Spanning the spectrum: infrastructural experiences in South Africa’s state housing programme

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Abstract

State development interventions in cities of the global South can attract criticism for imposing norms at odds with ordinary people’s needs and practices. Yet complex relations with state-provided infrastructure can emerge, as shown in people’s interactions with South Africa’s mass housing programme. Findings from qualitative interviews in Johannesburg exhibit a spectrum of interactions, forms of ‘everyday infrastructural experiences’ that extend well beyond either rejection or celebration of the housing. Some interactions involve adaptation: of the house, the property or the household itself, both on-site and involving distant locations. Unwelcome and at times unseen by the state, these changes are argued here to maintain the relevance of the housing in people’s lives. Thus at the same time as households are sustained by the housing, to an extent, people’s practices also sustain the infrastructure, facilitating its functioning and enabling its relevance in everyday lives.

References


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SANS10400-Building Regulations South Africa SANS10400 are the Building regulations in South Africa, and both international and national standards, are fundamental to successful building and construction projects, both big and small. Building Regulations (NBR) Intro. Why National Building Regulations. The PAJA: A Law to Protect Your Rights. These rest on wooden wall plates, and are designed to span the walls of the house. They will be either nailed or bolted together on site, or delivered to site on order by a specialist truss manufacturer.

Illustration courtesy The Complete Book of Owner Building in South Africa. The trusses themselves are made up of rafters, tie beams, posts and struts, all of which are assembled according to a specific design. The following review of South African housing policy and development since 1994 forms part of a larger research project run by the Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII). An adequate tool could help corroborate the experience of NGOs and community-based organisations working on housing rights in South Africa since 1994, that is, the failure of government policies to live up to their stated goals and the negative consequences that policies aimed at improving access to housing have at times had for their intended beneficiaries. Accordingly, this report provides the background necessary to understanding housing policy developments in South Africa since 1994. While the state should ideally strive to ensure that all persons living in South Africa are able to Request PDF | Spanning the spectrum: Infrastructural experiences in South Africa's state housing programme | State development interventions in cities of the global South can attract criticism for imposing norms at odds with ordinary people's needs and | Find, read and cite all the research you need on ResearchGate. Findings from qualitative interviews in Johannesburg exhibit a spectrum of interactions, forms of 'everyday infrastructural experiences' that extend well beyond either rejection or celebration of the housing. Some interactions involve adaptation: of the house, the property or the household itself, both on-site and involving distant locations.