

Revitalised Intersections, VOL. 1

By YP Mudaly

Conclusion

09.

Reflecting on the final
dissertation

9.1. Introduction

According to Diedrich, Dahl and Babette who wrote about port-city theory in a volume of the Portus Journal (2020: 1); they contributed towards the dissertations normative position regarding port and harbour transformation. The authors scripted that port-cities are meant to be understood as “as complex human- environment systems” (2020: 1), meant to reflect the sustainable requirements for the 21st century city and create contemporary landscapes and unique urban enclaves in the city which add value to harbour industry. The dissertation focused on the Port of Durban and the adjacent Point Waterfront which, through dereliction and devolvement, has required an adaptation of the historic fabric in order to conserve and transform the area into a valuable long-standing environment benefiting both the Transnet National Port Authority and the city of Durban. The intention was to mediate the ownership of land parcels on Mahatma Gandhi Road and create an architecture which brought in users to a mixed use space which served port operations as well as considered recreational activity for waterfront users.

9.1.1. Reflection on Normative Position

Challenges facing the competitiveness of South Africa's Eastern Ports shifted the traditional Durban Harbour handling of coal and hard commodities to the Richards Bay Port and the newly designed Southern Basin (Rodrigue, Cooper and Merk 2014, Barradas 2018), as such the new language of the Durban Port with the emergence of KZN shippings deal with MSC centred around a tourism hub and business district. The opportunity to uplift existing infrastructure and add value space would contribute to the old sailor town narrative of the Durban Port (Lee 2012).

9.1.2. Reflection on Design Investigation

This dissertation was conditioned through two positions. First, the historical and current ownership of land parcels and management of facilities and infrastructure in the Point Waterfront district. The investigation lead to how the mismanagement and inefficiency of the port produced the current mismanagement and inefficiency and this was addressed to create a resident adaptation of the urban context which

This dissertation was generated as a quintessential port-city transformation scheme, questioning the notion of how ports are run in order to determine programmatic requirements for spatial insertion and identify the nature of the current landscape and operational spaces between the city and harbour boundaries. By occupying a site which was situated on the periphery of the city boundary and harbour boundary, the dissertations intention was to develop an approach to a successful transformative urban scheme which utilised theory from Henri Lefebvre's (1991) 'La production de l'espace'. The

would result in the architecture. Secondly, the urban context was analysed through the adaptability of building space and the chosen site depended on the reuse potential of its form, layout and context and relation to programmes around it such as the uShaka marine world with the canal system. In order to grasp the requirements of space and contribute to the context of the city, investigations were guided by such

anchor & proximity theory existing significant sites to enrich a grander area of space which, from this strategy, focused on bringing in the urban quality of space into the built form through programme or supported civic routes through circulation of site. This created an identity of a new metropolitan contemporary space derived from a tabula rasa pertaining to the condition of space in the Durban harbour and alchemy of user requirements to contribute to an urban and architectural place making in the newly designed Point Waterfront.

anchor infrastructure and analysed through the common rituals and buildings around the chosen site. This research stream was done concurrently with writings concerning the current affairs of the port and its infrastructure capacity (Maharaj 2013) and precedent works regarding international port frameworks and their operational nature with such intersecting boundaries to the city.

9.1.3. Reflection on Design and Technological Intentions

The intention of the architectural design monumentalised the original building facades of the site and was inspired by the design approach of the precedent of the Chippendale Brewery Yard (Archdaily 2015). The new design approach was a sensitive approach to add the spatial logic of the existing space whilst allowing a new format in context which structures technology and new programme such as retail and office offerings.

At the end of the day, the main goal of the architecture is to combine all layers of continuity into a space which celebrates

9.1.4. Fulfilment of research into architectural field

The body of the dissertation focused on themes of resilience, identity and governance which guided the design approach of incorporating different spaces to satisfy all end users and stakeholders. Port-cities have the capacity to not only be centres for economic and ergonomic success but also contexts which enrich threshold to and from city through sea networks and overseas trading routes. This

innovation and progression through a discourse of identity. This architecture then becomes resilient because the ruin doesn't only survive, but it adapts for new use, through the emergence of circulation and the spatial interaction with people and the landscape.

The technical approach emphasised the juxtaposition between the old facade and new materials/space by contrasting materiality and catering for new materials such as water in the scheme through the canal and drainage. The new materials introduced include steel and concrete

identity shapes the way a city like Durban was founded (Transport 2021) and how its identity is changed through modern intervention and requirements.

The urban study reviewed the capacity of the region and morph its decay and derelict nature to reflect abundance and virtuosity through adaptive space reuse which consolidated the resilience through change.

structures, resting adjacent to the old parts by complementing old masonry walls whilst respecting the linear threshold of the ruins.

The dissertation fundamentally promotes co-operation of landowners and governing bodies to reconcile transformation on the urban to architectural scale through amplifying existing character of space and reconnecting urban remnants of the past to relocate regenerative potentials in context.

9.2. Final Presentation

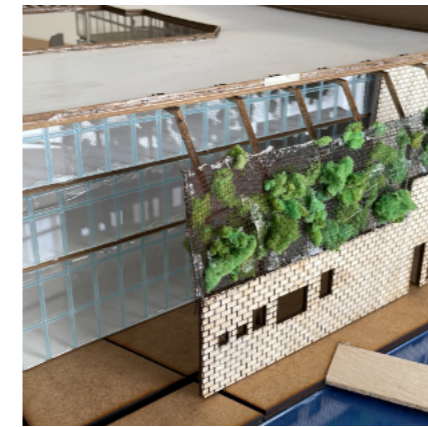
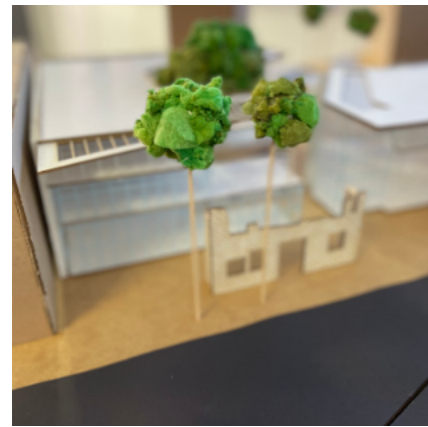
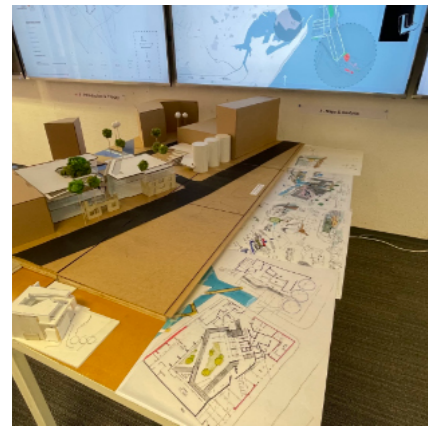


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Ethics clearance letter



Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

Fakulteit Ingenieurswese, Bou-omgewing en
Inligtingtegnologie / Lefapha la Boetšenere,
Tikologo ya Kago le Theknolotši ya Tshedimošo

9 June 2021

Reference number: EBIT/79/2021

Ms A van Aswegen
Department: Architecture
University of Pretoria
Pretoria
0083

Dear Ms A van Aswegen

FACULTY COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY

Your recent application to the EBIT Research Ethics Committee refers.

Conditional approval is granted.

This means that the research project entitled "Masters Professional Mini-Dissertation in Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Interior Architecture (Group / Blanket)" is approved under the strict conditions indicated below. If these conditions are not met, approval is withdrawn automatically.

Conditions for approval

This application is approved based on the summaries provided.

Applications from each student (including application forms and all necessary supporting documents such as questionnaire/interview questions, permission letters, informed consent form, etc) will need to be checked internally by the course coordinator/ supervisor. A checklist will need to be signed off after the checking.

All of the above will need to be archived in the department and at the end of the course a flash disc / CD clearly marked with the course code and the protocol number of this application will be required to be provided to EBIT REC administrator.

No data to be collected without first obtaining permission letters. The permission letter from the organisation(s) must be signed by an authorized person and the name of the organisation(s) cannot be disclosed without consent. Where students want to collect demographic the necessary motivation is in place.

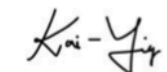
This approval does not imply that the researcher, student or lecturer is relieved of any accountability in terms of the Code of Ethics for Scholarly Activities of the University of Pretoria, or the Policy and Procedures for Responsible Research of the University of Pretoria. These documents are available on the website of the EBIT Ethics Committee.

If action is taken beyond the approved application, approval is withdrawn automatically.

According to the regulations, any relevant problem arising from the study or research methodology as well as any amendments or changes, must be brought to the attention of the EBIT Research Ethics Office.

The Committee must be notified on completion of the project.

The Committee wishes you every success with the research project.



Prof K.-Y. Chan
Chair: Faculty Committee for Research Ethics and Integrity
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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