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DEGLI STUDI  
DI TORINO



Nelson Mandela  
Metropolitan  
University

# Planning the intangible: urban development and ownership patterns in Red Location

Marta Montanini  
*mamontan@unito.it*

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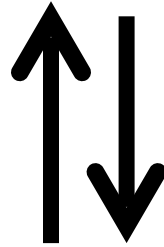


Capacity Building in Higher Education for an Improved cooperation  
between the EU and SA in the field of Development Studies



# **Ownership**

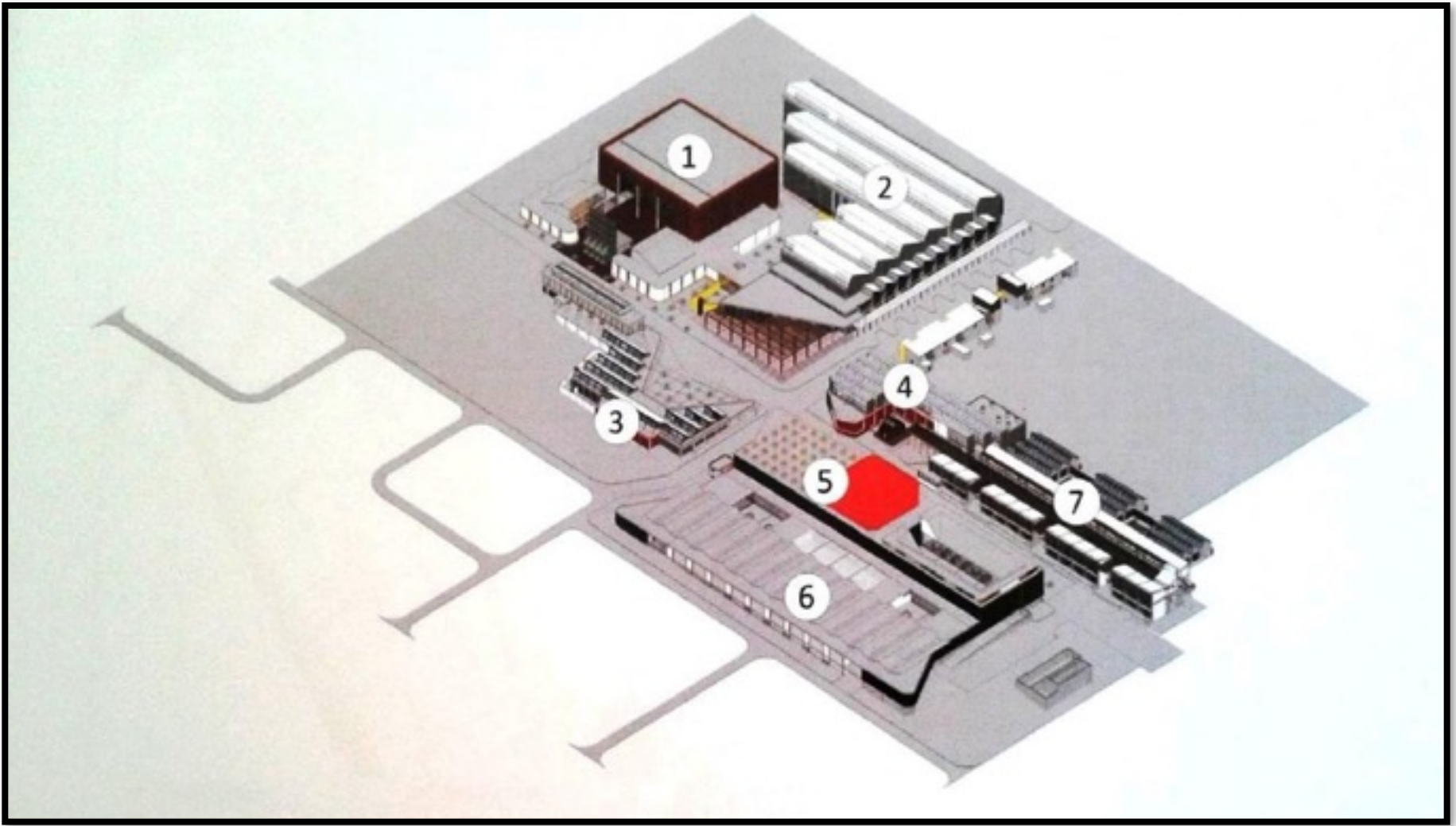
the fact, state or right of possessing something



# **Appropriation**

the action of taking something for one's own  
use

**From *proprius* = *specific, adapted, certain, lasting***



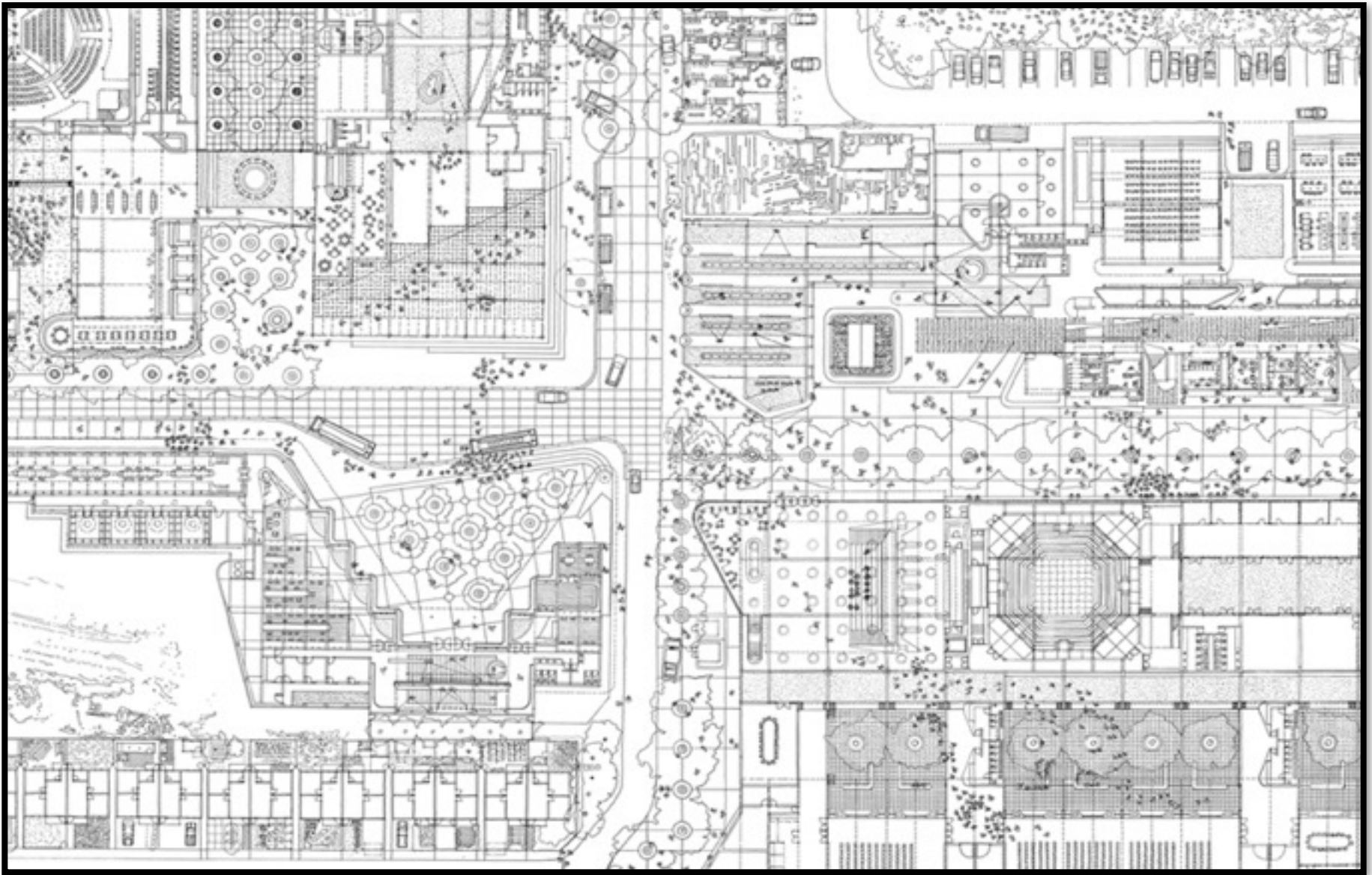
**Red Location Cultural Precinct plan, Noero Architects, 2012**

- 1. 1000 seats theatre**
- 2. Museum of Struggle**
- 3. Library**
- 4. Art Gallery**
- 5. 400 seats theatre**
- 6. Conference venue, movie theatre, council chambers, workshops**
- 7. School of music**



**Four views of Red Location Museum and Cultural Precinct, 2011**

*Source: pictures by Iwan Baan*



***The Transformation of Red Location, Jo Noero, Aaron Factor, David Long, for the Biennale di Venezia, 2012***

*Source: Noero Architects website*

**“When we finish with this project we will create an entirely new South African kind of city center which will be culturally based, where people will live 24 hours per day, and it will be built on probably the poorest side of the city [...] very brave!”**

*Source: Joe Noero, speaking to the Architectural League of New York, 2010*



## Red Location Museum and Cultural Precinct, planned and realised elements

Source: *Developmental study to Maximise the social and economic impact of RLMCP, The Matrix, 2013*

# Seizure of RLMCP



*Notices on the main doors and on the official website of RLM, 2013.*



***“The RLMCP is a magnificent set of buildings but largely superimposed on a community as layers of another reality” (Dorelle Sapere)***



**Red Location, seen from the Red Location Museum and Cultural Precinct, 2012**

*Source: pictures by Iwan Baan*

# Ownership and frictions on the project's space

*Promoters*

Restitution



Cultural tourism



Museum and cultural centre



The city/the map of the future



*Developers and officials*

*Political mandate and influence, ToR of their positions, everyday practices, long and short terms strategies...*

*Residents*

Citizenship



Neighbourhood first



Community center



Trajectories of the present and the past



# Public spaces and place-making



*Social cohesion or  
gentrification?*

*Safety or  
sanitisation?*

*Non-racial spaces  
as neutral  
spaces???*

**More than just space.** Source: Project for Public Spaces, website. Quoted in [saferpaces.org.sa](http://saferpaces.org.sa)

# Conclusions

- Disadvantaged areas are seen as an (empty) ground suitable for field-test towards the making of the new city.
- The matter of symbolical ownership and restitution acts as a smokescreen. It avoids the problem of formal ownership recognition and limits the agency of the residents.
- The *polis* of the future, as one of the outcome of South African transition, is imagined as non-egalitarian but non-contentious.