

Conclusion

In an attempt to curtail the trend of fortification, this dissertation embraced the concept of an unrestricted urban realm – a city without limitations. It began with the unclaimed surface, the two dimensional plane of the pedestrian. From there it moved up into the vertical, claiming for itself the vantage points and ridges, previous strongholds of privatized, economic exclusivity. As the days past, visions of utopia emerged. Anonymous blocks of flats became tangible communities. Citizens switched off their televisions and came outside. They explored the city anew, gathering experiences as they went. The city was reclaimed.

This kind of idealist jargon is nothing new. It is in fact, devastatingly similar to the edicts of the post-war Functionalism that this dissertation attempted to rectify. One failed utopian dream substituted for a revised one. Although the critique is valid, the critical question is why. From Howard's garden city to Corb's

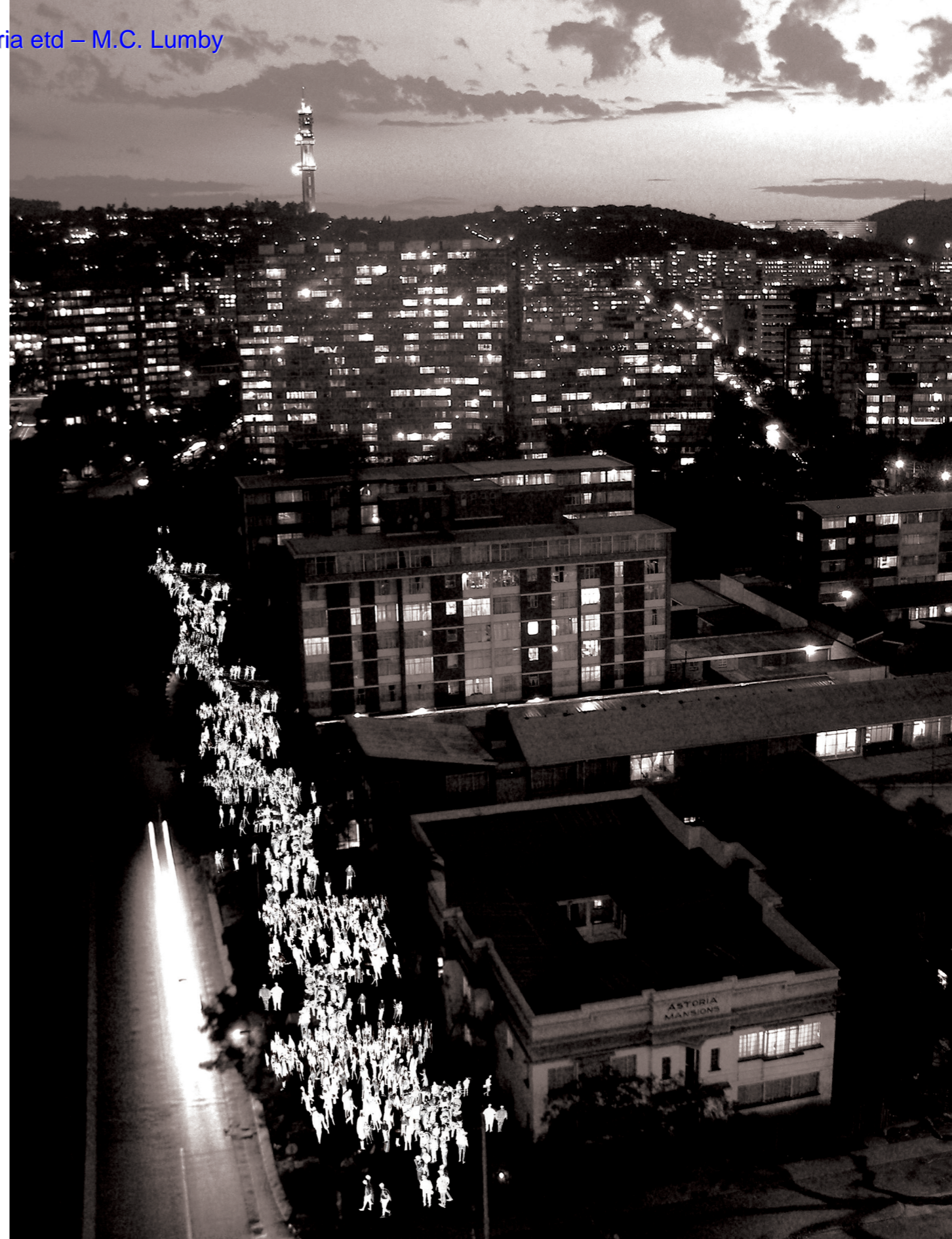
radiant city, from TEAM X and the New Brutalists to a Unitary Urbanism, from Inhabitable Circulation to a Supersurface, radical shifts in the urban paradigm have failed. Perhaps it is after all impossible for urbanism to be the cultural revolutionary it always thought it was. The satirical aspect of radical urbanism's predicament is well illustrated by Superstudio's anti-utopian sentiments. Reacting against the Modern Movement, they called for a world 'without cities, castles or roads'. According to Tafuri however, this "anti-utopian regression was therefore fated to give birth to new utopia's." (Lang & Menking 2003:62)

Urbanism's predicament will not go away. As with all creative disciplines, architecture will continue to attempt to revolutionize our cities and the societies which live in them. The drawback to this of course, as opposed to the art world, is the legacy it leaves behind – the permanence that is architecture.

Fig. 178 - 180

Digital Collages of the effect of the urban intervention on the site and surrounds.

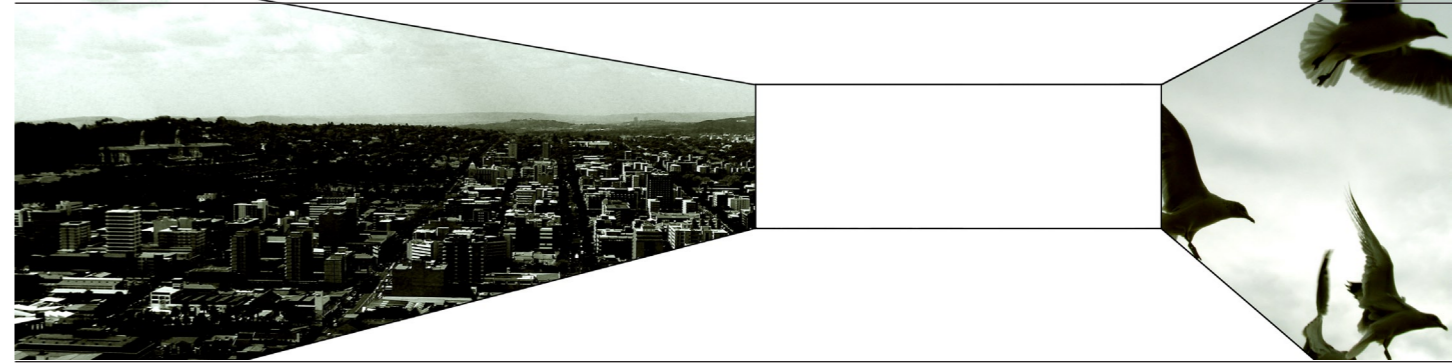
Author, 2006





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Go straight,
go straight until the red light.
Turn left, left again
and then right.
No rest, no respite.

Look up and see the city unfurled.
Turn left at the end of the world.

Fig. 181

Conceptual illustration
of elevated public
space.

Author, 2006