



Urban Futures Centre

Annual Report

2015

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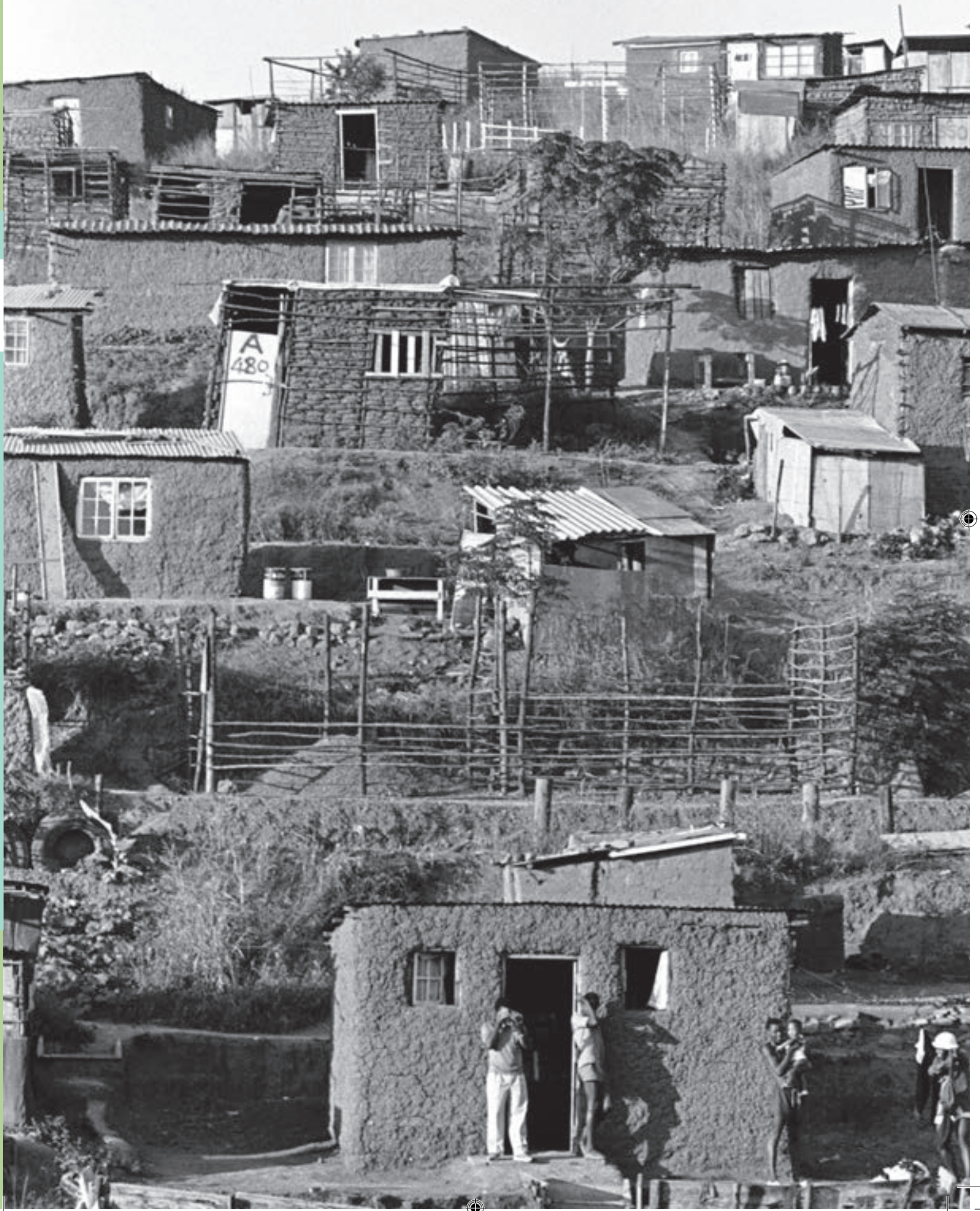
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# Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Message from the Director.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Staff .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Guiding principles.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Cornerstone projects .....</b>	<b>11</b>
Kenneth Gardens .....	13
Street level drug use .....	15
Cities without walls .....	16
Blue skies.....	18
Dreaming workshops .....	21
GCRO/AKF.....	23
<b>International collaborations .....</b>	<b>23</b>
Virginia University.....	23
<b>Seminar series .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Research outputs .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Financial report.....</b>	<b>26</b>







“Where the City of Durban begins and ends is complex, as urban and rural spaces merge into one another in ways that are inimitable, raising interesting theoretical and practice questions about what cities really are.”



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Faith 47's mural in Warwick Junction captures the magic of Durban. A unique amalgamation of colonial, Indian and African influences. Photograph: Jess Nicholson

# Introduction

The Urban Futures Centre (UFC) based at the Durban University of Technology (DUT) started in 2014, headed up by Professor Monique Marks. The centre's aim is to be an intellectual and practical hub geared toward shaping urban spaces that are vibrant, resilient, accessible, egalitarian, caring and well-designed. While there are urban centres at universities in Cape Town and Johannesburg, no such centre existed in Durban.

There were many reasons why such a centre was needed in Durban. The municipality, which includes neighbouring towns, has a population of almost 3.5 million. This makes it the biggest city on the east coast of Africa. It is a popular tourist destination and hosts the busiest port in Africa – a massive flow of goods, people, technology, and ideas.

Durban is a manufacturing hub, the second largest in South Africa, home to a strong chamber of commerce and a labour movement with a rich history. It has been a key urban centre for critical thinking and resistance against both colonialism and apartheid. It has always been, and continues to be, a fluid, vibrant and contested city space.

It is this fluidity and diversity that makes Durban an ideal city context to test out new ideas, designs and plans. Durban's magic also lies in its unique amalgamation of colonial, Indian and African influences that have

created distinct architectural, cultural and social formations. Durban brings together the old and the new; the formal and the informal; the modern and the traditional; and the East and the West. Where the city of Durban begins and ends is complex, as urban and rural spaces merge into one another in ways that are inimitable, raising interesting theoretical and practice questions about what cities really are.

DUT was an ideal home for the UFC. The university strives to send graduates into the world as productive citizens who can think critically, who have advanced technical skills and who impact positively on their environment, both industriously and ethically.

The UFC is located within the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment. Central to this faculty are design and solution-driven processes and actors. These are key determinants of what urban spaces and places 'look like', and how they function.

However, while engineers, urban planners and architects are well-placed in the hub of such processes, their visions and outcomes can be limited by technical, specialist and structural considerations.

The UFC therefore aims to promote a creative synergy between the faculty and a wide array of other scientists and specialists, particularly from the social and human

sciences. This, it is hoped, will inspire non-traditional ways of thinking about urban futures, while maintaining the value of technology to improve the quality of life of urban dwellers.

## Mission and aims

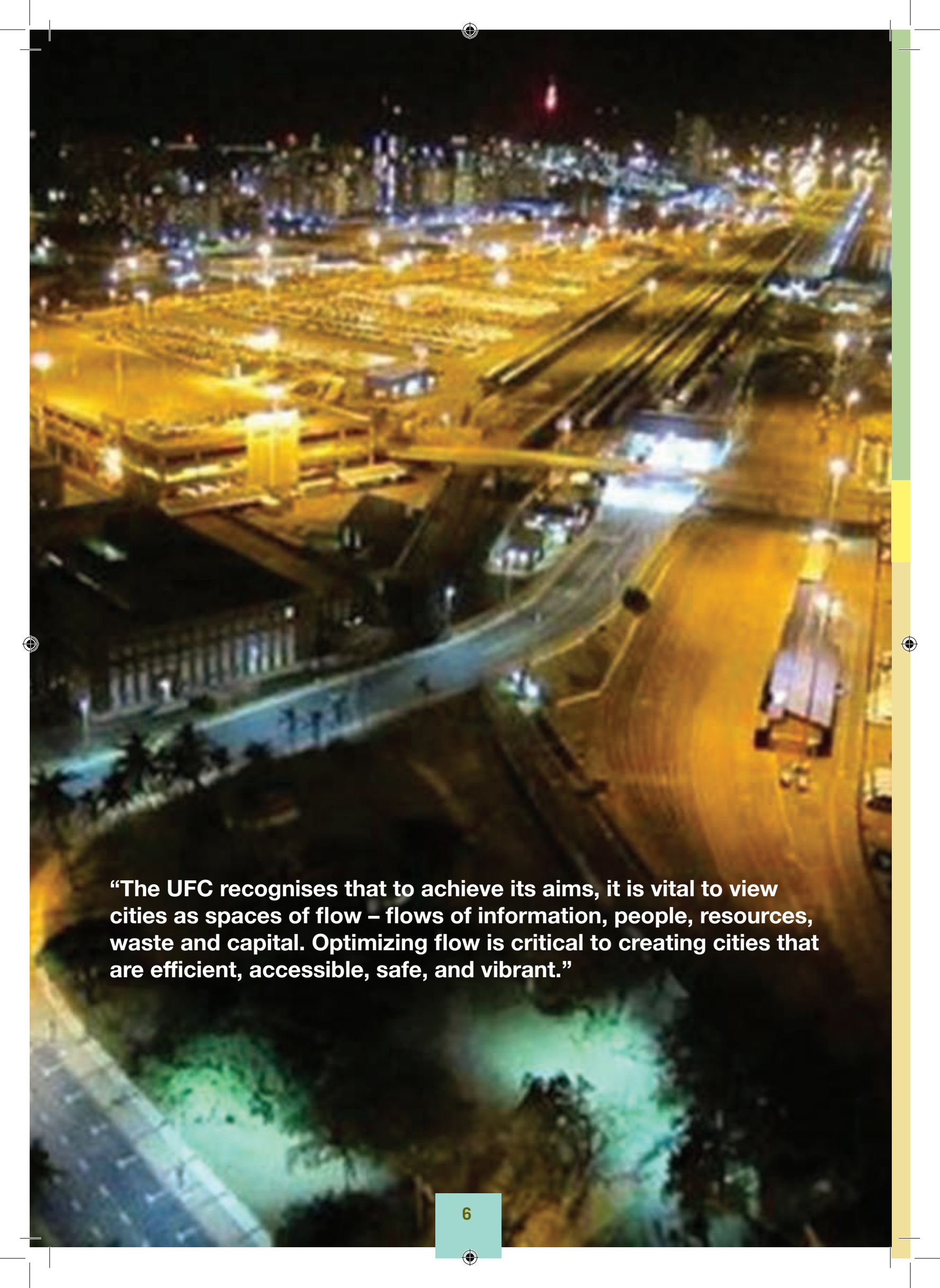
The UFC sees its role as an action-oriented research hub operating at the highest international standards. The UFC aims to think about, and shape, the future of cities in innovative ways; imagining, with a fresh lens, what cities such as Durban could and should look like in the next 50 to 100 years.

These imaginings should not be constrained by current realities, mentalities, policy directives or 'best practice'. Instead the centre strives to achieve imaginative (non-traditional) solutions to urban challenges using a cross-disciplinary and networked approach.

The UFC will therefore bring together scholars, city officials and civic groupings to think through urban dilemmas and to find creative, participatory and humane ways of resolving them.

The centre aims to test out 'solutions' through practical interventions, utilising the wide range of DUT's capacity, skills, resources and partnerships, and to involve urban dwellers, particularly the most vulnerable and marginalised, in problem identification, resolution and planning.



An aerial night photograph of a city, showing a dense network of streets and buildings illuminated by city lights. Long, bright light trails from vehicles are visible on the roads, indicating traffic flow. The city extends to the horizon under a dark sky.

**“The UFC recognises that to achieve its aims, it is vital to view cities as spaces of flow – flows of information, people, resources, waste and capital. Optimizing flow is critical to creating cities that are efficient, accessible, safe, and vibrant.”**

The UFC aims to be innovative and autonomous. Imagining urban futures raises questions about what types of thinking and practices are required to make cities great places to live in. To achieve this, it is vital to view cities as spaces of flow - flows of information, people, resources, waste and capital. Optimizing flow creates cities that are efficient, accessible, safe, and vibrant.

Risk management, particularly in regard to safety, is also foundational to creating city spaces that allow for positive flows between people and between people and things.

The way in which risks are understood and managed impacts on how 'things', such as buildings, are designed and how people interact within spaces and places. Managing flows and risks in urban spaces raises questions about city governance arrangements and the governance of transition.

## Objectives

- To provide an intellectual space for engagement about the future of cities through the creation of a local and global network of scholars, practitioners, city officials, and civil society actors.
- To provide the infrastructure for viable post-graduate programmes at Masters and Doctoral levels centred on urban futures.
- To house and facilitate community engagement programmes in line with the overall mission of the UFC. These engagement programmes will be people centered, imaginative, and partnership driven.

## Message from the Director

In just over a year, the UFC has become an active hub of research activity, engagement projects and visiting scholars. True to its original mission, the Centre has been able to provide the tools and space for thinking through urban issues, as well as engaging in projects to improve the lives of Durban city dwellers. In my view, the UFC has demonstrated that research work is at its best when it is part of a broader engagement process.

The UFC mobilises a range of both state and non-state network actors in all its work. The nature of these networks differs, however, from project to project. For example, government at all levels - from local to national - are integrally involved in our street level drug use project. In our Kenneth Gardens project, however, the state has almost no presence; the key participants are local non-profit and faith-based organisations and schools.

Partnerships have also been forged in academic writing as we encourage co-authoring within the UFC and with scholars from other universities, both national and international.

Working collaboratively brings with it many challenges. The UFC is fortunate to have wide support from DUT leadership and service departments at the university. This, in conjunction with a dynamic and dedicated UFC team has made being the director a pleasure and a privilege. There are few universities in South Africa, and probably worldwide, that would support, with the same enthusiasm, an academic unit that operates in a non-traditional manner and whose work is often premised on imaginations of what the future could or should be.

2015 ended on high note with the UFC moving into a brand new vibrant space in the new engineering building on DUT's Steve Biko campus.

Funding from the Open Society Foundation, the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies, the GCRO, the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation and the National Research Foundation was awarded for different projects during this year.

Students from across the world have joined the UFC to do post-graduate degrees and as part of study abroad programmes. The Centre has become, as initially envisioned, a hub of ideas and a networking space for people interested in all things urban.

I would like to extend my thanks to all who have supported the UFC since its inception and to say, on behalf of the entire team at the Centre, that we look forward to ongoing collaborations.

Very best regards,  
Prof. Monique Marks



## Staff

**Head** Prof Monique Marks

**Researchers** Dr Kira Erwin and Dr Nomkhosi Xulu Gama

**Administrator** Ms Pruthvi Karpoormath

**Post-doctoral fellow** Dr Dylan McGarry

**Honorary Professor** Clifford Shearing

**Associate Fellow** Prof Peter Robinson

**Visiting Professor** Tinus Kruger

## Partners and collaborations

ADT Security

African Centre for Cities (ACC) University of Cape Town

Alliance Française Durban

Anti-Racism Network in South Africa (ARNSA)

Big Brotherhood Community Theatre Group

Blue Security

Carrots and Peas

Central Drug Authority UNODC (Pretoria Office)

Centre for Criminology, University of Cape Town

Centre for Urbanism and Built Environment Studies (CUBES) WITS

Council for Scientific & Industrial Research

dala Architects

Democracy Development Program (DDP)

Dennis Hurley Centre (DHC)

Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD)

Doctors (private and public)

Durban Metropolitan Police

DUT Architecture Department

DUT Town Planning Department

Glenridge Church

Glenmore Primary School

Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

KZN Department of Education

Morningside Residents' Committee

Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE)

Nelson Mandela Foundation

Rotary Club Morningside and Isipingo

Safer Cities Department, eThekweni Municipality

SAPS Umbilo and Westville

Senzokuhle

TB/HIV Care Association

Turquoise Harmony

## Funders

Ahmed Kathrada Foundation (AKF)

Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO)

National Research Foundation (NRF)

Open Society Foundation

Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies (STIAS)




# Guiding principles

**These guiding principles provide the UFC with a point of reference for the work that it does and for determining which projects it wishes to take on board, as well as the desired outcomes of these projects. These are ‘living’ principles, rather than a blueprint for action.**

- Using an imaginary lens
- Doing engaged research
- Focusing on social justice
- Designing with conscience
- Aiming for resilience and inclusivity
- Improving the quality of everyday life in cities
- Recognising multi-agent systems of governance
- Emphasising the multiple co-constitution of objects and subjects
- Challenging dominant paradigms of policy and theorizing



A photograph showing a person from behind, walking on a wide, reddish-brown dirt path. The person is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, a dark skirt, and a grey beret, with a brown bag slung over their shoulder. In the background, there is a large, multi-story, light-colored building with many windows and external staircases. Another person is visible further down the path near the building. The sky is clear and blue.

**“Cities hold within them people, places and even structures that are ‘invisible’ (especially in regard to dominant and elite groupings). It is the less visible entities of cities that have proven time and again to be the most resilient components of them.”**





# Cornerstone projects

When the UFC was constituted, a workshop was held with key potential actors to decide what themes would hold the centre together.

These themes were based on current debates within urban centres nationally and internationally, and on the urban dynamics of Durban.

The projects the UFC undertakes 'fit' with at least one of these themes. Project choices are determined by their resonance with the guiding principles of the centre.

## **Urban safety and risk management**

Perceived and real safety are fundamental to the health of any city. Safety includes physical safety and the management and securitisation of health, food, energy and water.

## **Urban mobility and flows**

The UFC believes that cities are places of flow. This includes the flows of goods, services, information, people, water, energy, transportation and food.

## **Urban creativity, aesthetics and cultural dynamism**

Urban spaces are, and should be, co-created spaces of creativity, cultural dynamism and social connection.

## **The governance of transition and the transition of governance**

As cities shift and flows occur, new forms of governance are required. At the same time, governance arrangements need to be established to facilitate flows and transitions.

## **Digital and invisible cities**

Cities are not simply 3D entities. They operate digitally, and in some instances, their existence is virtual. Cities hold within them people, places and even structures that are 'invisible' (especially in regard to dominant and elite groupings). It is the less visible entities of cities that have proven time and again to be the most resilient components of them.





#### Partners:

- Senzokuhle
- Carrots and Peas
- Glenridge Church
- Glenmore Primary School
- Rotary Club Morningside and Isipingo
- Turquoise Harmony

#### Funder:

- National Research Foundation



# Kenneth Gardens

Community engagement and research in  
Durban's largest low-cost housing estate

Kenneth Gardens is Durban's largest municipal low-income estate, housing roughly 1500 people. The population is diverse with a long history of socio-economic difficulty. In 2011, when the Kenneth Gardens Community Engagement Project (KGCP) began it had become a space of government neglect.

The project began when academics met with residents and other stakeholders. What emerged was a great willingness for the university to be involved in research and engagement activities. A demographic and needs analysis survey was conducted, and so began a strong collaboration to identify, design, implement and evaluate a series of projects.

The academic team is committed to a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach and overseeing the project is a Kenneth Gardens Community Engagement Task Team.

The primary collaborators are residents, and particularly those active in the two Non Profit Organisations (NPOs) that service the community; **Carrots & Peas** is a feeding scheme started by residents; and **Senzokuhle** provides healthcare through the Wellness Centre and home visits.

## **The Wellness Centre**

In 2012, the DUT Homeopathy Department set up a clinic in Kenneth Gardens. Homeopathy students working with

Senzokuhle provide homeopathic medication, home visits, wound dressing, blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests and referral letters. In 2014, Glenridge Church raised R100 000 to refurbish the clinic which now provides patients with privacy and a dedicated clinic building.

## **Food and Nutrition Programme**

In 2013 the DUT Food and Nutrition Department started a nutrition clinic at the Wellness Centre. Students also assist in the Carrots & Peas kitchen, applying their food production knowledge. Each year students and staff raise funds and make donations towards community projects.

## **Dance Programme**

Flatfoot Dance Company and Glenmore Primary School have spent four years running Kenneth Garden's dance programme. Classes run every Wednesday and over the years, Flatfoot has taught over 300 dancers who have also participated in prestigious dance festivals nationally.

## **Capoeira Angola**

Glenmore Primary School hosts weekly Capoeira Angola/ indigenous music classes attended by an increasing number of children from Kenneth Gardens.

## **Digital Media Archive project**

The Digital Media Archive Project began in 2013 as a 'place' and a tool for developing a repository of knowledge and experience generated about and by the community. Over

the years the project has run workshops to develop youth as community journalists. These have covered writing, editing and digital publishing. In 2014 basic computer skills training was included and participants received 3G tablets. In 2015 further workshops were held and visiting scholars from University of California taught the use of various multimedia tools and produced a video for Carrots & Peas (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RcqjiVmkzc>). For blogs and stories see <http://kennethgardens.co.za>.

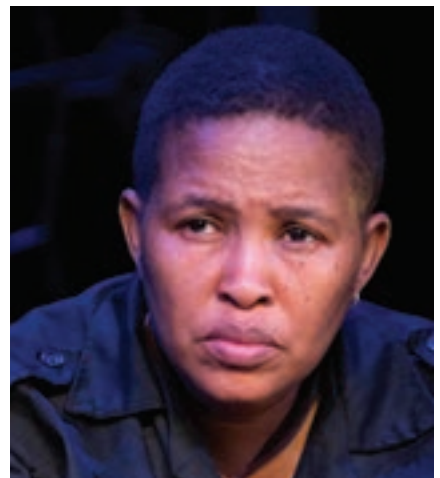
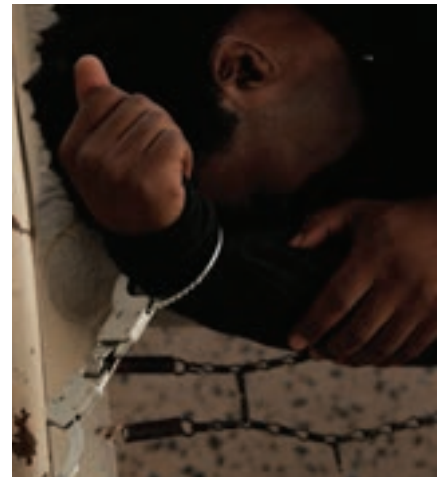
## **Library**

In 2015 the 'Benny Book Worm' library opened; a project co-ordinated by Clive Greenstone. DUT staff and students collected children's books. Support also came from Glenridge Pre-primary School and Adams Bookshop.

## **Capacity building**

Carrots & Peas and Senzokuhle have benefitted from professionally run workshops on organisational capacity building, fundraising and networking. In addition, DUT students and staff have provided training and resources including assistance with funding applications, creating portfolios, electronic communications, building websites and blog pages and producing short documentaries.

DUT is confident that key projects can now operate in a robust and self-sustaining manner, and it is no longer needed as a fulcrum institution.





# Street Level Drug Use

## Pathways in and out of drug use

This project looks at pathways into and out of street level drug use, as well as considering ways to build local capacity and appropriate policy to deal with endemic drug markets and their effects. It focuses the users themselves, as well as the communities affected, and the institutions responding to drug addiction.

The study is based in Durban where a 'new' low grade heroine-based drug market (commonly known as *whoonga*) has grown exponentially. The result has been huge individual, family and community harm, and increasing pressures are placed on public health and law enforcement institutions.

What remains poorly understood is why so many people have taken the path into *whoonga* use; why this 'community' is so resilient and attractive; and what pathways exist out of *whoonga* use. What also needs to be understood is how government agencies should engage with users to reduce harm. The aim of this project is to gain a better understanding of street level drug use.

The project is a trans-disciplinary Participatory Action Research (PAR) project, bringing together those trained in sociology, criminology, education, art and drama. It includes city officials, police officers and civil society actors in designing the research and in developing strategies.

With a global movement towards more humane and harm reducing strategies in response to substance abuse, the project has a embedded human rights agenda.

The research is primarily qualitative in nature, although GIS mapping will be used to 'map out' where the *whoonga* community lives and what the drug market looks like.

It is dominated by sociological and ethnographic research perspectives to understand both the perspectives of users and of practitioners who are trying to develop strategies to reduce the harm of street level drug addiction.

The research also has an Arts/ Drama component, where various forms of theatre and story-telling genres are used.

The purpose of both approaches is to gather nuanced narratives from all those affected and begin investigating appropriate responses both at grassroots and policy levels.

Over the course of 2015 a community research group, the Big Brotherhood have been collaborating with Dr Dylan McGarry a post-doctoral fellow at the UFC, and Neil Coppen, an award-winning South African playwright, in conducting ethnographies and stories of citizens of Durban, and transforming these into theatrical experiences. This

team developed a one-hour production about the pathways into *whoonga* use and several different 'endings' examined various options out of drug use. This theatre production has been performed in numerous community settings, including in workshops with police, as well as in formal theatre venues in Durban.

DUT will also be initiating a harm reduction programme in Durban based at a community based institution. Users who participate in this programme, which will include psycho-social support and the provision of opioid substitution therapy, will be tracked over an 18 month period. This will provide another source of evidence as to possible pathways out of street level drug use.

While this project will focus on *whoonga* drug use and its negative effects in Durban, the results will have very real outcomes for other cities. Ways of reducing harm for all affected persons is fundamental.

### Project Partners

- Centre of Criminology, University of Cape Town
- TB/HIV Care Association
- Durban Metropolitan Police
- Safer Cities Department, eThekweni Municipality
- Dennis Hurley Centre
- Big Brotherhood Community Theatre Group
- Central Drug Authority UNODC (Pretoria Office)
- Doctors (private and public)

# Cities without walls

## Do high walls in suburban spaces increase security?

In the late Apartheid period South African suburbs began to change dramatically. Housing was designed with the aim of keeping intruders out. High walls were constructed with electrified fences and laser beams and the private security industry blossomed.

Whether or not high walls and electrified fences do reduce experiences of crime is debatable. Private security specialists and the police now suggest that walls might not provide the security that home owners believe they do.

The Imagining a City Without Walls project was initiated in April 2014 to investigate whether walls, electric fences and beams, among other tools, succeed in reducing fear of crime, from the perspective of those who police public and private security organisations.

The aim was to establish whether policing agents view walls as an aid or hindrance to security management. The goal of this research was, through public engagement, to shift paradigms about security and to bring to the fore the importance of natural surveillance and neighbourly contact in making urban spaces safer.

Researchers, Chris Overall of the Safer Cities Department of the Durban Municipality, and Prof Monique Marks, chose two very different suburbs to conduct the research. Firstly, Umbilo, which is a working,

lower middle class suburb with some houses with high walls, but most with no fences or very low walls. Umbilo has long been seen as a 'bad area'. The second suburb was Westville, an affluent suburb marked by high walls and significant investment in securitisation.

A partnership began with the SAPS and the private security companies most present in these suburbs. Researchers conducted interviews and informal group discussions with key actors. During 2014, researchers joined the SAPS and private security companies on patrols to see which houses were targeted and to understand the officers' perspectives on security.

The private security companies, in particular, immediately committed to being partners in this research and action enterprise. Blue Security was particularly keen to discuss what new technologies and practices could be devised if walls were to be pulled down.

The information gathered through the research showed that the relatively 'unwalled' suburb of Umbilo is viewed as far safer than the more heavily walled suburb of Westville.

Walls also form an obstacle to policing as criminals are hidden from sight, and properties are difficult to access by security officers. Occupants cannot see what is happening outside, which is another advantage for criminals.

The aim of the research was also to spark debate and new design possibilities.

In August 2014, the UFC hosted a series of discussions. The ideas and philosophies of all the key partners in the research process were presented to a wide audience. The aim was to create a space for deliberations about walls and design with regard to enhancing safety and reducing crime-targeting.

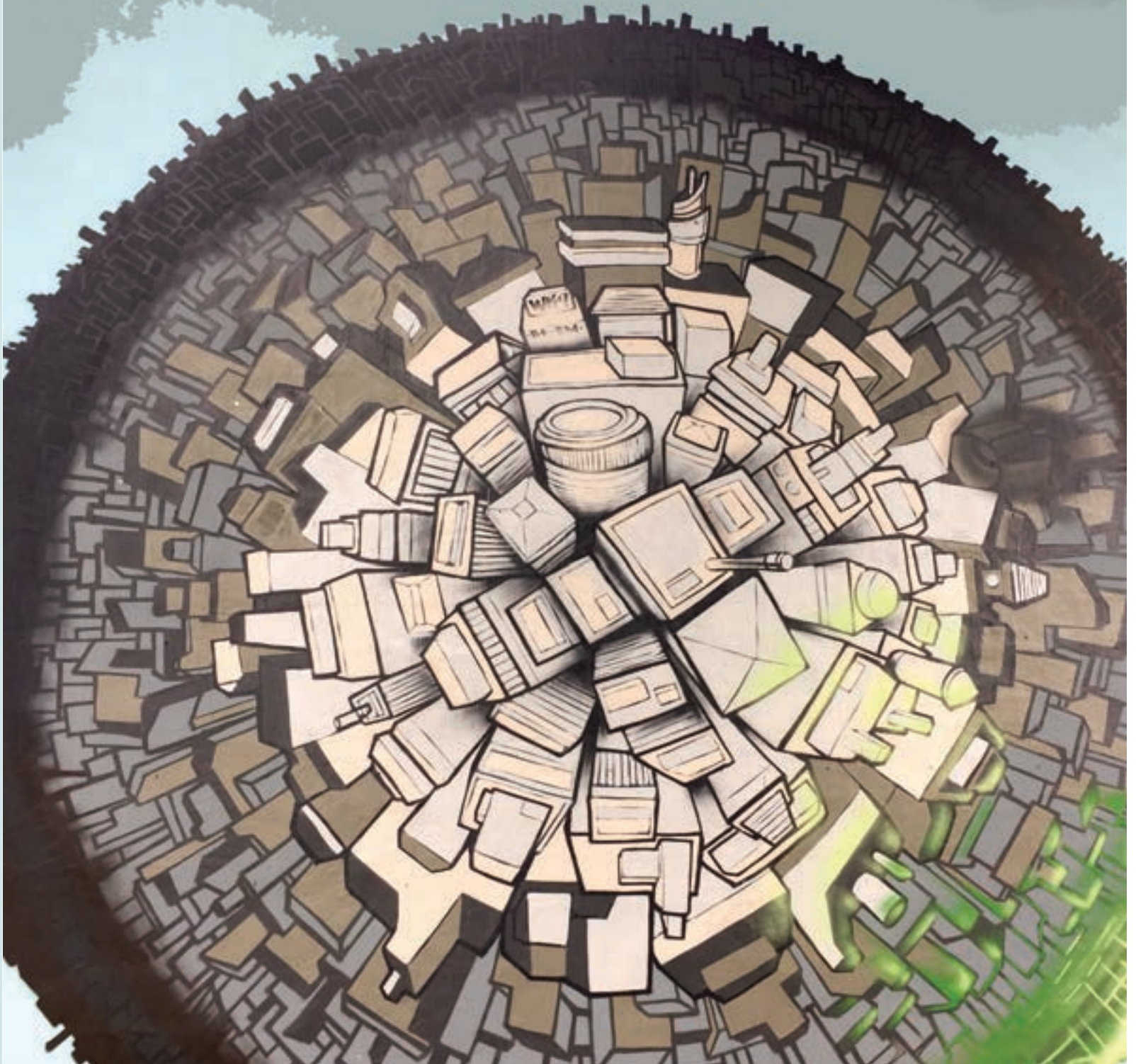
Photographs were used to show houses with varying degrees of built-in security and an architect was contracted to draw an ideal safe house. Further to this, together with the Architecture and Safer Cities Departments of eThekweni Municipality, the UFC will test new design principles using modelling techniques.

An even wider audience was reached through talk shows hosted by Cape Talk and Lotus FM. What emerged is that people feel compelled to live behind walls as these are the only defensive structures they know of. However, after discussion, many said that they were going to experiment with taking down their walls.

Durban's Alliance Française, a visible and active cultural centre has decided, as a result of this project, to break down its boundary wall and build a more transparent and welcoming border that will generate neighbourliness and optimise safety through natural surveillance. This will be constructed by the end of 2016.



The first thing I did when I moved into my house is broke down the existing wall. I put up a transparent fence. The second thing I did is I went around getting to know my neighbours. I am a policeman, and I know what counts. Visibility, a good network of neighbours, and natural surveillance. Lt Colonel Correa, SAPS Umbilo



#### Project Partners

- Alliance Francise Durban
- DUT Architecture Department
- Council for Scientific & Industrial Research
- Blue Security
- ADT
- Durban Metropolitan Police
- SAPS Umbilo and Westville
- Morningside Residents' Committee
- dala Architects
- Safer Cities Department, eThekweni Municipality

# Blue Skies

How design could contribute towards more equal and just urban spaces

Apartheid was a profoundly spatial form of segregation. In South Africa today, there is emphasis on transformation – a move towards a more equal and just society. The Blue Skies project looked at the role of urban design and planning in making this shift.

Undoubtedly there have been individuals and organisations that have worked towards dismantling segregatory practices, but there is little evidence to suggest a consciously engineered re-imagining of disciplinary practices towards radically transforming our cities.

Too often urban planning primarily represents the interests of those who possess capital – economic, cultural or social. Seldom is it designed to serve the people who already live and work in a space, and uniquely shape the built environment.

The Blue Skies project, in contrast, aims to provide an exploratory and imaginative space to inform designs that break away from this conventional practice; ideas that take seriously co-producing urban designs through participation and collaboration.

The UFC formed a multi-disciplinary laboratory, drawing from the fields of architecture, drama, sociology, art, and town planning, to experiment with alternative methodologies focusing on the co-production of spatial knowledge. Like any good laboratory, it wanted to test out what this alternative

praxis means when compared to the conventional methods.

The DUT had designed, with limited participation from staff and students, a master plan for an educational precinct around its campuses. The Blue Skies project put out a call for proposals for pilot studies focusing on the precinct. The idea was that the pilot studies would throw light on whether alternative methods could raise critical questions for the existing master plan, and whether the design process would be different if different types of data were collected.

Five proposals were accepted: **Pedestrians, commuters and minibus taxis:** This project collected ethnographic and narrative data from the public, including the taxi drivers and passengers, who move through the DUT campuses (Abigail Knox, Andile Shange and Kgabo Makghato).

**Happitecture:** This study aimed to creatively capture emotional responses and feelings of happiness in relation to the built environment on campus, and what this means for designing happy spaces (Jonathan Edkins, Thobani Ndlovu, Thashalen Naidoo, Mxolisi Hlongwa, Lungile Cele, Bonke Duma, Nelisiwe Beryl Xaba and Euridice Lutucuta).

**Strengthening the social in spatial planning processes - a focus on land use management:** This project investigated some of the

obstacles to the lack of social planning in planning practices in South Africa (Vicky Sims).

**Masihambisane:** This pilot study focused on developing new pedagogies for teaching architecture through collaborative explorations of spaces that moved students and practitioners out of their comfort zones (Bridget Horner, Miranda Young-Jahangeer and Doung Jahangeer).

The pilot studies illustrate that the ‘chaos’ of Steve Biko street has some unexpected benefits. Busy streets are safer streets. Taxi drivers, informal traders, students, pedestrians and DUT security guards create an informal security network.

When women pedestrians arrive in Warwick Junction they purposefully walk up Steve Biko Road because they feel safer. The students and the busy street gives protection. The informal security network in Steve Biko Road provides another form of university and public engagement, which the university until this point had not taken into consideration.

These findings are in direct contrast to the DUT master plan’s views that the “transport hub: provides particular challenges for the University in ensuring safety and security”.

Participants in a number of the pilots identified streets around DUT as unsafe but never once identified Steve Biko Road as having negative safety issues.



What appears logical to the 'experts' who drew up the plan, and perhaps to a vehicle driver, may, in fact, make communing more difficult and less safe for the many pedestrian users of Steve Biko Road.

Even in this small experimental study there was a clear discord between the ideals of planning and urban design that tends to lean towards regulated and orderly spaces, and on the

other side, the experiences of everyday people who live, work and use urban spaces.

The desire to turn chaos into order can act as an exclusionary mechanism that disregards the benefits of informality and the organic networks built through unregulated inclusive spaces.

The project also engaged directly with these ideas in how we teach architects and

planners to think differently about designing spaces.

The research outcomes for 2015 are listed later in this report. In 2016, the Blue Skies project participants plan to present three conferences papers, publish a trade journal article, and present findings to a large MILE seminar to be attended by over 60 academics, students, professional planners, and eThekweni municipal officials.



#### Partners:

- DUT Architecture Department
- dala Architects
- DUT Town Planning Department
- MILE

#### Funders:

- National Research Foundation







# Dreaming workshops

**The power of dreams:  
imagining a better future**

The Dreaming Workshop project is funded by the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies (STIAS) under their umbrella project; Being Human Today: The Effects of Race.

The project began in July 2014 and aimed to explore how young people, in this case Durban Grade 11 students, imagine a socially just and equal future society. In particular, the focus was on how young people imagine a future society in relation to ideas of race, racism and non-racialism. Although non-racialism is frequently found in political, media and public discourses, there is little consensus on what lies within the concept. Its common use suggests a way to live together harmoniously. Non-racialism, in response to the everyday horrors of Apartheid, was always a future-orientated framework, a desire for a better future where race could no longer determine life chances or essentialise our beings.

To our knowledge not much work has been done in South Africa on how people imagine a future non-racial society. Studies either focus on how non-racialism is not yet practised, or on South Africans' perceptions (or absence of these) of non-racialism in the present.

This project focuses on listening to young people's ideas, as opposed to looking at them for solutions. It was designed as a pilot project that could be extended into other regions,

urban and rural. Five schools were selected within primarily middle class (with some working class areas), formerly 'white' wards. They all had a diverse student body and catered to students who reside in the ward, and also to those whose parents' work locally and live in townships further away. The schools represented different spectrums of the post-1994 schooling landscape, primarily differentiated by resources and income capacity (both private and ex-Model C schools were selected).

The research explores the following questions:

1. How do Grade 10 and 11 students imagine a better, more just and equal future for South Africa?
2. Is race or non-racialism something they imagine in this future and if so in what ways and why?
3. What then are the necessary pre-conditions for a nonracial future?
4. Do experiences of what participants identify as non-racialism in the present inspire these future imaginings?
5. What present obstacles do students identify as preventing or hindering their imagined future?

The method of enquiry for this project, Dreaming Workshops, was developed especially to address these questions. A Dreaming Workshop is a type of focus group enquiry or dialogue that encourages participants to engage in future dreaming discussions through creative

methods. Future imaginings are useful: they enable the social imagination to escape the confines of present paradigms. Dreaming outside of the ubiquitous racial framework means that we may start to imagine other ways of being.

Secondly, the methodology provides a mechanism through which to recognise and confront the challenges that stand in the way of achieving a utopian future. Future thinking can spark critical reflection on the present, on how and why race thinking remains so 'obvious' and its entanglement with other systems of oppression.

Using a future vision to analyse the present may do more than identify obstacles to a better future; it may offer a glimpse as to where and how experiences of non-racialism in the present inspire dreams of the future.

In 2015, two Dreaming Workshops were held at each of the schools, and a paper presented on the initial findings was made at the World Social Science Forum in Durban.

In 2016, feedback sessions to each school will take place and the final research findings will be presented at STIAS in July 2017. At the end of the project the UFC will publish a short book and teaching guide outlining how to use the Dreaming Workshops methodology to facilitate classroom discussions on questions of race, racism, non-racialism, equality and justice.





# GCRO/Ahmed Kathrada Foundation

In 2015, Dr Kira Erwin undertook two pieces of research funded by the Gauteng City-Region Observatory (GCRO) and the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation (AKF).

The first research paper produced for this study, titled *Global Anti-Racism Strategies and Practice project*, reviewed different countries' action plans against racism, and identified within these strategies successful outcomes that may inform South Africa's National Action Plan against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Intolerances. This Action Plan is currently under design by the Department of Justice and

Constitutional Development (DoJ&CD).

The second paper, *Anti-Racism in Post-Apartheid South Africa*, critically reviewed and synthesized selected anti-racism strategies and practices in South Africa after 1994.

The selected strategies and practices came from civil society, faith-based organisations, business and the public sector. The paper looked at how South Africa may pursue a more plural, rather than purist, anti-racism agenda through forming government and civil society partnerships.

In 2015, the two papers were shared with the DoJ&CD and presented as part of a workshop for civil society organisations hosted by the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation in Johannesburg.

A decision to create a civil society grouping against racism, the Anti-Racism Network in South Africa (ARNSA), was made at this workshop.

Dr Erwin joined the ARNSA National Steering Committee as a supporting member in 2015. The two papers will be published as part of a GCRO research report in 2016.

## International collaborations

In 2014 the UFC hosted a group of eleven students from the University of California Davis who worked in partnership with six DUT students on the Kenneth Gardens, and two other DUT community engagement projects.

The student teams created documentaries for the two NPOs in Kenneth Gardens, designed a community centre for a piece of community run land in KwaDabeka, and scripted a play and talent show performed by the children living in a local children's home.

In 2015 the UFC collaborated with the University of California Santa Cruz, where two digital and media students from Santa Cruz worked with community NPOs to create working email accounts, a functional website and a funding portfolio.



Eleven students from the University of California Davis, in partnership with six DUT students (pictured above), spent time engaged in community research.

# Seminar series

Every Wednesday the UFC hosts a seminar. Between 15 and 70 participants attend and include government officials, NGO representatives, academics and students from both DUT and UKZN (from a variety of disciplines). Presenters have included urban design practitioners, urban scholars, architects, philosophers, city activists and city officials. The seminar series has created a sense of inter-disciplinary engagement across the wide variety of disciplines at DUT. The UFC also hosts public debates on issues of critical public interest including urban design and security, whoonga dilemmas, and xenophobia.

# Research outputs

## Publications

Marks, M and Bruce, D. (2015) Groundhog Day: Twenty years of public order policing into democracy. In: G. Khalingala, B. Naidoo, D. Pillay and R. Southall (eds.) *New South African Review 5: Beyond Marikana*, Johannesburg: Wits University Press.

## Peer Reviewed Journals

Marks, M., Erwin, K. and Mosavel, M. (2015) The inextricable link between community engagement, community based research and service learning: the case of an international collaboration Building Global Bridges project. *The South African Journal of Higher Education*, 29:5.

Erwin, K. (2015) Race, place and identity in Kenneth Gardens: narratives from a low-cost housing estate in Durban. *Urban Forum* 26(2) 187-201.

Erwin, K., Marks, M. and Couchman, I. (2014) Homeopathic health care in a low-income housing estate in Durban: possibilities for a plural health care model in South Africa. *Journal of Health, Wellness and Society* 3:3.

Marks, M and Overall, C. (2015). Breaking Down Walls: New solutions for more effective urban crime prevention in South Africa. *Stability: International Journal of Security and Development* 4(1).

## Conference Papers

Erwin, K. (2015) "The Power of Dreams: Young people's imaginings of non-racialism" presented at the World Social Science Forum

in Durban, September

Erwin, K. (2015) "Voices of Resilience: A Living History of the Kenneth Gardens Municipal Housing Estate in Durban South Africa" presented at the European Conference on African Studies (ECAS) at the Sorbonne University in Paris, July.

Erwin, K. (2014) "Interfering politicians: The underbelly of local development 'co-production'", presented at the AAPS in Cape Town, November.

Erwin, K. (2014) "Towards a relational understanding of race in the everyday; the value of narratives and ethnographic studies" at the HUMA conference at UCT, November.

Erwin, K. (2014) World Congress of Architecture Fringe Colloquium "On dissidence: the Kenneth Gardens outhouses", presented at artSPACE, 6 August.

M. Marks (2015). Reflecting on police reform in South Africa twenty years after democracy. Presented at the symposium of Dialogues on Citizens Security. Bogota, Colombia. 15-17 April.

M. Marks (2015). Youth politics and violence in South Africa – a history to remember. Guest speaker at the symposium '60 Years of the Freedom Charter'. Liliesleaf Farm, Rivonia, March.

M. Marks and S. Howell (2015). Interloping academics: An ethnography of street level drug use through the lens of the police. *Contemporary Drug Problems*. Lisbon.



## Panels and Key Note

Erwin, K. (2015) Panel speaker at the Third Annual Neville Alexander Memorial Lecture at UNISA Cape Town, 8th Oct.

Erwin, K. (2015) Opening paper presented for the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation and the Nelson Mandela Foundation *Anti-racism Network Workshop* in Johannesburg, August.

## Seminars, guest lecturers and workshops

Edkins, J. and Erwin, K. (2015) *HappiMaps, Zwakala! Using crowdmaps to inform design*, 2 October, Durban University of Technology, City Campus.

Erwin, K. (2015) Guest lecture on Ethnography, Rhodes University, February.

Erwin, K. (2014) Workshop on Participatory Research for Visual Arts Network South Africa (VANSA), November.

Marks, M. and Erwin, K. (2014) Seminar on *Community Engagement*, at the Virginia Commonwealth University USA, February.

Marks, M. and Erwin, K. (2014) *Seminar on Researching in a Scarce Context*, at the University of California Davis USA, February.

## Research Reports

Sim, V. (2015) *Strengthening the Social in Spatial Planning in South Africa: A Focus On Land Use Management*, Scoping paper prepared for the Urban Futures Centre Blue Skies project.

Knox, A., Shange Andile, Makghato Kgabo (2015) *Pedestrians, Commuters and Minibus Taxis in and Around the DUT Precinct*, Research report prepared for the Urban Futures Centre Blue Skies project.

Erwin, K. (2015) *Global Anti-Racism Strategies and Practice*, research report prepared for the Gauteng City Regional Observatory.

Erwin, K. (2015) *Anti-Racism in Post-Apartheid South Africa*, research report prepared for the Gauteng City Regional Observatory and the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation.

## Trade publications

Erwin, K. (2015) *The Blue Skies Project: Exploring how Urban Design Could Contribute Towards More Equal and Just Urban Spaces*, KZNIA (3), 4-5.

## Editorial Board Membership

1999 – 2009	Prof Monique Marks	<i>Transformation: Critical Perspectives on Southern Africa</i>
2003 – present	Prof Monique Marks	<i>Loyola Journal of Social Sciences</i>
2004 – present	Prof Monique Marks	<i>Policing and Society</i>
2004 – present	Prof Monique Marks	<i>British Journal of Criminology (International Advisory Board)</i>
2009 – present	Prof Monique Marks	<i>International Review of Organisational Analysis</i>
2009 – present	Prof Monique Marks	<i>The Journal of Criminal Justice Research</i>
2010 – present	Prof Monique Marks	<i>Transnational Crime, Crime Control and Security</i>
2011 – present	Prof Monique Marks	<i>Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology</i>
2014 – present	Prof Monique Marks	<i>Contemporary Social Science (invited in December 2014)</i>
2016 – present	Prof Monique Marks	<i>Criminology and Criminal Justice Journal</i>
2015 – present	Dr Kira Erwin	<i>Transformation: Critical perspectives on Southern Africa</i>

# Financial Report

**This financial report covers the period January 2015 – December 2015**

To begin, the Urban Futures Centre was only established in 2014. DUT provided start-up funding for the Centre. The amount of R304 951 is reflective of this. DUT also provides core funding for two full time researchers in the UFC, a part time administrator, and one post-doctoral candidate. The deficit amount that reflects on the above financial statement takes into account salary costs which are covered by DUT. DUT has chosen to invest in the payment of researcher posts in the UFC, with the view to the Centre being prolific, highly engaged, and well networked.

All other funding is from external sources. The amount of funding generated after less than a year of being founded is substantive. The majority of this external funding comes from various funding instruments of the National Research Funding. These include: Incentive funding for a rated researcher (Prof. Monique Marks); funding for a community engagement project (i.e. Kenneth Gardens); and Blue Sky seed funding. Other external funding was brought in by the work of Dr Kira Erwin from the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation/Gauteng city Research Observatory and the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Studies.

The travel cost pertains mostly to conference and workshop participation by UFC staff, both nationally and internationally. A percentage of this travel spending has been used to support junior researchers who have partnered with UFC researchers.

The events item refers mostly to public events held by the UFC. These include public debates held mostly in the evenings, pertaining to critical issues for city dwellers such as design innovations and street level drug use. The Centre also holds weekly seminars and a range of training workshops. Costs incurred here are primarily for catering, or for hosting a guest speaker.

A final major costing item reflected is 'centre infrastructure equipment'. At the end of 2015, the UFC moved into the new Engineering Building, where it now occupies half of the fourth floor. The UFC is equipped with new designer furniture in bold and invigorating colours. The UFC has the space and the equipment for all our graduate students to work in a space that is designed like an internet café. Visitors, both national and international also have ample space to work from.

The UFC has already secured significant funding for the year 2016, from the NRF Blue Skies, National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences, City Alliance and the Open Society Foundation.

Details	Amount
Balance b/f - UFC	<b>304 951</b>
<b><i>Income - NR</i></b>	<b>854 040</b>
N435 (Incentive Funding)	80 000
N436 (NRF Community Engagement)	399 029
N437 (NRF Blue Skies)	200 000
U317 (STIAS)	32 200
<b><i>Expense</i></b>	<b>2 151 189</b>
Travel	124 884
Events	31 500
Salary cost	1 362 403
Centre Infrastructure Equipment	69 589
Other	562 814
<b><i>Surplus/deficit</i></b>	<b>-992 197</b>





