From Exacerbated Difference to Productive Difference: A Parasite Market that Survives Informal Vendors in Shenzhen

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From Exacerbated Difference to Productive Difference

a parasite market that survives informal vendors in Shenzhen
Introduction

Welcome to Shenzhen
“The southern China metropolis, only vaguely perceived in most of the world at this time, is likely to become the most representative urban face of the twenty-first century.”

Introduction: Exacerbated Difference at different scales

Region
- Layered exploitation between HK, SZ & DG

City
- Tabula rasa vs hierarchical grid vs garden city

Block
- Mega-block vs urban village

Mega-block vs Urban Village
- Surrounding development and policy changes
- Need for affordable housing
- Rejection of physical boundaries
- The missing ephemeral qualities

Infrastructure vs Informal Activities
- Parasitic
- Monumental
- Mobile
- Temporal
- Urban

Crisis
- System of Difference
- Surrounding development and policy changes
- Need for affordable housing
- Rejection of physical boundaries
- The missing ephemeral qualities

Response
- Mega-block Urban Village
- Infrastructure
- Informal Activities
- Top-Down
- Bottom-Up
- Over-power

1. Need for affordable housing
2. Over-power
3. Rejection of physical boundaries

Top-Down vs Bottom-Up
- Vulnerabilities
- Limited in what offers
- To be demolished
- Informal vending to be cleaned up

System of Difference
- Coherent, spontaneous
- Re-conceptualize

Feedback

50 km
27 km
120 km
1.5 km
Introduction welcome to Caiwuwei
Caiwuwei village is a response to what the mega-blocks development cannot offer.
Introduction @ scale S: existing informal activities
informal activities are being cleaned up because they cause traffic jam, trash, eyesore... etc
pork that glows blue because of phosphorescent bacteria
one in ten meals is cooked using oil dredged from the sewers
counterfeit eggs made from chemicals and egg-shaped molds
counterfeit steam pork buns made from cardboards
exploding water melons
and most notoriously, melamine tainted milk that sickened 300,000 babies and killed 6
Introduction: crisis of the informal activities
Introduction crisis of the informal activities

- poor organization
- limited access to clean energy
- poor hygiene
Mega-block Urban Village
Infrastructure vs Informal Activities
Top-Down Bottom-Up

need for affordable housing

System of Difference
coherent, spontaneous

response

original informal activities

energy
organization
hygiene

1.5 km

120 km

Response
Introduction proposal, STEP_01 modernize the stalls

Type I mobile kitchen
- with built-in electrical plugs and small water tank

Type II retractable cart
- foldable and retractable in gimbal for maximum safety display

Type III keep it fresh (a/b)
- with insulated container and water spray

Stall storage
- scale 1" = 4'
Introduction proposal, STEP_02 control and check over night

energy organization hygiene

check to clean

control center/ warehouse
Introduction proposal, STEP_03: food items check and refrigeration.
Introduction proposal, STEP_04 provide water clean energy
introduction proposal, STEP_05 facilitate the growth of informal vending
Introduction proposal, STEP_05.5 a connected shaded city
Introduction proposal, STEP_05: offer of public space

- Parasitic, storage and amenity
- Responsive, to time and site
why parasitic and responsive?
1. informal activities are parasitic to infrastructure for necessities - shading, water, electricity etc
2. informal activities are parasitic to the equipments they used, stalls, carts, sun-shades etc.
3. informal activities are parasitic to movements, especially the pedestrian flow.
4. informal activities are responsive to the missing programs at their specific site.
5. informal activities are responsive to time change, different programs peak at different hours of the day.
design guidelines and criteria

parasitic, storage and amenity

responsive, to time and site
03 how it works? storage units
03 how it works? automated warehouse
03 how it works? walk-in fridge & freezer
how it works? water purification tank & wind turbine
how it works? the membrane skin
how it works? the membrane skin
03 how it works? the responsive space
variation of scale, form and program silo as an urban strategy
test on site  silo as an urban strategy
test on site silo as an urban strategy

Type_A - UV's control center

Type_C - linkage between mega-blocks and UVs

Type_B - de-materialize the boundary between mega-blocks and UVs
variation of scale, form and program silo as an urban strategy

S,M,L type variation
variation of scale, form and program silo as an urban strategy
04 variation of scale, form and program type_A

M type_A

market day festival day

section A-A, scale 1" = 8'
section B-B, scale 1" = 8'
ground floor plan, 3" = 32'
second floor plan, 3" = 32'
first floor plan, 3" = 32'
roof plan, 3" = 32'

section 5 & 6, scale 1" = 8'
04 variation of scale, form and program  type_B

M,L type_B
variation of scale, form and program type C
variation of scale, form and program type_A renderings
04 variation of scale, form and program type_A renderings
variation of scale, form and program  market collage
a connected city silo as an urban strategy
connected corridor
a connected city
a connected city silo as an urban strategy
summary

01. issue: disappearing informal activities, and the threat to national food safety problems
proposition: by giving them organizational control, access to clean energy, proper hygiene, the informal activities will no longer be a threat, and the relationship between top-down urbanism and bottom-up phenomena will be productively balanced.
02. & 03. (S, M))
design criteria & how it works
04. (M, L, XL)
test on site and its formal variations, projection of a connected city
05. (L)
ar constitutional resolution - the central market