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

Phoebe Zhang | Spring 2011 | Syracuse University
Primary Anne Munly | Secondary Susan Henderson
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
- surrounding development and policy changes
- need for affordable housing
- rejection of physical boundaries
- the missing ephemeral qualities

Urban Village
- parasitic
- monumental
- mobile
- temporal
- vibrant

Infrastructure vs Informal Activities

Crisis

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

Bottom-Up
- over-power

Response

Mega-block Urban Village
- (upgrade)

System of Difference
- coherent, spontaneous

Exacerbated Difference at different scales

1. Need for affordable housing
2. Rejection of physical boundaries
3. The missing ephemeral qualities
4. Limitation in what offers

Top-Down
- Infrastructure
- Informal Activities

Bottom-Up
- Mega-block
- Urban Village
Introduction welcome to Caiwuwei
Introduction @ scale
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
Exacerbated Difference

region

layered exploitation

between HK, SZ & DG
city
tabula rasa vs hierarchic grid vs garden city

block

mega-block vs urban village

Infrastructure vs Informal Activities

Mega-block Urban Village

effect on flow

surveilled

monumental

subversive

mobile

temporal

vibrant

System of Difference

surrounding development and policy changes

1 need for affordable housing

2

3
to be demolished

informal vending to be cleaned up

limited in what offers

120 km

Response

original informal activities

energy

organization

hygiene

proposition

original informal activities
modernized stalls

Type I: mobile kitchen
- foldable and retractable in a maximum vertical display

Type II: retractable cart
- with built-in electrical plugs and small water tank
- foldable and retractable equipment

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

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.
01 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
design guidelines and criteria

why parasitic and responsive?
02 design guidelines and criteria

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
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
test on site silo as an urban strategy
test on site silo as an urban strategy

Type_A - UV's control center

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

Type_C - linkage between mega-blocks
variation of scale, form and program silo as an urban strategy

S,M,L type variation
04 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
04 variation of scale, form and program type A renderings
variation of scale, form and program type_A renderings
04 variation of scale, form and program  market collage
05 a connected city  silo as an urban strategy
connected corridor
05 a connected city time fluctuation
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)
architectural resolution - the central market