

RESEARCH REPORT

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

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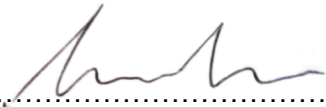
Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I declare that the mini-dissertation, Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria, which has been submitted in fulfilment of part of the requirements for the module of DIT 801, at the University of Pretoria, is my own work and has not previously been submitted by me for any degree at the University of Pretoria or any other tertiary institution.

I declare that I obtained the applicable research ethics approval in order to conduct the research that has been described in this dissertation.

I declare that I have observed the ethical standards required in terms of the University of Pretoria's ethic code for researchers and have followed the policy guidelines for responsible research.

Signature: 

Date: 29 September 2023

Table of Contents

1	Introduction and background	6
1.1	Research problem	11
1.2	Research questions	13
1.3	Research aims and objectives	14
1.4	Limitations, delineations and assumptions of the study	14
	1.4.1 Limitations	14
	1.4.2 Delineation	15
	1.4.3 Assumptions	16
2	Literature Review	17
2.1	Strategies and tactics	17
2.2	The emergence of informality	18
	2.2.1 Informal trading in African cities	18
	2.2.2 Tactics of informal traders	19
2.3	Rituals	19
2.4	Place Identity	20
	2.4.1 Identity and place identity	21
	2.4.2 Memory and place identity	21
	2.4.3 Spatial language and place identity	21
	2.4.4 The power of narrative	22
2.5	Urban layering and evolution	22
	2.5.1 Urban layering and historical process	22
	2.5.2 Social and cultural layering: perspectives on identity and diversity	22
	2.5.3 Architectural layering: preservation versus innovation	22
2.6	Spatial agency	23
	2.6.1 The Role of Design: Structuring and Influencing Human Behaviour	23
	2.6.2 Power and Control: Agency as a Tool of Domination or Empowerment?	24
	2.6.3 Transformative Approaches	24
	2.6.4 Participatory Planning and Co-creation: Engaging Communities in Spatial Agency	24
	2.6.5 Reclaiming Public Spaces: Spatial Agency as a Tool for Social Activism	24
2.7	Urban Interiority and Public Interiority	25
	2.7.1 Identity and Sense of belonging	25
	2.7.2 Flexibility and Adaptability, and the evolving Nature of Public Interiors	26
	2.7.3 Balancing Interior Activities and Public Space	26

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church

Street in Pretoria

3	Research Methodology	28
3.1	Study area and context	28
3.2	Research strategy/ approach	29
3.3	Research Methodology	30
3.4	Data analysis	33
3.5	Ethics considerations	37
4	Results	38
5	Discussion	46
5.1	Strategies and tactics	46
5.2	Temporal-Spatial Dynamics	49
5.3	Place Identity	51
5.4	Urban Interiority	53
6	Conclusion	56
6.1	Main Findings	58
6.2	Contribution to the field	59
6.3	Strengths of the study	59
6.4	Limitations and potential biases	59
6.5	On formality in the study	60
6.6	Recommendations for future research	60
7	References	61
8	Appendices	66

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

List of Figures

- Figure 1: Nolli Map of present-day Pretoria CBD (Author, 2023).
- Figure 2: The “Apartheid City” (after Davies as adapted by Napier et al. 1999).
- Figure 3: Map illustrating study area of focus in Pretoria CBD (Author, 2023).
- Figure 4: Organizational diagram showing types of informal trading stalls in Pretoria CBD (Author, 2023).
- Figure 5: Context analysis of informal trading scenario in front of shopfront (Google, 2017) using initial coding (Author, 2023).
- Figure 6: Radar diagram analysis of informal trading scenario 01 (Author, 2023).
- Figure 7: Context analysis of informal trading scenario on pedestrianized street (Google, 2017) using initial coding (Author, 2023).
- Figure 8: Radar Analysis of Key Themes in Informal Trading Scenario 02 (Author, 2023).
- Figure 9: Context analysis of informal trading scenario 03 on street corner (Google, 2017) using initial coding (Author, 2023).
- Figure 10: Radar Analysis of Key Themes in Informal Trading Scenario 03 (Author, 2023).
- Figure 11: Map illustrating the emergence of informal trading scenario 01 – Infront of shopfronts, Author (2017).
- Figure 12: Map illustrating the emergence of informal trading scenario 02 – Pedestrianized Street, Author (2017).
- Figure 13: Map illustrating the emergence of informal trading scenario 03 – Street corner, Author (2017).
- Figure 14: Graph showing peak and off-peak times of operation in each informal trading scenario (Author, 2023).
- Figure 15 Tactics implemented by informal traders in different scenarios (Google, 2017). Left: In front of shopfront, Middle: Pedestrianized Street, Right: At street corner. Scenarios highlighted in blue (Author, 2023).
- Figure 16: Stalls in front of shopfront fostering intimacy and community within public space at human scale (Author, 2023).
- Figure 17: Plan view illustrating spatial layout of informal stalls of Scenario 01 at human scale (Author, 2023).
- Figure 18: Informal trading stalls in scenario 02 fostering social interactions and stimulating economic activity in the daytime - Helen Joseph Street (Author, 2023).
- Figure 19: Plan view of informal trading stalls of scenario 02 in linear arrangement along Helen Joseph Street (Author, 2023).
- Figure 20: Scenario 03 makeshift structures setup on street corner for informal trading during peak hours (Author, 2023).
- Figure 21: In Scenario 03, the extended trading hours enable informal traders to accommodate customers with different schedules, appealing to both early risers and late workers (Author, 2023).
- Figure 22: Comparative radar chart illustrating all three informal trading scenarios in Pretoria CBD (Author, 2023)

List of Tables

- Table 1: Spradley’s nine dimensional tool (Spradley, 1979).
- Table 2: Initial codes for analysing the informal trading scenarios.
- Table 3: Derivation and Interpretation of initial codes for informal trading scenarios of Pretoria CBD.
- Table 4: Themes that emerge for analysing informal trading scenarios.
- Table 5: The three informal trading scenarios selected on a space-time continuum.
- Table 6: Emergent themes for analysing the three informal trading scenarios

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

Abstract

This research study delves into the heart of Pretoria's Central Business District, exploring the dynamic world of informal trading scenarios through the lens of interior architecture. The research unveils the intricate spatial routines, rituals, and place identities formed by the informal traders, set against the vibrant backdrop of city life. The study adopts a constructivist-interpretivist paradigm and qualitative research design, leaning heavily on non-obtrusive observational data collection methods, enabling the gathering of authentic insights while respecting the rights and privacy of the traders. The chosen locale for this exploration is the walkable corridor of Helen Joseph Street, formerly known as Church Street, a thriving hub of informal trading activity within Pretoria CBD. Findings from this study reveal a rich tapestry of spatial dynamics and social exchanges, brought to life by the unique blend of sounds, sights, and scents that characterize the urban landscape. From the incessant hum of city traffic to the enticing aroma of braaied mielies, the research highlights the layered experiences of the urban environment and its role in shaping perceptions and experiences of the cityscape.

This research seeks to contribute to the discipline of interior architecture. By delving into the spatial and temporal aspects of informal trading, it informs the design of inclusive and adaptable urban spaces that respect and celebrate cultural diversity. The study also underscores the pivotal role of place identity in fostering a sense of belonging and authenticity in the urban environment. While the study's geographic and temporal scope present certain limitations, the depth of insights gathered, and the nuanced understanding developed about the spatial practices of informal traders, make a compelling case for the value of such investigations. As an exploration of the intersection of informal trading, urban interiority, and human-scale design, this study lays a robust foundation for future research in interior architecture within South African cities.

Keywords: Informal trade, spatial routines, perception, place identity, urban interiority

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

1 Introduction and background

When the Nationalist Party took control in 1948 and introduced Apartheid, Pretoria was rapidly transformed from a provincial city into an Apartheid capital in a very short time. In the process, all neighbourhoods were demolished to make way for administrative buildings and other structures (Magubane & Yrchik, 1977:55). Architects in Pretoria used state architecture and racialized spatial ordering (Beauregard, 2003:132) as a way to express their beliefs and aspirations, making it the most iconic public representation of white cultural identity while housing and maintaining economic power (Harrison, 1990:9) in its predominant formal sector. While these buildings were seen as symbols of modernization, they also reflected Afrikaner's concerns about their cultural and economic position in Africa (Judin, 2021:8). Judin (2021) argues that these buildings served the ideology of the regime and were closely linked to its administrative, legislative, and policing mechanisms.

Having transitioned into a democratic society, the informal sector has emerged in response to the limitations and restrictions of the formal sector (Hart, 1973:61-89). In many cases, people have turned to informal trading as a means of survival because of a lack of formal job opportunities, limited access to credit and resources, and restrictive regulations and policies.

There is an importance of informal trade in South Africa which cannot be overstated (Kraemer-Mbula & Paremoer, 2016:171-186). Informal trade has emerged as a key driver of economic growth, providing a source of income for millions of people (WIEGO, 2016:1; Integrated Urban Development Framework, 2016). It is estimated that more than 60% of urban employment in sub-Saharan Africa is generated by the informal sector (ILO, 2018:v), and many of these jobs are created in the trade industry.

Formal trade, on the other hand, is characterized by large-scale enterprises, formal contracts, and legally recognized operations (Etim & Daramola, 2020:179-198). In the Pretoria CBD it manifests through permanent physical brick-and-mortar infrastructure that supports the businesses and individuals registered with the government and pay taxes; providing payment systems and are affiliated to trade financial institutions and chambers of commerce.

Historically, it has been seen as the dominant form of informal trade, viewed as an anomaly that needs to be eradicated. However, there has been a shift in recent years toward recognizing the importance of informal trade in economic development (Etim & Daramola,

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

2020:179-198). Governments are beginning to acknowledge the role of informal trade in the economy and efforts are being made to integrate it into formal structures.

Despite the growing recognition of the importance of informal trade, there is still a significant gap in the literature regarding the relationship between formal and informal trade in the global south, including in the context of South Africa (Ingabire & Sebahizi, 2021:4, Muwanga-Zake, 2017:103–104). While much research has focused on the negative aspects of informal trade, such as its perceived association with crime and the informalization of labour, little attention has been paid to the interdependence between the formal and informal sectors and the symbiotic relationship that may arise between the two. Moreover, few studies have explored how formal and informal trade can be leveraged to support sustainable economic growth in Global South and South Africa (Kraemer-Mbula & Wamae, 2021:475).

Formal and informal trade are essential contributors to the Global South and South African economies. The relationship between formal and informal trade is complex and interdependent, and this research strives to contribute to a greater understanding of the importance of both formal and informal trade and how they can be leveraged to support economic development nationally, providing insight into the dynamic and temporal spatial design scenarios and the physical traces of human-environment relationships in public and urban interiors- using the walkable street of Helen Joseph Street, formerly known as Church Street, in Pretoria CBD as a case study.

1.1 Background

This section examines the urban conditions of Pretoria CBD from a historical, present-day, and future-oriented perspective. The first lens will look to the past, examining how Pretoria's inner city has evolved over time, with consideration of the impact of the apartheid and democratic eras. The second lens looks at the present, considering the city's demographic changes, spatial dynamics, and economic activity. Finally, the focus shifts to future hopes and projections, identifying the difficulties and prospects for the city's growth.

The City as an Urban Room

Giambattista Nolli's 1784 map of Rome illustrates the phenomenon of ambiguity between public and private spaces, emphasizing the relationship between buildings and public spaces (Leveratto, 2015:11) which, in this case, is used to better understand the urban fabric of Pretoria. The map shows white areas for open public spaces and public interiors, whereas

7

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

private spaces and objects are shown in black. Although the interiors of public buildings are enclosed, they are treated as traditional public spaces, such as streets and squares, suggesting that they are open and accessible to the public.



Figure 1: Nolli Map of present day Pretoria CBD (Author, 2023).

By studying the fabric of the Pretoria CBD, it is possible to gain more knowledge about its history, culture, and evolutionary development, which may assist in developing strategies for its growth and evolution.

The Past: Understanding Spatial Segregation in Pretoria

When navigating the spatial order of Apartheid in the urban realm, South Africa has a history of racial segregation and exclusion dating back to colonial times (de Beer and de Beer, 2018:4). This segregation was institutionalized during the Apartheid era (1948-1994) and led to a struggle for control over urban space. As a result, planners began to divide society into racial categories (Smith & Mabin, 2005:22).

The Pretoria CBD, where most of the jobs and facilities were located, was surrounded by well-developed, traditionally white, suburban areas, as per the Group Areas Act 1950 (Landman, 2006:4). In contrast, townships and later informal settlements emerged on the outskirts of the city, often separated from the suburbs by buffer strips, such as green belts, industrial zones, and rapid transport routes. This spatial pattern created a clear separation between different racial and socio-economic groups, with significant disparities in access to resources and

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

opportunities (Landman, 2006:3-4). In essence, the spatial organization of the city reinforced segregation through physical distance, perpetuating the social and economic inequalities that have shaped the country's history (Landman, 2006:3-4 and de Beer & de Beer, 2018:4).

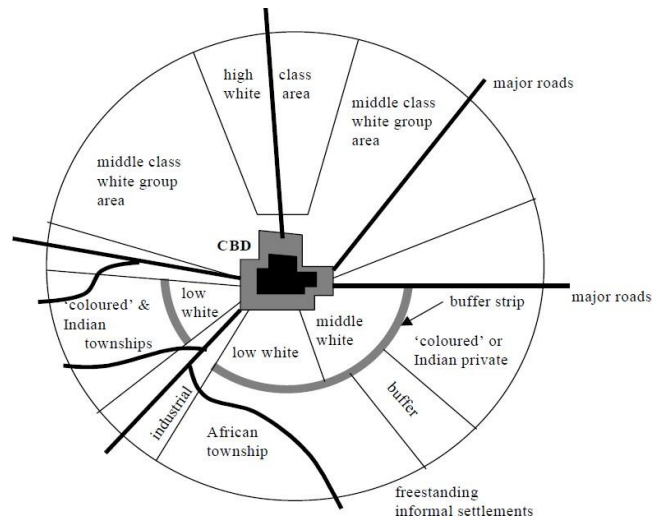


Figure 2: The "Apartheid City" (after Davies as adapted by Napier et al. 1999).

What resulted from of this was the emergence of an informal economy and trade as an alternative means of survival, often navigating a complex web of regulations and restriction and relying on informal networks and relationships to bypass marginalization (Etim & Daramola, 2020:10-11). In townships and other places reserved for black inhabitation, informal trade predominated, with traders setting up stalls and selling products and services to the local communities. However, such activities were frequently against the law under Apartheid legislation, and unofficial traders were subject to intimidation and persecution from the government (James, 2015:98-99), widely stigmatized and frequently connected to criminal activities (Fourie, 2005:232).

The Present: The Economic Migrant Arrives in the City

The post-Apartheid era has seen a rise in the population of many ethnicities, both local and international and today, as South Africa is one of Africa's most urbanized countries, with more than 60% of the population living in cities (Macrotrends, 2023). Informal trade and exchange have become a common aspect and significant feature of South African cities, with economic migrants seeking economic possibilities arriving from rural regions, townships, informal settlements, and communities outside of the country's borders (The World's Cities in 2016 Data Booklet, n.d:4).

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

In the transition to democracy, the government began attempts to formalize and incorporate the informal sector into the mainstream economy. The Informal Business Policy was implemented in 1995 to assist and regulate informal enterprises, recognising their economic importance and contribution to job creation (Republic of South Africa,1995:1). The Informal Trading By-Laws of 2000 were enacted in response to this policy, with the goal of creating a more favourable environment for informal traders to operate in (Budlender, 2007:194).

Many circumstances, including high unemployment, poverty, and lack of legitimate work prospects, have contributed to the expansion of informal trade. Many economic migrants coming to the city lack the essential skills, education, and financial means to acquire official work. According to the most recent statistics from Statistics South Africa (2022), the unemployment rate in the city of Tshwane, for the fourth quarter of the 2021 labour force survey was 26.4%, up from 24.8% in the third quarter of 2021 (Statistics South Africa, 2022:6).

A considerable demographic transition has occurred, with the population shifting from 96% white in 1991 (Climate Adaptation Studio, 2022; Frith, n.d.) to 84% in the black population in 2011 (Wazipmap.co.za, 2023). In recent years, efforts have been made to regulate and accommodate informal traders in a formal economy. Local governments have implemented various by-laws, legislations, and regulations to allow for the inclusion of informal trading. The City of Tshwane has made efforts to accommodate and cater to informal traders by designating areas in which to operate based on the Informal Trading Policy (City of Tshwane, 2016:11). The framework, however, does not make any effort to integrate informal trading to operate fluidly and have a sense of permanence within the CBD urban fabric (City of Tshwane, 2016:23).

While Pretoria's Informal Trading Policy designates areas for traders, it unintentionally distances them from the city's vibrant centers. It overlooks the city's varied daily rhythms, from the bustle of daytime to the unique requirements of night-time and special events. Even as Pretoria undergoes significant demographic changes, the policy fails to fully capture and celebrate the rich cultural tapestry of its traders. There's a glaring lack of support in areas like skills training and connecting traders to the formal economy. Over-relying on this single policy gives a limited perspective on such a complex sector. For a true embrace of informal traders, what's needed is a broader and more encompassing approach.

The Future: What now?

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

Informal traders generate substantial income and employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth, who may not have access to formal employment. In addition, informal trading can play a crucial role in providing affordable goods and services to low-income communities (Masonganye, 2010:4-5). The informal trading bylaws of the City of Tshwane, for example, outline a framework for managing and regulating informal trading activities in the city. These bylaws aim to create a more enabling environment for informal traders, while also ensuring that public spaces are managed and maintained (City of Tshwane, 2013:1). One way in which informal trading can be formalized in the discipline of architecture is through improved working conditions and infrastructure. It can foster a more inclusive and enabling environment, whereby informal traders can contribute even more to the country's economy (Kraemer-Mbula & Wamae, 2021:475).

By exploring the intricacies of urban development, this study aims to offer valuable perspectives that can guide future approaches. These approaches should emphasize integrating informal trade into the formal economy and enhancing working conditions and infrastructure. The overarching goal is to cultivate inclusivity within the urban landscape, facilitate sustainable progress, and embrace the diverse urban identities of Pretoria. Through these dedicated endeavours, the city can thrive and create avenues for prosperity that benefit all its inhabitants, while safeguarding its profound cultural legacy.

1.1 Research problem

“To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity”_Nelson Mandela, Former President of the Republic of South Africa, 1994 - 1999.

Urban Issue - The dialogue between formal and informal sector

The city of Pretoria is made up of contested spaces whereby the buildings continue to be representations of a former South African past, standing tall within a democratic society (Vandeyar, 2015:5) This has culminated in a disconnect between (i) what they represent in the current democratic society, and (ii) how they relate to the new ‘informal trading culture’ layer that continues to emerge in the inner Pretoria city.

The coexistence of formal and informal sectors in Pretoria CBD has been fraught with problems. One of the main issues is the competition for space, resources, and customers. Formal businesses feel threatened by the presence of informal traders, who often occupy

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

pavements, parks, and other public spaces (World Bank, 2017:11-12). This tension has resulted in frequent clashes between these two sectors, often leading to violence and vandalism.

While informal trading by-laws and regulations in the City of Tshwane aim to strike a balance between regulating informal trading activities and providing opportunities for informal traders to operate their businesses in a legal and sustainable manner; they may also limit the flexibility and adaptability, dignity, and equity of informal traders. This situation must be addressed to reduce inequalities in the past and create an urban public realm with spaces that foster and improve informal typology in a fair and equitable manner.

Neighbourhood Issue - Access and control of public space

The privatization of public spaces, through the introduction of gates and fencing, has led to negative impacts on the urban fabric. Privatized spaces are often designed with the needs of formal businesses in mind, which may exclude and marginalize informal traders. This can also lead to a loss of social and cultural value in public spaces and in the urban public realm.

Many people have denied access to the city. Thus, the 'placelessness' of contemporary urban form is argued, as public urban spaces in our cities seem to be qualitatively diminishing (Sandalack & Uribe, 2010:35). Unless we address these issues, it would be difficult to transform Pretoria's urban fabric into a vibrant, efficient, and socially sustainable environment. Unfortunately, the current state of public space in the city has led to a weak sense of community and place (Du Toit, 2007:37).

This presents an opportunity to investigate the vital role that these 'borders & boundaries' play and their potential to create a grey area that blurs contestation in these spaces; to establish a visual dialogue between the public interiors, architecture and the broader urban context within Pretoria's Central Business District (CBD).

Human Scale - The impact of inadequate infrastructure and services on informal traders' livelihoods

The designated areas for informal trading are known as informal trading nodes and are located in various parts of the city. These nodes are typically located in areas with high foot traffic,

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

such as busy streets, public parks, and transportation hubs (City of Johannesburg, 2022:13-14). They are designed to provide designated areas for informal traders to operate from (in possession of permits) without impeding pedestrian or vehicular traffic or creating safety hazards (City of Tshwane, 2013:12-13).

The essential infrastructure and services that informal traders need to run their businesses are sometimes difficult for them to acquire. Among these are factors such as access to clean water, dependable energy, and minimal sanitary facilities. Informal traders may struggle to uphold fundamental hygienic standards, keep their goods safe and secure, and create a safe and comfortable atmosphere for their consumers without infrastructure and access to these services (The World Bank, 2017:11-12).

Numerous negative consequences, such as health hazards, lost sales, and diminished client loyalty, may result from this. These difficulties make it more difficult for them to expand their operations and earn more money. This study identifies this gap and advances a nuanced understanding of the relationship between the formal and informal sectors. It identifies the fence condition as a possible point of intervention to foster human traces of inhabitation that connect city dwellers with the formal establishment of the State Theatre, and investigates whether a symbiotic relationship between the formal and informal sectors can be fostered.

This study investigates the nature of the relationship between formal and informal trading in an urban context. It seeks to understand how the formal and informal trading sectors interact, share public spaces, and influence each other's operations and customer bases. This study examines whether this relationship is characterized by competition, collaboration, or a combination of both.

The research study lies in the need to understand and explore the spatial routines, rituals, and place identities of informal traders in the Pretoria CBD within the context of interior architecture. By investigating spatial routines and rituals over time, this study seeks to shed light on the dynamic interactions among informal traders, their trading spaces, and the urban environment. Understanding these spatial routines will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the adaptive tactics employed by informal traders to navigate built environments.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

1.2 Research questions

In an attempt to delve into the intricate urban fabric of Pretoria's CBD, this research study puts forth a set of focused questions. These questions aim to illuminate the multifaceted dynamics of the informal trading scenarios, uncovering the complexities of the spatial routines and rituals, and their influence on urban interiority and the overall sense of place.

- What insights can we gain about informal traders' spatial routines and rituals from April to June 2023 by examining the physical evidence of human presence in public and urban interiors?

This is followed by the following sub questions:

- What are some of the creative and subversive tactics informal traders use to navigate and challenge dominant powers in urban environments?
- How does the concept of urban interiority manifest within the informal trading spaces of Pretoria CBD, and how do informal traders influence the interior experience of the urban environment?
- How does informal trading in the pedestrianized corridor of Helen Joseph Street (Church Street) contribute to the sense of place and the urban environment?

1.3 Research aims and objectives

Aims

- Investigate the nature of spatial routines, rituals, and place identities of informal traders in Pretoria CBD within the discipline of interior architecture.
- Examine the layering and evolution of the city fabric as a social, cultural, and economic phenomenon.

Objectives

- Explore the spatial routines and rituals of informal traders in Pretoria CBD (specifically, the walkable corridor of Helen Joseph Street) over a two-month period (April–June 2023).
- Contextualize informal trading practices within the dynamics of Pretoria CBD.
- Investigate the role of place identity in shaping informal trading spaces.
- Examine the concept of urban interiority within informal trading spaces.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

- Investigate the impact of informal trading on sense of place and urban environment.

1.4 Limitations, delineation and assumptions of the study

1.4.1 Limitations

The researcher's active participation in the study may have influenced the observations and interpretations of the data collected, introducing subjectivity. To address the potential limitation of researcher active participation, the study will employ triangulation by using multiple data collection methods, including interviews, observations, and documentary data analysis. Despite these efforts, subjectivity may still impact the study's outcomes. The research paper aims for transparency, acknowledging qualitative research complexities, and encourages readers to approach findings with caution. Reflecting on the researcher's role fosters dialogue and critical thinking about the research process.

The study's timeframe was relatively short, covering a two-month period (May to June 2023). This limited duration may not capture seasonal variation or long-term trends in informal trading, potentially restricting the comprehensiveness of the data.

The study's ability to provide a daily holistic, true reflectional overview of all informal trading areas in Pretoria is limited by the researcher's inability to observe all areas simultaneously. To address this limitation, the researcher will observe a representative sample of informal trading areas on a daily basis, and will also collect data on external factors that may influence operational patterns, such as weather, strikes, and urban events.

The research relies on non-obtrusive observational data collection, which, while respectful of the traders' privacy, may not allow for deep, individual insights or personal narratives that could be obtained through interviews or participatory research methods.

1.4.2 Delineations

The research on informal trading scenarios in Pretoria CBD is delimited by several key factors, adopting a pro-poor stance by re-evaluating the negative perception of informal traders as undesirable members in the city. It aims to understand the experiences of the urban poor in terms of access to opportunities, exclusion from the economy, and their spatial responses to the challenges they face in the urban environment.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

This study focuses on the discipline of interior architecture, providing valuable insights into the temporal spatial dynamics of informal trading spaces. However, it should be noted that other disciplines, such as economics, sociology, and urban planning, could offer additional perspectives on the broader socio-economic implications of informal trading.

The study is specifically confined to three informal trading scenarios that emerge in the walkable corridor of Helen Joseph Street in Pretoria CBD. Although this area offers unique insights, it may not capture the full diversity of informal trading practices within the entire city. This study delimits its exploration of the spatial routines, rituals, and place identities of informal traders. Other aspects of informal trading, such as the economic impact on traders' livelihoods, regulatory challenges, and social interactions, were not extensively covered in this study.

Finally, this study adopts non-obtrusive data collection methods to respect the privacy and rights of informal traders. While this approach ensures ethical considerations, it may limit the depth of insights into traders' motivations and challenges. Despite these delimitations, this study seeks to provide a focused and ethical investigation of the spatial dynamics and place identities of informal traders, contributing valuable insights to the field of interior architecture.

1.4.3 Assumptions

The research on informal trading scenarios in Pretoria CBD assumes the following:

- Observational data collection methods will provide valuable and non-obtrusive insights into the spatial routines, rituals, and place identities of informal traders, allowing for authentic observations of their practices and interactions.
- The selected observational sites within the CBD are representative of the broader informal trading practices in the area, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of informal trading dynamics.
- Ethical considerations will be prioritized, respecting the rights and privacy of informal traders, ensuring an ethical and respectful approach to data collection.
- This study recognizes the existing limitations in the Tshwane Spatial Development Framework concerning architectural expressions for informal or street trade (Masonganye, 2010:8) Assumptions include the implementation of the successful Asiye eTafuleni framework from Durban, fostering functional and inclusive urban

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

spaces, while strengthening social cohesiveness and a sense of community (City of Durban, 2017:11).

- Integrating informal and formal sectors is assumed to enhance urban spaces, promote economic activity, and contribute to a more sustainable and resilient urban environment, particularly through a focus on interior architecture on the human scale.

2 Literature review

“Knowledge is a garden. If it isn’t cultivated, you can’t harvest it.”_African Proverb

In this section, the paper delves into each concept, theory, and theme, presenting a synthesis of key arguments, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and practical insights from academic literature. By critically engaging with the works of various authors and exploring comparative views, this study seeks to develop a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of the urban environment with the aim of producing more liveable, inclusive, and dynamic urban settings.

2.1 Strategies and tactics

De Certeau's (1984) distinction between strategies and tactics provides a framework for understanding the power dynamics and everyday resistance within urban spaces. Strategies, as conceptualized by de Certeau, refer to the systematic plans and actions employed by dominant powers to exert control over spaces and individuals. In contrast, tactics represent the creative and subversive practices adopted by individuals to navigate, adapt, and challenge these strategies (De Certeau, 1998:19).

When comparing different authors' views on de Certeau's framework, it is evident that there are both similarities and differences in their interpretations. For instance, Smith (2010) expands on de Certeau's ideas by highlighting the collective aspects of tactics and emphasizing the role of social movements and community organizing in challenging strategies. Smith argues that tactics can be seen as a form of grassroots resistance, where communities collectively develop strategies to counter dominant power structures.

In contrast, Farias and Bender (2012) critiqued de Certeau's individualistic approach and advocate for a more relational understanding of tactics. They propose that tactics should be 17

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

viewed as emerging from the interconnectedness of social networks and relationships in urban contexts. According to Farias and Bender, tactics are not solely individual acts of resistance but are shaped by the socio-political and cultural dynamics of the urban environment (Farias & Bender, 2012: 6-12).

Furthermore, other authors like Johnson (2007) argued that the line between strategies and tactics can be blurred, suggesting that strategies can incorporate tactical elements, and tactics can sometimes align with strategic goals. Johnson's perspective challenges the strict dichotomy between the two concepts and emphasizes the fluidity and complexity of social practices.

While some writers emphasize the collaborative and transformational nature of tactics, others emphasize relational elements or call the obvious separation between strategies and tactics into doubt. These discussions help deepen one's awareness of the complexity inherent in negotiating power systems and daily practices.

2.2 The emergence of informality

Economic inequality in cities is heavily influenced by the quality of institutions, such as property rights, the rule of law, and access to public services (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012:381-382). It has been suggested that unequal access to public places, housing, services, and other resources results from the inadequate definition and implementation of spatial rights in cities in developing countries. Acemoglu and Robinson (2012) cautioned that political institutions can be controlled by elites who prioritize their own interests, resulting in policies that worsen economic inequality.

2.2.1 Informal trading in African cities

The emergence of informal trading in African cities serves as a significant conceptual and theoretical framework in this study. Informal trading has become a pervasive feature of urban life in African cities, where it often operates in the informal sector and exists outside of established regulatory frameworks (UN Habitat, 2010:104-105). Despite its informal nature, informal trading plays a vital role in providing access to goods and services for urban residents (Watson, 2013:5-6), especially those living in impoverished areas.

As such, it is essential to recognize and understand the significance of informal trading in African cities and its relationship with formal urban planning and architecture (Mitullah, 2004:1-2). By studying the emergence of informal trading, we can gain insight into how informal trading interacts with formal urban planning and architecture, the challenges it poses, and the

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

opportunities it presents to improve urban life. Additionally, exploring this framework can help shed light on the role of architecture and urban planning in addressing the needs of informal traders and in fostering a symbiotic relationship between the informal and formal sectors.

2.2.2 Tactics of informal traders

According to Mitullah (2004), informal markets tend to emerge in places where formal markets and retail spaces are either scarce or inaccessible. Informal traders use various strategies to establish their presence and create a sense of belonging in the urban landscape. The utilization of tangible objects such as tables, tents, and umbrellas, as well as the development of social networks and connections with clients, other vendors, and local authorities (Mitullah, 2004:13). By adopting these tactics, informal traders are able to create a space for themselves in the city and offer goods and services that are crucial for the survival and well-being of urban dwellers. These spaces have become sites of economic exchange, social gatherings, and cultural expressions. The spatial organization of informal trading is influenced by factors such as proximity to customers, visibility, and accessibility (Mitullah, 2004: 19-29).

2.3 Rituals

Rituals play an important role in defining how people live and interact with their built environments. They are fundamental to the human experience and are closely intertwined with spatial practices and create a sense of place and belonging, shaping the ways in which individuals navigate and engage with interior spaces (De Certeau, 1998:91).

The exploration of spatial practices, rituals and ways of inhabiting space within the field of social/spatial theory offers a better understanding of the complex dynamics between individuals and their built environment. These practices encompass a wide range of actions, including dwelling, movement and spatial negotiations, which shape the lived experiences of individuals and communities (Liggett & Perry, 2005:1-18).

Rituals contribute to the production and transformation of space in the form of mundane everyday routines, which refers to the habitual actions that individuals engage in as part of their daily lives (Jones & Meagher, 2006:19-20). These rituals create a sense of familiarity and comfort within specific spaces, shaping individuals' perceptions whilst establishing meaningful connections with the spaces they inhabit (Till, 2017:142-151). For example, rituals associated with morning routines, such as making coffee, getting dressed, or reading newspapers,

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

establish a sense of personal space within the domestic realm. These rituals contribute to the formation of a daily rhythm, influencing the way individuals move and occupy their homes (Liggett & Perry, 2005:16-17).

Rituals, such as commuting, queuing, or sitting in a park during lunch breaks, become ingrained in individuals' routines, generating a sense of shared spatial practices. These not only shape individual experiences but also influence social dynamics and interactions within public spaces. For instance, the act of waiting at a bus stop may become an opportunity for chance encounters and brief social interactions, fostering a sense of community and shared experience (Liggett & Perry, 2005:138-139).

These rituals, often taken for granted, hold deep cultural and social meaning and play a vital role in shaping experiences within the built environment (Jones & Meagher, 2006:23-34) intimately tied to the functionality and spatial organization of buildings. Mundane everyday rituals can be transformed and adapted to space over time. As societies and cultures evolve, rituals and their associated spatial needs may also change. Buildings and spaces that were once designed for specific rituals may be repurposed or modified to accommodate new practices (Jones & Meagher, 2006:34-35).

Examining these rituals reveals how seemingly ordinary actions contribute to the formation of social bonds, the creation of personal and collective identities, and the negotiation of spatial boundaries. Understanding the significance of these rituals provides valuable insights for architects, urban planners, and designers into creating environments that accommodate and enrich the everyday experiences of individuals.

2.4 Place identity

Place identity encompasses the unique characteristics, meanings and emotions associated with a specific place or environment. It transcends the physical attributes of a place and delves into intangible qualities that contribute to its distinctiveness and sense of belonging. It is closely linked to memory and perception (Proshansky, Fabian & Kaminoff, 1983:58-59).

Groat and Wang (2013) suggested that “personal experiences and memories contribute significantly to an individual's perception of a place and its identity” (Tuan, 1977:1). Smith (2010) supported this notion, emphasizing how sensory experiences evoke memories and shape one's understanding of the place. Sensory experiences play a crucial role in shaping the perception of a place and its associated identities. Through the senses of sight, hearing,

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

smell, taste, and touch, people engage with the environment and construct personal connections to it (Smith, 2010: 6-7).

Pallasmaa (2005) argued that well-designed spaces should engage our senses, evoking emotions and memories that foster a stronger connection to the environment. By considering elements such as form, materials, light, and spatial organization, architects can craft spaces that elicit specific sensory responses and reinforce the sense of place identity. It is also influenced by the cultural context. Rapoport (1982) highlights the importance of considering the cultural and historical backgrounds of a place when designing spaces.

Place Identity is deeply intertwined with notions of identity, memory, and spatial language and forms a complex tapestry within the discipline of architecture. This section explores the connections between these notions and sheds light on their interplay within the realm of architecture and the built environment.

2.4.1 Identity and place identity

Identity, both individual and collective, is intrinsically linked to place identity. Place becomes an extension of oneself, reflecting personal values, beliefs, and experiences. Relph (1976) asserted that individuals construct their identities through a dynamic relationship with the places they inhabit. By shaping the physical environment and influencing social interactions, a place becomes an active agent in the formation and expression of identity.

2.4.2 Memory and place identity

Memory plays a vital role in the formation and preservation of place identity. Halbwachs (1992) suggests that memories are not isolated events, but are shaped by social contexts and the physical environments in which they occur. Places act as containers of memories, triggering emotional connections and reinforcing a sense of identity. The recollection of past experiences within a place strengthens the bond between individuals and their environment, contributing to the development of place identity.

2.4.3 Spatial language and place identity

Spatial language, the means by which individuals communicate and understand the spatial environment, influences the construction of place identity. Lynch (1960) emphasized the role of spatial language in shaping perceptions and interpretations of places. Using terms such as landmarks, paths, edges, and nodes, individuals create mental maps and narratives that inform their understanding of a place. Shared spatial language within a community enhances the

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

collective sense of place identity, fostering a shared understanding and connection to the environment.

2.4.4 The Power of Narrative:

Narratives play a significant role in the construction and preservation of place identity. Edensor (2005) argued that storytelling and narratives about a place contribute to the collective memory and meaning attached to it. Personal narratives, cultural myths and historical accounts shape the narratives of place, reinforcing a sense of identity and creating a shared understanding of the significance of a place within a community.

As individuals navigate and engage in the built environment, their identities are shaped and expressed through the places they inhabit. Memories, both personal and collective, contribute to the formation of place identity, while spatial language and narratives further deepen connections to place.

2.5 Urban layering and evolution

Urban areas are dynamic, constantly evolving, and shaped by complex processes as well as historical, social, and cultural factors. The concept of layering emphasizes the accumulation and stratification of various elements within the city over time, while evolution pertains to the adaptive changes that occur within these layers (Ashworth & Tunbridge, 1990:11-12).

2.5.1 Urban layering as historical process

According to Smith (2010), cities are palimpsests with several layers of history imprinted on the urban fabric. He argues that urban development is characterized by a constant layering process in which each historical layer leaves its imprint on the city. Jacobs (1961), however, provided a contrary viewpoint, emphasizing the need for organic growth and the adaptability of urban environments to meet the evolving needs of their inhabitants.

Cities emerge through a sequence of interwoven actions and reactions, rather than by the simple layering of physical elements (Jacobs 1961:140-141). Cities are palimpsests, containing multiple layers of history that are imprinted upon the urban fabric (Smith, 2010:8-9). According to Smith (2010), urban development is characterized by a continuous layering process in which each historical period leaves its mark on the city. Conversely, Jacobs (1961) offered a counterperspective, emphasizing the importance of organic growth and the adaptation of urban spaces to meet the changing needs of their inhabitants. Cities evolve

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

through a series of interconnected actions and responses, rather than mere layering of physical elements (Jacobs, 1961:140-141).

2.5.2 Social and cultural layering: perspectives on identity and diversity

Lefebvre (1991) explored the concept of social layering, suggesting that urban environments reflect social inequalities and power dynamics present in society. He argues that cities are stratified by various social groups occupying distinct layers within the urban fabric. By contrast, Zukin (1995) highlighted the transformative power of cultural layering, stating that urban evolution is driven by the intermingling and exchange of diverse cultures. She argued that cultural layering fosters components such as creativity, innovation, and social integration.

2.5.3 Architectural layering: preservation versus innovation

The preservation of architectural layers in cities is a subject of debate. Rossi (1982) advocates the conservation of urban layers as a means of preserving historical continuity and identity. He argues that layers of architecture form a tangible record of a city's evolution and should be protected. In contrast, Koolhaas (1978) challenged the notion of preservation, suggesting that it impedes urban evolution. He argued for the demolition and replacement of outdated architectural layers to foster innovation and adaptability within the city.

This paper aligns with Rossi's argument, advocating for the conservation of urban layers as a means of preserving historical continuity and identity. By examining the tangible record of a city's evolution, this research seeks to substantiate the importance of architectural layering in fostering a sense of place and contributing to the socio-cultural fabric of a city (Rossi, 1982:21-22). It also acknowledges the need for adaptive evolution to meet the changing needs of urban inhabitants and highlights the necessity of striking a balance between preservation and innovation.

2.6 Spatial Agency

Spatial agency refers to the capacity of urban spaces to facilitate human behaviour, actions, and social interactions. It recognizes that cities are not passive containers but rather active agents that shape and are shaped by the individuals and communities within them (Lefebvre, 1991:33-34).

2.6.1 The Role of Design: Structuring and Influencing Human Behaviour

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

Architects and urban designers have long recognized the potential of spatial agency to guide and influence human behaviour. Gehl (2010) argues that well-designed urban spaces can encourage positive social interactions, promote pedestrian activity, and enhance the quality of life in cities. In contrast, this research supports Jacobs (1961), who emphasized the organic nature of urban development, advocating for a bottom-up approach that allows spatial agency to emerge from the everyday activities and needs of the people.

2.6.2 Power and Control: Agency as a Tool of Domination or Empowerment?

Spatial agency can be understood in terms of power dynamics within an urban context. Lefebvre (1991) highlighted how urban spaces can be manipulated to exert control and reinforce social inequalities. He argues that dominant classes exercise spatial agency to marginalize and exclude certain groups. In contrast, Soja (1989) introduced the concept of spatial justice, emphasizing the potential for spatial agency to empower marginalized communities and to challenge dominant power structures.

2.6.3 Transformative Approaches

Awan et al. (2014) argued that large-scale, top-down interventions often overlook the unique needs and aspirations of local communities. Instead, they propose a bottom-up approach that embraces small-scale, incremental interventions driven by local knowledge and agency.

Building on this perspective, Campbell (2019) delves into case studies and examples of grassroots initiatives that have effectively leveraged spatial agency to bring about transformative change. Campbell argues that empowering local communities to shape their own environments, even through modest interventions, can have profound and lasting impacts on social cohesion, economic vitality, and environmental sustainability (Campbell, 2012:13-14).

2.6.4 Participatory Planning and Co-creation: Engaging Communities in Spatial Agency

The concept of spatial agency aligns with the principles of participatory planning and co-creation, emphasizing the importance of involving local communities in decision-making processes. The role of participatory design methods, such as charrettes and workshops, in facilitating dialogue and collaboration between residents, architects, planners, and other stakeholders (Awan et al, 2014:18-19). By actively engaging communities in the design and transformation of urban spaces, spatial agency is harnessed to reflect the diverse needs, desires, and identities of people who inhabit these places.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

2.6.5 Reclaiming Public Spaces: Spatial Agency as a Tool for Social Activism

Spatial agency can also be a powerful tool for social activism and the reclamation of public spaces. Campbell (2019) discussed various examples in which communities, often marginalized or disadvantaged, have used spatial agency to challenge dominant narratives, reclaim abandoned areas, and create vibrant community hubs. These initiatives not only reshape physical spaces but also foster a sense of ownership, empowerment, and collective identity among the participants (Campbell, 2019:13-14)

By embracing the concept of spatial agency and incorporating it into urban development practices, cities can move towards more responsive and people-centered approaches that promote social justice, equity, and empowerment. Ultimately, the concept of spatial agency invites us to reimagine cities as living and evolving entities that respond to the needs and aspirations of their diverse communities.

2.7 Urban Interiority and Public Interiors

Urban interiority refers to the spatial, social, and experiential qualities of interior spaces in an urban environment. It encompasses the notion of public interiors, which are areas within the city that are accessible to the public and that facilitate various social activities.

2.7.1 Identity and Sense of belonging

Urban Interiority can be used as a catalyst for social interaction and engagement (Jacobs, 1961:137-138). Jacobs (1961) highlighted the significance of the street as a primary public space, questioning the need for specialized public interiors and advocating for dynamic, active street life. It is highlighted that the concept of public interiors is being undermined by privatization and the increasing commercialization of urban spaces (Zukin, 2010:144-145).

Zukin (2010) argues that the transformation of public interiors into privately owned and controlled spaces erodes the sense of publicness and restricts access to certain segments of society. In contrast, Sennett (2008) argued that public interiors can maintain their public character even if they are privately owned, as long as they adhere to the principles of openness, inclusivity, and accessibility.

Urban interiority and public interiors are often integral to the identity and sense of place within a city. Madanipour (2003) highlighted how public interiors can become symbolic

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

representations of a city's culture, history, and collective memory, contributing to a sense of belonging to its residents. However, some scholars, such as Lofland (1998), caution against overly emphasizing the physical aspects of public interiors, arguing that the social interactions and shared experiences that occur within these spaces are equally essential for fostering a sense of place.

2.7.2 Flexibility and Adaptability, and the evolving Nature of Public Interiors

The concept of public interiors encompasses their adaptability to and responsiveness to changing urban dynamics. Franck and Stevens (2007) advocate for flexible design strategies that allow public interiors to accommodate various functions and activities over time.

Vibrant and engaging activities within interior spaces can spill out and activate adjacent public spaces. Hillier (1996) suggests that well-designed interior spaces, such as atriums or plazas within buildings, can serve as social attractors that draw people in and encourage them to linger. This spillage of activities from the interior to the public realm can enhance the vitality and social interactions in the surrounding urban environment (Hiller, 1996:252-253).

Conversely, Gehl (2010) asserts that the success of public spaces is closely linked to the adjacent activities and uses of buildings, highlighting the interconnectedness between the interior and public realm. Lefebvre (1996) suggests that the boundaries between interior and exterior spaces should be porous and fluid, enabling a more inclusive and participatory urban experience.

2.7.3 Balancing Interior Activities and Public Space

The relationship between interior activities and public spaces requires careful regulation and design intervention. Some scholars argue for the need to strike a balance between the autonomy of interior spaces and their influence on the public realm (Carmona, 2010:157-158). Carmona (2010) emphasized the importance of urban design guidelines that encourage buildings to have positive spillage effects by providing attractive entrances, visual connections, and interactive elements. This approach aims to foster a sense of continuity and connectivity between interior spaces and the public.

In contrast, Castells (1989) highlights the role of power relations in shaping the spillage of activities. He argues that dominant economic and political forces often dictate the interaction between interior activities and public spaces, leading to exclusions and inequalities. To counteract these dynamics, urban policies and design strategies should prioritize the

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

democratic and inclusive use of both interior and public spaces, ensuring that the spill over of activities benefits a diverse range of users (Castells, 1989:282-283).

Collectively, the literature review highlights the significance of urban interiority and public interiors in shaping the urban experience. The interconnections between these concepts elucidate the intricate relationship between interior spaces, public realms, social interactions, placemaking, and design considerations. The findings of this review provide a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of urban interiority and public interiors within the city.

3 Research methodology

This section of the study outlines the methodological approach adopted to investigate the informal trading scenarios in Pretoria CBD. The importance of a robust and clear methodology cannot be overstated as it provides a systematic and rigorous structure to the research process, ensuring the validity and reliability of the findings.

3.1 Study area and context

The State Theatre block and the pedestrian corridor of Helen Joseph Street (Church Street) have been selected as the study area for this research due to their significant presence of informal trading activities and the heavy presence of gates and fencing. Within this study area, a total of 10 distinct informal trading scenarios were identified, each characterized by its unique set of traders, goods or services offered, and spatial arrangements. These scenarios reflect the diverse nature of informal trading practices within the Pretoria CBD and provide valuable insights into the dynamics of informal economies in urban environments.



Figure 3: Map illustrating study area of focus in Pretoria CBD (Author, 2023).

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

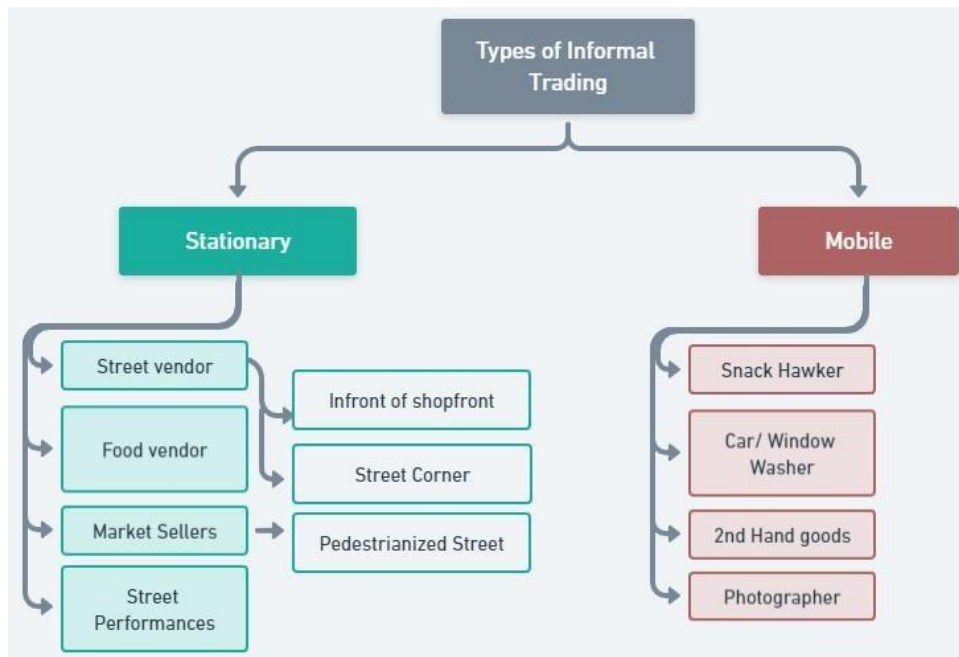


Figure 4: Organizational diagram showing types of informal trading stalls in Pretoria CBD (Author, 2023).

By examining these 10 identified scenarios, this study aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of the spatial routines, rituals, and interactions of informal traders in relation to the physical environment and urban fabric. The selection of these specific trading scenarios allows for a focused analysis that captures the complexity and nuances of informal trading in the State Theatre block and Helen Joseph Street corridor.

3.2 Research strategy/ approach

The study employs a constructivist-interpretivist paradigm with the researcher as an active participant (Denzin and Lincoln, 2000:8) to gain a deep understanding of the social and cultural practices of the informal trader collecting data. This paradigm is well-suited for qualitative research because it allows for the generation of in-depth understandings of small samples, which is important in the context of this study given the diversity of informal traders.

Data is collected observationally, during comprehensive trading hours on weekdays (8am - 7pm) and weekends (9am - 5pm), enabling an authentic understanding of traders' daily

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

routines. The selection of observation times is random at 1-hour intervals, capturing the fluidity of informal trading practices. It uses the following analytical techniques:

- Document analysis to examine relevant policies, regulations and by-laws that shape the context of informal trading (Amin, 2002:399-426).
- Spatial analysis of the spatial routines and rituals of informal traders during April–June 2023 by examining the physical evidence of their presence in public and urban interiors. This can involve mapping the location and distribution of informal trading sites, as well as analysing the spatial patterns and movements of informal traders over two months.
- Thematic analysis following Braun and Clarke's (2006) thematic analysis procedure. This method involves identifying, analysing and reporting patterns (themes) within the data. It is a flexible approach that allows the researcher to build a rich and detailed account of the data, bringing to the fore the intangible aspects of the trading experience. Through thematic analysis, the researcher can uncover themes related to urban interiority, place identity and the spatial dynamics of informal trading.
- Comparative analysis of informal trading at different points along Helen Joseph Street. This involves observing spatial inhabitation and its traces, providing insights into the similarities and differences between different points of the study site, as well as the factors that shape these differences.
- Sense of place analysis: This technique can be used to understand how informal trading in the pedestrianized corridor of Helen Joseph Street contributes to the sense of place. This focuses on key criteria: the spatial layout and use, the range and dynamism of activities, social interactions occurring, the existence of unique features or landmarks, and the sensory impressions of sound, smell, and visual elements. (Lefebvre,1991).

3.3 Research methodology

This research employs a critical research methodology (Denzin and Lincoln, 2000:118) that is qualitative in nature as it explores the multifaceted nature of the urban environment and the aim of producing more liveable, inclusive, and dynamic urban settings. It conducts ethnographic research analysing ten informal trading scenarios (temporal and mobile) to identify similarities and differences between them (Marcus, 1998). This approach can provide insights into the factors that shape different scenarios and how they interact with each other.

The research methodology used was qualitative (Denzin and Lincoln, 2000:3,11,15). This methodology is well-suited for exploring complex social phenomena and generating rich, detailed data that can provide insights into the experiences and perspectives of research sites.

30

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

The researcher aims to engage directly with the research context by immersing oneself, with the aim of uncovering rich insights into informal trading dynamics and their relationships with the urban environment (Hammersley & Atkinson, 2007:105). It is essential for the researcher to navigate the dual role of participant and objective observer. Maintaining reflexivity and self-awareness throughout the research process is crucial to ensure that personal biases and assumptions do not unduly influence the interpretation of the data (Merriam and Tisdell, 2016: 61-70). Researchers should critically reflect on their own positionality, values, and perspectives and strive for transparency and rigor in data collection and analysis.

Direct Traces Observation: Extensive fieldwork was conducted to directly observe and document the traces of inhabitation within the State Theatre Block, Helen Joseph Street (Church Street), and its immediate surroundings. By immersing themselves in the environment, documenting and analysing the spatial arrangements of stalls, the types of goods traded and the overall atmosphere of the trading area (Edensor, 2005:114). This study examines physical artifacts and traces left behind by informal traders. These traces may include the infrastructure and tools used by traders, such as makeshift stalls, display racks, or storage containers. By examining these artifacts, researchers can gain insight into the spatial tactics, organization, and material practices employed by traders.

The data collection phase of this research involved the adoption of Spradley's (1979) Nine Dimensions Tool, which consists of nine categories or dimensions that guide the data collection process, including space, actors, activities, objects, acts, events, time, goals, and feelings. The dimensions of goals and feelings will not be analysed in-depth in this study because of the specific research objectives and focus.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

Table 1: Spradley's nine dimensional tool (Spradley, 1979).

Tools of Dimension	Description
Space	Examines the physical environment and spatial arrangements in informal trading settings.
Actor	Focuses on the individuals or groups involved in informal trading activities and their roles.
Activity	Analyses the specific actions, behaviours, and practices related to informal trading.
Object	Investigates the material goods, commodities, and items exchanged or used in informal trading.
Act	Explores the purposeful actions or sequences of behaviours within the context of informal trading.
Event	Examines specific occurrences, incidents, or happenings in the course of informal trading.
Time	Considers the temporal aspects, schedules, and durations associated with informal trading activities.
Goal (Not analysed)	Represents the intentions, aims, or desired outcomes in informal trading (not analysed in this study).
Feeling (Not analysed)	Refers to the emotions, sentiments, or affective states associated with informal trading (not analysed in this study).

Using Spradley's nine-dimension tool, this study aims to capture a holistic view of informal trading practices, spatial dynamics, interactions among actors, nature of activities, role of objects, sequence of acts, occurrence of events, and temporal aspects within the State Theatre block (Spradley, 1979). This approach will enable a comprehensive exploration of lived experiences and informal trading in a physical environment.

The research carefully examined the physical environment, paying attention to the layout of stalls, organization of goods, presence of signage, and any modifications made to the existing structures. Detailed notes and photographs were taken to capture specific details and characteristics of the observed traces.

Mapping and Documentation: Spradley's nine-dimensional tool (Spradley, 1979) to document the spatial distribution of human traces of informal trading within the site of focus. This involved creating detailed maps, diagrams, photographs, and sketches that highlighted the locations of

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

stalls, the flow of pedestrian movement, and the emergence of informal trading and its relationship to the informal sector and public urban realm. These maps served as a visual representation of spatial dynamics and provided insights into the patterns and relationships between the traces of inhabitation.

3.4 Data analysis

The data analysis in this study employs reflexive thematic analysis following the approach proposed by Braun and Clarke (2006). Reflexive thematic analysis is a qualitative method that allows for the identification and exploration of patterns and themes within the data, while maintaining a reflective stance throughout the analysis process (Braun & Clarke, 2006;84).

3.4.1 Data Preparation: The researcher began by organizing and preparing the collected data for analysis. This involves organizing observation notes and ensuring all data is properly documented and stored (Flick, 2009: 206-207).

3.4.2 Data Familiarization: The researchers immerse themselves in the data, reading and re-reading the transcripts, observation notes, and other relevant materials. This process helps in becoming familiar with the content, identifying recurring themes, and gaining a holistic understanding of the data set (Flick, 2009: 177-178).

3.4.3 Initial coding: The researcher engages in constant comparison, which involves comparing new data segments to previously coded segments to identify similarities, differences, and patterns pertaining to the research questions and objectives. This iterative process helps in developing a deeper understanding of the data and refining the coding scheme (Glaser & Strauss, 1967:105-106).

These critical stages form the backbone of a vigorous data analysis process for this study, designed to extract meaningful insights from the intricate practices of informal trading scenarios in Pretoria CBD. The use of reflexive thematic analysis, following Braun and Clarke (2006), allows for a systematic and reflective approach, maintaining a clear focus on the phenomena under investigation, and facilitating a nuanced understanding of the context-specific intricacies of informal trading within the urban environment.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

Table 2: Initial codes for analysing the informal trading scenarios.

Code	Description
C1	Proximity to pedestrian paths
C2	Arrangement of goods
C3	Space utilization
C4	Setting up stalls
C5	Displaying and arranging goods
C6	Stall structures and materials
C7	Adaptability to different locations
C8	Range and diversity of products offered
C9	Types of goods and categories
C10	Quality of products
C11	Pricing strategies
C12	Impact on pedestrian movement
C13	Visual display of goods
C14	Use of colours and signage
C15	Economic dimensions of informal trading
C16	Sense of place and cultural expressions
C17	Adaptation tactics to changing circumstances and challenges
C18	Utilization of public space
C19	Tactics for attracting customers and foot traffic
C20	Integration with surrounding built environment
C21	Informal trading as a means of social inclusion and economic opportunities for marginalized communities

Table 3: Derivation and Interpretation of initial codes for informal trading scenarios of Pretoria CBD.

Codes	Interpretation
C1 – Proximity to pedestrian paths C3 – Space utilization C4 – Setting up stalls C6 – Stall structures and materials	These codes emerged as a result of observation of the spatial routines and the flexible tactics deployed by the informal traders. This reflects De Certeau's (1984) argument which emphasizes the importance of strategies and tactics in our daily urban lives. He posits that people shape and traverse their surroundings using a plethora of ingenious tactics.
C13 – Visual display of goods C14 – Use of colours C18 – Utilization of public space	These codes reiterate the concept of urban interiority and public interiors (Jacobs, 1961) and reflect the views of Hillier (1996), Franck and Stevens (2007), and Gehl (2010) about the interconnectedness of interior and public realms.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

	These codes also demonstrate the impactful role of interior spaces in shaping the urban environment (Lefebvre, 1996).
C7 – Adaptability to different locations C8 – Range and diversity of products offered C15 – Economic dimensions of informal trading	Codes reflect the resilience, varied offerings, and economic importance that Acemoglu and Robinson (2012), UN Habitat (2010), Watson (2013), and Mitullah (2004) discuss in their works. These elements emphasize the crucial role informal trading plays in city economies, particularly in the Global South, and how it interacts with more formal planning structures.
C2 - Arrangement of goods C5 – Display of goods C6 – Stall structures and materials C9 – Types of goods and categories C10 - Quality of products C11 - Pricing strategies C12 – impact on pedestrian movement C13 - Visual display of goods C16 – Sense of place and cultural expression C17 - Adaptation tactics to changing circumstances and challenges C19 - Tactics for attracting customers and foot traffic C20 – Integration with surrounding built environment C21 - Informal trading as a means of social inclusion and economic opportunities for marginalized communities	The remaining codes in the study were extracted through meticulous observations of informal trading in Pretoria CBD. These codes emerged organically from the observed scenarios, providing a multifaceted view of informal trading's spatial, cultural, and economic dynamics.

3.4.4 Theme Development: The identified codes are organized into themes and sub-themes, representing patterns, variations, and unique aspects of the data. This process ensures that the themes developed are grounded in the actual data and reflects the richness of the information obtained (Braun & Clarke, 2006:82). The themes will be reviewed and refined through an iterative process, ensuring the coherence and richness of the analysis (Nowell et al., 2017:6-8 and Hiller, 1996:22-25). This research strives for concise and well-defined themes that encompass all relevant aspects without overlap. It uses a descriptive language to convey meaning and significance.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

Table 4: Themes that emerge for analysing informal trading scenarios.

Theme	Description
Spatial routines/ rituals	These represent the patterns of daily activities that traders engage in, signifying how these individuals blend their operations within the broader rhythm of city life.
Urban Interiority	This illustrates the vibrant microcosm where indoor and outdoor spaces blend, contributing to a lively public sphere.
Strategies and Tactics	This describes the traders' use of a variety of innovative tactics to adapt and survive in the urban context, showing a narrative of resilience and innovation.
Place Identity	This speaks to the deep-rooted relationship and sense of familiarity that the traders build with their specific spots, fostering a feeling of community and a distinct 'sense of place' within the bustling city.
Temporal-Spatial Dynamics	This highlights the timing fluctuations of trading activities, reflecting the city's pulsating rhythm and the traders' adaptability to these changes.

3.4.5 Interpretation: The interpretation of the themes will involve a deep understanding of the social, economic, and cultural implications of the observed patterns. The research will then critically analyse the data in relation to the research objectives and theoretical framework drawing connections and insights from the themes (Nowell et al., 2017:10-11). This interpretive process will involve reflexivity and attention to the researcher's own biases and assumptions, reporting data in a clear and transparent manner to ensure that the findings are accessible and understandable to a wide range of audiences.

Triangulation was employed to enhance the validity and reliability of the findings. Triangulation involves using multiple data sources, methods, and diverse perspectives to corroborate and validate the research findings (Flick, 2009:230-231). The research acknowledges the limitations inherent in qualitative research, such as the potential for subjectivity and the inability to generalize findings to larger populations (Creswell & Poth, 2018: 89-91). However, the focus of this study is not on generalizability but rather on generating rich and context-specific insights into the traces of inhabitation within informal trading spaces. These findings will contribute to the existing body of knowledge in the field of interior architecture.

3.5.6 Peer Review and Validation: Seek feedback from peers, colleagues, and experts to validate the themes. Their input ensures alignment with data and established theories in informal trading and urban studies.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

3.4.7 Reflexivity: Reflects personal biases, assumptions, and preconceptions. Awareness of their influence on data interpretation promotes objectivity and minimizes bias (Braun & Clarke, 2006:81).

3.5 Ethical considerations

To ensure ethical considerations, confidentiality and anonymity were maintained throughout the data collection, analysis, and reporting stages. This research will adhere to ethical guidelines and principles, protecting the rights and well-being of those who occupy spaces in which informal trading operates.

The study also considers cultural sensitivities and power dynamics within the informal trading community, striving for a respectful approach. The study has obtained ethical clearance through the Ethics Application EBIT/39/2023, a conditional approval in which no humans were involved in the observations.

4 Results

“A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song.” African Proverb

A total of 10 scenarios of informal trading were initially observed and documented. However, upon careful analysis, three specific informal trading scenarios emerged as the most relevant and appropriate for delving into the spatial routines/rituals of informal traders over April-June 2023, as well as to examine the physical evidence of human presence in public and urban interiors. By examining these three specific scenarios the paper delves into the intricacies of informal trading and shed light on its significance in the urban landscape.

Table 5: The three informal trading scenarios selected on a space-time continuum.

Category	Scenario 1: Infront of shopfront	Scenario 2: Pedestrianized Street	Scenario 3: Street corner
Locality Plan			
Area of operation			

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

<p>Temporal-Spatial Dynamics</p> <p><i>Weekdays (Mon-Fri)</i></p> <p><i>Weekend (Sat-Sun)</i></p>			
<p>Spatial traces</p>			
<p>Streetscape vs buildings vs stalls</p>			

A distinctive depiction develops at the centre of the research, revealing insights into the abuzz realm of informal trading in Pretoria CBD. A series of main themes have emerged as a consequence of meticulous analysis: spatial routines/rituals, urban interiority, strategies and tactics, place identity, and temporal-spatial dynamics. These themes contribute to a more comprehensive perception of informal trade, expressing the traders' commonly shared and individual narratives. The table below further unpacks these:

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

Table 6: Emergent themes for analysing the three informal trading scenarios.

Research Focus	Scenario 1: Infront of shopfront	Scenario 2: Pedestrianized Street	Scenario 3: Street corner
Spatial Routines/ rituals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An organized arrangement of stalls and goods in front of shopfront along façade of the building. These at times block off visual connection into the formal sector stores. - Stalls tend to have a more established routine, with a set schedule and a more predictable flow of customers. - The ritualistic nature of this practice is evident in the consistent placement of stalls in the same locations on a daily basis, indicating a repetitive and established spatial routine that has become ingrained in the trading practices of informal traders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stalls line up in a linear manner parallel to formal shops along street edge influenced by the accessibility and visibility of the trading activities. -Stalls tend to have a more mobile location and rely on the foot traffic generated by the pedestrian activity. - Scenario is shaped by the interactions between traders and pedestrians, as well as the physical features of the street. -Stalls are usually setup in the same location, following a specific order or sequence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informal traders establish their stalls at the street corner at the same spot daily, creating a predictable presence in the area. - Scenario is shaped by the interactions between traders and passers-by, as well as the physical features of the street corner. -Traders in this scenario tend to have a more dynamic routine, adapting to the changing traffic patterns and the needs of their customers. This provides a sense of familiarity and establishes a reliable point of contact for customers.
Urban interiority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Traders' use of small-scale, portable/ makeshift stalls for ease of quick assembly and disassembly. - Optimizing on offering customers last minute products, so people can avoid busy shops and long queues. -Goods are stacked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More flexibility in stall arrangement utilizing temporary and flexible structures in the following ways: 1. Fully setup tents displaying some goods on collapsible tables, makeshift display racks and/or hanging other items on vertical racks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social hubs and gathering spaces are created. Makeshift items such as stack crates, trolleys and corrugated boxes makeup the stalls; this fosters a sense of belonging and shared experiences, creating a vibrant and lively atmosphere.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

	<p>vertically and horizontally, creating eye-catching displays maximizing on visibility of products enticing passers-by to purchase the products.</p> <p>-These stalls are enables to assert their presence and compete with formal retail establishments.</p>	<p>2. Only aluminium tent framing with products and items being sold hung directly on framing structure.</p> <p>- Eye-catching displays, vibrant colours, and unique product arrangements to capture the interest of pedestrians and differentiate themselves from their competitors.</p>	<p>-This tactic can be seen as a form of creative adaptation, as traders employ innovative approaches to attract customers and enhance the social and cultural value of their trading activities.</p>
Strategies and tactics	<p>-Traders make use of sidewalk space in front of shop front optimizing on pedestrian foot traffic generated by nearby shops, utilizing public spaces beyond designated trading areas.</p> <p>- This scenario tends to have a more fixed location and relies on the established businesses to attract customers.</p> <p>- This spatial tactic facilitates a symbiotic relationship between informal traders and shop owners, as it can attract more customers to the area, benefiting both parties.</p>	<p>- Stalls are temporary in nature and are well allocated along the street for maximized visibility and accessibility (they do not hinder and vehicular or pedestrian movement).</p> <p>-Stalls are placed in close proximity to one another, encouraging the pulse and flow of the pedestrians as there is sufficient space to walk comfortably.</p> <p>- Spatial arrangement generates a lively and vibrant atmosphere that attracts pedestrians and contributes to the overall energy of the street.</p>	<p>-Stalls are located at key intersections or busy junctions to capture the attention of both pedestrians and motorists. The spatial dynamics in this scenario are shaped by the interactions between traders and passers-by, as well as the physical features of the street corner.</p> <p>-Stalls in this scenario tend to have a more mobile location and rely on the high visibility and traffic flow to maximize their potential customer base.</p> <p>- Scenario is characterized by negotiation, bargaining, and lively conversations, creating a bustling atmosphere that enhances the energy of the street corner.</p>

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

<p>Place Identity</p>	<p>-There's a sense of enclosure and intimacy as the trading activities take place in close proximity to the buildings. -This creates a sense of place that is defined by the physical boundaries of the buildings while incorporating local aesthetics and cultural elements into their stalls and products. -The urban environment has mix of commercial and corporate uses with the trading activities; bustling activity contributing to the vibrancy and liveliness of the street.</p>	<p>-There's sense of openness and accessibility, as the trading activities take place in the public realm. This creates a sense of place that is defined by the interactions between traders and pedestrians, as well as the physical features of the street. -There is focus on pedestrian activity, with the trading activities contributing to the vitality and diversity of the street. - The lively atmosphere created by the trading stalls enhances the ambiance of the pedestrianized area, making it an attractive destination.</p>	<p>-This is characterized by a sense of dynamism and adaptability as the trading activities take place at key intersections or busy junctions. -This creates a sense of place that is defined by the unique sounds of taxis, voice calling and interactions between traders and passers-by. -The urban environment reflects the local culture and character and becomes a meeting point and a hub of economic and social exchange, enriching the urban fabric.</p>
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The themes of strategies and tactics, temporal-spatial dynamics, spatial routines/rituals, place identity and urban interiority were identified for their significance in answering the study questions about the spatial routines and rituals of informal traders. These themes help in understanding how traders traverse urban settings, challenge dominant powers, alter trading dynamics, contribute to a feeling of place, and impact the urban environment. They give a thorough awareness of the intricacies and importance of informal trade practices in the context of the study.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

Unveiling the dynamics of informal trading scenario 01- In front of shopfront:



DENNOTATION	
Initial Codes	
C1	Proximity to pedestrian paths
C3	Space utilization
C5	Displaying & arranging goods
C6	Stall structures & materials
C11	Pricing strategies
C17	Adaptation tactics to changing circumstances & challenges
C19	Tactics for attracting customers and foot traffic
C20	Integration with surrounding built environment
C21	Informal trading as a mean of social inclusion & economic opportunities for marginalized communities

Figure 5: Context analysis of informal trading scenario in front of shopfront (Google, 2017) using initial coding (Author, 2023).



The radar chart reveals that informal traders in Scenario 01 employ various strategies, adapt to temporal-spatial dynamics, and perform certain routines, all scoring 4 out of 5. The highest value, 5 out of 5, is for Place Identity, indicating a strong connection between traders and their trading locations. Urban Interiority scores 3 out of 5, suggesting that while traders shape the urban environment, their influence may be limited by certain constraints. The chart provides a visual understanding of these dynamics within the

informal trading scenario.

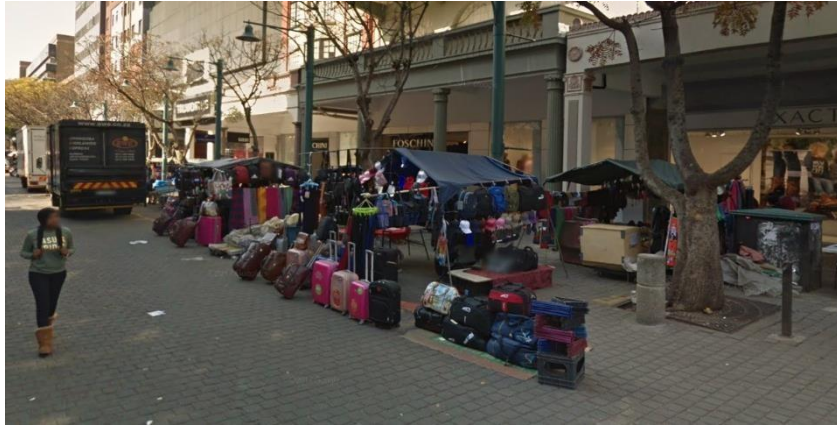
Figure 6: Radar diagram analysis of informal trading scenario 01 (Author, 2023).

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

43

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

Unveiling the dynamics of informal trading scenario 02- Pedestrianized Street:



DENNOTATION

Initial Codes

- C1 Proximity to pedestrian paths
- C2 Arrangement of goods
- C4 Setting up stalls
- C5 Displaying & arranging goods
- C8 Range & diversity of products offered
- C9 Types of good & categories
- C10 Quality of products
- C11 Pricing strategies
- C12 Impact on pedestrian movement
- C15 Economic dimension of informal trading
- C16 Sense of place & cultural expressions
- C18 Utilization of public space
- C20 Integration with surrounding built environment
- C21 Informal trading as a mean of social inclusion & economic opportunities for marginalized communities



Figure 7: Context analysis of informal trading scenario on pedestrianized street (Google, 2017) using initial coding (Author,2023).



The radar map for Scenario 02 of informal trading reveals noteworthy insights and trends. In this situation, traders use strategic techniques and tactics to optimise their actions. They time their activities to coincide with the business hours of surrounding official stores, taking advantage of peak moments. Traders actively participate in the development of a distinct trade environment, establishing a feeling of community and moulding the place identity. This emphasises Scenario 02's market-oriented perspective, temporal-spatial awareness, and

social-cultural components.

Figure 8: Radar Analysis of Key Themes in Informal Trading Scenario 02 (Author, 2023).

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

44

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

Unveiling the dynamics of informal trading scenario 03- Street corner:



DENNOTATION

Initial Codes

- C1 Proximity to pedestrian paths
- C2 Arrangement of goods
- C3 Space utilization
- C4 Setting up stalls
- C5 Displaying & arranging goods
- C6 Stall structures & material
- C8 Range & diversity of products offered
- C9 Types of good & categories
- C10 Quality of products
- C11 Pricing strategies
- C13 Visual display of goods
- C15 Economic dimension of informal trading
- C16 Sense of place & cultural expressions
- C17 Adaptation tactics to changing circumstances & challenges
- C18 Utilization of public space
- C19 Tactics for attracting customers & foot traffic
- C20 Integration with surrounding built environment
- C21 Informal trading as a mean of social inclusion & economic opportunities for marginalized communities

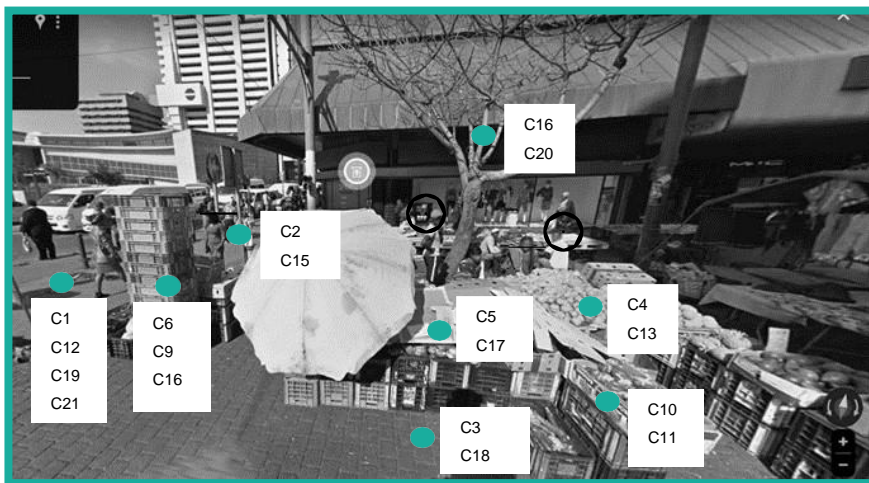


Figure 9: Context analysis of informal trading scenario 03 on street corner (Google, 2017) using initial coding (Author, 2023).



Figure 10: Radar Analysis of Key Themes in Informal Trading Scenario 03 (Author, 2023).

In Scenario 03, the radar chart uncovers a thriving, well-adjusted informal trading environment. It shows maximum scores in strategies & tactics, temporal-spatial dynamics, and spatial routines/rituals, highlighting traders' adaptability, skilful business routines and their profound impact on the area's dynamics. Although slightly lower, place identity and urban interiority still score high, underlining the traders' strong sense of belonging and their substantial influence on the urban environment's perception and experience. This paints a

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

45

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

vivid, dynamic portrait of Scenario 03 as a vibrant hub, vital in shaping the city's urban character.

The radar charts for the three scenarios of informal trading provide valuable insights into different aspects of trading practices. Scenario 01 emphasizes the importance of strategies and tactics, Scenario 02 highlights the significance of temporal-spatial dynamics and Scenario 03 underscores the role of place identity. Across all scenarios, traders demonstrate proactive approaches to optimize their businesses and create vibrant trading spaces. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of informal trading and its impact on urban dynamics.

5 Discussion

This section analyses and interprets the findings from the study on informal trading in the Pretoria CBD. It explores the implications and significance of the results, focusing on spatial routines, tactics, and contributions to the urban environment. The findings highlight the interplay between formal and informal strategies, coexistence with the formal urban environment, and the role of place identity and urban interiority. It critically analyses the results, examines similarities and differences between scenarios, and contributes to knowledge on informal trading's impact on urban fabric and inclusivity.

5.1 Strategies and tactics

The strategies and tactics employed by informal traders in the three observed scenarios exhibit both similarities and differences, showcasing their resourcefulness and adaptability within the urban environment. In Scenario 01, traders strategically position their stalls in front of shopfronts, utilizing the existing infrastructure and foot traffic to attract customers. This aligns with the concept of "tactics", where individuals creatively navigate established systems to achieve their goals (de Certeau's, 1984:37). The traders in this scenario demonstrate their resourcefulness by employing eye-catching displays and signage along the building facade to attract passers-by (Farias & Bender, 2012:10,30). These tactics also influence the spatial language of this area.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria



Figure 11: Map illustrating the emergence of informal trading scenario 01 – Infront of shopfronts, Author (2017).

In moving to Scenario 02, which takes place on a pedestrianized street, traders demonstrate their ability to adapt their tactics based on the time of day, week, and the flow of pedestrian movement. They employ persuasive communication strategies and visually appealing displays to capture the attention of passersby. This reflects the concept of "tactical urbanism," as discussed by Johnson (2007), in which individuals engage in temporary interventions to transform public spaces and foster social interactions. The traders in this scenario show a keen understanding of the dynamics of the leisure environment and employ tactics that capitalize on the space-time continuum of the location.



Figure 12: Map illustrating the emergence of informal trading scenario 02 – Pedestrianized Street, Author (2017).

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

In Scenario 03, the street corner scenario, traders exhibit resourcefulness by utilizing makeshift/portable stall structures in the limited space available at the corner while adapting to dynamic foot traffic patterns. The adaptability of traders is evident in their ability to quickly adjust their stall setup to accommodate changes in foot traffic, weather conditions, or other external factors.

They rely on personal connections and word-of-mouth tactics to attract customers. This highlights the importance of social networks and the role of interpersonal relationships in informal trading (Farias & Bender, 2012:30). The traders' techniques correspond with de Certeau's (1984) idea of "making do" by navigating within and around existing structures to



Figure 13: Map illustrating the emergence of informal trading scenario 03 – Street corner, Author (2017).

To enrich the discussion further, one can draw upon additional scholarly sources. Groat and Wang (2013) explore the tactics employed by individuals in shaping the built environment and creating meaningful places. Their insights can help contextualize the tactics employed by informal traders in Scenario 01, where they intentionally position their stalls along flowing pedestrian pavements, enhancing the character of the area. Similarly, the concept of "craftsmanship" and the adaptive strategies informal traders is employed in Pretoria CBD, offering relevant insights into the resourcefulness of traders in all three scenarios (Sennett, 2008: 33-34).

Furthermore, Madanipour (2003) and Lofland (1998) provided valuable perspectives on the tactics and strategies employed in urban public spaces. Their work contributes to our

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

understanding of how traders in Scenario 2 adapt their tactics to capture the attention of passersby and create engaging interactions. Franck and Stevens (2007) explored the role of persuasion and marketing strategies in shaping urban experiences, providing additional lenses to analyse the tactics employed by traders in Scenario 2. Lefebvre (1996) argues that space is not a neutral backdrop, but a product of power relations, social practices, and symbolic meanings

Finally, the theoretical frameworks of Lefebvre (1996) and Carmona (2010) can be employed to deepen our understanding of the power dynamics and negotiations between formal strategies and informal tactics within the urban environment. In all three scenarios, informal traders optimize the foot traffic generated by the formal sector, interacting and conducting business with passers-by first hand in comparison to formal businesses in the surrounding areas.

5.2 Temporal-Spatial Dynamics

In Scenario 01, in front of the shopfront, the concept of the space-time continuum encompasses the interplay between spatial and temporal dimensions that shape the trading environment. Informal traders strategically position their stalls in specific locations along building shopfronts, taking into consideration various factors such as foot traffic patterns, proximity to potential customers, and accessibility (Liggett & Perry, 2005:103). Moreover, the operating hours of these stalls are influenced by the trading hours of formal stores in the vicinity. For instance, informal stalls began to show traces of human inhabitation as of 8am, with stalls fully erected by 9am. They operated during the following hours: Monday to Friday, from 8 am to 7 pm, and Saturday to Sunday from 9 am to 5 pm.

The duration of trading hours and the distinction between peak and off-peak periods significantly impact the flow of customers and contribute to the overall vibrancy of the trading space. By understanding and analysing the space-time continuum in Scenario 01, we can gain valuable insights into how traders navigate the spatial layout and temporal patterns of the trading environment. This understanding enables us to comprehend how traders strategically optimize their trading strategies, aligning their operations with specific timeframes to attract the maximum number of customers and enhance their business outcomes (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2012:218).

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria



Figure 14: Graph showing peak and off-peak times of operation in each informal trading scenario (Author, 2023).

In Scenario 02, on the pedestrianized street, the trading hours align with the established patterns observed in Scenario 01, demonstrating a shared understanding among traders of the importance of adhering to regulated temporal patterns. These traders, operating as permit holders under the informal trading by-laws of the City of Tshwane, recognize the significance of complying with the regulations governing their operations (City of Tshwane, 2016). Adhering to consistent trading hours fosters regularity and predictability, elevating the customer shopping experience, and cultivating trust and reliability in traders' businesses (Till, 2017:132). Moreover, the regulation of trading hours plays a crucial role in effectively managing and organizing trading spaces and establishing a structured and supportive environment for informal trading activities.

In contrast, Scenario 03, on the street corner, exhibited variation in trading hours. The stalls in this scenario operate from Monday to Friday (8 am to 6 pm) and Saturday to Sunday (9 am to 4 pm). The extended trading hours in Scenario 03 may be attributed to different factors, such as the unique characteristics of trading on a street corner or the specific needs and demands of the local customer base (Skinner, 2019:2430). The longer operational window provides traders in Scenario 03 with increased opportunities to cater to early morning and late evening customers, accommodating different lifestyles and work schedules (Skinner, 2019:2431).

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

5.3 Place Identity

The influence of informal trading on place identity is evident across all the three scenarios, albeit in distinct ways. In Scenario 01, where traders strategically position their stalls in front of shopfronts, the presence of informal trading contributes significantly to shaping the local character and vibrancy of the area. The stalls become integral elements of the streetscape, reflecting the diversity and entrepreneurial spirit of the community. This aligns with the concepts of place identity discussed by Groat and Wang (2013), Smith (2010), and Pallasmaa (2005), which emphasize the interplay between the physical environment and human activities in shaping the perception and meaning of a place.

The physical characteristics of the informal trading stalls, such as their location and arrangement, become distinctive features that contribute to the unique identity of the place influence people's sense of belonging and attachment to that place (Groat & Wang, 2013:174-175). The presence of vibrant and visually appealing stalls attracts attention and generates a sense of activity and vitality in the urban environment, resonating with Smith's (2010) notion of place identity as a product of human engagement with the built environment. Furthermore, the interactions between traders and customers in Scenario 1 create a sense of place that is characterized by social interactions, sensory perceptions, and emotional connections (Pallasmaa, 2005:34-35), also reflecting the economic realities of the area.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

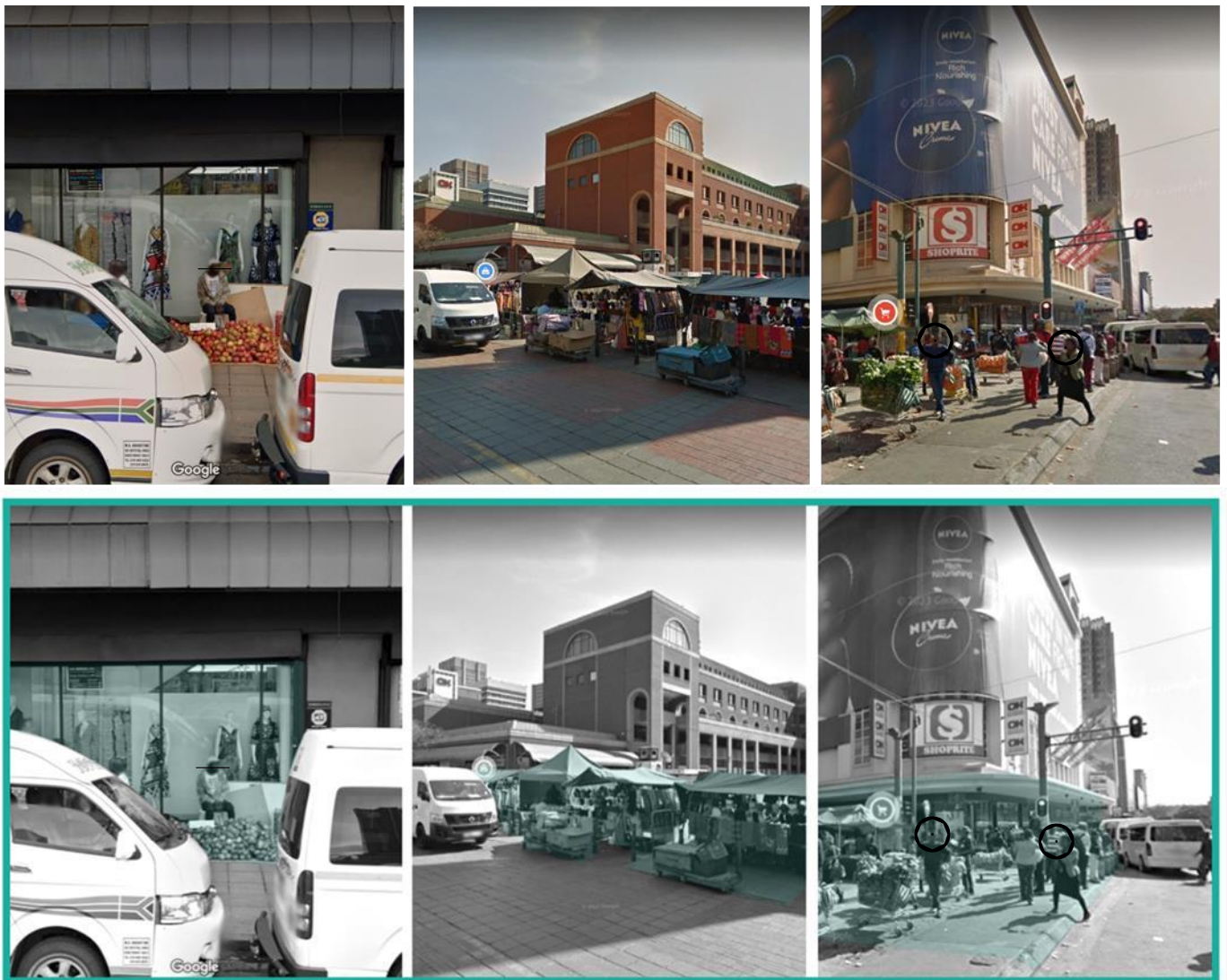


Figure 15 Tactics implemented by informal traders in different scenarios (Google, 2017). Left: In front of shopfront, Middle: Pedestrianized Street, Right: At street corner. Scenarios highlighted in blue (Author, 2023).

In Scenario 02, the pedestrianized street functions as a vibrant center of informal trading, shaping its distinctive identity as a hub for economic and social activities. The lively interactions between traders and customers, along with bustling stalls, create a unique atmosphere that strengthens the sense of place.

The theory of "placemaking" emphasizes the role of social interactions and cultural practices in shaping a vibrant place. In the context of informal trading on the pedestrianized street, the continuous flow of interactions and economic exchanges contributes to the development of a distinct place identity (Rapoport, 1982:135-136). This also aligns with the observations of Relph (1976), who emphasized the human scale and personalized touch brought by informal

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

traders, fostering a sense of place deeply rooted in social interactions and everyday experiences.

Furthermore, place identity is not solely determined by physical attributes, but also by collective memory and shared experiences (Halbwachs, 1992:128-130). In Scenario 2, the shared experiences of traders and customers within the bustling street contribute to the formation of collective memory and a sense of belonging, reinforcing the location's place identity.

In Scenario 03, traders operating in street corners revitalize underutilized spaces, transforming them into bustling trading hubs that embody the community's cultural expression and social dynamics. The concept of "imageability" emphasizes how the sensory experiences associated with a place, including distinctive visuals and memorable encounters, contribute to the scenario's identity (Lynch, 1960:46-47). Lively trading activities, visually distinct stall structures, and unique sounds of cars, buses, and taxi blaring create a strong sense of imageability, making street corners easily recognizable and leaving lasting impressions. Traders' stalls become prominent visual landmarks, enabling both locals and visitors to form mental maps and forge meaningful connections with the place.

Moreover, Edensor (2005) delved into social and cultural practices within urban spaces and their impact on place identity. In Scenario 3, the interactions between traders and customers as well as the cultural expressions embedded in their products and engagements foster the formation of collective memories and contribute to a unique local sense of place. Informal trading becomes interwoven with the social fabric, nurturing a sense of belonging and reinforcing the community's identity within these street corners.

5.4 Urban Interiority

The concept of urban interiority manifests differently in each of the three scenarios, highlighting the diverse ways in which informal trading interacts with the urban fabric. In Scenario 01, interiority is exemplified through the spatial organization of stalls, arrangement of goods, and social interactions between traders and customers (refer to Figure 16). The stalls function as microcosms of activity, cultivating a sense of intimacy and community within the larger urban environment, emphasizing the importance of vibrant street life and the social fabric of urban spaces (Jacobs, 1961:138). The interplay between the interior of formal sector stores and informal stalls (in front of the shopfront) blurs the boundaries, creating a seamless transition between public and privatized spaces (refer to Figure 17). The very presence of informal stalls

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

in front of formal shopfronts indicates a level of interdependence and interaction between the two sectors. Additionally, the fact that both sectors are vying for the same customers suggests that they are both important parts of the urban economy.



Figure 16: Scenario 01 stalls in front of shopfront fostering intimacy and community within public space at human scale (Author, 2023).

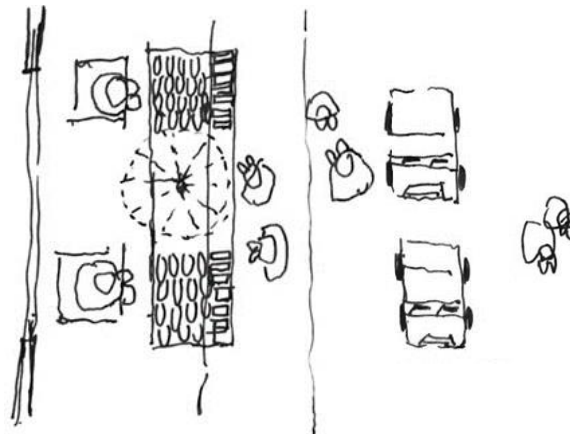


Figure 17: Plan view illustrating spatial layout of informal stalls of Scenario 01 at human scale (Author, 2023).

In Scenario 02, pedestrianized streets embody an open and accessible form of urban interiority. It serves as a shared space for diverse social interactions, economic exchanges, and cultural expression (refer to Figure 18). A dynamic atmosphere and collective engagement foster a sense of belonging and shared ownership of the street. Scholars such as Zukin (2010), Sennett (2008), and Gehl (2010) have provided valuable insights into the significance of public spaces as sites that facilitate social interactions, stimulate economic vitality, and contribute to the cultivation of a distinctive sense of place. The linear arrangement of the stalls along Helen

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

Joseph Street (refer to Figure 19) also serves as a lively and bustling device that may also serve as a wayfinder and/or landmark in the city.



Figure 18: Informal trading stalls in scenario 02 fostering social interactions and stimulating economic activity in the daytime - Helen Joseph Street (Author, 2023).

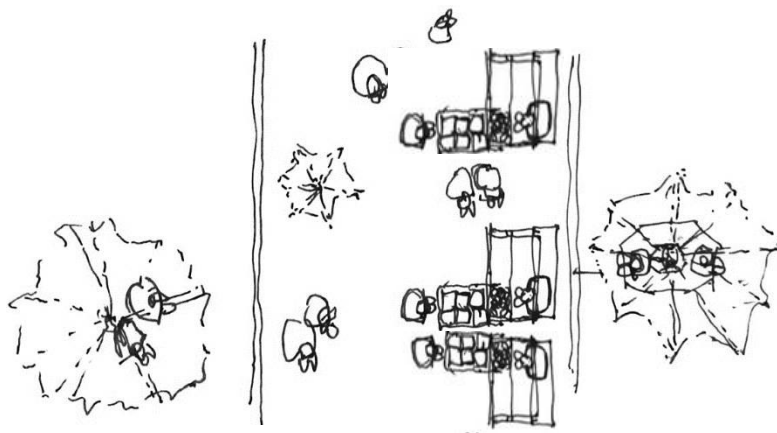


Figure 19: Plan view of informal trading stalls of scenario 02 in linear arrangement along Helen Joseph Street (Author, 2023).

In Scenario 03, the street corner setting, traders establish their own microcosms, creating nodes of activity within the urban landscape. Through their stalls and interactions with customers, they create distinctive interiority within the public space, evoking a sense of enclosure and providing a unique and convenient trading experience. This concept resonates with the works of Madanipour (2003), Lofland (1998), and Franck and Stevens (2007), which

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

explore the intricate relationship between urban design, public spaces, and the formation of distinctive place identities.

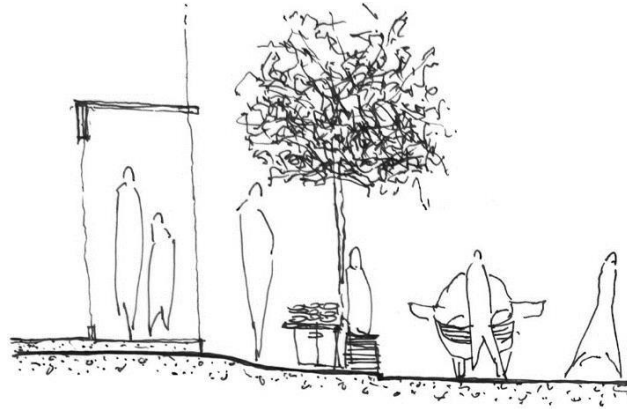


Figure 20: Scenario 03 Makeshift structures setup on street corner for informal trading during peak hours (Author, 2023).

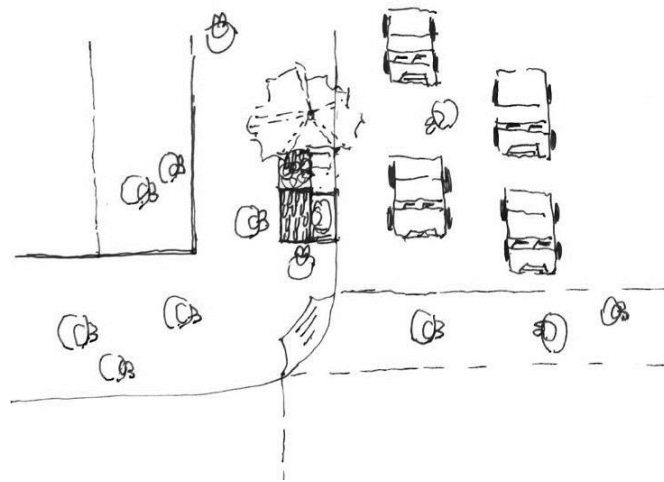


Figure 21: In Scenario 03, the extended trading hours enable informal traders to accommodate customers with different schedules, appealing to both early risers and late workers (Author, 2023).

Furthermore, it is imperative to consider the interplay between space and time in such scenarios. The temporal dimensions of trading activities, such as opening and closing hours, fluctuation of customers throughout the day, and cyclical nature of daily routines, contribute to the dynamic nature of urban interiority. The theoretical frameworks proposed by Hillier (1996),

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

Lefebvre (1996), Carmona (2010), and Castells (1989) provide analytical tools to examine the spatial and temporal dimensions of urban environments and elucidate how they shape social interactions, influence identity formation, and ultimately contribute to the overall urban experience (refer to Figure 20).

Urban interiority in informal trading scenarios underscores the importance of human-scale design considerations. As traders operate in close proximity to pedestrians and public spaces, the design of their stalls and setups directly impacts pedestrian experience and circulation patterns (refer to Figure 21).

By examining the strategies and tactics, place identity, and urban interiority across the three scenarios, arises a comprehensive understanding of how informal trading coexists with the formal urban environment. The similarities in the adaptability and ingenuity of traders demonstrate their resilience and ability to carve out space for economic activity and social interaction. The differences in place identity and urban interiority highlight the unique contributions of informal trading to the urban fabric, enriching the sense of place and creating dynamic and inclusive urban environments. Recognizing the symbiotic relationship between formal and informal strategies is essential for urban planning and policymaking to embrace the potential of informal trading and leverage it as a catalyst for positive urban transformation.

Cross-scenario radar diagram of all three informal trading scenarios:

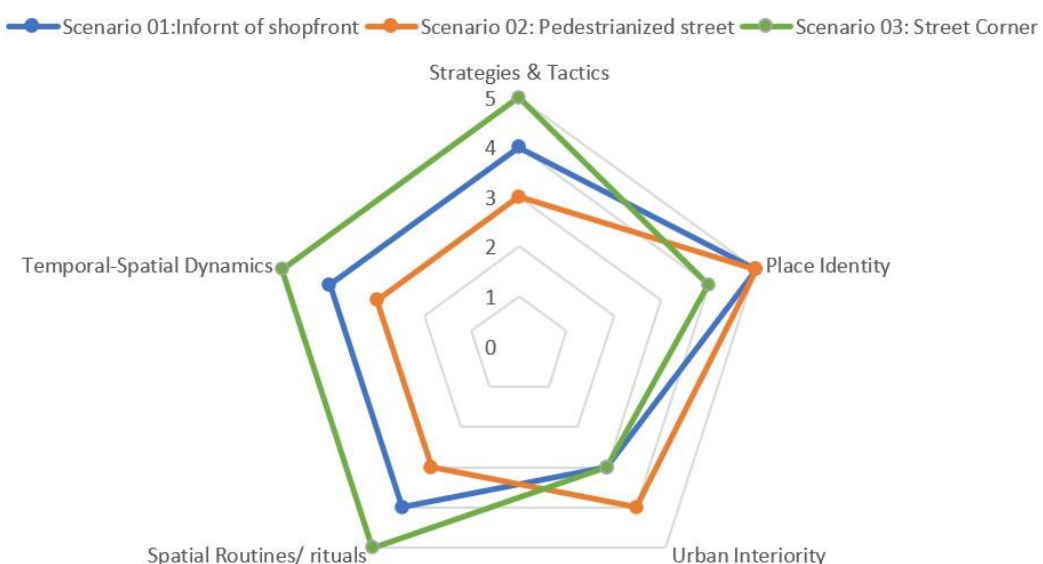


Figure 22: Comparative radar chart illustrating all three informal trading scenarios in Pretoria CBD.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

In summary, the radar charts for the three scenarios of informal trading provide valuable insights into the different aspects of trading practices. Scenario 01 emphasizes the importance of strategies and tactics, Scenario 02 highlights the significance of temporal-spatial dynamics, and Scenario 03 underscores the role of place identity. Across all scenarios, traders demonstrate proactive approaches to optimize their businesses and create vibrant trading spaces. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of informal trading and its impacts on urban dynamics.

By examining the strategies and tactics, place identity, and urban interiority across the three scenarios, arises a comprehensive understanding of how informal trading coexists with the formal urban environment. The similarities in the adaptability and ingenuity of traders demonstrate their resilience and their ability to carve out spaces for economic activity and social interaction. The differences in place identity and urban interiority highlight the unique contributions of informal trading to the urban fabric, enriching the sense of place and creating dynamic and inclusive urban environments. Recognizing the symbiotic relationship between formal strategies and informal tactics is essential for urban planning and policy-making to embrace the potential of informal trading and leverage it as a catalyst for positive urban transformation.

6 Conclusion

This section concludes by reflecting on significant findings from the research on informal trading situations in the Pretoria CBD, as seen through the lens of interior architecture. It critically assesses the study limitations and indicates directions for future research, affirming the value of such investigations in informing urban development and design.

6.1 Main Findings:

The research journey illuminated intricate spatial routines, rituals, and the creation of place identities among informal traders in a South African city. Investigative methods of physical evidence examination and thematic data analysis uncovered patterns, strategies, and tactics across different informal trading scenarios. These findings highlight the adaptability of traders who shape public spaces in order to meet their needs. They also emphasize the significant role of place identity in shaping spatial dynamics and social interactions within a broader urban environment.

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

This research also revealed an integral connection between urban interiority and sensory experiences inherent in the urban environment. The ceaseless city soundscape, the tantalizing aroma of braaied mielies, and the vibrant ambiance of busy trading spaces, all consolidate to form a dynamic urban tapestry, impacting perceptions and experiences of the cityscape.

6.2 Contributions to the Field

This study makes contribution to the field of interior architecture. First, it enhances understanding of informal trading practices by exploring spatial dimensions and temporal dynamics. The identification of strategies and tactics employed by informal traders provides insights into their spatial agency and adaptability, contributing to a nuanced understanding of the relationship between informal trading and the built environment. It also informs interior architects of the need to design flexible and adaptable spaces that accommodate the dynamic nature of informal trading practices.

Second, this study highlights the significance of place identity within informal trading scenarios, emphasizing the need for inclusive and supportive urban spaces that accommodate the diverse needs and identities of informal traders. This recognition guides interior architects in creating environments that respect and celebrate the cultural diversity and identities of informal traders, thereby fostering a sense of belonging and authenticity.

6.3 Strengths of the Study

One of the strengths of this study is its comprehensive approach to investigating informal trading in urban environments. The examination of three distinct scenarios allowed a diverse range of spatial dynamics, strategies, and tactics to be captured. The use of reflective thematic data analysis, combined with a theoretical framework informed by the relevant literature, enhanced the credibility and validity of the findings. This multi-dimensional perspective provides valuable insights into the spatial routines and rituals of informal traders during the April-June 2023 time period.

6.4 Limitations and Potential Biases

It is important to acknowledge the limitations and potential bias of this study. The scarcity of academic literature specifically focused on informal trading in African cities within the discipline of interior architecture has limited the establishment of a robust theoretical framework and comparison with existing research. The reliance on non-obtrusive data collection methods and the absence of direct interviews with individual traders may have limited the depth of the

Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

insights. Additionally, the study's focus on a specific African city, Pretoria CBD, may limit the generalizability of the findings to other cultural and geographical contexts.

6.5 On Formality in the Study

While the research underscored the importance of recognizing both formal and informal trade, it predominantly dwelled on the informal spectrum. The term 'formal', in this context, is understood as practices, spaces, or sectors that operate within official regulations and structures. It's evident that the emphasis on formal trade isn't as pronounced as initially indicated. To maintain rigorous alignment with the research findings, future studies could delve deeper into the juxtaposition of formalized spaces within informal settings or explore the continuum between these two realms.

6.6 Recommendations for Future Research

To address the study's limitations and build upon its strengths, future research should adopt a more participatory approach involving informal traders in the research process. This provides a more holistic understanding of spatial routines and rituals. Furthermore, expanding the scope of this study to include diverse cities and cultural contexts would contribute to a comprehensive understanding of informal trading dynamics. The cross-scenario radar charts employed in this research have been instrumental in visually communicating and comparing the complex dynamics at play within each trading scenario. Their use in future studies could enable a visual dialogue that speaks volumes about shared and differing experiences across regions and cultures.

This study lays a foundation for further research on interior architecture, particularly within the context of South Africa. By recognizing these strengths and limitations, future studies can refine methodologies and deepen the understanding of the complex relationship between informal trading, spatial practices, and the built environment.

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Exploring the Dynamics of Informal Trade and Urban Identity: A Qualitative Study of Church Street in Pretoria

1 Appendices



Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology

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

27 March 2023

Reference number: EBIT/39/2023

Ms MM Mokolane
Department: Architecture
University of Pretoria
Pretoria
0083

Dear Ms MM Mokolane,

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 "Re-imagining Public Interiors to Improve 'Access and Control' to Informal Trade" is approved under the strict conditions indicated below. If these conditions are not met, approval is withdrawn automatically.

Conditions for approval:

No humans are involved in observation, if so, then informed consent forms are required. No children/minors are to be observed.

This approval does not imply that the researcher, student or lecturer is relieved of any accountability in terms of the Code of Ethics for Scholarly Activities of the University of Pretoria, or the Policy and Procedures for Responsible Research of the University of Pretoria. These documents are available on the website of the EBIT Ethics Committee.

If action is taken beyond the approved application, approval is withdrawn automatically.

According to the regulations, any relevant problem arising from the study or research methodology as well as any amendments or changes, must be brought to the attention of the EBIT Research Ethics Office.

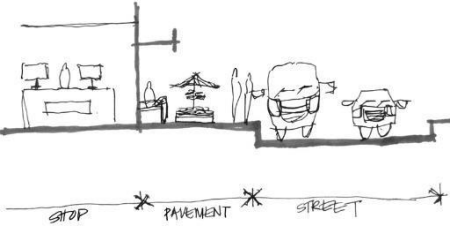
The Committee must be notified on completion of the project.

The Committee wishes you every success with the research project.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kai-Y. Chan'.

Prof K.-Y. Chan


Chair: Faculty Committee for Research Ethics and Integrity
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING, BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Scenario 01: In front of shopfront	Main Theme	Sub-themes	Description	Interpretation
	<p>Strategies and Tactics in informal trading</p> <p><i>This theme explores the various approaches and techniques employed by informal traders to navigate their urban environments and achieve their objectives.</i></p>	<p>Power dynamics and everyday resistance within urban spaces</p> <p>Spatial agency and the negotiation of urban space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The space right in front of the shopfronts becomes a dynamic zone where informal traders set up their businesses. They utilize the available open area adjacent to the shops (right along the building facade), creating an extension of the commercial activity. In most cases this blocks passer-by's from viewing formal stores through the shopfront window. - Traders strategically use the sidewalk space in front of shopfronts/ entrances, optimizing the available area for their stalls and ensuring maximum exposure to foot traffic of passing pedestrians usually generated by formal businesses. - Traders' use of portable/makeshift stalls, that can quickly be assembled and disassembled, allowing for the stalls to adapt to the dynamic nature of the environment. 	<p>This scenario can be linked to the concept discussed by Smith (2010), who builds upon de Certeau's ideas. Smith emphasizes the collective aspects of tactics and highlights the role of social movements and community organizing in challenging dominant strategies. In the context of informal trading in front of shopfronts, the traders can be seen as engaging in grassroots resistance. They collectively develop strategies to counter the dominant power structures that may favor formal businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Traders are able to carve out a space for themselves within the city, offering goods and services that are essential for the survival and well-being of urban residents. - Pretoria's urban fabric, which for the longest time has served the formal sector and enterprises, cannot adapt to the needs of different communities and dynamics, such as the informal sector. As a result, people have come to live informally in the city, as evidenced by the survivalist street vendors that dominate public space, not designated as trading bays. - Informal traders embody a form of grassroots resistance and through their

				collective efforts, these traders empower themselves and their community by actively participating in the economic life of the area.
	Place Identity <i>This involves the active participation of community members in shaping the physical, social, and cultural aspects of their environment.</i>	Relational understanding of tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Informal traders in front of shopfronts offer a diverse range of products of both non-food items (clothing, crafts, etc) and food items (chips and sweets, beverages, vetkoeks, nuts, cigarettes, etc). -This variety of products contributes to the vibrancy and diversity of the informal trading scene. - Non-food items such as clothing, crafts, clothes: cloth-pieces and ready-made are also sold. <p>Categorize the types of goods sold by informal traders and discuss their significance in the study area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informal traders embody a form of grassroots resistance and through their collective efforts (Smith, 2010: xx), these traders empower themselves and their community by actively participating in the economic life of the area. - Informal traders operating without authorization encounter a number of difficulties and restrictions. They typically lack legal protection and recognition, leaving them open to persecution, eviction, and property confiscation by authorities (xx,xxx). Without permits, they could also be restricted from participating in formal marketplaces, limiting their access to customers, resources, and support services.
		Collective aspects and grassroots resistance	-The arrangement and organization of goods by informal traders play a significant role in attracting customers and facilitating transactions.	-The arrangement and organization of goods by the traders contribute to the identity and character of the trading area.
		Creative adaption and survival strategies	-Traders employ various strategies to showcase their merchandise effectively. They may arrange their products in visually appealing ways, grouping similar items together or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The visual aesthetics, sense of vibrancy, and the social connections formed within the trading space shape the place identity of the area. -The traders' presence and their distinct

			<p>displaying them in a manner that catches the attention of passer-by's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traders operate at a smaller scale making use of portable/makeshift stalls, from crates, cardboard box packaging, trolleys and shopping carts, to display their goods. -All goods are clearly visible even for pedestrians that may be moving through the space quite fast. These stalls easily accommodate people 'on-the-go'. <p>Analyze how traders arrange and organize their goods, identifying common practices and reasons behind their choices.</p>	<p>strategies become part of the collective memory, cultural heritage, and social interactions associated with that specific place.</p>
	Spatial empowerment in the urban environment	Proximity to customers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spatial arrangement of trading stalls are in close proximity to the pedestrian paths and creates a condensed and intimate environment. -During peak times pedestrian movement is constrained due to the spatial occupation by the trading stalls, requiring pedestrians to navigate through narrower paths. - Stall are located within close physical distance to one another allows allowing pedestrians to easily observe and appreciate the wide range of goods on display. 	

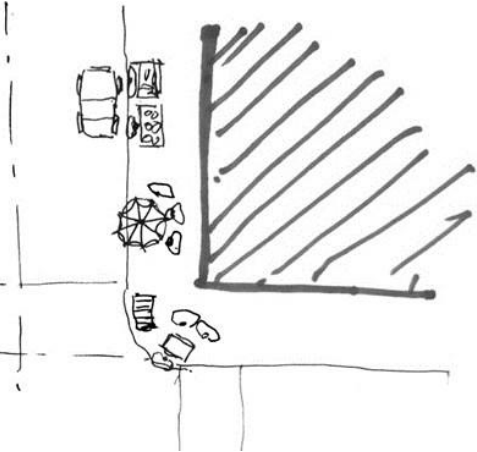
		<p>Visual aesthetics and streetscape</p>	<p>-Some traders may employ tactics such as stacking goods vertically and horizontally, creating eye-catching displays, or organizing products by categories or price ranges. This thoughtful arrangement helps in maximizing the visibility of goods and enticing potential buyers.</p> <p>-The trading area exhibits visual diversity, with a wide range of goods on display, contributing to a vibrant and lively atmosphere.</p>	
		<p>Development of social networks and connections</p>	<p>-The makeshift stalls encourage social networks and connections reflects the relational aspect of spatial agency.</p> <p>-Informal traders recognize the interconnectedness between individuals and their spatial surroundings.</p> <p>-Close to formal businesses which draws foot traffic</p> <p>- Traders offer the customers last minute products, so people can avoid busy shops and long queues.</p>	

Scenario 02: On pedestrianized street	Themes	Sub-themes	Description	Interpretation
	Strategies and Tactics	<p>Power dynamics and everyday resistance within urban spaces</p> <p>Spatial agency and the negotiation of urban space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The space on the pedestrianized street becomes a dynamic zone where informal traders set up their businesses. They line up in a linear manner parallel to the formal shops and the street edge. -This creates an extension of the commercial activity from the formal sector building into the urban public realm. -The allocation of space may vary depending on factors such as seniority, negotiation with the shop owners, or established norms among the traders. -The pedestrianized street exposes the trading stalls to customers that work in the area and those roaming and lingering in the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The presence of informal traders on the pedestrianized street extends the commercial activity from the formal sector building into the public realm, exposing their trading stalls to potential customers. This demonstrates how tactics, as creative and subversive practices, challenge and adapt to the strategies of dominant powers. - “If we trace out social relationships more closely, we find a more complex and in fact more interesting topological ordering of scales” (Farais and Bender, 2012: 64). Farias and Bender (2012) critique and propose a more relational understanding of tactics, highlighting the interconnectedness of social networks and relationships in urban contexts.
	<p>Dynamics of change and adaption</p> <p><i>This theme focuses on the layering, evolution, and</i></p>	Relational understanding of tactics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The type of goods sold are non-food items such as clothing, crafts, clothes: cloth-pieces and ready-mades, bags, cosmetics, The selection of goods is influenced by market demand, affordability, and the traders' knowledge of customer preferences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -These tactics highlight the adaptability and resourcefulness of the traders in organizing their stalls and merchandise. They align with the concept of creative adaptation and survival strategies, as the traders employ innovative approaches to attract customers and enhance the visual appeal of their displays.

	<i>transformative aspects of informal trading practices in response to external factors and internal dynamics.</i>		-This variety of products contributes to the vibrancy and diversity of the informal trading scene.	
		Collective aspects and grassroots resistance Creative adaption and survival strategies	- The traders utilize temporary and flexible structures in the following ways: 1. Fully setup tents displaying some goods on collapsible tables, makeshift display racks and/or hanging other items on vertical racks. 2. Only aluminium tent framing with products and items being sold hung directly on framing structure.	-Rituals associated with informal trading, such as setting up stalls, reconfiguring displays, and engaging with customers, become ingrained in the traders' routines and establish a sense of place and belonging. These rituals are intimately tied to the functionality and spatial organization of the trading spaces and contribute to the formation of social bonds and community within the public realm.
	<i>Place identity Relating to the social and cultural aspects of a place. It is the traditions, values, and shared experiences of the people who live there all contribute to the identity of the place.</i>	Proximity to customers Street character and atmosphere Sense of authenticity	-The presence of traders and their stalls are well allocated as they do not hinder and vehicular or pedestrian movement. Their positioning encourages the pulse and flow of the pedestrians as there is sufficient space to walk comfortably. -The pedestrianized street is currently being encroached by cars (mostly of persons working in formal sector buildings) in public space that has not been allocated as parking. -Sounds of various conversations and traders selling. Cars hooting as they navigate to open spaces to park.	-These tactics highlight the adaptability and resourcefulness of the traders in organizing their stalls and merchandise. -They align with the concept of creative adaptation and survival strategies, as the traders employ innovative approaches to attract customers and enhance the visual appeal of their displays. -Rituals associated with informal trading, such as setting up stalls, reconfiguring displays, and engaging with customers, become ingrained in the traders' routines and establish a sense of place and belonging. These rituals are intimately tied to the functionality and spatial organization of the trading spaces and contribute to the formation of social bonds and community

				<p>within the public realm.</p> <p>-the concept of layering and evolution emphasizes the dynamic nature of urban areas. The pedestrianized street, with its historical layers and evolving practices, reflects the cumulative changes over time. The street becomes a palimpsest, with each historical period leaving its imprint on the urban fabric. This understanding challenges the notion of a static and fixed environment and highlights the need for organic growth and adaptability to meet the evolving needs of the urban dweller.</p> <p>-</p>
	<p>Urban Interiority and sense of place</p>	<p>Visual aesthetics and streetscape-</p>	<p>-Traders frequently reconfigure their displays to attract customers, employing eye-catching arrangements, colours, and height variations.</p>	<p>-This practice relates to the concept of layering and evolution, as the traders actively adapt and transform their displays over time to respond to customer preferences and market trends. By employing these strategies, the traders create visually appealing stalls that capture the attention of pedestrians and potential customers.</p> <p>-Jacobs (1961) emphasizes the need for organic growth and the adaptability of urban environments to meet the evolving needs of their inhabitants. According to Jacobs (1961), cities emerge through a sequence of interwoven actions and reactions, rather than by the simple layering of physical elements.</p>

		Development of social networks and connections	<p>-The reason for location was made for the traders, with local government enforcing the rules and regulations of the Informal Trading By-Law.</p> <p>-There has been careful consideration of the planning and allocation of the stalls.</p>	<p>These rituals shape the experiences of individuals and communities, forming a sense of familiarity and connection to specific places. As individuals navigate and engage with the built environment, their rituals and spatial practices contribute to the ongoing layering process, adding depth and complexity to the urban landscape.</p> <p>- Trading structures often serve as central points for economic activities and social interactions. The spatial layout and design of these spaces can influence the sense of place by creating a distinctive atmosphere and ambiance.</p>
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Scenario 03: On street corner edge	Themes	Sub-themes	Description	interpretation
	Physical Arrangement	Space allocation/ Use of Shopfront Area	<p>-Informal trading on the street edge typically occurs adjacent to the pavement and side parking bays. These bays are usually occupied by taxi's which capitalize on increased foot traffic of potential customers and visibility to vehicular traffic.</p> <p>-These stalls are also accessible to passer-by's that traverse the pavements and major intersections.</p>	<p>-Johnson (2007) presents a perspective that challenges the clear distinction between strategies and tactics, emphasizing the fluidity and complexity of social and practices.</p>
		Types of goods sold	<p>The stalls in this scenario sell non-processed foods such as fruit and vegetables, beverages, sweets and chips, cigarettes braai'ed mielies and Braai'ed walkie-talkies/ runaways (chicken feet)</p>	<p>-The type of goods being sold is mainly determined on the customer demand and how easily they can be attained from main source (survival strategy)</p>
		Arrangement and organization of goods	<p>-The trading stalls are expressed with makeshift items such as stack crates and corrugated boxes whereby the goods are laid out and displayed on.</p> <p>-These stalls are positioned to lookout directly to where the street meets the pavement where heavily frequented by pedestrians. This encourages products to be purchased.</p> <p>-Trading stalls are well located as they are visible to a wide array of customers and those driving through the main street.</p>	<p>-This indicates the adaptive and opportunistic nature of informal trading, as traders find ways to occupy and utilize spaces that are not directly regulated by formal regulations.</p> <p>-The concepts of layering and evolution, as well as spatial agency, can be observed in the use of makeshift stalls and the adaptation of various objects for display purposes.</p> <p>-The arrangement of goods</p>

				reflects a sense of identity and belonging within the urban context, as the traders adapt their displays to cater to the needs and preferences of the local community.
	Spatial Implications	Impact on pedestrian movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traders engage with customers who drive by, leading to a unique form of interaction between traders and motorists. - The presence of trading stalls on the street edge disrupts pedestrian movement at peak times. This requires pedestrians to navigate around the stalls which may also pose a safety hazard. - One is enticed by the aromas of the braaied mielies (grilled corn) and walkie-talkies (grilled chicken feet) 	This creative adaptation showcases the resourcefulness and agency of informal traders in making the most of their limited resources and space. It also reflects the layering of objects and structures within the urban environment, where these makeshift stalls coexist with formal shopfronts, contributing to the overall visual aesthetics and streetscape.
		Visual aesthetics and streetscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These trading stalls usually locate themselves far away from other traders which results in a lack of competition. This allows traders to sell more items. Being the lone dealer in a certain region with no competition enables traders to develop a niche market and earn repeat clients. - There is a low occurrence of this this scenario. It is sporadic in nature. 	
		Development of social networks and connections	Traders offer the customers last minute products so people can avoid busy shops and long queues.	