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
- reaction of physical boundaries
- the missing ephemeral qualities

Infrastructure vs Informal Activities
- parasitic
- monumental
- mobile
- temporal
- vibrant

Crisis
- limited in what offers
- vulnerabilities to be demolished
- informal vending to be cleaned up

Response
- regulates
- feedback
- re-conceptualizes

System of Difference coherent, spontaneous

Top-Down
Bottom-Up
- Mega-block
- Infrastructure
- Informal Activities
- Upgrade

1. need for affordable housing
2. surrounding development and policy changes
3. reaction of physical boundaries
4. the missing ephemeral qualities

01 Introduction

XXL
120 km

XL
27 km

L
1.5 km

M

S

Introduction

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01 Introduction
Introduction welcome to Caiwuwei
Introduction at scale
Calwuwel 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
01. Introduction: crisis of the informal activities
Introduction: crisis of the informal activities

- Poor organization
- Limited access to clean energy
- Poor hygiene
original informal activities

proposition
Introduction proposal, STEP_01 modernize the stalls

- Type_1: Mobile kitchen
- Type_2: Retractable cart
- Type_3: Keep it fresh (a/b)

With built-in electrical plugs and small water tanks, foldable and retractable equipment for maximum vertical display 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
storage
refrigerator
silo
food items check
food items check and refrigeration
01 introduction proposal, STEP_04 provide water clean energy

water/electricity
storage
refrigerator
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.
02 design guidelines and criteria

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.
02 design guidelines and criteria

parasitic, storage and amenity

responsive, to time and site
how it works?

storage units
03 how it works? automated warehouse
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
how it works? the responsive space
variation of scale, form and program silo as an urban strategy
04 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

Type_B - de-materialize the boundary between mega-blocks and UVs

site plan 1" = 64'
04 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
variation of scale, form and program  type_A
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
variation of scale, form and program  type_A renderings
variation of scale, form and program  market collage
05 a connected city  

time fluctuation
05 a connected city  silo as an urban strategy
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)
arhitectural resolution - the central market