

DESIGNING FOR LIVING SYSTEMS

A LIVING LABORATORY FOR THE UNIVERSITY
OF PRETORIA'S SOUTH CAMPUS



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“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 remedying 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.)

TERMS