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.”

Exacerbated Difference at different scales

**Introduction**

- **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**
- Parasitic
- Monumental
- Mobile
- Temporal
- Vibrant

**Infrastructure vs Informal Activities**
- Surrounding development and policy changes
- Need for affordable housing
- Reaction of physical boundaries
- The missing ephemeral qualities

**Top-Down**
- Over-power
- Limited in what offers
- Vulnerabilities to be demolished
- Informal vending to be cleaned up

**Bottom-Up**
- System of Difference
  - Coherent, spontaneous

**Crisis**

- **Response**
  - Mega-block Urban Village
  - Infrastructure
  - Informal Activities
  - Top-Down
  - Bottom-Up
  - (upgrade)

**Exacerbated Difference** at different scales

**System of Difference**

- Coherent, spontaneous

**Crisis Response**

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Mega-block
- 3. Urban Village
- 4. Top-Down
- 5. Bottom-Up
- 6. System of Difference

**Key Features**

- 120 km
- 27 km
- 1.5 km

**Dimensions**

- XXL
- XL
- L
- M
- S
Introduction welcome to Caiwuwei
Introduction at scale...
Caiwuwei village is a response to what the mega-blocks development cannot offer.
Introduction @ scale S: existing informal activities
Introduction crisis of the 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
original informal activities

proposition

energy
organization
hygiene
Introduction proposal, STEP_01  
modernize the stalls

**S modernized stalls**

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

Type II retractable cart
- foldable and retractable equipment for a maximum vertical display

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

stall storage  
scale 1" = 4'
energy
organization
hygiene

to clean

control center/ warehouse

control and check over night

water/electricity
storage
refrigerator
食品检查和冷藏
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
02 design guidelines and criteria

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.
02 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
03 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
04 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
04 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
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
04 variation of scale, form and program  market collage
05 a connected city  silo as an urban strategy
05a connected city  connected corridor
05 connected city time fluctuation
connected city

silo as an urban strategy
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