

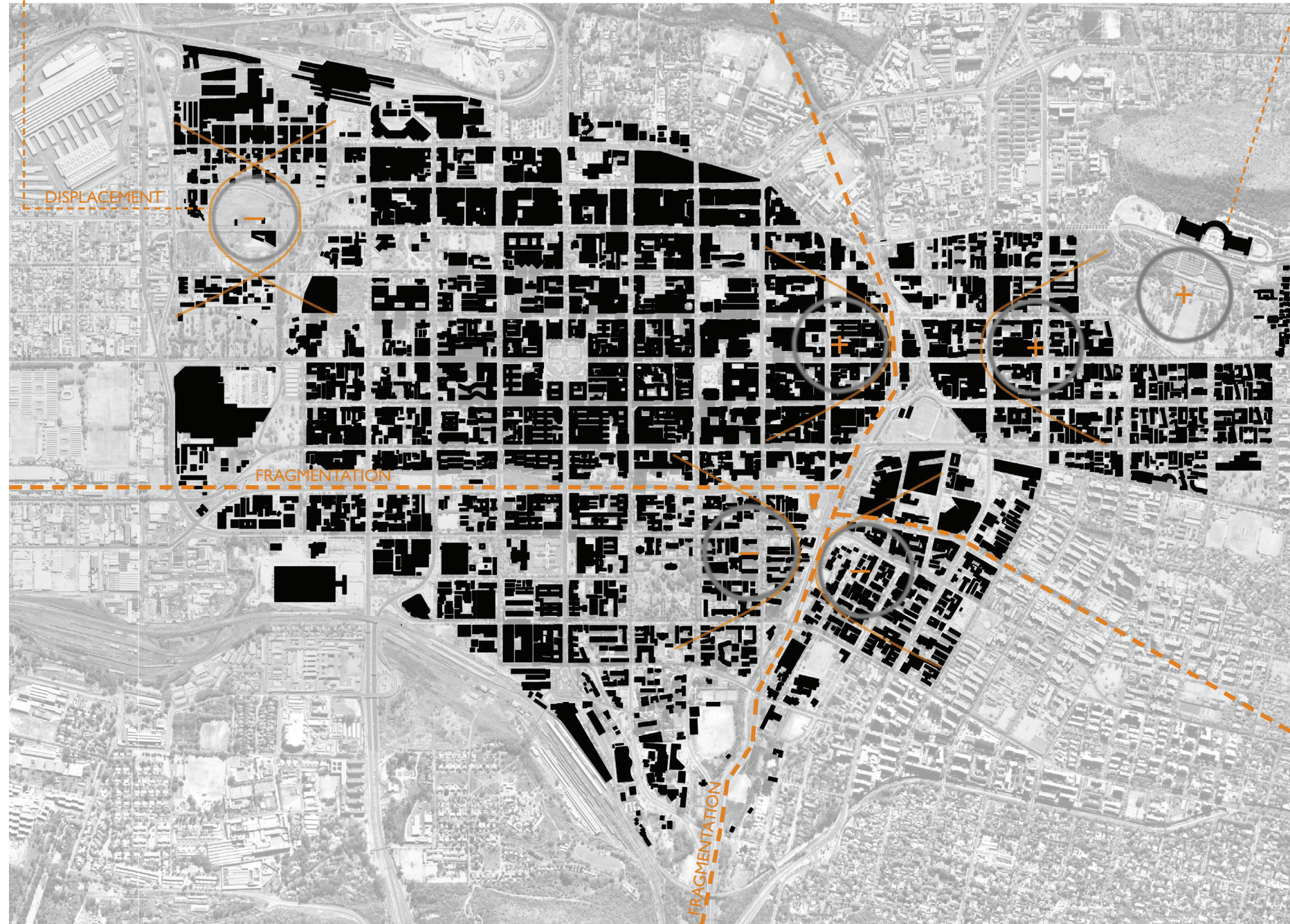
## **01. Preface**



POLARISATION

Apartheid scarring as a result of forced removals in the 1940's. The township of Marabastad had a very dense fine urban fabric but this has changed over the years and much of the urban fabric has been shattered.

The Union Buildings - Once the citadel of apartheid, it is now a symbol of cultural diversity as well as reconciliation.



Since 1994, the fabric of the city of Pretoria has become more fragmented, more polarized and more diverse than ever before. Like most cities in the country, Pretoria is re-inventing itself. The end of Apartheid, the beginnings of democracy, entry into the global economy and burgeoning neo-liberalism had, in many ways, created new cities (Bremner 2004: 18). The Union Buildings perched on the ridges of Pretoria, once the citadel of Apartheid has become the home of democracy.

CONFLICTS

The proposal of a ring-road in the inner city resulted in the destruction of the urban fabric along Skinner and Nelson Mandela street. This has separated the city in both north-south and east-west directions.

Development within the city is predominantly focused in the northern and eastern parts of the city. The southern and western parts of the city are neglected and as a result the urban fabric is far less dense.

The urban fabric has its back turned along Nelson Mandela and Skinner street. This creates a dead facade along these main movement routes.

CONTRADICTIONS

Figure 1.1. The city of Pretoria in tension (Author, 2010).