Growing urban ecosystems: A food market in Menlyn

by Fransa van Zyl

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University Of Pretoria
2011

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Magister in Architecture (Professional) in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

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Abstract

This study responds to the effect that current food production has on the natural environment, by researching urban systems and ecosystems. In reaction to the findings, a new food production system and the urban buying and retail culture are investigated. A food market and hydroponic production building is designed to serve as an alternative to the supermarket and conventional food production.

Hierdie studie reageer op die uitwerking wat huidige voedselproduksie op die natuurlike omgewing het, deur stedelike stelsels en ekostelsels te bestudeer. In reaksie op die bevindings word 'n nuwe voedselproduksiestelsel en die stedelike koop-en-verkoop-kultuur ondersoek. 'n Varsprodukte mark en hidroponiëse produksiegebou word ontwerp om 'n alternatief te bied vir die supermark en konvensionele voedselproduksie.
Vir my Skepper en Kompas, Jesus Christus, dankie vir talent en krag.

Vir my ouers, dankie vir onwrikbare geloof in my vermoëns en ondersteuning.

Vir Grové, dankie vir liefde, begrip en moed inpraat, elke dag.

Dankie Marga vir puik leiding, insig en tyd.

Dankie Jacques vir baie tyd, waardevolle insette en die ekstra myl.
**Full dissertation title:** Growing Urban Ecosystems: a Food Market in Menlyn

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**Degree:** Master of Architecture (Professional)

**Department:** Department of Architecture

**Faculty:** Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

**University:** University of Pretoria

**Project summary**

**Programme:** Food market and production

**Site description:** Precinct within the boundaries formed by Garsfontein Road, Atterbury Road, Genl. Louis Botha Avenue and Lois Avenue

**Client:** The City of Tshwane

**Users:** Commuters of the new proposed Gautrain station, businesspeople of the area and the general public

**Site location:** Erf 68, Menlyn

**Address:** c/o Mercy, Frikkie de Beer and Amarand Roads, Pretoria, South Africa

**GPS Coordinates:** S 25° 47'09.7 E 28° 17'00.0

**Architectural theoretical premise:** Researching a new food production system and the buying and retail culture

**Architectural approach:** Primarily the development of a food market, secondarily the creation of productive landscapes in the area and hydroponic food growth

**Research field:** Environmental potential
In accordance with Regulation 4(e) of the General Regulations (G.57) for dissertations and theses, I declare that this thesis, 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.

The dissertation is 14 155 words long (excluding the scanned items).

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This chapter introduces the author’s theoretical argument, followed by real-world problems that led to the proposed programme. Urban systems and its shortcomings inspire this dissertation. A short introduction to food systems and retail casts light on the project aims and objectives.