

# LACING THE INFORMAL AND FORMAL URBAN FABRICS OF KHAYELITSHA

## Connected socio-economic platforms and hotspots

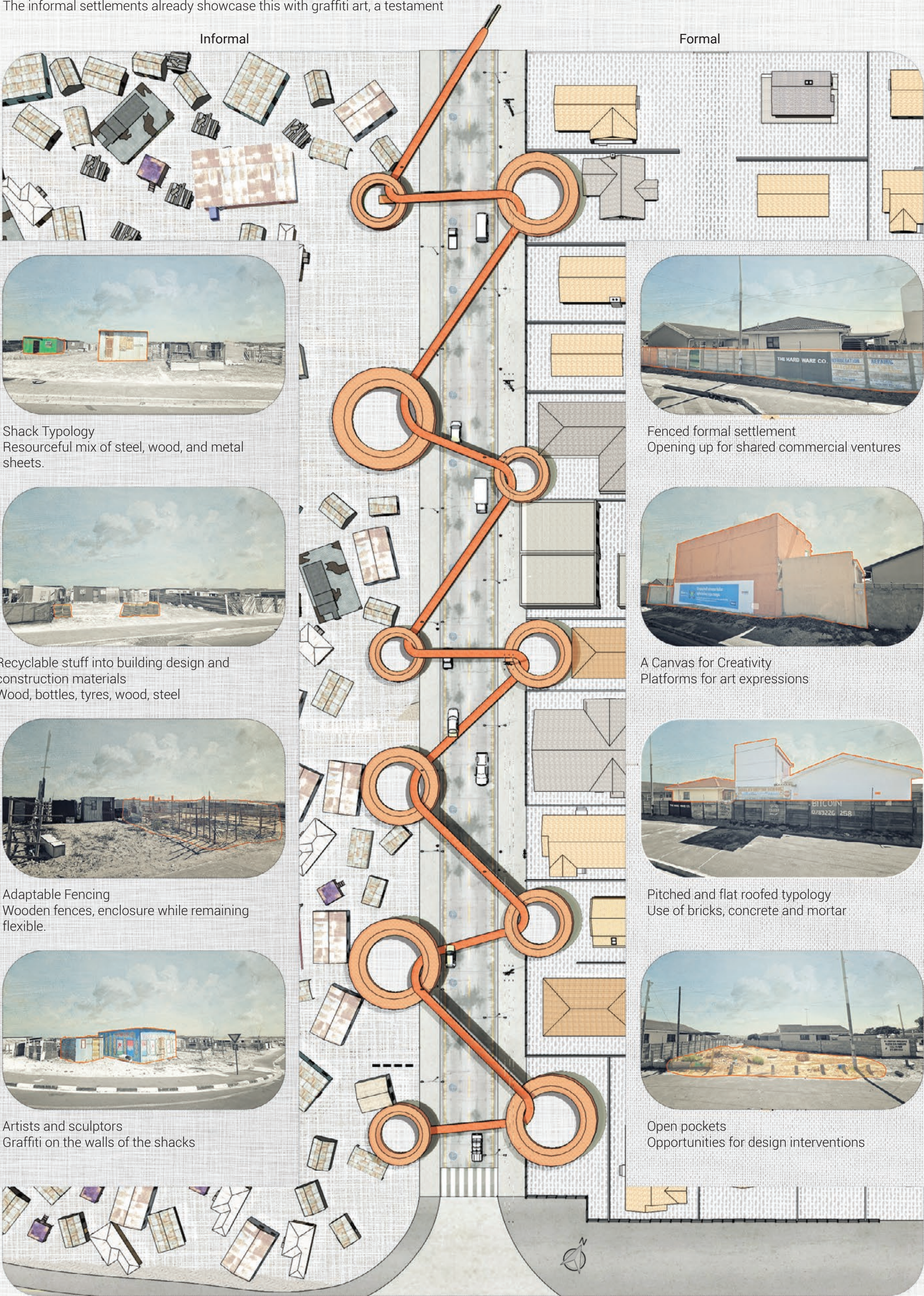
Just like many African towns and cities, Khayelitsha pulsates with the energy of both established formal neighbourhoods and burgeoning informal settlements. What can urban design do to explore the potential synergies between the two settlements for a more social, environmental and economic cohesive future?

Imagine a new approach to New Way, the route that separates these settlements as one approaches Spine Road. Here, we see an opportunity to unleash the synergy between the Informal and Formal. Khayelitsha can be a model for a more social, environmental, and economically prosperous future between these kinds of settlements.

The key lies in understanding the unique opportunities of each settlement. Both brim with youthful energy and resourcefulness. The informal settlements already showcase this with graffiti art, a testament

to their creative spirit. They also showcases the ability to recycle treasures like bottles and tires for temporary space creation. This ingenuity can fuel the design process. The formal settlements have more permanent and grounded materials like concrete and brick. Their fenced security, offer a sense of safety. But what if these fences could open up a little, allowing for collaborative commerce? Formal commercial spaces managed by residents of both settlements, fostering economic inclusion.

Connected socio-economic platforms and hotspots built from what is locally available are the answer. Imagine designated spaces where young people from both sides can meet, eat, share ideas, dance, play, and create the future of Khayelitsha. This should foster a more vigilant neighbourhood, where everyone looks out for each other.



Unlocking the potential that lies at the intersection of Khayelitsha's formal and informal settlements, can create a future that is vibrant, inclusive, and a model for African cities everywhere.

