

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

South Africa: A development in community theory and education engagement.

ARCHITECTURE

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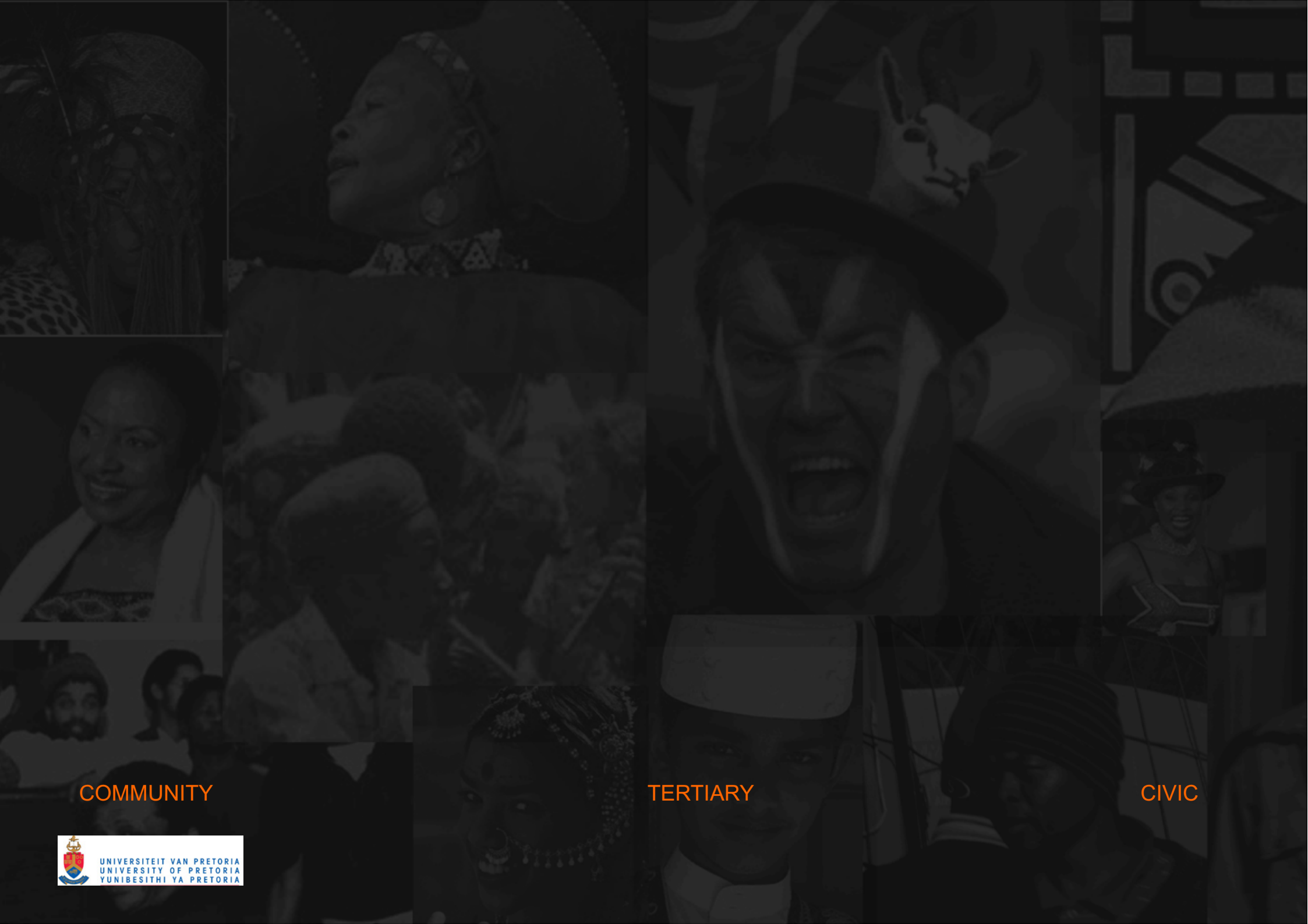
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NOVEMBER 2008



COMMUNITY

TERTIARY

CIVIC

BY GRACE, LOVE AND MERCY _JESUS CHRIST MY LORD AND SAVIOUR. DEDICATED TO_ THE NICE FAMILY AND THE PEOPLE OF MAMELODI

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A community engagement facilitator for Mamelodi East in partnership with the University of Pretoria.

SUBMITTED AS PART REQUIREMENT FOR *MArch(Prof)*
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
SOUTH AFRICA

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2008

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Figure. 1
Mamelodi





“CULTURE EQUALS GRAMMAR, AND THE COMMUNITY ENTERS AS THE DIALOGUE.”

Poetic of people. (M. Edwards, 1991)

**“BUILT FORM IS ONLY A POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENT SINCE IT SIMPLY PROVIDES
POSSIBILITIES OR CLUES FOR SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR.”**

Planning for people. (M. Broady, 1968)

**“THROUGH WISDOM A HOUSE IS BUILT, AND BY UNDERSTANDING IT IS ESTABLISHED;
BY KNOWLEDGE THE ROOMS ARE FILLED WITH ALL PLEASANT AND PRECIOUS RICHES”**

NKJV Holy Bible. (Proverbs 24:3,4)

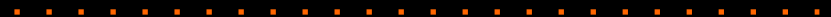


Figure 2
AFRICAN
CONTEXT



A F R I C A
S O U T H A F R I C A
G A U T E N G
T S H W A N E
M A M E L O D I



INTRODUCTION to community engagement

Community development and social intervention has been practised by most Universities, colleges, Government and NGOs' world wide, each one responding to its own context and subsequent social situation and structure. However in recent time one finds this development to reach beyond the immediate community and its context but rather to a societal stage; meeting the need for more. It is by this thinking that the concept of community engagement is realised. As noted in a paper by the University of Western Australia:

“in its statement on community engagement, the university argues that engagement with the community is not just service to it through imparting knowledge about social issues and problems. Engagement is defined as a reciprocal process whereby communication and interaction effectively lead to a shared perception of social issues and concerns”

“Genuine engagement moves beyond the level of mere service and allows the opportunity for societal response to help redefine the nature of the problem itself and perhaps forge new solutions.”

We as a South African people find ourselves in a context richly entangled by cultures, races, ages, ethnics and histories. We all share a country of diversity and we all deal with a full spectrum of people of all economic backgrounds and livelihoods on a daily basis. The common denominator is education or the lack thereof. The effect that this has on people and on the development of a country and communities. To address community engagement at any level one needs to address and understand what the social boundaries and obstacles are that prevent a people to effectively live and develop together.

Community engagement allows for the merger of these two paradigms. This is realised through the use of tertiary education by involving all tiers of educated people and all tiers of economic affluence with the possibility to deliver certain civic functions that holistically effects and develops the community. We are all people with the same needs and same aspiration some have bigger dreams and other smaller goals living in communities and surviving as individuals, as noted by Paul Oliver

“Humankind is social, and the need to be in the company of others extends beyond safety and self-preservation. Companionship and competition, argument and appreciation, the sharing of problems and the giving of advice, and the discussion and dispute about issues of mutual concern are essential among all social groups”

“ But a broadening of local knowledge and experience. The news of events, the exchange of ideas and information and the expansion of the intellect and the heart are made more possible in the social life of the village and Small Township”

according to its strategic plan; University of Pretoria: Inspiring the Innovation generation_ creating the future 2007 -2011:
“Promoting community engagement particularly on the Mamelodi Campus.”

“Community engagement, among other things, in the form of academic service learning, will receive increased attention with the Mamelodi Campus becoming the Universities main delivery platform of these activities.”

In the words of Dr. Tokwane, head of the new faculty of Community Engagement University of Pretoria:
“Bring Mamelodi to the campus”; “Community engagement, through changing the perspective of community on University.”

This dissertation will endeavour to realise the vision of the University of Pretoria of academic service learning and the vision of Dr. Tokwane head of faculty of Community Engagement; but go one step further beyond the immediate and propose a holistic effective method of engaging with the community, the Mamelodi East Community. As expressed by Howard P Butcher of the University of Western Australia

“engagement with the community is not just service to it through imparting knowledge about social issues and problems, engagement is defined as a reciprocal process whereby communication and interaction effectively lead to a shared perception of social issues and concerns”

In summary the principle methodology aimed in this dissertation: Creating a community engaged campus and tertiary education by combining service learning, education, providing the require a civic service and developing a facilitary platform to the community, thus becoming an open door for community activity and interaction. Not just repeating the lines but actually playing the role.

“The physical and social design needs to be interlocking”

To attempt a postulated design hypothesis on community engagement one needs to firstly define the term community and the methods pertaining to engaging with this community and secondly contextualise and possibly regionalise the theme to South Africa and its people. Only then can one effectively formulate an architectural approach to making social webbing architectural programmatic while being socially responsive to the South African and African environment.

“Architectural design like music to film is complementary to human activity it does not shape it.”

✦ Howard P. Butcher J. [Community Engagement. The mutual learning benefit of long term partnership.] 2003. pg 1

✦ University Pretoria 2008

✦ Dr. Tokwane [UP] 2003

✦ Howard P. Butcher J. [UP] 2003 pg 1

✦ M. Broady_ 1968, pg 31

✦ M. Broady_ 1968, pg 23

✦ P. Oliver [Dwellings.], p56 2003



CONTENTS

1_	Chapter 1_	A briefing in Community development.	6_	Chapter 6_	Engagement by Architectural Design.
1.1.		The challenge	6.1.		Community facility and African context precedents
1.2.		A solution	6.2.		Theoretical approach of built form
1.3.		Attempting the need	6.3.		Analytical process of architectural reasoning
1.4.		The sub solutions_ resolving the need.	6.4.		Social derivative space programming
			6.5.		Public Architecture design process
2_	Chapter 2_	Glossary of discourse terms and definitions.	7_	Chapter 7_	Technical discourse.
2.1.		Terms	7.1.		Theory of structure
2.2.		Definitions	7.2.		Systems & Service _ A sustainable approach
3_	Chapter 3_	An urban vision of “RURBAN” place making.	7.3.		Tectonic approach
3.1.		Hans Strijdom_ Both an edge and a pathway.	7.4.		Material and embodied energy
3.2.		“Rurban”_ a peri Rural peri Urban concentration.	7.5.		Technical design process_ detail sketches
3.3.		Mamelodi East development Vision.	7.6.		Existing structures_ images and sketches
3.4.		A“Rurban” place making policy			
4_	Chapter 4_	Development in Community space theory.	8_	Chapter 8_	Technical presentation drawings
4.1.		Social space theory	9_	Chapter 9_	Client _ Management _ Costing & Development
4.2.		Culture, identity and communication, a social dialogue	9.1.		The client
4.3.		Community engagement principles	9.2.		Funding
4.4.		A Summary	9.3.		Management proposal
			9.4.		Brief costing
5_	Chapter 5_	Historic & Contextual Analysis _ Mamelodi.	10_	Chapter 10_	References.
5.1.		Mamelodi historic time line	11_		Addendum.
5.2.		Vista university history	11.1		Final images & perspectives
5.3.		Mamelodi East, a context analysis			
5.4.		Mamelodi East, a social analysis			
5.5.		Mamelodi East, a civic evaluation			
5.6.		Tertiary education facts and figures			
5.7.		Non Government Organisation profiles			



Figure. 3
Mamelodi
A housing fabric

MAMELODI
MAMELODI WEST
MAMELODI EAST
FORMALEAST
SITE-CAMPUS
TOWNSHIP EAST

