

NMMU SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

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THE UNSPEAKABLE ARCHITECTURE

ENVIRONMENTAL UPGRADING URBAN MASTER PLAN FOR WESTERN ROAD INCLUDING THE EXTENSION OF THE NELSON MANDELA METROPOLITAN ART MUSEUM COMPLEX IN ST GEORGE'S PARK, PORT ELIZABETH

HISTORICALLY, THIS AREA IS ONE OF THE MORE IMPORTANT SECTIONS OF NELSON MANDELA BAY. IT IS WHERE THE METROPOLITAN AREA HAD ITS BEGINNINGS ON THE COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA. IT IS THEREFORE VERY IMPORTANT FOR URBAN CONSERVATION AND CONSEQUENTLY FOR TOURISM. THE ENTIRE IMAGE OF THE NELSON MANDELA BAY METROPOLE IS CONTAINED IN THIS CENTRAL AREA; IT IS THE "FACE" THAT NELSON MANDELA BAY PRESENTS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD AND WHICH THEREFORE GIVES IT ITS UNIQUE IDENTITY, DISTINGUISHING IT FROM ANY OTHER CITY.

Western Road serves as a vital link between the Donkin Reserve where Route 67 culminates at the Giant Flag and the St George's Park area of Central. The Bird Street precinct, as cultural, academic and legal node within the Central Hill area is also affected by what happens in Western Road. The precinct is also of importance in terms of Built Heritage value and this needs protection and promotion in terms of the South African Heritage Resources Act. The task identified is to therefore develop a comprehensive spatial framework and urban design master plan for the environmental upgrading of Western Road between the Campanile, Belmont Terrace and St George's Park. Opportunities for strengthening the cultural elements should be identified here, in the heart of the Metropolitan Area, possibly over a series of phases of development. These should be informed by the conceptual framework of Route 67 and the investigations done as part of the Belmont Terrace precinct.

Part of this project is to consider ideas for the redevelopment and extension of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Art Museum complex in St George's Park and around the cenotaph.