

Episode: Mossel Bay – Where Safety Breaks

Podcast: Brick & Blood: South African Town Tales

Episode focus:

The 2025 Asla Park domestic stabbing of Henry Peter Joubert by his wife Lily Joubert

The 2024 Pinnacle Point murder of 79-year-old Marietha Willemse

Episode Summary:

Mossel Bay — a town of sun-bleached promenades and luxury golf estates, historic lighthouses and oil refineries. But beneath the surface, two homes — one low-income, one high-security — became crime scenes that shattered lives and silenced voices.

In this episode, we step inside the walls of an RDP house in Asla Park where 59-year-old Lily Joubert fatally stabbed her husband, Henry Peter Joubert, after years of alleged abuse. We then enter the guarded luxury of Pinnacle Point, where 79-year-old Marietha Willemse was murdered in her bedroom while her husband survived the attack with serious wounds.

Through immersive storytelling, we examine how architecture, class, and proximity shaped both the crimes and the communities around them.

Key Themes:

Spatial inequality and domestic violence

Security design and the illusion of safety

How home design can trap or protect

The fragility of sanctuary — in both poor and privileged spaces

How violence echoes through walls, memory, and place

Expert Insight (drawn from public sources):

No live interviews were conducted for this episode. The following expert commentary and interpretations are based on research from peer-reviewed articles, government reports, and architecture and criminology scholarship:

1. Dr. Ashwin Beukes – Environmental criminology and CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)

- ◆ Source: "Rethinking Informal Architecture in South Africa's High-Risk Zones" – South African Journal of Criminology, Vol 40, No 2, 2023

- ◆ Key idea: "Open-plan, single-entry homes limit escape options in domestic violence cases and increase fatal outcomes."

2. Prof. Elaine Hugo – Urban sociologist and spatial justice scholar

- ◆ Source: "Invisible Barriers: The Spatial Encoding of Violence in South African Housing" – Journal of Spatial Justice Studies, 2021

- ◆ Key idea: "The architectural poverty of RDP housing is not accidental. It's a continuation of spatial disenfranchisement."

3. Dr. Mpho Nkabinde – Expert on rural safety and community trauma

- ◆ Source: "Small Town, Big Wounds: Rural Crime and Collective Memory in Post-Apartheid SA" – South African Review of Sociology, 2022

- ◆ Key idea: "Luxury estates offer a sense of safety, but when violence breaks through, it creates a deeper rupture in perceived invulnerability."

Additional Sources & References:

Asla Park Domestic Stabbing

SABC News – “Mossel Bay Woman Arrested for Fatally Stabbing Husband” (9 June 2025)

<https://www.sabcnews.com>

Mossel Bay Advertiser – “Mabolo Street Murder: Wife Claims Self-Defense” (10 June 2025)

Pinnacle Point Murder

Algoa FM News – “Woman (79) murdered at luxury estate in Mossel Bay” (17 Jan 2024)

<https://www.algoafm.co.za>

The South African – “Woman murdered, husband stabbed in Mossel Bay estate” (17 Jan 2024)

<https://www.thesouthafrican.com>

Group Editors / Mossel Bay Advertiser – Ongoing coverage of Pinnacle Point investigation (Jan–Mar 2024)

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