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RE - LOCATION

DISCOVERING MEANING AND MEMORY IN MARABASTAD
A TRADE SCHOOL

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ABSTRACT

This research dissertation explores how memory can be used as a design tool when dealing with sites or places that have undergone political oppression in the past. It aims to explore the ways in which memory can inform and invigorate identity and meaning to regain the spirit of the place.

The study area is in Marabastad, Pretoria, South Africa, which underwent political oppression including forced relocation, racial separation and destruction of its urban fabric. The future development plans for Marabastad propose that previous residents have the opportunity to return to their land. The use of memories in the future design and development plans becomes important for people who know Marabastad past and for those who don't because it creates a reference to the past that can be identified with. Marabastad's meaning lies within its memories and it is important to have this connection to the past in order to build a meaningful future.

DEFINITIONS

Township : Apartheid Government imposed the identity on the township as the dwelling place for the African who was defined as a rural dweller and temporary worker in the city.

Locations : Locations were built in the beginning of the twentieth century and demolished under the rule of the National Party, South Africa. They were characterized by racial-mixing, their proximity to town centres and their vibrant cultural life.

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