



Figure 1.1: Manchester from Kersal Moor (Wylde 1852, edited by Author)

Introduction

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In pursuit of modernity

The advent of the Industrial Revolution signified modernisation and signalled liberation from nature (Marien & Fleming 2005:567). Industrialisation sparked the growth of cities such as London and Paris as they presented the most economic opportunities, but this influx of people was met with the inability of the city and its infrastructure to accommodate the rapid growth. This resulted in poor living conditions such as overcrowding, pollution and poor sanitation (Highmore 2005:33).

In Paris, under the guidance of Baron Haussmann, the city underwent a massive transformation as boulevards were constructed to supply the city with a network of wider and straighter roads. These boulevards allowed for the

increase in traffic flow as well as enhancing the circulation of goods which in return increased consumption (Highmore. 2005:32). According to T.J Clark (1984:23), Haussmann's modernisation was only made possible by relocating the working class from the city's centre and placing them in Belleville on the outskirts of the city, which at the time had little infrastructure to accommodate the masses (Highmore 2005:69).

The warning signs of urban modernisation as an unsustainable development was already noticeable during the 19th century and our cities have ever since been preoccupied with maintaining such an accelerated rate of economic growth to the detriment of its people's well-being (Amin 1997:70).

Preoccupied with growth

It is difficult to imagine the notion of growth as negative, but what if the means to achieve such growth has negative consequences? With our current economic system's success being measured by the total value of services and goods produced by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), its performance has become synonymous with our prosperity and well-being (Constanza 2014:284).

According to Lorenzo Fioramonti, the global issue of 'growth-at-all-costs' has resulted in poverty, inequality as well as the depletion of our natural systems. Fioramonti argues that the only way to maintain and preserve our social and ecological assets and create a sustainable future for man is to place the well-being of man, nature and their relationship with each other at the centre of development (Mtongana 2017).

This preoccupation is especially evident in our cities today where the conceptualisation of growth and modernisation is most visible. Highmore (2005:14) suggests that our cities demand an intense rhythm, one with a rapid tempo of circulation to which society must either adjust to, just tolerate or suffer from. According to Aubert (Fortier & Juarez 2017:209), the accelerated pace of living gives a false impression of self-realisation and has had a visible negative effect on how we produce, consume and interact.



Figure 1.2: Demolition of Butte des moulins for Avenue de l'Opera (Desconicido 1870, edited by Author)



Figure 1.3: The photographic memory (Marville 1877, edited by Author)



Figure 1.4: Boulevard Haussmann (Rue des Archives 1929, edited by Author)

The nature of ‘growth-at-all-costs’ i.e., modernisation, doesn’t just impact the pace of the city, but it also affects the material city with its constant friction between the natural landscape and the emergent built environment. (Highmore. 2005:14). Godfrey (Godfrey 2012:1) states that our greed for growth is anthropocentric and has demoted nature as an object to overcome and exploit which constitutes towards the subjugation of nature within our cities (Highmore 2005:150).

Research problem

Urban issue

The fractured city -Pretoria’s positivist city development favoured the built environment (*ville*) and has had negative spatial and cultural consequences on the lived experiences (*cite*’) of the city. As a result, space has become physically and socially fragmented and ‘lost’.

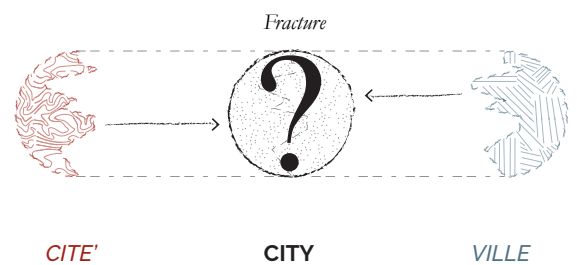


Figure 1.5: City fracture (Author 2019)

Architectural issue

Placelessness - The lost sense of place of the city of Pretoria caused by the fracture between *cite*’ and *ville*.

Research question

How can architecture create a sense of place to mend the fracture between *cite*’ and *ville*?

How can architecture improve the lived experiences of citizens of Pretoria?

Research Methodology

This dissertation aims to use and apply place-making theories in conjunction with historical research and qualitative analysis in order to restore the lost character of place in Pretoria, by creating new productive and spiritual connections between man, nature and the built environment.

Although the origins of this dissertation is based on literature reviews and theories, the analysis

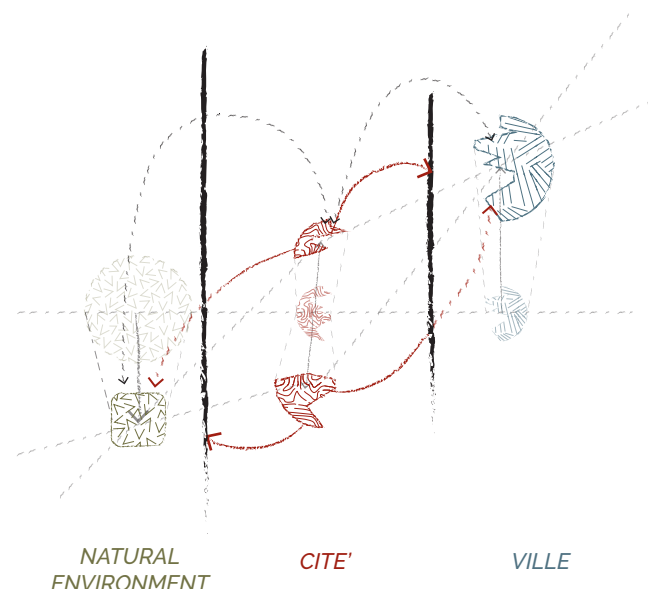


Figure 1.6: Placelessness within Pretoria (Author 2019)

and understanding of Pretoria's historical development as well as its current conditions will play a vital role in identifying opportunities for interventions.

Mapping, qualitative and historical research

Rieniets (2014) reiterates the importance of public space and the understanding thereof. Understanding these public and interstitial spaces within the city of Pretoria is therefore crucial to the success of the project. This analysis will not only drive the site choice for the dissertation, but it will also help better understand the current urban condition. The analysis will be done through both a desktop and field study. The appropriation of public and interstitial spaces will be documented and illustrated through mediums such as maps, drawings and photographs.

Literature review

To help interpret the findings of the analysis, parameters will first

have to be established through a literature review of the development of the city of Pretoria as well as literature relating to the evaluation of daily rituals and the production of space. Literature on the urbanisation and the inability to accommodate the rising economic demand in the city of Pretoria has identified a specific demographic group to work with whereas literature on the production of space has stated the importance of their daily rituals as it contributes towards an identity and a sense of belonging with the city of Pretoria.

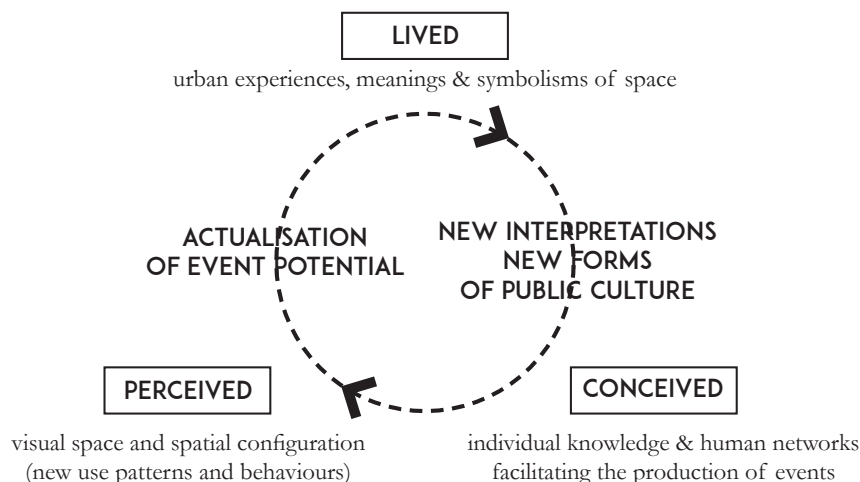
As illustrated by figure 1.7, a framework by Lehtovouri (2009) will be used to analyse the current spatial production of events [lived space] within the city. By using this framework new interpretations and forms of public culture can be identified. These findings will become the driver for the architectural design in order to actualise the latent event potential.

Limitations

The chosen site for this dissertation is situated next to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) campus in Travenna, Pretoria. The study was limited in terms of available information on DTI. Public works was contacted for information on the building, but confidentiality prohibited them from sharing any information. Information on the two heritage buildings situated on the site also proved to be limited, as not a lot of information was publicly available.

Figure 1.7: Conceptual framework to analyse the special production of events (Lehtovouri 2009, edited by author 2019)

FRAMEWORK TO ANALYSE THE SPATIAL PRODUCTION OF EVENTS



The site's current condition as a fall out space also resulted in safety issues, where we were warned by security of the dangers in the area, specifically adjacent to the Apies river, limiting site visits and the regularity thereof.

Delimitations

Due to the size of the site and time restrictions for this project, a smaller focus area has been identified for the intervention. The rest of the site will fall under the Tshwane 2055 vision as a cultural gathering space with a focus on the regeneration of the green corridor and the introduction of a boardwalk next to the river. This will however only be presented in theory and will not be documented in detail.

Assumptions

It has been assumed that this project and the identified site will fall under the City of Tshwane's 2055 vision for Pretoria as part of the Kopanong district - cultural meeting place with a strong focus on the regeneration of the river.

Project research intention

The intention of the project is to mend the fracture between cite' and ville by re-establishing Pretoria's lost sense of place and to create a social, economic and environmental resilient city whilst being sensitive to the history of place.

Terminology

Cité:

The French concept referring to the consciousness of place through its lived experiences which equates to dwelling (Sennett 2018:2).

Ville:

The French concept describing a building or the built environment (Sennett 2018:2).

Liminal space:

The word liminal is derived from the Latin word for threshold. This can be best described as a transitional or in-between space (Liminal space 2016).

Preoccupied growth:

This concept described by Fioramonti (2017) refers to the preoccupation with economic growth without considering the effects on natural and human capital.

Place-making:

Friedmann and Cresswell describes place-making as an event, open and flexible, brought into life by its social practices (Friedmann 2010:154, Cresswell 2004:39).

Positivist planning:

Biljon (1993:42), describes positivist planning as predominantly focused on infrastructural development and not on addressing the needs of the people. It dealt mostly with the issue of 'things' rather than with the needs of its inhabitants.

Kopanong:

This word refers to meeting place or a place where people gather.

This is a cultural meeting place demarcated in the Tshwane 2055 vision, which embodies the African dualism of our spiritual and productive connection with place (City of Tshwane 2015).

Lived space (refer to sometimes as third space):

Henry Lefebvre (1994) believes that the practice of everyday rituals is what creates 'lived experiences' and is very important in conceptualising space as a while. It is within this lived space where a person or community can establish an identity which has the potential to contribute greatly towards a sense of belonging within a city.

Appropriation:

The Cambridge Dictionary (2019) describes appropriation as the act of taking something that is not your possession and using it without consent. In the context of this dissertation it describes spaces that are being used for an entirely different purpose than it was initially intended or designed for.

Production of space:

This term refers to spaces that are formed as a result of social interactions (Rieniets 2014:181).

