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(Fig 002): The possible original location of Chief Maraba's Kraal at the Daspoort water care facility, Marabastad (Author, 2009).



progress



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The success of the whole community depends on the success of its individual members, while the success of each member depends on the success of the community as a whole (Capra, 1996:298).

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The entrance to Marabastad is located on the curve of Bloed Street. To the right is the Jazz Centre, currently under construction. The site of the proposed new *Trader's Centre for Arts* can be found further down to the left.

Marabastad is an area with possibilities and forms part of the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality's development plans. This thesis explores and proposes a facility in the area that will not only aid the upgrading process of Marabastad, but will also create jobs and promote tourism in the area.

Marabastad is a place of memory and historical significance for South Africa. Here can be found the Mariammen Temple, other important religious sites, and a lively, vibrant people. The entrance to Marabastad is on a curved road because, in the past, under the *Apartheid* government, the road was meant to be upgraded and to become part of the highway which would destroy the once vibrant residential community. There are untold stories lurking in Marabastad which deserve to be revealed as part of South Africa's history. To transform this neighbourhood into a sophisticated tourist destination would need funding and a future upgrade plan for the area.

Being poor in these areas is an expensive business. Transport costs, although heavily subsidized in the case of public transportation, bite deeply and commodity prices are generally higher than in the more wealthy areas (Dewar & Uytenbogaardt, 1991:75).

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The Compact Neighbourhood

The objective of this document is to create a symbiosis of events and briefs and incorporate them into one building, thereby creating a mixed-use platform and generating a "compact" built environment. The result would be an architecturally compact form.

The author believes that "compacting" a building with different uses is in accordance with the beliefs of Charles Jencks, Rod Burgess and others who believe in the Compact City (see Theoretical Discourse, Chapter 5).

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The theme of this dissertation is to transform the Marabastad community through *Architecture*. The thesis explores the possibility that art and architecture are inextricably linked and that both form part of human culture, especially African culture. The facility explores ways of transforming an area rich in history into a sustainable community for the future. Community integration is important and if a community works together a “compact neighbourhood” can be promoted. The thesis document acknowledges the current living conditions in Marabastad and proposes a facility that will help create opportunities and jobs in the area. Marabastad has many unskilled people and equipping them with skills such as carpentry, metalwork, pottery or art would enable them to have a better life, especially if a platform to sell their products is included in the proposal.

The Tshwane municipality has an obligation to develop Marabastad and this study will suggest ways of using an architectural solution to begin the rebuilding process of a poor community. The proposed facility will help to create a sense of progress and will help to generate skills development in the area. The architecture should also enrich the community and provide facilities that the community can access and benefit from.

art, n.: **1** creative activity, esp. painting and drawing resulting in visual representation. **2** a (in pl.; prec. by the) the various branches of creative activity concerned with the production of imaginative designs, sounds, or ideas (*Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, 1995).

architecture, n.: **1** the art or science of designing and constructing buildings. **2** the style of a building as regards to design and construction (*Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, 1995).

A community grows once the lives of its individual members are improved. This is achieved through education and skills. Education and skills development are among the 6 selected areas of intervention as identified under the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative of South Africa (ASGI-SA). This initiative was launched in 2005 to address the concerns of inequitable national growth. The facility should provide educational facilities where the user can receive skills training in order to obtain a descent education.

The direction of change should be towards creating a compact, intensive and convenient city which operates as an integrated system, which works well at the level of the lowest common denominator (people on foot), which makes maximum use of limited resources, and which is respectful of its beautiful natural setting (Dewar & Uytenbogaardt, 1991:79).



This document alerts policy-makers at the highest level to the reality that there can be no growth without skills and education. To stimulate the future economy of the area, arts and crafts markets targeting tourists can provide a platform for citizens to sell their products. There needs to be a recognisable community structure that will enable the survival of the project, as well as planning that will be sustainable long after the project's inception. This dissertation explores the possibility of building an arts and crafts facility that can take a person off the street, teach that person a skill such as carpentry, and then provide a platform for that person to make a living. It will also provide a platform for sourcing local artistic talent. This process will take time but the results would benefit the entire community. The proposal would also promote tourism in the area and a tourist route led by a community tour guide or *'Marabi Tour'* is proposed. This tour of the area can be done either on foot, by bicycle, or by public or vehicular transportation.

The Tshwane Integrated Development Plan (TIDP) 2006–2011, Third Revision March 2009 Section 2.3.2, states:

2.3.2 ACCELERATED AND SHARED GROWTH INITIATIVE- SOUTH AFRICA (ASGISA)

ASGISA focuses on growing the economy and creating jobs, and states that growth should be government led. National growth since 2004 has averaged 4%; however, the second economy has been excluded from growth except through remittances and social grants. ASGISA identifies six key levers for economic growth, namely:

- Macro-eco intervention;
- Infrastructure development;
- Skills development;
- Strengthening of public institutions;
- Sectorial investments; and
- Interventions in the second economy.

Strategies for growth and development include investment in transport infrastructure, support of SMME's (small, medium and micro enterprises) and labour intensive projects, prioritising social and economic infrastructure, and building partnerships.

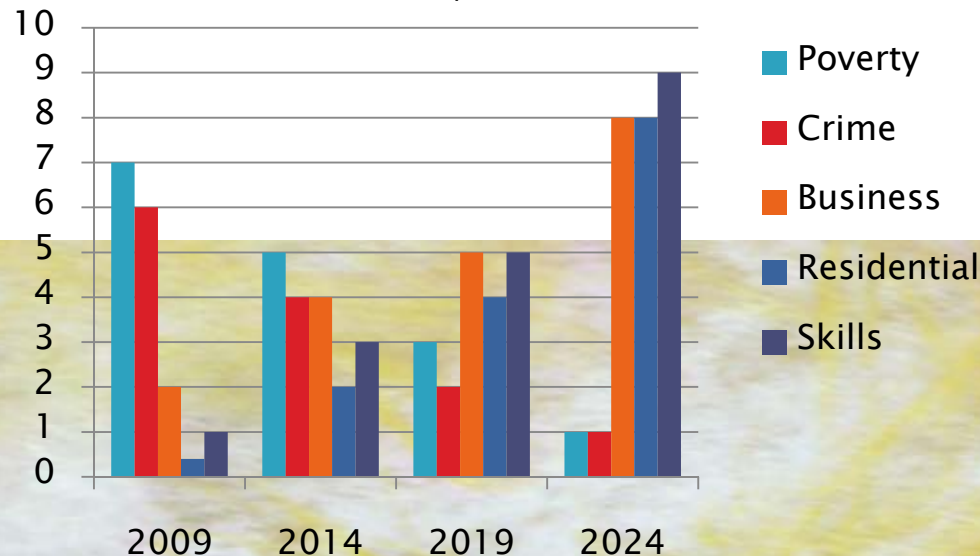
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The Problems

When studying the South African city of Tshwane (formerly Pretoria) it is easy to see that one part of it is isolated from the rest of the city, and that part is Marabastad. Marabastad is a place of great historical and cultural significance as well as a place of depression and poverty. The area has problems with squatters, illegal immigrants and high numbers of hawkers. Marabastad is a poor community comprised of a major transportation hub as well as a business platform with mixed uses fragmented throughout the existing fabric. It is an area that needs funding to generate growth. Through observations of the area it was noted that Marabastad lacks educational facilities and a skilled workforce, and that these factors have a negative impact on the growth patterns of the community. The proposed new *Trader's Centre for Arts* will cater for education and skills development, including business skills development.

(Fig 003): Chart showing the author's future plans in terms of reducing poverty and crime and increasing business, residential and skills for the area (Author, 2009).



Independent Research

At the beginning of the year the author and fellow students visited Laura Lourens at the Tshwane municipality to find out what the municipality plans for the future Marabastad.

During the interview it was envisaged that government is keen to inject capital into the area and thus improve the built environment.

During the course of the year construction of a new Jazz Centre and park along Bloed Street began. The expiration of the PUTCO bus lease means that land would become available for the proposed development.

The author considered this land (also along Bloed Street) to be an important part of reconstructing Marabastad and improving the overall dynamics of the area.

The chosen site is located on 5th Street which is proposed by the 2009 Marabastad Group work team to become a pedestrian spine. It focuses on the pedestrian as the highest common denominator (HCD) in the area (Dewar & Uytendogaardt, 1991).

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The process of land restitution resulted in individuals having once again access to land. However, Marabastad is regarded with scepticism as people are unsure whether to return. Some are afraid to develop their land due to problems with crime. According to interviews held with some inhabitants of Marabastad, a perception exists that the municipality is unsupportive. On visiting the area with a fellow student from the 2009 Marabastad Group work team the author had a discussion with one of the shopkeepers in the area. He said that Marabastad has no future and that he does not believe new developments will work here. Such a response means that this member of the community does not believe in his neighbourhood. However, the municipality is hoping to entice people back into the area with new developments. This transition period is crucial to the future of Marabastad and new community developments would stimulate and help transform the community. Developments aimed at improving the lives of the community members, such as the proposed *Trader's Centre for Arts*, will reinforce the relationship between the community and the municipality.

Marabastad has many traders and informal vendors who need places to sell their produce. The proposed new development will cater for the existing local community and provide a means of support. It will also bring people of different income levels together. The Apartheid government tried to get rid of these black traders on the streets of the city instead of accommodating them. The reality is that informal trade has become a way of life for many people in Marabastad. During the 1990's things changed drastically and there was rapid growth in this sector. Street traders poured into the inner city and continue to do so. In Johannesburg the number of traders has grown from 300 licensed traders to 10 000 (Hansen, 2008). In Marabastad, the over-abundance of street traders need to be incorporated into the public realm.

Assumptions

- Funding for the proposal will form part of the municipality's initiatives to reconstruct and upgrade Marabastad.
- It is assumed that an inclusionary residential development is already being planned by government and would take place to the south of Struben Street. It represents one of the first phases of bringing people back to the area and will accommodate Marabastad's future residential community.
- Marabastad will maintain informal trading as a business platform.



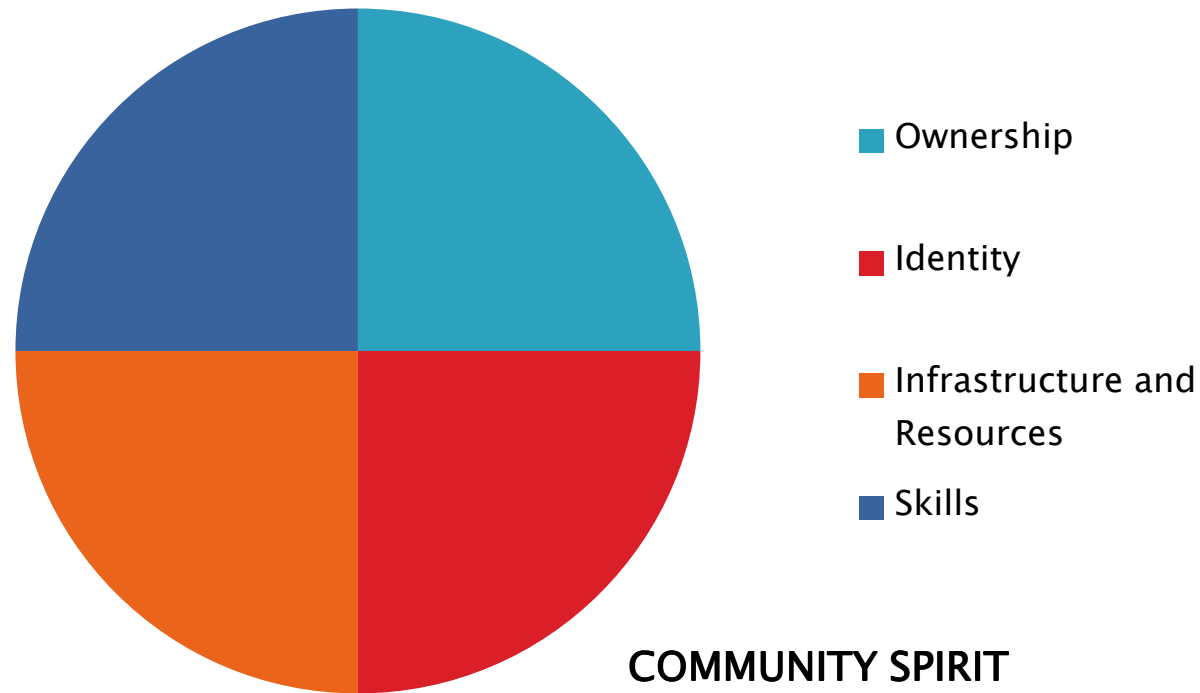
Strategy

Street traders need a sense of *identity* and *ownership*; the thesis project aims to encourage this by providing facilities for their use. Education and skills development will also be accommodated and to further sustain the proposal, a niche in the tourism market will be sought and rentable units will provide income.

identity, n. (pl. -ies) 1 individuality, personality (felt he had lost his identity). (The *Concise Oxford English dictionary* definition, 1995)

ownership, n. 1 a person who owns something. (*Concise Oxford English Dictionary*, 1995).

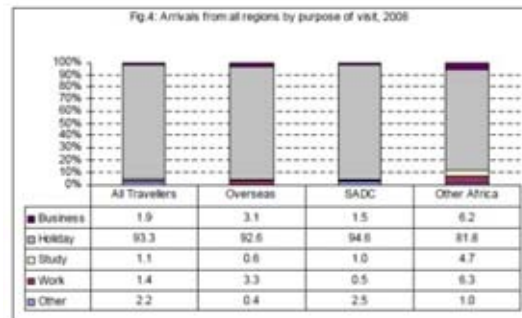
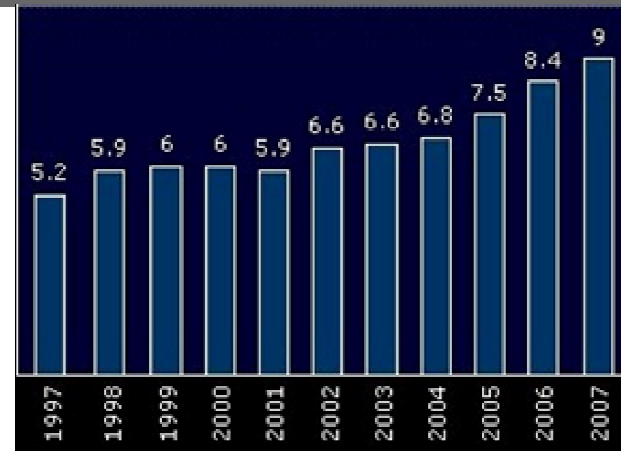
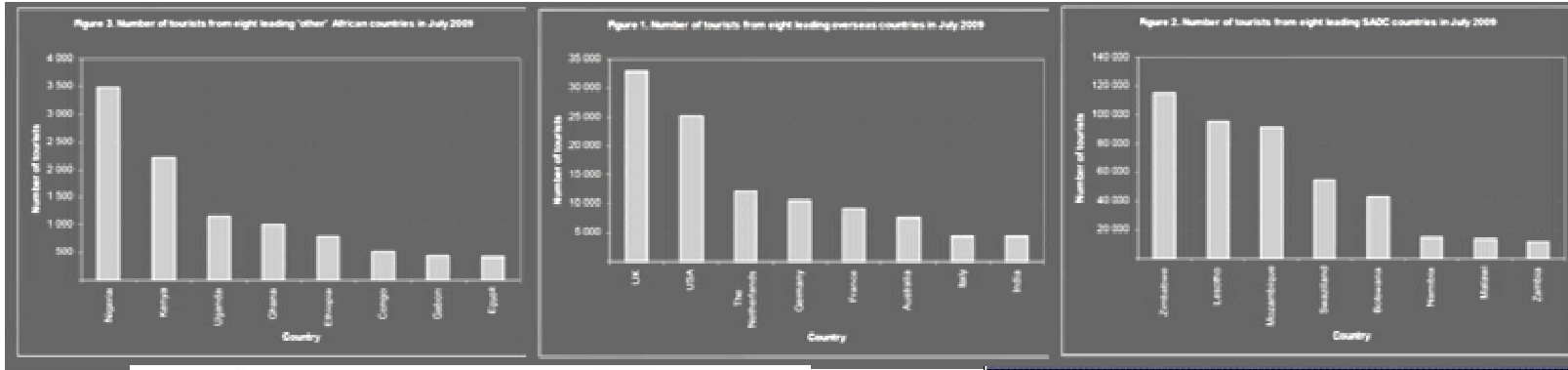
(Fig 004): Pie chart showing the author's intention of creating a sense of ownership and identity as well as improving the local infrastructure and creating more resources that the community can access. This will help in creating more skills in the area and improve the 'Community Spirit'. A community needs a balance of all these elements (Author, 2009).



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Tourism Statistics

Despite the current 2009 recession the tourism statistics of South Africa still remain strong. Therefore government investing in the tourism sector would be beneficial to the entire economy.



(Fig 005-010): Statistics of the South African Tourism industry show a rise in this sector despite the world economic recession. (Statistics South Africa, 2009).





(Fig 011 and 012): Photographs showing the influences from the past: Southern Ndebele styled walls and handicrafts in Central Marabastad. The traditions and heritage of the area are not lost as Ndebele styled beads and bags are being sold here. This heritage dates from the times of Chief Maraba, and is associated with the culture and memory of the neighbourhood (Author, 2009).

