From Township to Townscape

Analysis of Galeshewe

To make analyses of Galeshewe, two methods focusing on different things have been chosen. A SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and Kevin Lynch's City Structure analysis. The two analyses methods form the base for the proposal.

SWOT Analysis

**Strengths**
- High population density compared to rest of Kimberley
- The streets are to a high extent used for social life
- Broad variety of ethnic groups
- Good street connections to the rest of Kimberley
- High usage of public transport

**Weaknesses**
- Poverty as a result of high unemployment
- Poor entrances to public buildings
- Many vacant and undeveloped areas
- Difficult for vegetation to develop due to the dry and hot climate
- Difficult to orientate in the area because of neighbourhoods that look the same, a street structure that can be hard to understand and lack of landmarks
- Poor environment at schoolyards of primary and secondary schools
- Bad reputation

**Opportunities**
- Building density can be improved
- Public transport has good potential to be developed
- Possible to improve the built environment and increase the feeling of safety outdoors
- Space for improvement of the street design exists
- Greater No2 can become a great tourist attraction
- Good supply of vacant land for new development
- There is a will and funding to upgrade the whole area

**Threats**
- Bad reputation
- HIV/AIDS effects
- If economic situation is improved but public transport is not available it can lead to high dependence of cars
- High crime factor
- Lack of coordinated planning

Streetlife

Poor environment at schoolyards of primary and secondary schools

Bars are put up because of high crime rate

Poor environment at schoolyards

House in Greater nr 2

To make analyses of Galeshewe two methods are used. The two methods form the base for the proposal and provide a foundation for different elements. The two methods are the SWOT analysis and Kevin Lynch's City Structure analysis. The two methods are based on different approaches and each has its strengths and weaknesses. To make the proposal of Galeshewe two different approaches are used.
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**City Structure Analysis**

Paths

Paths are channels along which the observer customarily, occasionally, or potentially moves. The Galeshewe Activity Corridor is one of the major paths in Galeshewe. Many of the smaller streets are not connected to the major ones. Because of the few connections, people are restricted to move in the shortest direction, which makes the associability poor in the area.

Edges

Edges are the linear elements not used or considered as paths by the observer. They are the boundaries between two phases, linear breaks in continuity: shores, railroad cuts, edges of development, walls. There is a distinct edge between Galeshewe and the former white city, this is due to the old buffer zone that separated Kimberley (Kimberley White Local Authority) and Galeshewe during apartheid. High fences are used on many places, these have formed big enclosed areas hard to reach or pass through.

Districts

Districts are the medium-to-large sections of the city, conceived of having two-dimensional extent, which the observer mentally enters inside of, and which are recognizable as having some common, identifying character. In Kimberley, the hole of Galeshewe with its special character is a distinct district. The houses and plots are smaller and the density of people is higher than in the rest of Kimberley. In Galeshewe close to the corridor four districts have been identified:

- Greater No 2, which is the oldest part of Galeshewe and was built in the beginning of the 20th century.
- One area with semi-detached houses, the only area with semi-detached houses in Galeshewe.
- Galeshewe Community Park, the only big park in Galeshewe.
- The Circle, where five streets meet and create a very special circular area.

Nodes

Nodes are points, the strategic spots in a city into which the observer can enter, and which are the intensive foci to and from which he is travelling. They may be primarily junctions, places of a break in transportation, a crossing or convergence of paths, moments of shift from one structure to another. There are four crossings of importance along the corridor: The Circle, the crossing at Sechoareng/Hulana Street, the crossing at Hulana/Nontlatla/Motopo Street and the crossing at Beauregard. Node No 2, which is the other part of the Galeshewe Activity Corridor, is also of great importance.

Landmarks

Landmarks are another type of point-reference, but in this case the observer does not enter within them. They are usually a rather simply defined physical object: building, sign, store, or mountain. In Galeshewe some trees and high mast lightings sometimes function as landmarks, but the high mast lightings are scattered in the area, and it is impossible to know where they are and when. People are proud of their monuments. A new landmark in Galeshewe will be visible and something to be proud of in the area.
In situational analysis, it is evident that the Township to Townscape project involves four guiding principles that serve as cornerstones for our proposals. These principles are crucial for strengthening the identity of the area, ensuring economic activities thrive, and promoting a more attractive and secure environment. Here are the principles:

1. **Holistic Planning**
   - When planning for new buildings and public spaces, it's important to consider the surroundings and the context in which they will be located. Planning a large area at a time helps ensure the project's success. By placing buildings on the border of the plot, at least four advantages can be achieved:
     - People in the buildings have a view of the street and can increase safety.
     - The house facade functions as a fence.
     - Land use is more efficient or effective.
     - A more interesting streetscape and surroundings are created.
   - For economic reasons, it's important to make use of existing investments (e.g., buildings and streets) to the highest extent possible when considering the context in which a node is developed. If the existing businesses are wrongly situated, it's better to utilize them for other purposes to ensure the structure is lasting and economically justifiable.
   - When new buildings are to be constructed, the possibility of filling gaps in the existing city structure should be considered. Filling gaps and having buildings with more than one floor can contribute to the development of an attractive streetscape and surroundings.

2. **Better Balance Between Modes of Transport**
   - As part of creating sustainable physical structures, promoting transport modes that require a small amount of energy is essential. Accessibility primarily by foot or cycle is important, and creating a good environment for cycling and walking is crucial.
   - One of the tools to achieve this goal is through the design of streets that prioritize pedestrians and bicyclists. The design can include traffic-calming measures that have proven effective when it comes to providing better transport and pedestrian infrastructure.
   - Improving public spaces also contributes to the development of transport modes. Different types of public spaces, such as squares, parks, and playgrounds, serve different purposes. The common thing for them is that they can be used for various activities. Small public spaces are also important to design in the best possible way, as they play an important role as meeting places.

3. **Improve Public Spaces**
   - Attractive public spaces, such as squares, can support economic activities and, together with social amenities, form a viable unit. The chance of potential customers staying longer is significant. If all good things that will follow the investment are accounted for, the investment is for free.

4. **Transport**
   - Holistic planning includes bringing activities more closely together in a city structure, not piecemeal. A mixed land use is important for sustainability and economic activities around already-existing businesses was the essential idea. But if the existing businesses are wrongly situated, it's better to use them for other purposes, otherwise, the structure will neither be lasting nor economically justified.
   - When new buildings are to be constructed, the possibility of filling the gaps in the existing city structure must be considered. Filling gaps and having buildings with more than one floor leads to an attractive streetscape and surroundings.

Investment made in a good community or environment can contribute to the growth of businesses. The selection of economic activities can be improved by considering the economic activities around already-existing businesses. If the existing businesses are wrongly situated, it's better to utilize them for other purposes to ensure the structure is lasting and economically justifiable.
Public spaces are also important for the democratic process in South Africa. A public place is by definition to be available for everybody and does not exclude any members of the society. This is crucial in a democratic society where the freedom of speech and assembly are guaranteed. In recent years, the government has taken steps to improve public spaces in areas that were previously neglected. The transformation process has been supported by various initiatives, including the creation of new public spaces in areas that were deprived of them. The change to a democracy can be supported through physical planning.

One example of recognition of the importance of public spaces in South Africa is a project called ‘Create a dignified city for all: the Cape Town public space and market programme’ which aims to implement Urban Renewal in Cape Town. It points at the importance of public spaces as part of the social infrastructure. Through this project, many public spaces in the former townships in Cape Town have been developed.

Improve accessibility
It is not enough just to provide new public spaces; they need to be accessible as well. Accessibility is the key to making public spaces effective. Accessibility includes not only physical barriers but also social and cultural factors. When public spaces are accessible, they become welcoming to all members of society, regardless of age, gender, or ability.

Accessibility is also about people feeling comfortable and not excluding places because of fear or discomfort. Public spaces, open for everyone, have been far from natural in the history of South Africa. The use of physical barriers, such as fences and burglar bars, has created a perception of danger in certain areas. These measures reduce the feeling of safety and make people less likely to use public spaces.

Accessibility can be the tool for improvement of both the security and appearance of public spaces. When opening up an area, flows of people will pass through all day round, creating livelier surroundings and preventing crimes from being made. This, of course, has a lot to do with the structure of the area. People will not just automatically appear at a neighborhood as a result of opening up. It needs to be placed between or contain places of interest.

Accessibility, combined with mixed housing and businesses, improves the chance of a safe neighborhood. Many eyes on the streets and public places mean many opportunities to see and stop crimes. Public spaces are essential. This gives the areas in need of surveillance clear boundaries and makes them easier to handle.

It is in other words important with demarcated boundaries between public and private and how they are designed.

In the discussion about accessibility, it is important to remember that an area that is safe may not be perceived as such. Especially women have a tendency to feel vulnerable and rather escape potential threats. Openness can be the tool for improvement of both the security and appearance of public spaces. When opening up areas and removing obstacles to hide behind, an area is perceived as more safe. To see and be seen is the key word.