

## Isolation, appropriation and reintegration

### Formal meets informal at the historic Westfort Leprosy Hospital

Clarke, Nicholas

#### Publication date

2016

#### Document Version

Final published version

#### Citation (APA)

Clarke, N. (2016). *Isolation, appropriation and reintegration: Formal meets informal at the historic Westfort Leprosy Hospital*. 155-156. Abstract from 17th IPHS Conference History-Urbanism-Resilience, Delft, Netherlands.

#### Important note

To cite this publication, please use the final published version (if applicable). Please check the document version above.

#### Copyright

Other than for strictly personal use, it is not permitted to download, forward or distribute the text or part of it, without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), unless the work is under an open content license such as Creative Commons.

#### Takedown policy

Please contact us and provide details if you believe this document breaches copyrights. We will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

fact, continuous community action is being developed by the local Residents Association (since 2005). Authenticity and Integrity of BRNO site will be presented, as well as the aspects regarding the municipal head management, with several and planned restoration works done in public spaces and buildings, with civic and cultural initiatives (GALNOV, the local service cabinet to attend population projects; RENOVA, the annual reward to the best private restoration projects, etc.).

---

## **FROM THE BUILDING TO THE CITY: THE RESILIENCE OF ARCHITECTS IN RECIFE (BRAZIL), 2000-2015**

**Enio Laprovitera Da Motta**

*UFPE*

The architectural debate in the 21st century, in the field of scholarly knowledge and in the ordinary citizen's mind set, unveils a resistance movement, led by architects, against the changes in the city's distinctive traits. It reveals an urbanisation process centred on the vertical building, at the expense of the city's landscape and the citizen's quality of life. It is an intensive debate and as skyscrapers are the most frequent request in architecture firms, it places the profession in a defensive position up to the point where a reanalysis of the professional mind set suggests a new path: from the building to the city! The return of leftist groups to the government and their search for new political agendas allow manager-architects to bring the theme of the city to the spotlight. In that sense, in 2003, the Secretariat of Planning modified the urbanistic legislation of twelve districts, establishing tight restrictions to the construction of skyscrapers and ensuring the preservation of existing buildings, road structures and vegetation. For the first time, the city's territory was subdivided according to its environmental, architectural and urbanistic specificities, with its common enemy identified: the vertical building. As for the civil society, resistance takes place, at first, through some isolated actions against the destruction of old buildings and the construction of new vertical ones in historic districts. From 2012 on, powerful digital networks were formed, mobilizing a vast resistance against mega-projects in historic districts. Once again, the architects led the movement with the same objective: revealing vertical buildings apart from the urban life, the landscape and the local skyline. Here, for the first time, the theme of the city landscape is dealt as object for urban preservation and appreciation. In the Academia, from 2009 on, the Architecture Program at UFPE implemented a new curriculum, abolishing the old courses of urbanism and architecture design and placing them together in integrated workshops with an interdisciplinary approach focusing on the city and not on the building. Thus, the Academia also frames a new professional mind set where professor-architects develop structuring projects for the city, like the Capibaribe River Park and the redevelopment of the Boa Vista district, both centred in urban mobility and in renovating public spaces. Resistance often reappears, either in recent local productions in literature and filmmaking, or even through fun initiatives such as Carnival block "Hindering your View", created by architects whose costumes copy skyscrapers from local architecture. In summary, from public power to the academia, passing by the civil society, the recurring theme is the appreciation of the city, and the atmosphere of debates relates to the resistance against the vertical building that used to be the glory of local architectural thinking. If this movement is based on concrete urban grounds, it takes place in parallel to the sharp increase in the amount of professionals available and the drastic decrease in job opportunities for architects. The resistance is also a movement of reconquest of space for professional performance.

---

## **ISOLATION, APPROPRIATION AND REINTEGRATION: FORMAL MEETS INFORMAL AT THE HISTORIC WESFORT LEPROSY HOSPITAL**

**Nicholas Clarke**

*TU Delft and University of Pretoria*

Wesfort Village, an inhabited former leprosy hospital, situated on the western periphery of Pretoria, presents a microcosm that reflects not only the history of South African housing and planning policies, but also the complexity of spatial and social challenges currently facing the nation. The site, which dates to the late Nineteenth Century, was constructed to the designs of Dutch émigré architects in the service of the then independent South African Republic with, as vision, to create an isolated yet humane and pleasant home environment for its diseased inhabitants. It remained in original use, with constant revision and expansion, for almost a century before being mothballed; following which it was appropriated by marginalized informal settlers. The formerly isolated enclave is now being engulfed by the urban sprawl of an ever-expanding city resulting in spatial, social and political conflicts, putting the future of the village at risk. Wesfort is at a crossroads facing an uncertain future due to the conflicting nature of formal and informal. Current plans present an inability for institutional monotype perspectives to deal with complex anomalies brought about by demographic transformation such as the informality of Wesfort. Current plans either ignore and isolate Wesfort, or propose its museification. Wesfort reflects the history of housing provision—both housing prototypes as well as the urban planning for housing—as resultant of the socio-economic development of South Africa. This paper explores and reflects upon a series of planning episodes that contribute, through their various spatial manifestations, to the formation of a richly layered precinct with an engaging historical narrative and a contested development future. The authors use Wesfort as a vehicle for critical debate around the politics of settlement in post-apartheid South Africa and the relationship between community, place

and planning. This has been informed by investigations undertaken through two linked postgraduate architectural studios, one at the Delft University of Technology, another at the University of Pretoria.

The investigation uses comparative timelines to discuss the interaction between Wesfort's development and a broader South African history in order to trace the unfolding of pertinent historical sub themes. The chronological development of Wesfort mirrors a wider general regression in the quality of master-planned housing developments, during and post-apartheid, especially for increasingly segregated non-white communities. This remains visible in the general current local planning practice. Yet Wesfort presents a remarkable innate resilience, not only a result of its landscape of aesthetic quality, but also because, as an ensemble, it has generated a cohesive community with self-sustained ecologies.

This paper frames current dilemmas and opportunities at Wesfort within broader historic themes, presenting a critical discussion about past and current planning policies and identifying points of concerns to be addressed in future strategies.

---

## CHANGING SPATIAL IDENTITY WITH URBAN REGENERATION PROJECTS – THE CASE OF KONYA CITY / TURKEY

Mehmet Topcu | Kadriye Topcu

Selcuk University

Rapid development and increasing density of cities make people feel fewer belongings to their living spaces. This situation, especially in the cities of developing countries, causes traditional center forms to be spread out around multi-centered structure, to have less open and green areas and generally to speed up the structuring process only oriented to the economic rent concept and finally to change the urban identity. In this framework, economic rent-focused urban regeneration projects have turned the slum areas into the prestige housing estates by private sector implementations with the support of local authority. These implementations have caused the stakeholders to share the economic rent to maximum advantage instead of solving the problems of the residents or rehabilitation of the area. These kinds of partial changes on integrated planning system can dissolve the integrity of the whole process. This study comments the effects of urban regeneration projects, which have gained speed, especially in the last 10 years, with the increasing of economic investments in the Konya city, on urban form. In this framework, these effects were examined by some morphological indicators (such as street patterns, building-lot relations, open spaces, density changes) and economic indicators (changes in the land and real-estate values and their effects on property pattern). Comparative spatial analyses were used to understand the changes between previous and present situations as a method. In this context, two urban regeneration projects from Meram District of the Konya City, one of them 15 ha., the other is 60 ha., were chosen to be analyzed. Finally, it was seen that morphological and economic situation of selected areas were changed dramatically when compared with the previous. These changes would inevitably affect the spatial identity of the city. Therefore, the newly developed spatial layout, which was emerged by the urban regeneration projects, was discussed in the urban identity framework.

## Political Perspective on the Urban Fabric

---

### 'EL SALER PER AL POBLE' – ARCHITECTURE AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION IN SPAIN THROUGH THE PLANNING PROJECT OF LA DEHESA DE EL SALER

Mar Muñoz Aparici

TU Delft

Tourism in Spain played a crucial role in the great economic development during late Francoism (ca. 1960-75). This topic has generally been discussed from a political or environmental point of view without considering the role of the design process related to both approaches. In this paper, the question of power and tourism will be disentangled through the lens of planning and urban design and their relation to local and national power structures. It argues that the design of spaces for tourism characterised the economical and political system due to a close relation between legislation, private investments and local policy-making. As a consequence, tourism and its planning had to mutate towards a new paradigm along with the transformation of the regime towards a more competitive economy.

The paper starts by analysing the state of Francoism and the role of tourism between the end of the civil war (1939) and the explosion of mass tourism (1960's) by exploring its urban and architectural models and the ways in which they served as an introduction to its later massive boost. The Franco state used planning and politics as a powerful means of national development after the 1960's, as several examples demonstrate. The transformation of