Integration of the Peripheral Community:
Defining Fractured Urbanism in Grahamstown.

By

Marius Erasmus

A research report submitted to the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, University of the Witwatersrand, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Urban Design

Johannesburg 2012

Supervisor:
Professor Diaan van der Westhuizen
Copyright

The copyright of this research report vests in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, in accordance with the University’s Intellectual Property Policy.

No portion of the text may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including analogue and digital media, without prior written permission from the University. Extracts or quotations from this research report may, however, be made in terms of Section 12 and 13 of the South African Copyright Act No. 98 of 1978 (as amended), for non-commercial or educational purposes. Full acknowledgement must be made to the author and the University.

An electronic version of this research report is available on the Library webpage (www.wits.ac.za/library) under “Research Resources”

For permission requests, please contact the University Legal Office or the University Research Office (www.wits.ac.za)
Declaration

I declare that this research report is my own unaided work. It is being submitted to the degree of Master of Urban Design to the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination to any other university.

(Signature of Candidate)

______ day of ________ year ________
Dedication

This study is dedicated to the people who live on the periphery, always looking in but denied full access. When the sun rises they enter to work and when the sun sets they leave for the periphery, the margin of society.

The child is not dead

The child lifts his fists against his mother
Who shouts Afrika! shouts the breath
Of freedom and the veld
In the locations of the cordoned heart

The child lifts his fists against his father
in the march of the generations
who shouts Afrika! shout the breath
of righteousness and blood
in the streets of his embattled pride

The child is not dead not at Langa nor at Nyanga
not at Orlando nor at Sharpeville
nor at the police station at Philippi
where he lies with a bullet through his brain

The child is the dark shadow of the soldiers
on guard with rifles Saracens and batons
the child is present at all assemblies and law-givings
the child peers through the windows of houses and into the hearts of mothers
this child who just wanted to play in the sun at Nyanga is everywhere
the child grown to a man treks through all Africa

the child grown into a giant journeys through the whole world
Without a pass

Ingrid Jonker
Acknowledgements

As architects and planners we are often seen to be selling out to commercial pressures, conceding to the demands of clients and developers. Architects are especially prone, and often get trapped in the day to day managing of busy practices and financial obligations. Work is produced in a factory of architecture and often lacks creativity and sensitivity. We are imprisoned by the very buildings we design as they reflect our inability to react in a sustainable and relevant way.

I am grateful for this opportunity to break away from the almost relentless effort of commercial practice, to take a step back and look at architecture, planning, design and urbanism with a fresh perspective.

I would like to acknowledge the following people for guiding my studies in Urban Design:

- My clients, colleagues and partners at Messaris Wapenaar Partnership Architects.
- Arthur Messaris for his valued input and for sharing his knowledge of all things urban. And for allowing me to use some of his photos in this document.
- Prof. Paul Kotze for his understanding of cities and his humanity.
- Prof. Diaan van der Westhuizen for driving the design process.
- Neil Klug for teaching us the basics principles of Urban design.
- Dr. Astrid Ley for introducing us to Berlin and Yeoville.
- Prof. Lone Poulsen for the Transforming Cities Studio.
- Melinda Silverman for the Transforming Cities Studio.
- Prof. Alison Todes for sharing her understanding of the Cities of the South.
- Sophie Smith for making her fantastic photos of people and places in Grahamstown and the Eastern Cape available for this document.
- The Chief Directorate: National Geo Spatial Information for supplying cadastral information and aerial photographs of Grahamstown.
- Lindy Messaris for proof reading this document.
### Definitions and Interpretation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cacadu:</td>
<td>District, contains Makana Municipality and Grahamstown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathedral:</td>
<td>Cathedral of St. Michael and St. George in Church Square</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil town:</td>
<td>The Colonial part of town, also Grahamstown West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonial Town:</td>
<td>Civil town established by the British Government in 1812 Grahamstown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corridor:</td>
<td>Refers to main road through Grahamstown, High Street, Raglan road and the R67.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drostdy:</td>
<td>A local government district of the Cape Colony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Commonage:</td>
<td>Open and relatively level land to the south east of the R67.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fingo Village:</td>
<td>Part of town originally given to Mfengo people by British.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Street:</td>
<td>The main retail street in Colonial Grahamstown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link:</td>
<td>Refers to a street that connects or a pathway that connects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makana:</td>
<td>Municipality in Cacadu district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Makanna’s Kop:</td>
<td>Koppie or Hill between Grahamstown East &amp; West.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mfengo:</td>
<td>Tribe of Xhosa who fought on the side of the British</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native (Native City or Town):</td>
<td>The township of Grahamstown East, also called Rini.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral Community:</td>
<td>Grahamstown East or Rini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUGS:</td>
<td>Public Urban Green Spaces, also parks and open space or veld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rini:</td>
<td>Grahamstown East, also known as the Township of Grahamstown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Township:</td>
<td>Grahamstown East, also called Rini.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Fracture:</td>
<td>A break in the Urban Fabric, either by natural feature or man made feature. Could also refer to break in Social connectivity.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Web pages:

- [http://worldjournalism.syr.edu/](http://worldjournalism.syr.edu/)
- [http://www.sophiesmithphotography.co.za/](http://www.sophiesmithphotography.co.za/)
- [http://www.grahamstown.co.za/](http://www.grahamstown.co.za/)
- [http://www.ru.ac.za/](http://www.ru.ac.za/)
- [http://www.grahamstownhandbook.co.za/](http://www.grahamstownhandbook.co.za/)
- [http://www.nationalartsfestival.co.za/](http://www.nationalartsfestival.co.za/)
- [http://www.ghtnow.co.za/](http://www.ghtnow.co.za/)

Photo By: Author
Table of Contents

Copyright ii
Declaration iii
Dedication iv
Acknowledgments v
Definitions vi
Table of Contents vii

Chapter 01: Introduction
1.1 Abstract 01
1.2 Background 04
1.3 Problem statement 07
1.3 Scope and delimitation 08
1.4 Research question 09

Chapter 02: History
2.1 History 13
2.2 Aims Goals and Objectives 20
2.3 Literature review 21

Chapter 03: Analysis
3.1 Method of the Study 24
3.2 Photo Analysis 25
3.3 High Level Analysis 31
3.4 Site Analysis 34
3.5 Existing Urban Framework 39
3.6 Historic Time Line Analysis 43
3.7 Topographic Analysis 46
3.8 Simulation Analysis 50
3.9 Comparative Analysis Population Density 53
3.10 Demographic Analysis 58

Chapter 04: Design
4.1 Design Development 61
4.2 Existing and Proposed Land Use 62
4.3 Proposed Concept 66
4.4 Urban Framework 70
4.5 Proposed Phasing 73
4.6 Initial Design Proposal 76
4.7 Final Design Proposal 79

Chapter 05:
5.1 Findings 91
5.2 Discussions and Interpretation 92
5.3 Guidelines 93
5.4 Epilogue 95

Bibliography 96
Papers 97