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Marlene Wagner studied Architecture at the Vienna University of Technology and is practicing and researching between Austria and South Africa on alternative spatial strategies and collective process in areas weak on formal structures.

She is a part-time lecturer at the Carinthia University of Applied Science and has been invited internationally for conferences, teaching assignments and workshops. (SA, USA, UK, GER, IT, CH). Her research has been recognised and published through scholarships from the Vienna University of Technology, Archidploma 2011, the Archiprix Hounter Douglas Awards or the Documentation and Cooperation Centre Southern Africa.

Her practice, the NPO for Architecture and Development buildCollective, is implementing educational facilities, communal space and technical infrastructure in collaboration with diverse stakeholders like Universities, NGOs, Users and Inhabitants of disadvantaged areas in South Africa. Focus thereby is not the product but overall process from resources and set up to occupancy and maintenance. Developing long-term strategies of knowledge production, ecological and affordable self-building, socio-economic management and cultural exchange between North and South. Work has been featured recently in the publication *Afritecture: Building Social Change* and in the exhibition *Think Global Build Social* (DAM, AZW). mwagner@buildcollective.net, www.buildcollective.net

A PLACE UNDER THE SUN FOR EVERYONE - Basis for planning through the analysis of formal and non-formal space practice, Cosmo City Johannesburg
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keywords

human settlements, space practices, semi-formal planning

abstract

*In consequence of its political past, **South Africa** has a strong socio-cultural practice of heteronymous and self – determined exclusion through behaviour settings and scripts, which, as of Martina Löw, inhibit the interaction with other milieus. Integrative urban design and adequate architecture are therefore primarily a question of perception and shared experience, which can further develop a common vocabulary. The systematic knowledge on gender-, culture- and class- specific institutionalized spaces and their constituted form, enable the creation of new strategies for a built environment of collectively created fields within the plural spheres. (Tessin, 2004)*

*The **showcase-housing project and field of research, Cosmo City** in Johannesburg, is aimed at satisfying the constitutional right to adequate housing for all South Africans and simultaneously addressing the integration and interaction between different income classes. The satellite-town offers remarkable potential – on the one hand to observe and document top down planned strategies of the **South African Human Settlements program**. On the other hand, to analyse the unplanned or rather **non-formal spatial bottom up processes** of its inhabitants.*

*In the study – **A place under the sun for everyone**, we learn to read spatial configuration and the behavioural patterns assigned to them in an unfamiliar cultural context and milieu. Focus of the research was put on strategies of occupation and integration in the satellite-town Cosmo City and its inhabitants resettled from the informal settlements Zevenfontein and Riverbend.*

*The acquisition of a basic **vocabulary of formal and non-formal interventions in the built environment** - Levels of Alteration, Separation, Security and Service in private and public space - serve the purpose of identifying recurring patterns, which can be categorized into typologies by correlating interpretation of size, form and function.*

The translation into graphical language and the placing of spatial interventions and generated typologies of attractors in Google Earth, enables the analysis in different scale and time. The three-dimensional information on morphology, different dynamics of the housing area, relations, connection, array and dependency of occupancy serve identification of potential/challenging spaces of development and spatial trends in the settlement.

By creating a polylog integrating non-formal infrastructure, income strategies and spatial needs, as well as requirements from government, developers and contractors, this basis for planning serves as an example of semi-formal regulations as responsive strategies for continuously modifying systems.