UIA 2014 DURBAN
Sunday 3rd August – Wed 7th August 2014
Other Thinking | Other Regions | Other Practice | Other Disciplines | Other Communities

ARCHITECTURE OTHERWHERE
ARCHITECTURE, UN AUTRE AILLEURS
“Looking elsewhere for other ways of creating a better future”
RESILIENCE, ECOLOGY, VALUES

UIA 2014 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COMPETITION
PART 3 – WEST STREET CEMETERY EDGE STUDY
OUTLINE

This report offers a brief overview of the history, development and current status of the West/Brooke Street Cemetery.

The report intends to offer a broad overview of the cemetery edges as a supplement to PART 1 of the brief for the UIA 2014 International Student Competition.

WEST STREET CEMETERY

The West Street Cemetery has been in existence since 1846, and originally occupied the periphery of the Durban’s urban edge. Over the years, Durban expanded and the cemetery came to occupy a central location and now exists as an interesting intersection between cultures, religions and race groups.

The cemetery has special historical significance in that it is one of the only areas in Durban where four different religious denominations are buried alongside one another; Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Jewish burial sites are all located on the grounds.

Mostly notable is the Badsha Peer Mazza, which stands as a shrine to a Muslim saint who came to Durban in 1860. Each year since 1943, there has been a veneration ceremony and banquet to acknowledge Badsha Peer, a week-long ceremony, which culminates in Brook Street Market adjacent to the Shrine.

The cemetery is surrounded by an interesting range of urban activities, creating a diverse set of edge conditions, which are the focus of this student competition.
EDGE CONDITIONS

Brooke Street Edge
The busiest and most occupied edge is the covered Brooke Street Market of Warwick, which contains a variety of trading stores selling a wide assortment of consumer goods. At the end of the market the edge becomes an informal taxi pickup with smaller food stands on the pavements. This is a noisy section of Warwick and is overlooked by additional trading stores and a passage at a higher level beneath the large shaded structure. The un-shaded section of the street is occupied/used in a similar manner to the Theatre Lane edge described below.

Theatre Lane Edge
This edge is mostly used as a waiting area of informal transport vehicles, minibuses, which are known in South Africa as “taxis” or “combis”. This industry is organised through Taxi Associations, but remains unregulated in terms of pickup and drop-off points in the city. The taxis are parked on both sides of the street and as they wait, many of them are being washed by the drivers – this activity results in the street being covered in water. It is unclear from where the water is being sourced. The street pavements are also places of trade offering snacks, drinks as well as shoe repair – these activities hug the edges around the main cemetery entrance. There are some heritage buildings that will need to be addressed by the student teams working on this edge, as well as along the Joseph Nduli edge.

Joseph Nduli Edge
This edge opens out onto the busier Joseph Nduli Street, here informal traders sell larger items including luggage and electronic goods. Pedestrians cut across Joseph Nduli to access busier Durban’s inner city. The link this edge provides with the inner city will be a main design generator for any proposed interventions.

Monty Naicker Edge
The highest velocity traffic and overpass leading to the N3 freeway makes this edge the least active. There are public telephones at the on the corner and the incoming overpass houses more taxi wash stands, food sellers and other lighter informal activities. The pavements provide a basic “entry level” opportunity for the informal trader – that is a simple demarcation on the pavement with no shelter or an form of service. There are some recreation activities under the bridges (a billiard table) which hints at a need for such services where people may be waiting for transport or stopping by as they traverse the area. The Victoria Market and the Roman Catholic Cathedral across the road need to be acknowledged.

Under the overpass, the Monty Naicker edge then becomes part of the Warwick market where it meets the Brooke Street section of the market – this edge also offers access to the cemetery which is highly understated and not very visible.
*NOTE: FULL LENGTH PANORAMAS AVAILABLE ON ATTACHED DISK/ONLINE RESOURCE*
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Asiye eTafuleni is a Non-Profit Organisation which champions Inclusive Urban Planning & Design. This involves empowering the working poor by enabling their ability to participate in co-developing their working environments. Asiye eTafuleni advocates that investment in urban planning and design interventions, and thoroughly consultative and participatory processes, can set a trajectory for meaningful socio-economic development for informal workers operating in public spaces – thus achieving an improved urban experience for all.

Both John and Patrick work for Asiye eTafuleni and are intimately involved in the support of the various networks that make up the ecosystem of Warwick’s Markets. It is crucial while working in delicate social networks, such as the Warwick Triangle, to work with and through social agents such as Asiye’s eTafuleni.

A simple spatially orientated questionnaire was arranged and the same basic question set was asked to the various role players on the site edges. John & Patrick explained to each interviewee and many other people the nature of the project, and the intention of the questionnaire so as not to create any false expectation or confusion. The ethics of engagement in a complex context such as Warwick Junction needs to be noted by students, and while many of the international students will not be able to physically visit the site, for those who will it is important to access the site via the known agencies that operate there and to be very clear about your intentions which must be well articulate with no ambiguity.
WHAT DO YOU DO, HOW DO YOU USE THIS SPACE?
I sell fruits, vegetables and snacks to people. I have my shop here in this space.

HOW IS THIS SPACE GOOD FOR YOUR WORK?
The taxi drivers and their passengers provide business. The pedestrians between buy lots as well. It is close to the train station and is always busy.

HOW IS THIS SPACE BAD FOR YOUR WORK?
There is no shelter for me or my customers and its get very hot or very wet. People also steal my pallet (table).

WOULD YOU RATHER WORK SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THIS OR ANOTHER AREA?
Yes, inside the market space would be better.

WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS SPACE BETTER FOR YOU?
I would like a space to store my fruits and vegetables when I am not here, a lock up facility. I would like more space as well.
INTERVIEWS

TAXI WASHER/REPAIRMAN (LWAZI XABA)

WHAT DO YOU DO, HOW DO YOU USE THIS SPACE?
I wash and fix taxi’s. We wash and repair the minibus taxi’s in this space.

HOW IS THIS SPACE GOOD FOR YOUR WORK?
It is a specific space to wash taxi’s, everyone knows this. There are only 7 taxi washers here.

HOW IS THIS SPACE BAD FOR YOUR WORK?
The police sometimes confiscate our washing buckets and sponges, and give us a fine for not having a license (R50 - R100)

WOULD YOU RATHER WORK SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THIS OR ANOTHER AREA?
No, this is the space for us!

WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS SPACE BETTER FOR YOU?
Better place to collect water, a place that is closer.
WHAT DO YOU DO, HOW DO YOU USE THIS SPACE?
I call people for the taxi, and manage the lines to get into the minibuses.

HOW IS THIS SPACE GOOD FOR YOUR WORK?
It is a good place between the station and the city.

HOW IS THIS SPACE BAD FOR YOUR WORK?
It is ok.

WOULD YOU RATHER WORK SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THIS OR ANOTHER AREA?
No.

WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS SPACE BETTER FOR YOU?
It would be nice if it was cleaner.
INTERVIEWS

FOOD TRADER (CAROL SHANDU)

WHAT DO YOU DO, HOW DO YOU USE THIS SPACE?
I cook and sell lunch time food to the taxi drivers and to the people who walk past. I only sell at lunch, because I have to look after my granddaughter and help her get ready for school each morning.

HOW IS THIS SPACE GOOD FOR YOUR WORK?
It is close to the toilets, sheltered from the sun and rain under the freeway overpass and lots of people walk past here.

HOW IS THIS SPACE BAD FOR YOUR WORK?
There is no access to water, and I have to pay someone to watch my stand or fetch water.

WOULD YOU RATHER WORK SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THIS OR ANOTHER AREA?
No, this space works for us.

WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS SPACE BETTER FOR YOU?
I would like a big sign and a shop that has my name painted on it to tell everyone where I am and that I sell good food.
WHAT DO YOU DO, HOW DO YOU USE THIS SPACE?
I sell fruits, vegetables clothes and other items to people. I have a stand here as well as a lock up facility behind my stand. I don’t use the lock up to sell because it is too far from the people movement.

HOW IS THIS SPACE GOOD FOR YOUR WORK?
Very close to the taxi rank, sheltered from the rain and the sun and close to the toilets.

HOW IS THIS SPACE BAD FOR YOUR WORK?
The space is good. My only complaint is how the city network is treating us. I also have no electricity in my lock up facility, I would like electricity.

WOULD YOU RATHER WORK SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THIS OR ANOTHER AREA?
No.

WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS SPACE BETTER FOR YOU?
Better lighting, so we could trade in the early morning and the late evenings. It would be nice to set up a night time market for those people who travel late.
I am a barber. We have a tent where we cut hair here. I used to be a security guard, but that work is too long and I don’t like working at night and sleeping in the day.

There are lots of people walking here, and we are close to the city.

There is no electricity, and we can’t work at night.

Yes, I would like to be closer to the market.

I would like to see more lighting and security in this space.
WHAT DO YOU DO, HOW DO YOU USE THIS SPACE?
We are taxi drivers. We pick up passengers, wash & repair our taxi’s, and even sleep here.

HOW IS THIS SPACE GOOD FOR YOUR WORK?
The road is small (And one-way), which means it is easier to manage taxi pick ups and drop offs. There are many pedestrians who walk here which is good for business. There are many street stalls which we use as well.

HOW IS THIS SPACE BAD FOR YOUR WORK?
There is limited space for parking, and over-night stays are not safe for the Taxi’s (no security at night). The 1-way makes it difficult because to return is a very far drive around 3 blocks.

WOULD YOU RATHER WORK SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THIS OR ANOTHER AREA?
No, this space works for us.

WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS SPACE BETTER FOR YOU?
We would like shelter from the sun and rain for our passengers, closer ablutions and better facility for washing our taxi’s.
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

This information was collected in early January/February of 2013 by JHONO BENNETT of 1:1 Agency of Engagement (http://www.1to1.org.za). The process was comprised of on-site observation, interviews and historical data. All images are available in full resolution, plus additional data will be provided on a separately in a dropbox folder:

6 x Large Format Street Edge .tiff files
23 x Historic Images, drawings and maps
46 x Geo-tagged site images
5 x 360 Panorama accessible by web upload
Links and collected data around peripheral sites
Additional maps and drawings supplied by City Architects

More information is available online at:

History/Information on Durban
www.durban.gov.za

Markets of Warwick
www.marketofwarwick.co.za

Badhsa Peer
http://www.badsha.peer.org.za/

Asiye Etafuleni
http://www.aet.org.za

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