PREAMBLE

Pre-occupied with challenging our inherent bias towards Pretoria; the urban framework positions itself within portions of the city swayed by; autonomous development, government migration toward these areas and the steady increase in poorly consolidated public and commercial space — more specifically, the Ceremonial Boulevard proposed for the City of Tshwane’s Vission 2055.

These devices have left Pretoria’s urban core with a strange accumulation of undesired and residual space, and incomplete urban narratives. By challenging preconception, the group compiled a matrix of interstices, speculating on their socio-political/spatial potential whilst reinterpreting the city as a catalogue of beautifully incoherent architectural assemblages.

By indexing the surplus, the historical, and anticipated urban condition the group were able to imagine hypothetical alternative futures as responses to the CoT’s Vision 2055. Individual designs were explored through principles of; urban flotsam, making and remaking the city through drawing, blackboard sessions, reverse engineering and digital modeling — the latter used to explore new structural vocabularies and their associated textural details and environmental potential.

Proposals occupy the realm between prototypical government precincts and alternative and reimagined infrastructural typologies, reinvigorating the fringe and void conditions produced by existing and proposed master plans and explicating intricate cross-utilisations of public and civic facilities, and service infrastructure. Each design, mindful of inner-city based architecture serves to represent a new spatial anthology poised to lead Pretoria’s urban context down a far more sustainable and resilient path.

ABSTRACT

An objective investigation, spurred on by challenging our inherent prejudice of Pretoria’s contemporary urban climate, led to the discovery of a series of urban devices responsible for the creation of a network of interstitial spaces and insurgent practices. With enormous potentials, they have the capacity to reveal and explore re-envisioned future urban conditions.

Thus, the urban framework intends to unveil these concealed networks and bring to light the socio-cultural/economic/political reality of the city whilst fostering alternative methods for future urban renewal and development.
LOCATING THE INVESTIGATION

The urban framework occupies Helen Joseph Street, Pretoria. Helen Joseph Street, which runs east-west, has been designated for the design of the Ceremonial Boulevard proposed for the City of Tshwane’s Vision 2055. Along this corridor lies an important network of interstitial spaces and insurgent activities. Imperative to the understanding of Pretoria’s contemporary urban climate, these networks highlight Pretoria’s active street edge condition and physical thresholds between public (insurgent/collective/multifunctional) and private (bureaucratic/singular/mono-functional).

PROBLEM STATEMENT

“[…] acknowledging the fact that public interests are not the same for everyone […] The City of Tshwane, is however poised to its place among the world’s successful, modern and sustainable economies.”

- Lindiwe Kwele [Dajo Aassociates & Myeza, 2015:9]

As a guide to the urban framework, the investigation will provide a thorough critique of the CoT’s Vision 2055. Albeit of noble intentions, Pretoria’s present urban condition – fraught with exclusivity and division – suggests that the implementation of such imposing urban strategies, prior to a proper and thorough investigation of the urban tissue and fine grain, could further augment Dewar’s [2005, 245] three spatial patterns characterising South African cities, which are; sprawl, segregation and separation. Furthermore, should all government buildings migrate towards the city centre, as proposed by in both the 2011 ARUP vision and CoT Vision 2055, public space and pedestrian access within the inner-city will be under threat.

FRAMEWORK INTENTIONS

In keeping with a pre-occupation of challenging our inherent bias, the proposed contextual framework intends to strengthen the urban fabric by reacting to the proposed CoT Vision 2055 which intends to compact and densify the urban condition [Dajo & Myeza, 2014:197]. Thus, the framework aims to strengthen and consolidate a series of insurgent spatial and social networks in the creation of alternative urban strategies geared towards resilience and urban renewal.
INTERSTITIAL

GROUP INVESTIGATION
URBAN STRATEGY

Fig. 3.1
Interstitial
Challenging Preconceptions

Fig. 3.2
Challenging Preconceptions
Fig. 3.4
Research Methodology
Fig. 3.5
Tshwane Vision 2055

B2 TSHWANE VISION 2055 / RE KGABISA INNER CITY REGENERATION

LEGEND

- A. NORTHERN GATEWAY PARK
- B. WESTERN GATEWAY PARK
- C. CALEDONIAN LANDMARK PARK
- D. UNION BUILDINGS PARK
- E. SALVOKOP PARK

- GOVERNMENTAL PRECINCTS
  1. SYNAGOGUE SQUARE
  2. CHURCH SQUARE
  3. MUSEUM SQUARE
  4. STATION SQUARE
  5. FREEDOM PARK SQUARE
  6. KRUGER HOUSE SQUARE
  7. LILIAN NGOYI CIVIC SQUARE
B2 GOVERNMENT MAPPING IN RELATION TO CIVIC SPACES

LEGEND

1889
CITY DEVELOPMENT AROUND CHURCH SQUARE

1913 / 1913
POLITICAL MANIFESTATION / UNION BUILDINGS

1970
MUNITORIA AND PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

1
GOVERNMENTAL BOULEVARD

2
CEREMONIAL ROUTE

TSHWANE VISION 2055 PROPOSED SALVOKOP GOVERNMENTAL PRECINCT

GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS PRECINCT WITH APIES PROMENADE

Fig. 3.6
Government mapping

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GOVERNMENT MAPPING IN RELATION TO CIVIC SPACES

LEGEND

EXISTING

PROPOSAL

FUTURE PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN ROUTES

FUTURE PROPOSED PARKING LOTS

FUTURE PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN NODES

Fig. 3.7
Public and pedestrian movement

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Marginal Spaces

Fig. 3.8
Marginal Spaces
Marginal Spaces

Fig. 3.9
Marginal Spaces
Fig. 3.10
Insurgent Activity
Fig. 3.11
Insurgent Activity Study

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FIGURE REFERENCES

Fig. 3.1 Interstitial (Author, 2015)
Fig. 3.2 Challenging Preconceptions (Author, 2015)
Fig. 3.3 Urban Vision Strategy (Author, 2015)
Fig. 3.4 Research Methodology (Author, 2015)
Fig. 3.5 Tshwane Vision 2055 (Author, 2015)
Fig. 3.6 Government mapping (Author, 2015)
Fig. 3.7 Public and pedestrian movement (Author, 2015)
Fig. 3.8 Marginal Spaces (Author, 2015)
Fig. 3.9 Marginal Spaces (Author, 2015)
Fig. 3.10 Insurgent Activity (Author, 2015)
Fig. 3.11 Insurgent Activity Study (Author, 2015)