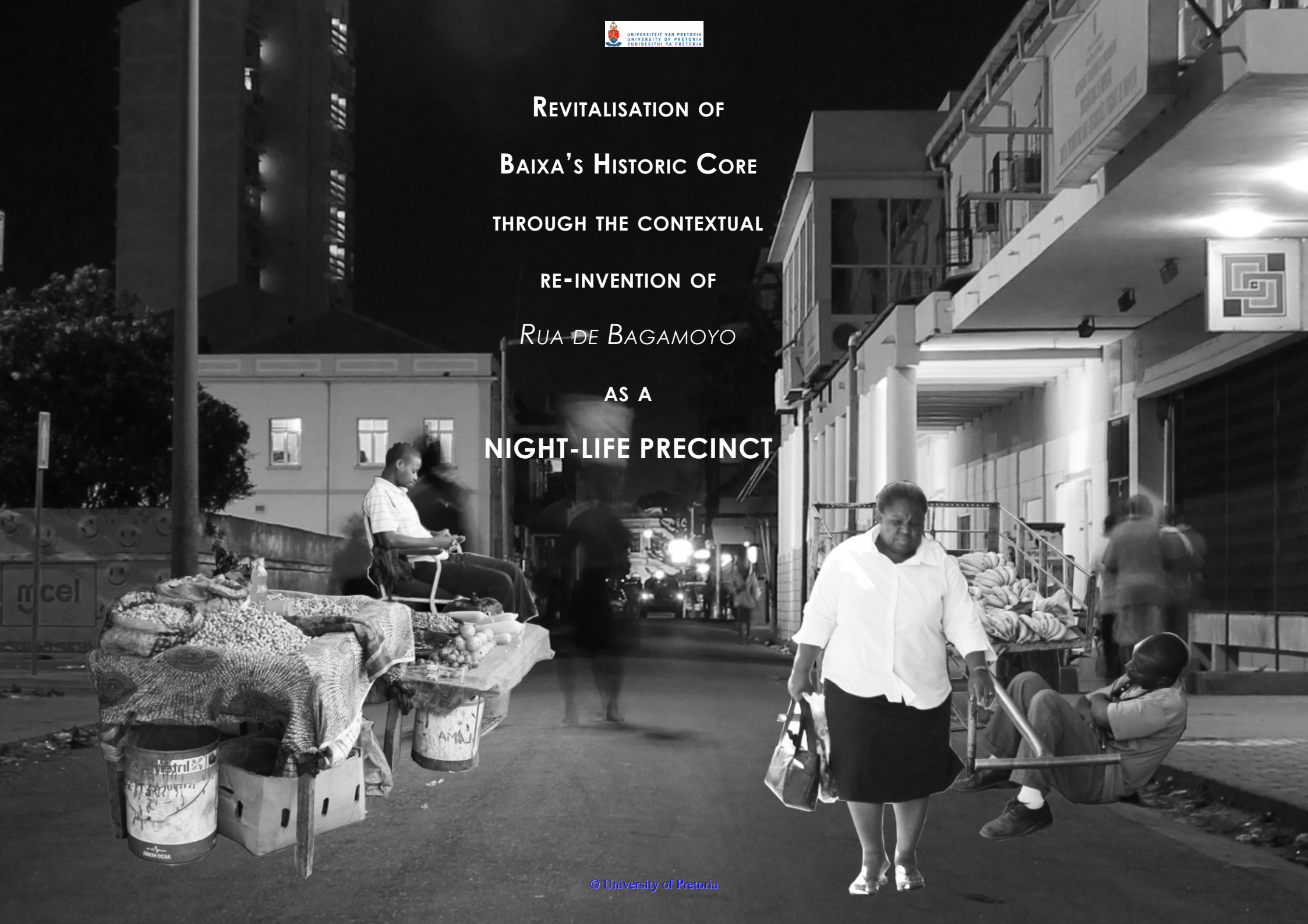


REVITALISATION OF
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THROUGH THE CONTEXTUAL
RE-INVENTION OF
RUA DE BAGAMOYO
AS A
NIGHT-LIFE PRECINCT



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DEDICATIONS

To two grandmothers;

Bobbie Owen for making tertiary education possible and for her endless concern about the tonic.

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PREFACE

To explain a normative position for this dissertation, one project changed the way in which at least one architectural student observes and understands the context of an African city. The Slovo Park project took place between July and November 2010 within an informal settlement to the south of Soweto Johannesburg and involved community based participative research, design and construction components, where students engaged with a community for the duration of the project collaborating on everything from initial mapping to detail resolution during construction.

Because of the 1:1 nature of project, the architecture needed to be accessible to everyone involved, this includes drawings, construction methods and presentations. The lessons learnt in Slovo park include that of a deeper and richer understanding of context using informal and conversational techniques of understanding rather than the colder more academic methods.

Various methods were employed in Slovo Park to great success. For the purposes of this dissertation taking place in another country with a different language a different method would need to be employed but the logic remains to understand all sides of context.

However, from the perspective of research, lessons learnt were those of using the context to inform decisions and gaining a fuller understanding of the needs of the client.

From the perspective of design it became apparent that communication to create accessible architecture was very important. Usually the simplest methods of explanation are better.

From the perspective of construction it was overwhelming that the knowledge of construction that comes from people who build their own houses surpasses architecture students, even those with many years working experience.

An extension of the contextual argument is to respect the vernacular, the vernacular of the current of the existing and of the poor. When finance is not readily available the same spatial qualities can be achieved when the choices of construction method and materiality are manipulated and the design is distilled to its simplest elements. This simplification is by no means a modernist approach to creating minimalist design but rather understanding of exactly what is needed and applying it using minimal interventions.

This technique can be applied to any design solution in the current world situation where materials and energy are valued resources being depleted.

To further investigate the validity of such a claim the intention of the dissertation is to use the principles of informal architecture and 1:1 interaction and apply it to an historical and urban context.

www.slovo-park.blogspot.com



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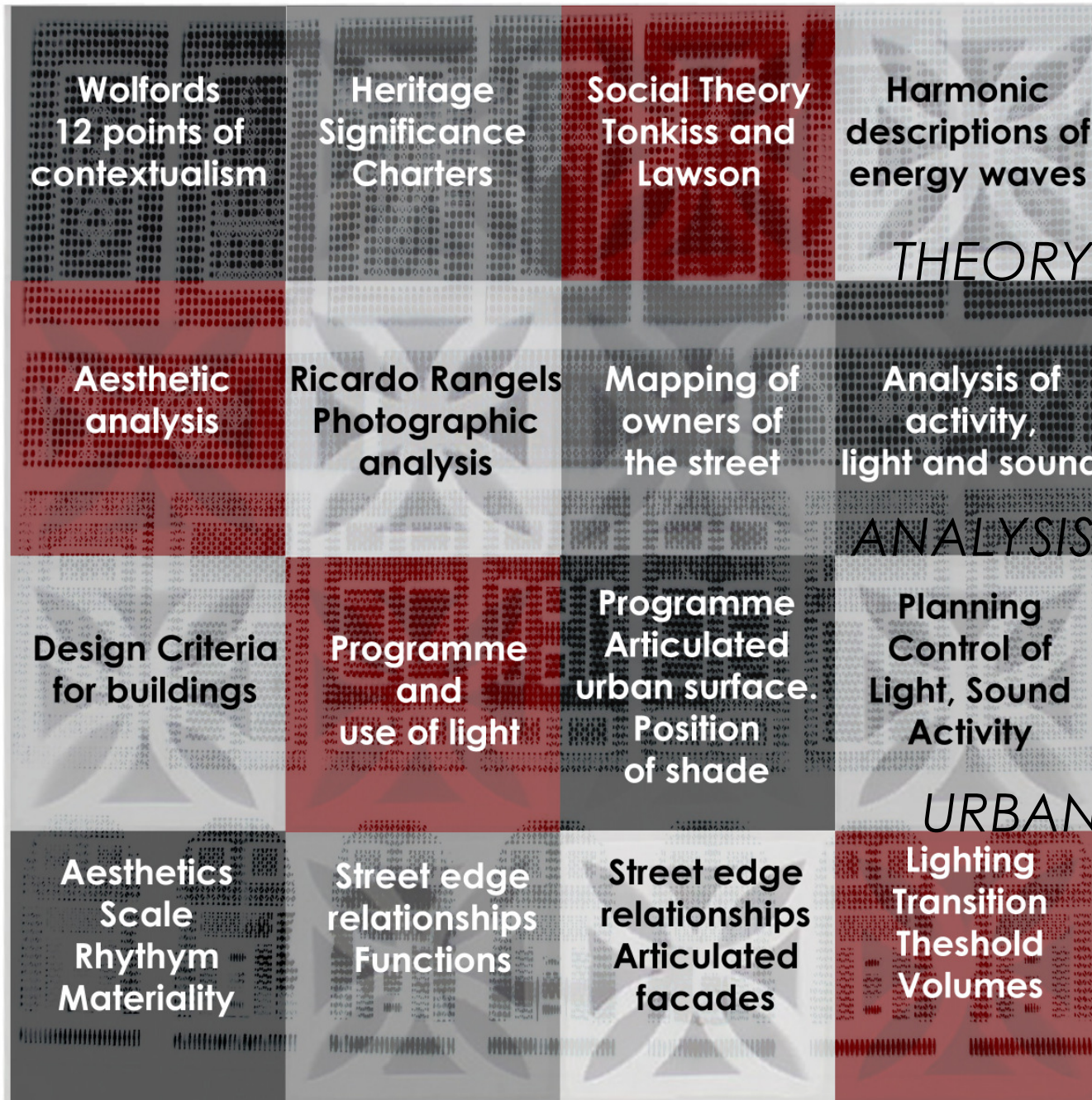
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ABSTRACT

This dissertation investigates the possibility of exploiting the Genius-Loci (Spirit of Place) to revitalise an urban environment in a state of decline. To establish and understand what the Genius - Loci entails Jane Wolford's contextual theory is explored and expanded upon. Additional parameters are explored namely; heritage and social theory as well as the exploration of the mathematical theory of harmonics to rationalise intangible elements of energy . The theoretical basis is then used to create a framework for the analysis of the context.

Two scales of intervention are propped. The first is to create continuity and express the identity of the street and the second; a more detailed example of how new buildings can be implemented into a complex urban facility.

The urban response is to consolidate existing functions within Rua De Bagamoyo (A street in the historical Baixa region of Maputo, Mozambique) as a night- life precinct through the introduction of gaming as an extension of the night- life activity.

The architectural response is to create a building that houses the new functions proposed and challenges the private-public relationships of place by extending the street into the built form and the form into the street through a series of threshold spaces that explore the notions of visual and physical access.

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