PERMACULTURE - GROWING FOR THE FUTURE

Creating intervention for the rapid new urbanisation of the Johannesburg inner city.

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I, Clinton Fok (9802365P) am a student registered for the course ‘Bachelor of Architecture’ in the year 2008. I hereby declare the following:

I am aware that plagiarism [the use of someone else’s work without permission and/or without acknowledging the original sources] is wrong. I confirm that the work submitted for assessment for the above course is my own unaided work except where I have stated explicitly otherwise.

I have followed the required conventions in referencing thoughts, ideas, and visual materials of others. For this purpose, I have referred to the Graduate School of Engineering and the Built Environment style guide.

I understand that the University of the Witwatersrand may take disciplinary action against me if there is a belief that this is not my unaided work or that I have failed to acknowledge the source of the ideas or words in my own work.
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This thesis aims to explore the theme of “space” within the context of the inner city environment. Such exploration aims to inform the design process of an architectural intervention to alleviate the quality of life of people arriving from rural areas within the city of Johannesburg.
MOTIVATION
Cities around the world are expanding vertically as well as horizontally. We see the increases in the value of land space as well as living spaces. Many migrants who come into the city find it difficult to live in the city suffer poor living conditions with poor unmanaged facilities.

In addition, these migrants find it hard to find jobs and as a result there is also the concern of malnutrition. By reviewing the possibility of optimising land use for agriculture, multiple level farming, and low cost accommodations, this will hopefully alleviate rising food costs and hunger, poor living conditions and unemployment.

“Quality of life” and “urban regeneration” is the crux of this thesis. The aim is to give rural people who are migrating into the city, a place, (through the proposal) of a communal farming and a housing model.

WHY AGRICULTURE?
Agriculture how is it integrated with architecture will be the driving force with which to explore the idea or urban regeneration and improved quality of life. The use of spaces to maximise areas for local vegetative farming will become important to the program.

Urban agriculture is seen as a solution to the problems of the runaway growth of cities in developing countries.

Urban Agriculture, thus contributes to a wide variety of urban issues, by providing multiple benefits for urban inhabitants with many different functions.

To make the transition toward a sustainable society, it is imperative that we take responsibility for our own lives and meet our basic needs for food, shelter, energy, gainful employment, and supportive community.

Questions
How to improve the quality of life of people who live in the city through architecture?
How can my intervention allow people to become self reliant in terms of growing food?
How to give people ownership of spaces?

The architectural intervention is to be an urban agriculture centre which comprises of 2 main components:

-Training or skills development facility for educating on agriculture;
-Living typology- apartments which addresses the need for accommodation.

These two components can be further broken down into 4 distinctive areas.
1: Residential
2: Farming
3: Market space
4: Skills training

Site: Marshalltown

Goal
- Improve quality of life for the residents.
- Addressing the needs for community living.
- Allowing for future expansion and change (adaptability)

The success for such a project is realised by reasonable allocation of land per user as opposed to urban density scheme. Such schemes will prove to be sustainable socially and economically through maintenance and ownership taken by the