

INTERSTITIAL
[GROUP URBAN VISION STAGE]

3

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| PREAMBLE ABSTRACT | 64 |
| INTRODUCTION | 65 |
| INTERSTITIAL | 66 |
| FIGURE REFERENCES | 80 |

| PREAMBLE

| ABSTRACT

Architecture in South Africa is at a crossroads. After years of repression and isolation during which contemporary architecture lost its way, there is now a desperate need for architects to respond to the social and cultural challenges of a society riven by massive material contrasts"

[Sanders, 2000:68]

PREAMBLE

Pre-occupied with challenging our inherent bias towards Pretoria; the urban framework positions itself within portions of the city swayed by; autonomous development, government migration toward these areas and the steady increase in poorly consolidated public and commercial space – more specifically, the Ceremonial Boulevard proposed for the City of Tshwane's Vision 2055.

These devices have left Pretoria's urban core with a strange accumulation of undesired and residual space, and incomplete urban narratives. By challenging preconception, the group compiled a matrix of interstices, speculating on their socio-political/spatial potential whilst reinterpreting the city as a catalogue of beautifully incoherent architectural assemblages.

By indexing the surplus, the historical, and anticipated urban condition the group were able to imagine hypothetical alternative futures as responses to the CoT's Vision 2055. Individual designs were explored through principles of; urban flot-sam, making and remaking the city through drawing, blackboard sessions, reverse engineering and digital modeling – the latter used to explore new structural vocabularies and their associated textural details and environmental potential.

Proposals occupy the realm between prototypical government precincts and alternative and reimagined infrastructural typologies, reinvigorating the fringe and void conditions produced by existing and proposed master plans and explicating intricate cross-utilisations of public and civic facilities, and service infrastructure. Each design, mindful of inner-city based architecture serves to represent a new spatial anthology poised to lead Pretoria's urban context down a far more sustainable and resilient path.

ABSTRACT

An objective investigation, spurred on by challenging our inherent prejudice of Pretoria's contemporary urban climate, led to the discovery of a series of urban devices responsible for the creation of a network of interstitial spaces and insurgent practices. With enormous potentials, they have the capacity to reveal and explore re-envisioned future urban conditions.

Thus, the urban framework intends to unveil these concealed networks and bring to light the socio-cultural/economic/political reality of the city whilst fostering alternative methods for future urban renewal and development.

LOCATING THE INVESTIGATION

The urban framework occupies Helen Joseph Street, Pretoria. Helen Joseph Street, which runs east-west, has been designated for the design of the Ceremonial Boulevard proposed for the City of Tshwane's Vision 2055. Along this corridor lies an important network of interstitial spaces and insurgent activities. Imperative to the understanding of Pretoria's contemporary urban climate, these networks highlight Pretoria's active street edge condition and physical thresholds between public (insurgent/collective/multifunctional) and private (bureaucratic/singular/mono-functional).

PROBLEM STATEMENT

"[...] acknowledging the fact that public interests are not the same for everyone [...] The City of Tshwane, is however poised to its place among the world's successful, modern and sustainable economies."

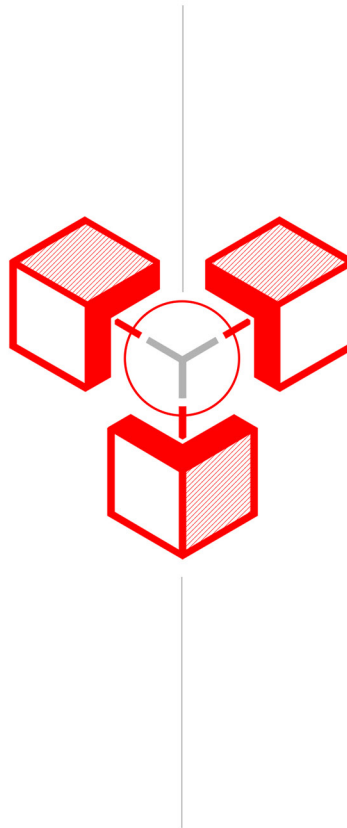
- Lindiwe Kwele [Dajo Associates & Myeza, 2015:9]

As a guide to the urban framework, the investigation will provide a thorough critique of the CoT's Vision 2055. Albeit of noble intentions, Pretoria's present urban condition – fraught with exclusivity and division – suggests that the implementation of such imposing urban strategies, prior to a proper and thorough investigation of the urban tissue and fine grain, could further augment Dewar's [2005, 245] three spatial patterns characterising South African cities, which are; sprawl, segregation and separation. Furthermore, should all government buildings migrate towards the city centre, as proposed by in both the 2011 ARUP vision and CoT Vision 2055, public space and pedestrian access within the inner-city will be under threat.

FRAMEWORK INTENTIONS

In keeping with a pre-occupation of challenging our inherent bias, the proposed contextual framework intends to strengthen the urban fabric by reacting to the proposed CoT Vision 2055 which intends to compact and densify the urban condition [Dajo & Myeza, 2014:197]. Thus, the framework aims to strengthen and consolidate a series of insurgent spatial and social networks in the creation of alternative urban strategies geared towards resilience and urban renewal.

INTERSTITIAL



JACI NEL
CHARNE NIEUWOUDT
CHRISTOPHER IAN MACCLEMENTS

GROUP INVESTIGATION
URBAN STRATEGY

+

Fig. 3.1
Interstitial

CHALLENGING PRECONCEPTIONS

PREOCCUPIED WITH CHALLENGING THE EXISTING URBAN CONDITION THE GROUP SET OUT TO CHALLENGE INDIVIDUAL PREJUDICE TOWARDS THE EXISTING URBAN CLIMATE. THIS, A HYPOTHETICAL EXPLORATION OF PRETORIA'S EXISTING CONDITION WAS UNDERTAKEN IN ORDER TO PROVE OR DISPROVE ANY INHERENT BIAS.

HYPOTHESES A.

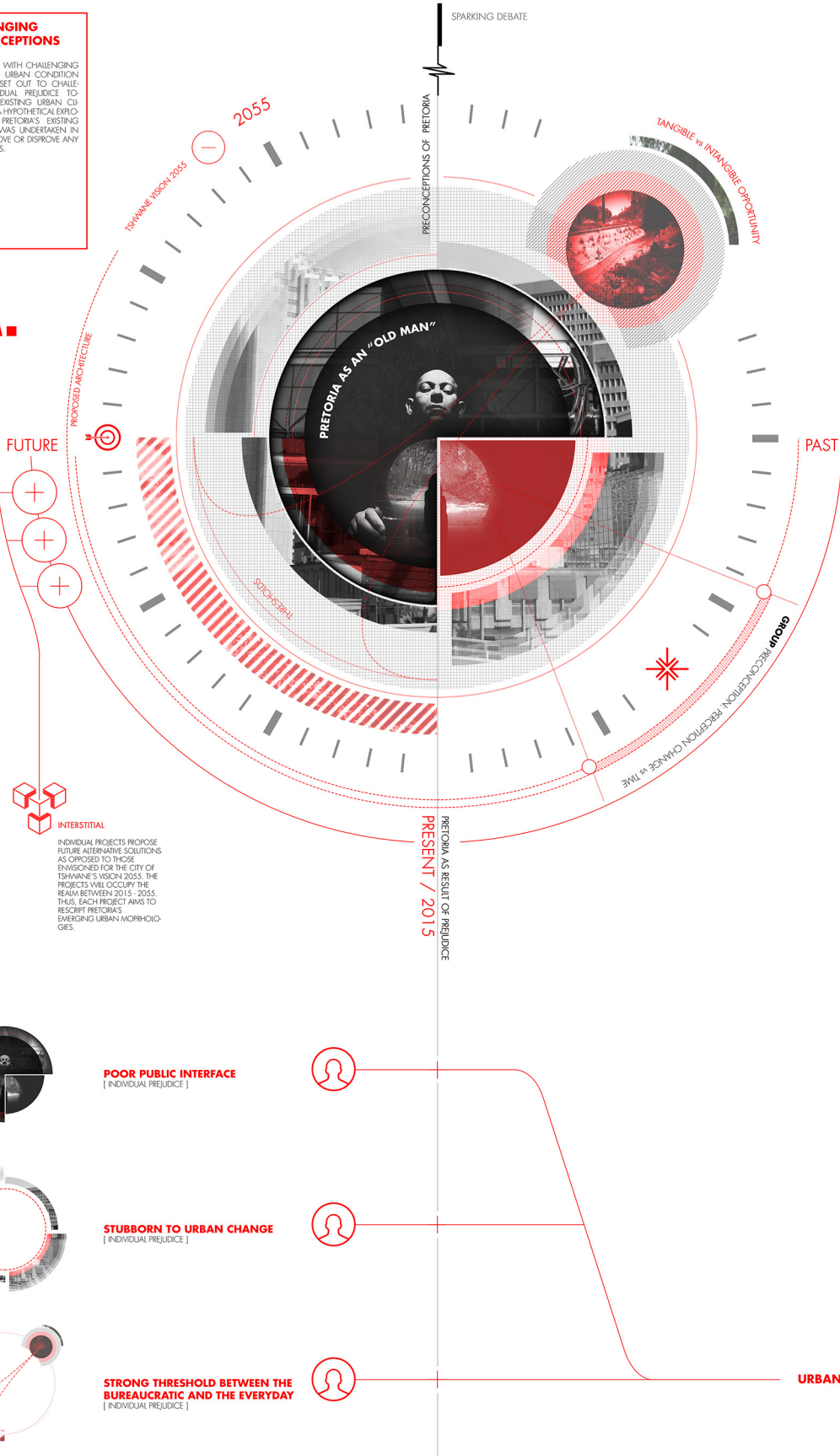
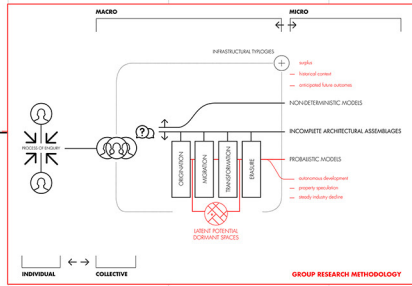


Fig. 3.2
Challenging Preconceptions

URBAN VISION STRATEGY

THE STRATEGY IS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING AN INTERCONNECTED RELATIONSHIP THROUGHOUT THE INVESTIGATION FROM MACRO TO MICRO LEVEL AND PROVIDES THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE URBAN VISION.

THIS STRATEGY ALSO ENSURES A SYNTHESIS OF ALL THREE PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS AND TRAINING THIS COMBINED EFFORT ON ESTABLISHED GENERAL URBAN AND ARCHITECTURAL ISSUES.



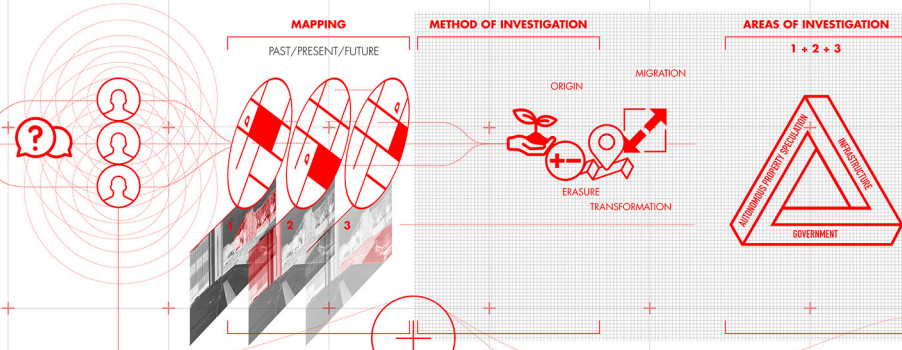
PROGRAMME + ARCHITECTURE

LOGISTICS B.

HYPOTHESIS

QUESTIONING PRECONCEPTION:
why are we inherently bias towards our city?

MAPPING THE URBAN CONDITIONS:
supplementing and de-biasing our bias.



MAPPING CONCLUSIONS

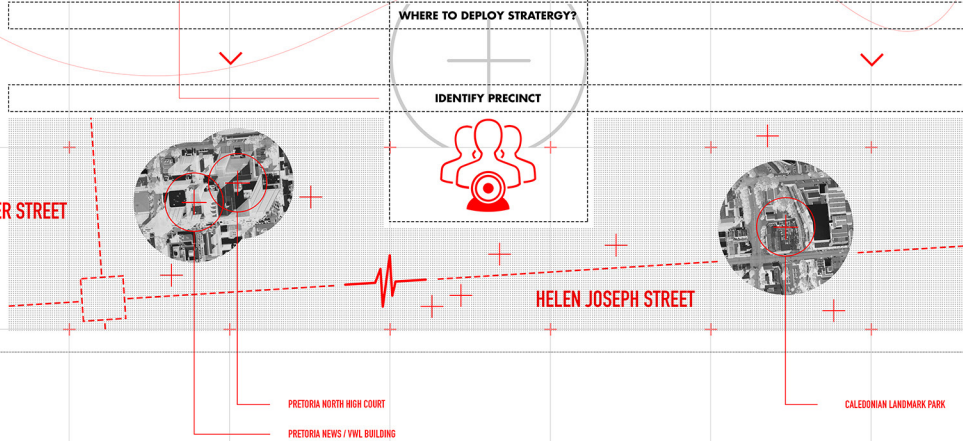
MACRO:
past/present/future

MICRO:
past/present/future



SPATIAL CONSEQUENCES

MARGINAL SPACES HAVE LATENT POTENTIAL:
identified potential sites.



CHALLENGE CONVENTIONS

DEBATABLE FACTORS WITH REGARDS TO PRESENT AND FUTURE URBAN CONDITIONS

URBAN VISION

FRAMEWORK:
macro + macro/micro + micro.

INDIVIDUAL:
interventions address these factors.

Fig. 3.3
Urban Vision Strategy

URBAN VISION STRATEGY

CHECKPOINTS / DERIVATIONS

ONCE A CHECKPOINT HAS BEEN REACHED A SET NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ARE ASKED IN ORDER TO PROGRESS ONTO THE NEXT CHECKPOINT. THE PROCESS REPEATS ITSELF UNTIL AN INDIVIDUAL SITE AND ARCHITECTURAL INVESTIGATION IS REACHED.

RESEARCH DESIGN

LOGISTICS B.1

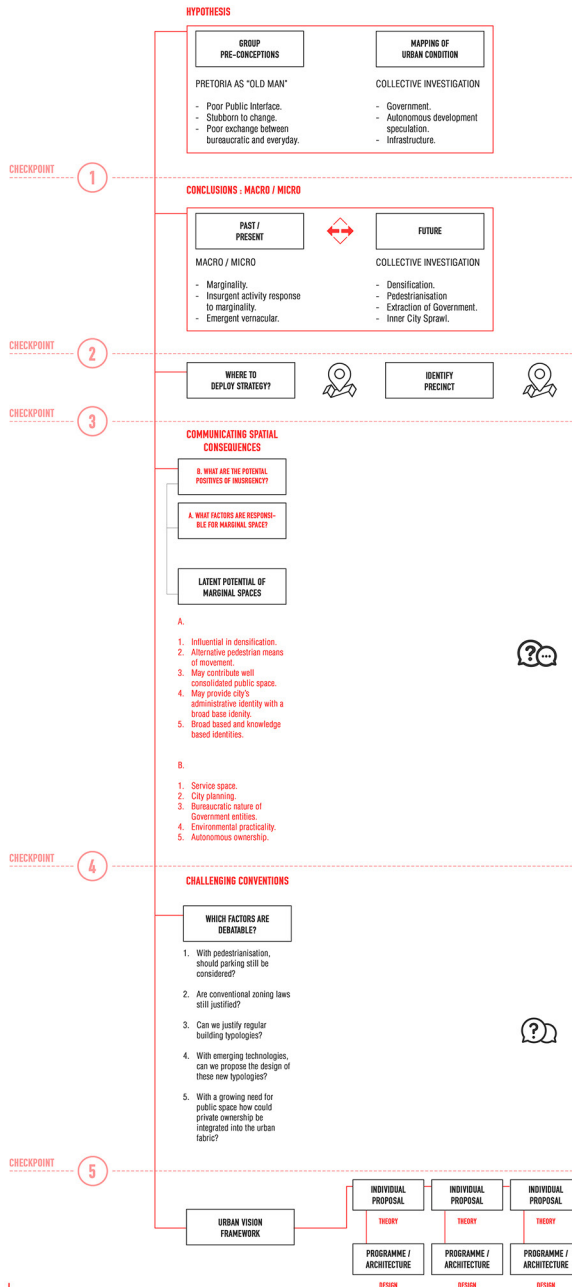


Fig. 3.4
Research Methodology

B2

TSHWANE VISION 2055 / RE KGABISA INNER CITY REGENERATION

LEGEND

proposal



GATEWAY DEVELOPMENTS

A. NORTHERN GATEWAY PARK

B. WESTERN GATEWAY PARK

C. CALEDONIAN LANDMARK PARK

D. UNION BUILDINGS PARK

E. SALVOKOP PARK

GOVERNMENTAL PRECINCTS

1. SYNAGOGUE SQUARE

2. CHURCH SQUARE

3. MUSEUM SQUARE

4. STATION SQUARE

5. FREEDOM PARK SQUARE

6. KRUGER HOUSE SQUARE

7. LILIAN NGOYI CIVIC SQUARE

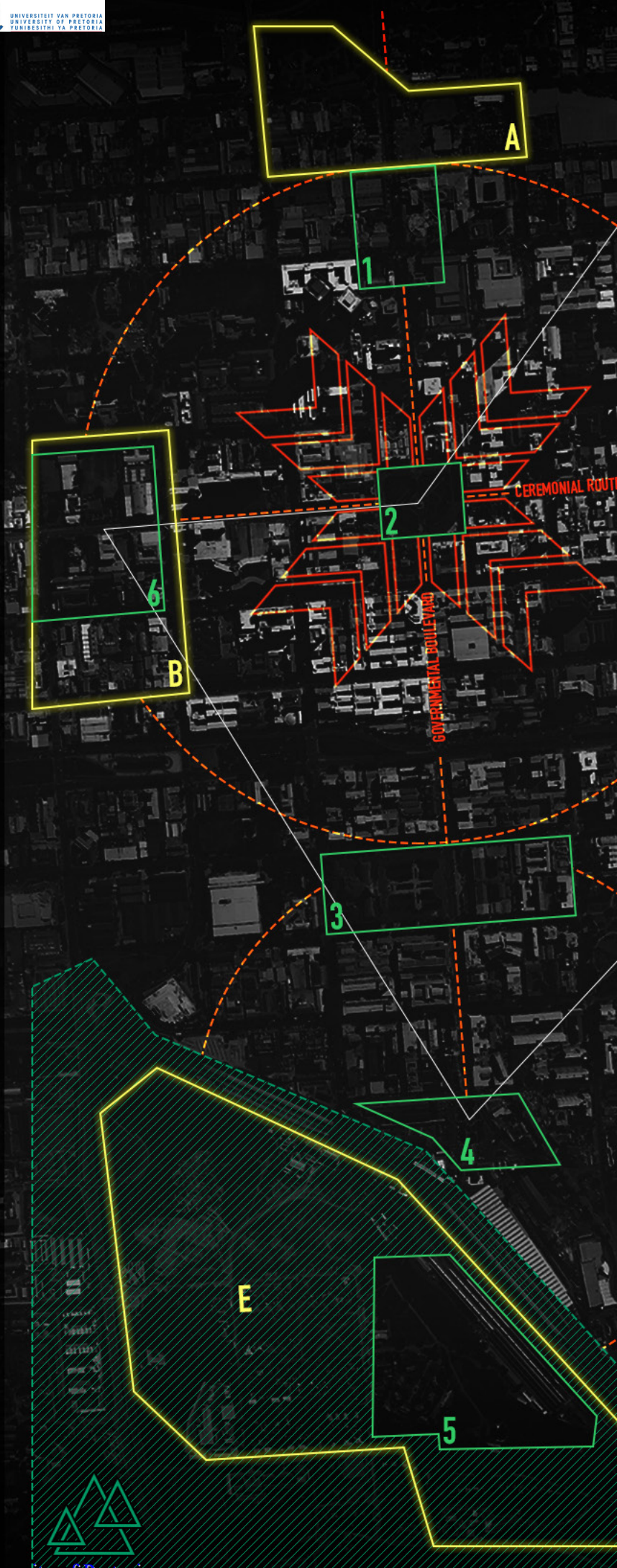


Fig. 3.5
Tshwane Vision 2055

PEDESTRIAN CLUSTER ONE

C

D

PEDESTRIAN CLUSTER THREE

PEDESTRIAN CLUSTER TWO

C



B2 GOVERNMENT MAPPING IN RELATION TO CIVIC SPACES

LEGEND

e
x
i
s
t
i
n
g

- 1889 CITY DEVELOPMENT AROUND CHURCH SQUARE
- 1913 / 1913 POLITICAL MANIFESTATION / UNION BUILDINGS
- 1970 MUNITORIA AND PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

p
r
o
p
o
s
a
l

- 1 GOVERNMENTAL BOULEVARD
- 2 CEREMONIAL ROUTE
- TSHWANE VISION 2055 PROPOSED SALVOKOP GOVERNMENTAL PRECINCT
- GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS PRECINCT WITH APIES PROMENADE



Fig. 3.6
Government mapping



+ UNION BUILDINGS

1913

+ EASTERN BUFFER

GOVERNMENT
AND BUSINESS PRECINCT
WITH APIES PROMENADE

+ 1913

+ 1970

+ 2055

+ SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

+ SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

+ SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT



B2

GOVERNMENT MAPPING IN RELATION TO CIVIC SPACES

LEGEND





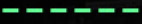
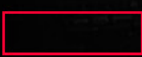

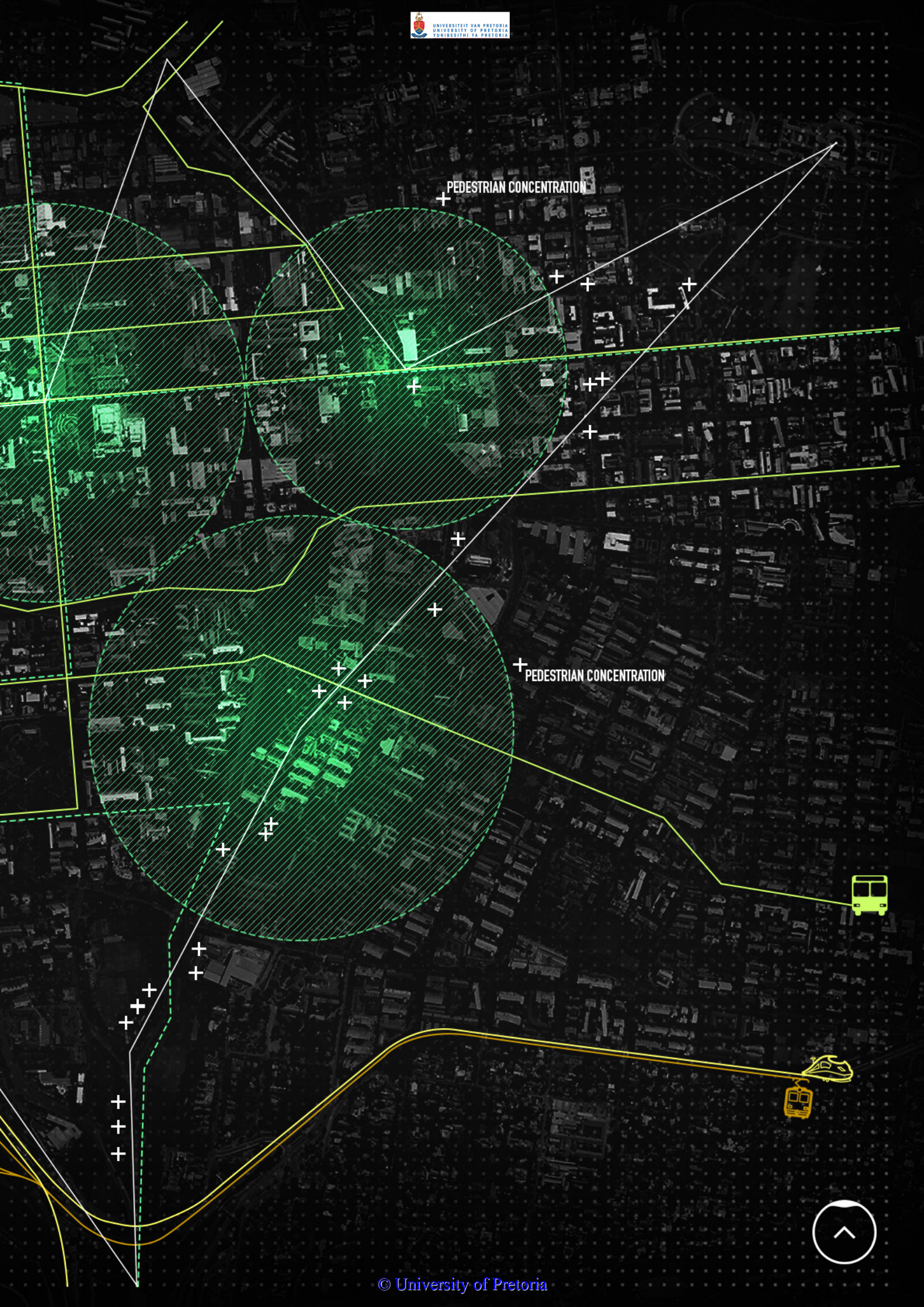
| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| e x i s t i n g |  | METRO RAIL |
| |  | GAUTRAIN |
| |  | A RE YENG BRT |
| p r o p o s a l |  | A RE YENG BRT |
| |  | FUTURE PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN ROUTES |
| |  | FUTURE PROPOSED PARKING LOTS |
| |  | FUTURE PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN NODES |



Fig. 3.7
Public and pedestrian movement



MARGINAL SPACES

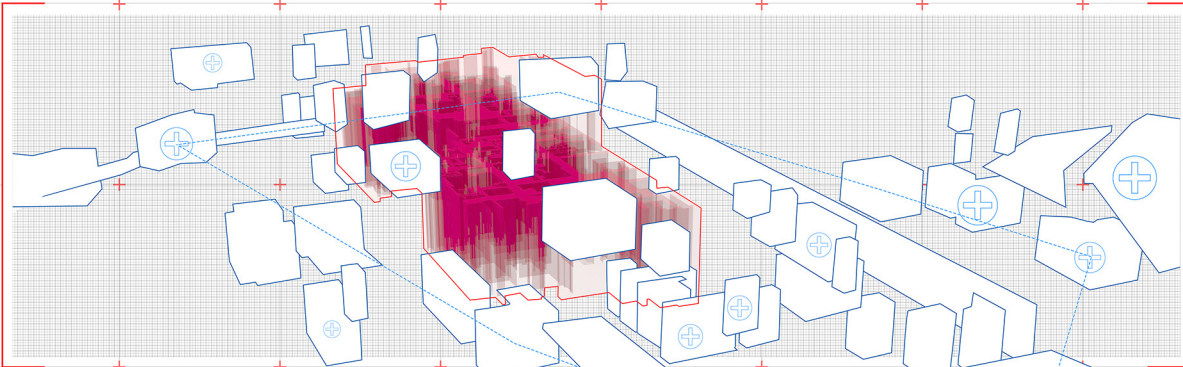
AN OVERLAP OF MARGINAL SPACE CLUSTERS WITH THAT OF FUTURE URBAN PROPOSALS REVEALS THE POSSIBILITY OF MARGINAL CITY FABRIC BEING IGNORED.

THESE MARGINAL SPACES, CONSTRUCTED WITHIN A NETWORK COULD ACT AS AN ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVE IN READING URBAN FABRIC AND ITS CONDITIONS.

IT IS BELIEVED THAT BY REINFORCING CURRENT URBAN CONDITIONS THROUGH THE READAPTATION OF MARGINAL SPACES AS A NETWORK, FUTURE CITY PROPOSALS COULD ACHIEVE SUSTAINED EFFECT THROUGH THIS DIVERSE BASE.

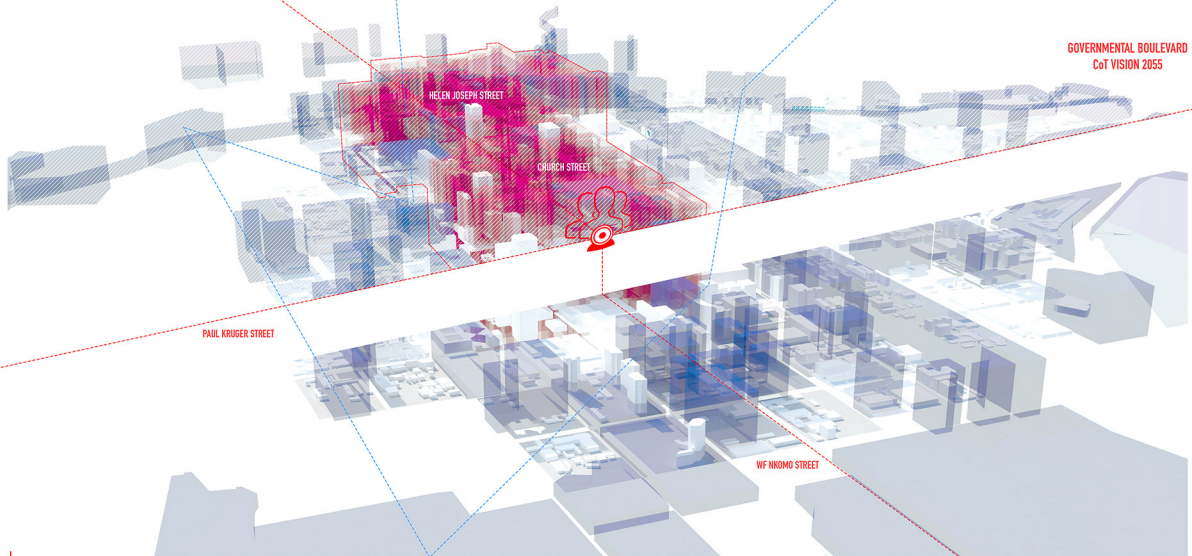
**EXISTING CONDITION
CURRENT MARGINALISED
URBAN DENSITY**

**FINDINGS
C.**



CEREMONIAL ROUTE
CoT VISION 2055

GOVERNMENTAL BOULEVARD
CoT VISION 2055



**Fig. 3.8
Marginal Spaces**

MARGINAL SPACES

SPACES THAT MAY BE DESCRIBED AS BEING VOID, UNPROGRAMMED AND UNDERUSED DUE TO THE CITY'S INTROSPECTIVE NATURE OF PRIVATE OWNERSHIP AS WELL AS EXCLUSIVE AND AUTONOMOUS CITY DEVELOPMENT.

SUCH SPACE BECOMES DISEMBARRASSED FROM ITS CONTEXT AND IS SUSPENDED WITHIN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT'S FABRIC.

MARGINAL SPACES HOLDS DORMANT POTENTIAL AS A POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTOR TO DIVERSITY AND DENSIFICATION WITHIN CURRENT AND FUTURE URBAN CONDITIONS.

MARGINALITY
D.



VWV FUNTH

PRETORIA NEWS

NATIONAL LIBRARY

LIONS BRIDGE

APIES RIVER

RESURGENCE (PRECINCT ONE)

RECALIBRATION (PRECINCT TWO)

REINVENTION (PRECINCT THREE)

[MARGINALISED SPACE]

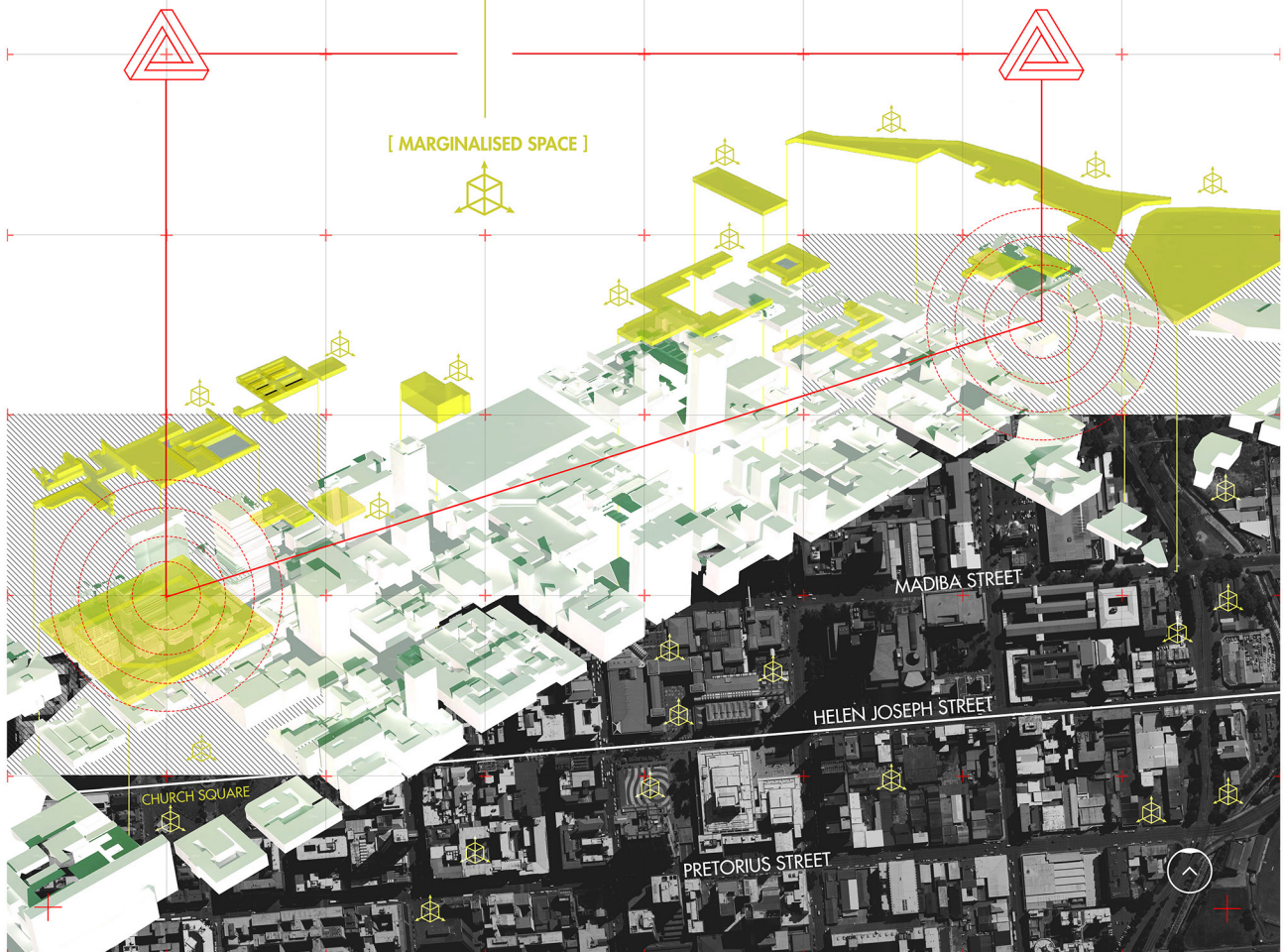


Fig. 3.9
Marginal Spaces

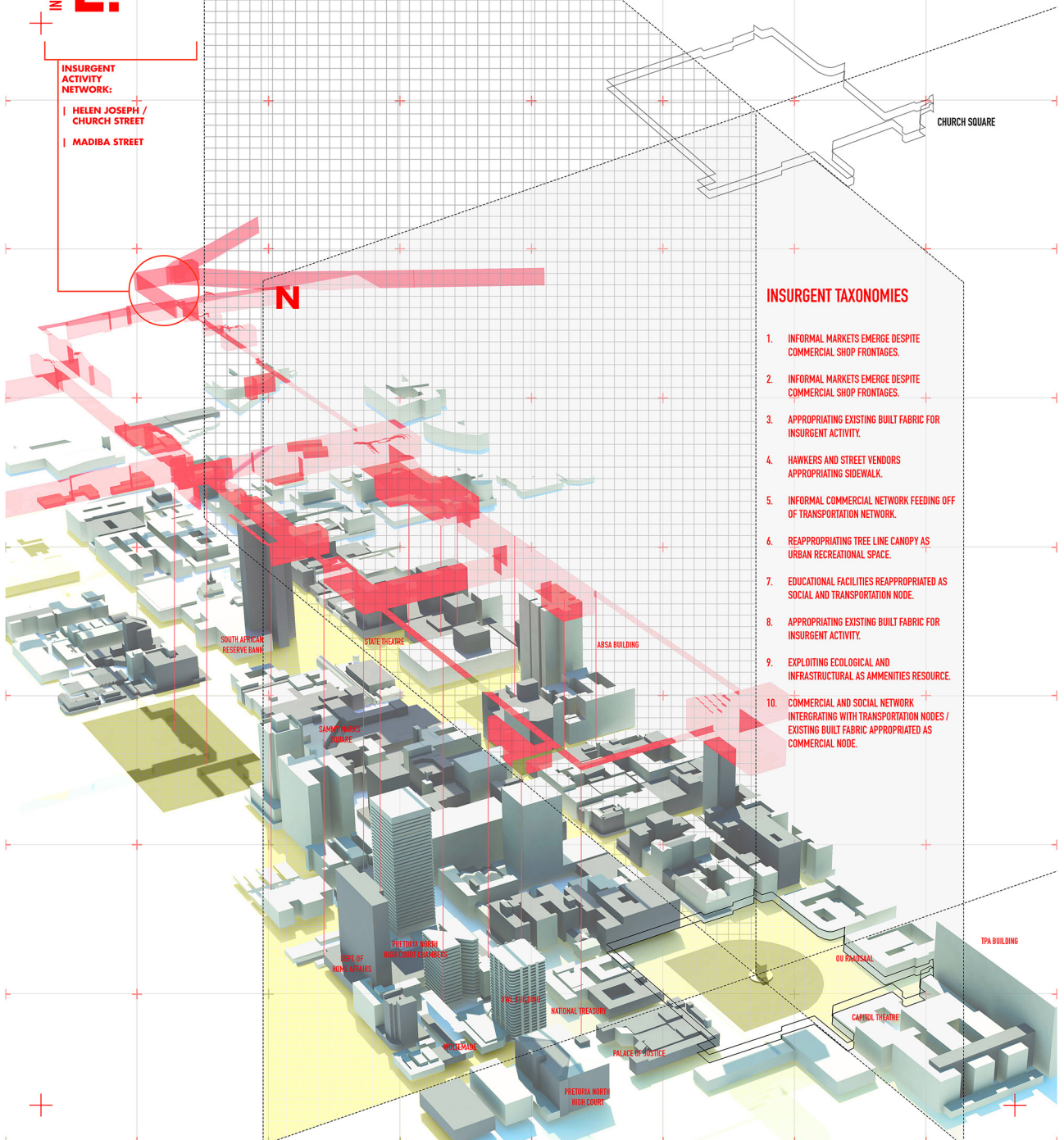
INSURGENT PRACTICES

INSURGENT PUBLIC ACTIVITY IS AN ANTHOLOGY OF UNAUTHORISED APPROPRIATION OF CITY SPACES, TEMPORARY EVENTS AND GUERRILLA ACTIONS THAT RESIST COMMERCIAL INFESTATION AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION. THE SPACES OF INSURGENT ACTIVITIES CONSTITUTE NEW METROPOLITAN FORMS OF THE SOCIAL, NOT YET LIQUIDATED BY OR ABSORBED INTO THE OLD.

INSURGENCY E.

INSURGENT ACTIVITY NETWORK:

HELEN JOSEPH / CHURCH STREET
MADIBA STREET



INSURGENT TAXONOMIES

1. INFORMAL MARKETS EMERGE DESPITE COMMERCIAL SHOP FRONTS.
2. INFORMAL MARKETS EMERGE DESPITE COMMERCIAL SHOP FRONTS.
3. APPROPRIATING EXISTING BUILT FABRIC FOR INSURGENT ACTIVITY.
4. HAWKERS AND STREET VENDORS APPROPRIATING SIDEWALK.
5. INFORMAL COMMERCIAL NETWORK FEEDING OFF OF TRANSPORTATION NETWORK.
6. REAPPROPRIATING TREE LINE CANOPY AS URBAN RECREATIONAL SPACE.
7. EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES REAPPROPRIATED AS SOCIAL AND TRANSPORTATION NODE.
8. APPROPRIATING EXISTING BUILT FABRIC FOR INSURGENT ACTIVITY.
9. EXPLOITING ECOLOGICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL AS AMMENITIES RESOURCE.
10. COMMERCIAL AND SOCIAL NETWORK INTERGRATING WITH TRANSPORTATION NODES / EXISTING BUILT FABRIC APPROPRIATED AS COMMERCIAL NODE.

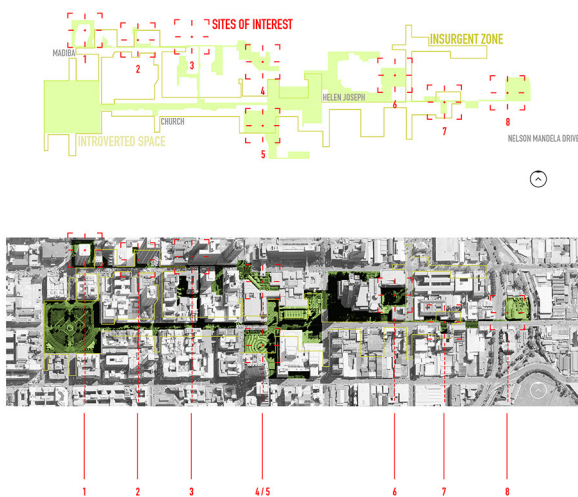
Fig. 3.10
Insurgent Activity

INSURGENT PRACTICES
FINDINGS / CATALOGUING
INSURGENT & INTROVERTED SPACE

| INSURGENT PRACTICE STUDY |
[helen joseph / church / madiba street]

CATALOGUING E.1

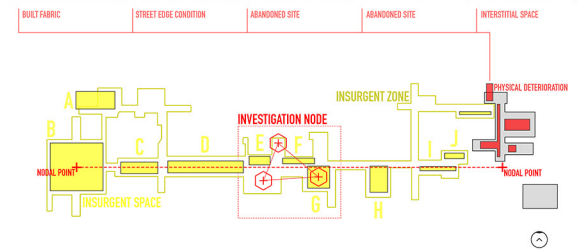
- INSURGENT TAXONOMIES**
- INFORMAL MARKETS EMERGE DESPITE COMMERCIAL SHOP FRONTAGES.
 - REAPPROPRIATING TREE LINE CANOPY AS URBAN RECREATIONAL SPACE.
 - APPROPRIATING EXISTING BUILT FABRIC FOR INSURGENT ACTIVITY.
 - EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES REAPPROPRIATED AS SOCIAL AND TRANSPORTATION NODE.
 - HAWKERS AND STREET VENDORS APPROPRIATING SIDEWALK.
 - EXPLOITING ECOLOGICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL NODES AS AMMENITIES RESOURCE.
 - INFORMAL COMMERCIAL NETWORK FEEDING OFF OF TRANSPORTATION NETWORK.



INSURGENT PRACTICES
FINDINGS / CATALOGUING
INSURGENT SPACE & DECAY

| INSURGENT PRACTICE STUDY |
[helen joseph / church / madiba street]

CATALOGUING E.2



AREAS OF INVESTIGATION
UNVEILING A NETWORK OF INSURGENT ACTIVITY



Fig. 3.11
Insurgent Activity Study

FIGURE REFERENCES

- Fig. 3.1 Interstitial (Author, 2015)
- Fig. 3.2 Challenging Preconceptions (Author, 2015)
- Fig. 3.3 Urban Vision Strategy (Author, 2015)
- Fig. 3.4 Research Methodology (Author, 2015)
- Fig. 3.5 Tshwane Vision 2055 (Author, 2015)
- Fig. 3.6 Government mapping (Author, 2015)
- Fig. 3.7 Public and pedestrian movement (Author, 2015)
- Fig. 3.8 Marginal Spaces (Author, 2015)
- Fig. 3.9 Marginal Spaces (Author, 2015)
- Fig. 3.10 Insurgent Activity (Author, 2015)
- Fig. 3.11 Insurgent Activity Study (Author, 2015)

