CONCLUSION

"This is Africa giving form to the informal" hopes to be a step towards addressing the needs of public that are usually marginalised and neglected. Streets are the most frequently used public spaces; there needs to be a new way of viewing them as public spaces that host a variety of activities and a wide range of users. In doing so the needs of both individuals and collectives needs to be analysed, accommodated and given the opportunity to co-exist in a democratic street.

Informal street traders are a group that uses this space most frequently but is seldom considered during planning. As many South Africans struggle to find jobs, informal trading seems to be the most efficient way to cater to the needs of the urban poor. Thus informal street trading is likely to be part of the South African socioeconomic scene for many years to come and therefore needs to be viewed as more than a temporary and negative phenomenon.

A study of local contexts has revealed that although markets often occur spontaneously, management and design intervention can reduce conflict and clashes within the formal realm as well as between the informal and formal realms. Further, the form and organisation of markets usually favours relatively large traders at the expense of smaller more fragile ones. All this confirms that there is a need to think about market systems and management in a way that acknowledges the diversity of informal traders.

Interior architects are well suited to creating a democratic street, because in order for public spaces to function well, the design of small details must be taken into account. Public spaces are spaces for people, where upon entering users take part in a game of territorial claims. The details and components and objects of use in the market environment, in relation to the space and user, rather than the volumes determine the quality and usability of this public space. 'Giving form to the informal' hopes to have been a step towards accommodating street traders in the streetscape in a way that gives them maximum possible room to manoeuvre within the system whilst embodying the qualities of a democratic street.



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