

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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**Causes & Effects of Poorly Designed Physical Forms on the
General Outlook of the Kopje Area in Harare, Zimbabwe.**

By

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Abstract

The outlook of the city is what people experience whether it looks nice or ugly is for them to judge. The design of what is experienced by the people has become an integral part of city development in urban Zimbabwe. In many cases proper coordination of physical form design have enhanced the city centers. The context in which physical forms are located in the city however, differ from one place to another whilst institutional arrangements vary. Though physical forms are at the centre of city outlook their design is highly influenced by various factors societies exhibit. Central to physical form design in Zimbabwe is town planning, architecture and building by-laws, which are the major guiding principles and regulatory framework upon which physical forms are designed .

This study investigated the causes and effects of poor physical form design on the outlook of the Kopje area in Harare. Using secondary literature and primary data from key informants, interviews, observations and questionnaires the study investigated what causes the poor design of physical forms and how it affects the general outlook of the city and the perception this creates on the users. The Harare City Council and the government as key custodians of the regulatory framework do not understand the need for a paradigm shift in shaping the city. There is therefore need to promote equity to resource and gender sensitivity if sustainable development is to be achieved.