This book would probably not have been written without the encouragement of Gordon Pirie, who invited me to join the African Centre for Cities as the Ray Pahl Fellow. As such, I am deeply indebted to the generosity of the Ray Pahl Fellowship, which provided me with the luxury to spend an entire year working on this book project, and during which I conducted research in Luanda, wrote two draft chapters, and designed the book's general concept. I am grateful for the opportunity I was given at Columbia University to be instructed, to be mentored, and to work with some of the brightest minds in anthropology and African studies, such as Rosalind Morris, Brian Larkin, Mahmood Mamdani, Beth Povinelli, Michael Taussig, David Scott, John Pemberton, and Partha Chatterjee. Informal conversations with colleagues in coffee shops, at parties, or in seminars on anthropology and the craft of ethnography have also been of consequence for me in finding my own voice. I would like to acknowledge these interlocutors with whom I have had formative exchanges: Jun Mizukawa, Christina Carter, Michael Fisch, Antina Von Schnitzler, Patience Kabemba, Juan Obarrio, Natasha Nsabimana, and Fatima Majaddedi.

Research for this book was completed through various short trips to Luanda, where I have been privileged to count on the help and support of my extended family and many friends, such as Makassamba, Cristina Pinto, Ângela Mingas, Agbessi Cora Neto, Ilídio Daio, and Miguel Dias. I have also benefited from the knowledge of colleagues and friends who have done substantial research in Luanda and elsewhere in Angola—namely, Marissa Moorman, Claudia Gastrow, Ricardo Soares de Oliveira, Jon Schubert, Ricardo Cardoso, Chloé Buire, and Aaron di Grassi.

Chapters of this book and parts were presented in different formats at several events at the University of Cape Town; Columbia University; the University of Michigan; the University of Notre Dame; Emory University; the University of California, Berkeley; Sciences Po; the École des Hautes Études en

Sciences Sociales; the Instituto Universitário de Lisboa; Basel University; the Universidade Nova de Lisboa; the Universidade de Coimbra; and the Center for African Studies at Harvard University. I thank those who attended, asked questions, and made comments. I am particularly grateful to the following colleagues and friends for the invitation to speak at their institutions and, in some cases, for visa arrangements and accommodation: Filip de Boeck, Mariana Cândido, Anne Pitcher, Teresa Caldeira, Ana Catarina Teixeira, Pedro Oliveira, Maria Paula Meneses, Miguel Vale de Almeida, Kenny Cupers, Emmanuelle Kadya Tall, Rémy Bazenguissa-Ganga, Ilana Van Wyk, Étienne Smith and Jean Comaroff.

During the writing of the various versions of this book, I have benefited from the comments and criticism from several colleagues such as Steven Robins, Fazil Moradi, Aaron di Grassi, Deborah Thomas, and Kristin Peterson. Substantial editorial work was done by Caroline Jeannerat and Karen Press. Comments provided by the anonymous reviewers have been of great importance, and errors are entirely my responsibility. At Duke University Press, I would like to thank Elizabeth Ault, who has been the kind of editor authors dream about, with constant engagement and support throughout the various stages the manuscript has been through. Special thanks are also due to Benjamin Kossak; the editors of Theory in Form, Nancy Hunt and Achille Mbembe; the book's designer, Courtney Leigh Richardson; and the project editor, Lisa Lawley, who so patiently guided me through the sometimes exasperating phase of book making.

The last stage for the completion of this book was accomplished through two fellowships in South Africa—namely, at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study (STIAS) and the Johannesburg Institute for Advanced Study. At both institutions, I would particularly like to acknowledge Edward Kirumira, Christoff Pauw, and Nel-Mari Loock at the former, and Tshilidzi Marwala, Bongani Ngqulunga, and Sivuyile Momoza at the latter. At STIAS, I not only presented the book's coda, where listener comments helped me to come to terms with my theoretical contribution, but also had the chance to spend time and engage in various informal conversations with generous and committed academics such as Anne Pitcher and Martin Murray.

This book was generally written during the least stable period of my life, and a substantial part of it was produced while working multiple jobs. For this, I cannot help but state my eternal gratitude to the various colleagues and friends who facilitated my recruitment to the various positions I have held since the beginning of this project, at institutions such as Stellenbosch University, the University of Cape Town, and the University of Johannesburg.

Thanks are due to Bernard Dubbeld, Thomas Cousins, Edgar Pieterse, Tom Asher, Clara Carvalho, and Lesley Lokko. I would also like to thank my colleagues and students in the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, and the Graduate School of Architecture, University of Johannesburg, particularly Finzi Saidi and Mark Raymond.

Special thanks are due to assistants in various institutions, from countries including Angola, South Africa, and Portugal, as well as, particularly, Adriano Mixinge, who facilitated my access to the documents on the construction of the Memorial Dr. António Agostinho Neto. Being based at African institutions means that bibliographic resources are not always easily accessible. Therefore, I am deeply indebted to the commitment of several librarians at Stellenbosch University, the University of Cape Town, and the University of Johannesburg. At the latter, my special thanks go to Roedina Desai. I would also like to thank those who have helped me locate materials on Luanda, such as old documents and maps, as well as those who allowed me to reproduce, or design, the graphic materials in this book—namely, Gerald Titus, Ngoi Salucombo, Kiluanji Kia Henda, Patricia Hayes, Jessica Liebenberg, Joseph Liebenberg, Indira Mateta, Rui Pinto Afonso, Elsa Peralta, António Ole, Nadine Siegert, André Cunha, Rui Sérgio Afonso, the Ferreira de Almeida Arquitectos, the Arquivo Nacional da Torre do Tombo, and the Arquivo Histórico Ultramarino.

While I was in Johannesburg, where I do not have any close relatives, my family has been a deep source of joy and encouragement. My wife, Sylvia Croese, has not only taken on more responsibilities during the times I needed to keep up with deadlines, but she has also read, commented, and edited substantial parts of this book, in its various versions, and her knowledge of the topics addressed in it have made my life easier. I dedicate this book to her and to our children, Lucas and Oscar, who have learned since a very tender age that Papa is writing a book on Luanda, the place where he was born.



Map Intro.I. Angola.