

# CLAUS RABE

URBAN ECONOMIST | DIRECTOR, CITYCENTRIC



Pr PIn (SACPLAN A/2560/2017)

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Urban economist and director of Citycentric, an independent advisory practice focused on urban economic modelling and decision support. Eighteen years' experience across local government, public sector consulting, international development and applied research.

Advises public and private institutions on housing, transport, labour and land market dynamics. Develops bespoke, tractable analytical frameworks grounded in observed market behaviour, integrating spatial and economic processes to support complex planning, investment and policy decisions.

## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- Cert. of HE in Arch., Leicester U., 2021
- MSc Urban Mgmt., TU-Berlin, 2011
- M City & Regional Planning, UCT, 2006
- B Policy Studies (with Econ.), Stell., 2004

## AWARDS

- Leicester Uni. Archaeology Prize, 2021
- Cape Town Service Excellence Award, 2016
- SAPI National Planning Award, 2014
- Ernest Oppenheimer Scholarship, 2009

## FIELDS OF SPECIALISATION

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- Urban economic modelling, forecasting and scenario analysis
- Decision-support tools and spatial diagnostics for planning and investment
- Financial and economic feasibility of land development and infrastructure projects
- Evaluation and targeting of place-based, programmatic and network interventions
- Municipal performance indicators and spatial-economic analysis
- Inclusive local economic development, housing markets and urban safety



## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Founder and Director

#### Citycentric

(Claus Rabe and Partners (Pty) Ltd)

Cape Town, South Africa

2026–Present

### Director and Practice Area Lead: Urban Econ.

#### Palmer Development Group (PDG)

Cape Town, South Africa

2017 – 2025

### Principal Planner (Growth Mgmt.)

#### City of Cape Town

2011 – 2017

### Local Expert (Urban Mgmt.)

#### GIZ (formerly GTZ)

South Africa and Egypt offices

2010

### Senior Development Consultant

Silimela Development Services

2007–2011

### Subcontracted Intern

#### Palmer Development Group (PDG)

Cape Town, South Africa

2007

## SELECTED RECENT PROJECTS

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- **Feasibility assessment** for a proposed intermodal agri-logistics hub, Polokwane, Limpopo, under the UK Foreign Office–supported Urban Resilience Programme (2025).
- **Market demand and viability assessment** of a strategic mixed-use land development, Newcastle Municipality, under the UK Foreign Office–supported Urban Resilience Programme (2025).
- **Programme-level multi-criteria decision framework** to support portfolio prioritisation, enabling the UK Foreign Office to sequence 100 project proposals against programme objectives (2025).
- **Partial equilibrium residential growth projection model** to support spatial planning and engineering functions, City of Cape Town (2025).
- **Programmatic CBA and business case** for a transport-led inner city regeneration programme, Bellville CBD, City of Cape Town (2024).
- **Economic feasibility and spatial prioritisation** of a development incentive overlay zone, supporting amendments to the City of Cape Town Municipal Planning By-Law (2023).
- **Urban economic monitoring framework** for South Africa’s metropolitan municipalities, commissioned by the South African Cities Network (2023).
- **Cost-benefit assessment** of alternative locations for a proposed intermodal container terminal, City of Cape Town (2022).
- **Land use and transport interaction modelling** to support strategic planning, developed in collaboration with the World Bank and CIRED (2016–).



## URBAN GROWTH, HOUSING AND LAND MARKETS

Year	Project / Decision context	Client / Institution	Role
2025	Partial equilibrium residential growth projection model	City of Cape Town	Project lead
2025	Gravity-based population distribution model with spatial constraints	City of Cape Town	Spatial modeller
2024	Human Settlements Sector Plan review, incl. housing strategy dashboard linked to demand, costing and spatial prioritisation	City of Cape Town	Technical lead
2024	Market demand assessment for Claremont Local Area Plan	City of Cape Town	Urban economist
2022	Gateway Precinct Market Demand study, including medium-term forecast of office, residential submarkets for Cape Town CBD.	City of Cape Town	Urban economist
2022	Impact of flood hazard on property prices in Cape Town, presented at Boston, Mass.	Lincoln Land Institute	Project lead
2020	Modelling impact of COVID on long-term population growth	UK FCDO	Project lead
2020	Development of spatial demographic model using synthetic households and iterative proportional fitting method.	City of Cape Town	Project lead
2018	Long-term population projections, in collaboration with PwC.	City of Cape Town	Project lead
2016	Land use-transport interaction model (NEDUM)	World Bank Research Group	Urban economist



## INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT, REGENERATION AND FEASIBILITY

Year	Project / Decision context	Client / Institution	Role
2025	CBA of Sea Point seawall refurbishment using CVM, hedonic pricing, risk simulation	City of Cape Town	Urban economist
2024	Pre-feasibility market and financial analysis for AJ West Housing	City of Cape Town	Property economist
2023	Ingulube Hives Redevelopment Strategy	City of Cape Town	Technical lead
2022	Feasibility of affordable housing in Gateway Precinct development	City of Cape Town	Property economist
2021	Market assessment for municipal bulk infrastructure financing	Development Bank of Southern Africa	Urban economist
2020	Impact of Gautrain rapid rail extension on property prices	Gauteng Provincial Government	Urban economist
2019	Costing development in discouraged growth areas	City of Cape Town	Project lead
2018	Financial mechanisms towards economic water resilience	Western Cape Provincial Government	Regional economist
2017	Impact evaluation of Foreshore Freeway Proposal	V&A Waterfront	Urban economist
2017	Medium-Term Infrastructure Investment Framework	City of Cape Town	Project lead
2017	Economic impact study of Klapmuts industrial hub	Distell	Urban economist
2012	Property feasibility appraisal of Valhalla Business Park	City of Cape Town	Urban economist
2010	Urban development programme for Cairo Governorate	GIZ (formerly GTZ)	Participatory planner
2007	Public Investment Strategy	Cape Winelands District Municipality	Project manager



## PUBLIC SECTOR PLANNING, STRATEGY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Year	Project / Decision context	Client / Institution	Role
2025	Provincial mobility master plan briefing document	Western Cape Provincial Government	Project lead
2024	Community Services Operational Sector Plan	City of Cape Town	Technical lead
2024	Safety and Security Operational Sector Plan	City of Cape Town	Technical lead
2023	Bellville Rough Sleepers Strategy	City of Cape Town	Technical lead
2023	Growth for Jobs Strategy	Western Cape Provincial Government	Regional economist, editor
2021	Integrated drought and water resource plan	Western Cape Provincial Government	Regional economist
2020	Soweto Triangle Strategic Area Framework	UK FCDO	Urban economist
2015	Review of Cape Town Spatial Development Framework	City of Cape Town	Urban economist
2012	Cape Town Spatial Development Framework	City of Cape Town	Urban economist
2008	Gauteng 2055 Development Strategy	Gauteng Provincial Government	Futures researcher
2008	Review of Urban Renewal Programme anchor projects	Department of Provincial and Local Government	Project manager
2008	Impact and effectiveness of urban development incentives	South African Cities Network	Project manager



## EVALUATION, DIAGNOSTICS AND POLICY ASSESSMENT

Year	Project / Decision context	Client / Institution	Role
2023	International benchmarking of place-based economic policies	Centre for Development and Enterprise	Project lead
2019	Urban development indices to track spatial transformation	City of Cape Town	Urban economist
2019	Diagnostic assessment of nine intermediate cities	World Bank	Senior expert
2019	Evaluation of Housing Chapters Programme	National Department of Human Settlements	Project lead
2018	Diagnostic modelling of municipal viability	National Treasury	Regional economist
2018	Evaluation of LandCare programme	Western Cape Dept. of Agriculture	Evaluator
2017	Assessment of DBSA's role in supporting Integrated Urban Development Framework	Development Bank of South Africa	Project lead
2015	Economic Areas Management Programme (ECAMP), incl. spatial diagnostics for 72 business nodes	City of Cape Town	Programme lead
2011	Extension of Urban Development Zone	City of Cape Town	Urban economist
2010	Violence and crime prevention programme	GIZ (formerly GTZ)	Local expert
2008	OECD Territorial Review of Kimberley and surrounds	Office of the Presidency	Regional economist



## PUBLICATIONS

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- **RABE, C.** (2025). Thirty Years of Magical Planning and the Reluctant Pragmatic Turn. In: du Plessis, D. (eds) Territorial Governance and Spatial Transformation in Post-apartheid South Africa. Local and Urban Governance. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-85489-7\\_16](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-85489-7_16)
- **RABE, C., AND SELOD, H.** (2023). Place-based Economic Policies: International Lessons for South Africa. Discussion Document 11. Centre for Development and Enterprise. Johannesburg. <https://cde.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Discussion-Document-11.pdf>
- **RABE, C., AND KARPUL, D.** (2023). Effects of Flood Hazard on Property Prices in Cape Town, South Africa. Working Paper WP23CR1. Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. <https://www.lincolninst.edu/publications/working-papers/effects-flood-hazard-property-prices-cape-town-south-africa>
- **BRUECKNER, J.K., RABE, C., SELOD, H.,** (2019). Backyarding: Theory and evidence for South Africa. Regional Science and Urban Economics 79, 103486. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.regsciurbeco.2019.103486>.
- **PFEIFFER B., RABE C., SELOD H. and VIGUIE V.** (2019). Assessing Urban Policies Using a Simulation Model with Formal and Informal Housing: Application to Cape Town, South Africa. Policy Research working paper; no. WPS 8921; Paper is funded by the Strategic Research Program (SRP). Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.
- **RABE, C.** (2019). Measuring Spatial Transformation in South African Cities: a Location Equity Approach. The Journey to Transform Local Government. Cape Town. Juta (ISBN 978-485-133056).
- **RABE, C. & ROUSSEAU, E.** (2016). Turning Data into Actionable Intelligence: Cape Town's ECAMP tool. Planning Law Reform in the Western Cape: The Road to Transformation (ISBN 978-0-621-44991-4).
- **RABE, C., MCGAFFIN, R. and CRANKSHAW, O.** (2015). A Diagnostic Approach to Intra-Metropolitan Spatial Targeting: evidence from Cape Town, South Africa. Development Southern Africa. DOI 10.1080/0376835X.2015.1063988.
- **BELTRAN del RIO GARCIA, L., and RABE, C.** (2010). Case study: Ezzbet Al Nasr. In Fokdal, J. & Zehner, C. (Eds.), *Improving Informal Areas in Greater Cairo. The cases of Ezzbet Al Nasr and Dayer El Nahia* (pp. 34-60). TU Berlin.
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