City Centre Sustainable Housing Design Competition

Workshop 1: The Site and its Context

Date: 20 March
Time: 16:00-18:00
Venue: Online hosted by the CIB

Presenter: Riëtte Kotze
The Site and its Context

• Location
• Relationship with the city
• Relationship with the surroundings
• Features of the site
Location

South Africa
Location

Eastern Cape
Location

Nelson Mandela Metropole
Location

Nelson Mandela Metropole

Fig. 1. Distribution and racial pattern of population in Port Elizabeth, 1911

Fig. 2. Distribution and racial pattern of population in Port Elizabeth, 1951

Fig. 3. Distribution and racial pattern of population in Port Elizabeth, 1985

Location

Gqeberha
Relationship with the City

Walmer Precinct
Location

Gqeberha – historical [1902]
Relationship with the City

Walmer Suburb and Surrounds
Walmer Township remains one of the poorest neighbourhoods in the Eastern Cape. Common issues in the township include unemployment, HIV/AIDS, alcohol abuse, child neglect, crime, and illiteracy. The home of about 70,000 residents, Walmer lacks sufficient resources to remedy these ailments; there are only two primary schools, one high school, and one clinic in the township.

Many families live in self built shacks and unstable houses, which make them extremely vulnerable during rainstorms and winter months. These lack of resources ultimately create enormously difficult obstacles for the township’s youth to defeat the cycle of poverty.

The history of Walmer, however, is unique to other townships in South Africa. In 1898, white business owners and white households wanted their black workers to remain close to their property so work can be more convenient. Although the area of the township was initially intended to be a white suburb, South Africans blacks and coloureds began to move into the area. During the Apartheid era, township residents fully resisted moving the township due to their love for their neighbours and neighbourhood. The history of the township has thus led to a very diverse population of South African blacks and coloureds, Zimbabweans, Nigerians, Somalians, and even some white families.

Source: (http://www.izizweprojects.co.za/about/walmer-township/)
History of Walmer Township
Relationship with the Surroundings

Site and Surrounds
Relationship with the Surroundings

Site and Surrounds
Relationship with the Surroundings

Site and Surrounds
Relationship with the Surroundings

NORTH
Relationship with the Surroundings

WEST
Relationship with the Surroundings

SOUTH
Relationship with the Surroundings

EAST
Features of the Site
Features of the Site – Residential Street
Features of the Site – Residential Street
Features of the Site – Selfbuild Character
Features of the Site – Selfbuild Character
Features of the Site – Barriers on Site
Features of the Site – Barriers on Site
Features of the Site – Industrial Edge