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Trade terminus: [unbound]

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Dreams and architecture may come across as seemingly unlikely associates.

The dreams and desires of the city dwellers is something unregistered in the purviews of maps, plans, elevations and statistical analysis. Perhaps it is registered through the commotion of the crowds, slipping through the streets. The “come and go” may behold the key to the vitality of the city.

The Ethiopian District of Johannesburg is a small yet bustling fragment of the city. Informal and uncontrolled trade is a reality that cannot be stifled. The journey of arrival, waiting and departure not only of people, but of objects, contribute to the cacophony of stubborn urbanity and the mental life of the city. Spontaneity, risk and wilderness in the city are symptoms of freedom and rebellion within the Ethiopian district that act against the bound and rational layer of systems, control and planning.

A thriving cosmopolis – Johannesburg can be identified to possess the cultural capacity that supports the potential of rich urban interventions in an already existing setting of trade – formal and informal, legal and illegal, that extends beyond the physicality of city planning and architecture. The city of Johannesburg is a network of cultures, a system, which is in a state of continual becoming. It is a place which enshrines physical and cultural pluralism as well as the anxiety of difference as indispensable qualities of urbanism.