

Special issue Town and Regional Planning

Call for papers

Urban Design in South Africa

Urban Design in South Africa has, both as an active professional activity and as a distinct theoretical construct, a short as well as a long history. Furthermore, in the constant making and re-making of the country's urban and rural physical built environment it also has a tenuous and 'weak' presence.

Urban Design as an academic and professional pursuit was only relatively recently introduced into tertiary education while the process of formalizing urban design as a profession is even more recent. As a profession it really has neither statutory definition nor protection in South Africa. It is not too long ago that some form of professional organization of urban designers in South Africa has started with the formation of the Urban Design Institute of South Africa (UDISA). For the first time ever, there is now a professional body that can promote and possibly define what urban design as a professional activity is supposed to do as well as to give some definition of what can be expected from individuals who are doing this work for remuneration. With the recent introduction of the Roelof Uytendogaardt Memorial Lecture & Exhibition by UDISA where urban designers seen by their peers to be making a leading contribution could give public account of their work, another measure of the possible definition of urban design in the country has been created. In a similar manner, could the Urban Design Workshops/Conferences that has been organized by the Universities of the Witwatersrand and Pretoria as well as UDISA in recent times give some indication of the direction and the characteristics of the discipline in the country.

It is only for approximately 40 years that the Universities of Cape Town and the Witwatersrand had relatively small post graduate programmes in Urban Design. These programmes produced a steady but small numbers of graduates. Some of those remained in South Africa while many emigrated. The country also has a small number of urban designers who received their training outside of the country. It might also not be too difficult to argue that the impetus and curriculum of these post graduate programmes were mainly underpinned by the nature of similar courses in the United States of America and the United Kingdom. In these countries the modern incarnation of the urban design professional has a longer history and possibly a more defined role to play. When local curricula is then possibly largely based on these models, the question needs to be posed of what the distinctive character can be of the South African urban design theory and praxis.

Before the advent of the recent professional urban design discourse and praxis in South Africa, there is also a long history of very successful and possibly internationally important urban design examples in the country that can assist in pointing towards appropriate spatial models and precedent in dealing with our current pattern of problems and developmental needs.

Outside of whatever formal definition and role the professional and pre-meditated act of urban design can be given, it can be said that the design of urban space always occur in the daily making of the 'normal' and more informal world. This is an urban environment created with sometimes much more potency and meaning and with real direct consequences for our daily existence. This reality could also point to a desired or necessary limitation of the role of professional urban design or it could point to a lack of understanding of the possible benefits that urban design could have for the majority of the population. However, it points to the fact that urban design should have clear boundaries in order to unleash the greater potential of the informal where the daily processes of action and reaction can create an environment of becoming, cultural richness and contradiction.

We hereby invite you to submit a paper for consideration in a special issue of *Town and Regional Planning*, focussing on:

Urban Design in South Africa

Possible themes include, but are not limited to:

- The origins and future possibilities of Urban Design in the country.
- The special characteristics of the theory of Urban Design in the country.
- The practice of Urban Design.
- The role of Urban Design in Public Authorities
- The uses of Urban Design in private development.

Please submit your draft paper by 28 February 2018.

Papers will be double blind peer reviewed.

The outcome thereof will be communicated to authors during **June 2018**, where after the publication process will commence.

[TOWN AND REGIONAL PLANNING IS A DHET ACCREDITED JOURNAL]

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS OF ACADEMIC AND SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

- Town and Regional Planning publishes articles in Afrikaans or English or any other official language. The desired length for an article is between 4 000 and 8 000 words, double-spaced in third person.
- A copy of the typed article must be submitted (authors keep the original) in electronic format (MS Word) forwarded via email (see address at bottom). The format must be kept as plain as possible for extracting and printing purposes.
- The Editor reserves the right to alter articles where necessary with regard to the style and presentation to bring it in line with the journal. If the referees propose large-scale changes, the article will be returned to the author for alterations.
- Copyright is transferred to Town and Regional Planning when an article is accepted for publication.
- Titles must be short and concise, but informative. Supply suitable headings and sub-headings where necessary. Titles must be provided in both Afrikaans and English. The Editorial Staff can be of assistance here.
- Short summaries of no more than 150 words in English and Afrikaans, must be provided at the beginning of the article. (By choice also in any other official language, except if other arrangements were made with the editor).
- For sections and subsections use Arabic numbers with full stops in-between, i.e. 1. Followed by 1.1 and 1.1.1 up to the maximum of three levels. After that use an (a).
- Source references in the text must be in the Harvard style of referencing, i.e. (Healey, 1996: 201-202).
- Footnotes must also be in the Harvard style of referencing and be included at the bottom of the page (or at the end of the article).
- The references list (in the Harvard style of referencing) must contain all the relevant information, and be listed alphabetically according to the names of the authors, i.e. HEALEY, P. 1997. Collaborative planning. London: McGraw-Hill.
- Abbreviations must be limited and only used for corporations etc. in general use, then only after it was written out in full at first, with the abbreviation in brackets. After this the abbreviated form is used.
- Words in other languages and stereotyped Latin terms such as per se must be in italics. Italics must be used sparsely. Emphasis must be in single inverted commas.
- Diagrams, maps and photos must preferably be provided in Tif or Jpeg format, 300dpi resolution on separate pages to simplify scanning. Computer graphics are welcome, but must also be provided camera-ready on A4 paper. Clearly legible text and markings is a must.
- Details concerning the origin of the article must be indicated, i.e. if it was presented at a congress. An article will only be referred to the panel of referees if the author clearly states that it has not been submitted to other journals for publication.
- It is editorial policy to use a double-blind refereeing system, therefore the author's name/address should not appear anywhere on the paper including on the cover page. Authors may submit the names and addresses of three persons (not members at own place of work) who might be qualified adjudicators. If possible one of the proposed experts will be asked to act as a referee.
- Authors will each receive two complimentary copies of the edition of the relevant number of the journal.
- The article must contain the title, qualifications and affiliation of the author(s). The address, telephone number, facsimile and e-mail address must also be provided, for easy accessibility.
- Note that a publication fee of R200 per A4 page (as set in the journal) is payable for every article published.
- Articles may be forwarded to: The Editor, Town and Regional Planning, The University of the Free State, E-mail addresses: trp@ufs.ac.za / paul.kotze@wits.ac.za (Please state **Special Edition UDSA** in the title of the e-mail)