



/The City is [NOT] a Tree

The Urban Ecologies of Divided Cities

A Book of Abstracts



Tshwane University
of Technology

We empower people

**DIVIDED/
CITIES²²**

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The City is [Not] a Tree: The Urban Ecologies of Divided Cities (UEDC)

A Book of Abstracts submitted to the 1st edition of the international conference on The City is [Not] a Tree: The Urban Ecologies of Divided Cities



Acknowledgements

IEREK would like to express its appreciation to all members of the staff and scientific committee for their tremendous efforts and contribution to the growth of this institution and for making the first edition of the international conference on The City is [Not] a Tree: The Urban Ecologies of Divided Cities a success. IEREK would like to thank the conference chairperson, Professor Amira Osman from the Department of Architecture at Tshwane University of Technology of South Africa who is also the SARChI: DST/NRF/SACN Research Chair in Spatial Transformation (Positive Change in the Built Environment). Prof. Osman and her team had a hand in making the 1st Edition of this conference what it is today by providing scientific and logistical support throughout its organization. IEREK takes pride in being an institution that amasses a highly qualified and competent team who restlessly worked for months to make this conference what it is today in hopes of creating a well-rounded society. Last but not least, we cannot neglect the prominent role undertaken by our Editors and Reviewers who made it their duty to help this institution in spreading knowledge to the masses.

Foreword

The City is [NOT] a Tree spreads awareness of the problems that cause spatial, physical, political, social, economic, racial, and religious divisions in cities. Architects, planners, built environment professionals, social and political scientists, economists, designers and artists will come together to discuss the reasons for the divisions as well as to conceptualise an approach to heal those divisions. The conference will also include developers, local authorities and communities in the conversation.

The whole concept of the nature of divisions in cities means that effective principles and strategies can start to be formulated towards healing and transforming cities into liveable and loveable places, some of which are viewed as the ‘home’ to more integrated communities, cities and a more just and unified society.

We will be laying the groundwork for the possibilities of new social and physical formations, seeking ways to work meaningfully for societal advantage. We explore the different kinds of approaches, tools and possibilities that may be learned through different disciplines.

The conference unpacks two possible conditions:

- The city is a tree - the city reproducing itself (more walls, more divisions)
- The city is not a tree - the city remaking itself anew (an alternative condition)

The ecologies of division shape spatialities, territories and geographies, between or within nations and different groupings. Where do these divisions manifest? Do they manifest into borders, walls, buffers and security? How were these spaces or lines socially or physically constructed? And how are they policed, maintained, perpetuated or contested?

‘Place’ is neither exclusive to the building/object nor the space around it, but is inclusive of human inhabitation, encompassing space for the individual and for society. The active parties who shape the built environment define it as a fundamental component of human interactions and relationships. In divided and pathological societies, this suggests redefinitions and repurposing of what place/space could mean and could be. The (re)definitions of space as a first step in the making of ‘place’ and the formation of a sense of ‘home’.

Fuelled by systemic problems, the urban ecologies of divided cities appear as mutually constituted physical, psychological and social conditions. Socio-spatial realities remain entrenched upon identities and the urban psyche without being significant acknowledgement or resistance. The conference investigates such intersecting systemic currents, but it also explores the imaginative and potentially creative possibilities which could begin to challenge “either-or” binaries, and offer a potentially creative space. As a collaborative and inter-disciplinary project, The City is [NOT] a Tree is also interested in the imaginative and multi-stranded confluence of memory, history, and social and political contexts, helping to construct new physical, social and symbolic space on which to build.



Amira Osman

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SARChI: DST/NRF/SACN Research Chair in Spatial Transformation: Positive Change in the Built Environment

Director: PLATFORM 100

Convenor: The City is [Not] a Tree: The Urban Ecologies of Divided Cities 2022

Word from the Chairman of the Board of IEREK

I would like to start my word by saying it is my honor to be launching this conference on The City is [Not] a Tree: The Urban Ecologies of Divided Cities, the very first Edition of its kind.

Then, I would like to mention IEREK's efforts in establishing this successful event. IEREK- International Experts for Research Enrichment and Knowledge Exchange - is an institution that began pursuing its goal of reaching excellence in the research field in 2013, and since then has been connecting the world's scholars and providing them with a platform that would advance all their endeavors. Building international relationships with prestigious universities and institutes worldwide is one of IEREK's main goals, spreading knowledge and enhancing research around the world, along the way, through collaborating with trustworthy partners who share its same vision.

IEREK hopes to present the world with a conference that positively contributes to its relative field and makes way for scholars to combine their ideas for the greater goal of discovering new and innovative solutions to the issue at hand, with the aid of our scientific committee comprised of distinguished professors and researchers from a variety of international, established universities.

Finally, I hope that the conference succeeds in delivering its message to the world of professionals in the various concerned disciplines in order for their work to be put into motion. I also declare our welcome to all audiences, from undergraduate to postgraduate students, and all who will benefit the most out of this conference. I am looking forward to meeting you all and collaborating within this successful experience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Amer', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Architect, BSc, DSc, MSc, PhD
IEREK GmbH CEO & Founder

Word from the UEDC Conference Chairperson

It is a pleasure for me to present the first edition of **The City is [Not] a Tree: The Urban Ecologies of Divided Cities**, a collaboration between Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa and IEREK.

The conference will be held as a hybrid conference from 5 to 7 July 2022, where you were able to choose to attend either physically in South Africa, or online from the comfort of your home country.

The City is [NOT] a Tree emerged as an idea on top of a hill overlooking the city of Belfast, facilitated by a Spanish colleague in the UK, in multiple conversations over the years with a colleague in Brazil and took root as an event and partnership in South Africa.

We started with the name Divided Cities which was beautifully and poetically translated into a document titled **The City is [Not] a Tree: The Urban Ecologies of Divided Cities** by Mr Tariq Toffa. The title of the conference itself then inspired new forms of engagement with the topics and led to newer and undiscovered collaborations and partnerships.

This event aims to create more awareness of the divisions that plague our cities, while also building new partnerships, and strengthening existing partnerships, that help address those divisions.

My gratitude goes to the whole team that has allowed this event to take place. IEREK in particular have been amazing! I would like to also thank the Editors and Reviewers who worked on the proceedings book that is to be published in the Advances in Science, Technology and Innovation book series by Springer. This is hopefully the start of a long partnership and the translation of a dream of spatial transformation, of livable and loveable cities, to become the living reality of the majority of the citizens of our cities.



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Convenor: A City is [Not] a Tree: The Urban Ecologies of Divided Cities 2022

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Part I
Historical and contemporary processes

Exploring the Impact of Colonial Legacies in Urban-related Identity and the Will to Participate in Urban Decision-Making: A Case Study of Morocco

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Abstract

There is a clear absence of public participation in urban decision making in Moroccan cities. While the systematic marginalization of public opinion in formal planning legislation is regarded in literature as the main factor for this absence, this paper proposes a complementary explanation. It suggests the consideration of the role of the uncertainty of the Moroccan urban-related identity in the weakening of the collective will to participate. Using the reinterpretation of Moroccan planning history, complemented with interviews with Moroccan academics and planners, this paper explores how colonial legacies contributed in creating a physical as well as an institutional division between the Moroccan society and its urban context. This paper argues that the different urban changes under the colonial administration have weakened the average Moroccan's urban-related identity, and have thus debilitated the collective will to participate in shaping urban Morocco. It explains that any attempt at bridging these divisions have to go through a reevaluation of the Moroccan planning history and a reconstruction of a shared urban-related identity.

Keywords

Colonialism; Public participation; Morocco; Urban-related identity; Urban history.

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A Comparative Study on Asian Cities' Fabrics - The Morphological Approach

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Abstract

Owing to rapid urbanisation in Asia, globalisation and 'The Belt and Road Initiative' in China and South and West Asia, understanding and sustaining different urban cultures in Asia is needed. Urban morphology and housing form in traditional cities and new development are important components of urban cultures. However, studies on crossing cultural comparative studies are very limited in Asia. An understanding of the built environment is acquired through history and by examining the acts and processes that have contributed to the formation and transformation of urban central areas. The change is evolutionary and a gradual process of sustaining and mutation in the structure and form. Based on the morphological theories and methodologies, six cities from twenty along the Silk Road are selected, revealed and compared in three spatial hierarchies: urban networks, blocks and typical housing plans. The built environment is a complex and organic structure in which a given type of element is contained by another, which in turn is included by another element. Diversities of the six cities are derived from the intersections between cultural beliefs and trading networks connecting them from ancient times. Diversities are more obvious in the lower spatial level, such as buildings. Western colonialism and modernisation had stronger impacts on the urban forms in western Asian cities earlier and in eastern Asian cities later. However, a similarity among all the six cities is found in large self-built communities with morphological patterns independent from any paradigms which need to be further studied.

Keywords:

Morphology, Urban Fabric, Asian Cities

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Divided Cities in Syria: The Urban Basis of the Political Division

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Abstract

This research aims to trace the process of territorial division of two Syrian cities (Dara'a and Deir-ez-Zor) during the conflict. Roots of division can be found in most Syrian cities' pre-conflict socio-spatial structures, but the research attempts to examine the way different neighbourhoods interacted with the uprising movement leading often to heterogeneous outcomes. Place-specific characteristics (urban and demographic) have played a decisive role in determining the neighbourhoods' ability (or inability) to mobilise, sustain mobilisation, resist the regime's brutality, and transfer that eventually into territorial control.

Keywords

The Syrian conflict; divided city; social movement; socio-spatial inequality

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The intersections of past and present policies in producing and perpetuating processes of division and integration in Cape Town³

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Abstract

South Africa continues to show signs of a dual economy marked by one of the highest rates of inequality in the world. Cape Town is regarded as one of the most unequal cities – if not the most – in the world. Three centuries of colonialism, four decades of apartheid and Cape Town’s neoliberal stance have created unparalleled forms of inequality. How have past and the present policies and predispositions shaped Cape Town’s outlook, particularly in two low-income communities of Gugulethu and Khayelitsha. Drawing on a systematic review of literature and empirical data, the paper finds that Cape Town, is still marked by high rates of inequality, hypersegregation, class-based segregation with huge investments in the core and wealth concentrated in the CBD and clustered in formerly White areas under the Group Areas Act of 1950. Formerly Black designed areas are still largely poverty stricken with unimpressive service delivery records. It is in these contexts of glaring inequalities that service delivery protests have erupted. The paper employs the Framing Processes Theory to analyse activists’ understanding of their situations and protests.

Keywords

Cape Town, policy, inequality, segregation, dual city, protests

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Patterns of inclusivity and exclusivity: a comparative analysis of Asmara, Eritrea and Durban, South Africa.

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Abstract

Asmara in Eritrea, and Durban, South Africa have both evolved as modern cities from colonial design processes. Asmara expresses existing village settlement patterns layered with 20th century Italian planning and architecture, while Durban expresses British utilitarian urban planning approaches layered with the modernist city and apartheid city principles. Whereas the former reclaimed the city both spatially and socially, during its postcolonial era, the latter reflects a proliferation of new urban centres and some consequential urban decay or loss of vitality in the city. The paper analyses the historical, causal design patterns and decisions that led to two different trajectories in the contemporary processes of urban place-making. A qualitative study through literature review and mapping, within a pragmatist paradigm, defines the methodology. Spatial analysis through mapping reveals the key spatial moments in the postcolonial evolution of the cities that led to either social cohesion and activation on one hand, or abandonment, exclusion and decay, on the other. A key finding is the critical role of the market, as a place beyond its primary function as a centre for trade, to a complex place of indeterminate socio-spatial interactions. While the Asmara urban planning concepts established markets as urban nodes connected via activated trade streets, by design, the most vibrant places in Durban evolved semi-formally / informally through organic responsive processes and incidental spatial appropriation or spatial recycling. This paper provokes a critical review of fundamental spatial design decisions, through time, towards defining key principles for socially inclusive, vibrant and sustainable cities.

Keywords

Colonial; Patterns; Modernist city; Market; Inclusive cities

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Connecting cities across infrastructural divides: case studies from self-build practices in Tshwane east

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Abstract

This paper investigates opportunities to connect divided cities by analysing ways in which occupation practices operate alongside, subvert and potentially transform historic, and presently developing urban infrastructure divisions in the east of Tshwane.

Spatial design based research analysing formal and informal built development and settlement patterns are presented with a focus on areas around Mamelodi east and Moreleta Park. These studies demonstrate conditions through which urban divisions of inequality are perpetually forming alongside service and social urban infrastructure developments. They also raise key questions relating to the relationships and urban spatial divides between formal building developments and economies, and informal building practices and livelihood threats for the urban majority. The second part of the project involves lifeworld and social network analyses of self-build situations occurring at sites of infrastructural intersections. These studies focus on the composition of building fabrics that actively attempt to circumvent issues of material and resource scarcity as well as unequal access to service and social infrastructure through the establishment of building interfaces that facilitate exchange and network opportunities. While this field work exposes some of the volatile situations that many urban inhabitants experience on a perpetual basis, the primary aim is instead to identify and reveal - from everyday spatial occupations – methods that can improve the network potential of built environments as opportunities to transform their associated infrastructure systems.

The project concludes by exploring opportunities for replication and future research opportunities in other regions of Gauteng. It also forms part of a greater research endeavour to explore methods for establishing connections and interfaces in contexts of built environment divisions and segregation.

Keywords

urban segregation; infrastructure; interfaces; informality; urban networks

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Indi-African geometric expression in Marabastad: Reforming ruptured urban fabric in Tshwane, South Africa

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Abstract

South Africa is home to several diasporas. This is a country with a deep history of colonisation and various reasons leading to migration to this land over time; some were driven here due to destitution and/or slavery, the minority being of Indian origin. Despite having lived here for over 160 years, Indian communities struggle to integrate their presence and lack a sense of belonging, nationally, and also within the larger context of Tshwane; Indians were stripped of their cultural practices and voices. However, their resilience is evident in daily rituals and through various annual celebrations and festivities such as Diwali. Apartheid segregation relegated different racial groups to different locations in the city. Marabastad in Tshwane hosted Indians together with the natives, Muslims, Asians and coloureds. Geometry has been a common denominator in expressive visual communication between these ethnicities. For Indians specifically, geometry extends beyond two-dimensional expressions and is also integrated into, and is a reflection of, metaphysical experiences. Consequently, the Group Areas Act of 1950 ruptured the collective cohabitation of the multi-ethnicities, forcing segregation, and subsequently ripping the cultural tapestry that existed in relative harmony at the time. Studying geometry provides a medium to engage within space for healing, and furthermore, reform the spatial experiences within the city at a micro-level. This paper investigates how geometrically-informed spatial reformation facilitates cultural and identity reclamation through an architecture devised from site-specific geometric fusions. This is enacted through applying principles that acknowledged previous means of manifestation and guidance such as rituals, religion, social systems, prayers, language, art, poetry and other forms of expression. Also, it intends to provide a medium through which Indi-Africans re-integrate their presence and belonging in an engaging and profound manner.

Keywords

Culture, Geometry, Identity, Indi-African, Spatial reclamation, South-African,

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Containing the Human “Tree” in South Africa- what is the perfect size?

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Abstract:

Local economic growth and social development is largely dependent on strong local governance. While effective governance is dependent on the structure and composition of the municipality. On the 19th of May 2022, the South African Minister of Finance, Enoch Godongwana openly acknowledged that a large number of municipalities in South Africa are dysfunctional and consequently many local economies are struggling. In light of this statement, the paper questions the formation of municipalities in South Africa and seeks to determine if the areas delimited are manageable. The paper analyses the 88 municipalities listed as dysfunctional in terms of their delimited areas in 2016 and their related population. It found that many of the municipalities listed as dysfunctional are very large and have low population densities. At least 81% of the 88 municipalities had a population density below 100people per square KM. The World Bank lists these settlements as “rural areas. This makes the management and development rather difficult and hinders economic investments. As a result, the paper suggests that smaller municipalities might provide a solution to creating more functional municipalities with stronger economies.

Keywords

Municipalities, Delimitation, Population density, Dysfunctional, South Africa.

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Divided Architectures: Hidden Infrastructures of Separation and Cohesion

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Abstract:

This paper draws on two recent research projects to provide a novel perspective on the overlooked role played by ‘everyday’ architecture in post-conflict Belfast. It first reveals the capacity of architecture to latently reinforce and duplicate conflict forces by examining an historic body of *hidden barriers* put in place between 1977-1985 as part of a confidential programme of government security-planning. It illustrates how seemingly nondescript buildings and spaces work in unseen ways to foster continued social division within present-day Belfast. The paper then moves on to provide a contemporary counterpoint by revealing the capacity of architecture to stimulate positive micro-politics between divided groups. It analyses a series of publicly funded Community Hubs which generate novel architectures that promote social mixing and exchange. It illustrates how these buildings and spaces work in hidden ways to stimulate and sustain new forms of cross-community contact. The paper concludes by arguing for a re-evaluation of the role played by architecture, in its widest sense, within wider peacebuilding policy processes.

Keywords

Architecture; Belfast; Conflict; Territory; Inter-group contact; The Troubles.

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Dérive today: Artistic research and the city space

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Abstract

In the artistic avantgarde of postwar Paris, Ivan Chtcheglov introduced the *dérive*, drifting through the body of the city, as a procedure of artistic research to take note of the „atmosphere“ of built environments and of their effect on our ways to live and live together. Mapping the city in a whole new way, the situationists captured psychogeographic contours and showed the city space as subdivided into „unities of ambiance“. This analytic side was linked to the projection of an architecture that would house a new active and cohesive society where citizens would engage in creating „situations“ - temporary settings for a shared collective time.

Translated into our contemporary context, the *dérive* is able to disclose the multi-layered structures of an urban habitat in their lifeworld-dimension, as field work in Johannesburg and Berlin shows. As it contributes to discuss the contrasts, similarities, and differences of specific urban habitats, the *dérive* thus also becomes a tool in our decolonial dialogues. And it serves as an element in a larger framework where artistic research, architecture and urban design enter novel cooperations to not only analyse but also to project the urban habitat. The vision of society as a breathing web of heterogeneous groups, who negotiate their shares and commons in mutual respect, has become more complex nowadays, as it needs to consider social, economic, and ecologic sustainability in their interdependencies and interactions. Numerous examples from the african and european spheres, however, already demonstrate the impact artistic research can bring to these three dimensions of urban development.

Keywords:

Dérive, Psychogeography, Artistic research, Urban design, Sustainability, Societal cohesion

Part II
New grounds

Upsouth: Digitally enabling rangatahi (youth) and their whānau (families) to build critical and creative thinking towards more active citizenship in Aotearoa New Zealand

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Abstract

In a post-colonial Aotearoa New Zealand, solutions by rangatahi (youth) for rangatahi are essential (Hunia et al. 2021) as is civic participation and building economic agency in an increasingly tough economic climate. Upsouth was an online community crowdsourcing platform developed by The Southern Initiative, in collaboration with Itsnoon (TSI, 2021) that provides rangatahi and whānau (family) a safe space to share lived experience, thoughts and ideas about local kaupapa (issues/topics) of importance to them (TSI, 2019b).

The target participants were Māori, Pacific and minority ethnic groups, aged 14 - 21 years. In the Aotearoa New Zealand context, this participant group is not likely to engage in traditional consultation processes (Auckland Council, 2020, TSI, 2019a) despite being an essential constituent in helping shape better local communities, whānau and futures. Māori are tangata whenua (indigenous people of the land). Māori also means ma (to be pure) and oriori (intention) which is to be of pure intention.

The Upsouth platform was active for two years from 2017- 2019 where it completed 42 callups with 4300+ participants. A callup was about a pressing challenge in a community such as climate change, a new housing development, homelessness etc. Each callup was funded by a sponsor such as Auckland Council, Z Energy or Auckland Transport to generate youth voice for a strategic plan, local initiative or decision making process. Upsouth collated the ideas, voices and content from the callup and encouraged rangatahi to express themselves culturally, creatively and freely through their choice of expression. This often resulted in artwork, song, dance, video, drawings, and poetry.

A key point of difference was Upsouths payment and koha (donation) process. Participants were given koha through digital wallets and paid a financial reward for their ideas and contributions. Depending on the quality of the uploaded content, the koha varied between small micropayments and large payments. This encouraged participants to develop their creative and critical thinking to improve their ideas and rewarded them as experts in their own lived experience and knowledge.

A reciprocal process was important to build a creative economy enabling youth-led action and also developing skills for future focussed jobs and financial literacy. Upsouth challenged the current systems of acceptable community engagement by local governing bodies since many traditional engagement platforms are not as consultative, do not accept diverse types of feedback, nor incentivise this valuable expression of feedback. Upsouth is also empowering for rangatahi, since it allows them the opportunity to express their opinions directly to the government.

This paper will fully contextualise the potential and the challenges of rangatahi and whānau civic engagement in Aotearoa New Zealand and present a reflective case study of the Upsouth project, with examples from some of the callups. This is intended to form part of the *Divided Cities 22* conference *New Ground* sub-theme as a critical reflection on a design intervention, which was conceived and implemented by the lead author to overcome the post-colonial divisions of Māori, Pacific and minority ethnic rangatahi and whānau in South Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand.

Keywords

rangatahi; youth empowerment; civic engagement; enabling; relating; digital platform; participation; critical thinking; creative thinking

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Fog Water for a New Ground

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Abstract

Water is defined as the blue gold of the 21st century, it is one of the most influential causes of conflicts; in fact, the so-called “water wars” are on constant increase. Water availability strictly determines political, economic and social aspects of territories. The aim of this paper is to give an alternative solution to hydric issues, through a new strategy, that is fog water collection. Fog harvesting is documented to be an efficient system to collect water from fog, as confirmed by projects developed in many locations. Many territories worldwide are affected by the fog phenomenon, those are called “fog oasis”, which are mostly located in arid and semi-arid areas. In order to promote fog harvesting as a possible solution to restrain social, political and environmental crises related to water issues, the authors are going to analyze some case studies in Africa. They have been selected on their location characteristics, as fog formation, so that they can be a model applicable in any other fog oasis. Morocco has been documented to be an optimal spot for fog harvesting, here many villages are facing high levels of voluntary male emigration; while women are left in charge of water provision and many demanding tasks. Also in Ethiopia and Eritrea some projects have been developed to take advantage of fog water. At the border between the two states there is the Tekeze River, which is very polluted, and considered as the major cause of illnesses in the populations settled along the river. This same area is also the scenario of the Tigray war, which contributes to scarce water availability.

Keywords

Fog harvesting; Sustainable urban ecology; Water self-sufficiency

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A Gender-Sensitive Landscape Planning Approach in Urban Transformation to Improve The Quality of Everyday Life for all

Case Study: Khartoum

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Abstract

Urban sprawl and socio-spatial segregation are the main features of the urban landscape of rapidly urbanizing cities of sub-Saharan Africa. While people with high incomes live in luxury serviced neighbourhoods, most residents live in inadequate housing in poor serviced neighbourhoods. This situation limits the ability of the population to improve their quality of life and contributes to perpetuating inequality, especially for women and girls on the outskirts of cities. This paper presents a summary of my PhD research output, which aims to provide a proposal on how to achieve equitable and sustainable urban transformation in the cities of Sub-Saharan Africa. The research adopted a gender-sensitive urban landscape planning approach that has been validated by applied research examining the case of Khartoum as a city experiencing rapid unorganized urbanization.

To assess urban landscape planning, the structuralist analytical approach was used, which distinguishes between three dimensions of perception: “real”, “imaginary” and “symbolic”. Accordingly, the real dimension was explored by defining the characteristics of the current urban landscape in Khartoum and its impact on the various users; The imaginary dimension was then explored by evaluating the institutional framework, plans and planning models; The symbolic dimension was revealed by identifying the values and principles on which planning policies and practices are based. Finally, proposals were made on how to change these three dimensions to produce a gender-sensitive urban landscape that would improve the quality of everyday life for all.

Key words

Socio-spatial segregation; Sprawl; Urban transformation; Everyday life; Gender equality; Khartoum

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My Mabopane: Using photo-voice to understand local community engagement in urban green spaces in Tshwane, South Africa

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Abstract

Rapidly expanding disintegrated urban areas in developing economies are presented with social, climatic, and ecological challenges. Such challenges are expected to increase due to growing rates of urbanisation and new vulnerabilities imposed by climate change over the coming decades. Urban green spaces hold a potential to deliver practical nature-based solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss whilst playing a role in improving the quality of life in vulnerable communities. However, benefits of green spaces can be compromised by unjust decision-making processes and inequitable allocation of costs and benefits within local communities. Through fieldwork carried out in the Mabopane River Corridor, Tshwane, South Africa in spring 2022, we use photo-voice to gain a deeper understanding of how different stakeholders “see”, interact, and engage with urban green spaces. The Mabopane River Corridor is an example of an urban green space that is currently underutilised by the local community. Photo-voice adds emphasis to the concept of “seeing” and allows participants to tell stories through visual features, like composition, light and subject. In this respect, we use photo-voice to pluralise ways of seeing the Mabopane River Corridor by capturing the site’s multiple functions, benefits, community voices, and visions. To achieve the highest degree of pluralisation, dialogue on the value, opportunities, and challenges of urban green spaces must occur across sectors, e.g. between community members, academia, practitioners, such as city planners and NGO’s, and policy makers. Therefore, the photovoice project will culminate in an exhibition where the photos become a prompt for encouraging dialogue between the local community, municipal representatives, and local leaders. This cross-pollination between the community voices, theory, and data will contribute to co-production of new knowledge meant to inform holistic and inclusive planning of urban green spaces. This project is currently in its roll-out phase and full implementation is planned for April 2022. This paper reflects on the opportunities emerging from preparatory photo-voice project activities which can support inclusive urban green space planning.

Keywords

Urban green spaces; Urban planning; Photovoice; South Africa

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Re-imagining the role of climate finance in promoting a just transition: The case of post- apartheid divided towns in South Africa's Northern Cape Province.

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Abstract

As part of its low carbon development ambitions in 2011 South Africa adopted the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). REIPPPP is aimed at accelerating South Africa's decarbonisation process through driving the uptake of renewable energy. Several renewable energy projects have been developed across the country. Some of these projects are located in South Africa's small and rural towns. As part of REIPPPP policy renewable energy projects are obligated to support communities located within 50 km radius of where they operate. In this paper I am interested in investigating whether the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) which are located in Siyathemba Local Municipality (SLM) are contributing to socio- economic development initiatives in Prieska, Niekerkshoop and Marydale which are located in SLM. SLM has five IPPs (wind generation and solar PV) which are fully operational. Existing research suggests that channelling climate finance at local level has the potential to intensify distributional justice by increasing the share of resources to deliver more just processes and outcomes (Colenbrander et al, 2018). In the context of South Africa there is limited research which has investigated whether the 2% of revenues provided by IPPs have actually translated into socio- economic opportunities in beneficiary communities. Majority of the information that is available in the public domain is provided by the Department of Energy and IPPs. As an urban geographer who is interested in development issues, I plan to explore whether small rural and remote towns in South Africa, which are some of the most divided urban spaces, are benefiting from the mobilised climate finance.

Keywords

Climate Change; Small Towns; Renewable Energy; Development; Just Transition

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The role of the architectural profession within the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP) in South Africa

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Abstract

South Africa has a progressive human settlements policy that makes provision for the in-situ upgrading of informal settlements, aimed towards the holistic integration of informal settlements into the urban and socio-economic fabric of cities. The 2009 National Housing Code includes the Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme (UISP), and the National Upgrading Support Programme (NUSP) that was established to facilitate the implementation of the UISP. This policy approach advocates for the involvement of, and collaboration between government, civil society and the affected communities. However, the rising number of informal settlements and the dissatisfaction amongst informal settlement dwellers indicate a disjunction between these policies and the implementation thereof.

This growing concern on informal settlements forms part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, where integrated development policies related to informal settlements are prioritised, promoting policies linked to urban planning, financing, legal and livelihood components. It is argued that upgrading initiatives should be the result of a wide and inclusive participatory process, involving governments, public and private sectors, appropriate professionals and most importantly the communities as a key stakeholder.

Despite indications that the architectural profession has a role to play in the upgrading of informal settlements, their participation in these upgrading processes remain poorly defined and unrecognised. This paper reflects on two aspects emanating from this disjuncture within the South African context: Firstly, how do architectural professionals participate in the upgrading of informal settlements? Secondly, how does the architectural profession contribute towards this upgrading process? In deliberation of these two matters, the paper will investigate the potential role of architectural professionals within the UISP and NUSP.

The evident benefits of critical engagement by architectural professionals with informal settlement communities are illustrated through examples of projects undertaken in the South African context. The architectural professionals took on various roles of facilitator, collaborator, contributor and stakeholder. These roles have enabled a shared understanding of the contextual needs of each community, beyond the conventional investigations within the UISP, in that way empowering these communities to envision beyond the evident, and assisting in balancing the collective aspirations of the individuals. These examples demonstrate a possible contribution by architects towards ensuring the future livelihoods of these communities, working towards achieving spatial equity through spatial agency.

Keywords

meaningful engagement; facilitation; community participation; community engagement; spatial agency; in-situ upgrade

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Building bridges between actors and territories in Mexico City. Challenges, opportunities, and paradoxes of sustainable food initiatives.

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Abstract

This research focuses on the links created by “sustainable food” initiatives between spaces and social sectors in urban and peri-urban areas. The research is developed in Mexico City as part of an action-research project developed by an interdisciplinary team.

Mexico City concentrates the economic and political powers of the country and has well-being indicators above the national average; however, it harbors enormous socioeconomic inequalities. 59% of its territory is considered as “conservation land area” and includes forests, wetlands and areas dedicated to food production. This area is considered as a priority for the city due to the ecosystem services it provides, however, it is socially relegated and most of its inhabitants face poverty and lack of public services.

We document the experience of a small but growing number of food producers with great initiative interested in reducing the environmental impacts of their activities, who have built links with citizen collectives and consumers dissatisfied with the dominant food system. Although there is a common narrative regarding the collective construction of fairer and more sustainable food schemes, these initiatives are often directed to exclusive consumer sectors and are part of a gentrification process underway in the city, reproducing or even reinforcing the existing disparities. In some sectors, however, there are efforts to counteract this trend through links between producers and consumers that go beyond the economic transaction, seeking to build strategies of co-responsibility and solidarity relationships. Our project is currently working with this sector, seeking to promote the collective reflection on what a “sustainable food” should be like and what are the best strategies to build it, integrating scientific and local knowledges in the construction of a Participatory Guarantee System and other institutional proposals that seek to contribute to the construction of sustainable, fair and inclusive food systems in the city.

Keywords

Sustainable food systems; Food justice; Urban food policies; Knowledge co-construction; Alternative Food Networks

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Collaborative design experiences in rejected Spatialities towards an insurgent urbanism

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Abstract

This paper aims to debate collaborative practices in the field of urban design and architecture that emerge in rejected spatialities as potential ways to develop an insurgent urbanism. Our proposal debate is based on the technical assistance and research activities developed in collaboration with social movements and residents of a self-organized squat in Brazil since 2014 and dialogues with the more recent experience of workshops and activities at a Refugee Shelter in Berlin. In this context, we developed a critical reflection of the integrative and co-productive role of architects, planners and designers in these spaces, and from our experience concluded that there is an urgent need to rethink the tools, methods and general training of these professionals.

Keywords

Rejected Spatialities; Collaborative design; Squat; Refugee shelter; Insurgent urbanism;

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The political and democratic city: the place of difference

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Abstract

From the threats to democracy and the emergence of neo-fascist movements to the increasing inequality, all present in the divided urban spaces, this article intends to discuss the contemporary relationship between politics, democracy and place, as the locus of individual's or community's identity and as a scale of everyday life. The proposal points to the importance of being transformed by the Others and their differences, as a premise of transdisciplinarity, to rethink urban tools which could help onto producing democratic social cities where the subversion of institutional arrangements and their dominant practices might be possible. The starting point is to briefly address the distinctions of democracy concepts that have resurfaced the contemporary times. This article shall highlight democracy theories that contribute at the comprehension of difference as the locus of political collaboration through concepts of political and politics developed by Chantal Mouffe and Thamy Pogrebinschi, in opposition to hegemonic democracy models. Secondly, Freudian concepts are brought up to distinct difference and inequality in order to understand that democracy does not necessarily or clearly imply equality. Then, understanding the place as the emerging space for the expression of the political, the article demonstrates how narratives of the residents may reveal the complexity of relationships, experiences, identities, conflicts and singularities of their living place, far away from the institutional view from the State. The final goal is to critically present another approach to the practice of urban planning which brings difference as a transdisciplinary strategy that could emerge the desired democracy, meaning the exercise of politics. At the end, the article will be briefly presented the digital platform – Reading the place –, which is based on such an approach.

Keywords

Democracy; Reading the place; Political

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Social and spatial transformation in South Africa: Opportunities and possibilities of collaboration

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Abstract

'Social transformation', in general terms, can be understood as a meta-framework of 'big change' across the entire social realm, including the political, economic, technological, demographic and cultural spheres. The African National Congress (ANC), South Africa's ruling party since 1994, described its post-colonial/apartheid 'programme of social transformation' similarly, as a "comprehensive" one across "society, the state and the economy", and addressing "material conditions" as well as "class, gender and race" and securing "values of human solidarity". Transformation is thus an extensive, quantitative and qualitative vision, with both tangible and intangible outcomes that are echoed in the South African Constitution's promotion of not only "quality of life" but also 'healing' and 'unity'. Alongside this vision of transformation has also been the notion of 'spatial transformation', to spatially manifest these ideals.

Despite transformation being an ideal to which the ruling party remains committed, its nature, desired form and extent has been contested even within the ANC-led alliance. Moreover, critiques highlight some of the dominant frameworks it exists within and is often subsumed by, such as neoliberal and technocratic models and practices. The programme of social transformation is also an evolving framework. In recent years, governmental documents and policy has increasingly recognized that to achieve the goals of a broad and multi-faceted transformation, partnerships and collaboration across different sectors of society is crucial. Globally this approach has generally come to be known as an 'all-of-society' (AOS) approach to governance.

Using governmental and academic literature, the paper will study some of the key definitions, contestations, and critiques of post-apartheid transformation, as well as current directions. It will speculate on some of the benefits or 'new grounds' of emerging collaborative models, such as the potential for greater attention to contextual particularities, integration, sustainability, and the diversity of social actors' contexts, resources and contributions.

Keywords

Social transformation; Spatial transformation; All-of-society; Collaboration

Part III
Territories and Taxonomies

Spatial Inequality Of Accessibility To Urban Parks: case study of Auckland public housing developments

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Abstract

The impact of poor spatial accessibility of urban parks is specifically critical for the more disadvantaged population that suffers from greater risks of social-economical related health inequalities. In this paper, we use mobile locational dataset collected in 2020 to investigate accessibility to urban green spaces for the top (with) and bottom (without) 25% public housing neighbourhoods in Auckland region, New Zealand. We analysed the distance from residents' home locations and centroids of a 300mx300m grid, to the nearest park by both Euclidean and network analysis and explored the relation between accessibility to urban green and neighbourhood deprivation (indexed by the New Zealand Index of Multiple Deprivation 2018). The results reveal that neighbourhoods with a higher deprivation index quintile ranking also have lower accessibility to urban greens in Auckland, highlighting the urgency to address the emerging inequalities in accessibility and opportunities for these neighbourhoods.

Keywords

Urban Park; Accessibility; Auckland Public Housing; Mobile Location Data; Gravity Models, Mobility

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‘Most colonial’ architecture; Orientalist architecture of Bosnia and Herzegovina along the border between national discourses

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Abstract

The paper discusses the matter of placing Orientalist architecture, created during the Austro-Hungarian colonial administration in BiH (1878-1918), in segregation of the areas of dominant national discourses in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The basic indicators and factors of such policy of segregation are discussed in the first part. Moving along the line past-present, three basic causes/tendencies are identified: permanent trend of identifying and integrating expanded notions of orientalism and Islam spreading in the national construct of the community of Bosnian Muslims; incorporation of conflicting elements of nationalistic discourses within the image of destruction of the Sarajevo City Hall, built in Orientalist style; as well as the echo of the imaginary Other, whose meaning is altered nowadays in line with the trend of “imagining the place” and anti-globalisation.

Was this architectural expression really initially designed for the Muslim national community, has been questioned within the post-colonial studies about the narrative of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, as the centre of power, and it has been concluded that it is a sort of gesture of colony towards this confessional/national group. However, what all these studies miss is the view of periphery and/or forum of Bosnian Muslims in the colonial era. How, and whether this expression is indeed viewed as one of the construction blocks of its own national identity?

Given the lack of first-person documents, who could assist in clarifying this phenomenon, the illustrative samples of literary narrative of periphery were used, namely, the periodicals from 1878-1918, complemented by additional relevant historic references. They depict a broader state of mind of local community of Muslims, perception of its place in the *new world* and self-struggle over accepting or rejecting individual modernisation norms.

This part of discussion shall be concluded with the stance that any form of visual presentation of Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, including Orientalist architecture, could not be adopted, uniquely or in a major extent, by the forum of Bosnian Muslims, and transcendent the social differences vertically.

The last part of the paper shall sketch a broader matter of the meaning of Orientalist architecture through interface of colonial paradigm and functional typology of the style. The typological analysis suggests that the oriental architecture is essentially a colonial practice within the domain of explaining the identity of the Other, not only a different but also as historically at a lower level, including also the classic phantasm of European colonies about the Orient. Muslim national element had a regulatory role exclusively as a factor, which, either as imagination of Other or politically, ensured the colonial role.

Keywords

Orientalist architecture; national identity; narrative of periphery; colonial policy

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Urban form and health status in Gauteng, South Africa

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Abstract

Spatial susceptibility to virus transmission is reported in communities residing in high-rise residential buildings and slums or informal settlements. This study investigates differential Covid-19 infection according to urban form – high-density apartments (HDA), formal township housing (FTH), formal dwellings' backyards (FDB), and informal settlement dwellings (ISD) to inform precautionary strategies.

The study was conducted as a randomized biological (750 serology tests per dwelling type) cross-sectional survey, with household surveys to be reported elsewhere. Data was collected between 23 March and 10 October 2021 across sites during overlapping periods. Previous SARS-CoV2 infection was detected with antibody testing. Logistic regression analyses were performed to assess the association between seropositivity and demographic variables in the study population during two periods (Period 1: up until 31 May – just before the Delta-variant manifested – and Period 2: after 31 May 2021).

Seropositivity prevalence was highest in HDA (88%), and lowest in ISD (35%), with similar frequencies in formal township dwelling types (FDH 45%, FDB 47%). Seroprevalence was 77% in period 2 in 669 HDA participants and 395 participants in formal township dwellings (FTD), compared with 39% during period 1 in ISD and FTD. The crude odds for seropositivity increase 2.34-fold (95% Confidence Interval (CI): 2.15-2.55) per shift from ISD to FTD, and then to HDA. The inclusion of age group (\leq 34 years; 60th age percentile) and vaccination status showed that all three variables were independently related to serostatus. The odds for seropositivity increased 8.4-fold (95% CI: 3.6-19.5) when being vaccinated and 1.6-fold (95% CI: 1.3-1.8) when younger than 34 years of age. Sex did not infer risk for Covid-19 infection.

Contrary to the previous observations, ISD are least susceptible to SARS-CoV2 infection, and younger age contributes significantly to seropositivity. Additional urban form-associated factors need to be considered to better understand the relationship with health.

Keywords

Urban form, SARS CoV2, susceptibility.

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Exploring Digital and Financial Divide and Its Effects on South African Women's Engagement in Entrepreneurship.

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Abstract

The transition into a digitalised economy came with its significant challenges on the financial and digital divide in South Africa. Despite the government efforts, gendered constraints to the disadvantage of women pose a colossal hindrance to the transformation of a digital and financially inclusive society. Since entrepreneurial activities in the urban-rural context play a significant role in environmental justice, job equity, and sustainable livelihood, There is a need to document the impact of access to finance and digitalisation to enhance women's engagement in entrepreneurship. The study builds on the unified theory of acceptance and technology theory using a qualitative research approach to explore how digitalisation and financial inclusion enhance women's entrepreneurial engagements and address gender constraints and urban inequalities. The paper presents primary data from current research on women entrepreneurs in the City of Tshwane. To highlight issues of the rural-urban gender divide and factors constraining the potential benefits of digitalisation and financial inclusion, we articulated the importance of the urban context in broader present-day inequality debates.

The findings revealed that digital and financial access enhances women's engagement in entrepreneurship by addressing socio-spatial challenges such as gendered social and physical mobility. Therefore, the government should invest in digital technology in marginalised urban regions and implement appropriate gendered policy recommendations.

Keywords

Digitalization, Financial Inclusion, Entrepreneurship, Gender Divide, South Africa.

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Interpreting the effect of changing Architectural Taxonomies in Diu Town

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Abstract

Former colonial urban environments host a range of contextual layers with complex meanings yet experience challenges of urban, socio-cultural, and political developments. This paper focuses on the case study of Diu Town, a former Portuguese colonial island, located off the north-western coast of the Gujarat state, India. As a rapidly urbanizing island with processes of tourism and new infrastructure as part of the smart city campaign. This paper aims to use field trip data in the form of building surveys and qualitative urban mapping which will classify the original colonial taxonomies of towns districts to formulate an understanding of how class and social status, religious beliefs and social life was divided through its architecture and urban form. Further to this, the research will trace the contextual development of the island town post-independence to explore how post-colonial migration and current urban and social processes are erasing former socio-cultural divides within the urban environment through homogenization of colonial heteroglossia architecture. The purpose of this paper ultimately is an exploration of the multifaceted nature of the former colonial town where divides in the urban and socio-cultural front are removed through socio-political migration and urbanization though at the same time erasing the unique globally shared heritage of the town. In doing so highlighting and critiquing the dual nature of urban processes which remove cultural urban heritage of divides to create democratically and yet homogenized and nationalized urban spaces and experiences. The research in this paper contributes and extends on the studies conducted in, “Understanding the Difficult Whole: Structures of Diu Town”(Anisha Meggi & Hadi, 2021), where façade analysis of heritage structures as per Venturi’s complexity and contradiction theories explores the multiplicity of heritage structures and in, “ The Atmospheric Skin of Diu Town examining façades”, (A Meggi & Hadi, 2020), examines socio-cultural symbolism on façades.

Keywords

Architectural taxonomies; Diu Town; Urban divides; architectural heritage

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Socio-spatial segregation as a consequence of Commercial Gentrification in Cumbaya, Quito – Ecuador

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Abstract

The process of urban expansion of the City of Quito has caused the formation of new peripheral centralities, the same ones that offer all the services that the traditional center grants thanks to public and private investment. In this sense, citizens from wealthy social strata are attracted to reside in these new sectors where consumption, exclusivity and privatization of space become the new way of life that conditions the social dynamics of the territory. This article seeks to identify the types of urban segregation that have occurred from the phenomenon of commercial gentrification evidenced on the edges of the Central Park of Cumbayá between the years 2000 and 2022. For this, a mixed research methodology is used where interviews, photographic archives and surveys allow generating a socio-spatial analysis that evidences this phenomenon. As a result, it was found that commercial gentrification has displaced the old residents of the sector creating stigmatization, expulsion and walling typical of urban segregation. Finally, the resistance that few traditional inhabitants of the sector present in abandoning their place of origin is evidenced.

Keywords

Socio-spatial segregation, commercial gentrification, social resistance, new centralities, Cumbaya

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An ethnographic account on the desire for greenery in the affluent northern suburbs of Johannesburg, South Africa

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Abstract

The affluent northern suburbs of Johannesburg are often referred to as the ‘leafy suburbs’, and throughout eleven months of ethnographic fieldwork, following various actors within the residential real estate industry, a strong desire for and cultivation of urban greenery was apparent. Although both residents and real estate agents often emphasised that safety and security were the most important factors for where and how people want to live in Johannesburg, which also characterises much of the literature in the field (i.e. Murray, 2011), I argue in this paper that a desire and a longing for greenery is essential for understanding processes of enclaving in the affluent northern suburbs of Johannesburg. Considering the city’s location in the Highveld, an area characterised by a broad grassy plateau where soils tend to be dry and powdery during winter, cultivating greenery is particularly labour-intensive. By exploring Walter Benjamin’s concept of anaesthesia as a sensory abundance, I denaturalise what I perceive is an undisputed desire for nature in the urban which conceal deeper concerns about urban living. I want to argue that flooding the senses with greenery in the suburbs are technical manipulations that, consciously or unconsciously, reproduce racialised and classed perceptions of who and what belongs in the suburbs. Simultaneously, these everyday practices of greening are arguably an expression of care that show people’s commitment to the city and urban lifestyles that has potential to remake and reimagine the suburban landscapes anew.

Keywords

Greenery; Anaesthesia; Real Estate; Barriers; Enclaving; Ethnography.

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The Informal Land Market in The Belo Horizonte Metropolitan Area: Evidence From The Inspection of Irregular Subdivisions (2009-2018)

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Abstract

Peripheral capitalist cities are characterized by extreme socio-spatial inequality, precarious housing conditions, and the prevalence of informal arrangements for access to land and housing. In Latin America, one of the main access routes for the lower classes into the city, in addition to squatting on unused land and property, is the informal market for urban land. In Belo Horizonte, this market expanded considerably from the 1950s onwards, and its most striking socio-spatial impact was the rapid expansion of precarious and self-built peripheral areas. In the last decade, the strong Brazilian real estate boom led to an expansion of the formal real estate market and its extension to populations previously excluded from it. The article presents the results of a study that examines the informal market for land subdivisions based on official data and interviews with informal land developers. The text begins with a bibliographic review of the informal urban land market in Latin America and a review from main aspects of regulation and control of land development in the region. The final section presents the preliminary results of an ongoing investigation that emphasizes the importance of further examining this pervasive and complex form of urbanization considering its relations with the increasing penetration of financialized and rent-seeking logics of urban production, as well as the challenges and contradictions related to the action of the state and social movements. The discussion seems to gain relevance in the face of the worsening of the country's socio-political-economic crisis, especially if we take into account the reaffirmation of oligarchic and rentier interests involved in the ultraliberal turn, the escalation of land conflicts, and the deterioration of the social and economic situation that questions the right to housing and the right to the city.

Keywords

Informal Land Market, Peripheral Urbanization, Belo Horizonte Metropolitan Area, Land Financialization, Inspection of Irregular Subdivisions

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Divided cities: the language game as a violent strategy

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Abstract

In the past four decades, the Brazilian regulatory system and public policies that seek equal and sustainable cities have substantially expanded. However, their effectiveness and realities expose contradictory results compared to their idealized objectives, considering the growth of environmental and urban inequalities that sustains a continuous spatial injustice system. The paper demonstrates that divided realities of urban spaces are derived from the encrypted language games that neutralize difference and normalize violence and the resulting spatial injustice. Therefore, this article starts from the understanding of violence as guideline in the production of space through the combination of the Theory of power encryption (Ricardo Sanín-Restrepo) and the Theory of practice (Pierre Bourdieu). Sanín-Restrepo says that we only have one world if each human being is able to communicate her or his difference through her or his immanent difference. Bourdieu affirms that practice – structures present in the society and strategies triggered by agents - constitutes all the human actions carried out in social life. The analytical path goes through the mining territories in the Metropolitan Region of Belo Horizonte, specially focused in the environmental damage related to the city of Brumadinho and its legal agreement to reparation of the affected local population. The paper will demonstrate how public interests are manipulated by the language game which violently simulates social rights and environmental justice and subtracts the people's right to exist by denying political exercise in the face of institutional and capitalist forms of politics. In the end, a theoretical-methodological path to decrypt urban space is presented which consists of revealing and recognizing the narratives of hidden people to confront them as a political instrument to the violent process of space production.

Keywords

power encryption; language game; violence

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Unslumming the Slum of a Small Town: An Ethnographic Account from Bodh Gaya, India

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Abstract

A slum is considered a 'place' which suffers from poverty, overcrowding and fundamental infrastructural deprivation. Slums have produced/ reproduced socio-economic inequalities, further deepening social divisions. In popular urban literature, a slum is deemed as the phenomenon of megacities; nevertheless, it applies to all urban centres in India. Against this backdrop, the paper aims to examine what 'slum' as a category means for small towns. We are particularly interested in understanding the formation of slums in these urban settings. Further, we explore how this categorisation influences the availability and accessibility of fundamental amenities for its residents. Here, we refer to small towns as urban centres with less than 100,000 residents. Bodh Gaya, an internationally renowned town in Bihar in India, used as empirical cases to explore the slums in a small town. The slums in Bodh Gaya are the result of complex intersectionality of historical land politics and tenure insecurities, caste, and lack of basic amenities. It is found that there are no compelling differences between the living conditions of non-slum and slum residents as far as this small town is concerned. Consequently, we question the validity of 'slums' as a category in small towns, and argue against this unequal and fragmented categorisation which is complacent in further deteriorating the living conditions of urban poor in future.

Keywords

Slums; Small Towns; Infrastructure; Land Tenure; Bodh Gaya

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Part IV
Redefinitions

Places of worship in the urban landscape: The role of participatory processes for their reuse in an European comparative perspective

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Abstract

Places of worship have always played a crucial role in defining the landscape and character of our cities and villages. Each building has its own history to tell and represents the effort of a whole community in the creation of a common identity. For this reason, as well as for their historical and artistic value, these goods are frequently protected by the legislation of the States as a part of their national cultural heritage. Nevertheless, when their religious purpose ceases, as it is happening everywhere in Europe, because of secularization, demographic decline and migrations, the problem of their re-signification arises.

Focusing on the Catholic Church's assets because of their significative presence in Western Europe, this paper aims to provide a vision on the future of these goods, underling their value as "common goods" for local communities.

In fact, the population recognises these assets as having both a use value and a cultural heritage value, which must be considered when identifying the new profane uses. These are goods that evoke a dual belonging, not only for the ecclesial community, but also for the wider civil community, that must rightly be able to express its opinions on the reuse of buildings no longer used for worship.

The comparative study of the experiences from Belgium, France and Italy shows that, in spite of their different legal systems, a new awareness is emerging with respect to this heritage, which should not be destined to neglect and abandonment, but must be properly valorised.

Through participatory processes, it appears possible to identify the needs that emerge within communities, so that political and ecclesiastical decision-makers will be able to adopt solutions that can generate a positive impact in terms of social, cultural and economic development.

In this way, it will be possible to restore to these assets the spatial and cultural centrality that they have always had in the neighbourhoods of our cities and in rural villages.

Keywords

Adaptive reuse; Places of worship; Church; Common goods; Participation; Local communities

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Learning from The Falls Belfast: urban reflections on defensive space. A typological study of the Falls as divided street and its relationship with *the Troubles* and its landscape today and the Irish Language Movement as a rebirth of the old street into an Irish Language Street Strip

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Abstract

This paper examines the Falls Road (located in West Belfast) which is a largely Catholic/Irish Republican neighborhood particularly relevant during the conflict known as The Troubles, the conflict costed 3,500 lives. The paper starts from looking at two parallel events that happened alongside the street. Firstly, it analyses the event that emerged during the conflict, and secondly the construction of the architecture that emerged from this conflict. Using an immersive approach, the authors will enter the street from the bottom The Lower Falls to the top The Milltown Cemetery. By entering the landscape and walking and taking photographs and analyzing this we will be able to determine what is the typology of both that fragmentation and defensive space left from the conflict and discussing the effects on the residents that live on those areas and the mental health problems associated with this kind of urban landscape. The typology of the defensive space will then be counterbalanced by the positive additions in architecture of key Irish Language projects that have been built since 1998 the date when the Good Friday Agreement was established.

Keywords

divided cities, conflict cities, Irish cities, Belfast regeneration. Culturlann, Irish Language,

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Venting Practices: Navigating the interpersonal dynamics of socio-technical spatial design work in neo-Apartheid cities

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Abstract

This paper will focus on the built environment dynamics of spatial design practitioners and the related disciplines involvement in addressing spatial inequality and draws from a series of recorded conversations between a small group of South African socio-technical spatial design practitioners during the 2020 Covid19 Lockdown. These conversations were titled ‘Gripe Sessions’ and were held every 2 weeks between three socio-technical practitioners as a means of support, reflection, and knowledge sharing.

The paper’s intent lies in making tangible a series of interpersonal dynamics that are present within working from the grass-roots neighbourhood scale of socially engaged built environment work in the contemporary neo-apartheid city condition and link these concerns with the larger discourse on city-making practice towards spatial justice in South Africa’s built environment.

Keywords

Socio-Technical Design, Grass-Roots, Neighbourhood Design, Positionality, Critical Practice

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Religion and Identity Construction: Unity in Diversity

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Abstract

The role of religion in constructing an identity based on Malay *Bumiputra* (son of the soil) Muslims, as the majority group of the population, is a debatable discussion among Malaysians. Since its 1957 independence, the supreme law of Malaysia, the Federal Constitution, has pronounced Islam as the official religion in the country and the Yang Dipertuan Agong, King of Malaysia, as the Head of Islam. This provision also allows other religious ideologies to be practiced. Apart from the 1969 tragedy, Malaysian people happily live in harmonious and peaceful multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-religious societies while each ethnicity promotes its own culture, it respects other diversities, cherishes differences to promote unity and avoid disunity. This article aims to examine the identity construction built up by the Malay *Bumiputra* Muslims and analyze people's responses to related government's policies. Governmental attempts have been taken to promote stability and racial harmony. Still, there are hurdles faced by the Malaysians, such as economic disparities among ethnicities, education based on vernacular circles, and others. On top of that, there are vast differences in community identity construction between the Malay Peninsula and the Borneo states, Sabah and Sarawak. The former was directly politically colonized by the British, but the latter, especially Sabah, had no experience of 'divide and rule' along racial lines as British presented in the Malay Peninsula because Sabah was initially ruled for business purposes by the North British Borneo Company but later incorporated as British colonies after 1946 and continued until 1963. To some extent, however, this historical setting has shaped Malaysian politics to be primarily centred upon the Malay and *Bumiputra* racial-hegemony context. This political setting cannot be avoided, for the Malay and *Bumiputra* Muslims need politics to safeguard their rights, but other ethnics are also permitted to form their parties to represent their communities. To conclude, this division has been made to provide unity in diversity in the multi-racial society, which is politically and socioeconomically constructed.

Keywords

Religion ; Identity ; Malaysia ; Unity in diversity

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The Zinc Forest: Making Home in the (Post)Apartheid City

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Abstract

Apartheid's legacy is kept alive through spatial, physical, political, social, economic, racial and religious divisions. This is evident in the city of Cape Town that was designed to remind certain humans that they don't belong, and it continues to do what it was designed to do. How do the designers of the city situate ourselves in the dynamic ruin of home making in the (post)apartheid city? Within it, homes are being fought for, rebuilt, recreated and formed at every moment in the zinc forest (informal communities). The shack never stops moving, because the spirit of the *ulangisa nganyenganye* (eg. bit by bit) means that it is always changing. The carpet Siya James used at the outset to make a roof became a flat zinc sheet through its encounter with rain then gets slanted at an angle to shed the water. This is the relational process of home making, a worlding process (Haraway 2008). If we understand the nature of the Zinc Forest as a worlding process taking root, growing and constantly forming and becoming, there is an opportunity for us to diffract this phenomenon with more conventional ways of conceiving communities.

This diffractive methodology can help us to re-conceptualise and re-define the nature of place m and the forming of home in the face of histories and memories that refuse to go away.

Keywords

Zinc Forest; Home; City; Architecture; Worlding; Diffraction

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Part IV
Questions of Agency

The Role of Art in the Construction of Public Space: Istanbul Biennials from 1987 to 2019

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Abstract

This study focuses on the interaction of public-space and art and examines the role of art in the public-space in the example of the Istanbul Biennials (1987-2019). For this study, first of all, public-space, art in public-space, public- art issues are examined and the relationship between public-space and art is discussed from past to present. Biennials, with their layered and dynamic structures, offer a rich space to examine this relationship. The Istanbul Biennials, where this relationship can be observed in a certain continuity with its 32-year history, chosen as the research area. In this study, the distribution of the Istanbul biennials to the city, the variety of venues used, and the relationship between these venues are examined. For the analysis, firstly, the discourses, themes and curatorial expansions of the 16 biennials searched through literature and printed-media. Secondly, the exhibition venues and their locations/distributions in the city were mapped separately. Eventually, it has been determined that the biennials, which were initially located in the historical city center in Istanbul, have gradually expanded their area and even started to evolve into an open-air exhibition spreading to the peripheries and distant parts of the city in recent years. Thus, it can be said that with the biennial events(art), the boundaries of the public-space have expanded and its power has increased, and even public-spaces have been reconstructed with art.

Keywords

art; biennial; interaction; transformation; public-space; Istanbul

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The design of a rural house in Bushbuckridge, South Africa: An Open Building interpretation

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Abstract

This study documents the design of a house in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga, South Africa that uses Open Building (OB) principles so that the house adapts to the changing needs of the family and maintains its intergenerational value.

This project uses two OB principles. The first principle is to ensure that the building's functioning is flexible to give the family greater agency over how they use and adapt the house to their changing needs. The second principle facilitates this by separating the structure and systems of the house into the primary and secondary structures that can function independent from one another.

The approach of this project is the de-centring of the designer in favour of centring the occupant in the design and construction process. It reconsiders the conventional architectural product as not fixed and not conceived of in the mind of a single person. Based on this worldview, the authors employ the following tools: literature review; analysis of the project site and its context; developing a brief of the family's current needs; the design for disentanglement; and an analysis of the design's potential future scenarios.

This way of working allows for the family to have more creative design input as they can inhabit the primary level and make design decisions in the space, as opposed to making all the decisions on paper, before construction.

This paper applies OB principles in a low-income, rural house project to illustrate that they also have value for the architecture at a small scale, how a house can be disentangled to ensure that it adapts to the changing needs and creativity of the occupant.

Keywords

Open Building; Architecture; rural house; Bushbuckridge, South Africa;

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Repositioning architectural education inside out

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Abstract

The act of drawing a line on a piece of paper can be viewed as an act of division. In spatial disciplines such as architecture, urban design, and planning lines tell us many things. They define borders from boundaries, describe what is in from what is out, what is above from what is below, what is important from what is not. They have the power to divide and to connect. Apartheid spatial planning has a profound impact on the shape and form of cities in South Africa who are in many ways challenged by its legacies. Pedagogically, the need for transformation within institutions of higher learning in the country has been a growing one, especially after the 2015/2016 national student protest for free and decolonised education (amongst other issues). Based on the student outputs and discussions in the studio, students of architecture in Johannesburg have very particular experiences/questions about the city that they would like to explore in their training, however architectural education does not yet have the tools, principles, pattern, ethics and vocabulary sufficient to engage those enquiries. The dominance of Eurocentric canon still prevails. Therefore more work is needed to transform and reposition architectural education to address contemporary life in the city. The department of architecture (DoA) at UJ in 2017 transformed its pedagogy through the introduction of semester long, cross stream vertical studio electives, covering themes such as public space in the city, landscapes of worship, tectonics of refuge and protest city. This paper maps the shifts in architectural education at UJ since 2011, with emphasis to Protest City elective. It uses the elective's course documentation (learner guide, project briefs, assessments etc), the student's outputs (drawings, text, images etc) to formulate an argument to repositioning architectural education towards a "new normal".

Keywords

Agency; Architectural education; alternative imaginaries; radical

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Question of Agency: What drives divisive space (re)production and spatial transformation in the City of Polokwane?

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Abstract

Cities are tension ridden urban ecologies comprised of divided collections of social structures and multiple agencies whose interaction influences spatial transformation. The current development trajectory and spatial transformation witnessed in South Africa is perpetuating and manifesting in multiple forms of divided urban ecologies. This mirrors the (re)production of apartheid socio-spatial injustices and contradictions, manifesting multiple dilemmas in analogy with the re-imagined city as inscribed in post-apartheid progressive legislative and policy frameworks. This study moved beyond the usual inquiry limited in focus on spatial planning approaches and characterizing the nature of common threads of socio-spatial divisions among cities. It unravels the complex systems and factors that (re)produce and shape the divisive socio-spatial qualities of cities and territories ecologies with special focus on City of Polokwane. Data were collected using both quantitative and qualitative tools underpinned by the pragmatic philosophical paradigm. 507 questionnaires were analysed and seven key experts were interviewed using a semi-structured interview guide. Quantitative data analysis included; descriptive statistics (measurement of reliability, validity and normality) and exploratory factor analysis. Qualitative data were analysed using content analysis. Critical urban theory, spatial dialectics and didactics theory constituted the theoretical framework and analytical approach in this study. The findings reveal that complex systems and agencies driving divisive space (re)production and spatial transformation in the city of Polokwane are as follows; i) governance and policy drivers ii) spatial characteristics/biophysical drivers; iii) social and cultural drivers and iv) Economic drivers. In conclusion, these urban ecologies presents that the dialectical socio-spatial processes associated with divisive space [re]production in Polokwane are complex, making it difficult to redress a century of historical spatial injustices and segregation or attain the re-imagined post-apartheid cities in a short space of time.

Keywords

Urban ecologies; Spatial transformation; Space (re)production; Complex systems; Socio-spatial injustices

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Geospatial based flood inundation mapping for developing an adaptation framework: a case for Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, South Africa

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Abstract

Flooding is one of the most devastating hydro-meteorological hazards in South Africa. For example, communities on the East Coast which include Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality suffer the impacts of floods almost every year. This paper focused on the mapping of social flood risk in the BCMM. The study combined Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Remote Sensing, 1/50 and 1/100 flood return periods, and socioeconomic data in mapping flood disaster risk. The resultant risk map and outputs show communities, populace, building (types), and towns that are exposed to flood risk in the region of analysis. The study recommends that early action, early warning systems and proper planning permission should be improved, including conformity to legal building codes for the reduction of flood disaster risk and to eradicate haphazard planning. In addition, further research on flood disaster risk mapping is required, this can be replicated with the methodology presented in this study to enable the advancement of local and global urban planning, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction framework.

Keywords

BCMM; flood disaster risk; mapping; geospatial; remote sensing; planning

Addressing Housing Inequalities in Post-Conflict Belfast: A Transformative Justice Approach

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Abstract

Belfast is a deeply divided, fragmented city not just politically, socially, and economically but physically. It is a city shaped by its history, its experiences of violent conflict and its post-conflict transition. A collage of so-called peace walls and interface areas segregate neighbourhoods across the city creating some of the most socially and economically deprived areas where inequalities are significantly exacerbated by the tension and sectarianism that segregation reinforces. Despite the peace process, historical and new inequalities in the provision and allocation of social housing affect many vulnerable individuals and communities. The challenge of navigating housing in a politically and physically divided city has resulted in failed opportunities to shape policies and procedures to address chronic housing inequalities. Conflict is common in all societies but for those polarised along political, ethnic, ideological or religious lines establishing sustainable democratic institutions and dealing with the past poses a more complex challenge. Addressing the legacy of violence and human rights violations is central to building sustainable peace. If we acknowledge that socio-economic inequalities are not only a consequence of violent conflict but a root cause, then we must also acknowledge that correcting these inequalities is an essential component of post-conflict policy. Under a transformative justice approach to peacebuilding, affirmative action programmes and grassroots social movements, such as the Right to the City, could be utilised to re-shape housing policy and address chronic housing inequalities in post-conflict Belfast. In doing so we could look to the future as well as deal with the past.

Keywords

Housing Inequality; Transformative Justice; Affirmative Action; Divided Cities

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Architectural Agency: Seeking New Ground and Porous Borders

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Abstract

The small, pocket-city of Belfast is divided and defined by walls and barriers. It remains one of several post-conflict cities still emerging from historical context and localised conditions of deep-seated sectarianism and episodes of violence, where identities and affiliations are linked to a strongly held sense of ownership of territory. Such terrain is difficult ground on which to negotiate where walls have endured and increased in height and number, despite declarations, (by the British military) in 1969, that 'the peace line will be a very, very temporary affair'. Tragically, forty per cent of the deaths in the conflict were within stone-throwing distance of the peace lines in north and west Belfast.

The prospect of violence, the fear of having, or perceived to have, an allegiance that could register at a political level, meant that investment in the city of Belfast, during the conflict, mostly occurred in the commercial core. That narrative is now slowly changing, but the stopgap solutions of walls 'focussed on the physical separation of conflicting parties and communities' remains stubbornly difficult to negotiate, particularly where some resources and services are duplicated, or where streets can no longer (re-)connect.

There is urgent need for a development project for the interface areas, which must expand an intention to connect the inner-city neighbourhoods to each other, and to the core. Culture-led and housing-led regeneration has the capacity to make such new ground and can help re-power democracy by making porous edges and delivering a community-focussed ambition to make a difference in the city.

This paper explores a specific case study where a culture-led, grassroots initiative has developed and delivered schools, cultural centres, youth facilities, and is now developing a housing project. The Gaeltacht Quarter is a local neighbourhood project with a city-wide and national agenda for community empowerment and growth.

Keywords

Post-conflict; Interfaces; Culture-led Regeneration; New Ground; Community empowerment.

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/The City is [NOT] a Tree The Urban Ecologies of Divided Cities

A Book of Abstracts

The City is [NOT] a Tree spreads awareness of the problems that cause spatial, physical, political, social, economic, racial, and religious divisions in cities. Architects, planners, built environment professionals, social and political scientists, economists, designers and artists will come together to discuss the reasons for the divisions as well as to conceptualise an approach to heal those divisions. The conference will also include developers, local authorities and communities in the conversation.

The whole concept of the nature of divisions in cities means that effective principles and strategies can start to be formulated towards healing and transforming cities into livable and loveable places, some of which are viewed as the 'home' to more integrated communities, cities and a more just and unified society.

We will be laying the groundwork for the possibilities of new social and physical formations, seeking ways to work meaningfully for societal advantage. We explore the different kinds of approaches, tools and possibilities that may be learned through different disciplines.

