BECOMING NAIROBI
CODIFYING PUBLIC SPACE FOR AN ARRIVALS’ CITY
ARRIVING TO NAIROBI | PERSONAL MOTIVATION

1. Highway Construction
2. Bus Preacher
3. Makeshift Thrift Shop
4. Police Collecting Bribes
5. Post-Election Violence
6. M-Pesa Shop
7. Chewed Sugarcane
8. Kibera Pub
9. US Embassy Bombing
10. The Junction Mall
11. Out of Africa
12. Matatu Conductors
13. Roadside Nursery
14. Golf in Kibera
15. Brew Bistro & Lounge
16. Route Information
17. Bourgainvillea
18. Congestion
my daily routine as an arrival to Nairobi
ARRIVING TO NAIROBI | MIGRANT ROUTINES

THE RURAL-URBAN MIGRANT

THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON

THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT

THE REFUGEE

THE EXPAT

THE TOURIST
usage of western Nairobi by all types of arrivals
BECOMING NAIROBI | DISORIENTATION AS THE COMMON DENOMINATOR OF ARRIVALS

II | CHAOS

III | PATTERNS

III | INTUITION

IV | BECOMING
‘Urban Africans [...] appear increasingly uncertain how to spatialise an assessment of their life chances - that is, questions such as where they will secure livelihood, where they can feel protected and looked after, and where they will acquire the critical skills and capacities to do so.’

‘The urban environment is increasingly one where it is difficult to ascertain just what social practices, alliances and knowledge can be mobilised sufficiently enough to produce probable outcomes conceived in advance.’

AbdouMaliq Simone in For the City Yet to Come
PROBLEM STATEMENT

The lack of legibility and codification of public space in Nairobi sidelines minorities as well as arrivals and inhibits the long-term integration of dwellers in the Kenyan capital, disenfranchising them with their own city.

RESEARCH QUESTION

How can public space in Nairobi mediate between the short- and long-term integration of arrivals in Nairobi?
BECOMING NAIROBI I PROJECT SITE
RESEARCH NGONG ROAD IS NOT A ROAD
VISION CODIFYING NAIROBI's JUA KALI
CONCEPT HARD AND SOFT SPACE
CASES DESIGNING NGONG ROAD
CHARACTER FROM PLAN TO SPACE
BECOMING ARRIVING TO A NEW NAIROBI
RESEARCH
VISION
CONCEPT
CASES
CHARACTER
BECOMING

NGONG ROAD IS NOT A ROAD
CODIFYING NAIROBI's JUA KALI
HARD AND SOFT SPACE
DESIGNING NGONG ROAD
FROM PLAN TO SPACE
ARRIVING TO A NEW NAIROBI
NGONG ROAD IS NOT A ROAD I COLONIAL LEGACY

Colonial and Pre-Colonial Settlements in Kenya

map retrieved from bgstudio
Racial Segregation according to the 1948 Masterplan
NGONG ROAD IS NOT A ROAD | THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STREETSCAPE
NGONG ROAD IS NOT A ROAD | THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STREETSCAPE
NGONG ROAD IS NOT A ROAD | THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STREETSCAPE
NGONG ROAD IS NOT A ROAD | APPROPRIATION OF SPACE
NGONG ROAD IS NOT A ROAD | CURRENT INTERVENTION
RESEARCH
VISION
CONCEPT
CASES
CHARACTER
BECOMING

NGONG ROAD IS NOT A ROAD
CODIFYING NAIROBIs JUA KALI
HARD AND SOFT SPACE
DESIGNING NGONG ROAD
FROM PLAN TO SPACE
ARRIVING TO A NEW NAIROBI
VISION | DIGITALISATION AS A CODIFIER

M-PESA. INNOVATION FOR THE NATION.
MOBILE ECONOMY AFRICA 2016

Unique subscribers

2015: 557m
2020: 725m

2015-2020 CAGR: 6%
2015 Penetration Rate: 46%
2020 Penetration Rate: 54%

Accelerating moves to mobile broadband networks and smartphone adoption

MOBILE BROADBAND CONNECTIONS

2015: 28%
2020: 60%

2020: 720m smartphones

By 2020, there will be 720m smartphones.
Growth of

2020: 494m
from the end of 2015

Figures retrieved from the GSMA Association
### Vision: Typologies of the New Formal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Typology</th>
<th>Spatial Impact</th>
<th>Disruption</th>
<th>Marketability</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Mobile Duka</td>
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<td>The Digital Address</td>
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<td>The Distributed Power Plant</td>
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<td>The Fibre Kiosk</td>
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<td>The Digital Harambee</td>
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![Diagram of various typologies representing different urban forms and structures.](image)
THE NEW FORMAL | THE DIGITAL MATATU
THE NEW FORMAL | THE DIGITAL MATATU

DRIVER INTERFACE

COMMUTER INTERFACE
THIS PLOT NOT FOR SALE
THE NEW FORMAL | THE DIGITAL LAND LEDGER
THE NEW FORMAL I THE FIBRE KIOSK

OPERATOR INTERFACE  USER INTERFACE
RESEARCH
VISION
CONCEPT
CASES
CHARACTER
BECOMING

NGONG ROAD IS NOT A ROAD
CODIFYING NAIROBIs JUA KALI
HARD AND SOFT SPACE
DESIGNING NGONG ROAD
FROM PLAN TO SPACE
ARRIVING TO A NEW NAIROBI
CONCEPT I STATUS QUO OF URBAN DESIGN IN NAIROBI

OVER-DETERMINACY VS. ANARCHY
CONCEPT STATUS QUO OF URBAN DESIGN IN NAIROBI

OVER-DETERMINACY

VS.

ANARCHY
CONCEPT I HARD AND SOFT SPACES

HARD SPACE

PHYSICAL SPACE

DIGITAL SPACE

SOFT SPACE
CONCEPT I HARD AND SOFT TYPOLOGIES

STREETS  TRAFFIC  BUFFER  THRESHOLD  NODES  INFRASTRUCTURE  MARKETS  TRANSIT  HAWKERS

SOFT SPACE

HARD SPACE

LARGE SCALE  SMALL SCALE
TYPOLOGIES | TRAFFIC SPACE

HARD

MEDIUM

SOFT

[Diagram with grid and labels indicating traffic space typologies]
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<td>Hard and Soft Space</td>
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<td>Cases</td>
<td>Designing Ngong Road</td>
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<td>Character</td>
<td>From Plan to Space</td>
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<td>Becoming</td>
<td>Arriving to a New Nairobi</td>
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DESIGNING NGONG ROAD | DESIGN PROCESS

1 | STATUS QUO
2 | TABULA RASA
3 | FREE FLOW ANALYSIS
4 | DYNAMIC ZONING
5 | DETERMINING HARD-SOFT SPACE
6 | MASTER PLAN
7 | ALLOCATING TYPOLOGIES
8 | SCENARIO TESTING
JUNCTION I STATUS QUO

Junction I Aerial Photo

base image retrieved from Ramani Geosystems
JUNCTION | FREE FLOW ANALYSIS

- pedestrian space
- traffic space
JUNCTION I FREE FLOW ANALYSIS

- pedestrian space
- traffic space
- appropriable space
JUNCTION I HARD AND SOFT SPACE

Junction I Proposed Traffic Space
JUNCTION I HARD AND SOFT SPACE

Junction I Proposed Buffer Space

- hard buffer space based on local indicators
- medium buffer space based on local indicators
- soft buffer space based on local indicators

base image retrieved from Ramani Geosystems
JUNCTION I HARD AND SOFT SPACE

Junction I Proposed Threshold Space
JUNCTION I HARD AND SOFT SPACE

Junction I Proposed Market Space
JUNCTION | MASTER PLAN
JUNCTION I USAGE SCENARIO BUS TERMINAL
JUNCTION I USAGE SCENARIO RALLY
MEKINA I STATUS QUO

Mekina I Aerial Photo
MEKINA I STATUS QUO

Mekina I View Towards Kibera Drive

Mekina I At Toi Market
MEKINA I STATUS QUO

Mekina I Status Quo
MEKINA I TABULA RASA

Mekina I Tabula Rasa
MEKINA I HARD AND SOFT SPACE

Mekina I Proposed Threshold Space
MEKINA | HARD AND SOFT SPACE

Mekina I Proposed Market Space

- Hard market space based on local indicators
- Medium market space based on local indicators
- Soft market space based on local indicators
RESEARCH VISION CONCEPT CASES CHARACTER BECOMING

NGONG ROAD IS NOT A ROAD CODIFYING NAIROBIs JUA KALI HARD AND SOFT SPACE DESIGNING NGONG ROAD FROM PLAN TO SPACE ARRIVING TO A NEW NAIROBI
CHARACTER I PUBLIC SPACE AS AN ENGINEER'S ENDEAVOUR
A | GRASS PAVERS
B | RED IN-SITU CONCRETE
C | STELCON SLAB
D | CONCRETE BLOCKS
THE NEW NGOG ROAD | REALISTIC IMPRESSION
THE NEW NGOG ROAD I AUGMENTED IMPRESSION
<table>
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VISION | ARRIVING TO A NEW NAIROBI

Case Sites | Junction | Mekina
IN THE MATATU | PHYSICAL SPACE
ON THE MARKET | DIGITAL SPACE