



# Urban and Rural Dynamics

Thaba N'chu and Bloemfontein,  
dealing with apartheid planning in democratic South Africa

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Campus Engelska parken

The apartheid system had a deep and lasting impact on the spatial reality of South Africa. Almost every city in this country has some evidence of apartheid era planning policy in its physical makeup. Bloemfontein, in central South Africa follows a model Apartheid city planning type, and in contemporary South Africa the planners and architects have to engage with ways to work against this physical structure. Towns that rely on each other for economic reasons also face challenges. Bloemfontein and Thaba N'chu are almost 50 km's apart, but a large component of Bloemfontein's labor reside there. This is also a remnant of apartheid where certain towns formed part of 'native homelands'. Now that Bloemfontein and Thaba N'chu form part of the same municipality, planning, administration and physical distance create new challenges.