



SEEKING SPATIAL JUSTICE

Empowering the everyday through an architecture
that integrates the spatial and social realms

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DEDICATION



وَمَا تَوْفِيقِي إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ

My success is only by Allah



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

With special thanks to:

My **family** (all of you) for your unconditional love and support. I can never repay you for putting up with me during these last 6 years.

Mu'aaz for helping me organise the chaos.

Yasmeen for your words of wisdom and the late night visits.

Johan Swart for your guidance, patience and belief in my ability.

ABSTRACT

This dissertation explores Johannesburg's inner-city precinct of Joubert Park. It intends to bridge the gap between the everyday community of the park and the extraordinary heritage and memory of the site. Through a grassroots investigation of the existing community, the project looks to empower the everyday person and create a platform for their development, specifically focusing on economy and education in the city. The project makes use of the theories of spatial justice as a tool to analyse and understand the community's relationship with the space they occupy and the social environment in which they exist.

Architecturally, the project seeks to use this socio-spatial understanding as a guideline of how to create a spatially just and empowering environment in the inner city. Additionally, looking to establish a model for the development of the existing inner-city fabric that begins to foster a relationship between building, street edge, and pedestrian. Exploring not just the physical upliftment of the fabric, but the well-being and of the existing community and their needs, goals and aspirations.

Die verhandeling ondersoek die Johannesburg se middestad buurt van Joubertpark. Dit beoog om die gaping tussen die alledaagse gemeenskap van die Park en die buitengewone erfenis en geheue van die omgewing te oorbrug. Deur 'n voetsoolvlak ondersoek van die bestaande gemeenskap, is die projek se doel die bematiging van die alledaagse persoon en behels 'n platform vir die ontwikkeling daarvan, daar is n spesifieke fokus op die ekonomie en onderwys in die stad. Die projek maak gebruik van die teorieë van ruimtelike geregtigheid as 'n instrument om te ontleed en te verstaan wat die gemeenskap se verhouding is met die ruimte wat hulle bewoon en die sosiale omgewing waarin hulle bestaan.

Argitektonies, beoog die projek om hierdie sosio-ruimtelike begrip te gebruik as 'n riglyn om 'n ruimtelik net en bemagtigende omgewing te skep in die middestad. Daar word ook beoog om 'n model te vestig vir die ontwikkeling van die bestaande middestad konsepte om 'n verhouding te bevorder tussen die geboue, straat rand, en voetgangers. Onderzoek van nie net die fisiese opheffing van die struktuur nie, maar die welsyn van die bestaande gemeenskap en hul behoeftes, doelwitte en aspirasies.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title

Seeking Spatial Justice: Empowering the everyday through an architecture that integrates the spatial and social realms

Program

Small business development centre

Address

29 King George St, Joubert Park, Johannesburg

GPS Coordinates

-26.197173, 28.045483

Research Field

Human settlement and urbanism

Client

Community of Joubert Park

Theoretical Premise

Using the theory of Spatial Justice as an analytical tool to understand the relationship between the social and spatial realms. Thereafter reacting to these findings to create an architecture that is spatially just.

Keywords

Joubert Park. Spatial Justice, Economy, Education, Adaptive Reuse

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*“It can be said that, speaking figuratively,
Johannesburg resembles a prismatic,
kaleidoscopic, ever-changing metropolis that
contains many cities in one.*

*It is at once a city of monumental
architecture and abysmal slums; a city of
luxurious playgrounds for the rich and empty
wastelands for the poor; a city of utopian fantasy and dysto-
pian anxiety; and a city of collective memory and intentional
forgetting.”*

MARTIN J. MURRAY

2008:VII