

A detailed architectural sketch in black ink on white paper, showing a multi-story building complex. The drawing uses fine lines and cross-hatching for shading and texture. The building has several levels with balconies and windows. In the foreground, there are walkways and small figures of people, suggesting a public space. A large yellow rectangular box is overlaid in the center, containing the title and group name. The date 'M 02/04/2020' is written in the bottom right corner.

INTERROGATING PUBLIC SPACE

GROUP 5

Marie Snyman, Zuko Mnyonyo, Nomfundo
Mthembu, Ruth Manyama & Zayd Gool

M 02/04/2020

We view public space as...



space that **promote:**

local **economic** activity

anti climate change and **crime** initiatives and
social, mental and **physical health**



*achieve through
upstream interventions*

to enhance the quality of life for **people** across all



socio-economic stratas,
disabilities
races and
genders



inclusive to all

in all **areas**

residential

CBD & retail

rural & urban

informal settlements



accessible

Cape Town Promenade



<https://openstreets.org.za/news/successful-public-spaces-south-africa>

Between N2 and Khayelitsha



<https://www.alamy.com/group-of-poor-black-african-children-playing-a-game-of-soccer-or-football-on-the-side-of-the-highway-with-tin-shack-houses-in-the-background-cape-town-image260240491.html>



What counts as public space..?



photo by Marie

Has COVID-19 influenced how we view public space?

- The Covid-19 Pandemic exposed **gaps** that exist in the production and creation of public spaces.
- These will need to be addressed by adopting short, medium and long term strategies.
- Public Spaces are critical to the **livelihoods** of those living urban cities. Lockdown closure negatively impacted livelihoods.
- Public spaces are also places of **business, such as street vendors**, these forced closures meant less traffic on streets and affected this economic activity.
- Public Spaces are critical to both **physical and mental health**, as places of relaxation, exercise, recreation and leisure
- While the pandemic has forced people to distance physically, no indication of lesser **demand and need** for the use of public spaces (especially women and children, and those living with disabilities).
- The pandemic influenced limitations on **socialising, shopping, commuting to and from work**.
- This has had negative effects on mental and physical health, with countries indicating a relationship between **loneliness, social isolation, poor health resulting in heart diseases and immune dysfunctions**.

What can be learned from the story of Abdullahi Ali?

K. Landman argues that, “Enclosed neighborhoods contribute greatly to the privatization of public space and often the opportunities and facilities contained within”

- Public Space access can become **contested issue** during times of emergencies,
- More especially for marginalized and poor communities.
- **Limited access to public parks=Disruption**

(i.e **Jack Muller Park District Pak, Bellville**)

- **Exclusivity**, also became an issue,

(i.e **Bellville Golf Club,**)

- **Access to public spaces for all.**
- **Leverage Public space to Compliment ailing Infrastructure (i.e Hospitals)**



Jack Muller Park



Bellville Golf Club

Design Guidelines for the future Public Spaces

- Open enclosed neighbourhoods to the general public to allow all citizens to use residential streets. This reduces traffic in city roads and allows emergency services like ambulances to move and faster in lanes.

Precedent: Most cities like New York in the USA,, New Zealand in Krakow and Warsaw in Poland, have implemented policies that reallocated outer lanes to pedestrians or bicyclists or both, (Hanzl, 2020:1). A success of this can be seen here in SA in Sea Point promenade.

- Enlarge sidewalks, in the context of SA where sidewalks, are shared between pedestrians and running of informal businesses such as selling of goods.

Precedent: In Vilnius, Latvia the municipality decided to enlarge sidewalks to accommodate restaurants gardens, this way people are not forced to squeeze each other onto limited pavement space, (Hanzl, 2020:2). They also started open air cafes.



Design Guidelines for the future Public Spaces

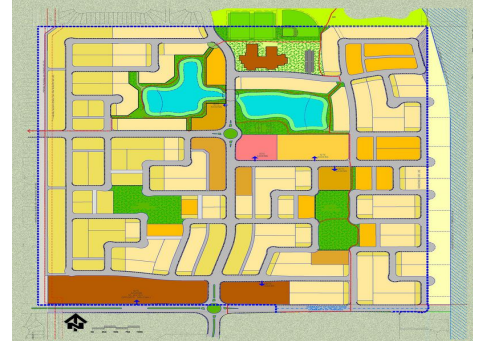
- To **reduce informal settlements** in the global south which has little to no open spaces, governments need to start **providing RDP** housing that is built in the form of flats.
- This allows for **more open space for roads** and other necessary amenities in the area.
- Some city planners argue that people living in informal settlements usually **have primary homes** and are only living in informal settlements to have access to workplaces in the city (Charlton, 2010).
- People are then supplied with homes while allowing flexibility of the space and give access to infrastructure like clean water, electricity and unpolluted land and air.



Precedent: A good global South example of this form of housing is Aranya in India, the way the area is planned ensures provision of shelter and while regulating high intensities of people needing housing. This opens spaces for roads and amenities such as parks.

Design Guidelines urban designers could consider

- **Collaborate** with the government organizations and departments
- **Encourage** the private sector to participate in public space research and development
- **Incorporating** the arts and emerging technologies.



Public Space in Africa and the Global South

a) Production, Place-making and Governance,

b) Spatial Practices, motilities and Transportation, and

c) Appropriation, Practices and Meanings (Production, Place-making and Governance)

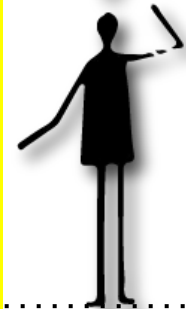
- Discusses the negotiation of multiple interests in the production of contemporary cities,
- Concentrated around the definition of 'public interest' in cities



place-making



transport



production

Conclusion: Public Space in Africa and the Global South

- Highlighted **social hierarchies** associated with public space.
- Insights to the **social issues** surrounding public spaces which has been brought to light by the **pandemic**
- The pandemic has **halted** many of the ways in which people **inhabit public spaces**.
- There **should be no barriers** of access to public spaces.



here we go...!!!

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- All, Public Space. 2018, July 16. *10 ideas to transform the future of public spaces*. Retrieved from <http://ourfuturecities.co/2018/07/10-ideas-to-transform-the-future-of-public-spaces/>
- Madanipour, A. (Ed.). 2013. *Whose Public Space?: International case studies in urban design and development*. Routledge.
- Hernández García, J., García Jerez, A., & Beza, B. B. (2018). *Urban Space: experiences and Reflections from the Global South*. Sello Editorial Javeriano Cali.
- UN-Habitat . 2019. *City-wide Public Space Strategies: a compendium of inspiring practices*.
- UN-Habitat .2020. *UN-Habitat Guidance on Covid-19 and Public Space*.
- Dubbeling, M., Bracalenti, L. 2009. *Participatory Design of Public Spaces for Urban Agriculture, Rosario, Argentina*. ResearchGate.
- Minty, Z. 2011. *Public Art Project in Post-Apartheid South Africa Visual culture, creative spaces and postcolonial geographies*. ResearchGate
- Hanzl, M. 2020. *Urban forms and green infrastructure – the implications for public health during the COVID-19 pandemic*. *Cities & Health*. 1-5.
- Charlton, S. 2010. *Inclusion Through Housing: Limitations and Alternatives in Johannesburg*. *Urban Forum*. 21(1): 1-19.
- Landman, K. 2006. *Privatising public space in post-apartheid South African cities through neighbourhood enclosures*. *GeoJournal*. 68(1):133-146.
- Desti Map. ND. *The Best Attractions In Bellville/ DestiMap/ Destinations on Map*. Available at: <https://www.destimap.com/index.php?act=place&p=Bellville%2C-South-Africa&accel=1>.