated with the informal sector. The informal sector is usually associated with the illegal, extra-legal, and unregistered (Badenhorst 1988).

Participants in the informal sector are exploited because they fall outside the labour legislation and cannot access the legal system. Fear of eviction, limited access to credit, health and education undermines the quality of life. In addition, municipalities are slow to respond to the informal sector. The informal sector is often referred to as the second economy and according to Budlender, Buwembo and Shabalala (2001) this second economy contributes between seven and twelve per cent of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The informal economy furthermore creates approximately 22.5 million employment opportunities in South Africa (Bivens and Gammage 2005: 9)

The informality of the second economy has serious implications for the city. Informal traders usually do not pay taxes and thus do not contribute to the maintenance of the infrastructure.

