

MAKING URBAN - THE CITY 7.0: REBUILDING THE SOUTH AFRICAN CITY BY APPLYING MEASURED URBANIZATION

By
Nico Johannes Venter
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Supervisor: Professor Paul Kotze

ABSTRACT

In its aim to redress the inequalities of the past, the South African cities of today turned a blind eye to the urban, rural, natural & social needs of citizens. Our cities, as they stand today, reflect an urban form that is neither sustainable nor equitable. Our cities do not invest in social capital nor aim to react to the reality of diminishing resources. They are not 'civic in nature, pedestrian friendly, nor environmentally smart'. When did our cities become so unimportant and disconnected from society? Through this Research & Design Report it is explored whether South African cities (*case study: Springs, Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality, South Africa*) can be transformed through retrofitting cities, building cities, making cities, unmaking cities, redeveloping cities, restructuring cities by placing the needs of citizens and nature first_ to inform urbanization, natural resources and the infrastructure that feeds it. It is examined here whether the answer could lie with the application of measured urbanization. It is within the measurement of these urban elements that the future of South African cities can be imagined, it is through the SMART application of these measured responses that broad based realistic and true change will be brought about; that the urban barriers of segregation, isolation & exclusion will be overcome.