

Integrating urban
wastelands, islands,
and landmarks of
modernity into current
urbanity

by
Mia Boshoff

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of modernity into current urbanity

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Submitted in fulfilment of part of the requirements for the degree
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in the
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Course coordinators: Dr. Carin Combrinck & Prof. Arthur Barker

Declaration

In accordance with Regulation 4(c) of the General Regulations (G.57) for dissertations and theses, I declare that this thesis, which I hereby submit for the degree Master of Architecture (Professional) at the University of Pretoria, is my own work and has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other tertiary institution.

I further state that no part of my thesis has already been, or is currently being, submitted for any such degree, diploma or other qualification.

I further declare that this thesis is substantially my own work. Where reference is made to the works of others, the extent to which that work has been used is indicated and fully acknowledged in the text and list of references.



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Expression of thanks

Mamma, baie dankie dat mamma altyd bereid is om my op enige manier moontlik te help. Dankie dat mamma altyd bereid is om te luister en altyd bereid is om my tenvolle te ondersteun.

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ABSTRACT

Current city growth patterns are largely influenced by the practices and theories of the past, particularly functionalist theory. New intentions and proposals are constantly confronted with this legacy of the past, constituting a challenge for positive change, often tipping the balance for standard solutions.

Urban wastelands are the result of both, zoning, and town planning requirements, which in the particular case of South Africa have also been used as barriers. These spaces are undefined, often derelict and/or inaccessible; they pose a major issue and a source of conflict among the communities. Current city planning has been unable to deal with these spaces in an effective manner, which in turns include the structures, often stand-alone ones that struggle to find a use or larger meaning for the greater context.

It is necessary therefore, to re-envision the role these spaces can play in creating continuity of the urban fabric, generating a meaningful place that includes the immediate community as a viable solution for re-integration.

This thesis explores a strategy for addressing these issues at the urban scale, and an architectural strategy for integrating derelict building in the specific scale.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Dissertation title: Integrating urban wastelands, islands, and landmarks of modernity into current urbanity

Programme: Geriatric medical center

Site location: Kempton Park Hospital, Van Riebeeck Park, Kempton Park, Gauteng

GPS Coordinates: 26° 6'0.0000" S 28° 14'0.0024" E

Research Field: Environment Potential (EP)

Client(s): Municipality of Ekurhuleni and potential developers focused on elderly care that would like to consolidate around a novel green space.

Keywords: Urban wastelands, abandonment, derelict, diversity, re-integration, well-being, multi-functional, resilience, autonomy

Theoretical premise: Integrating urban wastelands into current urbanity

Architectural approach: Architecture based on diversity as a means of generating resilience and integration.

Editor: Eva Boshoff

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PERSONAL POINT OF VIEW

The starting point to this project was placed in motion due to a site that I have passed on a daily basis and lived closed to my entire life, the abandoned Kempton Park Hospital. Growing up I was constantly interested in this site that was closed and left abandoned. When I was 10 years old we arranged to take a visit to the site and inside the building, leaving me with surprise and shock because I was expecting an empty broken down building, but instead it simply looked as if one day everyone just stopped coming to work leaving everything as is. Over the years the abandoned hospital attracted more people that was curious about the hospital, making it people's mission to try and sneak into the hospital at night and walking around the site and in the building. It has now been more than 20 years that the hospital have been closed and still it rises stories of how wonderful it once was as a hospital or stories about people's experiences sneaking in the hospital and it got me thinking how this abandoned building still affects people's lives even in an abandoned state.

For me this is what architecture is about, it is about how can it affect the lives of people, what role can it play in shaping people's lives and creating new opportunities and experiences over an extended period of time. This is where the research for the project started, looking at how architecture have affected the places we live in, and how it has shaped our environment. Another reoccurring factor that I tend to look at is having a multivalent approach to not only look at how architecture affect its surrounding and people, but adding another layer and looking at how can that affect contribute towards the health and well-being of people and the environmental surrounding.

