Introduction

THE RESEARCH CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS TRADITIONAL MEDICINES

PRETORIA, MARABASTAD

Intention of the thesis

As a result, this thesis attempts to bridge the gap between indigenous health practices and the development and transformation of urban spaces to better serve its inhabitants, and to De-mythify the theories and assumptions that cloak the traditional healing culture in South Africa. It addresses the negative connotations from a Western stance those correlates this practice with archaic, barbaric rituals and a sense of primitiveness. This view taken because of misrepresentation combined through the secrecy that follows traditional healing, irrespective of this outlook, it has remained a prominent characteristic in South Africa's way of life and reverence.

The proposal, at large, is intended to, and should not be view as competition to Western medicine or contextual practices but a complement and an attempt to provide an equitable access to all that need healing as dictated by the South African constitution but to:

• Incorporate traditional healing into an existing urban fabric.
• De-mystify the theories and assumptions that cloak the traditional healing culture in South Africa.
• Create a platform on which the importance and use of traditional healing is mainstreamed.
• Socially and economically uplift those that practice and embrace traditional healing.
• Address the issue of squatters, and hawkers within the area.
• Incorporate traditional healing as a cultural skin consultation/assurance.
• Address the issues of squatters, and hawkers within the area.
• Develop Marabastad as a tourist and unique cultural destination.

The project is located within the inner of Pretoria. A part of the city that has the highest demographic concentration of the population in South Africa and as a result, the suburb has effectively frozen all development in the area for the past thirty years, and as a result, the suburb has become known as a slum, riddled with problems of crime, squatting, unregulated trading, inadequate services, disintegrated community life and numerous social problems.

The new national constitution, adopted in 1996, has finally cleared the path to redress past injustices, which have degraded into a slum, riddled with problems of crime, squatting, unregulated trading, inadequate services, disintegrated community life and numerous social problems.

The proposal, at large, is intended to, and should not be view as competition to Western medicine or contextual practices but a complement and an attempt to provide an equitable access to all that need healing as dictated by the South African constitution but to:

• Incorporate traditional healing into an existing urban fabric.
• De-mystify the theories and assumptions that cloak the traditional healing culture in South Africa.
• Create a platform on which the importance and use of traditional healing is mainstreamed.
• Socially and economically uplift those that practice and embrace traditional healing.
• Address the issue of squatters, and hawkers within the area.

The proposal, at large, is intended to, and should not be view as competition to Western medicine or contextual practices but a complement and an attempt to provide an equitable access to all that need healing as dictated by the South African constitution but to:

• Incorporate traditional healing into an existing urban fabric.
• De-mystify the theories and assumptions that cloak the traditional healing culture in South Africa.
• Create a platform on which the importance and use of traditional healing is mainstreamed.
• Socially and economically uplift those that practice and embrace traditional healing.
• Address the issue of squatters, and hawkers within the area.

The new national constitution, adopted in 1996, has finally cleared the path to redress past injustices, which have degraded into a slum, riddled with problems of crime, squatting, unregulated trading, inadequate services, disintegrated community life and numerous social problems.

The proposal, at large, is intended to, and should not be view as competition to Western medicine or contextual practices but a complement and an attempt to provide an equitable access to all that need healing as dictated by the South African constitution but to:

• Incorporate traditional healing into an existing urban fabric.
• De-mystify the theories and assumptions that cloak the traditional healing culture in South Africa.
• Create a platform on which the importance and use of traditional healing is mainstreamed.
• Socially and economically uplift those that practice and embrace traditional healing.
• Address the issue of squatters, and hawkers within the area.

The new national constitution, adopted in 1996, has finally cleared the path to redress past injustices, which have degraded into a slum, riddled with problems of crime, squatting, unregulated trading, inadequate services, disintegrated community life and numerous social problems.

The proposal, at large, is intended to, and should not be view as competition to Western medicine or contextual practices but a complement and an attempt to provide an equitable access to all that need healing as dictated by the South African constitution but to:

• Incorporate traditional healing into an existing urban fabric.
• De-mystify the theories and assumptions that cloak the traditional healing culture in South Africa.
• Create a platform on which the importance and use of traditional healing is mainstreamed.
• Socially and economically uplift those that practice and embrace traditional healing.
• Address the issue of squatters, and hawkers within the area.
**THE SITE**

The site is a gateway into the Thaba View CBD for the masses of people from the outlying areas. The site is positioned in such a way that it is the first landmark encountered when entering and leaving Marabastad, located in the North-west part of Marabastad, bordered by two busy high-speed highways, DF Malan East that is looping to Pretoria CBD, and DF Malan West that exits from the Pretoria CBD towards Pretoria North and outlying areas. This site is currently zoned as a PUBLIC SPACE and/or PARK, and is currently used as a truck-drivers resting place alongside the sale of second hand tyres, for locality referred.

**DESIGN PROBLEMS:**

Marabastad hosts large numbers of informal traders and micro-enterprises. Currently no formal facilities are in place for hawkers, and traditional healers, and suggested guidelines are not enforced to structure this business sector. Informal trade forms an important part of Marabastad trading activities, but its current unregulated nature causes a number of problems:

- **Inadequate social facilities and services within Marabastad.**

- **Uncontrolled hawking is a negative urban influence, as it brings with it overcrowding and invasion of public space.**

- **The lack of facilities, leads to unsanitary conditions for the hawkers and traditional healers. These conditions are in place for hawks, and traditional healers, and suggested guidelines are not enforced to structure this business sector.**

- **Informal trade forms an important part of Marabastad trading activities, but its current unregulated nature causes a number of problems:**

- **Uncontrolled hawking is a negative urban influence, as it brings with it overcrowding and invasion of "sensitive" urban areas.**

**DESIGN POSITIVES:**

- **The role of traditional healing is still an important one today and should be approached with sensitivity.**

- **The lack of facilities, leads to unsanitary conditions for the hawkers and traditional healers. These include lack of proper toilets, food outlets, and other necessary facilities and or services.**

- **Uncontrolled hawking is a negative urban influence, as it brings with it overcrowding and invasion of "sensitive" urban areas.**

**INFRASTRUCTURE/PHYSICAL PROBLEMS:**

- **Lack of hawker park and facilities currently in place.**

- **Lack of hawker park and facilities currently in place.**

- **Inadequate social facilities and services within Marabastad.**

- **The proposed traditional healing centre, can act as a catalyst in addressing the issues that currently exist and bring with it overcrowding and invasion of "sensitive" urban areas.**

**Inadequate social facilities and services within Marabastad.**

- **The proposed traditional healing centre, can act as a catalyst in addressing the issues that currently exist and bring with it overcrowding and invasion of "sensitive" urban areas.**

**ECONOMICAL PROBLEMS:**

- **Lack of employment opportunities for local, unskilled and skilled individuals.**

**SCHOOLS PROBLEMS:**

- **The uncontrolled influx of people into Marabastad. Especially the problem of illegal immigrants.**

### DESIGN POSITIVES:

- **The proposed traditional healing centre can act as a catalyst in addressing the issues that currently exist and bring with it overcrowding and invasion of "sensitive" urban areas.**

- **The proposed traditional healing centre, can serve as a first to commercial activity in the area of hawking.**

- **De-mystification of traditional healers**

### CLIENTS

**New place based actors:**

1. National Department of Health
2. The Institute for Traditional Medicines
3. The Medical Research Council
4. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
5. World Health Organization

The council would conduct tests to evaluate such medicines, develops substances that could be used for chronic conditions – including immune boosters - and provide information on these medicines to the general public.

### CLIENTS

**New place based actors:**

1. National Department of Health
2. The Institute for Traditional Medicines
3. The Medical Research Council
4. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
5. World Health Organization

The Department has set up a medical research unit to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of traditional African medicines, and to develop new remedies for chronic conditions, to safeguard indigenous knowledge, and to provide consumer information and protection. The Institute for African Traditional Medicines will research and evaluate African traditional medicines and explore their potential to help address the health and economic needs of the country and the continent. The Institute is a reference centre at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), working in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and various research institutions.

### PLACE BASED ACTORS

1. The Traditional Healers in Marabastad
2. The City of Tshwane
3. The community of Marabastad and the surrounding areas