

The language of space – a housing support strategy in Mamelodi

When dwellers control the major decision and are free to make their own contribution to the design, construction or management of their housing, both the process and the environment produce and stimulate individual and social well-being. When people have neither control over, nor responsibility for key decisions in the housing process, on the other hand, dwelling environments may instead become a barrier to personal fulfilment and a burden on the community. (Hamdi 2004: 11)



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Introduction

Of those who need housing in South Africa, almost 69% earn less than R1 500 a month that make the housing process an extremely difficult and unaffordable task. These potential dwellers could be regarded as a vulnerable section of the dwelling community that need support, guidance and a unique understanding. Housing is much more than providing shelter, but rather a process that addresses man within his psychosocial context and needs.

The UP Mamelodi campus is situated in the middle of a fast growing housing node with low income dwellers on its edge, struggling with their housing needs. The University is currently isolated from this dwelling community by means of a concrete security barrier and poor urban qualities.

The University should be involved in this unique housing process by means of a Housing Support Centre and continuous housing research. The intention of this study is to emphasize the interrelationship between housing needs, human needs, housing support and dwelling issues. Housing could be seen as design instrument in the regeneration of urban environments and sustainable human settlement.

This dissertation attempts to propose a housing strategy on the given site, next to the UP campus, that would result in an optimum housing environment that addresses man in his totality.

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