My Place in Yeoville

402 Rockview Heights 20 Percy St Yeoville 2198



Simon Sizwe Mayson MSc Developing Planning Wits University



School Talk: 'Housing Stories' Yeoville Studio



Presented 14 August 2011









































































Hi.







But WHY?

- •For the love of YS
- Compact living
- •Communal living
- Masters thesis
 - •Participant observation
 - •One of the case study models
- •Lack of knowledge the City, academia, even the media
- •Practice what you preach
- •Street cred





Trajectories





402 Rockview Heights The Original







Pre June







June







People



















Spaces







July







August







People and Spaces















September







Subplots







The Romance of Rockview

















The Not So Romantic

















Surrounds















So what does this all mean?

People are doing it for themselves,

the way planners would plan for them to do it?

- •Has community and public life
- Local community identity
- •Relative integration
- Is central
- •Is dense, compact
- •Has open space
- •Full services
- Affordable
- •Diverse
- •Allows flexibility
- Covers people's basic needs
- Integration of activities mixed use
- •Living, working, shopping, public, spiritual, recreational

•Buildings arranged to define public space rather than sit in it (Urban design - Spaces surrounded by buildings more likely to bring people together => public interaction ... Electricity cuts...)





But is it...

•Sustainable?

•Developers/ owners yes in the ST

•Even investing in new stock – but...

•Jika properties buying up

•People yes – carry on living there, prefer it there than elsewhere e.g. townships

- •BUT long term basic maintenance, services? •Healthy?
- •Safe?
- •Livability?
- Identity and control





The Research Experience

- •My own experiences
- •Space, money, (noise)
- •Dependencies, exposure
- •Pests
- •Water, services
- •Gossip
- •Violence
- Permanence
- •Property
- •Environmental vulnerability





The Research Experience

•Test of participant observation in field of planning: Allowed for

- Deep understanding
- Accuracy: an interview sceptic
- Longitudinal
- •Even just the basics

 Perhaps most NB: the 'practical' knowledge

=> property development

- •People have a face, being poor has a face
- Realisation about the real lack of options



•Stress



The Research Experience

- •Qualitative pros and cons
- Difficulty of some forms of research
- •Ability to generalise?
- •Even though living in same place, in smaller space, disparities are huge between me and those I share with





The Research Project

What people say, what they do, and what they say they do





Where to from here?

- ComparisonsDifferent forms of research
- •Thesis
- •Development?









