

SIX-DAC

Spatial Interaction

Design in African

Cities.



DESIGN•SOCIETY•DEVELOPMENT



**University of Johannesburg - FADA
Design Society Development
South Africa**
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Promoter(s).

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Funder(s).

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Context.

The rapid urbanisation of African populations across the continent has disrupted not only traditional life but also notions of the ‘city’ inherited by colonial legacy. Emerging African mega-cities are often characterised by inequality, poverty and scarcity, as well as innovation, ingenuity and vibrancy.

Complimenting a global focus on city-making, civic rights and human-centric technology and systems, the SIX-DAC project seeks to explore these concepts, from a uniquely African perspective.



The project.

In this project, researchers and designers involved in the DSD DESIS Lab and partner organisations explore a variety of aspects related to spatial and interactive design in urban African contexts.

Primary objectives of SIX-DAC include:

- Exploring the characteristics, tensions and benefits of integrating spatial and performative-orientated design theory and practice in order to establish a conceptual framework for future work.
- Employing participatory modes of engagement in order to collectively and civically participate in remaking the city
- To better understand the notion of an afro-centric production of space/place and the subsequent enabling of related activities and environments through meaningful design interventions.



Sub-projects.

Sub-projects under the situated technology project include:

- **Codes of Engagement Workshop series**
- **Co-design of blended spaces in urban South African contexts. Phd Research through Design project.**
- **Co-designing the digital library experience with and for small-scale farmers. Masters Research through Design project**
- **Smart Technologies in the Internet of Things. 4th year Industrial and Interaction Design student project**
- **Tlhakantsha Intergrated Student Challenge**
- **Designing With and For Local Communities Student Project**



- Clothing, Social media, Events, Print media, Museums & galleries, The streets, Artworks, Photographs, Food, Cameras & Cellphones.

Instruments

The design process.

A variety of participatory and co-design design research methods within a pragmatic practice-based research paradigm are employed.

Methods are chosen based on their suitability for the intentions of each individual sub-project.

Rules

Activities should not in anyway infringe other peoples human rights.



Community

A thriving neighborhood in the city of Johannesburg, buzzing with millennials, business establishments

For inc

Governance and Policy Making



As an emerging project SIX-DAC is informed through engagement with a number of partners such as One:One (local NGO), RAUM (Sheffield University, Department of Architecture) and the Manchester Leverhume Grant Project: Scaling up participation in urban planning.

Activism and Civic Participation



SIX-DAC sub-projects have a strong emphasis on preparing designers and design students to participate with communities in ethical and impactful ways. Many of our projects include direct participation with community members, organisations and local activists

City and Environmental Planning



Diverse & representative stakeholders

Policy and People

Johannesburg

SIX-DAC envisions bottom-up community driven approaches to urban solutions. This takes place where possible within municipal planning but can also question the validity of such planning

Skill Training and Design Education



PHD Studies

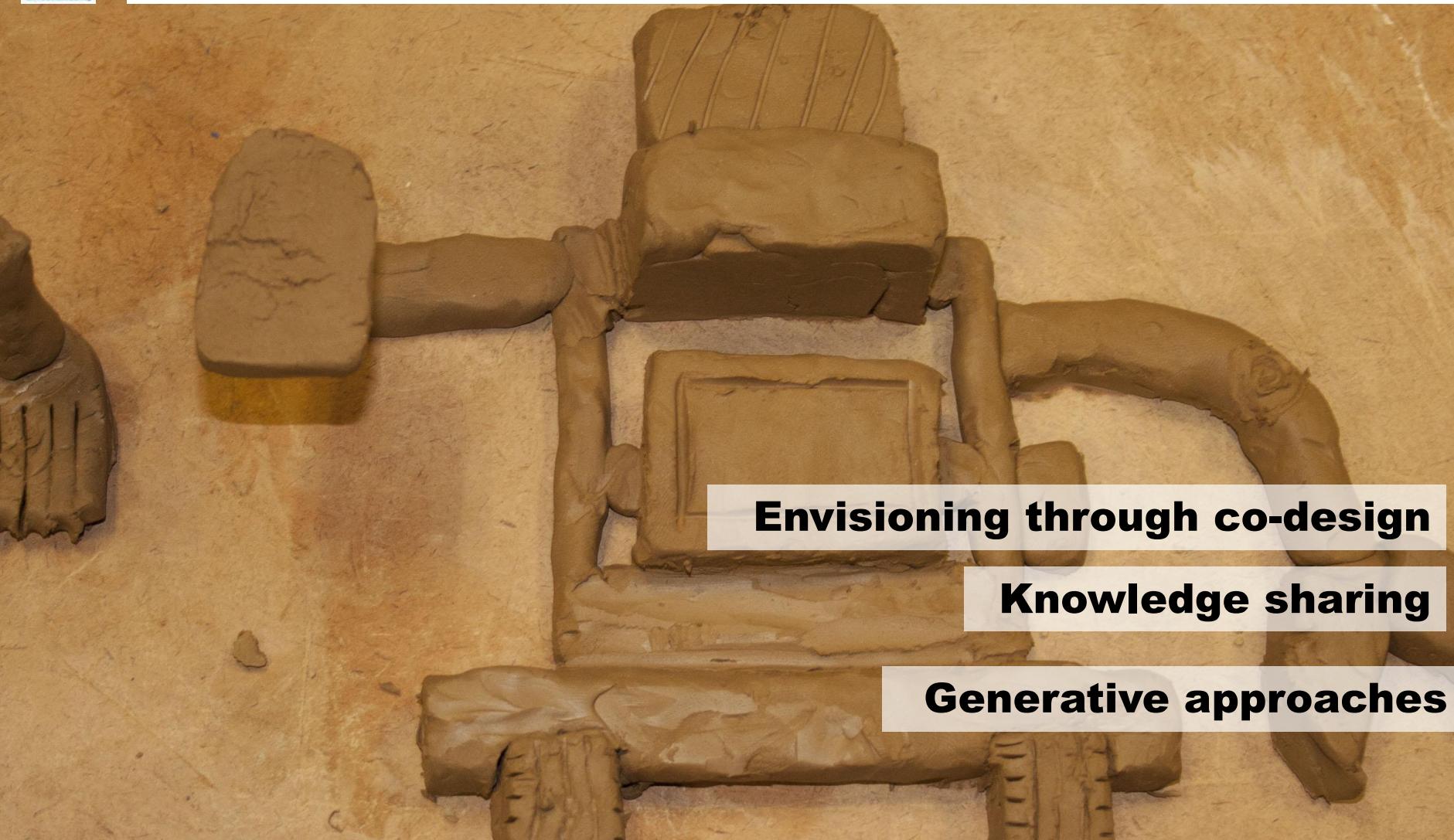
Master Studies

Professional workshops

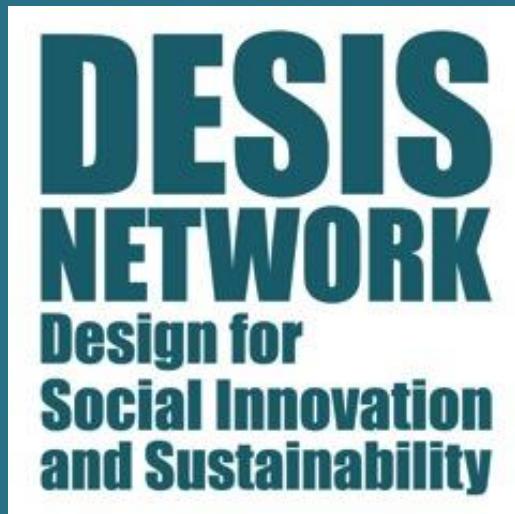
On-the-ground service learning

The current emphasis of SIX-DAC is preparing professional designers, architects and students for engaging with participatory design practices in local communities

Storytelling and Visualisation



Storytelling and conversation provide the opportunity for designers to share their skills and for local experts to help the designers understand contextual realities. Stories, lead to concepts and prototypes, which aim to deeply address the needs and support the motivations of the local partners.



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