Planning For Uncertain Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

May 26th, 2011
School Of Architecture And Planning
Faculty Of Engineering And The Built Environment
University Of The Witwatersrand
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

Today, there are divergent approaches to building schools of architecture and planning – especially related to social equity, sustainability, infrastructure development, and community protection from hazards (increasingly related to global change).
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative and Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

My approach centres on expanded conversations around site planning, better integrating a wide range of scales, combined with interdisciplinary research methods including more science, critical social theory, and political economy.
Architecture and planning create, maintain, and reconstruct (and can even undermine) various kinds of infrastructure – and notions of infrastructure are expanding.
Planning For Uncertain Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative and Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

“Site planning” includes concerns for built and ‘unbuilt’ space & a wide range of design, planning, and policy-related interventions and practices for communities.
Engagement in scales can span 1:500 to singular, built structures and outdoor sites to neighbourhood texture to regional policy (>1:50,000) and implementation.
There are emerging design and planning challenges requiring new expertise and educational offerings.
With these pressures, what are some implications for architecture and planning schools and a reinvigorated engagement in social programming, spatial planning, and interdisciplinarity?
Designs For Uncertain Times: 
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

- social equity?
- community development?
- innovation?
- risk management?
- sustainability?

Degrees offered (subject to change):
- Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS) 3 year undergraduate degree
- Bachelor of Architectural Studies Honours follows BAS - a one year honours degree after a year of practical experience
- Master of Architecture Professional - a one year Masters degree by coursework? full professional degree
- Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning (BScURP) first 3 year degree
- Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Honours follows BScURP - one year degree? full professional degree
- Master of Science in Development Planning - two year full professional degree following undergraduate first degree
- Master of Science in Housing - 16 month degree following four year undergraduate degree
- Master of Urban Design by coursework
- Masters degrees by research
- Doctor of Philosophy

offered in the Wits School of Architecture & Planning
Designs For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

What are the implications for the School's institutional relationships within in the University and in Southern Africa?

social equity? community development? innovation? risk management? sustainability?

2006 Wits strategy
Designs For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

What are the implications for programme management in Schools such as at Wits where new educational needs coincide with those for defending and expanding older curriculum?
What are the regional needs for site planning that better links design, spatial decision-making, and community development practices in order to develop community infrastructure?
Designs For Uncertain Times: 
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa
Before I offer the School at Wits some recommendations, I want to review with you my most formative educational institutional experience – and its constraints.
I spent much of my life for twenty years in and around Wurster Hall, the College of Environmental Design of the University of California, Berkeley, and left as a retrofit preoccupied the work there for a good part of a decade. The Wurster story can be seen as a metaphor for the new centrality of site planning in architecture, broader environmental design, and community development.
THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

ON THE NOMINATION OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL OF THE BERKELEY DIVISION HAVE CONFERRED UPON GORDON BRENT INGRAM HAVING DEMONSTRATED ABILITY BY ORIGINAL RESEARCH IN ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY WITH ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES THERETO PERTAINING GIVEN AT BERKELEY THIS TWENTY-THIRD DAY OF MAY IN THE YEAR NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINE

GEORGE DENMAN PRESIDENT OF THE REGENTS

MAYOR WEIMAN PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

MICHAEL HINMAN CHANCELLOR AT BERKELEY

JOSEPH CERNO PROVOST AND DEAN OF THE GRADUATE DIVISION AT BERKELEY
Between 2000 and 2002 Wurster Hall, home of the College of Environmental Design, is undergoing a $26 million seismic retrofit. In these images you can see the conversion of the building’s courtyard into a construction staging area and the addition of a construction elevator to the north tower. (Canon 24-mm, May 2000)
This interesting and sometimes beautiful, modernist (‘brut’) building was designed with inadequate site assessment and was built on a major earthquake fault.

**Problem Statement**

At a time of unprecedented global change, architecture and planning around the globe is under pressure to be both more effective and comprehensive for social equity and sustainability as well as being more proactive to minimize risks of hazards to communities.
Problem Statement

How can we better educate architects and planners for critical and proactive site planning that while highly spatial, fully engages with community development policy and practices?
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

To develop educational strategies, we can explore pressures driving a shift to better assess spatial and biophysical aspects of sites for community survival.
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

All of the 20th Century preoccupations of landscape architecture and heritage conservation, around protection of environmental amenities, continue to be relevant.
The pressures to equitably respond to the needs of shifting arrays of social groups continue to intensify – especially for informal settlements and public space.
Planning For Uncertain Times: 
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

Now, three emergent, 21st Century trends are driving the refocusing of architecture and community development back on to site planning.
Planning For Uncertain Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative &
Sustainable, Architecture and
Community Development for Southern Africa

1. Contemporary aesthetics have diversified with much of today’s site-based art weak on site planning – providing inspiration but few examples for communities.
In this vacuum, architecture, urban design, and planning are under pressure to better deliver on a growing array of environmental standards.
For sustainability initiatives to be implemented, site planning that integrates higher levels of research, cognizance, auditing, and monitoring is necessary.
3. Expanding conversations on hazards prevention drive new kinds of research and design that re-examine conventional knowledge of stakeholders and local environments.
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

What new kinds of knowledge are necessary for southern African architects and planners in order to respond to these persisting and emergent challenges?
I begin to outline a list of expanded and additional kinds of education desirable in schools spanning architecture, planning and development policy.
Planning For Uncertain Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

Some contests and projects where new research methods for innovative site planning are needed -- especially that contribute to sustainability.
Vancouver &
the Pacific Northwest Urban Corridor
The Vancouver Peninsula has some of the highest populations densities and greatest disparities of wealth, consumption, health, and security per square km in Canada.
Design & Planning for Green Roofs
Vancouver’s first formally planned and permitted green roof combined with housing
some relevant research & design approaches:
✓ roof engineering typologies;
✓ roof retrofitting typologies, best practices and standards;
✓ water and soil management technologies;
✓ sources and provenances of plant material and documentation related to local environments, microclimates and sites;
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

✓ agro-ecosystems: ‘permaculture’ versus annual-crop driven production (and in between)
✓ container gardening movements & cultures; garden aesthetics and ‘multiculturalism’;
✓ ecosystem management and (human) organizational development models for green roofs;
✓ pest management; and
✓ urban planning strategies and typologies especially related to responsibilities and covenants.
Planning, Designing & Developing Entire Sustainable Neighborhoods
Planning For Uncertain Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

Revisiting ‘Vancouvererism’

(and what is so sustainable about towers in Vancouver?)

Arthur Erickson 1955 Proposal for the redevelopment of the West End of Vancouver from the January 2010, Vancouvererism exhibit
The term ‘Vancouverism’ was first used widely in a 2005 article in the New York Times.

“The surrounding 40-acre area, much of it opened up after highways damaged in the 1989 earthquake were demolished, is to become San Francisco’s most densely populated neighborhood, based on a planning model known as Vancouverism. Named after the city in British Columbia, Vancouverism is characterized by tall, but widely separated, slender towers interspersed with low-rise buildings, public spaces, small parks and pedestrian-friendly streetscapes and facades to minimize the impact of a high-density population.”

---

“The problem of our inability to truly understand the city can be summed up in a sole name: Vancouver. A peaceful Canadian city, which has become the model, in the absence of others, of the more or less correct city, more or less friendly...” Rem Koolhaas 2009①

Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

some conversations not part of Vancouverism
from shangri-la to shangri-la, 2010, Vancouver by Ken Lum
some conversations not part of Vancouverism
last day of Digital Natives billboard project, Snaaq, Vancouver
1 May 2011
Planning For Uncertain Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

some conversations not part of Vancouverism
How do these towers actually contribute to sustainability if they do at all?
Vancouver’s Olympic Village in the months before its completion in early 2010. This new neighbourhood is the largest single sustainability project so far seen in North America involving $500 to $700 million of public and private financing. With falling sales and prices, the City of Vancouver could lose $200 to $300 million of taxpayer money – putting other city programs and infrastructure at risk for a decade or more.
some conversations not part of Vancouverism
What are some viable financing models for community development?
The Vancouver mayor rode into office on a wave of public anger over the city’s involvement in the massive Olympic Village project. Yet he could very well be punished at the polls himself in a year’s time if taxpayers decide once again to vent their anger over the issue.

The saga surrounding the City of Vancouver’s involvement in the former Olympic athletes village, now a condominium project, has been an unmitigated disaster.

To be fair, Mr. Robertson inherited this mess and is doing his best to clean it up. On Thursday, he went public with where things stand and confirmed that the city will go after the assets of the developer — Millennium Development Corp. — if need be to protect taxpayer dollars.

What Mr. Robertson didn’t say, because he can’t, is that he is sitting on a property appraisal of the Olympic Village that is grotesquely ugly. Here is the picture: Millennium owes the city $731-million, which includes $170-million for the land on which the project was built. Currently, according to the appraisal the city commissioned, the project isn’t worth anything near that.
Not surprisingly, no one around City Hall wants to talk about underwater mortgages. But I’m reliably informed that the gap between what Millennium owes and what the property is worth today is somewhere between $150-million and $200-million.

City goes after assets of Games developer
FRANCIS BULA
VANCOUVER— Special to Globe and Mail Update Published Thursday, Sep. 30, 2010 6:50PM EDT Last updated Friday, Oct. 01, 2010 12:55AM EDT

150 comments

CANADA: OUR TIME TO LEAD.
B DISCUSSIONS WE NEED TO HAVE.

Vancouver is taking aggressive action to secure the corporate and personal assets worldwide of the Olympic village’s private developer after acknowledging that the developer did not pay the full amount of its first $200-million loan payment to the city.

Although he scrupulously avoided the word “default,” Mayor Gregor Robertson said on Thursday that Millennium Development Corp. paid only $192-million of the first payment due on Aug. 31 and that its failure to come up with the other $8-million through some means other than village condo sales – admittedly sluggish for many reasons – is a serious concern.
Should the very poor share neighbourhoods with the very rich?

FRANCES BULA

VANCOUVER— From Wednesday's Globe and Mail
Published Tuesday, Oct. 05, 2010 10:50PM EDT
Last updated Wednesday, Oct. 06, 2010 11:54PM EDT

Very poor people shouldn’t be mixed with very rich people at the Olympic village or it will affect the price of the still-unsold condos – and eventually hurt taxpayers.

That’s the provocative point of view that a well-known Vancouver development consultant and onetime council candidate has been airing in interviews and blogging.
some relevant research & design approaches:
✓ local vernaculars & community design histories;
✓ urban design reviews;
✓ certification programs (building on LEED and Sustainable Landscapes) and more supple sustainability indicators and milestones;
✓ sustainability auditing (over time); and
✓ diversifying financing models and heightened standards for due diligence
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

✓ urban land economics and political economy;
✓ technology assessment and management and maintenance for sustainability technologies;
✓ assessment of technologies and materials in terms of local conditions and climate and global change;
✓ organizational and community development related to large residential developments;
✓ ecosystem management (including for public space, open space and green roofs); and
✓ retrofitting design and reconstruction
Urban environmental history, public art & cultural infrastructure for neighborhood development
False Creek, Vancouver
Lookout (2001) by Kristos Dikeakos and Noel Best
Köbberling & Kaltwasser 2010 *The Games are Open* – adjacent to the Olympic Village Neighborhood. There are some serious problems with the site-planning. The binder in the recycled wheat board, which consists of 6% of the total mass, is MDI which will flow into and degrade the adjacent habitat restoration areas particularly because of the asphalt underneath the piece recently laid by the artists.
The public art site (central) with Olympic Village (east) and habitat restoration area east and north (circa late-2009)
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

**some relevant research & design approaches:**

- research on the environmental impacts of materials;
- environmental impact assessment for site-based art;
- documentation of development, review, and permitting of site-based works;
- design and construction documentation;
- broader and more critical local histories;
- teaching biology, ecology, and scientific methods in art and design schools; and
- revisiting ‘landart’ theory and art that intervenes in ecosystems
Regional Ecosystem Recovery Strategies & Site Planning Spanning Rural and Urban Areas
entire range of Garry Oak Ecosystems

areas with Northern Garry Oak Ecosystems
Urban and landscape design and land use planning, as part of ecosystem recovery strategies, requires in-depth stakeholder analysis. Few designers and planners, and even fewer biologists, are prepared in their educations for the necessary levels of social science and critical theory.
Conservation planning circa 1980, Mount Maxwell, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia
Planning For Uncertain Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

some relevant research & design approaches:
✓ spatial planning from 1:50 to 1: 5,000; for critical habitat and vulnerable species (and densifying urban and suburban communities);
✓ site based, environmental impact assessment;
✓ landscape ecology and ecosystem management;
✓ ethnography, environmental histories, and cultural landscapes;
✓ community education and participation;
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

✓ traditional knowledge;
✓ stakeholder analysis;
✓ legal history and case law;
✓ control of invasive species;
✓ ecosystem recovery strategies and typologies;
✓ governance and integration of frameworks of site planning for both environmental conservation and community development; and
✓ models for linking community economic development with environmental conservation
Community planning and design initiated by indigenous & tribal communities
Much of my work has involved exploring the implications of the expanding rights of indigenous and other tribal communities to *free, prior and informed consent* over development and decisions affecting their lands to urban design and land use planning and design as part of community development.
Stelly’s X Road centre from left to right (west to east) with Tsartlip Indian Reserve to the north (upper) and Brentwood Bay, British Columbia bottom half (south-eastern Vancouver Island)
Council of the Haida Nation
Protected Areas

Areas are in approximate hectares

Qanuu Gandll - 80
Qanuu - 290
Kumdis Slough - 1,340
Tsuuguus Gandll - 1,700
Jinanga - 1,790
Qaydgyuwaaw-Qaysun - 2,180
Kunxalaas - 2,780
Gawii Gawagaay - 3,650
Nang Xaldangaas - 5,620
site of a former long-house, ‘Bad-Talk-Town, Dolomite Narrows, Burnaby Island, Gwaii Haanas, Haida Gwaii
some relevant research & design approaches:

✓ modern histories;
✓ traditional ethnographies extending to language;
✓ governance theory and co-management and joint management theory;
✓ ethnographies of local cultures, vernaculars and architectures;
✓ demographics & public health trends; and
✓ development models combining tourism and conservation
Stakeholder Analysis: Sexual Minorities, Public Space, and Community Development

Homomonumenten, Amsterdam
Here’s the Pub, Church and Field for Public Sex

A mat used by people having sex in a field adjacent to the lay-by on the A31 next to the village of Puttenham.

By SARAH LYALL
Published: October 7, 2010
open space along English Bay on the edge of Stanley Park, Vancouver - an area of conflict between the police and gay men in the 1970s
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BEACH INSTRUCTIONS</th>
<th>ملاحظات شاطئية</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do Not Dive After Sunrise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do Not Dive At Low Tide In Shallow Waters</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do Not Dive In Areas Of Currents Or Out Of Sight Of The Beach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be Responsible For Your Own Safety And The Safety Of Those Accompanying You</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park In Dune Area &amp; Secure Your Car &amp; Do Not Leave Stuff In The Area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please Keep The Beach Clean &amp; Leave No Litter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Entry Allowed To The Beach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Barbecues Or Smoking Prohibited On The Beach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Administration Is Not Responsible For Any Damage Incurred To Your Property</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal Action Will Be Taken For Any Breach Of The Above Instructions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thank you**

---

*Swim with caution when yellow flag is raised*
Reinstating Transgression Conference

REINSTATING TRANSGRESSION: EMERGING POLITICAL ECONOMIES OF QUEER SPACE

CONFERENCE GOALS

Mindful of the conference commitment to build tighter connections between political economy, queer theory, and studies of sexual and spatial transgression, presentations and discussions at "Reinstating Transgression" will use case studies of neighbourhoods and broader metropolitan areas to address two general themes:

- When and why are certain groups and individuals tolerated, often only as exceptions, while others are reconfirmed as deviant, and often made abject, re-marginalized by the state often through less overly repressive means?

- How are more privileged and better-protected strata of sexual minorities competing with and sometimes being used by other local interests, and by aspects of state authority, in conflict with more vulnerable social groups, e.g the impoverished, the disabled, migrants and natives?

WHEN/WHERE

April 17-18, 2010
American University,
Washington, DC
(Conjoined with the annual
Lavender Languages & Linguistics
Conference, April 16-17)

SUBMIT ABSTRACTS

Please submit abstracts for conference presentations to Gordon Brent Ingram by March 15:
studio@gordonbrentingram.ca

(Available for download)
Conference Program
Conference Abstracts
Confirmed Contributors
Planning For Uncertain Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

some relevant research & design approaches:
✓ cultural studies & critical social theory around gender, sexual minorities, and public space (and language and other ethnic groups);
✓ legal studies especially around both policing and design interventions in public space;
✓ stakeholder analysis;
✓ design programming for strategic and symbolic social sites;
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

- crime analysis including violence and vandalism; demographics & public health trends;
- urban planning and design theory for public space related to decision-making and political economy
- cultural studies & critical social theory especially around formal and informal interventions involving designers and policing; and
- demographics & public health trends
Image, text & ideology in the public open spaces of Rome

Piazza Della Rotonda
Designs For Planning Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

some relevant research & design processes:
✓ cultural studies & critical social theory especially around sense of place and tourism;
✓ street art and public art;
✓ policing of public space;
✓ restoration and control of vandalism;
✓ public communication venues in open space & urban design (and stakeholder analysis); and
✓ design programming and local resident decision-making around public space.
The Sahel region of West Africa

Designs For Planning Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

Agades, Niger
The Sahel region of West Africa: Vernacular and design adaptations to desertification
some relevant research & design approaches:

✓ ethnographies and environmental histories;
✓ studies of local vernacular designs and sustainability practices;
✓ demographics & public health trends;
✓ contemporary responses to changing environments; and
✓ cultural theory around innovation in tribal societies.
Designs For Planning Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

The Arabian / Persian Gulf Region
Dubai

Hajar Mountains which are mostly in Oman
Dubai: Conservation of Heritage Neighborhoods & Ecological Infrastructure
The contrasting treatments of two of the older neighborhoods of Dubai, Bastakaya and Satwa, illustrates the tremendous pressures to discard traditional ecological (and social) infrastructure in favor of volatile global relationships.

Al Bastakaya
Misfat Al A'biyyeen, Hajar Mountains, Oman – A high-density community that has proudly maintained traditional sustainability infrastructure and related knowledge.
some research topics & design processes:

✓ local building and urban vernaculars and older resource conservation (sustainability) practices;
✓ historical and contemporary design and planning frameworks;
✓ cultural studies and history;
✓ analysis of social use of public (and private) space; and
✓ a governance theory and political economy for informal, illegal, and immigrant neighbourhoods.
The Gulf Region: Environmental Planning & Design For Conflicted Jurisdictions

Dibba on the disputed border of Oman and the United Arab Emirates
Makbarat al Sahabi, a historic battlefield and cemetery straddling the border of the United Arab Emirates and Oman, is of considerable significance in the history of the early years of the spread of the Islamic faith.
Designs For Planning Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

With the lack of a framework to share decisions between the local governments of the sheikhdoms of the United Arab Emirates and the Sultantate of Oman, especially to discuss divergent views on the significance of religious sites, the integrity of the *Makbarat al Sahabi* historical landscape was recently compromised with the development of a large spa.
some relevant research & design approaches:

- environmental impact assessment and site planning;
- heritage landscape conservation theory and precedents;
- local religious and cultural history;
- political and jurisdictional history; and
- contemporary governance and decision-making frameworks (and religious dynamics) especially related to disputed borders
South Asia
Conservation of heritage landscapes and forest, Salt Range, Punjab, Pakistan

Salt Range, north-western Punjab Province, Pakistan (lower half of satellite image) squeezed between two ‘megacities’: Lahore(-Amritsar) and Rawalpindi-Islamabad
Learning from and Restoring Mughal Gardens and Sustainability Practices
The irrigation system of the gardens of Humayan’s Tomb in New Delhi was recently reconstructed by a foundation funded by the Aga Khan Foundation.
Fatehpur Sikri, Uttar Pradesh, the celebrated planned capital of the Mughal Empire that was abandoned after fourteen years.
The former lakebed that was the water source for the city of Fatehpur Sikri. Its drying is one factor in the abandonment of the city.
Designs For Planning Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

some research topics & design processes:
✓ architectural and cultural (and political) history;
✓ forest and landscape ecology;
✓ demographics and sociology (and impacts on communities of heritage conservation);
✓ contemporary frameworks for decision-making for conservation and restoration; and
✓ funding models for conservation and operation of heritage sites
Planning For Uncertain Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative and Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

Towards architectures of sustainability on developing coasts.
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

Island Communities: Community-based development & conservation initiatives
traditional healer also engaged in locally-based land use planning and conservation initiatives, Matatonan, Siberut, Sumatera Barat, Indonesia, 1988

guardian & local administrator, Lake Lavu Conservation Area, Fergusson Island, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea, 1989
some relevant research & design approaches:

✓ island and coastal ecology;
✓ demographics and sociology;
✓ ethnographies of traditional knowledge and local land management and vernacular design practices;
✓ contemporary institutional histories and related law;
✓ community participation models (for planning and design);
✓ governance frameworks and theory;
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

- stakeholder analysis;
- modeling environmental change;
- conservation planning theory (linked to community development theory);
- trade-off analysis;
- planning and design at multiple scales; and
- monitoring and auditing
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

Coastal Communities: Responses to global change & hazard risk
Malé, Maldives
Archipel des Tuamotu, French Polynesia, 19 May, 2010
some relevant research & design approaches:
✓ increasingly diverse kinds of modelling of environmental change (and review of outputs and implications for communities);
✓ modelling for economic and public health risks;
✓ retrofitting architecture and infrastructure;
✓ stakeholder analysis;
✓ trade-off analysis; and
✓ spatial planning and design at multiple scales
Planning For Uncertain Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

Conclusions:
Nurturing innovative research & design for sustainable communities in schools of architecture and planning
The kinds of site planning of landscapes and neighbourhoods necessary for adequately serving communities, including more proactive from hazards and threats to public health, require that architects and planners engage in a wider range of disciplines – and modes of research and design.

March 1964 tsunami damage in Port Alberni, Vancouver Island, British Columbia
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

In these uncertain times, policy, planning, and design are only as effective, in serving needs of housing, public space, and other forms of infrastructure, as the extent of the research and subsequent implementation, construction, and management at the site level.
The crisis ideograph in Mandarin consists of the character for danger followed by that of opportunity as in ‘danger-opportunity’.
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

To belabour the clichés of that celebrated Chinese ideogram for crisis, the individuals who come to Witwatersrand to be considered for the Search for the new Director are presenting various strategies on how to better prepare professionals and scholars to turn intensifying ‘crises’ into ‘opportunities’ for community development and security.
In closing, I want to leave you with an image, that can be used as something of a metaphoric goal for architecture and planning schools for the coming decade – focused on building modest, safe and liveable communities that in this way are sustainable. This vision is a major departure on the recent emphasis on producing ‘starchitects’ and large, iconic buildings.
The Norwegian painter, Edvard Munch is most known for his iconic 1893 painting, *The Scream*. The painting has also become symbolic for the kind of chaos and despair that designers and planners attempt to alleviate and preclude (but that can often prevail in our own offices).
But Munch painted a wider range of experiences. Less than a year before painting *The Scream*, he portrayed a far different vision in *Kiss By The Window*. The neighbourhood of *Kiss By the Window* is safe, communitarian, and allows for an array of private and public space. But that ‘space’ was probably not so affluent in terms of most privileged sectors of today’s global consumer society. For me, this vision could represent goals for southern African architecture and planning for community development.
Edvard Munch, Kiss by the Window, 1892
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

In the coming years, these kinds of modest goals for community, prosperity, and liveability will be as central to designs for sustainable communities as new technologies and expensive and supposedly iconic, ‘public-private’ developments that in turn warrant increasing scrutiny.
Planning For Uncertain Times: Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

Sites related to this work.
www.gordonbrentingram.ca/
www.gordonbrentingram.ca/scholarship
www.gordonbrentingram.ca/studiesdesigns
www.gordonbrentingram.ca/theterminalcity
www.gordonbrentingram.ca/sahel
Planning For Uncertain Times:
Fostering Higher Education for Innovative & Sustainable, Architecture and Community Development for Southern Africa

This presentation is posted at www.gordonbrentingram.ca.

email: studio@gordonbrentingram.ca