



ARCHITECTURE OF SCARCITY

“The production and consequences of scarcity are only ever likely to increase over the coming years, and we need to find approaches to engage with this condition. My optimism lies precisely in the alliance of scarcity and agency, because design agency in the broadest sense is well placed to address the relational, contextual, and contingent senses of scarcity, and with this, in turn, new roles and opportunities for architectural thinking and action emerge.”
(Till 2014:11)

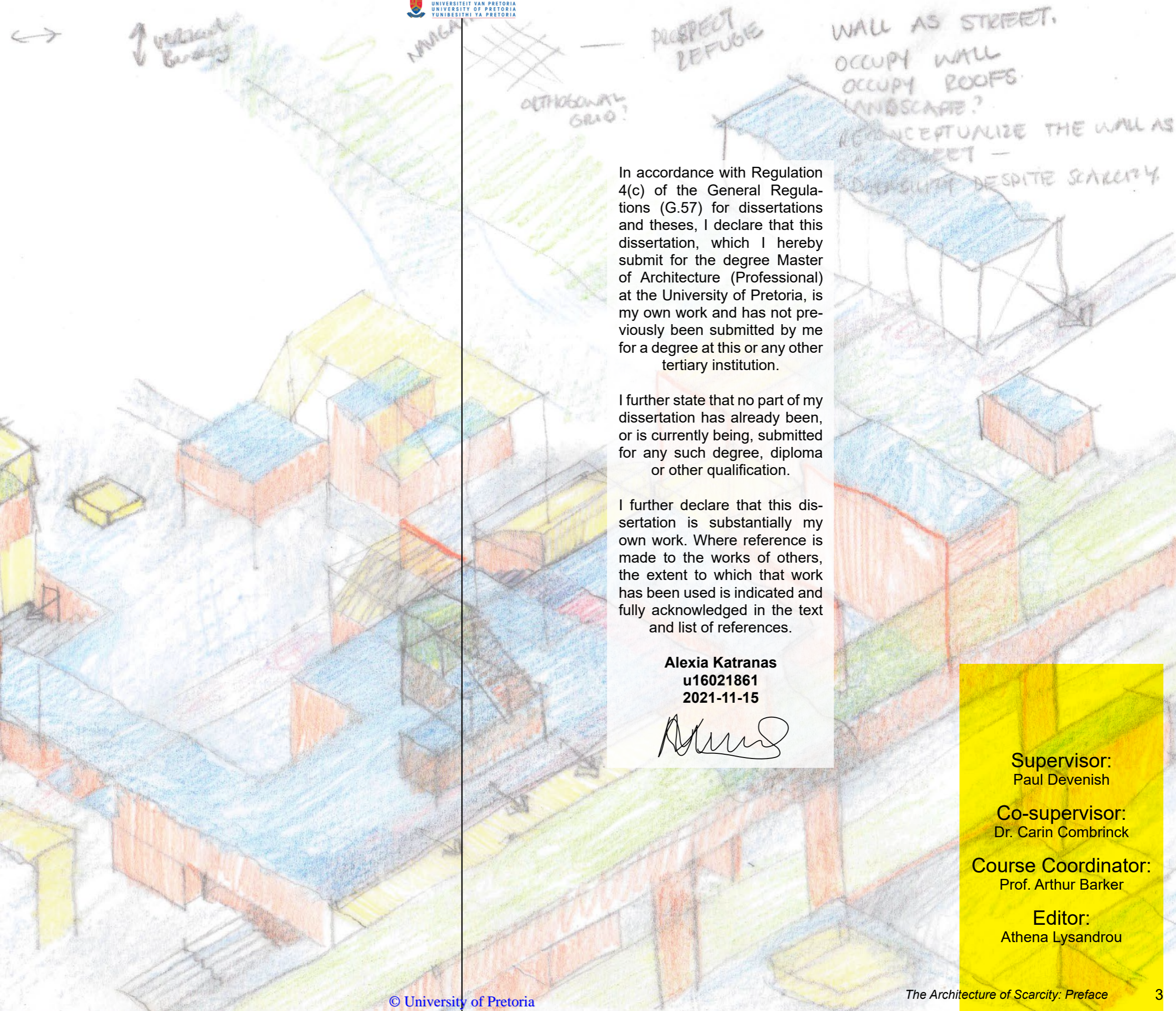


Figure 0.1: (cover page) *Architecture of Scarcity* (Author 2021).

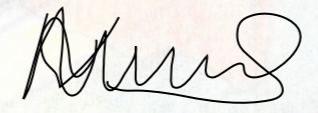
Figure 0.2: (background) *Activate the wall* (Author 2021).

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.

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2021-11-15



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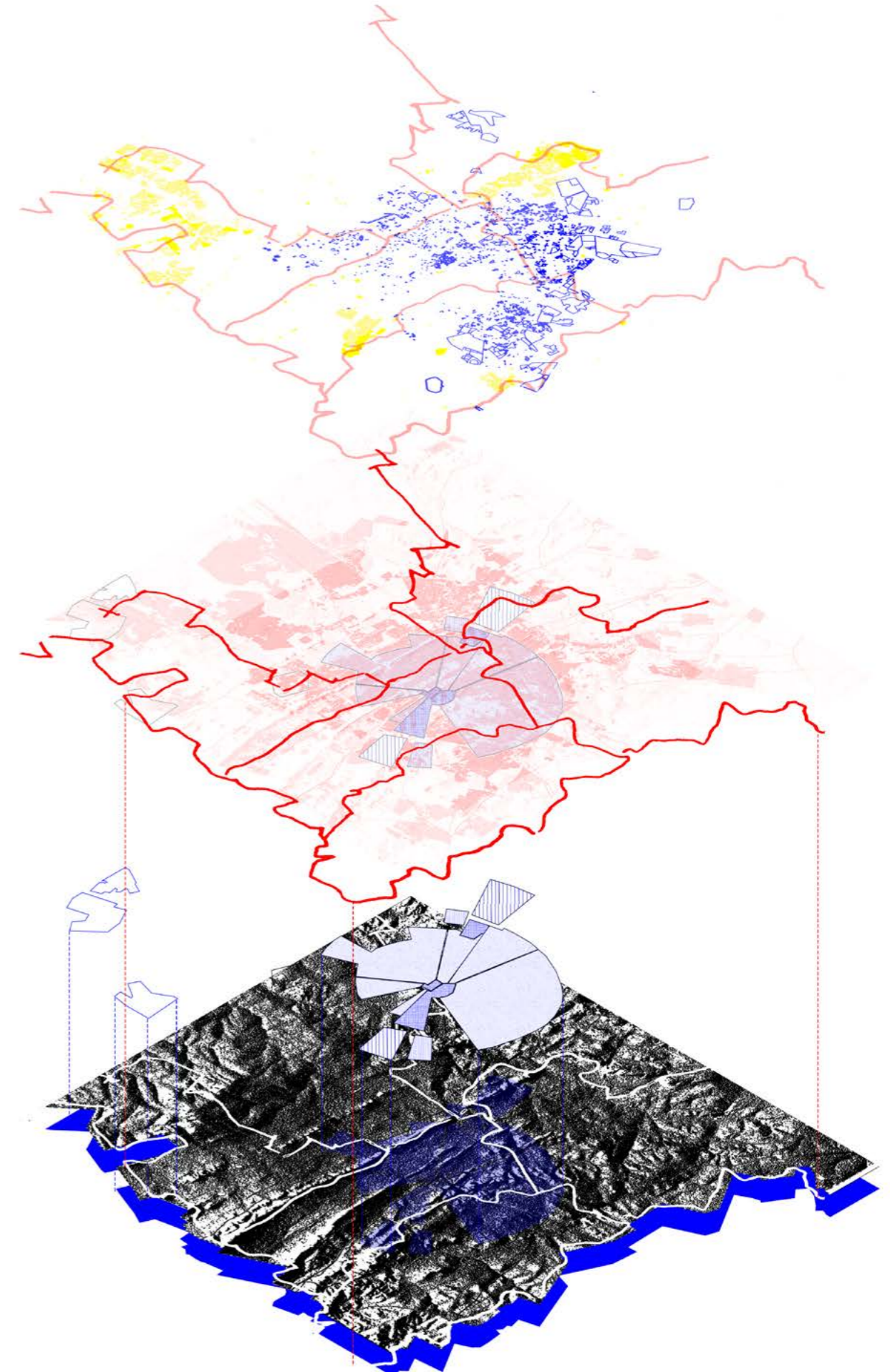
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Figure 0.3: (above)
Location of Study
(Author 2021).

Figure 0.4: (right)
Summary of Issues
(Author 2021).



ABSTRACT

This project is situated within the highly **polarised and fragmented landscape of Moreleta Park**, where contemporary manifestations of exclusionary apartheid values, in the form of **gated communities**, are confronted by the emergence of “grass-root disturbances”, in the form of **informal settlements**. *An architecture of abundance meets an architecture of scarcity*, or rather, a defensive architecture that fearfully attempts to answer the socially constructed inevitability of scarcity is confronted by an architecture that emerges from physical conditions of scarcity, which are both the direct consequence of, and condoned through, the exploitation and discrimination that emanates through the fear of inevitable scarcity.

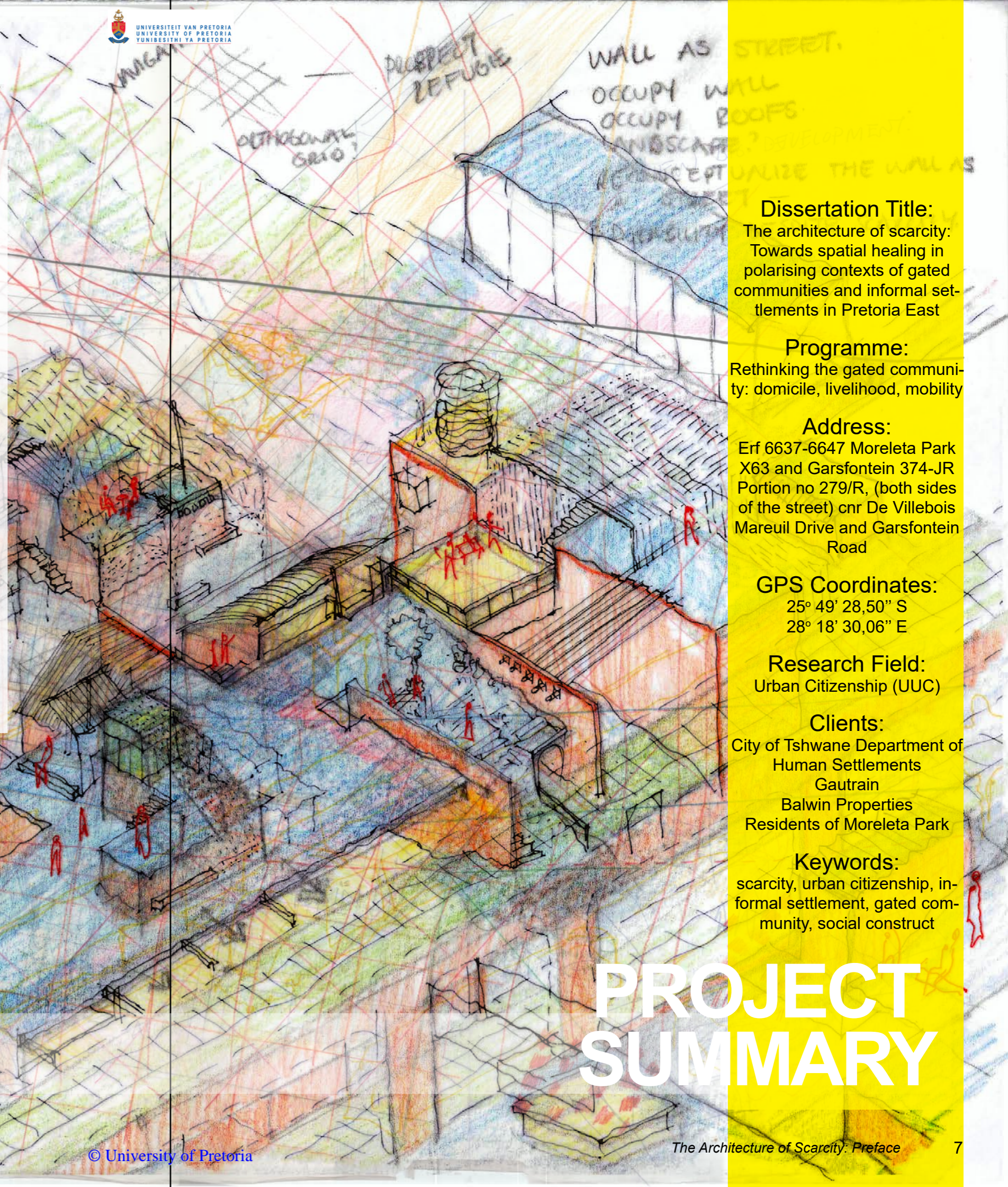
Scarcity is seen to limit agency, but what if scarcity could induce agency? Scarcity has already shown the potential to catalyse massive change, and has shown itself to promote the subsequent ingenuity necessary for survival.

By learning from the complex socio-spatial landscape of the past, present and “future” South African city, through a deeply collaborative, agency-kindling process that is grounded in a foundation of critical theory and phenomenology, this architect/facilitator/actor aims to reimagine an architecture of

scarcity that embraces ephemerality and sensitively emancipates the potential of boundary beyond that of division. *This project gestures towards an architecture that is not a solution-driven answer, but a dialogue-inducing question; scarcity that is not a problem, but an opportunity.*

Yielding the benefit of a site favourably located beside a proposed Gautrain/transport node, with close proximity to both a gated community and informal settlement - the programmatic opportunity of domicile, livelihood, and mobility emerged as useful mechanisms for integration, and are manifested in the exploration of a housing typology that rethinks architectural and technical constitution of the traditional gated community.

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2021



Dissertation Title:
The architecture of scarcity:
Towards spatial healing in
polarising contexts of gated
communities and informal set-
tlements in Pretoria East

Programme:
Rethinking the gated communi-
ty: domicile, livelihood, mobility

Address:
Erf 6637-6647 Moreleta Park
X63 and Garsfontein 374-JR
Portion no 279/R, (both sides
of the street) cnr De Villebois
Mareuil Drive and Garsfontein
Road

GPS Coordinates:
25° 49' 28,50" S
28° 18' 30,06" E

Research Field:
Urban Citizenship (UUC)

Clients:
City of Tshwane Department of
Human Settlements
Gautrain
Balwin Properties
Residents of Moreleta Park

Keywords:
scarcity, urban citizenship, in-
formal settlement, gated com-
munity, social construct

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project would not have been possible without the support of countless incredible individuals. It is nearly impossible to pay worthy tribute to the impact you have all had during this challenging year. I am profoundly grateful for, and in awe of, the magnitude of love and humanity that exists around me.

I would like to express my deepest thanks to my parents, Tommé and Margarita Katranas. It has been your unwavering love, support, and faith in me that has carried me through my life and work. Thank you for reminding me to look after myself whilst I cultivate my passions.

To my supervisor, Paul Devenish: thank you for meeting my often abstract ideas with enthusiasm and dedication, and for helping me translate the meaning that existed in the chaos. This outcome would not have been possible without your patience, expert wisdom, and guidance. Thank you for pushing me to constantly improve and grow as a designer.

To my co-supervisor, Dr Carin Combrinck: you have helped expand and shape my understanding of architecture into a discipline I can believe in. I cannot thank you enough for your love and knowledge, for inspiring us with your courage, for believing in me, and, most importantly, for helping me be brave.

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Thank you to Boukunde, and the passionate and dedicated individuals that form its heart. I wish to thank Jason McBean and Mpho Petele for always checking in on us, and for always making their help and guidance available.

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Thank you, Annique, for keeping me calm and afloat in that final week - supporting me far beyond the generous hours you spent helping me build the model.

To my brother, christopher, thank you for keeping me sane and motivated, and for helping me craft a crit exhibition that I am proud of.

To my fellow collaborators, I owe you my deepest gratitude: the Moreleta Park MArch(Prof) team - for sharing your talents, encouragement and perseverance, on and off site; the MArch(Hons) group, for immersing yourselves with commitment and open minds; the amazing duo from Sweden, for your shared enthusiasm for and meaningful contribution to our research.

To my fellow MProf class, and particularly, incredible studio comrades (the United Students Studio Republic), thank you for always being so generous with knowledge and support, and for being a constant source of joy and inspiration. To those who lifted me when I felt I could no longer walk - Brentan, Martine, Dhané, Alex, Heike, Cameron, Mia, Zoë, Adrian (my partner-in-crime), and countless others - this year would have been impossible without you.

To the UUSSP, Delani and Chris, my team and work companions: thank you for walking (sometimes climbing) this journey with me, and affirming how powerful, rewarding, and meaningful it is to collaborate and share in one another's victories and growth. You never hesitated to offer a helping hand, a shoulder, a laugh, and a comprehensive list of reasons to persevere.

I take immense pride in the mark your voices have had on my own work, and have endless appreciation and respect for the incredible contribution your individual projects will continue to make.

To my partner and best friend, Ruan: thank you for walking this journey with me; for sharing in and embracing my passion for Architecture. From the very first pages you helped me pin up in my first year of studies (colour wheels and sit-things, most probably), to the day I completed my Masters degree, you have offered endless love and support. Thank you for inspiring me, and for believing in me.

Finally, thank you to the many voices that are reflected in this project: those who inspired me with their ideas, theories, and writing; stakeholders who offered valuable engagement and insight in their expert fields, such as community health-workers, local NGO's; the residents of Plastic View, who so generously assisted us in our research within their neighbourhood, and welcomed our thoughts, ideas, and engagement.

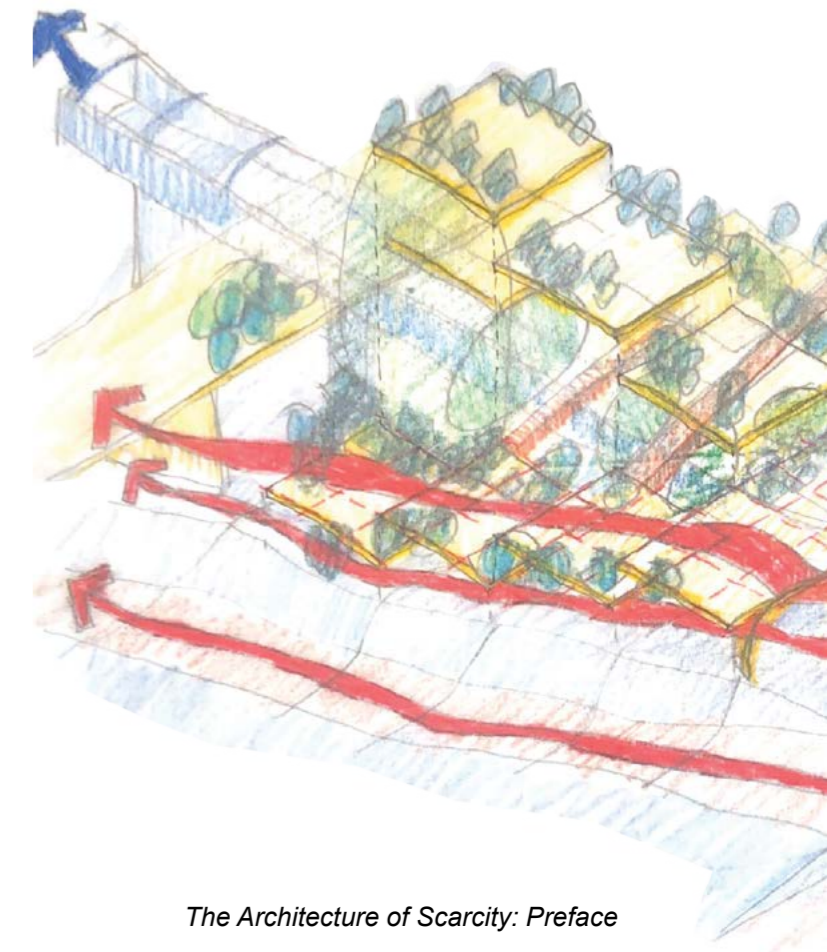


Figure 0.5: (previous page) collage of theoretical exploration (Author 2021).

Figure 0.6: (right) Theoretical sketch of architectural approach (Author 2021).

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