

Marabastad

YOUR PAST, MY PRESENT, OUR FUTURE

Dealing with the identity of the individual, the collective and place.

The layering of self and how it manifest in the built environment

Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of
Magister of Architecture, MArch(Prof)
The Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information
Technology. University of Pretoria. South Africa

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Course co-ordinator: Dr Arthur Barker

Heritage and Cultural Landscapes

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University of Pretoria

October 2016

Dedication

*for my parents
& for theirs*

Acknowledgments

Thank You

Thank you to my parents, Harish & Surekha, for always letting me wonder & wander.

My siblings, Manish, Arsha and Deepa, for moulding me.

My grandparents for having the answers to my hows, whys & whats of life.

Acknowledgments

Firstly I would like to thank my study leader, Dr Emmanuel Nkambule. You truly have set a bench mark when it comes to leading and guiding your students. Thank you for believing in me and allowing my ideas to manifest into this dissertation. You have taught me so much this year.

To Nico Botes, thank you for giving me a chance all those years back, for opening my eyes to this world of architecture and all its possibilities.

Rudolf van Rensburg, thank you for instilling in me the ability to question and interrogate my *everyday*. Thank you for making time when you had none yourself. Thank you for all the guidance and support over the past 6 years.

To Mathebe Aphane, thank you for providing us a space we called home and studio during the last few weeks of this year. There was no need to take me on as an extra student but you did so anyway and for that I am truly thankful.

To A.D Smit and Ockert Pienaar, thank you for making time to help me in those design and technical sessions. Thank you for allowing me to do the last minute prints.

To all those that I have gotten to know this year in studio. It was a blast procrastinating with all of you.

David Hough and Nicola Patrick, thank you for making group work a conglomerate of fun.

To Ali, masking tape, polystyrene, Drake and The Weeknd. What else boss ? Thank you.

To Kristen Steynberg, Natasha Laurent & Lindy van den Berg, thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping me over the finish line.

And finally, Thank you Tialise Taljaard. I am deeply indebted to you for all the help you have given me this year. You literally are a true friend and the best human a human can be! Thank you.

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Declaration

In accordance with Regulation 4(e) of the General Regulations (G.57) for dissertations and these, I declare that this dissertation, which I hereby submit for the degree Master of Architecture (Professional) at the University of Pretoria, is my own work and has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other tertiary institution.

I further state that no part of my thesis has already been, or is currently being, submitted for any such degree, diploma or other qualification.

I further declare that this thesis is substantially my own work. Where reference is made to the works of others, the extent to which that work has been used is indicated and fully acknowledged in the text and list of references.

Sandeep Harish Khandoo Nicha
October 2016

Manifesto

*An architecture of the everyday may be
generic and anonymous.*

*An architecture of the everyday may be
banal or common.*

*An architecture of the everyday may therefore be **quite ordinary.***

*An architecture of the everyday may be
crude.*

*An architecture of the everyday may be
sensual.*

*An architecture of the everyday may also be
vulgar and visceral.*

*An architecture of the everyday acknowledges **domestic life.***

*An architecture of the everyday may take on
collective and symbolic meaning but it is
not necessarily monumental.*

*An architecture of the everyday responds to
program and is functional.*

*An architecture of the everyday may change as quickly as fashion,
but it is
not always fashionable.*

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE EVERYDAY IS BUILT.

(Berke, 1997: 222-224)

Abstract

The aim of this dissertation is not only to question, but to start a dialogue and continue the existing conversations about architecture and identity. The initial questions posed in this dissertation are:

Who am I ?
Who are WE ?
•
Where are WE going ?

Looking at the individual, the collective and place, one starts to uncover what defines humanity at its core. It is not the spectacle or fleeting moments of grandeur. It is the ordinary, the banal, and the mundane actions one performs on a daily basis that starts to define identity. This is the *everydayness* that defines one's existence. The rituals that one performs starts to define the way one uses space, but the space that is constructed, inversely defines the rituals performed. Humanity is in a constant exchange between oneself and the space one occupies.

This dissertation investigates the ideas of the *everyday* and how it can manifest in architecture by building onto the existing rather than imposing preconceived notions of identity and space. The project investigates the concept of the *everyday* and its manifestation in the existing structures found in Marabastad. Marabastad is located on the north-west quadrant of Pretoria, and its rich and diverse heritage plays a vital role in shaping the way users occupy space within its boundaries.

Our personal identities are not objects, they are not things; our identities are dynamic processes that build upon the core of an inherited cultural tradition. The sense of self can only arise from the context of culture and its historicity.
(Pallasmaa, 2014.19)

Corner 5th & Grand Street
Marabastad, Pretoria
[25° 44' 27,705" S]
[28° 10' 32,444" E]

M(Prof) Architecture

Identity / Everyday / Everydayness

Keywords

Marabastad, Identity, *Everyday*
& *Everydayness*, Occupation of
space, Knitwear Factory, Thresholds,
Informal & formal.

Client

Laduma Ngxokolo

Programme

Knitwear factory, Retail space, Design
space, Edge conditions

Sandeep Harish Khandoo Nicha
2016

HCL : Heritage and Cultural
Landscapes
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01

INTRODUCTION

IDENTITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL
IDENTITY OF THE COLLECTIVE
IDENTITY OF PLACE
AIM

Conclusion

The aim of this dissertation was to investigate identity of the *individual*, the *collective* and of *place*. With this in mind, the concept of identity morphed into the understanding of the *everyday*. The everyday presented itself through the ordinary, mundane and the normal tasks that one would perform on a day to day ritual. The selected study area revealed its identity through the retail occupation of space and how users occupy the colonnade, the building edges, any open space. The way retail and trade starts to manifest in vacant space, the opportunities that arise from leasable space starts to inform the way that space will be and is appropriated. This occupation of space is the trade identity of Marabastad which becomes its everyday identity.

The programme of garment manufacturing spoke to the retail identity found in Marabastad, the craft of making addressed the ideas of craftsmen weaving their identity into the garments and the retail aspect looked at how informal and formal trade manifest in space.

This was but one take on identity of place and space the understanding of the everyday was examined through the lens of retail.

Identity and architecture are topics for continuous iteration and dialogue, the aim of the project was to add the next layer to the discourse. The dissertation has come to a conclusion but the dialogue and the conversations about identity of space in a South African context have started before this dissertation and will continue long afterwards. That was and remains the goal for this investigation, to understand and add to the existing layers of *who* we are as the *individual*, the *collective* and how *we* occupy space.

Closing statement for the dissertation.

*i am not an **architect**
that is the problem
i am not an **architect***

*for me it is the **search**
only a **search***

***search** for the unknown that i have not known
neither do i know how it will manifest*

*that is actually the essence of my work
it **begins** somewhere
ends somewhere*

*and in that **process***

***I** grow
↻
the **work** grows*

We Grow Together

B.V Doshi

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