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INTERSECTIONS

The Palimpsest of Durban and its Port. A critical examination on port-city identity concurrently with neoliberal agendas. A Dissertation by Yoshlan Printhavanan Mudaly in association with the University of Pretoria's Boukunde School of Architecture for the degree March (Prof)

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Declaration

In accordance with Regulation 4(c) of the General Regulations (G.57) for dissertations and theses, I declare that this dissertation, 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 dissertation has already been, or is currently being, submitted for any such degree, diploma or other qualification.

I further declare that this dissertation 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.

Yoshlan Printhavanan Mudaly



November 2021

Submitted to fulfil part of the requirements for the degree of Master of Architecture (Professional), Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment, and Information Technology (EBIT), University of Pretoria

University of Pretoria, 2021



Abstract

The discourse of the dissertation is focused on the near future development of Durban's premier port towards the year 2048 (Transnet 2019: 37) whilst reflecting on the developmental interest of the city to extend or overlap within port boundaries to create more dynamic and integrated programmes. The dissertation focuses on a particular characteristic of port design related to the architectural discipline being the immediate harbour mouth interface to existing infrastructure. By doing this the researcher is able to outline opportunities or constraints on-site and develop possible building strategies concurrently with available theory.

The aim of the study is then to dissect concepts/precedents of harbour/port-city identity and explore how Durban shapes up to other international port-city expansions that deal with modernisation proposals regarding port efficiency, programme and productivity.

The methodology breaks down the main research question and sub question(s) with their particular needs in parallel with the port extension development project envisioned by Transnet and Transnet National Port Authority port expansion documentation (Mpuku 2018, Tnpa 2019: 21-37, Transnet 2019: 19) and from such methods, an architectural possibility arises by noticing absences in planning and opportunities through the research questions investigated. The intention is to recognise the port as an extension of civic possibility as well as industrial/commercial development that can deal with functionality, architectural innovation and spatial integration issues that spill into the city.

The project seeks to explore challenges and potentials of the site as well as combine and/or overlay programmes and typologies to benefit the fluid nature of constant movement and access around the harbour and the vision is to create a dynamic and inviting urban environment that promotes innovation and trade whilst bringing in leisure, craft, events and conference in a singular space. This living 'waterfront' can therefore form basis of a catalyst for the resurgence of an identified seaport.

FOR BEST VIEWING PURPOSES - VIEW AS SPREAD OVER 2 PAGES

Author:

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Mr Dario Schoulund

Course Co-ordinator:

Dr Arthur Barker

Research Field:

Regenerative and Resilient cities

Client:

Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)

City of eThekweni

MSC Group

Programme:

Mixed use retail space

Office

Beer Tavern

Gallery/Exhibition space

Macro Case study area:

Durban Harbour & Lower CBD

Meso Case study area:

Durban Point Waterfront

Micro Case study area:

Heritage Ruins Site with old sewerage plant along Albert Terrace and the old office

precinct adjacent on Mahatma

Gandhi Road / opposite the new

MSC Cruise terminal.

Co-Ordinates:

29°52'20.9"S 31°02'53.9"E

Glossary of Words

Neoliberal:

The driving discourse within the dissertation which relates the Transnet National Port Authority to port activities in the city urban fabric. The potential of this interface is driven by the market for national interest and economic success

Port-city:

The cultivated environment of port operations derived into an urban context mediated by civic investment and socio-economic movement

Interface:

The hybrid language relation between eThekweni and the TNPA

Private sector:

Private investors/stakeholders who have an interest in the city/urban development

Operational space:

Space satisfying the needs of commercial activities in tangent with harbour programs

Transnet:

State owned private company running port operations in Durban

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I dedicate this body of work to you two.

I love you

Your grandson, Yoshlan

Tubby Thatha



1939-2009

Dave Thatha



1944-2021

Table of Contents

Declaration	i	1.4.3. <i>Research objectives</i>	2.7. Conclusions made about Durban Harbour	3.7. Community who uses the Port	4.5. Site Imagery	5.3.2. <i>Fresh water typology</i>
Abstract	ii		21	36	48	68
Glossary of Words	iii	1.5. Literature and data collection	2.8. Access to controlled information	3.6.1. <i>Harbour services</i>	4.6. Site Analysis	5.4. Key components of the new canal system
Acknowledgements	iv	11	22	36	52	68
Table of Contents	v	1.5.1. <i>Research Theory</i>	2.8.1. <i>Interviews data</i>	3.8. Mediating the TNPA and the City through programme	4.6.1. <i>Noise and Road structure Study</i>	5.4.1. <i>Bridge Walkway</i>
Introduction	1	11	22	37	53	68
		1.6.1. <i>Interviews</i>	The Social Life of Port Architecture	Context and Site Situation	4.6.2. <i>Heritage study and nodal view analysis</i>	5.4.2. <i>Water Treatment</i>
1.1. General Issue : Main issue of inefficiency and its implications on urban contexts	2	12	25	39	54	68
1.1.1. <i>General Breakdown</i>	2	1.6.2. <i>On site data collection</i>	3.1. Harbour Development in the Global context	4.1. Connection to the Harbour through the city	4.6.3. <i>Land Use Study</i>	5.5. Port of Tolbiac
1.1.2. <i>Potential of Brownfield Sites</i>	2	12	26	40	55	70
1.2. Urban Issue : Misalignment of planning	4	1.6. Data collection structure	3.1.1. <i>Expression of the Port City</i>	4.1.1. <i>Durban Point Waterfront</i>	4.6.4. <i>Accessibility and Public transport</i>	5.6. Port Vigo
1.2.1. <i>General Breakdown</i>	4	12	26	40	56	72
1.2.2. <i>Neoliberal strategy as an informant to urban planning</i>	6	1.7. Delimitations and assumptions	3.1.2. <i>Durban Port Cityscape</i>	4.1.2. <i>Spaces for investigation</i>	4.6.5. <i>More frequent connectivity</i>	5.7. Hasle Harbour Bath
1.3. Architectural Issue : de-industrialisation and abandonment	8	13	26	40	57	74
1.3.1. <i>General Breakdown</i>	8	1.8. Roadmap	3.2. History, Politics, Commerce and Culture	4.1.3. <i>Spatial Limitations</i>	4.6.6. <i>Diagonal Connections</i>	5.8.1 <i>Iteration 1: Changing pedestrian channels and canal</i>
1.4. Research Methodology Problem Statement	9	13	27	40	58	76
1.4.1. <i>Research Question</i>	9	Theoretical Discourse	3.2.1. <i>Establishing a port-city typology</i>	4.2. Anchor infrastructure	4.6.7. <i>Urban interface study</i>	5.8. Urban development scheme
1.4.2. <i>Detailed additional research questions</i>	9	15	27	42	59	76
		2.1. Harbour space - Urban condition in need of transformation	3.2.2. <i>The Sailor Town</i>	4.3. The nature of Durban Point Waterfront	Urban Design Approach	5.8.2 <i>Iteration 2: Using the existing environment</i>
		16	28	44	61	78
		2.2. The organisation of the water edge of harbours	3.2.2. <i>Nature of a Township</i>	4.3.1. <i>Defining the precinct vision and catalyst</i>	5.1.1. <i>UEM Sunrise Plan Analysis</i>	5.8.3 <i>Iteration 3: Consolidating the canal and urban edge density</i>
		16	28	44	65	80
		2.3. Port City Mechanics	3.3. Puerto Madero. Evolution of a Warehouse Area	4.3.2. <i>Precinct Allocation Plan</i>	5.1. Development through an urban revitalisation	5.8.4 <i>Iteration 4: Final Urban Framework</i>
		18	30	45	65	82
		2.4. Location of port-cities according to water edge	3.4. Rotterdam, Port City to Harbour Landscape	4.4. Site Selection Process	5.2. Creating the urban design scheme	Architectural Design Approach
		19	32	46	66	85
		2.5. Architectural interface	3.5. History of the Durban Port	4.4.1. <i>Proximities and anchorage to infrastructure</i>	5.3. Rethinking the existing Durban Point Waterfront Salt Water Canal	6.1. Formalistic generative strategies
		20	35	46	68	86
		2.6. Successful factors of a port city	3.6. Current Harbour Operations	4.4.2. <i>Main Mahatma Gandhi Heritage strip</i>	5.3.1. <i>Salt water typology</i>	6.1.1. <i>Character of Heritage Ruins</i>
		20	35	47	68	86

6.1.2.	<i>Production of Space</i>	87	7.4.	Iteration 2 Maquette 1	101	7.14.	Perspective 2	140	8.2.3.	<i>Canal as existing urban infrastructure</i>	162	8.7.	Rainwater harvesting	182	Ethics clearance letter	200
6.1.3.	<i>Historical Materialism</i>	88	7.5.	Programme	102	7.15.	Perspective 3	142	8.3.	Contextual materiality palette	163	8.7.1.	<i>Rainwater harvesting diagram Northern facade</i>	183	Bibliography	202
6.2.	Architectural strategy	88	7.5.1.	<i>Inspired by mixed use commercial space</i>	102	7.16.	Perspective 4	144	8.3.1.	<i>Materials explored</i>	164	8.7.2.	<i>Rainwater harvesting schematic</i>	184		
6.3.	Critique of design explorations and intentions	89	7.5.2.	<i>Scale</i>	102	7.17.	Perspective 5	146	8.4.1.	<i>Build upon existing whilst respecting heritage</i>	165	8.8.	Ventilation Strategy	186		
6.3.1.	<i>Urban intentions</i>	89	7.5.3.	<i>Intent of intervention</i>	102	7.18.	Perspective 6	148	8.4.	Main construction concept	165	8.10.	Sefaira	188		
6.3.1.	<i>Architectural intentions</i>	89	7.6.	Iteration 2 Maquette 2	106	7.19.	Perspective 7	150	8.4.2.	<i>Building concept explained through material palette</i>	166	8.9.	Lighting Strategy	188		
Design Development	91		7.7.	The Brewery Yard	108	7.20.	Perspective 8	152	8.4.3.	<i>Technological building concept</i>	167	8.11.	SBAT Report	189		
7.1.	Summary of Project intentions	92	7.8.	Student Residence REGA Exterior Landscape	110	7.21.	Perspective 9	154	8.5.	MFO Park: The North Zurich Parkscape	168	Conclusion	191			
7.2.	Iteration 1: Creating a new typology	93	7.9.	Iteration 3: Finalising an architectural language	112	7.22.	Perspective 10	156	8.5.5.	<i>Green mesh facade exploration</i>	170	9.1.	Introduction	192		
7.2.1.	<i>Paying homage to steel structures</i>	94	7.10.	Final Design	114	7.20.	Final Model	158	8.6.	Technical Iterations	172	9.1.1.	<i>Reflection on Normative Position</i>	192		
7.2.2.	<i>Reuse of liquid bulk silo from island view terminal</i>	94	7.10.1.	<i>Building concept</i>	115	Technical Exploration	161		8.6.1.	<i>Concept Water Duct Detail</i>	172	9.1.2.	<i>Reflection on Design Investigation</i>	192		
7.2.3.	<i>Conclusions made about Iteration 1</i>	97	7.11.	Final Site Plan	116	8.1.	Intention for techné and contribution to dissertation	162	8.6.2.	<i>Fresh Water Canal Detail</i>	173	9.1.3.	<i>Reflection on Design and Technological Intentions</i>	193		
7.3.	Iteration 2: Heritage impact on architecture	98	7.12.	Sections	130	8.2.	Structures and systems within context	162	8.6.3.	<i>Northern facade detail</i>	175	9.1.4.	<i>Fulfilment of research into architectural field</i>	193		
7.3.1.	<i>Defining the organisation of space</i>	99	7.13.	Perspective 1	138	8.2.1.	<i>Window openings in repetition</i>	162	8.6.4.	<i>Northern facade Detail</i>	178	9.2.	Final Presentation	194		
7.3.2.	<i>Form creation and materiality in facade</i>	100				8.2.2.	<i>Steel components in heritage facade and cruise terminal</i>	162				Figure Captions	196			

