Integrated Living in A Post-Apartheid State

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Keywords: Access, Opportunity, Integration, Colonia

The objective of the abstract is to investigate how post-apartheid cities in South Africa can accommodate the under-privileged to access information and opportunity through integrated infrastructure and sharing of development concepts with township communities in South Africa. I shall be using both my lived experience in Cape Town as precedence and the concept of Broad Based Living which is a personal project under development.

Being a young black professional living, working and starting a business in the CBD area of Cape Town who can afford to pay the excessive rental, this affords me access to multiple opportunities that enable to me to develop myself as a previously disadvantaged black person in South Africa. However, this opportunity is not available to the majority of the black youth in South Africa due to multiple reasons. I shall look at infrastructure whilst not neglecting other reasons like political and socio economic challenges that impact whether township youth are able to access the opportunities afforded by CBD living. I asked myself two questions: how can I give other young people in South Africa the same access to information and services to develop themselves? How to introduce developmental infrastructure that exists in CBD areas in townships to unlock untapped economies within townships and formalize them?

The aim of Broad Based Living is to **A.** To create a hybrid residential unit that intends to intergrade majority of the property needs within the CBD and create a well-rounded rental model. (socially and economically integrated residential unit) To ensure sustainable inclusive growth, Cape Town's greater central city and surrounds needs to work towards a mixed-income residential strategy that offers a range of housing options – different tenure options, different sizes and different affordability levels. Such a residential market in turn impacts the types of formal and informal trades and retail in the area, which increases and diversifies employment options.

B. Explore turning informal CBD areas in townships like Taxi ranks AND adjacent informal markets to create semi-formal and robust central business development areas. Investigate unique planning and design strategies to for more sustainable township economies within this context. identify economic structures that utilize the residents in Townships as major stakeholders. Have integrated business development service centers within these newly formalized hubs of business and partner with government and private sector.

We must look at how we develop future cities into more inclusive places focusing on more diverse models of development in order to have more holistic and sustainable economic growth. Also the Architectural profession should acknowledge its role in future planning for better socio economic living. Most importantly black young professionals like myself must always look back and identify ways to better the environments where we come from and environments we live in. Making them more inclusive to create better and brighter futures leading to more soulful cities.

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