

IN -TRODUCTION



1.1 BACKGROUND TO STUDY

Relocation in urban areas leaves scars on the physical environment. In most cases, all that is left in a place, which has been stripped of most of its tangible fabric, are the memories of what used to be there and memories of what happened to create the current conditions.

"Around the world, involuntary resettlement processes caused by development projects are only a subset of a much broader population movement process. The latter are caused by economic mobility, industrialization and urbanization, or by war, ethnic strife, or natural calamities such as drought"(World Bank,2000:8).

In Africa history is filled with massive involuntary population resettlements, most of which are triggered by social or political causes (World Bank,2000: 12). Further studies of the World Bank indicate that many people subjected to forced removals were already financially compromised before displacement, or are in a marginal economic situation. Removals aggravate rather than alleviate poverty (World Bank,2000: 18). South Africa has an infamous history with relocation. The Group Areas Act of 1950 restricted ownership and the occupation of land to a specific statutory group. The act assigned racial groups to different residential and business sections in urban areas in a system under apartheid. An effect of the law was to exclude non-Europeans from living in the most developed areas, which were restricted to people from European descent. It caused many non-Europeans to commute large distances from their homes in order to be able to work. Eventually one out of four black and coloured persons and one out of six Asians (against only one in 667 whites) across the country were forced to move (Giliomee & Mbenga. 2007 : 319). Giliomee & Mbenga's (2007) research further show that these newly developed townships couldn't develop any economic or social dynamism. Removals even broke up families, dumped people in areas that lacked infrastructure and were a considerable distance from their employment. Murray & O'Regan (1990 : 17) states that at the end of the Apartheid regime 3, 5 million people were forcibly removed from their homes and their communities.

"By 1958 many former slums in and around the major cities had been

cleared and some 100 000 houses for blacks had been built under supervision of Verwoerd's developments, the abodes were small and the township architecturally monotonous, with few public amenities"(Giliomee & Mbenga, 2007 : 319).

The city centre of Tshwane was one of these major cities that experienced the inhumanity of Apartheid's relocation strategies. The scars left by relocation are evident in Marabastad, west of Tshwane's CBD. From 1912 people were relocated to townships like Atteridgeville and Laudium (Friedman,1994 : 34). The Slums Act of 1934 gave authorities power to demolish areas they deemed to be slums. Marabastad was declared a slum in 1934 and the vast majority of the homes in Marabastad were demolished (Friedman. 1994 : 65). The Freeway Proposal of 1967 planned to demolish the existing fabric of Marabastad. The proposal was never realised, but by that time it was too late and most of the existing structures had been demolished (Bruinette,1967).

Due to the above mentioned facts, the current urban fabric of Marabastad has a lack of density unlike the rest of the CBD blocks. There is a vast decay of the urban fabric and its finer grid doesn't overlap with the larger inner city grid. The people of Marabastad were removed from their homes, opportunities and their community. Community development was stopped in its tracks and left only memories to identify with. It is also lacking an identity of self-sustainability where people can empower themselves and create their own resources like self-employment and eligibility for employment.

A **trade school** is proposed for Marabastad and is informed by the memory of relocation in Marabastad. The Group Areas Act of the 1950s forced people to relocate and they were taken away from resources like employment that left them in poor economic conditions. This programme is a reaction to the above-mentioned memory and it attempts to improve people's economic situations by empowering them to become self - employed, eligible for employment and create an identity of self-sustainability in the Marabastad area.

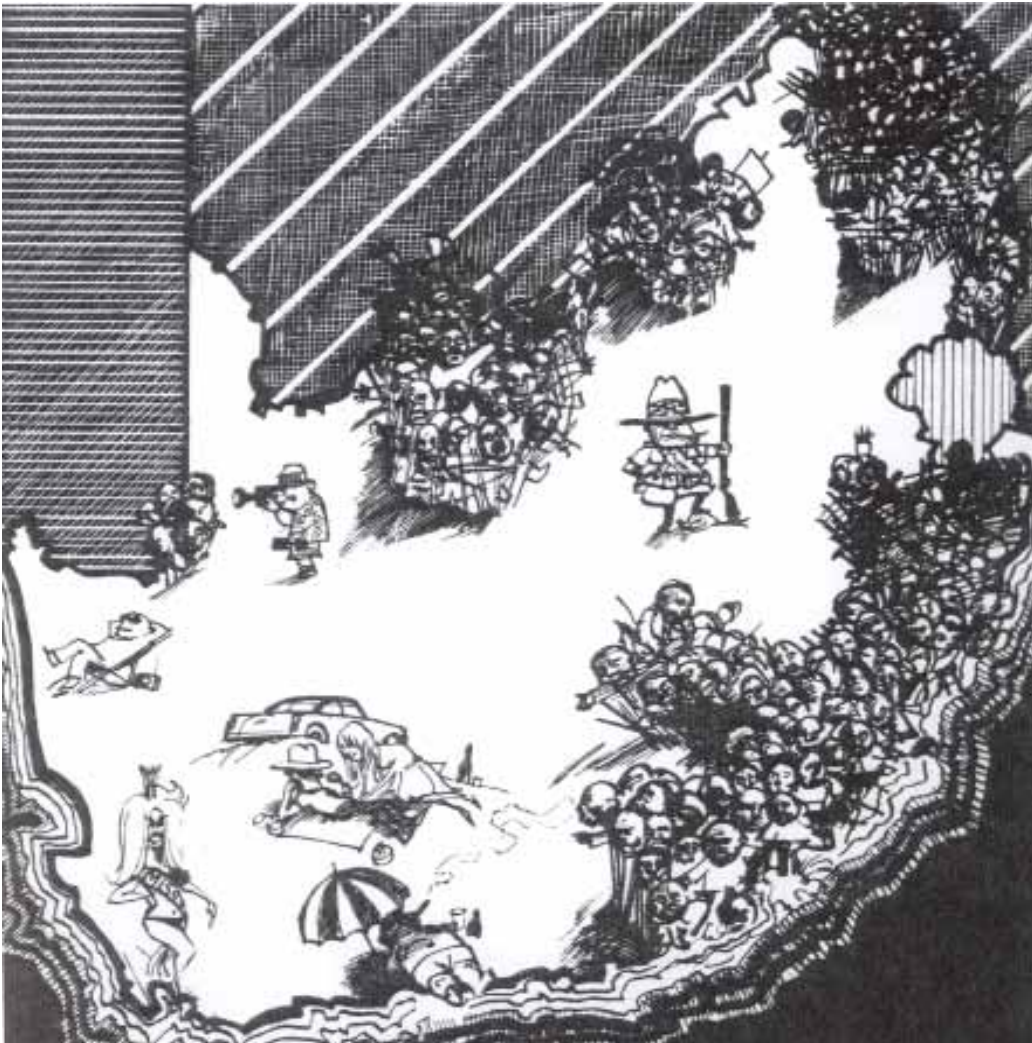


FIGURE 1.3.
Cartoon by Richard Wilson that points out the racial allocation of land and public facilities. 13% of South Africa's land was reserved for 80% of its population. (Giliomee & Mbenga, 2007 : 319).

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

In an environment that has social and urban scars due to forced removals, the question arises **how memory can be used as a design tool that can inspire the architectural intervention in a post-liberating context.**

1.3 HYPOTHESIS

Memory as a design informant can invigorate contextual identity and meaning and guide the architectural intervention in a post-liberating context.

1.4 SUBPROBLEMS

The sub questions that will guide and inform research are:

- 1.4.1. What is the memory of Marabastad?
- 1.4.2. What is the role of memory in identity?
- 1.4.3. How can memory give meaning to place and space?
- 1.4.4. How can memory act as a tool for design decisions?
- 1.4.5. What is the relationship of memory (the past) and new interventions?
- 1.4.6. How can contextual identity and meaning be incorporated in design?

1.5 DESIGN AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The theoretical methodology includes Norberg- Schulz's ideas on character or spirit of place. He argues that a true sense of belonging is born from a strong sense of orientation and of identity with one's environment (1984:21). The spirit of Marabastad lies in its history and memory. It is a place of memory in a post-liberating context.

MEMORY:

Memory is used as a reference in the existing world. It becomes the

middle ground that links past and future, old and new. *“Reference manifests itself in architecture as a resemblance to an existing or previously existing reality”* (Wolff, 2009 : 175).

IDENTITY:

Synonyms of identity of place are character, uniqueness, distinctiveness and personality. To identify with a place or objects is to recognize, categorize or discover it. According to Schulz, (in Nesbit,1996 : 423) a person needs to identify with his/her environment to perceive *“how he is in a certain place”*. Identity is the name we give to the manner we orientate ourselves or are oriented by others in the account of history. (Jeffrey,Kolick. & Robbins.1998 : 122). Identity in a post-liberating context can also be influenced by memory and new interventions.

MEANING:

Synonyms for meaning are connotation, significance and importance. Schulz refers in his theoretical premise on spirit of place to orientation. *“Man has to be able to orientate himself; he has to know where he is”* (Nesbitt.1996: 423). In Marabastad memory becomes significant through its meaning. For man to **orientate** himself in Marabastad he needs to understand its meaning. Therefore orientation can be interpreted as meaning in the context of Marabastad. Meaning can also be influenced by memory and new intervention.

The design methodology includes three concepts that enrich and inform each other in order to create a cohesive and holistic design. The reasons and thinking behind this is explained in the theoretical premise, chapter 3.

The three concepts are

- Memory
- Identity
- Meaning

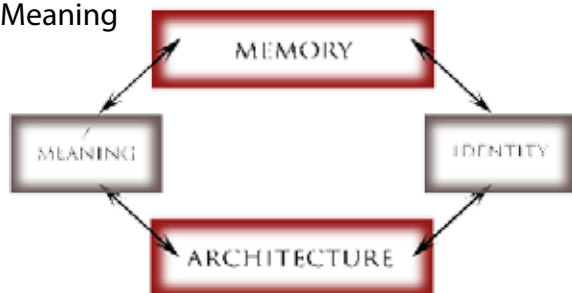


Figure 1.4. Methodology diagram showing how different concepts influence each other (Author, 2010).

Memory is the driving force that influences identity and meaning. Identity and meaning will in return influence the architectural intervention.

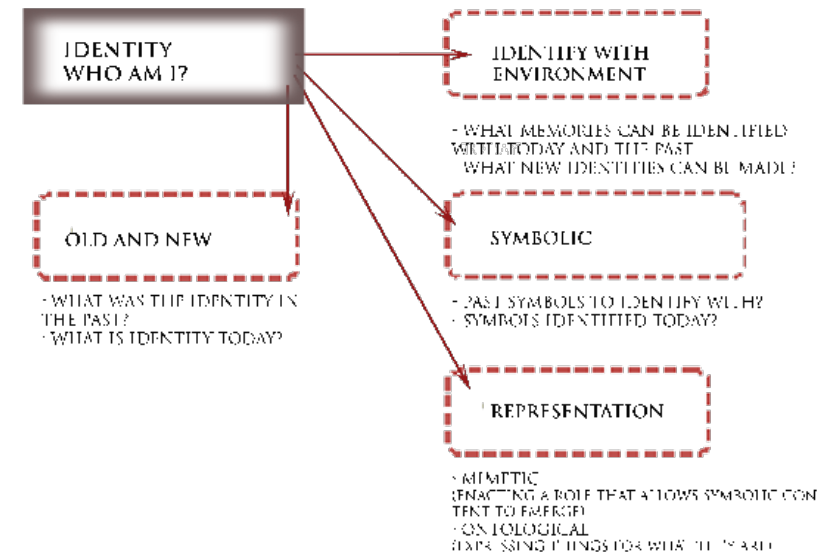


Figure 1.5. Diagram showing factors influencing identity (Author, 2010).

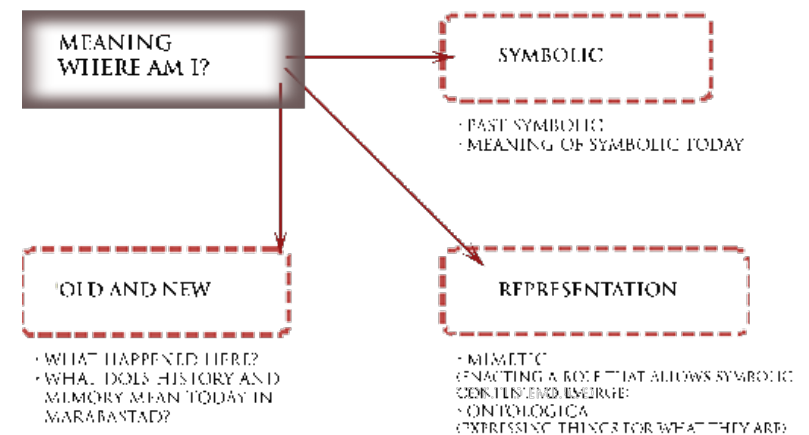


Figure 1.6. Diagram showing factors influencing meaning (Author, 2010).

1.6 RESEARCH METHODS

In order to determine what, where and how memory can influence the design process, the descriptive and historical survey methods will be used.

The **descriptive survey method** aim is to gain data from observing the research area, taking photographs and interviewing people that live or lived in the area. The data will be dynamic and will include patterns, norms, non-bias criteria and meaning on a social scale (Leedy.1985: 90-92).

The **historical survey method** includes gaining data about the historical context of the researched site. Data is obtained from the written records and visual data like photographs and published literature of the area's history. A thorough understanding of changes throughout history can be observed through this method (Leedy. 1985: 90-92).

Through these methods an understanding of the history of the area can be obtained and reveal the many layers of memory, identity and meaning that areas where relocation took place contain.

1.7 CLIENT

The proposed architectural intervention will empower people to become sustainable in employment. The **Department of Labour** could invest in a project since it can help deal with South Africa's high unemployment rate.

Job creation can help in South Africa's housing crisis. This could also motivate the investment of the **Department of Housing**.

Adult training can be viewed as higher education which can get the **Department of Education** involved.

1.8 DELIMITATIONS

- The research into memory will be bound to the Marabastad area, West of the Tshwane CBD. The boundaries are the Steenhovenspruit on the eastern side, Struben Street to the South, D.F Malan drive in the West

and Bazaar Street in the North

- As there are too many memories to consider, the memories of what left Marabastad in the urban condition it is today will be considered like racial separation, relocation and destruction of the physical environment.

1.9 ASSUMPTIONS

- The dissertation is based on and informed by the Tshwane CBD North: connectivity through activity group framework in conjunction with the Aziz Tayob Integrated framework for Marabastad and assumes their implementation.
- The proposed housing development according to the above mentioned frameworks will ensure that enough and adequate housing will be implemented.
It is assumed that :
- previously relocated people from Marabastad will join new inhabitants due to the proposed housing development.
- Marabastad will grow to a more urban scale ensuring a larger flow of people apart from the usual daily commuters travelling through.
- the departments of labour and housing will be responsible for the implementation of the architectural intervention.
- the owner of the proposed site with successful land claim will sell the land to the financial investors of the project.

1.10 SITE LOCATION

The site of study is located west of the Tshwane CBD, Gauteng, South Africa (Figure 6). The boundaries of the selected site are Grand Street (North), 8th Street (East), Bloed Street (South) and 7th Street (West) (Figure 1.7).

The reason this site was chosen is that it has a direct link with Belle Ombre station and with Bloed Street via 7th Street, which will allow

easy access for commuters but also have easy access for vehicular deliveries. It is also a site within Marabastad where there is still some existing fabric left. These existing structures contrast to the cavities left by political oppression. This site has memory on it (cavities and existing structures) that could assist the design process. Sites South of the chosen site have been completely cleared of their physical fabric and North of the chosen site are a busy commercial strip. The selected site becomes a window that glimpses into the past and becomes a foundation on which to build a better future.

1.11 AIM OF STUDY

Marabastad is a place of memory. It has endured social injustice and inequality. The aim of the study is to propose an **architectural intervention that responds to these memories in a post liberating context**. It needs to **represent the memories** of Marabastad's past in order for its inhabitants to identify with and find meaning in a place scarred by relocation. It also important for new residents to gain a sense of place, and that place is derived from the memory of Marabastad. Furthermore the goal is to connect Marabastad to the inner city of Tshwane as well as to improve connections within Marabastad that were lost during its political history.



FIGURE 1.7.
Map of South Africa highlighting the Gauteng Province and Tshwane CBD (SAMAPS,2010).



FIGURE 1.8.
Marabastad in context with CBD. Map manipulated by author (Munitoria, 2009).

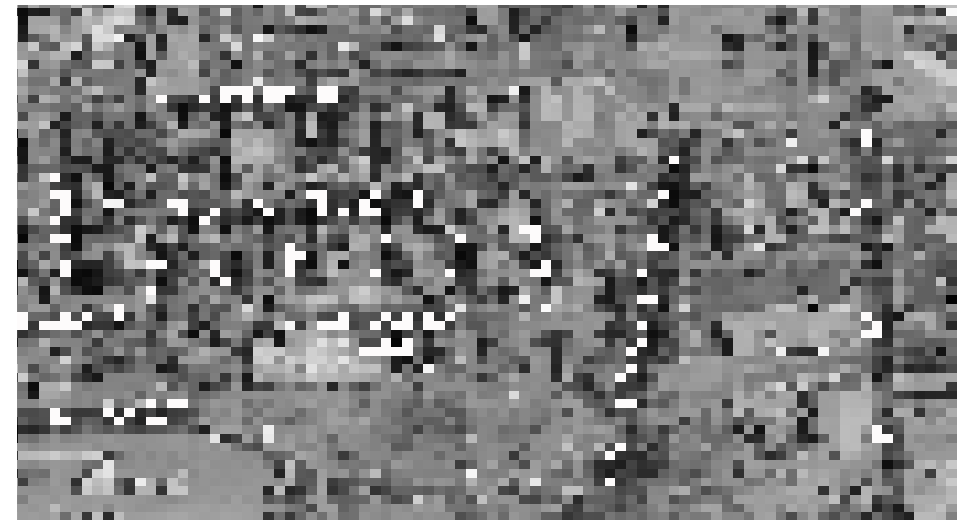


FIGURE 1.9.
Proposed site in Marabastad. Map manipulated by author (Munitoria, 2009).