

STAND/FADA/UJ

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Decolonising architectural education and spatial justice

**COMPETITION FOR SPACE, POWER AND AUTHORITY
IN THE CITY AND ON CAMPUS**

Amira Osman

GENERATING OUR OWN THEORY FRAMEWORKS

To become an academic in a Western university [an African scholar] may be obliged to unlearn important knowledge, and learn frameworks and skills that are actually irrelevant to the situation at hand but are necessary for being considered a professional academic.

Constructing frameworks for explaining how societies actually function is intellectually demanding. It involves challenging the dominant frameworks and replacing them with better ones.

African academics face a huge divide between their real and scholarly selves

Alex de Waal

<http://theconversation.com/african-academics-face-a-huge-divide-between-their-real-and-scholarly-selves-55899>

HISTORICAL SETTING

GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING

CULTURAL SETTING

THEORETICAL SETTING

Eco-systemic identification of context:
Recurring themes need to be identified

Properties of a phenomenon –
**PRE-ICONOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION** – based on
descriptive analysis

Purposeful selection of tangible artefacts and
Intangible artefacts needed to reflect the
meanings behind physical and spatial
manifestations

Philosophical approach

Eco-systemic reading of
architecture

Prevalent paradigms of
thought and practice

WORLD
AFRICA
SUDAN

CLIMATE

**ICONOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION** – an
associative process

Architecture/Culture/Environment Matrix

CLASSIFICATION
ORIGINS
VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE
CONCEPTS OF BEAUTY
RE DEFINITION OF ARCHITECTURE

TRIPLE HERITAGE

EXTENSIONS THROUGH BODY IMAGES
GENDER PERCEPTIONS
SOCIAL/POLITICAL STRUCTURES
AGENTS OF CHANGE AT DIFFERENT LEVELS

Essential and incidental attributes of the
culture can be articulated – this becomes a
tool in interpretation

Inter-disciplinary
Investigation is imperative

**ICONOLOGICAL
INTERPRETATION** – speculative,
intuitive gestalt perceptions. The
presumed effects of a
phenomenon

Selected tangible
artefacts articulate
context and
elaborate recurring
themes

Selected intangible
artefacts articulate
context and
elaborate recurring
themes

Irrelevance of conventional
approaches to architecture

Alternative definition of
architecture needed

The context is unique in terms of the deep
mysticism and Sufi beliefs. Intangible culture
has a profound impact on the nature of
physical artefacts, including buildings and
spatial intervention

Creation of relevant theory
framework possible

Vernacular settings: A collective statement and not an individual one

Africans have always produced knowledge about Africa. Their contributions have in some cases been “preferably unheard”.

In others they’ve been “deliberately silenced”.

Why it is crucial to locate the 'African' in African Studies

Robtel Neajai Pailey

<http://theconversation.com/why-it-is-crucial-to-locate-the-african-in-african-studies-60807>

CONCLUSIONS

CONCLUSION

an assumption that the poor and the disenfranchised are not needing professional service but should rather receive small, insignificant acupunctural interventions which can do nothing to address the scale of the inherited, carefully engineered and massive problem of the Apartheid city - this is not to dismiss the catalytic effects of smaller interventions but to highlight the need for a balance between the various levels of decision-making in the built environment

CONCLUSION

this ensures that city structures remain untransformed,
opportunity remains inaccessible to many and capital
remains in the hands of a few

CONCLUSION

a sense of superiority and a dismissiveness towards service learning, practical design, technology skills, applied design and contextual responses - favouring abstract representation and communicative mechanisms that are deliberately exclusionary rather than inclusionary

CONCLUSION

some reasons for this situation might be "white guilt" and a type of "religious fervour" when speaking about concepts such as participation and sustainability - this means we are disadvantaging students by not equipping them for practice and disadvantaging communities by not providing good professional service

I retrace my political footprints to make sense of the past, the assumptions I and many others made. I go back there, look deep within myself and around me once again. I believe I must learn a new language of emancipation for the present and enter into communion with others to claim our freedom. Even now. Especially now.

Liberation and Ethics - Is there a connection?

Raymond Suttner

[http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2016-04-05-liberation-and-ethics-is-there-a-connection/
#.V9FYz1eoKT8](http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2016-04-05-liberation-and-ethics-is-there-a-connection/#.V9FYz1eoKT8)