

Jean Linhares – Short thesis text:

Are our cities prepared for the growing and rapid urbanization expected for the coming years? How do the new social, economic and environmental challenges affect the urban context, specifically informal settlements? How can we rethink sustainable urban design in vulnerable areas? To tackle these questions, we will have a closer look at Port Elizabeth, a coastal city in South Africa, to understand its relevance and challenges. By landing at a specific informal settlement, we will reflect on how collaboration is a key element for urban design and how it is crucial when working with complex communities. These reflections will be summarized in a design proposal for a South African informal settlement, with the aim of promoting resilience towards social inequality and climate change in vulnerable areas, strengthening local democracy, rethinking urban infrastructure, and improving equity.