

A Memorable Landscape

Creating a Landscape using Ecological Design and Landscape Narrative Principles in the Faerie Glen Nature Reserve.





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A Memorable Landscape

Creating a Landscape using Ecological Design and Landscape Narrative Principles in the Faerie Glen Nature Reserve.

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This thesis explores ways in which open space can be made memorable through the application of ecological design and landscape narrative principles.

The Faerie Glen Nature Reserve is located in the predominantly residential eastern suburbs of Pretoria and has been identified as an important open space due to its unique ecological sensitivity.

The hypothesis argues that through an understanding of the landscape narrative, interventions can be made in the reserve that will not negatively affect the ecological importance or the visual aesthetic of the reserve. These interventions will contribute to making a memorable landscape by reinforcing its beauty and *genius loci*.

The interventions in the reserve should increase the daily use of the Faerie Glen Nature Reserve and thus promote the reserve as a sustainable open space while preserving its ecological importance.

Samevatting

Hierdie verhandeling ondersoek die metodes om oop ruimte onvergeetlik te maak, deur die toepassing van ekologiese ontwerp en landskap-naratief beginsels.

Die Faerie Glen Natuurreservaat is geleë in die grotendeels residensiële oostelike voorstede van Pretoria. Die natuurreservaat is geïdentifiseer as 'n belangrike oop ruimte, weens sy unieke ekologiese sensitiwiteit.

Die hipotese voer aan dat deur begrip van die landskapverhaal, ingrypings in die natuurreservaat gemaak kan word, wat nie tot die nadeel van die ekologiese belangrikheid of die visuele skoonheid van die reservaat sal wees nie. Hierdie ingrypings sal bydra tot die skepping van 'n heuglike landskap, deur die versterking van die landskap se skoonheid en *genius loci*.

Die ingrypings behoort die daaglikse gebruik van die Faerie Glen Natuurreservaat te verhoog en sodoende die reservaat as 'n volhoubare oop ruimte bevorder, terwyl dit die ekologiese belangrikheid behou.



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Chapter 7

Front Faerie Glen Nature Reserve. (Author, 2009)

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Definitions of Terms

Ecological design	Any form of design that minimises environmentally destructive impacts by integrating itself with living processes (Van der Ryn and Cowan 1996: x).
<i>Genius loci</i>	<i>Genius loci</i> literally means genius of place. It is used to describe places that are deeply memorable for their architectural and experiential qualities (Frederick 2007:9).
Land art	An art movement which emerged in the 1960's and 1970's in which the landscape and works of art became inextricably linked. Artwork was ephemeral and eroded due to natural processes (Curl 2006:428).
Landscape narrative	The conceptual link between nature and society which is understood through analysis and personal experience in order to guide the design process in the creation of forms and memorable place.
Local park	A well developed, mono-functional, open space, typically within a residential context, that has a neighbourhood or local influence sphere and provides the surrounding residents free access and opportunity to social interaction, recreational play areas and passive recreational opportunities (TOSF 2006:iv).
Natural process	A process existing in, or produced by nature rather than by the intent of human beings.
Nature reserve	An area, declared, or regarded as having been declared, in terms of section 23 of the National Environmental Management Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act 57 of 2003) as a nature reserve (TOSF 2006:iv)
Open space	Areas predominantly free of building that provide ecological, socio-economic and place-making functions at all scales of the metropolitan area (TOSF 2006:iv).
Sustainable development	Development that has integrated social, economic and environmental factors into planning, implementation and decision-making, so as to ensure that it serves present and future generations (TOSF 2006:vii).