Summary

Although hermeneutic phenomenology and structuralism forms the basis of these ideas and the theorists are geographically and historically separated, these ideas are still relevant in the light of this project.

One cannot assume that one theory or one era or genre of thought alone could be enough to answer to the complexity of a specific, though multivalent problem such as this project poses.

The hybrid nature of these ideas adds to the richness of the approach and it expresses both our quest to understand humanity and their relation with the world in a meaningful substantial manner in the contemporary South African context.
Introduction

The name ‘Olievenhoutbosch’ is associated with graphic images of xenophobic attacks published in local media during December 2005 to February 2006. A streak of xenophobic violence was triggered by a fight between two men in a shebeen in the Choba informal settlement on the southern periphery of the township when a Zimbabwean man killed a SePedi speaking leader of the community. Revenge was inevitable and after a two-week period of xenophobic violence during which 15 foreigners were killed and 36 South Africans arrested, Olievenhoutbosch was permanently branded as an area of unrest, crime, violence and murder.

Statistics

Olievenhoutbosch is a relatively new settlement area close to Centurion, previously known as Vereeniging, which until the late 1980’s was an entirely white area. It wasn’t until the mid-1990’s with the relaxation of movement controls, that there was a sudden influx of black South Africans to the area.

What made and still makes Olievenhoutbosch so attractive, is the fact that it is conveniently located near several of the major urban and manufacturing hubs in Gauteng and is therefore an appealing environment for job seekers and people working in various industries in Pretoria, Centurion, Johannesburg and Midrand. Olievenhoutbosch was established in 1996 by the municipality of Centurion but designated to be a transit area with few permanent services. As time went by and the expectancy of RDP houses rose, it quickly became a growing informal settlement even though it was partially on illegally occupied private land.

According to the national census of 2001, the 8 605 individual households in 1998 grew to a total of 20 500 in 2001 and is still growing. 60% of the residents are under the age of 30 years, 20.5% of which are unemployed and 24% self employed-making bricks, washing cars, selling second hand goods or basic forms of entrepreneurship. Only 23% of adults have matric and 67% of the population falls in the poverty income group.

Problem statement

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"The Townships are burning – and foreigners may be next. Again..." (Essel, et al. 2010)

Diversity

'Shebeen' (as the local residents refer to it) is a multiracial settlement, with many cross provincial migrants that speak IsiZulu, IsiNdebele, IsiXhosa, and Zulu, most of whom, according to the older Shebeen inhabitants (local school principal), have migrated here due to the lack of clean water and working opportunities in their places of origin. There are also significant numbers of foreign African migrants from Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi. Palestinian and other East Asian businessmen who run local shops or other small retail stores have also settled in the area.

Crime

Current crime and violence statistics in Gauteng (March 2010 to April 2011) issued by the SAPS confirm that Gauteng is notorious for more than 50% of the crime in South Africa. In a period of one year, there were 3 257 murders, 11 867 cases of reported sexual crimes, 4 104 attempted murders, 46 698 cases of assault with intent to inflict bodily harm, 54 476 common assaults, 18 207 cases of common robbery and 91 012 cases of robbery with aggravated circumstances (SAPS 2010). A major contributor to the high rate of crime and violence in Shebeenbosch is the abuse of alcohol. There are currently more shebeens in Shebeenbosch than any other social, spiritual or educational institutions. Given the very low employment rate, people suffer from boredom, which leads to alcohol abuse and consequently violence and crime.

In a study undertaken by the South African Police Service in the Western Cape in 1996, it was reported that 41% of crimes in which the victim was known and 24% of crimes where the circumstances surrounding the murder were known, alcohol was involved (SAPS 1997). In a study by the Medical Research Council and the Institute of Sociology between 1998 and 2000, it was found that for 15% of crimes, the victims were under the influence of alcohol at the time of the event. For 25% of weapon-related cases, 22% of rapes, 17% of murders, 14% of assault and 10% of robberies, the victim was under the influence of alcohol. Levels of alcohol-related crime are particularly high for female violence offenses at 48% (Perly at al. 2004).

[1665]: number of households in 1998
8605 individual residents

In 2000, shebeenbosch is officially recognized as an informal township

Census

61% of the population under 30 years of age
20,5% of the population unemployed
24% of the population self-employed
23% of the population that have matric
67% of the population that fall in the poverty income group.

[36]: start of xenophobia; unrest when a Sofikiwe-speaking malay community, having killed a Xenophobic woman, was killed by a Zulu mob in a local shebeen.

[15]: amount of foreigner killed in two weeks of xenophobic violence.

[40]: amount of soccer teams
[2]: community centres
[2]: netball teams
[1]: community hall
[80]: number of creches
[10]: athletic training facilities
[5]: number of primary schools
[0]: nursery
[0]: university
[0]: secondary schools
[0]: pre-schools
According to a local school principal of Philena Primary School, Mr. Clever Shikwambane, in a personal interview on 1 March 2012, the exceptionally high level of 98% school attendance is primarily due to the constant provision of food at the school. It is also because school is seen as an escape from the realities at home: "At school, children can play, learn and feel safe," (Shikwambane). Unfortunately, schools suffer to accommodate children after school due to non-existing and highly inadequate sport facilities and after school programs. Due to long work hours of parents or possibly the high rate of domestic violence, children are forced to entertain themselves at rudimentary gaming arcades in shebeens and it is there where these children are exposed to violence and alcohol at a young and important phase of their development.

Lauren Landau (2007) describes Olievenhoutbosch in a paper on forced migration, as a post democracy ‘point-of-entry’ township. However, it is of the opinion of the author that the above mentioned problems that correlate with Landau’s definition of a ‘point-of-entry’ township should not be used as an excuse for the current rate of decay. It should rather influence the architectural response that will form a coalition with existing social efforts to shape the future of the people of Olievenhoutbosch from being a crime stricken township, to one that respects and cares for themselves, and one another- a community that sticks to the rules of the game.

Von Meiss (1997:7) writes, "Strong limitations offer an opportunity for strong architectural interpretation, if you are capable of sensing the spirit of your earth and skies."

Schools

Conclusion

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When the problem statement is considered, it becomes evident that the unique community of Olivenhoven is in direct need of a collective response toward reconciling peace building, both within and amongst themselves.

The author stresses the fact that a response possesses the potential to be a critical when it originates from understanding and skills - an indigenous response which develops from within the community. This ensures that any further development of a peace building program will have the community’s consent rooted in it as the principle idea and promotes ownership that will deter vandalism and polarizing life and health of any built forms, especially public buildings.

A multifaceted problem cannot be addressed by a single, rigid and unadaptable response. The required response should involve NGOs, government and other statutory bodies to form an alliance with appropriate architectural design and ultimately build upon an existing established effort from the community.

In Olivenhoven, the established effort came into being by businesswomen and sport enthusiasts of the local community whom decided to take matters into their own hands. Their approach was to harness the community’s love for a communal activity that endorses respect and discipline – they found it in sport.

The aim of this project is to invest in the positive potential of sport as a tool for peace building and reconciliation is a conflict and crime stricken society. Furthermore, the project aims to give substance to the social aspiration of this society and to allow the community to give meaning to a proposed physical structure.

"Currently, there are eight soccer teams and eight netball teams within Olivenhoven. We play at under 13, under 15, under 19 and under 20 level, against teams from Dripping Point, Alexandra and Athiederpark."  

[Marcella 2012]  
[Local Football Organiser]
The role of the architect is to assist the clients in selecting an appropriate site and designing a multi-purpose ‘sport for development’ community centre for the community of Olievenhoutbosch.

The architectural intervention must provide a platform for participation, integration and reconciliation and facilitate the development of sport.

The intervention should respond to the existing urban condition, the climate and the socioeconomic circumstances as well as involve the community from design process to construction phase.

The proposed design should allow for spontaneous growth and future development to ultimately become a place that the community can share and call their own.

The aim is to create a facility that responds to the problem of high demand of positive social interaction and low infrastructure to supply it. This facility will provide the community with a structured and multifunctional space where they can play social sport. It will also provide facilities where people can learn new skills, like swimming, which will improve their physical health.

The sport and recreational aspect will also include multipurpose sport facilities that can be accessed freely by all members of the public for recreational purposes and formal sport meetings.

The educational field focuses on integration programmes between schools within the area and the education of coaches and trainers that will enforce mutual respect between all cultures and races. The facility will create a platform for the development of physical education for all primary and high school students. The physical education program will incorporate sex education, including HIV and AIDS, and life skills.

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The goal is to provide a facility that can host formal sport meetings within the community and uphold a world class standard in terms of quality. The facility is within 35 minutes by bus from Oliver Tambo International Airport and should be utilised to accommodate touring international teams in warm-up games or competition against local talent.

Personal healthcare will be provided on the premises in the form of physiotherapy, biokinetics and other related disciplines. This will relieve pressure from the current local clinic within Olievenhoutbosch and provide the community with an immediate source of medical attention with regard to physical injury. A secondary layer focusing on healthy nutrition will not only cater for the provision and retailing of healthy food but also enlighten the community of the necessity of a healthy balanced diet.

These four programs have been designed to develop roots within the community and result in the systematic burgeoning of a community’s potential to create new programmes that are not directly related to sport but create employment opportunities, potential realisation and contributes to a healthier community. Ultimately, every program must have the ability to be addressed from within the community and aim to expand into a new set of opportunities which will build peace and reconcile a broken and unhealthy community.

Conclusion

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Introduction

The Nike Football Training facility, situated in Soweto, was designed by a Canadian firm, RTKL in collaboration with the Nike Global Football Design over a period of only six months. RTKL project worked in close collaboration with South African firms such as 3P Project Management, HMAA Architects, AIR Engineering and Spearmaker & Partners. The construction company was Rainbow Construction, and the graphic production company was Gold Worldwide.

The facility, currently owned by Nike provides football training for 200,000 aspiring young soccer players and in collaboration with Grassroot Soccer creates a visible awareness about AIDs and AIDS.

Strengths

Location: The buildings are ideally situated between community housing schools and transportation nodes. This makes the investigation particularly relevant, as it responds to a similar context than the proposed ‘spot for development’ intervention in Okhahlamba.

Architectural Premises: The building is designed to provide a rich progression of experience. Certain views are hidden or revealed as one moves from one space to another.

Optimisation of Space: Besides the general function of protecting the inhabitants from the elements, the roof structure does include an accessible viewing platform for spectators.

Sustainability: Due to the project’s tight turn around time, RTKL project decided to focus on the basic principles of heating and cooling by means of sun shading, natural ventilation and reduced energy loads. The rectangular, three storey building is constructed out of steel and features a double-walled air cavity covered with locally sourced sandstone that acts as a rain screen.

The building is oriented East-West to take advantage of the northern sun. At night, a double-walled timber louvre structure suspended from the steel, acts as a sun screen on the East, North and West facades, protecting the building from solar heat gain. The building is cantilevered over the edge of the two main fields, creating shade that keeps the gym and kitchen areas cool (Figure 24).

Aesthetic Richness and Sharpness: The structure is clad with Timber that provides an aesthetic quality. The simplistic design makes the building way to understand and relate with and is accompanied by well executed rendering techniques (Figure 24).

Conclusion

The Nike Football Training Centre deserves a lot of merit, especially if one considers the short time in which it was completed. However, the robustness and inclusivity of the building toward the public remain a problem. It is the opinion of the author that this building fails to successfully communicate with its surrounds and the building will most probably be more successful in a more developed area as there is a gap between the image that Nike needs to maintain and the ability of the community to relate with it. This is a gap that ultimately leads to the misuse of the facilities in the building and the termination of daily access to the community of Soweto.

In conclusion, it needs to be said that the contribution of these high quality sport fields have given many potential stars the opportunity to turn their dreams into reality.

*Refers to the ability to allow everyone to use the facilities that are provided without excessive control or security.
Siyathemba Soccer Clinic
Somkhele, KwaZulu Natal
South Africa (unbuilt)

**Precedent Study 2**

**Background**

Siyathemba soccer clinic, designed by Cameron Sinclair & Swee Ng, is a response on a competition hosted by Architecture for Humanity.

The design is a combined soccer field and health care facility that focuses on disseminating information on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment and eventually as a service point for mobile health care within the area of Somkhele - an area with one of the highest HIV/AIDS rates in the world. The clinic is run by medical professionals from the Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies and will serve as a gathering place for young people between the ages of 9 and 14. It will serve as the home for the first ever girls football league in the area.

**Strengths:**

The Siyathemba project's strength lies in its duality1. The project effectively harnesses the potential of playfulness and simultaneously provides education on HIV and AIDS. The duality becomes evident in the multifunctional design. Spaces respond in different ways to very different circumstances. The pavilion oscillates between being an expressive space of emotion during a football game to being a receptive space where people are being educated.

**Location:**

The Siyatemba project is situated in the rural community of Somkhele. This limited resources influences the upkeep and life span of the building and ultimately the impact it has on the community.

**Remarks**

- **Strength:** The Siyathemba project's strength lies in its duality. The project effectively harnesses the potential of playfulness and simultaneously provides education on HIV and AIDS. The duality becomes evident in the multifunctional design. Spaces respond in different ways to very different circumstances. The pavilion oscillates between being an expressive space of emotion during a football game to being a receptive space where people are being educated.

- **Location:** The Siyathemba project is situated in the rural community of Somkhele. This limited resources influences the upkeep and life span of the building and ultimately the impact it has on the community.

**Range:**

The number of people impacted is limited. The project focuses on woman and children, which might lead to visual discrimination from the local men. This places the structure at risk for vandalism and destructive behaviour from excluded members.

**Conclusion**

Siyathemba is an integrated multifunction design that responds effectively to a specific problem at a specific place. However, the duality of the building could have been explored further in terms of providing a wider range of facilities that incorporate all ages and races.

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1 Duality is the ability of the building to facilitate different programatic requirements in a single space. These requirements are often separated.

2 The range refers to the depth or scope of the project's influence.
The architects of the proposed Football for Hope Centre, Steve Coombs, Victoria Ridge and Sam Austin aim to disrupt a rigid grid pattern and social divisions by creating a new social centre for the local community. The proposal is not only a single design but a strategy that produces different configurations from the specific conditions of each site allowing community involvement in its development and adaptation to changing requirements.

Their primary aim is to provide every person with access to clean water and a nutritious diet; only when these needs are met, will people benefit from new health, education and sports facilities. Indeed, helping HIV positive people produce their own fruit and vegetables is the most sustainable way to ensure the wholesome diet so necessary for their immune systems. Public spaces are defined by community buildings which are developed around water points and the centrally located pitch.

These spaces include a cinema and a public gathering or performance space, linear market, library, computer lab and health clinic. Recycling and sustainability also forms an integral part of the design. Drinking water is captured from roofs and grey water is used for irrigation. A power hub supplies electricity so that people can charge batteries, cell phones and other electronic devices.

Strategy
1. Allotments
Portioning up the site into community accessible lots using the existing grid pattern that is common in urban areas. See "streeks[TAAL]"1 (Chapter 02).

2. Routes
The existing informal footpaths that are naturally formed due to the reticulation pattern of the community was formalised to oppose the existing grid pattern. This means that the designers incorporated the user’s ritual into the design by investigating the language of the site. See "Werf[TAAL]"2 (Chapter 03).

3. Water
Water is a basic human need and is especially relevant when dealing with sport. The strategic placement of water points at crossings near the borders of the site is an architectural response to this need. See "WAAK[TAAL]" (Chapter 02).

4. The pitch
The football pitch is the catalyst in the process of creating this public space. The designers focussed on a communal interest to achieve and establish social interaction. The pitch is sunken one meter into the ground.

5. Public spaces
Public spaces are located around water points. Thus, need leads to the creation of spaces.

6. Public buildings
The building sits within and around these public spaces forming the boundaries or thresholds between spaces.

7. Planting of fruit trees and vineyards
This binds the site together.

Conclusion
Space, structure and form was developed by a series of processes or strategies. These processes started with an understanding of the macro urban fabric and identity. This was followed by a thorough analysis of the site, the daily rituals of the user and an understanding of their basic needs. The designers incorporated their knowledge of the above and strengthened that concept by giving it a layer of social interest, namely football. The process of analysis and community engagement lead to an architectural response that engages with the community and provides a platform for the community to engage with itself. Finally, this platform manifests itself in space and the space informed the nature of the structural built form.

Summary
The architects of the proposed Football for Hope Centre, Steve Coombs, Victoria Ridge and Sam Austin aim to disrupt a rigid grid pattern and social divisions by creating a new social centre for the local community. The proposal is not only a single design, but a strategy that produces different configurations from the specific conditions of each site allowing community involvement in its development and adaptation to changing requirements.

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Steinkopf Community Centre
Architect: R.uitenbogaardt
1978

Introduction
Today, the Community Centre at Steinkopf, designed by Ruitenbogaardt in 1978, stands in ruins. This is regardless of the fact that the Steinkopf Community Centre was published internationally as a leading example of South African late 20th century. As the author of the materials that contain a very influential role in the systematic decay of the building. However, in its original state, the building responded to a series of criteria, very similar to that which is present in Gelsenhautbach. As such it is relevant for further research. The Steinkopf project was conceived as a permeable place of shade, shelter and colour in a very arid landscape with very little built structure to respond to a constraint and opportunity very similar to the proposed sport centre in Gelsenhautbach.

The Roof
A second challenge that these two projects face is in common, in the necessity for roofs to span large distances. In the case of Steinkopf, the structural roof system is separated from the enclosure system. The construction of the structural walls primarily made use of local construction teams and locally sourced materials but the roof required a specialist subcontractor to erect the large span roofing that was prefabricated in Cape Town. The roof extends past the enclosed spaces to serve the dual purpose of bending internal spaces together as well as creating external circulation spaces that define the edge of the adjacent street. Ruitenbogaardt also identified the underlying potential of the linear rock and stepped them away from the sun to form a system of clerestory lighting.

The Floor
The floor of the community centre is stepped and terraced that allows for various parts of the building to be used in various ways.

Conclusion
Steinkopf lies in ruins, but the architectural principles put in place by Ruitenbogaardt serves as a very influential precedent for the development of the Gelsenhautbach. It is Sport for Development Community Centre.