INTRODUCTION

Housing shortage in South Africa is a historic problem that has yet to be addressed. Pre-1994 in the apartheid era the separation both in terms of locale and economic opportunities with this basis based on race led to the construction of what we have now as townships.

These were poorly designed without focus on the economic socio-cultural viability of the peoples that populated these areas. The result; the creation of a built environment that became and still is a breeding ground to a lot of social economic and cultural ills. Out of this developed the base on which the "Struggle" lead by the ANC that lead to the liberation of the people that were marginalized in this system. This liberation came to pass in 1994 with the election of the ANC. With the election of an all encompassing government who have made the issue of housing a priority.

A priority that has to date failed to cover and balance out the issues that were brought about as a result of past planning practices.

Figure 1.0.1 Standards housing for disadvantaged communities designed by Apartheid regime.

(The Social Housing Foundation, 2000:4)

As a result of the delay in addressing these ills born from a troubled and unpleasant past the masses have resorted to strikes in an effort to force the government address their distress making housing and housing delivery a priority especially in the township areas.

The Apartheid system was designed in such a manner as to contain the "disadvantaged" people in areas that were far from there workplaces and the economic hubs within the cities towns and municipalities. This allowed that system to control and continue to implement the marginalisation of the "disadvantaged" peoples.

This implies that people have to travel long distances and spend a lot of the marginal income they earn on moving from one place to the other. This thesis will attempt to address some of these issues and allow for the integration of various incomes in the same built environment with access to the amenities within the city and its surrounds.
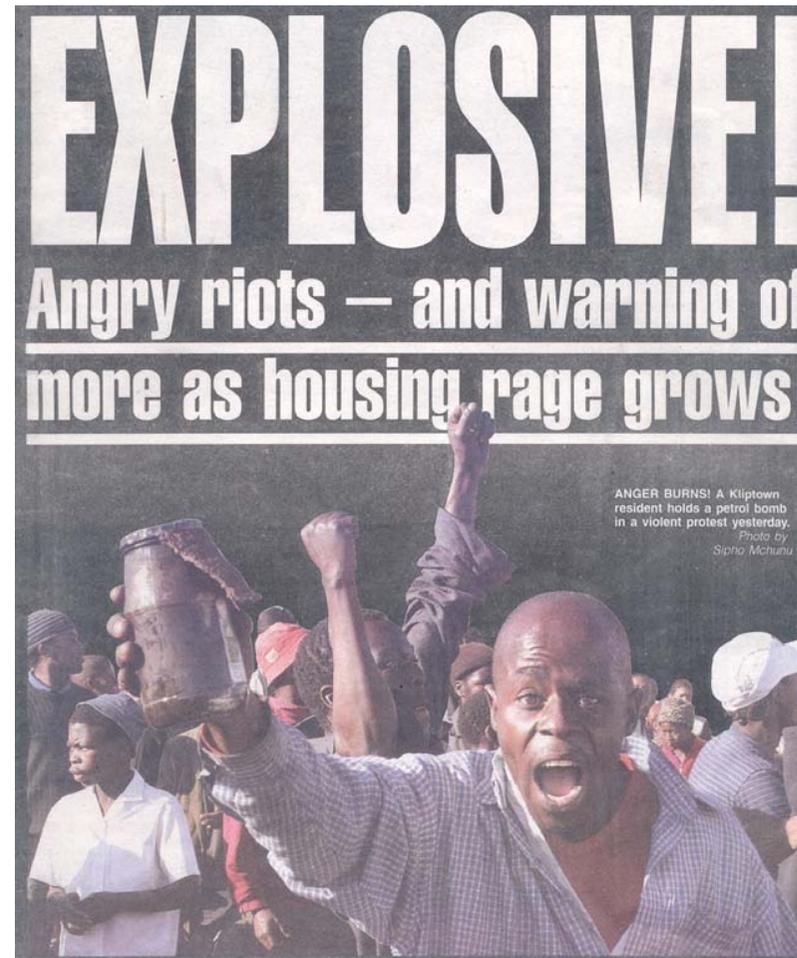

Figure 1.0.2

(Sun, 2007:1)

With abolition of apartheid an exodus of peoples from the lower economic environments to the more formalised urban areas has meant that the lack of housing facilities in the cities has increased with even greater ferocity than before, a catalyst to the growth of informal settlements within the urban contexts. These settlements happen in unsafe abandoned high rise buildings, on open green spaces and even with areas designated for services such as dumping sewage and the like. Inevitable leading to a breakdown in the urban fabric not to mention the unbearable conditions people are being forced to live in as a result of inadequate affordable housing with the urban context.

Many of these buildings do not have running water and the sewerage system is not working. People have no access to waste management and dump waste everywhere in the buildings and even in the streets. They also steal power by connecting electrical cables from electrical facilities to the buildings. However, the buildings have also become overloaded, putting additional pressure on poorly maintained services. In addition crime has become rampant because of the poverty stricken residents.
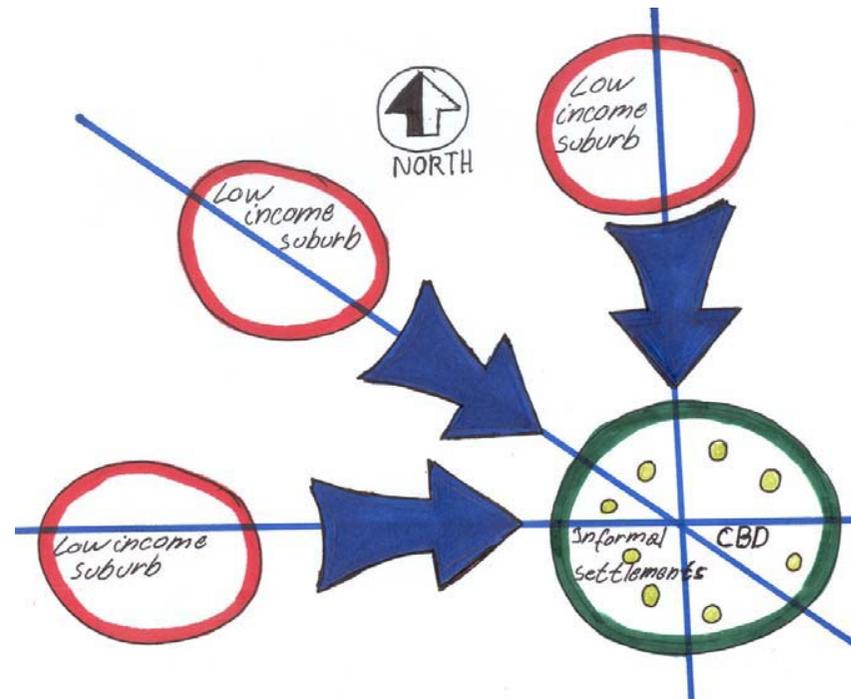

Figure 1.0.3 Diagram of people's moving from townships to CBD.

PROPOSED PROJECT AIM

The proposed project aims to uplifting disadvantaged communities by providing appropriate affordable social housing in the Inner City of Pretoria and developing the growth thereof. The Inner City requires an innovation framework of new urban context demands. Throughout the investigation, the new concept design approaches architecture by thinking of people in relation to housing in an urban context.
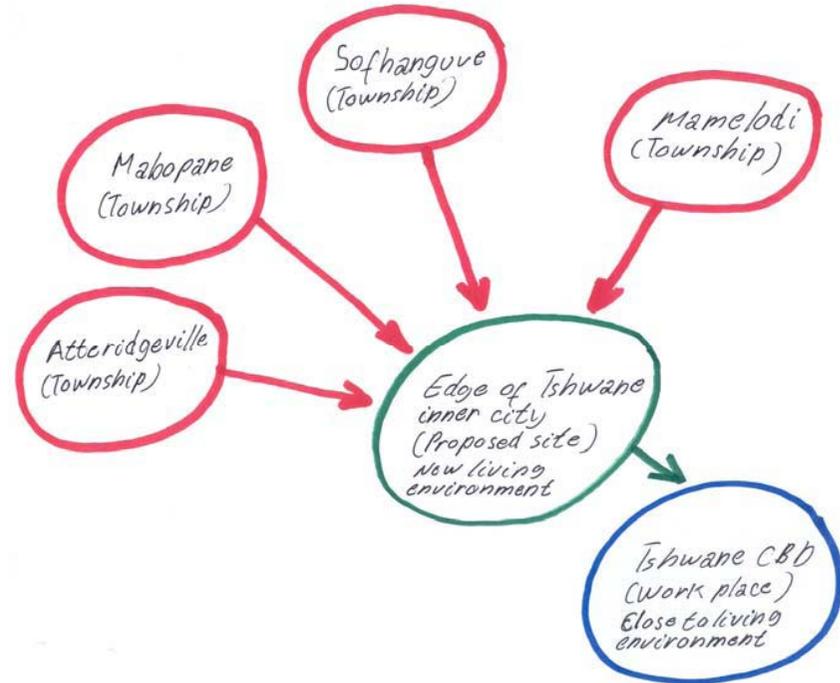

Figure 1.1.1 Project aim diagram.