



*Approaching a living heritage framework
at the overlap of suburban encroachment
and iron age ruins in South Africa*

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APPROACHING A LIVING HERITAGE FRAMEWORK AT THE OVERLAP OF SUBURBAN ENCROACHMENT AND IRON AGE RUINS IN SOUTH AFRICA

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Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree
MArch (Prof)

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FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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2021

Summary

Site:

Entrance at 41 Drakensburg street
Bronkhorstsdam
Bronkhorstsdam
25°53'11.4"S 28°41'23.2"E

Clients:

Provincial Heritage Resources Authority Gauteng (PHRAG)
South African National Parks (SAN Parks)
Department of Arts and Culture

Keywords: Living heritage, iron age ruins, framework design, landscape, suburban encroachment, programme design, tectonic landscape

Research field: Legacy, Memory and Identity

Abstract

Iron age ruins are often associated with disoccupation and 'safely-dead' cultures, and are disconnected from current urban and cultural development. This perception creates a risk that this part of a South African heritage fabric could be lost to destruction and decay. Questioning this perception in the context of global and local heritage practices exposes this category of heritage site to the potential it has in contributing to social and cultural cohesion. How can the integration of iron age ruin landscapes with developing cityscapes be shaped in a way so as to encourage their sensitive occupation, programmatic longevity and communal value, in turn, extending the cultural significance of such sites into the future? Relying on multiple sources of informants, an understanding of the complexities inherent in ruin sites is established. Conventional investigative tools such as precedent studies, textual analysis and site mapping are paired with qualitative studies such as intuitive experiments, spatial translations and experiential mapping to synthesize a holistic background of informants. By investigating various layers of both tangible and intangible characteristics, this project attempts to establish a framework for creating a living heritage scheme within an iron age landscape in Bronkhorstsdam. The living heritage paradigm is explored through the facilitation of programmes that contribute to heritage production, such as artistic residencies, archaeological laboratories and wayfinding platforms. The resultant morphology of the project aims at framing the ruin landscape between separated buildings in an effort to incorporate the landscape into the metaphysical architectural fabric of the project. This approach looks toward concretising the function of the site so that it may drive development outward, rather than succumb to the encroachment of surrounding development.

Declaration

In accordance with Regulation 4(c) of the General Regulations (G.57) for dissertations and theses, 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 dissertation has already been, or is currently being, submitted for any such degree, diploma or other qualification.

I further declare that this dissertation 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.

Signed

Date

Ethical clearance letter



Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

Fakulteit Ingenieurswese, Bou-omgewing en
Inligtingtegnologie / Lefapha la Boetšenere,
Tikologo ya Kago le Theknolotši ya Tshedimošo

9 June 2021

Reference number: EBIT/79/2021

Ms A van Aswegen
Department: Architecture
University of Pretoria
Pretoria
0083

Dear Ms A van Aswegen

FACULTY COMMITTEE FOR RESEARCH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY

Your recent application to the EBIT Research Ethics Committee refers.

Conditional approval is granted.

This means that the research project entitled "Masters Professional Mini-Dissertation in Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Interior Architecture (Group / Blanket)" is approved under the strict conditions indicated below. If these conditions are not met, approval is withdrawn automatically.

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This application is approved based on the summaries provided.

Applications from each student (including application forms and all necessary supporting documents such as questionnaire/interview questions, permission letters, informed consent form, etc) will need to be checked internally by the course coordinator/ supervisor. A checklist will need to be signed off after the checking.

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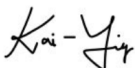
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The Committee must be notified on completion of the project.

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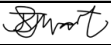
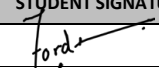

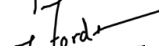
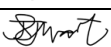
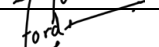
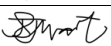
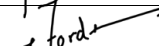
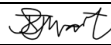
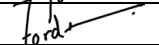



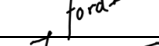

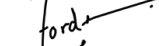

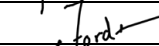
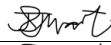
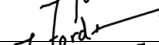
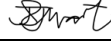
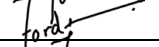
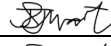
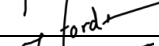

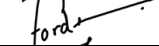
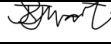
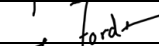
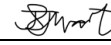
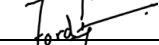
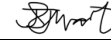
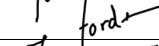
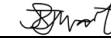
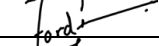

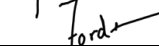
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Record of supervision

DPD 801+DIT 801+CPD810
2021



SUPERVISION

DATE	ACTIVITY AND LENGTH OF INDIVIDUAL MEETING	SUPERVISOR SIGNATURE	STUDENT SIGNATURE
19/03/2021	Introductory meeting & Proposal discussion		
29/03/2021	Introductory meeting with Xander Antonites & site selection information session		
30/03/2021	Proposal feedback session with Prof. Barker		
31/03/2021	Site selection meeting		
08/04/2021	Ethical clearance & Informant's discussion		
23/04/2021	Discussing findings on initial informants and investigations. Heritage context analysis, site selection process		
29/04/2021	Precedent study discussion and programme generation process		
11/05/2021	Q1_essay discussion		
25/05/2021	Maquette translation of textual studies		
03/06/2021	Initial plan concept discussion		
10/06/2021	Q1_essay feedback discussion		
25/06/2021	Synthesis and translation of conceptual work into tangible design		
08/07/2021	Design iteration discussion		
26/08/2021	Technology and material discussion		
09/09/2021	Plan iteration workshop		
16/09/2021	Technical crit discussion		
03/11/2021	Essay compilation discussion, exam format discussion		
11/11/2021	Essay compilation discussion, plan iteration workshop, exam format discussion		

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