

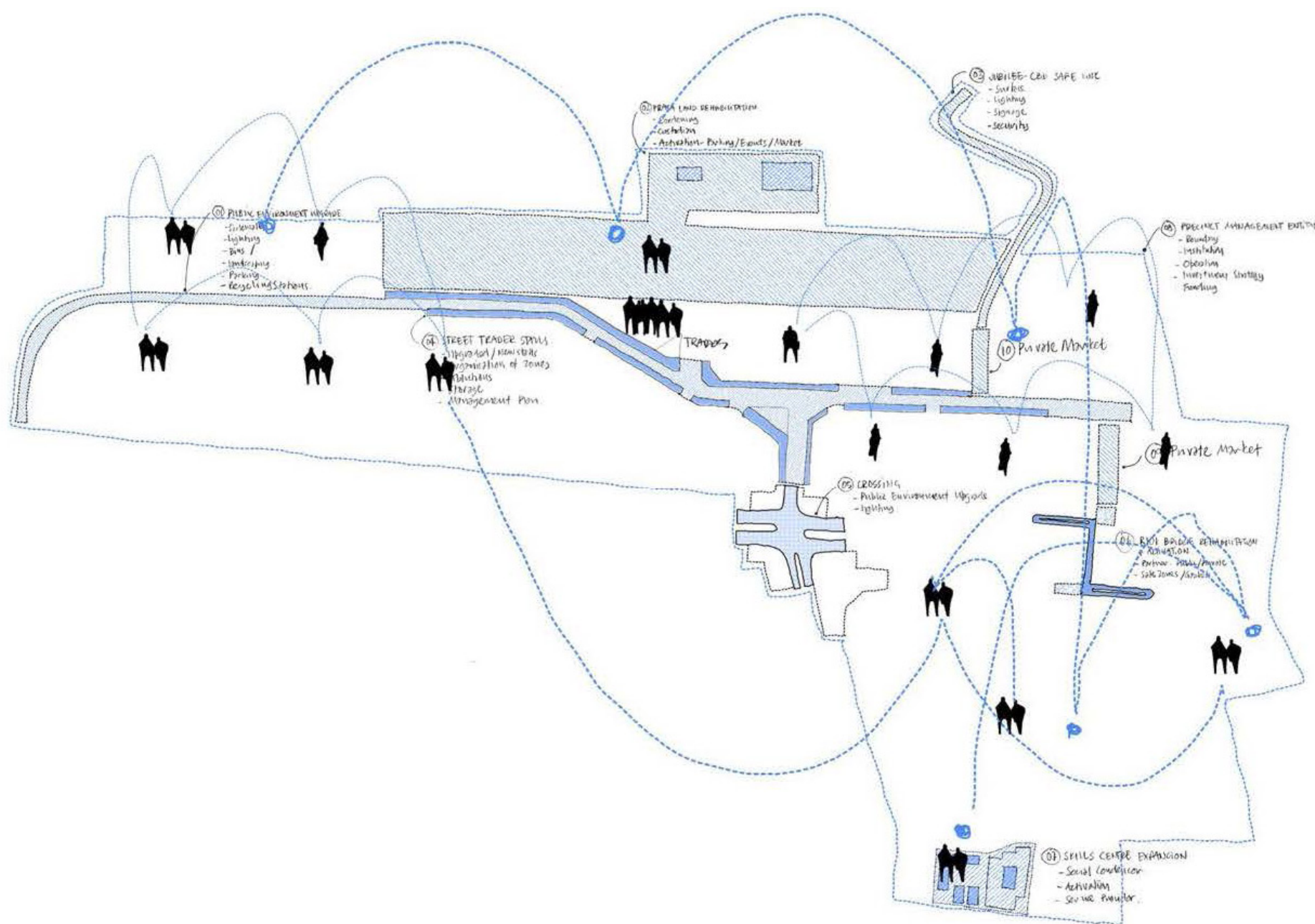
LECTURE SERIES

TALKS FROM AFRICA-ARCHITECTURE FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

INSURGENT PRACTICES OF NECESSITY

CASES FROM A VOLATILE FIELD

Wednesday, 13th November, 2024 h 10:00 am



Threshen Govender (UrbanWorks)

Convenors/ Silvia Bodei, Elena Montanari

Discussants/Alessio Battistella, Camillo Magni, Maria Chiara Pastore

Aula G.2, Building 11, Basement, Via Ampère 2, MM Piola, Milano

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Curated by

Silvia Bodei, Alessio Battistella,
Camillo Magni, Maria Chiara Pastore
Contact: silvia.bodei@polimi.it

LECTURE SERIES

TALKS FROM AFRICA:ARCHITECTURE FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

“Talks from Africa” is a series of three conferences, taking place between April and November 2024, held by nationally and/or internationally prominent architecture firms working in South Africa. The initiative stems from the need, and desire, to showcase projects that have approached the particular South African context with a critical approach, placing architecture and the relationship with the city, people, and places at the centre. The aim is to introduce the work of these firms, which are relatively unknown in Europe, and to establish a connection that links the experiences presented to the current debate on established and emerging practices and methodologies in Sub-Saharan African architecture.

Wednesday, 13th September, 2024 h 9:45

3/ INSURGENT PRACTICES OF NECESSITY CASES FROM A VOLATILE FIELD

THIRESHEN GOVENDER

The third conference of “Talks from Africa” series will be dedicated to the architect, urbanist and researcher Thireshen Govender practicing in Johannesburg, South Africa. He was awarded the Chevening Scholarship through which he undertook a Masters in Urban Design at The Bartlett (University College London). Following extensive travels, he founded UrbanWorks in 2008, a design-research studio concerning itself with the design and implementation of transformative infrastructures in post-traumatic sites. He is the co-author of Township Economies: People, Spaces, Practices (2020), which brings new insights into how frontier territories are being established through rampant informal practices.

Thireshen has taught and lectured at various international schools of architecture and has been a tutor at the inaugural Venice Biennale College in 2023. His research through the University of Johannesburg’s Graduate School of Architecture, where he led Unit 14: Rogue Economies, documents the hidden forces shaping our cities while experimenting with methods on radical speculation in the context of extreme urban crisis. His teaching and research are advanced through his role as Core Faculty Member at the African Futures Institute, as a tutor for the Nomadic African Studio, and as a Research Fellow at the Graduate School of Architecture, University of Johannesburg.

He is also an Independent Director at the Sustainable Livelihoods Foundation, an organization which contributes to the economic and social transformation of marginalised neighborhoods in Southern Africa through research, policy and interventions.

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