

# 03

## research methodology

[a]

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS



#### research question

What is the impact of the occupation and nature of the appropriation by the homeless on neglected buildings in the City of Tshwane?

#### dissertation design question

How does the **informal appropriation** homeless by occupants of the Melgisedek site affect the identity of place, and how can this guide the a (re)activation, (re)integration and response to the site and its **heritage** buildings?

[b]

### METHODOLOGY

The research is predominantly qualitative, in which primary, secondary and empirical data and observations are interpreted within the interpretivist paradigm. This paradigm calls for a consideration of various aspects, places and people to understand a phenomenon within its given context and to find meaning (Henning, 2004: 20).

#### methodology & data collection

The case study methodology will include the study of:

1. A set of related cases: A number of scenarios of occupied derelict buildings are studied briefly to gain a cross-sectional and contextual overview of the phenomenon of informal appropriation of neglected buildings in Pretoria.

2. A single case: A site from the set of case studies is selected for in-depth analysis. The case is studied within its specific context as an example of the aforementioned phenomenon.

(See Figure 3.1. for data collection and analysis methods.)

#### research design

The research is conducted as an exploratory case study (Martin and Hannington 2012: 28). A case study focuses on gaining "detailed, intensive knowledge about a single instance or a set of related instances" (2012: 28). It is useful to understand "existing phenomena for comparison, information, or inspiration", as well as to test interventions, changes in use, etc. (2012: 28). Cases are studied within their natural context by considering the physical and social settings (among others) (Johannssen 2003: 2, Martin and Hannington 2012: 28). Data collection typically involves "multiple, triangulated methods" (Martin and Hannington 2012: 28) to understand the case from various angles (Johannssen 2003: 3).

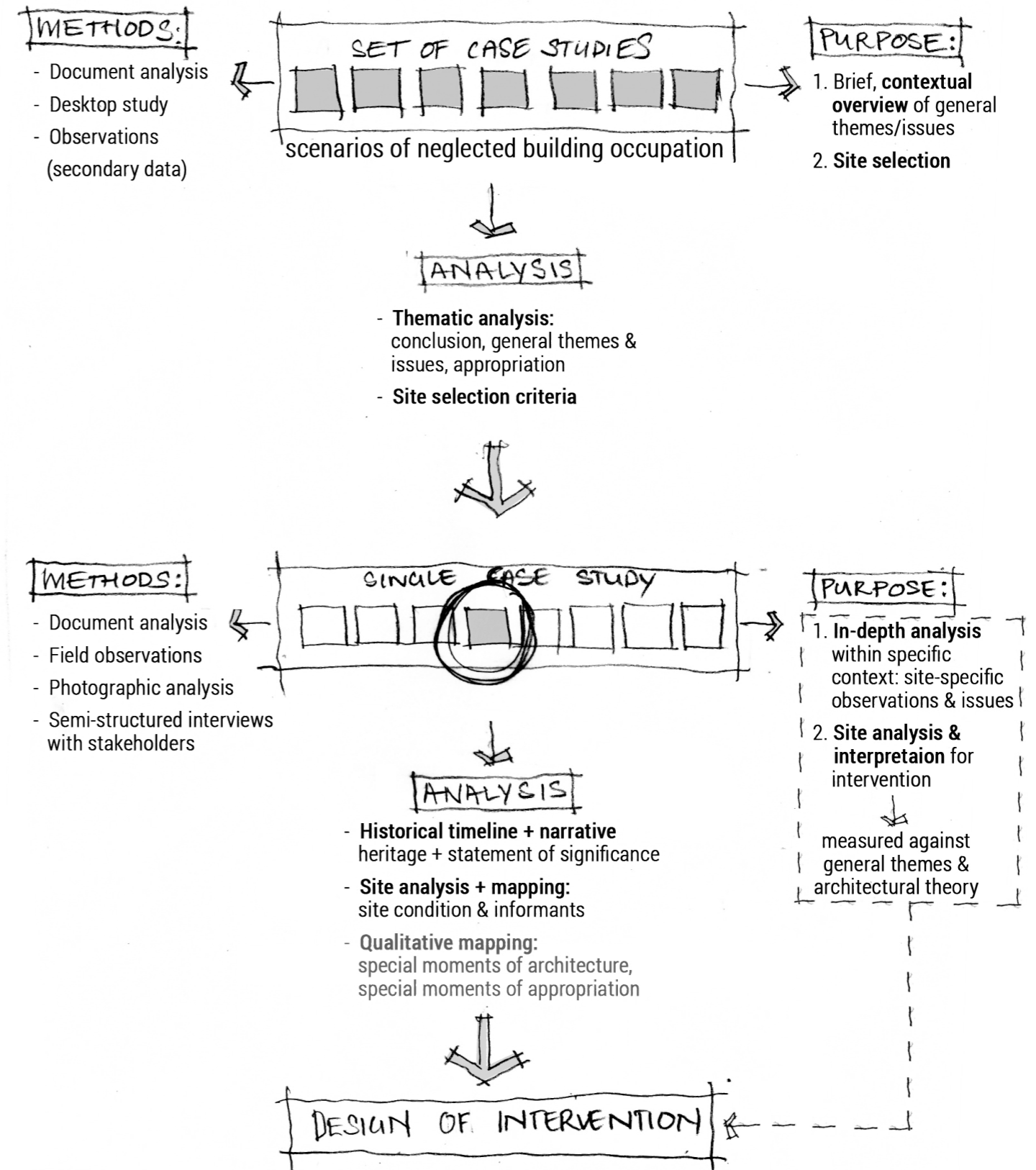
The aim of the case study research is to unpack the phenomenon of homeless occupation of neglected buildings in the City of Tshwane to draw general conclusions about the nature of appropriation and to select an appropriate site for further investigation.

Additionally, the cases are studied in the context of existing literature on homelessness and appropriation, and through the lens of the theoretical framework.

[c]

### DELIMITATIONS

The location of selected cases is limited to the City of Tshwane to allow for a manageable research scope, while creating a rich contextual background of the phenomenon of occupied neglected buildings from which an appropriate example can be chosen as a focus for the intervention.



3.1. Above: Case study methodology diagram showing data collection and analyses methods (Author 2021).