

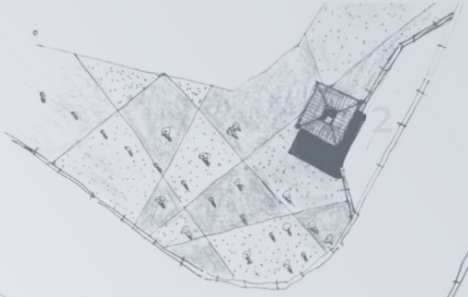
https://dspace.org/

Architecture of empowerment

Nxumalo, S'Phelele Themba Clerance

2008-10-07T12:15:10Z
http://hdl.handle.net/10539/5729

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/



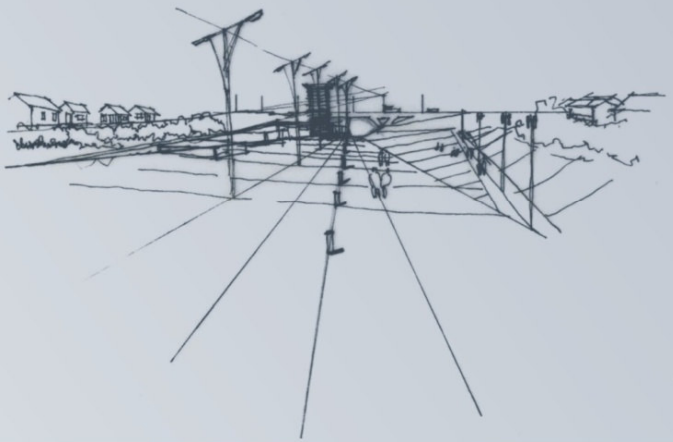


Student: Sphelele Nxumalo

Architecture of Empowerment:

Socio-economic empowerment in a Contemporary Marginalized Society of Thokoza

Supervisor: Ms. Anne Fitchett



ARCHITECTURE OF EMPOWERMENT

ARCHITECTURE OF EMPOWERMENT

SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN A CONTEMPORARY MARGINALIZED SOCIETY OF THOKOZA

S'phelele Nxumalo

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, University of the Witwatersrand, in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Masters in Architecture.

Johannesburg, 2007

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dedications 05
Acknowledgements 06
Declaration 07
01. THESIS INTRODUCTION 08
02. ISSUES: THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG TODAY 11
The status quo.....12
Facilities 16
03. THEORETICAL ANALYSIS 19
Apartheid planning principles 20
Deconstructing the language 23
The centre versus the margin 24
04. EMPOWERMENT AND STRATEGY 27
What it means to empower 28
Understanding the need 29
Economic empowerment 32
Social empowerment.....32
Emotional empowerment 33
Who provides empowerment? 33
05. STUDY AREA ANALYSIS 35
Study area selection 36
East rand historical background 39
Relevance to South African context 41
Mapping 44
Izwi labantu (the people's voice) study area interviews 49
Site selection process 55
The history of hostels 61
Site analysis 64

06. CASE STUDIES 69
Case study on empowerment 70
Local case studies: Post Apartheid Township/ urban regeneration 87
The direction of hostels in the post apartheid era 92
Case studies on Thermal comfort 94
07. URBAN CONCEPT AND FRAMEWORK 95
Urban regeneration proposal 97
Urban design process: urban scheme 99
Urban principles 102
Site extents 108
The pedestrian link 110
The Master plan 112
Precinct planning 113
08. ARCHITECTURAL PROGRAMME AND BRIEF FORMULATION 126
Project brief 127
Precinct programme 128
Training programme 130
Building programme 131
09. ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT 132
Why this building? 134
What is innovative about this building? 134
What informs the building form? 135
Why choose this type of architectural language? 136
What informs the building structure? 136
Conceptual ideas 137
10. ARCHITECTURAL RESOLUTION 147
Drawings 148
12. REFERENCES .....

Please note that all sketches, drawings, illustrations and photographs are taken by the author unless otherwise stated.

Dedications

This document is dedicated to my Mother **Badelile Muriel Nxumalo**
(1949-11-21 to 2003-07-24) and her sister (my second Mother) **Fikile Makhaya** (1939-04-01 to 2007-05-22)

Without your love and guidance
This journey would have been nightmarish than pleasant
I might not see you anymore
But I feel your presence around me even more
I still hear your voices inside my head everyday
Have peaceful lives…after life

Bhungane, Mthimkhulu,
Mashiy' amahle njengenyamazane,
Sgoloza es'mehl' abovu
Esabhek' umuntu samjamela,
Umfaz' omabele made,
Owancelis' ingane ingale komfula.
Ubhungane ongamakhulukhulu
Angangoboya benyathi.

Niphumule ngok'thula

Acknowledgements

Ukuqala kokuhlakanipha kungukumesaba uJehova, I would like to thank the Almighty God for paving this journey with innumerable blessings. Monica Albonico you know I am not good with words but I'll give it my best, thank you for your guidance, for grooming and refining what I think are my talents. Thank you for the opportunity, I hope I have used it productively for what it is worth. I also want to thank the rest of the ASM team, without you guys this would have been even harder (Theo and Bells I know I gave you guys headaches over stationery, thank you).

Without the following people the ideas in this thesis would have been void: Lone Paulson, Paul Kotze, Jerold Chungu, Melinda Silverman, Dario, Ms. Anne Fitchett, my best friend Ayanda Masokoane, Nick Sack, Martin Mzumara, and Lonwabo Mgudlwa. Thank you for polishing up, refining and crystallizing the contents of this document. I also want to thank the community of Thokoza, and the Sam Ntuli Recreation centre for their interaction and support. To Bab Nxumalo of Khuthuze Hostel, thank you for giving me the opportunity to experience the hostels (Ndwande Mkhatshwa).

Family, Khaya (I can't say I never had a Father now can I? Thanks for taking such a huge role in my life bra), Dumsani (Mdu you are my hero man, your support made life a lot simpler, nothing but love for you man), Thabile (my only sister thank you for the love, the advice, and the food), Gcina, Small, Q (thanks for answering those midnight calls bra) Slindile Nyathikazi (baby I know I almost pushed you over the edge taking out all my frustration on you, ngyak'ncanywa love…'obvious'). Thanks to my best friend Penny Hlanze (lover lover) for keeping me sane through the hardest of times. Gaisang Satekge whas happ'ning: you're a star, thanks for the support.

Friends, Boet David thanks a million times. The **Pat Squard**: Aadil Bhaam, Sharif Omar 'umholi', Lidoro 'Speedy' Gonzales, V.J Phailane (kuzolunga sbali God is great), Dipen, Lorato the first lady and Mohamed Adam. **The Gant crew**: Eric Wright, and Marcel 'Dutch' Peperkon you guys are the future. Ashok Prassad, I would have lost my mind so many times if it was not for your presence, thanks for the advice and support man. Jen and Kelly I'm thankful for your support. Gavin Armstrong. Special thanks to Thabo 'Sbhamzin' Malatse, Lorenzo Nassimbeni (amazing is an understatement, beautiful mind), Dario 'the sketch master' I know I am mentioning you for the second time bra you taught me a lot, Dandy Matamela "see I tried Bra-thanks for the words of wisdom", Alasdair Forsyth, Helen and Jazzman. I would like to thank my class for the support during presentations.

I hope I'm not forgetting anyone, if I did please understand that thesis is a mind bugging exercise, I cannot be held responsible. Thanks again may God bless you all in every way.

Declaration

I declare that this thesis '*Architecture of empowerment in a marginalized society of Thokoza'* is my own, unaided work. It is being submitted for the degree of Masters in Architecture in the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has not been submitted before for any degree or examination in any other University.

_____
(Signature of candidate)

_____day of

_____20_____



01. Introduction

CHAPTER 01: INTRODUCTION

ARCHITECTURE OF EMPOWERMENT

Socio-economic empowerment in a contemporary marginalized community: *Thokoza*

The focus underpinning this thesis is empowerment in previously marginalized communities. The inspiration for the choice of study area is an interest in social behavior, the stimulation of the environment (both built and natural), versus the human response.

The governments' attempts to provide **urban black housing** initially in the early 1920's, in the 1950's and later in the mid 1990's within different periods of political systems has contributed to contemporary Johannesburg's issues around **urban dilapidation**. A brief history of urban black housing in South Africa will be provided in the next chapters, however Apartheid planning principles implemented in the 1950's will be looked at in finer detail. The impacts of the urban housing strategies on the social and built dimension of the city will be analyzed according to the provision of 'facilities' in relation to the user's needs.

The **deconstructive** concept of the **centre and the margin** strongly manifest itself in South African city planning; part of the thesis is pinned at establishing balance between these extremes. Segregation, separation of the margin from the center achieved by the techniques (built and natural buffers) of Apartheid planning to obtain socio-economic, cultural, and racial divide, is one of the oldest and major problems in the city. However with

the fall of apartheid this divide is no longer along racial lines but has become a separation between economic groups. Achieving balance between these worlds of polar socio-economic class separated by city planning principles is the reasoning behind this thesis document to focus on socio-economic empowerment.

Human behavioral studies show that the environment has direct psychological links with human behavior, which in return humans also have influence on the environment giving rise to an infinite vicious circle. This study demonstrates that architecture cannot be dealt with in isolation with regards to the needs of the end user.

It is indispensable that one defines the concept of **empowerment** in fine tune detail for the reader to understand the angle at which this thesis is projected. One needs to clearly evaluate what it means to empower and how providing the means of empowerment can help solve current township and city problems. It is also important to note that the township has a complex hierarchy of socio-economic levels and classes that need to be taken into consideration and cannot be dealt with in isolation.