

Chapter 8: Conclusion

8.1 Conclusion

It is very difficult to measure the intangible quality described as 'identity', yet when a group of humans share this quality it is clearly portrayed through their actions and interactions. Community identity can be described as a sense of belonging and companionship where a group of people share a common interest or belief. It is argued that this identity is strengthened through relationships between individuals and that these relationships can be instigated and strengthened through events. The landscape can be the channel through which these events are brought about. Therefore, landscape architecture can assist in the formulation of relationships within a community.

South Africa has experienced a painful history and none can substantiate this more than those people who were forcefully removed from their homes during the Apartheid regime. Communities that once lived in cohesion were completely dislocated. Through land claims and redevelopment schemes it is now possible for these marginalised and dislocated communities to return to the areas they once lived in. The research question of this dissertation asked how a landscape intervention could invigorate a sense of community identity for these neighbourhoods.

It was argued that through acknowledging the past the design of public space has the opportunity to bring people together and in this way encourage community identity. Memory is important in giving a place meaning. Landscape architecture can create beautiful spaces, but often lacks certain social and symbolic elements that make a place meaningful. As a designer, it is important to realize that development brings change which can easily demolish layers of meaning embedded in the landscape. It is also important to realize that certain layers are desired to be forgotten. The aim of this research dissertation was to explore how the past, and therefore memory and meaning attached to the place, could inspire the process of the design for public space.

There are many methods of generating form, however, memory is one inspiration that ensures that the past is not forgotten. In this way when a group of people share the knowledge of the past relating to a specific site, this community will have a common connection. Obviously the physical space should also encourage and relate to existing social activities and not

only be laden with meaning. Landscape architects should aim to improve people's lives through the spaces that they create. It is hoped that the proposed project would inspire landscape architects to develop projects that improve the lives of residents by giving them public space that improves the area physically, socially and symbolically.

After researching the area it was evident that Marabastad is facing a number of serious social, economic and physical problems. These could be associated with a lack of community identity as well as a lack of a permanent community residing in the area. Crime is one of the biggest problems the area is facing. The author experienced this first hand when she was mugged in Marabastad. This incident created a feeling of negativity and inhibited the amount of time spent on site. However, this revealed an important lesson on how to approach entering an unknown community: the advisable method is to approach a community leader and ask them to assist you in walking around the area. These influential people will also have vital information that they can transfer and this assists you in learning more about the area. Adding to this, the culprits can see that you are associated with somebody from the area and are therefore less likely to take advantage of you.

The author would ideally have liked to hold memory workshops where people who previously lived in Marabastad could share the memories that they hold of the area. Mr. John Clarke is considering furthering the research he has already conducted in the area by asking people to contribute their family photographs and family histories. Hassen Mohideen has started the process of collecting these photographs. In our interview with him he pointed out that many people who have a lot of stories to tell about Marabastad have already died. This shows how important it is that these memories be captured before they are lost.

Marabastad is a place with a rich history and a uniquely textured and layered landscape. The author sincerely hopes that its memories will not be lost through development and with time, but that people will share their connections to the place and that this sharing will glue the community of Marabastad together as well as make it a desired destination for people, nationally and internationally.

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Laura Lourens, City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, in charge of Marabastad Project, 24 March 2009.

Hassen Mohideen, previous resident of Marabastad and owner of Mohideens Restaurant in Boom Street, 14 July 2009.

Lawi Mukadam, previous resident of Marabastad and owner of Lawis Take Aways, 14 July 2009.

Sello, car radio repairman has worked in Marabastad for 8 years, 16 May 2009.

Shanu Sooboo, previous inhabitant of Marabastad and owner of Impala Printers, 16 May 2009.

Thandi, business owner in Marabastad who has worked in Marabastad for 40 years, 16 May 2009.

8.3 Appendix A

Calculating the Environmental Net Benefit

The *Western Washington and Oregon Community Tree Guide* by McPherson (et al 2002) provides an estimation of the financial net benefit that trees of various sizes provide. We can derive an estimation of the net benefits of the trees proposed for the design in Marabastad through the information provided. However, it is obvious that the climatic considerations, the air pollution quantities and the tree species will be different in Western Washington and Oregon compared to Marabastad and therefore the results are only a rough approximation. Also note that an exchange rate of R8 to \$1 is assumed for the calculation.

The table below shows the estimated annual benefit for the medium and large trees proposed for the landscape design in Marabastad 20 years after planting.

Benefit Category	Medium size trees (approx 12m x 9m)			Large size trees (approx 14m x 12m)			Total benefit
	Estimated annual benefit	Number of trees	Total benefit	Estimated annual benefit	Number of trees	Total benefit	
Carbon Dioxide	R 9.12	145	R 1,322.40	R 31.60	30	R 948.00	R 2,270.40
Ozone	R 4.08	145	R 591.60	R 6.72	30	R 201.60	R 793.20
NO ₂	R 2.72	145	R 394.40	R 4.64	30	R 139.20	R 533.60
SO ₂	R 0.56	145	R 81.20	R 0.80	30	R 24.00	R 105.20
PM ₁₀	R 5.28	145	R 765.60	R 8.72	30	R 261.60	R 1,027.20
VOCs	R 0.50	145	R 73.08	R 0.24	30	R 7.20	R 80.28
BVOCs	-R 0.65	145	-R 93.96	R -1.79	30	-R 53.76	-R 147.72
Rainfall Interception	R 64.08	145	R 9,291.60	R 99.76	30	R 2,992.80	R 12,284.40
Total	R 85.70	145	R 12,425.92	R 150.69	30	R 4,520.64	R 16,946.56

