an alternative urban paradigm?

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE POWER OF COMMUNITY
AS A BASE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN MATHARE VALLEY, NAIROBI

MSC THESIS IN URBANISM - FINAL PRESENTATION
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DEPARTMENT OF URBANISM
research studio COMPLEX CITIES
theme INCLUSIVE CITIES

DELFT, THE NETHERLANDS, 6TH JULY 2018
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“I HAVE WORKED IN MATHARE FOR OVER 25 YEARS AND I DON’T KNOW OF ANY GOVERNMENT PROGRAM EXCEPT FOR HIRING YOUTH TO CLEAN UP THE SLUM PERIODICALLY, EVERY TWO OR THREE YEARS” Suan Cross from Project Chance Africa
5

CBD

Mathare Valley

CA. 188,000

MuST and SDI (2012)

Mathare

600,000 - 800,000

UN-HABITAT (2015)
2.3 km

(digitalglobe, 2018)
an alternative urban paradigm?

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE POWER OF COMMUNITY AS A BASE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MATHARE VALLEY, NAIROBI
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1 context

edited from (d-maps.com, 2017)
edited from (freevectormaps.com, 2017)
context

1898
PLAN FOR A RAILWAY TOWN

1926
PLAN FOR A SETTLER CAPITAL

1948
MASTER PLAN FOR A COLONIAL CAPITAL

?  NAIROBI METROPOLITAN GROWTH STRATEGIES

INDEPENDENCE '63

2009
3.1 MIL

2014
NAIROBI INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

2020
5.6 MIL?
1 context

UN-HABITAT (2008)
edited from World Bank (2016, p. 95)
edited from MUST AND SDI (2012)

Mathare settlement
CBD
built area
water
railway
city boundary

percentage of slum dwellers

60%
on
5%
of the land

Informal settlement
railway
city boundary

10
20
km
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20

AN ALTERNATIVE URBAN PARADIGM? EVA LABRUJERE - URBANISM - TU DELFT - JULY 6, 2018
in 15 years expected to

DOUBLE?

percentage of slum dwellers

60%

5%
of the land

Mathare settlement
CBD
built area
water
railway
city boundary

context

UN-HABITAT (2008)
edited from: World Bank (2016, p.95)
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context
context

60%

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mathare
https://dreamcitieskenya.wordpress.com/2013/04/08/henning-larsen/

“WORLD CLASS AFRICAN METROPOLIS”
- Nairobi 2030 Metro Strategy

“A GLOBALLY ATTRACTIVE CITY THAT IS ICONIC FOR REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND SUSTAINABILITY”
- NIUFPLAN (2014)
1 context

KIBERA SOWETO EAST, NAIROBI
nation.co.ke/FILE

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL
citiesalliance.org

KUFUR AQAB, EAST JERUSALEM
Grassroots Jerusalem

kufur a qab, east jerusalem sao paulo, brazil
Grassroots Jerusalem
1 context

KENSUP
Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme - GOK and UN-HABITAT

practical implications of participatory approaches

do not respond to existing socio-economic networks

do not meet resident’s needs (culturally inappropriate)

lack of quality (buildings or technical facilities)

1 problem statement
... current endeavours fail to recognise the potential of informal views and processes and the understanding of local needs (...) This results in socio-culturally and spatially distanced solutions that do not achieve sustainable change.
The project aims to offer a socially and spatially embedded strategic framework to guide sustainable development of Mathare Valley.
1 Project definition

- Solutions
  - Distanced
    - Different urban ideology
    - Structural exclusion
    - Local knowledge based
  - Embedded
    - Community based
    - Towards the main goal to achieve sustainable change
    - Adopting the project's objectives
    - Thus not achieving sustainable change
1 project definition

local knowledge based

community-based

‘subaltern urbanism’ (Roy, 2011)
‘morphology of resistance’ (Varley, 2013).
‘the reversal of the colonial model’ (Brillembourg, 2004)
problem statement
project definition

context

analysis
conclusions

strategic f/w
strategic layers
SL1 - co-operative comm.
SL4 - public space network
site design

reflection
2 analysis

- Policy & Governance
- Socio-Spatial Networks
- Economic Networks
- Technical Networks
- Geography
analysis

pressured spaces
AN OSTEONABLE RETRACTION TO BE CLAIMED A NEIGHBOUR IS LIKE YOUR BROTHER POLE POLE ('SLOWLY')

PRIVATE

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE
“internal zoning system of implicit arrangements of spaces, demands upon spaces, and responsibilities over spaces”
how is the responsibility?

Laura Craft (2010)
ZONE C
A NEIGHBOUR IS LIKE YOUR BROTHER
shared inner space

concentration of social activities, control over access, high social control, collectivism, low privacy
little economic activities (prod.), no shared economic purpose
host of technical netw. and facil., bad road conditions, open sewage, electricity as fire risk
environmental degradation impacted by behavioural patterns, flood risk and landslide

Zones: B, C, D, E, F
NB’S: village elders
urbanitters: V-E, S-O
users of the space
social activities, concentration & diversity
economic activities, control over access, high social control, collectivism, low privacy

GA B C D E F
2 analysis

head of household
HH. responsibilities
increased demand on public space
host of technical instances
degradation (waste), open sewage
host of social activities, concentration & diversity
control over access, high social control, collectivism, low privacy
high social control, concentration & diversity
little economic activities (prod.), no shared economic purpose
host of technical netw. and facil., open sewage
social activities, control over access, high social control, collectivism, low privacy

environmental degradation, traffic congestion
environmental pollution, low accessibility services, congestion
light, bad road conditions, environmental degradation
low accessibility services, congestion
environmental pollution, traffic congestion
low accessibility services, congestion
environmental pollution

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environmental degradation, traffic congestion
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light, bad road conditions, environmental degradation
low accessibility services, congestion
environmental pollution
ZONE F
LINEAR CONVERGENCES
inner main streets

- concentration & diversity social activities, high social control
- concentration & diversity economic activities (prod & cons.)
- host of technical netw. and facilities, open sewage, waste, lack of light, bad road conditions, low accessibility services, congestion
- environmental degradation, river barrier
conclusions
2 conclusions

C-B

Oppressive factors (internal & external) impedes peoples’ growth and ability to stand for rights.
2 conclusions

C-B

oppressive factors (internal & external) impedes peoples’ growth and ability to stand for rights

lack of access to finance, space, and support/knowledge
2 conclusions

local power distributions
2 conclusions

local power distributions

ownership as potential (existing social ties)
2 conclusions

local power distributions

ownership as potential (existing social ties)

social & economic networks threatened by technical and geographical
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3 strategic framework

DEFINING INTERRELATIONS & SPATIAL IMPLICATIONS
DEFINING POTENTIALS & THREATS
DEFINING INTERVENTIONS
STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES
MITIGATING THREATS, USING AND STRENGTHENING POTENTIALS

POLICY & GOVERNANCE
SOCIO-SPATIAL NETWORKS
ECONOMIC NETWORKS
TECHNICAL NETWORKS
GEOGRAPHY

mitigate impact/improve/strengthen layer
facilitate layer
uses potential of layer

strategic framework
3 strategic framework
3 strategic layers

SL 0 THE BASE

GOVERNANCE
SOCIAL
ECONOMIC
TECHNICAL
GEOGRAPHY

facilitate layer/networks
mitigate threats
use potential of layer/networks
strategic layers

SL 1 CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY

GOVERNANCE

SOCIAL

ECONOMIC

TECHNICAL

GEOGRAPHY

facilitate layer networks

mitigate threats

use potential of layer/networks
3 strategic layers

SL 2 A SAFE ENVIRONMENT
strategic layers

SL 3 INCREMENTAL HOUSING

GOVERNANCE

SOCIAL

ECONOMIC

TECHNICAL

GEOGRAPHY

facilitate layer networks

mitigate threats

use potential of layer/networks

strategic layers

SL 3 INCREMENTAL HOUSING

GOVERNANCE

SOCIAL

ECONOMIC

TECHNICAL

GEOGRAPHY

facilitate layer networks

mitigate threats

use potential of layer/networks
3 strategic layers

SL 4 PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

GOVERNANCE

SOCIAL

ECONOMIC

TECHNICAL

GEOGRAPHY

facilitate layer networks

mitigate threats

use potential of layer/networks
3 strategic layers
strategic layers

SL 1 CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY

(fromlandscapetoroofscape, 2016)
3 strategic layers

SL 1 CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY

cooperative principles

- voluntary and open membership
- democratic member control
- member economic participation
- autonomy and independence
- education, training and information
- cooperation among cooperatives
- concern for community

(Wanyama, 2014)
3 strategic layers

SL 1 CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY
strategic layers

SL 1: CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY

how to claim our rights?
how to bring change?
what can we do to bind our forces?
how can we address our problems higher up?
how to find resources?

COMMUNITY LEADERS
GROUP OF RESIDENTS
MATHARE ASSOCIATION
NGO
PAMOJA TRUST

HOW?

SL 2: COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

SL 3: CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY
strategic layers

CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY

MULTI-PURPOSE CO-OPERATIVE

Comm. Land Trust (CLT)  finance & credit facility
space (housing & land)   finance

Support & Coordination Point
Community empowerment

Mathare association

RESIDENTS (NEIGHBOUR GROUPS)

CBOS, NGOS
WOMENS GROUPS
COMMUNITY EMPOWE- RMENT

professionals

VILLAGE ELDERS
STRUCTURE OWNERS

LOCAL MEDIA

SCHOOLS, CHURCHES

CARTELS

SL 1

RECOGNISING SOCIAL GROUPS TO PLAY ROLE IN THE CO-OPERATIVE SPATIAL MANIFESTATION

NEIGHBOURHOOD PAVILIONS

MATHARE CENTER

WOMENS GROUPS
SELF HELP GROUPS
SAVING GROUPS
WOMENS GROUPS
YOUTH GROUPS
LOCAL MEDIA
CBOS, NGOS
VILLAGE ELDERS

MATHARE ASSOCIATION

VILLAGE ELDERS

OWNERSHIP CHANGES RESPONSIBILITIES AND BEHAVIOURS AND FOSTERS CAPITAL BUILDING AND INVESTMENT

DEMOcratic decisions for public spaces

OWNERSHIP OVER SPACE

TRANSFORM NEEDS OF SOCIAL GROUPS TO SPATIAL INITIATIVES

AN ALTERNATIVE URBAN PARADIGM? EVA LABRUJERE - URBANISM - TU DELFT - JULY 6, 2018
3 strategic layers

SL 1 CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY

A
B
C
D
E

MATHARE CENTER

NEIGHBOURHOOD PAVILIONS

(from landscapetoroofscape, 2016)
(from landscapetoroofscape, 2016)
(from kounkouey Design Initiative)
(ikhayalami.org)
strategic layers

SL 4

PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

CO-OP. SPACES
3 strategic layers

SL 4

PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

CO-OP. SPACES

RIPARIAN ZONE

OWNERSHIP OVER HOUSE

HOUSE OWNED BY RESIDENT

LAND OWNED BY CO-OPERATIVE

RESIDENTIAL LICENSES

SCHOOLS, CHURCHES

RECOGNISING

OWNERSHIP CHANGES RESPONSIBILITIES AND BEHAVIOURS AND FOSTERS CAPITAL BUILDING AND INVESTMENT

TRANSFORM NEEDS OF SOCIAL GROUPS TO SPATIAL INITIATIVES

OWNERSHIP OVER SPACE

OWNERSHIP OVER HOMES

DEMOCRATIC DECISIONS FOR PUBLIC SPACES

SELF HELP GROUPS

SAVING GROUPS

WOMENS GROUPS

CBOS, NGOS

YOUTH GROUPS

LOCAL MEDIA

VILLAGE ELDERS

CHIEF

MATHARE ASSOCIATION

MATHARE CENTER

CARTELS

STRUCTURE

OWNERS

RESIDENTS (NEIGHBOUR GROUPS)

strategic layers

SL 4

PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

CO-OP. SPACES

RIPARIAN ZONE

OWNERSHIP OVER HOUSE

HOUSE OWNED BY RESIDENT

LAND OWNED BY CO-OPERATIVE

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CBOS, NGOS

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LOCAL MEDIA

VILLAGE ELDERS

CHIEF

MATHARE ASSOCIATION

MATHARE CENTER

CARTELS

STRUCTURE

OWNERS

RESIDENTS (NEIGHBOUR GROUPS)
3 strategic layers

SL 4

PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

TRANSFORM NEEDS OF SOCIAL GROUPS TO SPATIAL INITIATIVES

OWNERSHIP OVER SPACE

A
B
C
D
E

SPACE

FINANCE

KNOWLEDGE

RESIDENT

LAND OWNED BY CO-OPERATIVE

RESIDENTIAL LICENSES

SCHOOLS, CHURCHES

CBOS, NGOS

YOUTH GROUPS

LOCAL MEDIA

VILLAGE ELDERS

CHIEF

WOMENS GROUPS

SAVING GROUPS

SELF HELP GROUPS

MATHARE ASSOCIATION

CARTELS

MATHARE CENTER

PAVILLIONS

NEIGHBOURHOOD
3 strategic layers

SL 4

PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

CO-OP. SPACES

RIPARIAN

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

DEMOCRATIC DECISIONS FOR PUBLIC SPACES

OWNERSHIP OVER SPACE

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OWNERSHIP CHANGES RESPONSIBILITIES AND BEHAVIORS AND FOSTERS CAPITAL BUILDING AND INVESTMENT

RECOGNIZING SOCIAL GROUPS TO PLAY ROLE IN THE CO-OPERATIVE SPATIAL MANIFESTATION

NEIGHBOURHOOD PAVILIONS

MATHARE CENTER

CARTELS

MATHARE ASSOCIATION VILLAGE ELDERS CHIEF

SELF HELP GROUPS SAVING GROUPS

WOMENS GROUPS

CBOS, NGOS YOUTH GROUPS LOCAL MEDIA

STRUCTURE OWNERS RESIDENTS (NEIGHBOUR GROUPS)

CO_OP

HOUSE OWNED BY RESIDENT LAND OWNED BY CO-OPERATIVE RESIDENTIAL LICENSES SCHOOLS, CHURCHES

strategic layers

SL 4

PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

CO-OP. SPACES

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STRUCTURE OWNERS RESIDENTS (NEIGHBOUR GROUPS)

CO_OP

HOUSE OWNED BY RESIDENT LAND OWNED BY CO-OPERATIVE RESIDENTIAL LICENSES SCHOOLS, CHURCHES
3 strategic layers

**SL 4**

**PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK**

- **CO-OP. SPACES**
- **RIPARIAN**
- **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

**STREET NETWORK**

**PUBLIC SPACES**

- **CO-OP. OWNERSHIP**
  - House owned by resident
  - Land owned by cooperative
- **RESIDENTIAL LICENSES**
- **SCHOOLS, CHURCHES**

**RECOGNISING SOCIAL GROUPS TO PLAY ROLE IN THE CO-OPERATIVE SPATIAL MANIFESTATION**

- **NEIGHBOURHOOD PAVILIONS**
- **MATHARE CENTER**
- **CARTELS**
- **MATHARE ASSOCIATION**
- **VILLAGE ELDERS**
- **CHIEF**
- **SELF HELP GROUPS**
- **SAVING GROUPS**
- **WOMENS GROUPS**
- **CBOS, NGOS**
- **YOUTH GROUPS**
- **LOCAL MEDIA**

**OWNERSHIP CHANGES RESPONSIBILITIES AND BEHAVIOURS AND FOSTERS CAPITAL BUILDING AND INVESTMENT**

**TRANSFORM NEEDS OF SOCIAL GROUPS TO SPATIAL INITIATIVES**

**OWNERSHIP OVER SPACE**

**DEMOCRATIC DECISIONS FOR PUBLIC SPACES**
3 demonstration on the site
demonstration on the site
3 demonstration on the site

PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK

INCREMENTAL HOUSING

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

CO-OPERATIVE COMMUNITY

THE BASE LAYER

BASIC PRINCIPLE
3 demonstration on the site

Current situation

**Zoning System**

- **Zone A**: Household (private)
- **Zone B**: Transition zone
- **Zone C**: Collective zone
- **Zone D**: First degree street (former alley)
- **Zone E**: Small open spaces
- **Zone F**: Main internal access roads (former broader path)
- **Zone G**: Large open spaces
- **Zone H**: Main access roads (not within site)

Demonstration on the site
3 demonstration on the site

current situation

potential new situation

zoning system
zone A: household (private)
zone B: transition zone
zone C: collective zone
zone D: first degree street (former alley)
zone E: small open spaces
zone F: main internal access roads (former broader path)
zone G: large open spaces
zone H: main access roads (not within site)
3 demonstration on the site

current situation

potential new situation
3 demonstration on the site

current situation

potential new situation
demonstration on the site

CONSENSUS ON VILLAGE DEMARCATION PLAN

REORDERING THE SPATIAL ZONING SYSTEM: BASIC PRINCIPLE
ZONE C
A NEIGHBOUR IS LIKE YOUR BROTHER
collective spaces

ZONE G
LOVED AND FORGOTTEN EDGES
larger open spaces

ZONE F
LINEAR CONVERGENCES
inner main streets
INCREASE LEGIBILITY

MATERIALISE TRANSITION ZONES

INCREASE LEGIBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

CARRIERS OF INFRASTRUCTURE

ZONE F
LINEAR CONVERGENCES

inner main streets
multi-user zone

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AN ALTERNATIVE URBAN PARADIGM? EVA LABRUJERE - URBANISM - TU DELFT - JULY 6, 2018

ZONE C

A NEIGHBOUR IS LIKE YOUR BROTHER
collective spaces
pedestrian & cyclist zone

RESIDENTS' COLLECTIVE
OWNERSHIP

MAX HOUSEHOLD TO
SHARE ENTRANCES

H = MAX.
2X WIDTH

FLEXIBLE BLOCKING LAYOUT
8-14 HOUSEHOLDS

PROVIDING OUTDOOR
SPACE; ADAPTATION

PEDESTRIANS & CYCLISTS ZONE

Zones:

A: household (private)
B: transition zone
C: collective zone
D: first degree street (former alley)
E: small open spaces
F: large open spaces
G: large open spaces (not within site)
H: main access roads (not within site)

In-building and in-house collective spaces:

How is the responsibility?

How are the impacts of the demands internally felt through the zones?

How is the presence of the layers related to the impacts and presence of the demands throughout the zones?

What is the role of the railway line and the vegetation in the flood risk measures?

What would be 100% motorable access and 20-50% motorable access?
ZONE G

LOVED AND FORGOTTEN EDGES

larger open spaces
pedestrian & cyclist zone

RIPARIAN ZONE

TRANSFORM NEEDS OF SOCIAL GROUPS TO SPATIAL INITIATIVES

NEIGHBOURHOOD PAVILIONS

INFILL RIPARIAN PUBLIC SPACES BY RESIDENTS INITIATIVES

ZONE G

ZONE H

PUBLIC SPACE NETWORK IN ZONES WHICH?

LARGER OPEN SPACES

PEDIESTRIAN & CYCLIST ZONE

WIDEN ROADS...

FACILITATE SOCIAL

FACILITATE ECONOMIC

FACILITATE ECONOMIC, REDUCE VULNERABILITY

TRAFFIC THROUGH ZONING

INCREASE SAFETY

SOCIAL MEETING PLACES

200 120

(-150)

120

(-200)

420 420

(200-400)

200

(-400)

540

840 1800

380

(250-600)

150

(-400)

400 300 150 150 310 310

(300-500) (100-300) (300-500)

300

540

200-400 200-600 50-200 200-400

250

400-800

202x15 (variable)

202x15 (variable)

202x15 (variable)

202x15 (variable)

202x15 (variable)

202x15 (variable)

MIN

MAX

202x15 (variable)

MIN

MAX

202x15 (variable)

MIN

MAX

202x15 (variable)

MIN

MAX

23M

16M

MIN

MAX

23M

16M

MIN

MAX

23M

16M

MIN

MAX

23M

16M

MIN

MAX

OWNERSHIP CHANGES RESPONSIBILITIES AND FOSTERS CAPITAL BUILDING AND INVESTMENT

RECOGNISING SOCIAL GROUPS TO PLAY ROLE IN THE CO-OPERATIVE SPATIAL MANIFESTATION

NEIGHBOURHOODS DEFINE THEIR OWN PUBLIC SPACES (VILLAGE DEMARCATION PLAN)
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reflection

solutions
distanced

- diff. urban ideology
  - structural exclusion
  - community-based
  - local knowledge-based

solutions
embedded
thank you