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The past present dialogue: a recreational park to incorporate memorialisation into contemporary Ugandan culture

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Abstract

This research uses Kyadondo Sports Club in Kampala Uganda as a testing ground to address the theoretical issue about memory, memorialization, monument, and the everyday. Kyadondo is the site on which two bomb blasts occurred in 2010, however, it is still a meeting point for contemporary Uganda culture. This research presents a reinterpretation of memorialization in Kampala which the past and the present can be celebrated.

Construction of monuments in spaces where people gather to commemorate or learn about past events is an approach that has been adopted from the "western" world. These monuments have failed to accommodate a society's daily activities in the context of this study and as a result, have become nothing more than statues. The "past-present dialogue" is an investigation into the approaches to memorialization with the view that a memorial does not have to be a monument. It also explores the concept of space perception to understand how people relate to place as memory is a contributor to the making of place. This research will also explore how the built environment can express memory by telling a story of the history and everyday practices of the site. The link between the built and unbuilt will also be addressed as well as the restrictions surrounding the design of built spaces within flood-prone areas. The main focus will be on memorials as designed and experienced; not on the often complex politically uptight process of generating them.