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An enabling framework as a holistic intervention to address physical developmental constraints in the Johannesburg inner city

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NOTES ON CHANGES MADE TO RESEARCH REPORT

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The notes below describe changes made to the research report in response to the comments made by the examiners. The document marked by the examiners is referred to in these notes as Draft 1. These notes exclude changes in spelling and grammar, although significant changes have been made to the document in that regard. These notes are divided into two sections. Section 1 is a comprehensive list of all the changes. Section 2 shows how the student has responded to each of the supervisors' comments.

Section 1: Comprehensive list of changes

Chapter 1

1. Table of contents [amended]
2. Page numbers [new]
3. Figure numbers [amended]
4. Table numbers and labels [amended]
5. **Pg. 1**
   - Figure 1 [line weight]
   - Pt. 1.2. Rationale[new]
6. **Pg. 2**
   - Pt. 1.3. Problem statement [amended]
   - Pt. 1.4. Research questions [amended]
7. **Pg. 3**
   - 1.5. Chapter outline[new]

Chapter 2

8. **Pg. 7, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18**
   - Integration of material previously used elsewhere in Draft 1 [discussion on historical development of Johannesburg]
9. **Pg. 20-24**
   - Integration of material previously used elsewhere in Draft 1 [discussion on urban policy context]
10. **Pg. 26-29**
    - Integration of material previously used elsewhere in Draft 1 [site analysis, morphological issues]
11. **Pg. 8**
    - Figure 3 [images and map illustrating public space in early Johannesburg][new]
12. **Pg. 9**
    - Figure 4 [map of functional areas of early Johannesburg][new]
13. **Pg. 11**

- Figure 6 [maps showing the impact of the electric tram on urban development]; [map of early Johannesburg showing horse-drawn tram routes in relation to pedestrian activity and retail] [new]

14. **Pg. 14**
    - Figure 8 [map of major retail in Johannesburg CBD] [new]
15. **Pg. 30**
    - Figure 20 [site analysis, describing pedestrian activity, informal trading, transport facilities and accessibility surface] [new]
16. **Pg. 31-32**
    - Figure 21 [existing urban development framework] [new]
    - Figure 22 [existing urban development framework] [new]

Chapter 3

17. All images have been resized
18. **Pg. 35**
    - Figure 23 [mind-map of theoretical framework] [new]
    - Pt. 3.2. The constitution and application… [title changed]

Chapter 5

19. **Pg. 53**
    - Map [permeability] [amended]
    - Map [gradation of uses] [new]
20. **Pg. 54**
    - Descriptive text [new]
21. **Pg. 56**
    - Map [organising concept] [new]
22. **Pg. 57**
    - All maps [line weights]
    - Map [Potential Activity Spine, Johannesburg inner city] [amended]
23. **Pg. 59**
    - Images [new]
24. **Pg. 60**
    - Images [amended]
25. **Pg. 61**
    - Images [amended]
26. **Pg. 63**
    - Plans moved to same page [amended]
    - Map [spatial structure] [new]

Chapter 6

27. All sections [increased line weights]
28. **Pg. 65**
    - Heading changed [amended]
    - Labels [new]
29. **Pg. 66**
    - Map [new vs. existing development] [new]
    - Map [figure ground] [new]
30. **Pg. 67**
    - Map [land use] [new]
    - Map [building heights] [new]
31. **Pg. 69**
    - Sections moved to same page

- Labels [new]
- Map [figure ground, before and after] [new]

32. **Pg. 70**
    - Sections moved to same page
    - Labels [new]
    - Map [figure ground, before and after] [new]
33. **Pg. 71**
    - Items moved to same page
34. **Pg. 73**
    - Sections moved to same page
    - Labels [new]
    - Map [figure ground, before and after] [new]
    - Map [open space] [new]
35. **Pg. 75**
    - Sections moved to same page
    - Labels [new]
    - Map [figure ground, before and after] [new]
36. **Pg. 76**
    - Items moved to same page
    - Labels [new]
37. **Pg. 78**
    - Sections moved to same page
    - Labels [new]
    - Map [figure ground, before and after] [new]

Chapter 7

38. Chapter has been completely rewritten [new]

Section 2: Responding to examiners' comments

Internal examiner's comments

Comment 1. In the Introduction there is an assumption that the urban design profession needs to be subordinate to urban planning – when in fact the former can also challenge the latter. This reflects the student's prior degree in planning – also reflected in the approach (and for instance the literature review ch 4). While it is certainly true that planners need to understand something of urban design, and vice versa - urban designers also have significant insight into place-making which can drive / inform urban planning. In general thus, there is a need to have a clearer definition at the start of the research report of how the student defines urban design. In this respect in Ch 2 (page 9) there is an assumption urban design is a young profession – when it preceded urban planning (it is new as a professional body in S Africa however).

> Responspe (a) **Urban design should <u>not</u> be subordinate to planning:** [1.2. Rationale (pg.1)] – "The South African state is playing a major role in informing and enabling urban change, through its policies... Since urban policy currently plays a significant enabling role as a driver of urban development, it is worthwhile investigating whether closer alignment of urban design practice with urban policy may hold good prospects for urban design". **Thus it is not about making urban**

design subordinate to urban planning but it is about investigating how urban design can be better connected to existing policy proposals in a way that can benefit the profession by translating its core values onto urban environments

Responspe (b) **Defining urban design:** [1.2. Rationale (pg.1)] – "This report identifies place-making as the central concern of urban design"; [1.4. Research question (pg.2)] – place-making forms is referred to in the research questions

Responspe (c) **Urban design is <u>not</u> the younger profession:** (pg.25) – "Although urban design precedes urban planning within the South African context the latter is more established both as an academic discipline and as an institutionalized professional practice"

Comment 2. The extensive mapping in the Introduction needs a better explanation – why is this here (as a prelude to the problem statement) – and not integrated with the history section in Ch 2? In addition there needs to be a clear indication page 19-onwards that this is the inner city (remember people not familiar with the city may read this).

Responspe (a) Mapping has been moved to chapter 2

Responspe (b) Mapping has been divided into three sections dealing with historical development, contemporary urban policies, and site analysis (at the level of the inner city).

Comment 3. The problem statement introduces concepts that are not explained – this needs indication where these are explained (e.g. in the literature review). That said the 'enabling framework' idea needs earlier explanation as it is core to the report.

Responspe (a) [1.1. Introduction (pg.1)] – The enabling framework is defined earlier

Responspe (b) [1.5. Chapter outline (pg.3)] – Orientates reader on where concepts are to be discussed

Comment 4. The analysis of the inner city relies overly on a few texts which focus on transport and shopping – what about other commercial / work spaces?

Responspe (a) The enabling framework, as an approach, is characterized by a dominating emphasis on movement and movement systems (Bacon, 1967; and Dewar and Todeschini, 2003)

Responspe (b) [pg. 53, 54, 59, 60, 61] – Analysis of land use and structuring elements

Comment 5. Why does Literature Review Part 2 (=Ch 3) precede Part 1 (=Ch 4)? The concepts outlined in Ch 4 need to be earlier as noted above. In Ch 4 – there needs to be a justification for the choice of case studies (which on the face of it seem extremely disparate). The analysis of the case studies seems very personalized and not very profound – was there more relevant analysis in the literature used? For example the role of the river for transport in Paris is ignored. This chapter is meant to provide a strong exposition of the 'non-programmatic' or 'enabling framework'

approach in reality but is as a result of its 'thinness' is not very convincing. It should follow the conceptual chapter and be better related to this.

Responspe (a) Case studies have been moved to Chapter 4 and they are now presented after the theoretical framework.

Responspe (b) [pg. 35] - Figure 23 clarifies the theoretical framework

Comment 6. The treatment of 'informality' in Ch 4 is rather superficial – and in fact what is argued is as relevant for the use of planned / designed urban space in 'formal' and well as 'informal' ways.

Responspe (a) Section on informality has been removed

Responspe (b) [pg. 81] – Discussion of research findings in relation to the treatment of informality

Comment 7. The statement in Ch 4 page 10 'Based on this conclusion….' needs to be more highlighted and expanded as it is the key link between the written part of the Research Report and the design part.

Responspe (a) The link between the written part and the design has been clarified in the introduction [pg.1], chapter outline [pg.3] and in chapter 7.

Comment 8. The 'enabling framework' design is reasonably sound, although in general the graphics needed better (textual) explanation, especially the latter 'Principles'. There needed to be reference to other proposals to deck over the railways however – this is not the only time this idea has surfaced. The idea of the major new mall is not discussed.

Responspe (a) [pg. 31 & 32] – Existing proposals for decking

Comment 9. The reason for preparing precinct plans is not well explained vis-à-vis the 'enabling framework' approach – this needs correction. It appears (belatedly) in the conclusion (Ch 7 page 3). Even here there needs to be some discussion of how these guidelines/ precinct plans might be used.

Responspe (a) [1.1. Introduction, pg.1] – explains that precinct plans are developed to demonstrate possible responses to the enabling framework and then these precinct plans are evaluated on the basis of responsiveness and imageability in order to assess the extent to which the enabling framework has succeeded in creating environments that espouse urban design principles

Responspe (b) The precinct plans are evaluated in chapter 7

Comment 10. In the precinct plans there is no mapping of pedestrian activity – despite the claim that this is important. In general the drawings in this section are not well explained – they need textual explanation.

Responspe (a) This is discussed as a finding in chapter 7

Comment 11. The treatment of 'informality' (again) is very superficial – and really adds nothing to the document at this level of treatment.

Responspe (a) This is discussed as a finding in chapter 7

External examiner's comments

Comment 1. Has the candidate shown that he understands the nature and purpose of the investigation? I believe the student has sound understanding of the purpose of the investigation. He does not clearly translate his understanding in all instances. I am satisfied that the student shows competence in this area.

Responspe (a) [1.1. Introduction, pg.1] – Clarifies the purpose of the investigation

Responspe (b) Chapter 7 – discusses research findings

Comment 2. Is sufficiently acquainted with the relevant literature? Although he has a grasp of the literature, his literature review is somewhat vague. He does however apply the knowledge gained from the literature satisfactorily throughout his written piece and applies it to the general argument

Responspe (a) [3.3. Place-making principles (pg.38); and figure 23 (pg.35)] – improving clarity and quality of literature review

Responspe (b) [Chapter 7, table 3 & 4, pg.82-84] – application of theoretical framework from literature review as criteria for assessing precinct plans

Comment 3. Has acquired a satisfactory understanding of the scientific or engineering method? *There seems to be some gaps in his application of the method, this could be resolved by restructuring of the chapters 1 and 2. The history and background could be grouped under one chapter. The recommendations in chapter 7 are not concise and clearly spelled out. Some work on clarifying the recommendations is required.

Responspe (a) [1.1. Introduction, 1.2. Rationale, 1.3 Problem statement] – Clearer definition of research problem and the purpose of research

Responspe (b) Mapping has been moved to chapter 2

Responspe (c) Chapter 7 has been completely re-written

Comment 4. Is capable of assessing the significance of his findings? *I am satisfied that the student understands the findings and that he has attempted to apply them. The structure of his Framework and Guidelines let him down due to the graphics not being clear or fully annotated. This should be improved by grouping some of the graphics together and by including more explanatory notes.

Responspe (a) Changes number **23-33** as noted in Section 1 of this report

Responspe (b) Chapter 7 provides assessment of precinct plans

Responspe (c) Chapter 7 discusses significant of findings, by: (1) reflecting on the applicability of enabling frameworks as an urban design approach; and (2) reflecting on the research method

Comment 5. The section on "considerations about informality" at the end of Chapter 6 could be omitted entirely. This is already touched on in chapter 4 in point 4.4. The student

should expand briefly in 4.4 on how informality relates to his study area and how it is affected by the non-programmatic approach.

Responspe (a) Section has been omitted

Comment 6. Structure of report - *the structure of the report has various issues that can be corrected by minor corrections. The table of contents does not match the report. These errors need to be corrected. Page numbering is incorrect. The figures are not numbered or referenced. Appendix A referred to on page 116 is not attached to the document. The tables on page 51 and 52 need to be labelled and referenced correctly from page 45. There are many blank pages. My suggestion is that the student removes the blank pages. The student has in some instances duplicated diagrams and sections. All duplicated graphics are to be removed. Typing and spelling errors to be corrected throughout.

Responspe (a) Changes number **1-4**, as noted in Section 1 of this report

Comment 7. Scope of the research - I am satisfied that the scope is sufficient and gives the student enough opportunity to explore theory and apply it in the "Enabling Framework" and resultant Recommendations.

Comment 8. Area covered by research - The Johannesburg CBD has been sufficiently researched by the student and I am happy that the area touched by the student's research allows him to effectively react to the problems encountered. The student needs to more clearly articulate the recommendations in chapter 7

Responspe (a) [7.4. …recommendations for future research (pg.85)]

Comment 9. Methodology employed - The student methodology of research of literature and the application of this in a structured argument with a resultant framework/design and recommendation is acceptable. I am satisfied that the student followed a sound methodology throughout his document. The methodology is let down somewhat by the errors in structure and referencing.

Responspe (a) Changes in Chapters 1 & 7 improve the structure of document

Responspe (b) All sourced images and plans have been referenced appropriately