

Natassia S. Pratt

Placemaking as Public Space Planning Tool in New Providence, Bahamas

Abstract

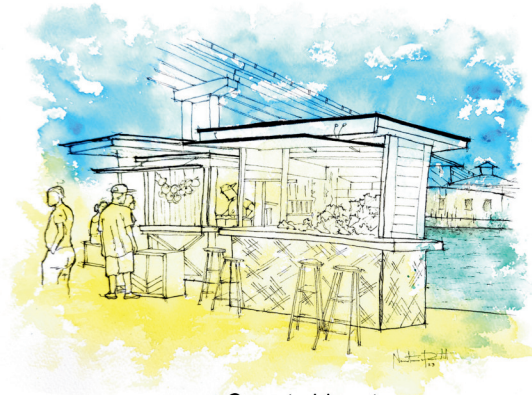
My research critically investigated the emergence of tourism development as a strategy in The Bahamas, the instrumentalization of the industry for planning public space, and the potential for “everyday placemaking” to be a touchstone for public space planning in the nation and the wider Caribbean region. In addition to a literature review and discussion, I conducted interviews, and an observational public space study of the Potter’s Cay Commercial Area from which these watercolours emerged.

Public space in the Caribbean is increasingly under the planning and organizing power of the tourism industry. In The Bahamas, waterfront public spaces for locals to enjoy and engage in everyday placemaking and social practice are often provided with “the tourist” as its primary end user. Locally activated, informal public spaces that lie beyond the direct influence of tourism development, such as the Potter’s Cay Commercial Area in New Providence, de-centers tourism and resists its spatialization forces.

My Major Research Paper critically investigated the emergence of tourism development as strategy, the instrumentalization of the industry for planning public space, and the potential for “everyday placemaking” to be a touchstone for public space planning in the nation and wider Caribbean region. In addition to a literature review and discussion, I conducted interviews, and an observational public space study of Potter’s Cay from which these watercolours emerged. I chose to include watercolours because I believe that they render the vibrancy of Potter’s Cay public realm as *existing* and *real* in a way that words and photographs cannot.



Map Potters Cay



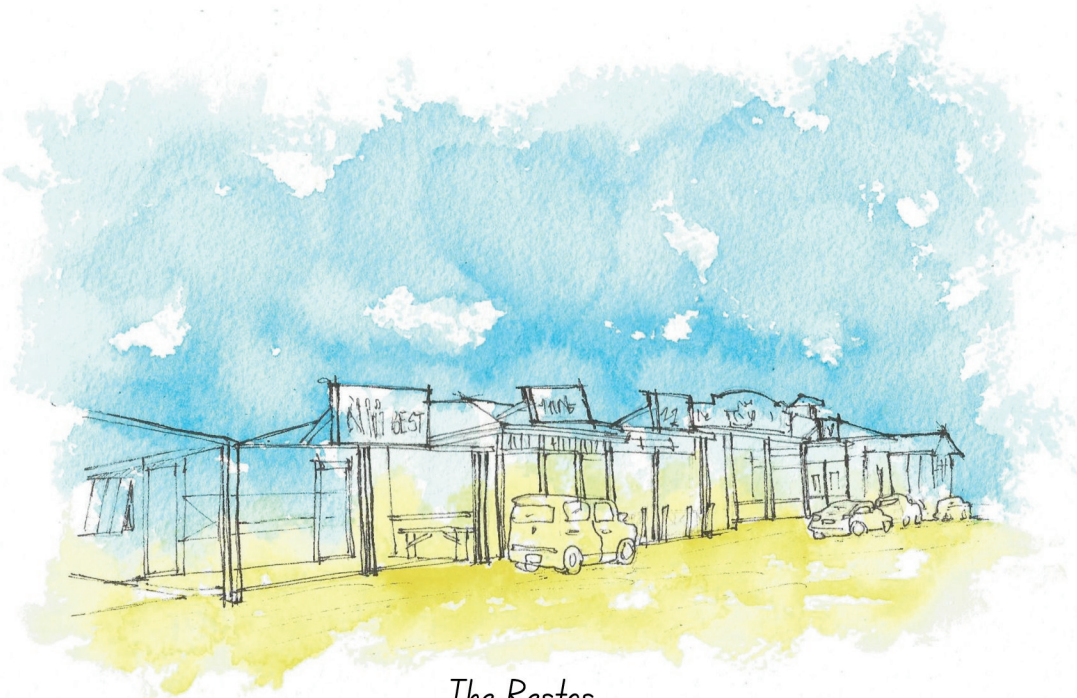
Conch Vendor



Produce Vendor



Captain Beckles



The Restos



Old Man on Porch Potters Cay



Produce Vendor at Potters Cay