Designing for Living Systems

A Living Laboratory for the University of Pretoria’s South Campus
“My hulp kom van die Here wat hemel en aarde gemaak het.”

Psalm 121: 2

(Die Bybel, Nuwe vertaling.1991.)
For Willem and my parents, thank you for your love and support.
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Definition of Terms

**Derelict landscape** - A landscape left in a poor condition due to neglect.

**Dross** - Waste spaces within urbanized areas.

**Ecology** - The study of the relationship of organisms to their environment and to one another.

**Ecosystem** - A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

**Environmental ethic** – Using moral principles to impose order on the physical and spatial components of the environment in order to improve the human condition by influencing the cultural and biological components.

**Natural processes** – Processes which are produced and maintained by nature.

**Microcosm** – A thing regarded as encapsulating in miniature the characteristics of something much larger.

**Phenomena** – A remarkable thing that is observed.

**Phenomenology** - An approach that concentrates on the study of the consciousness and the objects of the direct study.

**Recovering** – To return to a normal state of health.

**Regenerative design** – Replacing the present linear system of throughput flows with cyclical flows at resource consumption centres, and sinks.

**Rehabilitation** – The rehabilitation of land is necessary after man’s activities have disturbed it so that it cannot recover naturally.

**Remediation** – The action of remediing the landscape.

**Sustainable design** – Design that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

*(The Concise Oxford English Dictionary, 2002.)*