

# 09

CHAPTER

CONCLUSION



## CONCLUSION AND REFLECTION

In this dissertation I attempted to investigate how the Kempton Park Hospital can be stitched back into the urban fabric and the daily lives of the immediate public using three theoretical approaches namely the theory of well-being through architecture, the theory of places of meaning and the theory of holistic design.

The project developed into a geriatric center with the focus on elderly people due to the lack of attention and neglect towards such a crucial user group found within a neighborhood setting.

The Kempton Park hospital transformed into a place that responds to the public's everyday life and their needs. This correlates to the theoretical investigation done where meaning and function is given to the site, because without meaning and function the site is not able to relate and integrate with the needs of the public. Furthermore, the proposed new building developed into a design focused on the relationship between the users and the architecture complementing the theoretical studies done by Altman and Low (1992) referring to the dimensions of interaction people can experience towards a place.

One of the aims for this dissertation was to revert the works and architectural expressions left by modernist theories which was a result of functionalism and architecture in isolation. This dissertation introduced a holistic urban vision and a new design and program that allowed users to connect and interact with the site through programmatic interventions and new architectural interventions resulting in the Kempton Park Hospital to not be seen as a landmark in isolation, but rather a comforting and inviting space for users to experience and interact with.

By placing the focus on the relationship between people and place the dissertation was able to reclaim this fragmented wasteland back into the urban society by introducing relatable architectural design and programs that reconnect and re-establish the importance of this site into the urban society.

## QUESTIONS POSED

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*How will the integration of urban wastelands affect the dynamic of the current urban conditions?*

*The most important thing in attempting to integrate a wasteland/abandoned space backing to the urban condition is proper planning and investigation into what is needed within the urban condition. It is due to the lack of planning and irresponsible design that a wasteland is shape and a site gets abandoned.*

*Urban wastelands and abandoned building often encourage negative connections to a space, but it can rather be seen as an opportunity to regain a positive connotation and shape the space into something that contributes to the surround place. Reclaiming and integrating urban wastelands to the needs of the surrounding urban condition can affect the dynamic of the current urban condition in a positive way. It can allow for a more integrated community and promote positive change for the future urban condition.*

*What design strategies can ignite meaning and purpose to an abandoned site?*

*Some of the reasons for abandoned sites are the lack of connection between the building and users, architecture standing in isolation, limited public interaction, and the building programs not relating to the current environment.*

*This dissertation attempts to take on these issues using design interventions. Introducing new relevant programs that a range of current users can relate to. Introducing a holistic approach to the entire site to ensure that the building does not stand in isolation anymore but is rather integrated and seen as part of the urban setting. And allow public permeability through the site to encourage and allow the public to engage with the site due to new programmatic installations.*

*How can architectural interventions shape positive behavioral characteristics to improve the quality of a space?*

*In the theoretical investigation Altman and Low (1992) refers to three dimensions of interaction that exist between people and place namely, Cognitive, Behavioral and Emotional. Architectural interventions are used to influence these three dimensions.*

*Specific materials and building layout conditions are used to allow cognitive connections to be made. Sculptural structures are implemented to address behavioral connections and Integrated, and shared spaces are designed to allow the user to establish emotional connections to a space. These architectural interventions affects the quality of a space and therefore behavioral characteristics of the user.*

## CONTRIBUTION

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Finding theoretical and architectural solutions to re-activating and integrating urban wastelands and abandoned sites back into the current environment is a contribution to the research field of environmental potential studies. Urban wastelands and abandoned sites affect the environmental conditions we live in and will continue to affect our environmental conditions. This dissertation shows that through a combination of theoretical investigations, and architectural investigations an effective solution can be achieved to address urban wastelands and abandoned sites.

## FUTURE INVESTIGATION

Future investigation can be done on how to effectively utilize the rest of the Kempton Park Hospital site and further strengthen the sites value within the immediate surroundings. A geriatric center is an option to integrate wastelands and abandoned site back into the immediate surroundings, future investigation can be done with a focus on another user group or another program that can affect the re-activation of a site.

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*APPENDIX\_A*  
*Ethics checklist*



PROFESSIONAL MASTERS PROGRAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE  
**ETHICS CHECKLIST ONE: PRIMARY DATA**

If you answer **NO** to any of the following statements/ questions, then you require **ethics clearance** at Faculty level: EBIT Ethics Clearance (full application).

1. Your research does not involve medical or animal research.	YES	NO
2. Your research does not involve healthcare in any form. <i>Note!</i> A project that is concerned with the design of facilities for any form of healthcare (formal and informal).	X	
3. The research does not present potential impact on the environment. <i>In other words, is there potential for physical impact on the environment, e.g. building a physical prototype and monitor its impact on the environment.</i>	X	
4. The research does not involve any of the following vulnerable peoples: <i>Children and/ or minors under the age of 18 / Homeless persons / Persons with Disabilities / Elderly persons / Persons who are migrants or refugees / Abused women.</i>	YES	NO
5. The research does not associate with any political or social issues that may have ethical concerns. <i>In other words, could your research place you in an ethically compromised position due to political or social issues that may be involved/ uncovered?</i>	YES	NO
6. You understand that a letter of permission is required should you be collecting information from a firm, organization or institution, from their archives, records or reports that are not publically available. <i>Provide your letter of permission with this checklist for your supervisor to approve. Include it in an appendix to your dissertation a letter(s) of permission from this entity to carry out this study (See attached template).</i>	YES	NO
7. The research does not involve people as research subjects. <i>Research subjects are people that actively take part in the research, e.g. where biological measurements are made (e.g. heart rate) or where people take part in behavioral tasks (e.g. listening tasks) or using a prototype (e.g. kitchen utensil)</i>	YES	NO
8. If the research involves people as informants, you understand that informed consent must be obtained before any person is interviewed or takes part in a survey? <i>Informants are people of whom you require an opinion, e.g. people that are</i>	YES	NO

interviewed (incl. structured and semi-structured) or take part in a survey. <i>Note!</i> No vulnerable peoples (c.f. 4.) may be interviewed. Secondary data must be relied upon exclusively and the limitations thereof must be acknowledged in the methodology section. See Ethics Checklist Two: Secondary Data and/or Literature. Otherwise full ethics clearance must be sought. <i>Provide your questionnaire, survey questions or interview questions, along with your letter of informed consent (template provided) with this checklist for your supervisor to approve.</i> <i>Note!</i> You may not ask any personal details (gender, age, sexual orientation, HIV/ AIDS status, income, education level, health status, address, email address, etc.)		
9. You will not be surveying or interviewing full-time UP students or UP personnel in this study.	YES	NO
10. You understand that while voice recording during interviews is permitted, no video recording is allowed. <i>The name of the respondent may not be recorded. The voice data must be refer to the respondent by numbers (e.g. respondent #1, #2, #3, etc). This is to prevent direct links between data files and respondents. You need to include a reference to voice recording in the informed consent form. You need to stipulate where you will store this data and how you will keep it secure. Question / statements 8: Interviews with informants apply.</i>	YES	NO
11. You understand that if any employees of a firm, organization or institution are to be questioned as informants, a company permission letter needs to first be signed. <i>Provide your company permission letter (template provided) with this checklist for your supervisor to approve. Include it in an appendix to your dissertation the letter(s) of permission from this entity to carry out this study.</i>  <i>In the case of the Director / CEO / Owner being the only informant, then a company permission letter is not needed but a n additional condition needs to be stated in the informed consent form.</i>	YES	NO

If you answered **NO** to any of the statements/ questions, then ethics clearance from the EBIT ethics committee (full application) needs to be sought. Apply for ethics clearance for your research project, with assistance from your supervisor:

<http://www.up.ac.za/en/faculty-of-engineering-built-environment-it/article/15815/faculty-committee-for-research-ethics-integrity>

Student Signature:

Supervisor Signature:



**ETHICS CHECKLIST TWO: SECONDARY DATA AND/ OR LITERATURE**

This checklist is provided to prevent you from the potential ethical pitfalls in citing and application of secondary data and/or literature.

The questions serve to test whether you have sought secondary data and/ or literature according to the hierarchy of credibility:

	YES	NO
<p><b>1. Have you sought literature according to hierarchy of credibility?</b>  <b>Scale of credibility, (1) being the most credible and (5) being the least.</b></p> <p><b>(1) Peer-reviewed accredited publications</b> (incl. monographs and peer-reviewed journals);</p> <p><b>(2) Unpublished Thesis / Dissertations</b> (These two formats have undergone 'peer- review' in the sense that they have been examined by a panel of external examiners and thereafter passed University senate for conferral of the degree);</p> <p><b>(3) Official:</b> government / company / institutional official websites, newspaper articles, published magazine / journal articles (not peer-reviewed);</p> <p><b>(4) Websites;</b></p> <p><b>(5) Other:</b> social media (Twitter, YouTube, etc), blogs and wiki's.</p> <p><b>Note!</b> Excludes chat-rooms, Facebook, Instagram or similar password controlled social media environments. You need to apply for ethics clearance and informed consent.</p>	X	
<p><b>2. Are you citing peer-reviewed accredited publications?</b></p> <p>Either paraphrase in <i>own words and reference</i> (Author / Date) (e.g. Borden 2011: 21) OR quote "direct quote" using <i>quotation marks and reference</i> (Author / Date).</p>	X	
<p><b>3. Are you citing from an unpublished thesis / dissertation?</b></p> <p><b>Prioritise</b> the thesis / dissertation, which has explicit ethics clearance (find it in the methodology and appendix: signed ethics declaration, letter(s) of consent and interviews / surveys) over the thesis / dissertation, which does not.</p> <p>In either case you need to <b>be descriptive</b> in your citation, i.e. include a brief description of the nature of the study, method of data collection, ethics clearance (obtained or not) and purpose of the research.</p> <p>Thesis / dissertations <b>older than 7 years</b> will, in all likelihood, not have sought ethics clearance; this does not render the research redundant. However, as in (2), you need to be descriptive when citing the source.</p>	X	

	YES	NO
<p><b>4. Are you citing from an official website, newspaper or published magazine article (not peer-reviewed)?</b></p> <p>When citing, ensure that you are descriptive in your citation. State the nature and purpose of the source from which the data / literature was obtained.</p> <p><b>Examples:</b></p> <p>Official websites: Stats SA, or SA Government Gazette, or World Health Organisation (WHO), or Department of Basic Education;</p> <p>Newspapers: Pretoria News, Sunday Times, Mail &amp; Guardian;</p> <p>Published magazines: Time, Frame, Domus, JA.</p>	X	
<p><b>5. Are you citing from a website and/or non-password controlled social media, blog or wiki?</b></p> <p>You may decide to cite information from these sources as a substitute for conducting interviews / surveys, in an effort to avoid the need for ethics clearance.</p> <p>However, you are reminded to <b>always</b> first to search in accredited published literature, thereafter, should you have exhausted your search and can honestly not find the information in any accredited publication, <b>then</b> you may use data / literature from the sources described above. In this instance, it is <b>critical</b> that you are descriptive in your citation, i.e. include a brief description of the nature source (website / form of social media, the purpose it serves, e.g. a platform for disgruntled residents), the audience for whom it is intended, why it is in the public domain.</p> <p><b>Note!</b> This source type includes design websites such as YouTube, Vox, ArchDaily, Dezeen, KNSTRCT and Yatzer.</p>	X	

**Rule of thumb!**

If the data / literature is in the public domain you may cite it, **however**, always ensure that preference is given according to hierarchy of credibility.

As credibility decreases, **be descriptive in your citation** as to the nature of the source and intended audience. This is in an endeavor to ensure that you **do not misinterpret** the data/ literature, as well as, that your thesis (argument) and the data/ literature you use to support it **cannot be misconstrued** by others.

Student Signature:

Supervisor Signature:



*APPENDIX\_B*  
*Article*



Mia Boshoff u14005043

INTEGRATING URBAN WASTELANDS,  
ISLANDS, AND LANDMARKS OF  
MODERNITY INTO CURRENT  
URBANITY



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.*

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

*How will the integration of urban wastelands affect the dynamic of the current urban conditions?*

*What design strategies can ignite meaning and purpose to an abandoned site?*

*How can architectural interventions shape positive behavioral characteristics to improve the quality of a space?*

## INTRODUCTION

*The aim of this article is to investigate new functions and programs to regenerate and activate urban wastelands. In order to do this, it is very important to investigate the context that the wasteland finds itself in along with the immediate public found close to the chosen site. It is the context and the future users that will guide the design decision making process to identify new suitable functions and programs to allow the wasteland to be successfully integrated back into the urban fabric.*

*“Abandoned buildings and lots are a subcategory of the larger problem of physical disorder in a community”. –Jon M. Shane*



*A global issue we face today is the negative effect that urban wastelands can cause. The creation of urban wastelands, unused spaces or abandoned interstitial spaces that is no longer suitable for the functions that they were designed for, finds itself in the unique position for change and the re-envisioning of what that space can be (Cherchi, 2015). The re-envisioning of abandoned buildings that gradually turned into urban wastelands over time is needed as it can have a negative effect on cultural, social, economic, and architectural life within an urban environment. The lack of programs and functions for an abandoned site is what keeps it in a state of wasted space.*

*Urban wastelands that were inflicted by abandonment can affect the immediate public and environment in a negative way, generating a sense of deterioration of that area. A correlation has been made between the incidence of pollution activities due to abandoned buildings and wastelands, which can then lead to problems of health and the well-being of a neighborhood (Akindele, 2013). Abandonment can encourage concealment and unsafe spaces, ultimately creating a setting for unsafe and dangerous activity. These issues are all consequences that occur due to the presence of abandonment, and underutilized wasted space within the urban fabric.*

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### *Defining the problem*

*Over time it is inevitable that buildings will eventually deteriorate, which can in extreme cases subsequently lead to the abandonment of the building and depreciation as time goes by (Akindele, 2013). The abandonment and deterioration of buildings are often related to bad management, political interference, or maintenance and upkeep of a building/site being absent. Current urban planning is struggling to deal with these abandoned site and wastelands in a constructive manner, leaving them useless and lifeless.*

*However, there are numerous ways and strategies that can be applied to deal with these buildings and sites to avoid years of abandoned wastelands. If urban planning and design development policies are focused on reusing and restoring these spaces to be relevant within the current environment and for the users, it could result in a more livable, healthier, and meaningful space within that community, which would then give the immediate public reason to fight against the building and site being abandoned once again.*

The reason why it is important to resolve this issue of abandonment and urban wastelands is because abandoned buildings and wastelands are capable of introducing numerous problems that include environmental, social, economic and safety problems within that urban area (Akindele, 2013).

The purpose of this article is to identify how and abandoned site, can be stitched back into the urban fabric. Investigating a strategy of re-integration and giving meaning and importance back to this site.

## URBAN ISSUE

For the site to be stitched back into the urban fabric the site needs to be able to generate meaningful spaces. It is often the lack in meaning of a space, that is a result of functionalist theories, that causes the decrease in attention and care that is needed for that space. Giving meaning to a space has the ability to attach new spatial behaviors, and emotional characteristics to that place (Hashemnezhad, et al., 2013). Which can in turn generate new attachments for the immediate public to make with that space.

To give meaning to a space that includes the immediate public can have the ability to inspire people to improve and take care of that space.

The responsibility of an architect is to create a sense of order, a sense of place, a sense of relationship. –Richard Meier

It can be said that a place, or a site in the case of this dissertation, without any people is merely a geographical location, only when the existence of people is connected to a place it can generate greater meaning (Tuan, 1977).

It is from this greater meaning, physical, and emotional attachment to a site that a connection between people and the urban environment they share will be ensured.



This brings us to the architectural issue. To be able to implement places of meaning diversity within the built environment is needed that correlates to the natural one to allow for a holistic approach. Coming to the realization of the consequences of uncontrollable city growth and irresponsible development, the need for sustainable development have become more and more evident (Haupt, 2014). Dr Howard Frumkin (2002) adds that the result of irresponsible development can lead to environmental damages, a negative impact on physical and mental health of the public along with a disruption in the community's well-being and land use. It can then be said that a complex negative relationship erupts between the built environment and natural environment.

It is thus important that the architectural issues of a design correlates to that of a green strategy. It is based in the principles of diversity as a means to generate resilience. Thus, seeking diversity within the built environment that correlates to that of the natural environment by incorporating sustainable design thinking.

“Nature and natural processes are the guiding principles or the main metaphors of the design approach”. –Frank Lloyd Wright



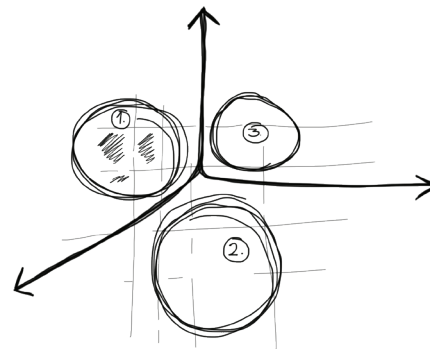
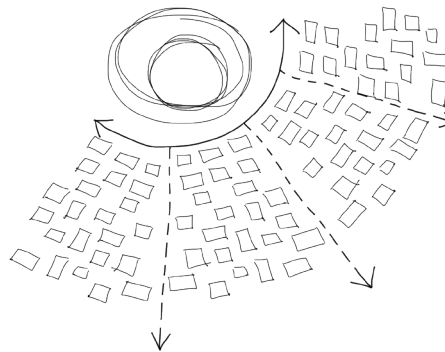
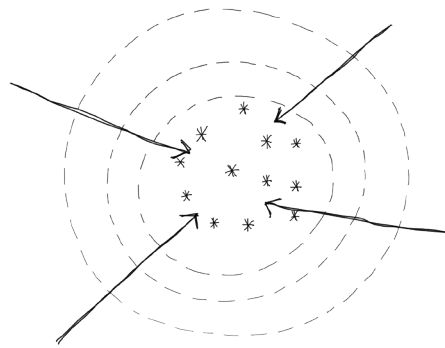
## THEORETICAL PREMISE

Three theories are investigated to try and uncover how can a wasteland/abandoned site be integrated back into the urban fabric. All three theories attempt to identify the importance of creating a place for people in an urban environment. The theories investigate the role of design and what types of relationships it can initiate within the urban environment and the built environment.

### Theory 1: Places of meaning

When discussing the concept places of meaning, it usually looks into the urban fabric and revolves around people and places. More specifically it investigates the interaction between people and places, and tries to detect what impacts a place can have on people (Hashemnezhad, et al., 2013). Today the urban fabric is influenced by past practices and theories of modernity, and urban sprawl, leaving in some cases open wastelands in the urban fabric.

“20th -century modernity has been relentlessly condemned as an iron cage of conformity and mediocrity, a spiritual wilderness of populations bleach of any organic community or vital autonomy”. – Perry Anderson



In the quote above Perry Anderson (1984) talks about the urban fabric and the form it takes on. Implying that it is the urban fabric that shapes the built environment. He talks about the importance of concentrating on the quality of the urban fabric to try and improve the quality of urban life. In the quote Anderson explains that if urban spaces aren't able to relate and integrate to the needs of the community it therefore lacks meaning and a holistic function.

Having places that lack function and meaning are often places that are undefined, derelict, or abandoned with the result that these places become lost within the urban fabric. Unused and lost spaces frequently create a sense of placelessness, ultimately decreasing the quality of that space. Placelessness and lost urban places can be connected to safety issues in a neighborhood, and can inflict emotional damages to the daily lives of the people (Hashemnezhad, et al., 2013). Subsequently, a need for an improved urban fabric, that considers a multi-faceted approach has evolved, which concentrates on establishing a sense of place (Al-Kodmany, 2013).

A specific sense of place can have the ability to shape the quality of life in that urban environment. The idea of place is not identified as a subjective and abstract concept (Mir Moghtadaie, 2009).

*“A sense of place is something that we ourselves create in the course of time. It is the result of habit or custom... A sense of place is reinforced by what might be called a sense of recurring events.”– John Brinckerhoff Jackson*

*It is rather considered as a defined location or area that possesses a particular identity (Parsaei, et al., 2015). When a specific identity is attached to a place, it is usually because it has some meaning and relationship towards people. It is thus the sense and quality of a place that is subjective and is created based on the interactions and attachment people give to a place.*

*The concept a sense of place alludes to the relationship that can exist between people and places (Qazimi, 2014). This kind of relationship often includes what impact the urban environment has on people, and vice versa, what impact people's activities have on the urban environment. It can thus be said that different forms of interaction can shape a sense of place.*

*According to Altman and Low (1992) three dimensions of interaction between people and place exists.*

**a. Cognitive:** *Being able to understand and easily comprehend the geometry and form of a space, which will create a stronger connection between a person and a place they are in. In architecture, sense of place can often refer to visual connections, to have people being able to visually identify when they are in a well-defined space (Lynch, 1960).*

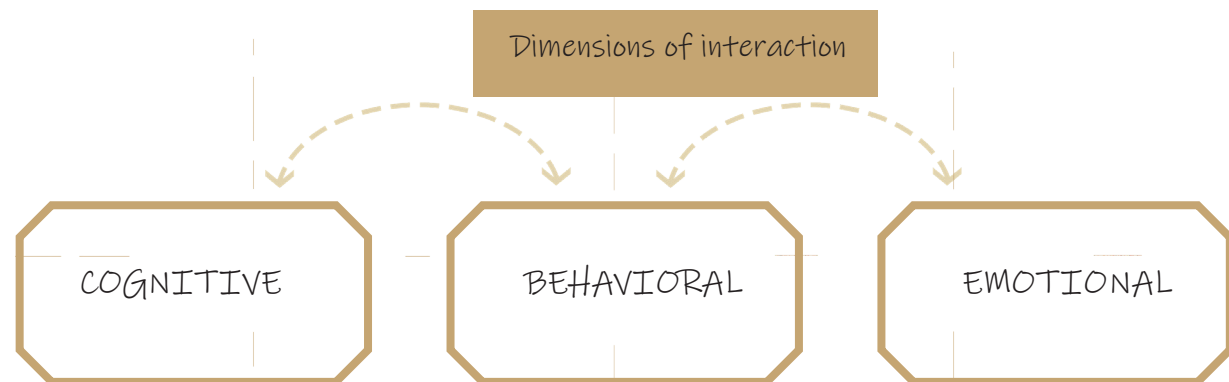
**b. Behavioral:** *Introducing a functional, and programmatic relationship between people and plac-*

*es that are context specific gives a space specific behavioral characteristics (Lang, 2005). When a space has a certain function, it tends to inform the person what activities and programs are present in this space and then speaks to what behavioral characteristics attaches to that place. Abandoned and derelict buildings often encourage behavior of trespassing and illegal activities (Arboleda, 2017), but giving a place function often leads to more liveliness of a space and positive behavioral characteristics that improves the quality of a place.*

**c. Emotional:** *Creating attachment to a place and giving meaning to a space implements concepts of ownership (Bondi, 1993) that can give a new meaning to a place, and ultimately leads to that place becoming important to that person and them forming a new emotional attachment (Seamon, 1993). If emotional attachments are established to a place it encourages people to look after that place and ensure the ongoing growth and upkeep in a good quality space.*

*David Hummon (1992) refers to a sense of place as the subjective perceptions that people have of their environment. He continues to say that a sense of place is more or less the conscious feelings that people experience when they think of or find themselves in a specific place. From this it can be concluded that establishing a sense of place can have a multi-faceted approach, where it captures an emotional reaction towards the environment and establishes an interpretive perspective of the environment.*

*The concept to create a sense of place fuses the understanding of place and the feelings one establish about a place in the context of environmental meaning (Hummon, 1992). Using physical, cultural, and social patterns that is identified in current environments to create spaces of belonging, which can improve people's happiness, health and well-being (Bartholomew, 2018).*



## Theory 2: Well-being through architecture

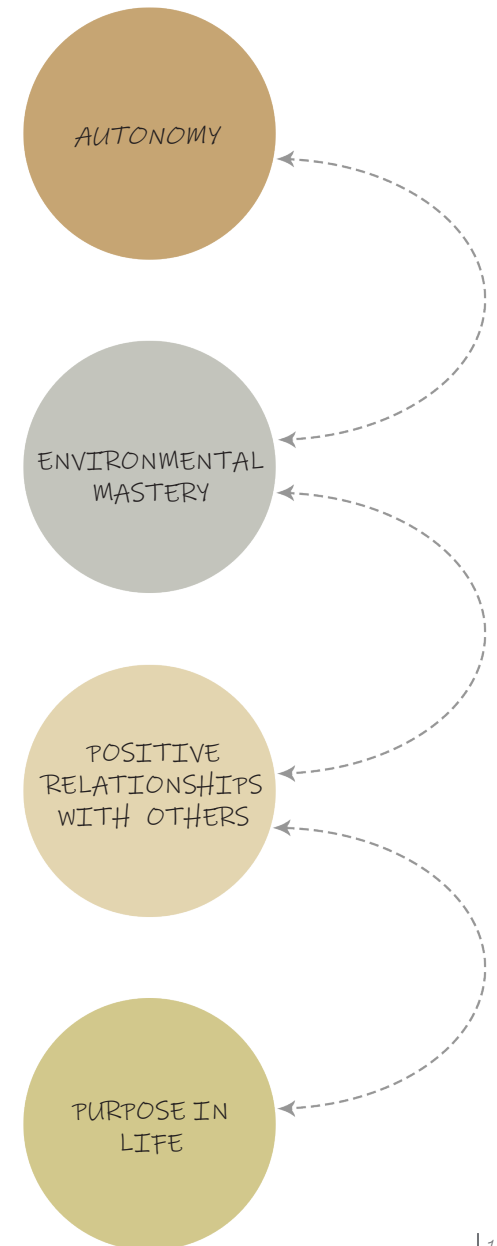
*In the discussion on improving the quality of a space and creating a sense of place to improve people's happiness, health and well-being, a question arises regarding what does well-being refer to? It is a very broad concept and can be applied to a number of conditions (Paim, 1995).*

*"It is a state which allows individuals to realize their abilities. Cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively and fruitfully, and make a contribution to their community". -World Health Organization*

*In a very broad sense well-being signifies when something is in a good condition (Veenhoven, 2004). This is however not specifically explaining what is in a good condition or what was the criteria for being classified as in a good state. Veenhoven (2004) suggests that when one is referring to the term "well-being" a certain amount of clarity is needed by specifying to what the term will be applied to and what constitutes it.*

## Application of well-being

*With regards to the application of well-being this dissertation focuses on the well-being of people. In this dissertation well-being correlates with the life activities that people engage with within a specific place. The application of well-being is intricately linked to a person's location and how they are functioning in society (King, 2007). Significant attention is given to the relationship a person has to the immediate surroundings, programs, and social interactions they find themselves in. It can be said that evidence-based research is applied to the concept of well-being, this approach is perceived as 'objective well-being' (Teghe & Rendell, 2005). Using an objective well-being approach implies the assumption that well-being can be dependent on a set of needs which can be identified and applied (Prince & Prince, 2001). Applying objective well-being measures offers a 'voice' to those that is not able to effectively articulate what their level of well-being is, this can be due to disability or age for example (Hird, 2003).*



## What constitutes wellbeing

As mentioned, an objective well-being application has been identified, it is possible that measurable statistics can be used to enable the concept of well-being into the project. Aspects that have been identified that constitutes wellbeing is based on some of Carol D. Ryff's (1989) early work.

**a. *Autonomy*:** the term refers to the idea of self-governing and independence (Collier, 2002). Enabling a sense of autonomy and allowing people to explore their own ideas and choices allows for a certain amount of satisfactory freedom over one's life and taking charge of one's own life.

**b. *Environmental mastery*:** according to Ryff & Keyes environmental mastery is "the capacity to manage effectively one's life and surrounding world". It has the capacity to control or design an adequate environment to accommodate personal needs and values. Windle and Woods (2004) reported that for elderly people living in a community, environmental mastery can play a major role in experiencing life satisfaction during any adversity.

**c. *Positive relationships with others*:** enhancing positive social relationships can create a sense of belonging which can lead to improving the mental well-being of a person (Chang, et al., 2014). According to Sheldon Cohen (2004) positive relationships with others also has the

ability to improve physical well-being as a result of enhancing immune functions. Creating settings and leisure activities that allows for interaction can help promote and encourage relationships to form.

**d. *Purpose in life*:** Having a purpose in life is often a core component in a lot of studies, to try and promote well-being. It can refer to helping people view their life as having meaning (Kim, et al., 2017). Having purpose in one's daily life has been associated with a variety of positive health behaviors, that can potentially help slow down or improve a declining state of well-being.

## What does it mean to design for well-being?

People spend a majority of their time in and around buildings (Heathcote, 2018). This makes the question about can design have an effect on people's well-being rather foolish. A better question would rather be, *how much can design affect people's well-being?*

Friedam, Kahn & Borning (2006), discusses a value-sensitive design approach, explaining that this approach specifically takes value into consideration for the design. The concept of well-being can be recognized as a value, and as previously mentioned it forms part of our conception of something or someone that is in a good condition. A value-sensitive design approach argues that by knowing the users and the specific context that the design will be in

it would be possible to design for well-being (Brey, 2015). Another approach to designing for well-being is discussed by Donald Norman (2005) who argues for an emotional design approach which will contribute to the designing of well-being. Alongside Norman, Patrick Jordan (2000) claims that there should be a focus on creating designs that evoke a certain amount of pleasure and positive emotions, and that design should not only be a result of functionality and usability.

Previously the notion of autonomy was mentioned, part of this notion can also be linked to a person's capabilities. Focusing on enhancing people's daily capabilities can influence their well-being. Amartya Sen (1980) first introduced the capability approach as an approach to welfare economics, this concept has been investigated further by Martha Nussbaum. The capability approach claims that to achieve a state of well-being, people must be in the position to be able to do things or be amongst things that they find value in.

Well-being can start with a single focus or goal in mind, but it should inevitably have an impact on a person's entire state of living. A life-based design approach has been suggested by Jaana Leika (2009) that recommends that design should look at the whole of people's lives, investigating their values, circumstances, activities, and interests, and incorporating this into designs. This life-based design approach allows for a more holistic design approach to well-being.

### Theory 3: Holistic impression on design

*If one is to consider a life-base design approach it essentially means to consider multiple aspects of a person's life but from a design point of view. Another way of looking at it is, trying to implement a holistic architecture.*

*"Holistic design takes into account the person, the device, the moment, the ethnographic environment, the physical space as well as human behavior and psychology, i.e. thinking, attitudes, emotions, motivations, abilities, triggers etc., and aims to deliver an optimal experience".*  
– Miklos Philips

*To incorporate a holistic architecture, is to design for not just one purpose (What is Holistic Design?, 2020). It is to consider everything from the conception to execution phase of a design. Having a holistic impression on design moves away from the isolation and segregation of spaces, instead it tries to consider how different aspects of a design can work together. It can thus be said that a theoretical premise of holistic architecture should be established to encourage less isolated spaces and alternatively encourage more inclusive and holistic spaces. Combining holistic thinking methods includes contextually appropriate designs. Considering a place's past, current and future state.*

*This includes investigating the surrounding environment and how a space is integrated into the greater environment. It also includes the investigation of current and future users of a space to allow for a greater meaning and urban connections to be made.*

*Incorporating the concept of multifaceted architecture can contribute to a holistic approach towards design. Multifaceted architecture can translate into a type of layering element, where it can be layers of history and present context, it can be the layering of language and symbols and it can be the layering of functions and programs (Morris & Kodalak, 2019). Multifaceted design is about finding a balance between what can be improved and what should be preserved. For example, improving the existing conditions and spatial performance of the site, while preserving some of the previous programmatic memories of the site.*

*Another form of having a holistic impression on design is through sustainable design thinking. According to Numan Abu Hammad (2017) focus should be placed on re-establishing the relationship between people and their environment. It was during the rise of the modernist movement, which was a reaction to "empirical paradigms of empires and colonization" (Marshall, 2009) that introduced plans and structures often based on zoning and population*

*density. This ultimately led to creating barriers and challenges in today's urban fabric. This implies a shift to a new urbanism that promotes a sustainable approach when it comes to design and to move away from solitary design that only increase suburban sprawl (Abu Hammad & Abu Hammad, 2017). An important comment to make, is that the notion of sustainability cannot stand in isolation. It should be accompanied by concepts of adaptability and resilience (Abu Hammad & Abu Hammad, 2017). Architecture has a combined impact on inorganic elements, living organisms, and humans (Kim, 1998), and the objective for sustainable design is to incorporate architectural solutions that will allow for a holistic coexistence of these three groups.*

## THE SITE

The site that I have chosen for this investigation sits within Kempton Park, Gauteng, but more specifically in one of the suburban areas of Kempton Park, namely Van Riebeeck Park where I have chosen the Kempton Park hospital site to investigate. The Kempton Park Hospital is an existing building that closed in December 1996 and have been an abandoned building and site ever since. The structure of the building remains intact, still facilitating all the medical equipment, patient rooms, and staff accommodations. The building was designed on strong modernistic principles, giving it characteristics of an isolated building, standing alone on a large site, overwhelmingly large stereotomic architecture, with little regard to the human scale and the natural environment around the building. Over time the site has become a large urban wasteland in Van Riebeeck Park, creating an unpleasant and deserted space in the urban space. The site sits within a high-density residential area, surrounded by schools and small commercial businesses that can all benefit from this site as the urban community once did. This is also the reason why I have chosen this site, because of the potential it holds to have a meaningful role once again in the daily lives of the direct public.



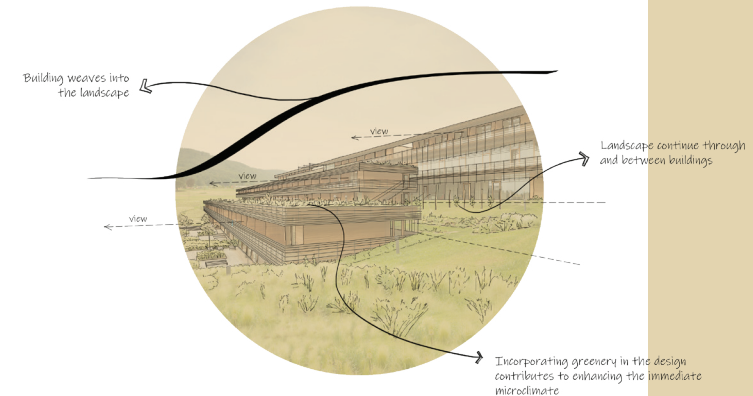
## PRECEDENT STUDIES

Three architectural precedent studies are investigated and analyzed. The precedent studies are divided into three categories. The first category looks at strategies and design principles used to integrate architecture and the landscape with each other. The second category investigates how design guidelines and intentions are used in the form and layout of the building. The third category investigates how inclusive design strategies are used and incorporated into a building. The precedent studies were critically selected to illustrate the influence that architecture can have on the direct urban environment and the user experience and well-being. The objective is to produce a list of guidelines that can be incorporated into the design development and design strategies.



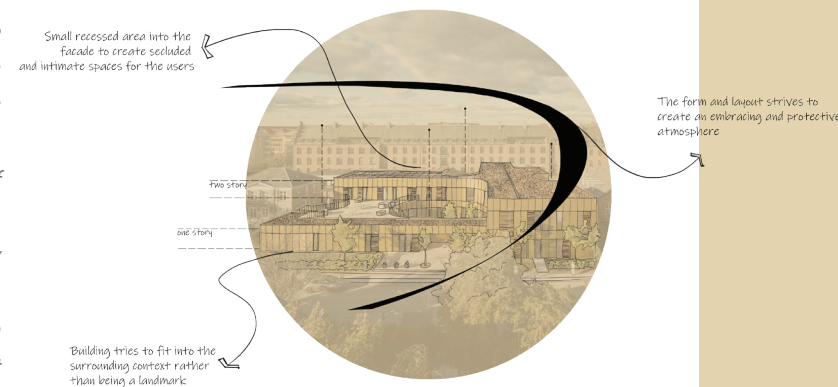
### PRECEDENT A: Health Care Facility Josefhof

In 2019 a health Care facility was designed by Dietger Wissounig Architekten in Austria (ArchDaily, 2019). The aim of the design was to create a harmonious space that brings nature and people closer together (ArchDaily, 2019). The design drew inspiration from its surroundings. Orchard meadows are typically found in this region, and is what the design was based on (ArchDaily, 2019). The health care facility intertwines with the landscape striving to bridge the gap between architecture in isolation and the natural landscape.



### PRECEDENT B: Urban Hospice

The Urban Hospice was designed in 2016 as part of the redevelopment for social and health-care facilities (Pearman, 2017). The Urban Hospice was developed for people in need of palliative treatment with the design aims to provide a peaceful environment, with a positive and relaxed atmosphere, using the idea of the architecture as a healing factor (ArchDaily, 2017). The project is situated within a densely populated residential area in the heart of Denmark in Copenhagen (ArchDaily, 2017). One of the biggest criteria for the design was that it should successfully fit into the surroundings while meeting the functional demands (Pearman, 2017). The design takes on the task of placing a modern hospice in an urban fabric while taking the users and neighbors into account (ArchDaily, 2017).



## PRECEDENT C: Aspaym Avila\_ Center for people with Disabilities

The ASPAYM Foundation for disabled people decided to build a small rehabilitation center near Avila, Spain. The design is based on a polyvalent notion (ArchDaily, 2018), this allows the building to have many different forms and functions. The buildings design approach is strongly influenced by inclusive design. It articulates open and blank spaces that can be described as liberated space in the form of patios, voids or subtractions (Rethinking The Future, 2020) All the rooms, bathrooms, corridors, and furniture are designed for people with disabilities. (ArchDaily, 2018).



## METHODOLOGY

The broader paradigm of this research is based on a critical realist nature, which means this research deals with the nature of causation and the implicit or explicit ontologies we can find ourselves in. Du Toit (2015) describes this critical realist paradigm as research that would ultimately lead to a positive change.

A qualitative research approach was chosen because it focuses on experiences, more specifically on subjective experiences, within a social context (Merriam, 2009). This research aims to understand what people think and feel within the context and circumstances which they find themselves confronted with (Thorne, 2000). Qualitative research highlights the importance of uncovering knowledge and understanding these experiences.

For the collection data a means of triangulation will be used. This implies using more than one method of data collection within the same phenomenon (Denzin, 1970).

### Method one: Data collection

The first stage of research is through document collection and analysis. According to Glenn Bowen (2009), this is a systematic process to evaluate and review literature found in articles

and book. This method was chosen because it allows for the development of empirical knowledge on the subject through the examination and interpretation of data that will elicit a thorough understanding on the subject (Corbin & Strauss, 2008). Literature used includes Journal articles, books, and peer reviewed articles with the subject focused on the effect of urban wastelands, well-being in architecture and the role of shared spaces.

### Method two: Context analysis

An investigation into the conditions around the site and on the site will be conducted. The analysis is split into two categories. First a contextual analysis is done, investigating the broader context that the site sits in. The second analysis was done focusing on the chosen site, investigating current conditions, and establishing what can be useful for design decisions.

### Method three: Precedent studies

Precedent studies was done with the intention to contribute to design decision making. The precedents were investigated with the objective to critically analyze the role that architecture can have on the direct environment and the users along with establishing guidelines derived from the precedents that can then be used in my design.



## FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

*From the three theories investigated it can be concluded that the site needs to be able to relate to the needs of the community for it to be able to be integrated back into the urban fabric. This can be made possible through functions, programs and new meaning given to the site. Abandoned and derelict spaces can be addressed by introducing new inclusive design strategies that can lead to positive characteristics that would ultimately improve the quality of the site. In essence a sense of place and identity needs to be given to the site in order to attach new meaning and importance to the site.*

*The site helped to inform what architectural style can be applied onto the site, along with building material selection, to re-establish the sites significance and function within the greater urban fabric. The objective for the chosen site was so establish ways to generate connections between people and place to create continuity.*

*The three precedent studies helped to inform me how architectural designs and interventions can help overcome the idea of architecture standing in isolation. While also successfully fit into the surroundings and meeting functional demands. The precedent studies illustrated how architecture can contribute to creating positive experiences and spaces for the users. All three precedent studies share some form of multifunctionality highlighting how shared spaces can accommodate a range of different users due to the space's flexibility.*



## CONCLUSION

*For this article I attempted to investigate how a wasteland/abandoned building like the Kempton Park Hospital can be stitched back into the urban fabric and the daily lives of the immediate public using three theoretical approaches namely the theory of well-being through architecture, the theory of places of meaning and the theory of holistic design.*

*The main outcome for the Kempton Park hospital to be integrated back into the urban conditions, is for the site transformed into a place that responds to the public's everyday life and their needs. This correlates to the theoretical investigation done where meaning and function is given to the site, because without meaning and function the site is not able to relate and integrate with the needs of the public. Furthermore, any proposed new building should be developed into a design focused on the relationship between the users and the architecture complimenting the theoretical studies done by Altman and Low (1992) referring to the dimensions of interaction people can experience towards a place.*

*One of the aims for this investigation, is to identify how to revert the works and architectural expressions left by modernist theories which was a result of functionalism and architecture in*

*isolation. The research done suggests to introduce a holistic urban vision and new designs and programs that allowed users to connect and interact with the site through programmatic interventions and new architectural interventions resulting in the Kempton Park Hospital to not be seen as a landmark in isolation, but rather a comforting and inviting space for users to experience and interact with.*

*Only by placing the focus on the relationship between people and place will it be possible to reclaim fragmented wastelands back into the urban society by introducing relatable architectural design and programs that reconnect and re-establish the importance of this site into the urban society.*

## Questions posed

*How will the integration of urban wastelands affect the dynamic of the current urban conditions?*

*The most important thing in attempting to integrate a wasteland/abandoned space backing to the urban condition is proper planning and investigation into what is needed within the urban condition. It is due to the lack of planning and irresponsible design that a wasteland is shape and a site gets abandoned. Urban wastelands and abandoned building often encourage negative connections to a space, but it can rather be seen as an opportunity to regain a positive connotation and shape the space into something that contributes to the surround place. Reclaiming and integrating urban wastelands to the needs of the surrounding urban condition can affect the dynamic of the current urban condition in a positive way. It can allow for a more integrated community and promote positive change for the future urban condition.*

*What design strategies can ignite meaning and purpose to an abandoned site?*

*Some of the reasons for abandoned sites are the lack of connection between the building and users, architecture standing in isolation, limited public interaction, and the building programs not relating to the current environment. This article attempts to take on these issues using. Introducing new relevant programs that a range of current users can relate to. Introducing a holistic approach to the entire site to ensure that the building does not stand in isolation anymore but is rather integrated and seen as part of the urban setting. And allow public permeability through the site to encourage and allow the public to engage with the site due to new programmatic installations.*

*How can architectural interventions shape positive behavioral characteristics to improve the quality of a space?*

*In the theoretical investigation Altman and Low (1992) refers to three dimensions of interaction that exist between people and place namely, Cognitive, Behavioral and Emotional. Architectural interventions can be used to influence these three dimensions. Specific materials and building layout conditions can be used to allow cognitive connections to be made. Sculptural structures can be implemented to address behavioral connections and Integrated, and shared spaces can be designed to allow the user to establish emotional connections to a space. These architectural interventions affect the quality of a space and therefore behavioral characteristics of the user.*

### *Contribution*

*Finding theoretical and architectural solutions to re-activating and integrating urban wastelands and abandoned sites back into the current environment is a contribution to the research field of environmental potential studies. Urban wastelands and abandoned sites affect the environmental conditions we live in and will continue to affect our environmental conditions. This dissertation shows that through a combination of theoretical investigations, and architectural investigations an effective solution can be achieved to address urban wastelands and abandoned sites.*

### *Future investigation*

*Future investigation can be done on how to effectively utilize the rest of the Kempton Park Hospital site and further strengthen the sites value within the immediate surroundings. A geriatric center is an option to integrate wastelands and abandoned site back into the immediate surroundings, future investigation can be done with a focus on another user group or another program that can affect the re-activation of a site.*

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