CAMPUS LABORATORY : URBAN FUTURES CENTRE, DURBAN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

HAPPITECTURE : EXPLORING ZEN, OTHERWHERE AND SPACE DESIGN

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VUSA COLLABORATIVE

Happitecture

Enabling a new starting point for the design of spaces; encouraging people and their romantic and subjective experiences and ideologies to drive solutions:

- Facilitating collaborative, inter-disciplinary planning, centred on people's responses to the quality of spaces and environments (including provocations to define "quality").

- Procedures and systems to guide the realisation of "high quality" or "happy" spaces.

- Spaces and buildings which relate to human responses, dreams and experiences.

Using the Durban University of Technology Campus as a laboratory for the City.

Finding new ways of involving people;
new ways of asking questions;
new ways of capturing unspoken briefs;
new ways of recording, transmitting,
and including …

towards
improving the happiness index of shared spaces
+
applying happitecture

Happitecture Students
Durban University of Technology

- **Facilitating collaborative discussion centred on peopled space and interactive building “quality” (including provocation of students / stakeholders to provide a definition for “quality”).**

- The methodology includes a proactive interview / Q&A procedure, to determine perceptions, emotions and dreams affecting the inter-relationships between buildings, spaces, systems and landscape, which would guide the realisation of “high quality” or “happy” spaces. Videos, poetry, theatre and games could be ways of establishing non-threatening communications designed to extract answers beyond the superficial.

- **Using the results of these personal interactions, to initiate and formulate “Happitecture” as a discipline which guides development of quality spaces and buildings which relate to human responses beyond the physical realm and conventional constraints of science-based norms, and also taps into the mythical and subconscious realm.**

The University as a Laboratory

INTRODUCING HAPPITECTURE

5

references

&

influences

1 sustainability in planning, urban design and architecture

PEOPLE

SUSTAINABILITY

PLACE

VALUE

1

APARTHEID PLANNING

SOCIAL COHESION
BUILDING RESILIENCE
BUILDING PEOPLE

BUILDING THE CITY

PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS .....

2

Asking the right questions
Measuring the right things ….

49 Happynomics

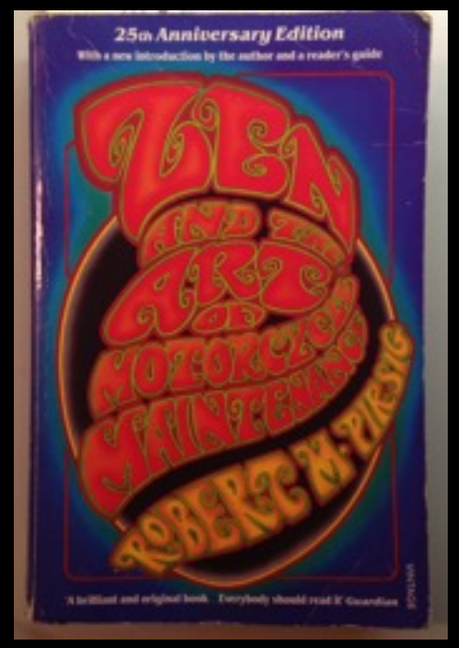
In the 1970s, in the tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, the country's economy was coming under major scrutiny. By most measures – gross domestic product, national income, employment and so on, it was growing sluggishly. So the King of Bhutan did something unusual. He decreed that from then on Bhutan's progress would be measured not against these traditional economic yardsticks but against its Gross National Happiness.

3 MATTERS OF THE SPIRIT AND THE HEART

“What’s wrong with technology is that it’s not connected in any real way with matters of the spirit and the heart. And so it does blind, ugly things quite by accident and gets hated for that…… the solution to the problem isn't that you abandon rationality but that you expand the nature of rationality so that its capable of coming up with a solution…… Newton invented a new form of reason….. What is needed now is a similar expansion of reason to handle technological ugliness. ”

(Pirsig 1999, original 1974)

Zen & the Art of Motorcycle Maintenenance



4 durban precedent

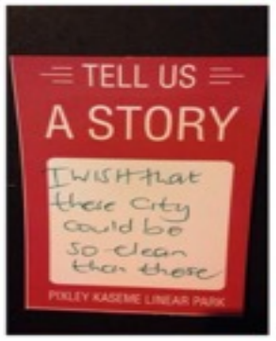
bulwer park
community participation brief

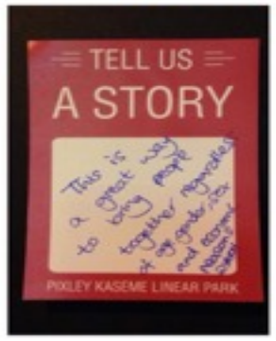
riverTown

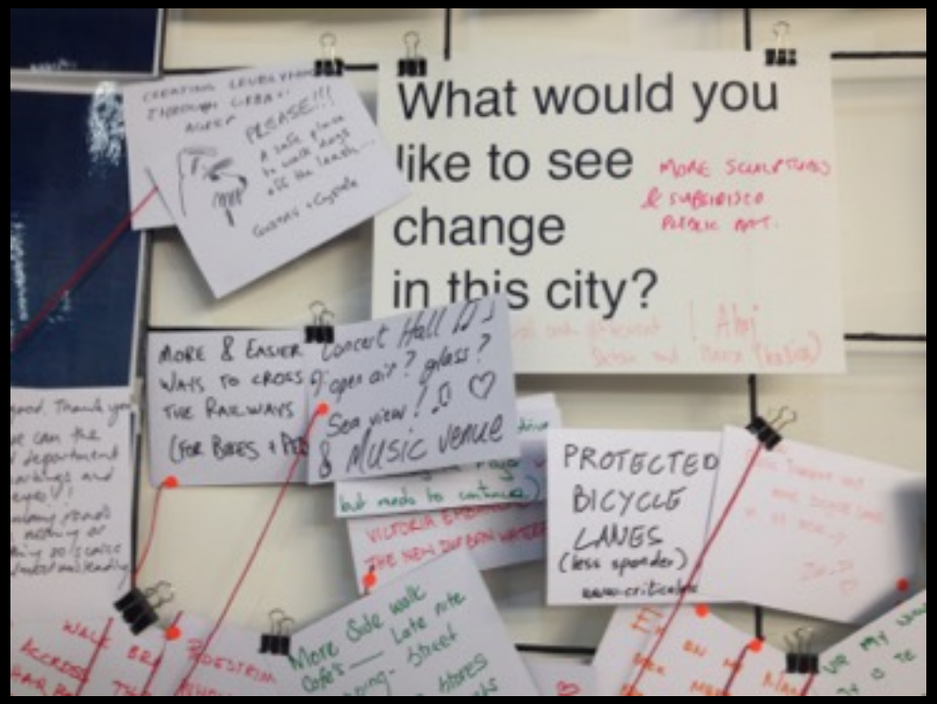
pixley ramblas

5

otherwhere







Happitecture is the embodiment of harmony between place, humanity and ecology, where systems, beliefs and individual emotions are accommodated, leading to community briefs for action…

Create a new starting point for campus design.	Current practice does not provide for campus masterplans to be driven from a subjective standpoint, which prioritises the romantic, mythical and metaphysical factors. Under current practice, if surveys are carried out to inform designs, they represent only a fleeting snapshot, and are generally structured to capture records of objective issues rather than those of an emotional or metaphysical nature.	This study postulates that the Campus HappiMap should form the starting point for campus planning and design. The accumulated real-time and historical opinions, emotional responses, feelings, and facts which are recorded on the mapping system are drilled down and analysed, to generate clear patterns for unhappy areas requiring attention to improve quality, or identifying happy spaces that need to be protected, replicated and expanded.
Promoting collaborative discussion on peopled space and the concept of "quality".	The idea of defining "quality" is central to Robert Persig's questions into our acceptance of classical philosophy and science. Students and practitioners from planning and design disciplines are not encouraged sufficiently to explore the contradictions and inconsistencies in traditional science, technology and accepted classical philosophy, which limits our ability to plan with the metaphysical in mind.	This exercise engaged seven volunteer architecture students as participants and drivers of discussions and investigations into the place of the metaphysical within the process of design. Weekly meetings took place over the study period. This was extremely productive and stimulated new thinking amongst the students as well as the author of this paper. Insights, ideas and philosophies which each student brought to these discussions was invaluable, and indicative of the depth of untapped intellect resident in our younger generation, which should be applied within all solution seeking processes.
Conceptualising interview procedures which capture perceptions, emotions and dreams.	Surveys undertaken to inform masterplanning processes are generally dry, uninteresting, and poorly structured. Answers are predictable and responses are often just aligned with the norms represented in the question.	The students and author researched and brainstormed alternatives, to list a series of possible methodologies for changing the dynamics of the "clipboard survey". This resulted in fourteen suggested approaches, and culminated in the practice of some of these ideas at the "HappiMaps Event" held on campus in October 2015. This work gives clues for different approaches for campus communications. This could form the basis for further study, involving students and staff from other disciplines, including Psychology, Planning, Communications and Journalism.
Formulating "Happitecture" as a discipline which guides the development of high quality spaces and buildings.	Architecture, Planning, Urban Design and other built environment disciplines each have their own boundaries and traditions, which restrict the outcomes of planning processes which should be open, collaborative and multi-disciplinary.	The concept of "Happitecture" as postulated in this study has caught the imagination and received support from all quarters. It forms a gathering point for disciplines which otherwise perceive themselves as under qualified to participate in design and planning. This study can be taken much further.

NEW STARTING POINT FOR DESIGN :

- emotional, metaphysical
- information over time
- **happiMaps**

COLLABORATIVE DISCUSSION :

- define"quality"
- what is "happiness"?
- explore metaphysical concepts
- **happiStudents**

SURVEY INTERVIEW PROCEDURES :

- alternative methods
- changing mindsets
- cross-discipline communications
- **happiVent**

COLLABORATIVE PLANNING:

- breaking discipline constraints
- **happiTecture**

PROPOSAL (INTENT)	PROBLEM STATEMENT	RESPONSE
Investigate alternative methodology including broad participatory processes.	Planning methodology generally includes a top-down "stakeholder" participation process, which is either superficial and selective, or invites comment on a fully developed proposal within a system which appears designed to stifle opposition. Within the standard institutional procedures there is seldom any concerted effort to engage all users of buildings and spaces in meaningful processes to arriving at informed and agreed conceptual solutions.	This study considers and appraises various methods for engaging with those affected by spaces or buildings subject to planning processes, in a way which allows for more honest and emotional responses. The intent is to create an environment conducive to this, and to capture "transient" opinions about the qualities of particular spaces and places at different times of day and year, from a broad cross-section of users. Crowd-mapping through the "HappiMaps" system successfully demonstrates a suitable procedure to meet this intent.
To critique the existing DUT Masterplan.	The existing DUT masterplan was created through an expedited process, using traditional top-down methodologies, which did not engage stakeholders in discussion on user preferences and experiences, subjective and emotional aspects, specific local knowledge, and perceptions of the quality of spaces and places.	This study proposes a new starting point for reviewing the Masterplan. The existing plan needs to be improved through more inputs from stakeholders which are gathered and recorded, and then applied within a more inclusive and people-centred campus planning process.
Suggest a people-centred approach for planning spaces and places.	People involved with the campus spaces and places need to be included in the process of planning. They need to participate within a conducive environment in which they feel comfortable to express their emotional responses to spaces and places, and their dreams for the future. They need to feel they will be heard, and their inputs are recorded and properly considered.	This study proposes the application of various techniques and considerations for establishing a suitable environment for honest stakeholder participation. In addition, the "HappiMaps" tool has been developed to capture and record inputs without filtering, which are visible to all and easy to retrieve and use during the planning processes.
Propose a different, creative and innovative approach to campus design (and urban design)	The planning process needs to be de-mystified to enable more direct inputs and influences from a variety of professions as well as a range of individuals. Planning tends to concentrate on expansion and creation of more buildings, rather than on first improving and maximising the quality and character and potential of existing places, spaces and buildings. Quality must be seen as just as important as quantity.	This study proposes that campus design & planning be undertaken through application of the accumulated inputs from the HappiMaps, within a game-playing process in which the decision-making goes beyond a top-down directive approach. Campus planning must take account of optimal use of existing spaces, places and buildings, before proposing expansion. The quality of existing spaces places and buildings must be improved or reinforced, based on responses drawn from the HappiMaps records. This must be done with reference to the identified principles for happy spaces which are listed in the study.

PARTICIPATORY PROCESS :

- early involvement of people
- multiple opinions over time
- listening & being heard
- accessible & accountable
- **happiMaps**

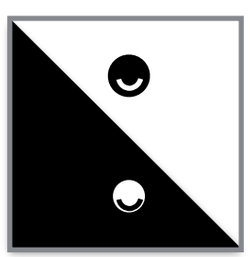
A BASIS FOR CRITIQUE :

- increasing depth and width
- continual review
- environment for expressing dreams
- unfiltered and visible
- **people-centred process**

DE-MYSTIFYING DESIGN / PLANNING

- opening up participation
- role-playing & game-playing
- happy-space principles
- **happiMaps as Brief**

Development of a Space Happiness Index.	Measurement of emotional responses is difficult, in comparison with the capture of empirical data and statistics. It is easier to measure other elements, and so this important dimension is often neglected.	This study develops a Space Happiness Index which is generated by individuals, and enables each person to arrive at their own definitions and quantifications. Through the HappiMaps, people decide on their own whether spaces and places are "happy" "neutral" or "unhappy", and record them accordingly. This provides a record and an index which is unfiltered, and based on multiple interpretations and opinions, rather than imposing a single definition from the top down.
Relating the metaphysical to the physical as drivers of design.	Masterplanning processes in SA often and naturally neglect the metaphysical in favour of the physical drivers. This relates to prevailing societal values and traditions of classical science and philosophy.	This study records that Bhutan has established a different way of viewing the success or failure of policies and government actions, that is based on the precept that immeasurable elements may be more important than those which are more easily discerned. The Paper opens the discussion on this aspect, but much more work is required in order to do justice to this concept.
Defining the relationship between Happitecture, Zen and Otherwhere.	There are interesting synergies between the concepts of "Happiness", "Zen" (as a component of the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance), and "Otherwhere" (as conceptualised thematically for the Union of International Architects 2014 Durban Conference). These three elements are central to this study about a new approach to campus planning, city planning, architecture and urban design.	This paper draws on the synergies to arrive at the "Happitecture" concept. Further philosophical discussion needs to be opened up, to move out of the current conceptualisation of space, place and buildings as purely physical elements of the visible world, which require a technical approach to "resolve" through design and planning. The metaphysical qualities of buildings and spaces are largely ignored in planning and design, leading to spaces and places which do not necessarily relate to the needs, aspirations and heritage of people.



SPACE HAPPINESS INDEX

- crowd mapping
- gis linked for immediate capture
- proactive information
- **happiMaps**

METAPHYSICAL DRIVERS

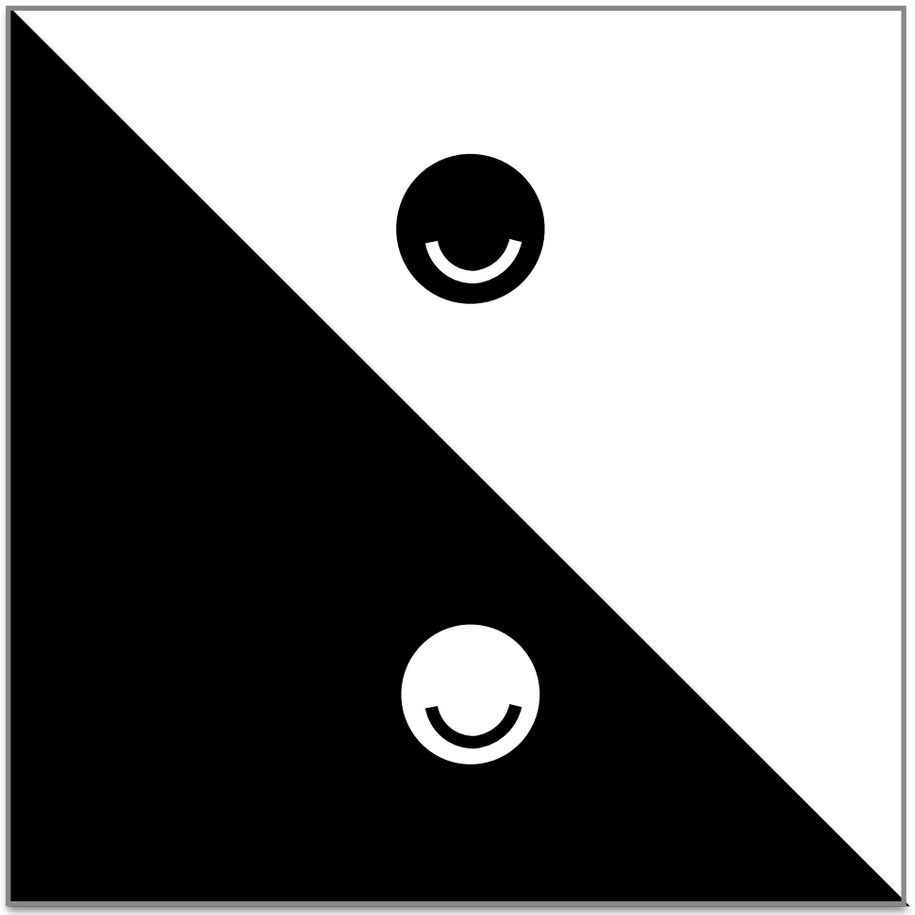
- romantic, classic & otherwhere
- indexing happiness
- **opening communications**

HAPPITECTURE, ZEN, OTHERWHERE

- relationships to culture
- relationships to heritage
- understanding and accepting
- beliefs accommodated
- needs & aspirations made known
- **happiMaps application**
- **targeted questions**

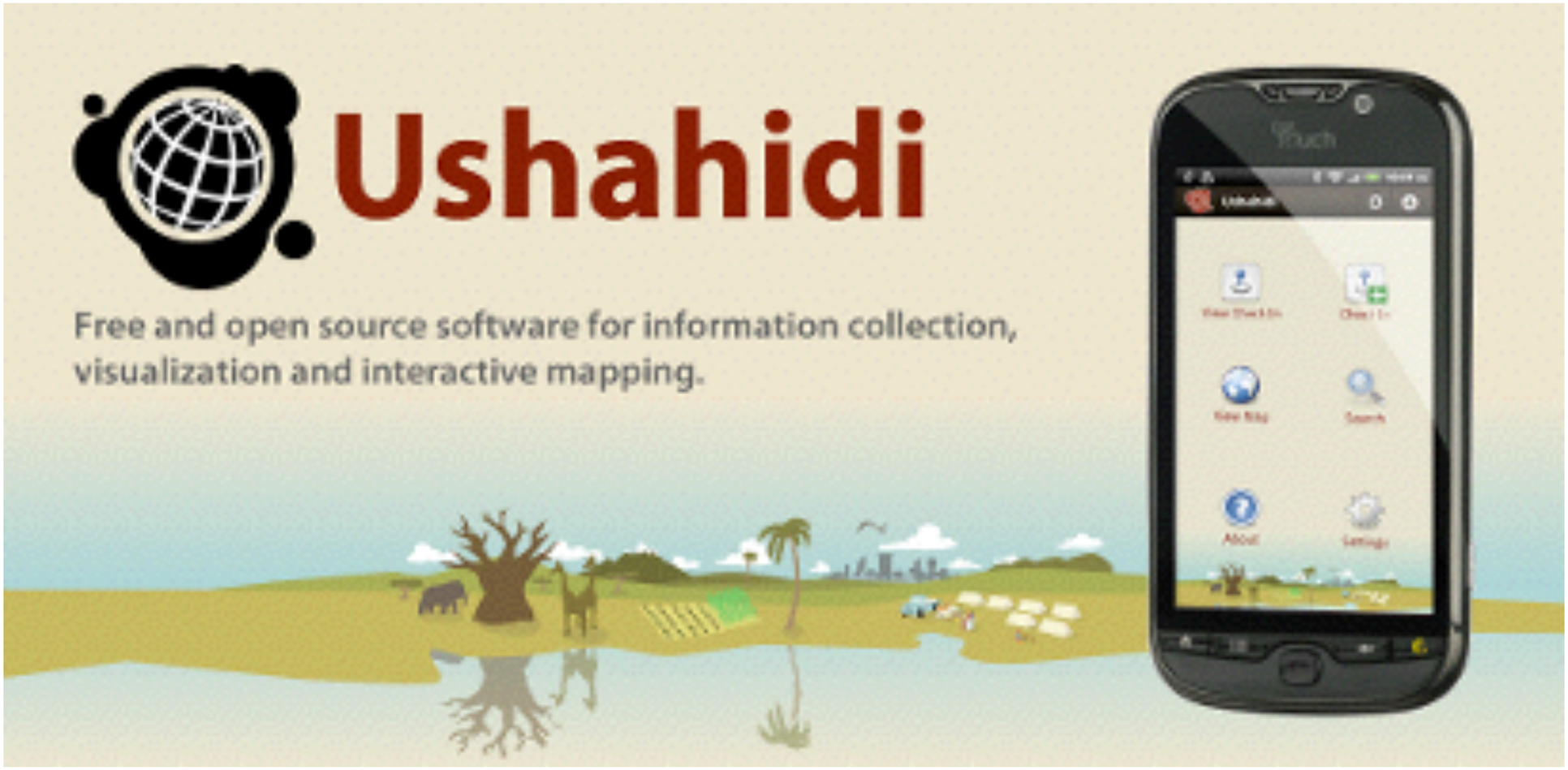
ESSENCE

- people centred process
- measuring happiness
- collaborative planning
- open communications



happimaps

CROWD MAPPING



KENYA : ELECTION MONITORING
A TOOL FOR COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS
CITIZEN REPORTS IN REAL TIME
MOBILISATION

COLLECT, CATEGORISE, GEO-LOCATE, PUBLISH

Ushahidi Reporting Procedure (HappiMaps).

1. Download USHAHIDI from the App Store (free).

2. Open USHAHIDI App.

3. Press "+" at bottom right of screen.

4. Select "Add map by URL".

5. Fill in where prompted :
   NAME : happitecture2@dut
   URL : https://happitecture2.crowdmap.com

6. Select the Happitecture2@dut map

7. Press the CAMERA ICON button at the bottom centre of screen.

8. Fill in the report (Description, Category, Photo, Video)

9. Press "upload".

10. Move to the next place and repeat.

ushahidi app

Maps **happitecture2@dut**

Search reports...

Pending Upload

A shady bench in front of…
8:45 AM, Sep 10, 2015
Dut
NEUTRAL SPACE

2:41 PM, Sep 8, 2015
Askew Crescent, Berea, KZN, South Afr…
No Category

All Categories

Plant Nursery on Rit…
12:04 PM, Sep 28, 2015
Cromer, Berea, KZN, S…
HAPPIEST SPACE

Test - glenwood
10:19 AM, Sep 28, 2015

List

Map

Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help 100% Tue 18:01

happitecture2.crowdmap.com

Dashboard | Reports | Messages | Stats | Addons | Settings | Manage | Users

View Reports | Create Report | Comments | Download Reports | Upload Reports | Delete all reports

Edit Report

SAVE REPORT | SAVE & CLOSE | SAVE & ADD NEW | CANCEL | « PREVIOUS | NEXT »

Form (Select A Form Type)

Default Form

Title *

Plant Nursery on Ritson

Description Include as much detail as possible. *

Allowed HTML tags: "a, p, img, br, b, u, strong, em, i".
Iframes are only allowed from: www.youtube.com/embed/, player.vimeo.com/video/, w.soundcloud.com/player.

Tranquil oasis, calming green space, quiet and contemplative.

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

09/28/2015

Time (Approximate)

12 : 04 : PM

Incident Location

Latitude: -29.852451 Longitude: 31.008851

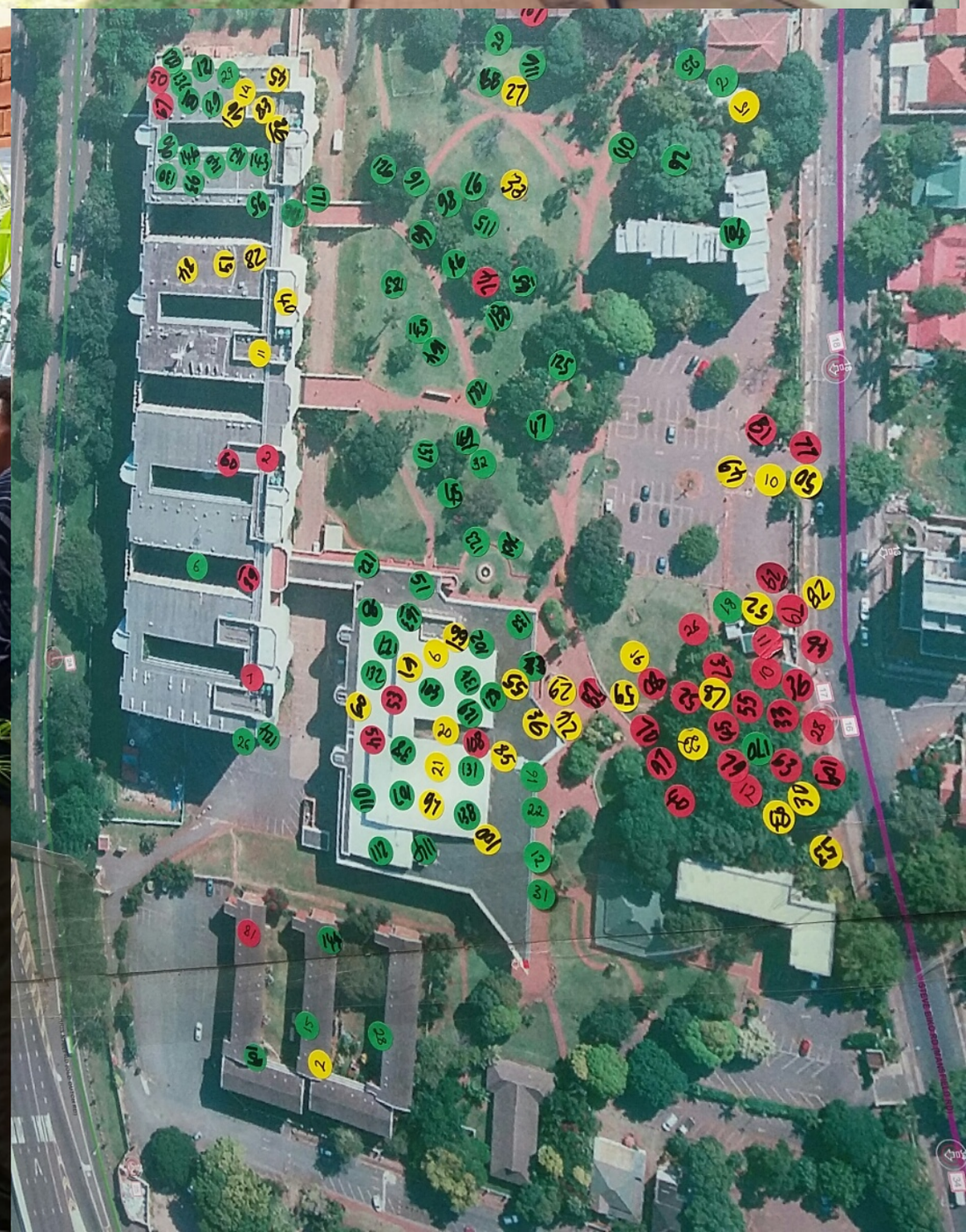
Wider Map

DELETE LAST | DELETE SELECTED | CLEAR MAP

FIND LOCATION

* Search for your location using a location name OR latitude,longitude coordinates (format: 38.19, 85.61), OR click on the map to pinpoint the correct location..

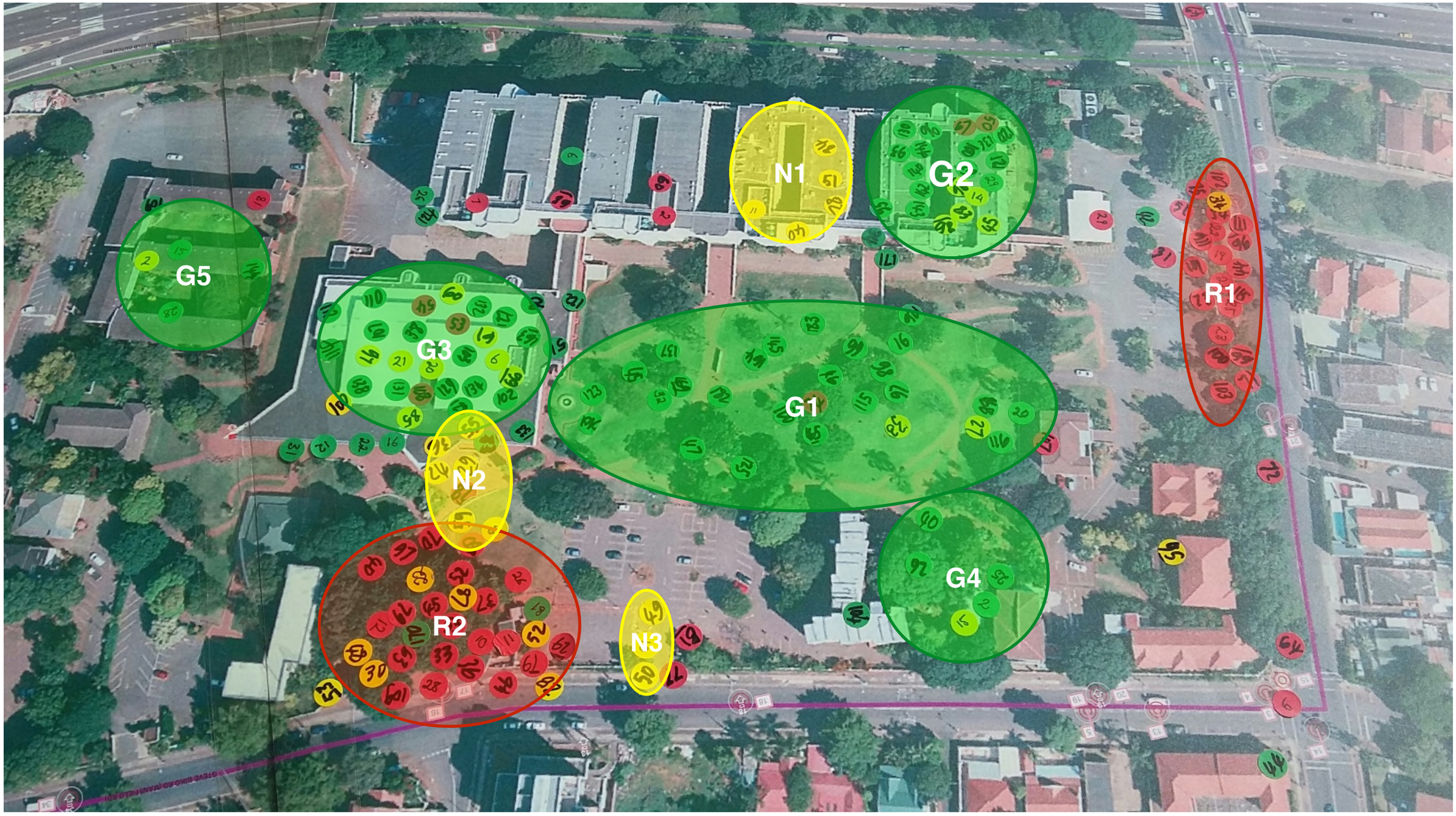
Location Name *



LEATHERN HALL
How does this space make you feel?
happiMaps

DUT
DURBAN
UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY
SON CAMPUS
CAMP

HAPPIMAPS APPLICATION



OUTCOMES : TOOLS

- people-centred approach
- honest communications
- collaborative planning

OUTCOMES - REVIEW

- campus futures :
  - campus vision
  - planning protocol
  - communications strategy

https://happitecture2.crowdmap.com

www.happitecture.weebly.com

www.vusacollaborative.com