Syracuse University

SURFACE

Architecture Thesis Prep

School of Architecture Dissertations and Theses

Fall 2016

Urban Amnesia

Teriya Lee

Follow this and additional works at: https://surface.syr.edu/architecture_tpreps

Part of the Architecture Commons

Recommended Citation

Lee, Teriya, "Urban Amnesia" (2016). *Architecture Thesis Prep*. 350.
https://surface.syr.edu/architecture_tpreps/350

This Thesis Prep is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Architecture Dissertations and Theses at SURFACE. It has been accepted for inclusion in Architecture Thesis Prep by an authorized administrator of SURFACE. For more information, please contact surface@syr.edu.

Thesis Preperation F16

Teriya Lee

Working Title: Urban Amnesia (to be revised)

Identity 3

Memory 6

Space 10

Review Comments & Next Semester 21

Appendix 23

This thesis is a response to Kevin Lynch's claim that "in the process of way-finding, the strategic link is the environmental image, the generalized mental picture of the exterior physical world that is held by an individual." Specifically, the thesis deals with those parts of the urban fabric which are imageless - the unidentified, or, the forgotten. It asks the question: what can architecture do to clarify spatial identities? The thesis will explore Hong Kong's identity as it relates to memory and space.

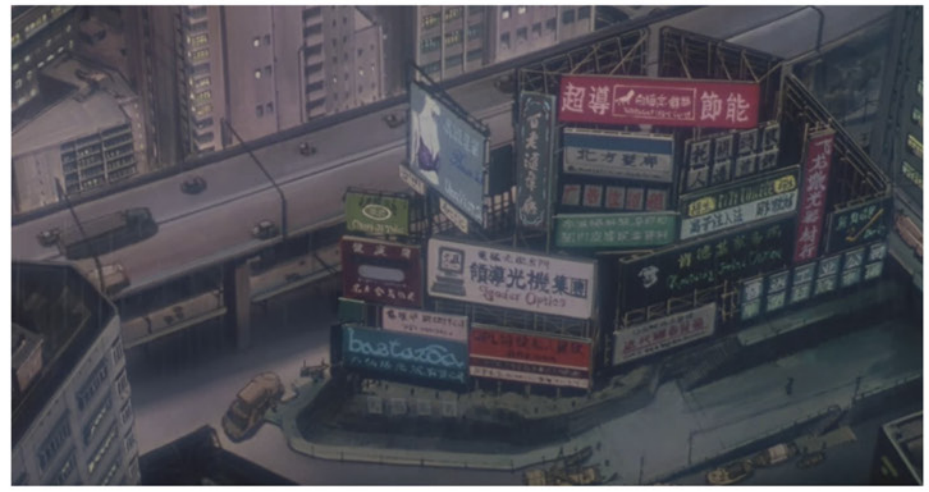
Identity

Depictions of Hong Kong in movie, Ghost in the Shell (1995) by Masamune Shirou.

Hong Kong's identity is a complex issue. The city used to be a colony of the United Kingdom until 1997, when it was handed back to communist China. In the decade since the handover, Hong Kong has led a turbulent relationship with the motherland, rife with accusations of pseudo-democracy and broken promises of autonomy. Its identity as a city-state is unclear.

Similar to its complex politics, the urban fabric of Hong Kong is a heterotopia, a term coined by the philosopher Michel Foucault. As explained by Evan Puschak, heterotopias are "places that exist in a dynamic state of layered and changing meanings. Heterotopias don't succumb to those forces that try to make everything the same. They are marginal spaces for the voiceless to construct identities for themselves." In other words, Hong Kong does not have an identity; it has identities.

數記電腦行


超導
節能
偵測光機業廠

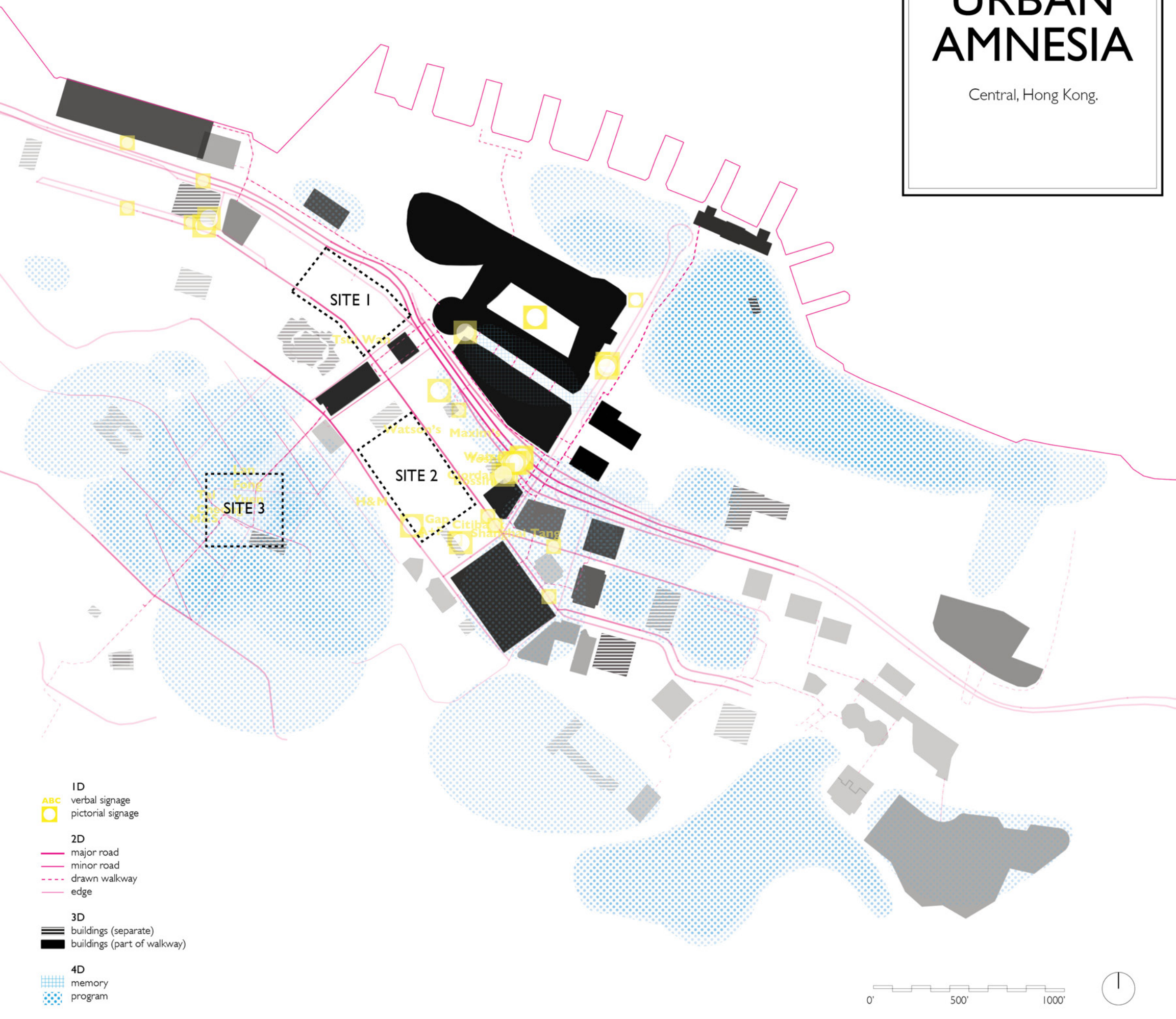
Memory

This thesis comprehends the chaotic spatial identities of Hong Kong through memory. In a city composed of layers upon layers, it is not surprising that some may be left behind. The thesis uses cognitive mapping (see appendix) as a method to identify those which are left behind. That is to say, it is not interested in profiling a comprehensive list of all identities; it is interested in memorability of identity, specifically to clarify the confused spatial identities of the forgotten.

The Central Elevated Walkway in Central, Hong Kong, provides a sample of equally accessible spaces. It is thus intriguing to investigate forgotten identities along the walkway, because equal accessibility suggests that other factors, not physical location, are involved in forgotten-ness. This thesis hypothesizes that these other factors are program and appearance. That is to say, program and appearance are intrinsically tied to the memorability of spatial identity.

URBAN AMNESIA

Central, Hong Kong.



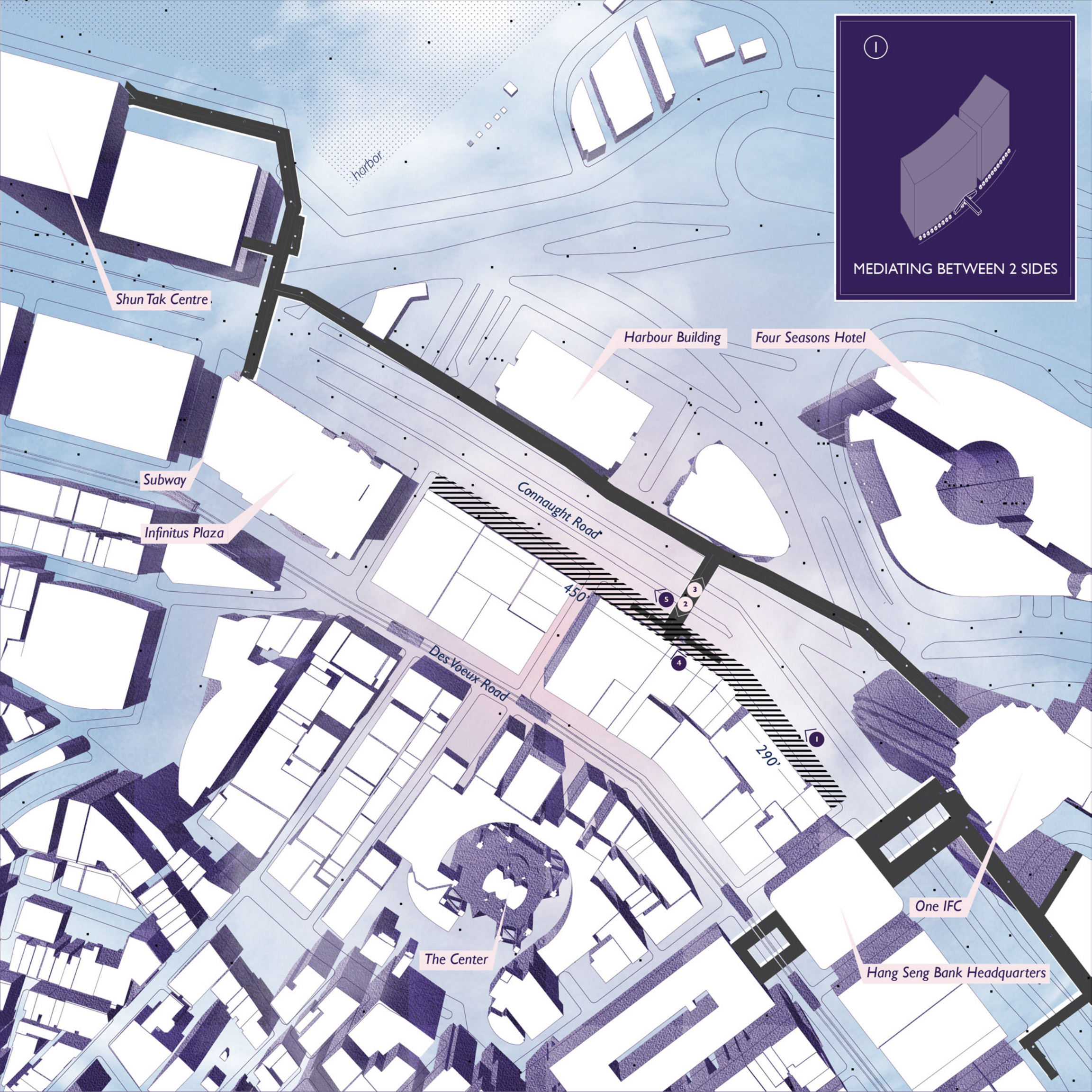
connected buildings
Central Elevated Walkway
Mid-Level Walkway
Admiralty Walkway

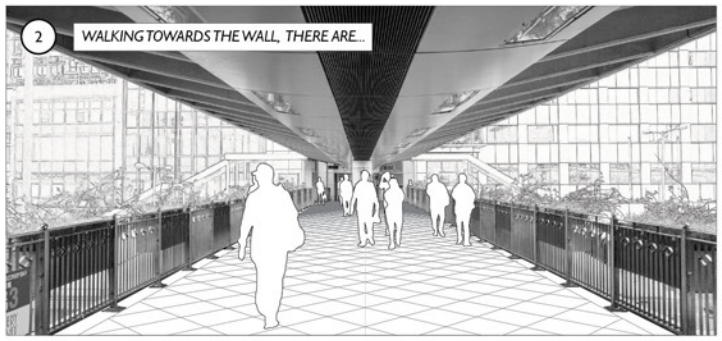
Space

By identifying 3 forgotten identities and analyzing their specific context through the drawings, the project is set up for the next step, which is reconfiguring the image of these 3 forgotten identities into something more memorable. Through these identities, or micro-urbanisms if you will, the thesis will explore different methods of imaging the city next semester, via contextual interventions in program and appearance.

The following are three identities, the nature of their forgotten-ness, and possible intervention strategies.

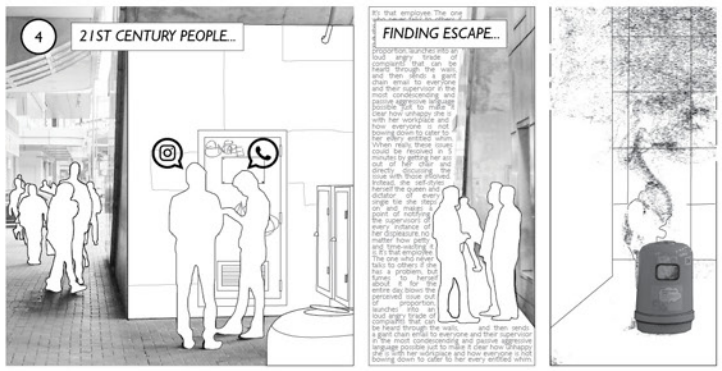
Identity 1 is a linear path directly connected to the walkway. Its linearity is underlined by 1) the impenetrable "wall" of facades that line up along the street, and 2) the wide adjacent road which can only be crossed via the walkway. These two parallels also present a set of opposing characteristics: sterile and cluttered, fast and slow, urban and domestic, car and human. The proposed intervention mediates between these two sides. This mediation is important for the sidewalk – without it, the sidewalk becomes a no man's land. There is evidence of this need for mediation: people congregate on their phones under the walkway, take their smoke breaks beside bins, hangout in groups against the wall, accumulate a strange barrier of stuff between them and the road, amongst other things. Next semester, the thesis will answer this question - how can architecture integrate established notions of street furniture (such as bollards, bus shelters, bins, posts...) with ideas of public dwelling (such as places for congregation) to create a cohesive series that clarifies the identity of site by mediating between two opposing adjacencies.


harbor
Shun Tak Centre
Harbour Building
Four Seasons Hotel
Subway
Infinitus Plaza
Connaught Road
Des Voeux Road
450'
290'
The Center
One IFC
Hang Seng Bank Headquarters
1
2
3
4
5
1
MEDIATING BETWEEN 2 SIDES

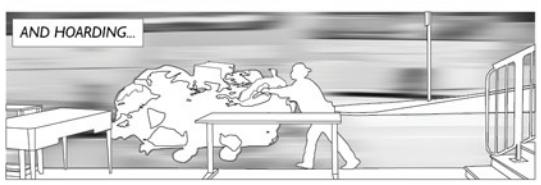

2
WALKING TOWARDS THE WALL, THERE ARE...

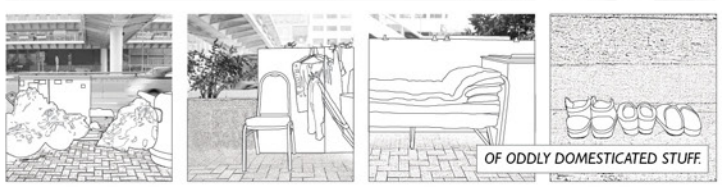
1
IDENTITY 1 IS A LINEAR PATH DIRECTLY CONNECTED TO THE WALKWAY. ITS LINEARITY IS UNDERLINED BY :
1) THE IMPENETRABLE WALL OF FACADES THAT LINE UP ALONG THE STREET, AND
2) THE WIDE ADJACENT ROAD WHICH CAN ONLY BE CROSSED VIA THE WALKWAY.

3
WALKING AWAY FROM THE WALL, THERE IS...


4
21ST CENTURY PEOPLE...

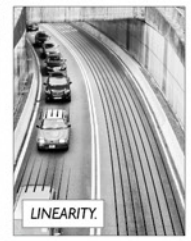
FINDING ESCAPE...

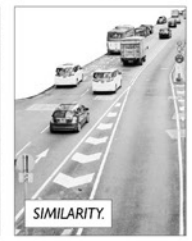

AND HOARDING...


OF ODDLY DOMESTICATED STUFF.

5
MEDIATION

SPEED.


LINEARITY.


SIMILARITY.

ORGANIZATION.

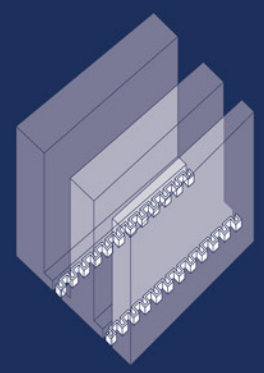
Identity 2 is made up of two narrow streets occupied by shacks which are stocked with mass produced dry goods. The word "stock" is an understatement, as these shacks are so packed to the brim that their goods spill out onto the sidewalk at all angles and heights. Perhaps a more accurate verb might be "hoard". The thesis claims that hoarding is the reason why this site is forgotten – there is so much stuff that the sidewalk is virtually non-existent, and therefore, impenetrable. However, the thesis also sees hoarding as an opportunity for design; the project does not want to do away with hoarding, rather, it learns from hoarding. As Sylvia Lavin claims in "Architecture in Extremis", "Hoarding exposes the architectural effects of excess and how they constitute a specific modality of architectural production and work". Next semester will involve designing a new type of shack which considers its relationship with circulation, adjacencies with neighbors, location of storefront, as well as internal issues of maximizing storage.

Hang Seng Bank Headquarters

Central Market

Exchange Square

2



LEARNING FROM HOARDING

345

14'

16'

1
2
3
4
5

Connaught Road Central

Des Voeux Road

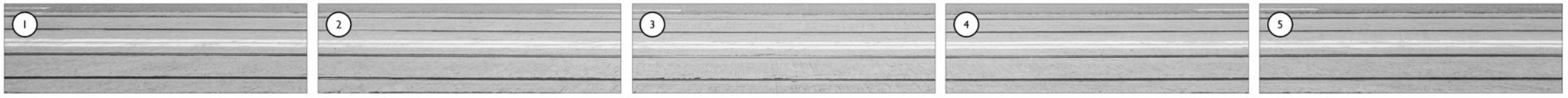
Worldwide House

Theatre Lane

Queen's Road Central

Subway

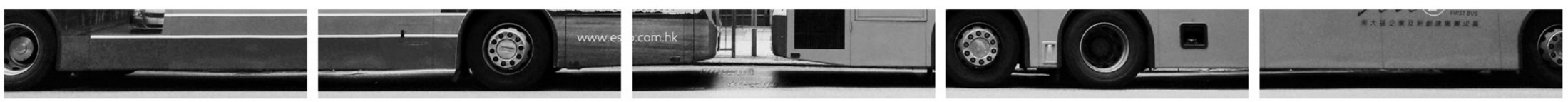
Lan Kwai Fong Area



LI YUEN STREET WEST ◄ ► LI YUEN STREET EAST

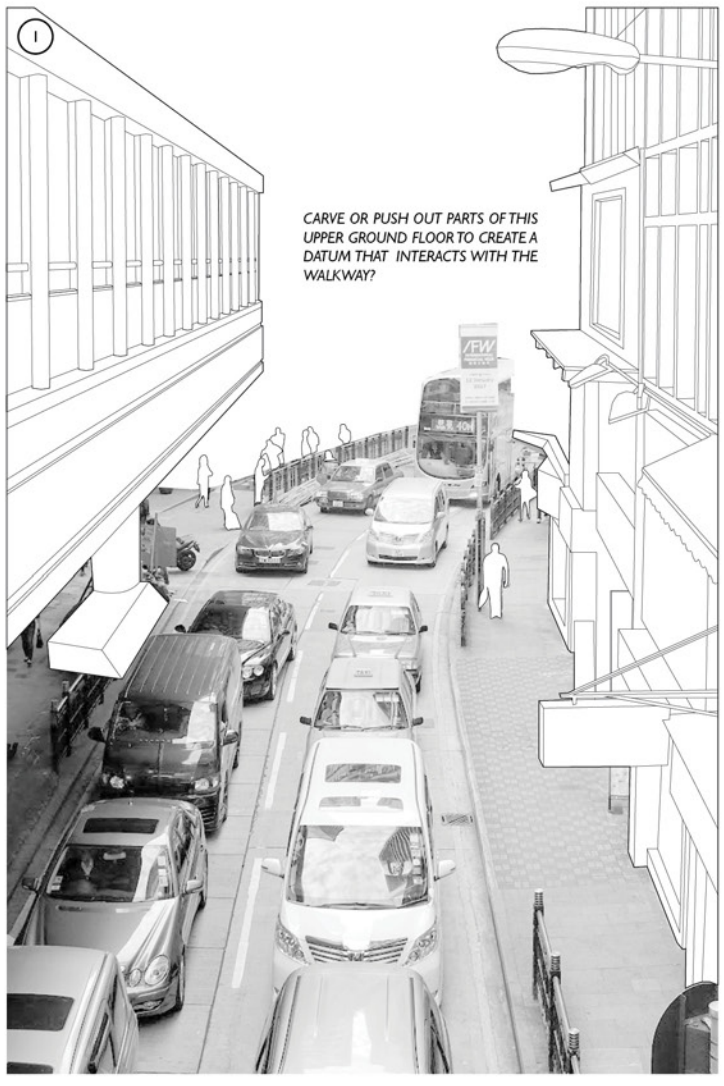
20.5'

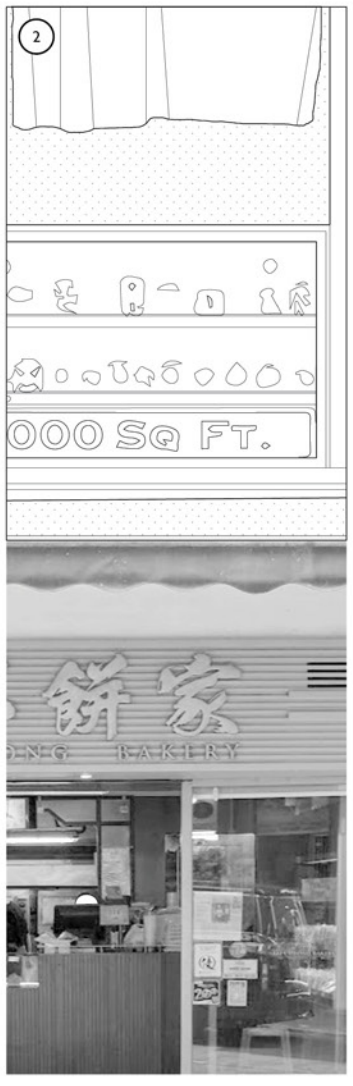
26.7'

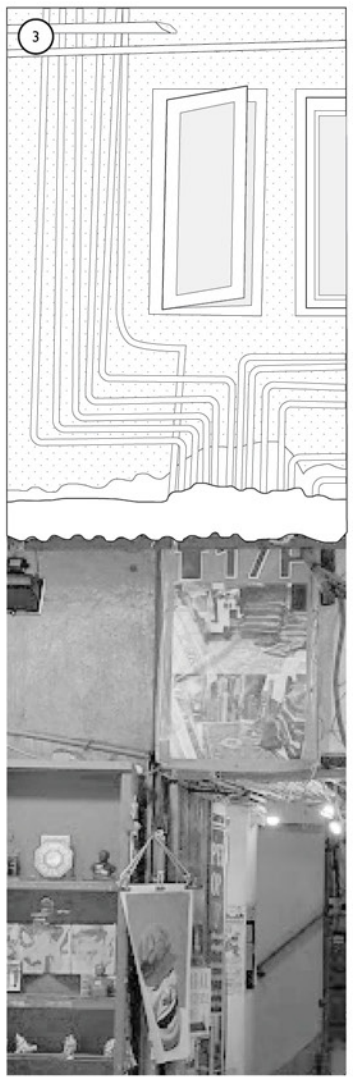


Whereas the notion of "parallels" exist in both Identities 1 and 2, it is the lack of parallels in Identity 3 that characterizes its forgotten-ness. Here, the word "parallels" is used to described a series of elements that give emphasis to a certain linear progression, such as the retail fronts of the English high street, or the rows of trees outlining a Parisian promenade. In order to reclaim the identity of the "nook", the change in direction needs to be signaled by a new datum. Current conditions already show evidence that owners are taking advantage of this upper ground floor, by placing printed ads at this level, as well as LED screens and display windows. Next semester, the thesis will propose a more aggressive approach in the design of this upper ground datum, perhaps to literally carve or push out parts of adjacent facades in order to create a series that interacts with the walkway.

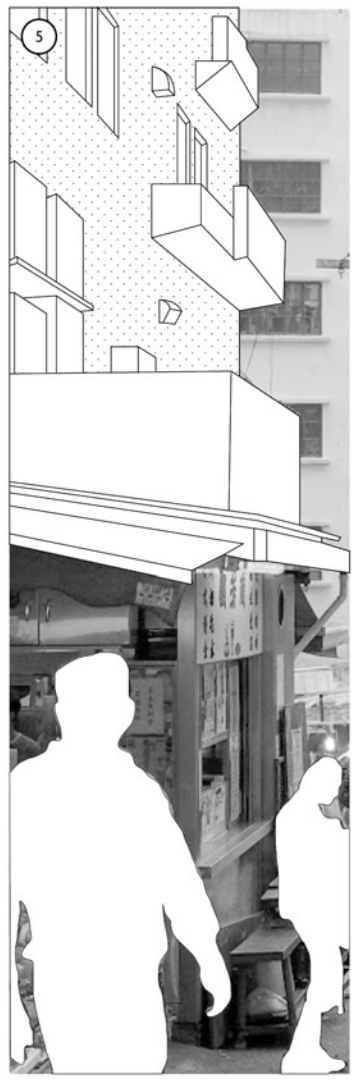
3
CREATING A NEW DATUM
The Center
Central Market
Former Police Married Quarters
Queen's Road Central
Gage Street
Hollywood Road
5
2
3
4
1
SOHO Area
Former Central Police Station
Lan Kwai Fong Area


1
CARVE OR PUSH OUT PARTS OF THIS UPPER GROUND FLOOR TO CREATE A DATUM THAT INTERACTS WITH THE WALKWAY?


2
000 Sq FT.
餅家
BAKERY


3

4
DOMA
SALE ! SALE ! SALE ! SALE !
Removal Closing Sale !
50% off
Stay Cool This Summer !


5

Review Comments & Next Semester

Comments

1. Change the title.
Title is no longer operative. Memory was a starting point for the project, but not the main point. (see point 5)

2. Define the audience.
It is still unclear who the project is catering for.

3. Find a theme between sites.
In the review I claim that each site has its own micro-urbanistic quality that renders it forgettable. The proposed interventions at the review have very little to do with each other. I need to find a theme for the interventions that pulls these micro-urbanisms together. What particular method am I going to use to among all 3 sites to boost their memorability?

4. Define "forgotteness" and "memorability".
Forgottenness/memorability needs to be defined more clearly, in relation to program and appearance.

5. Filter argument.
Things pile up over the semester, I need to refine the argument to its essence. What matters? From step 1 to....

Steps for next semester

1. No ideas for the title yet.

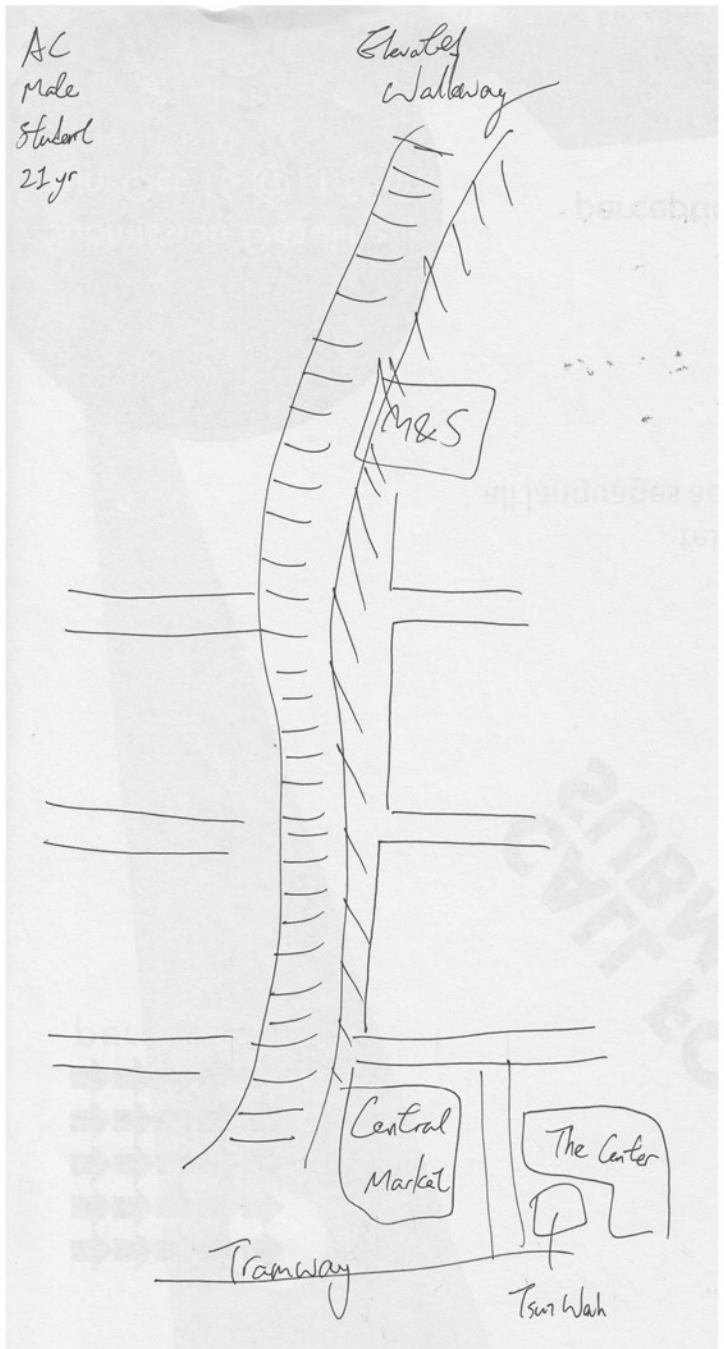
2. Each site will have different audiences. Observations over break will help me to determine who the audiences are.

3. Tentatively, I am thinking that "street furniture" is a theme that is malleable enough for the vastly different sites. It also has interesting design potentials.

4. Through proper site documentation over winter, I hope to come up with a more rigid definition of forgotteness and memorability.

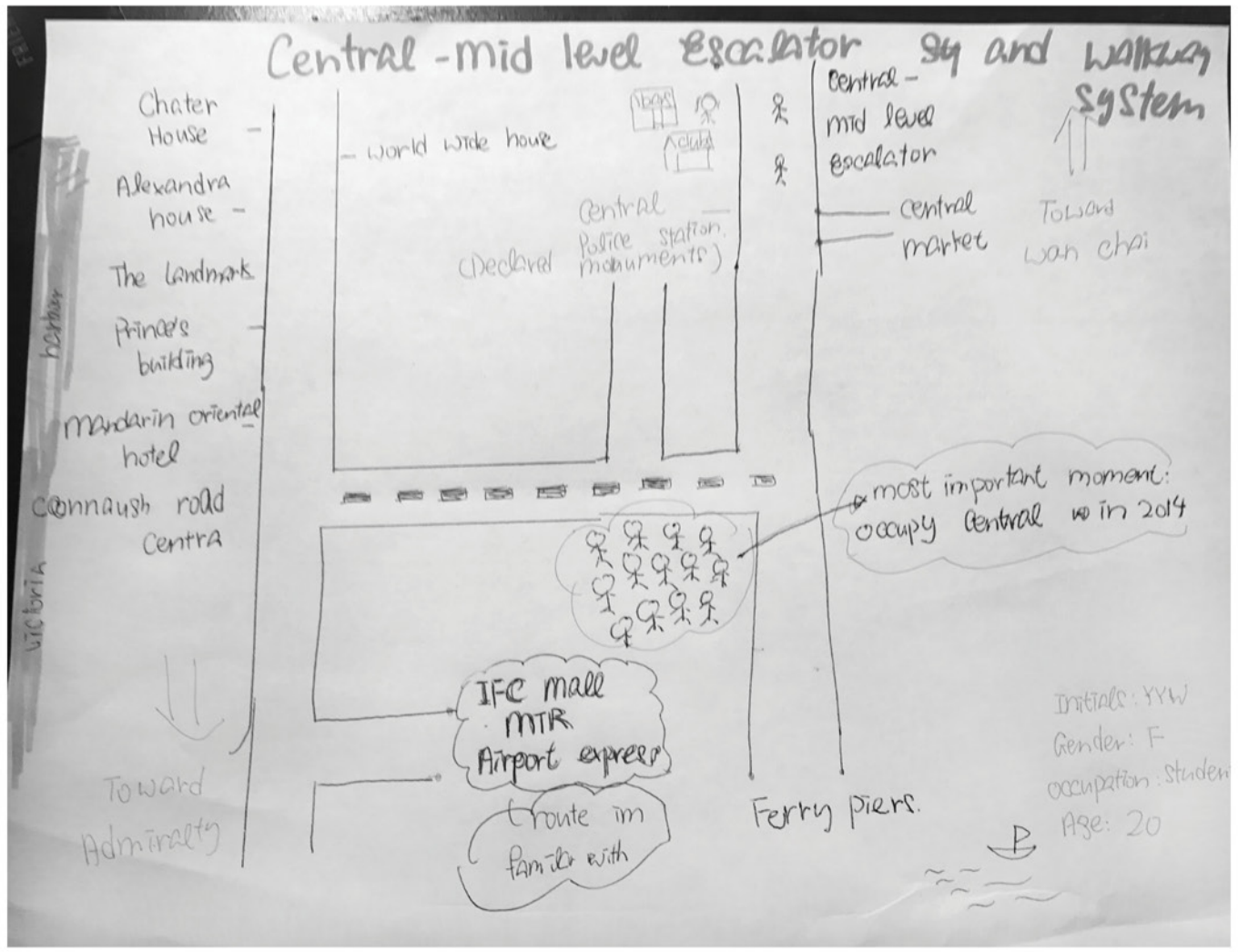
5. Will be accomplished (hopefully with little difficulty) after I clarify the above.

Appendix

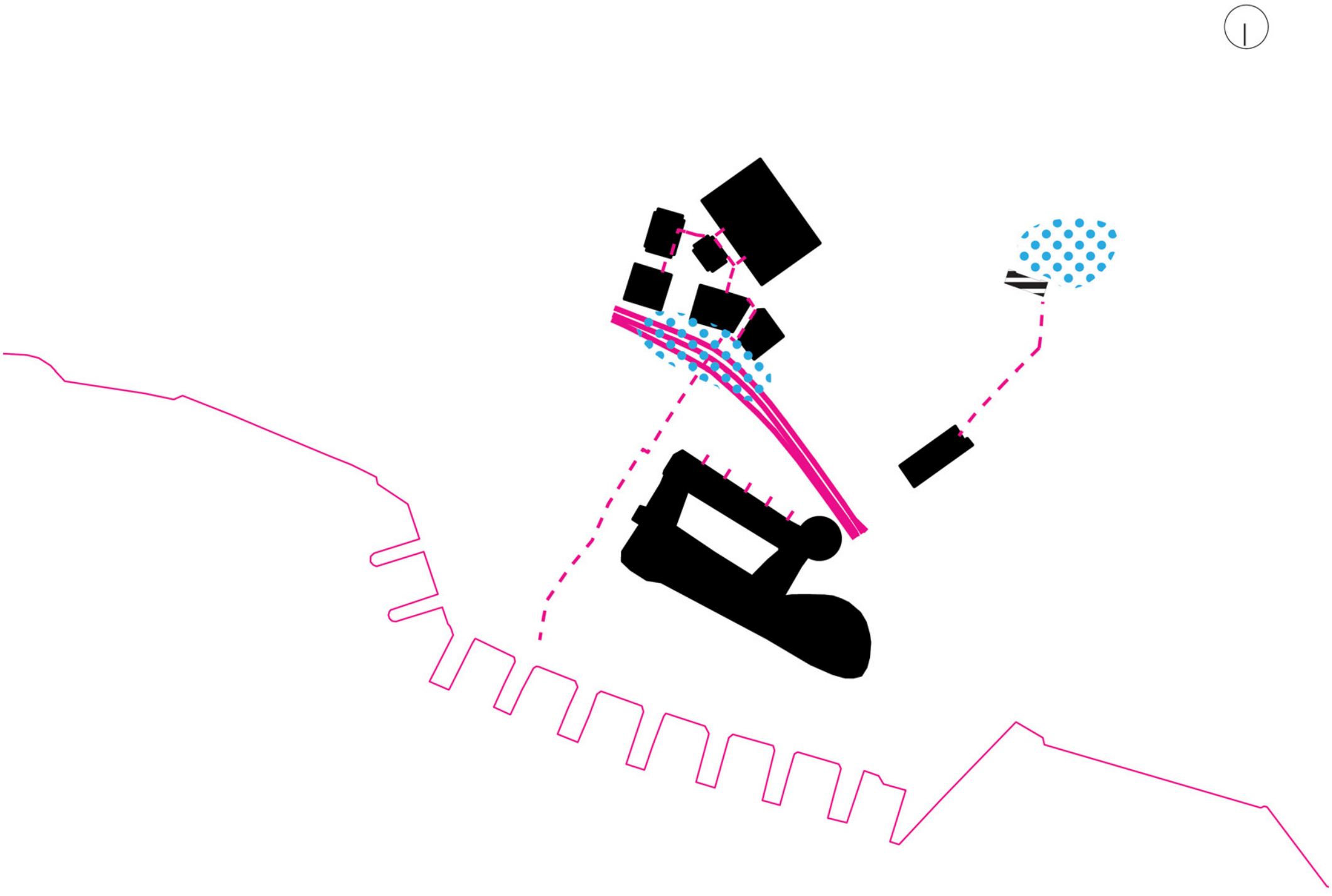


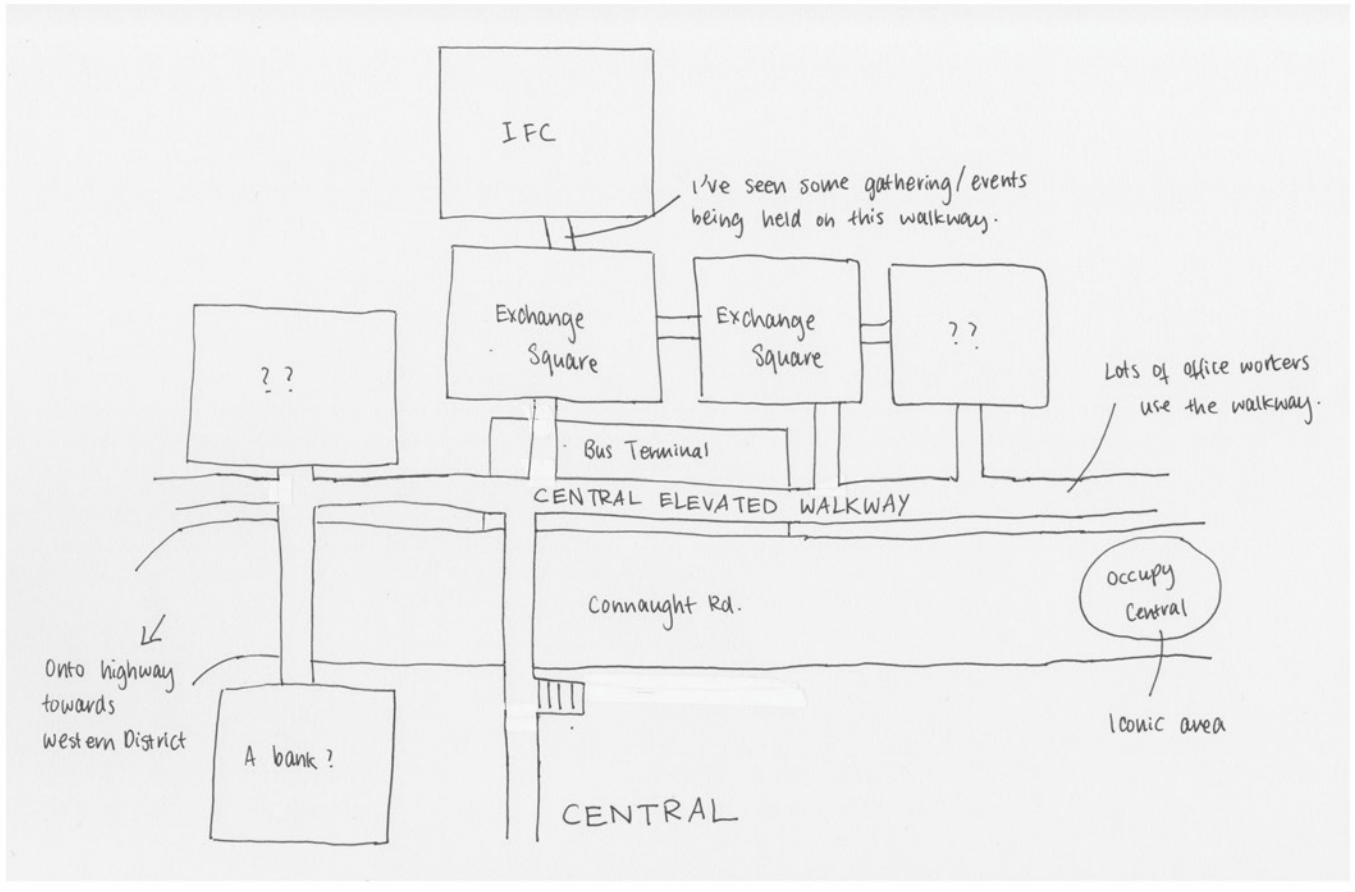
Name	AC
Age	22
Gender	Male

M&S
Tsui Wah

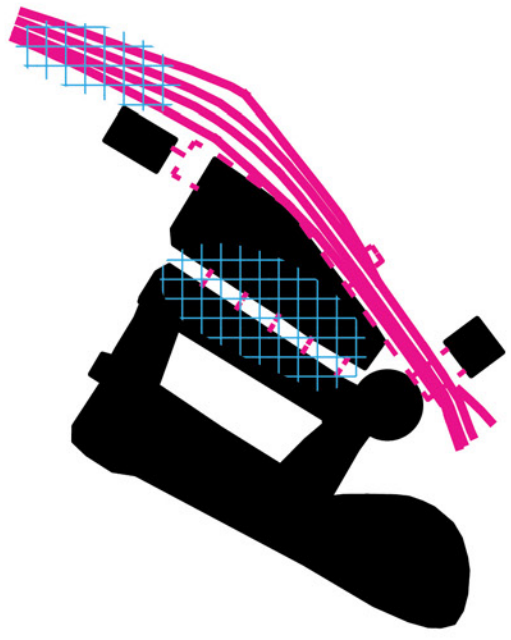


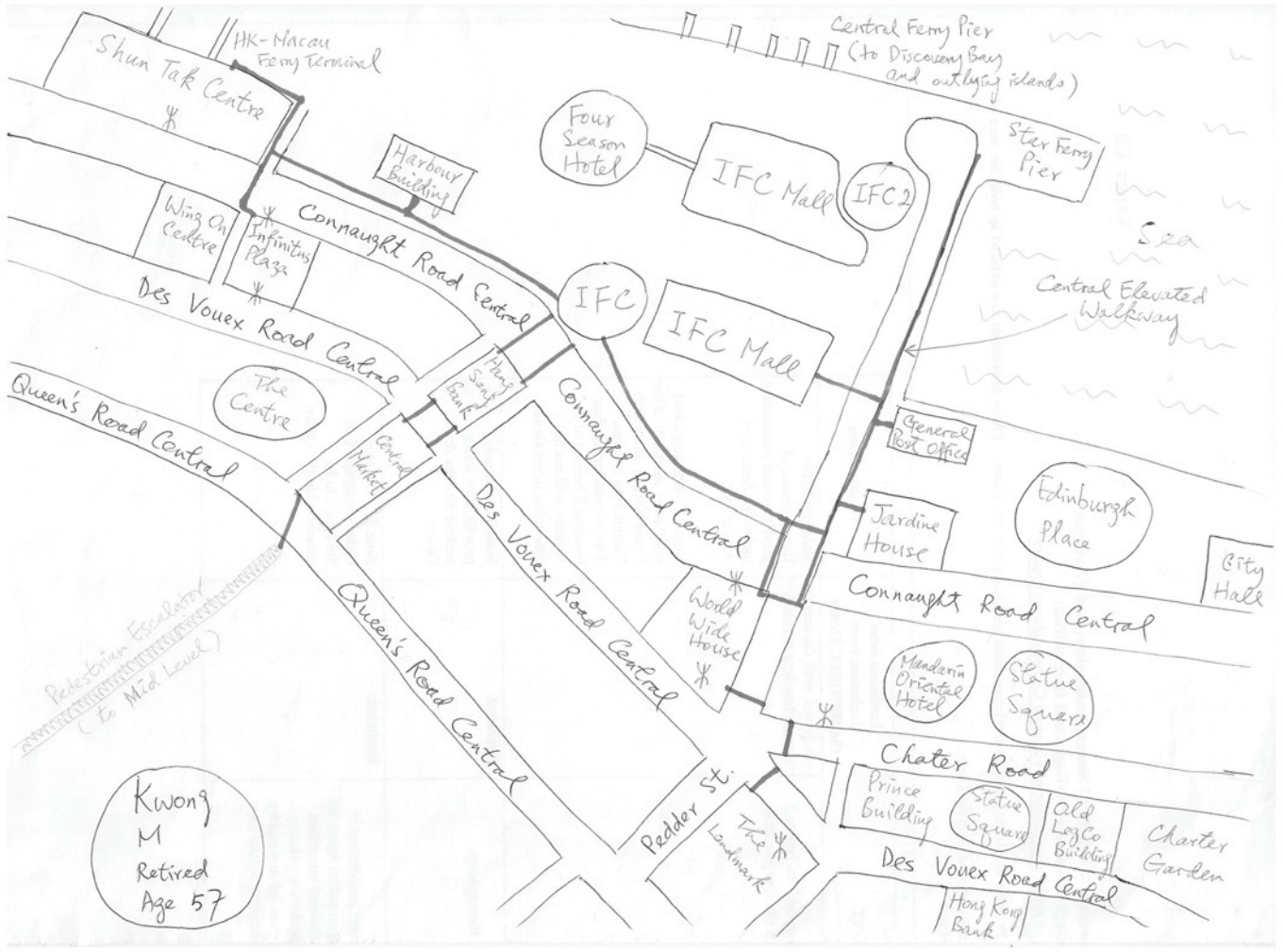
Name	YYW
Age	20
Gender	Female



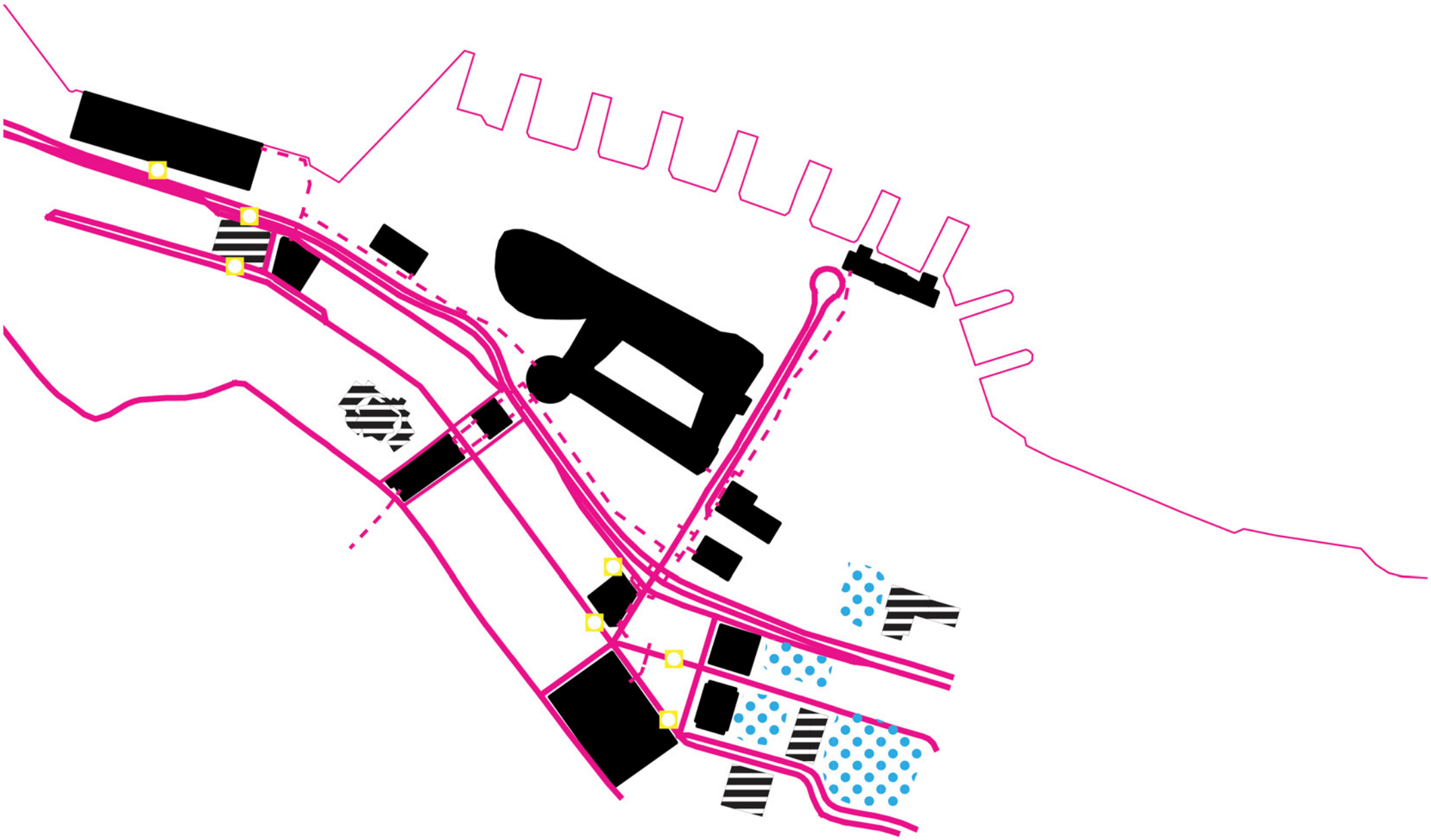


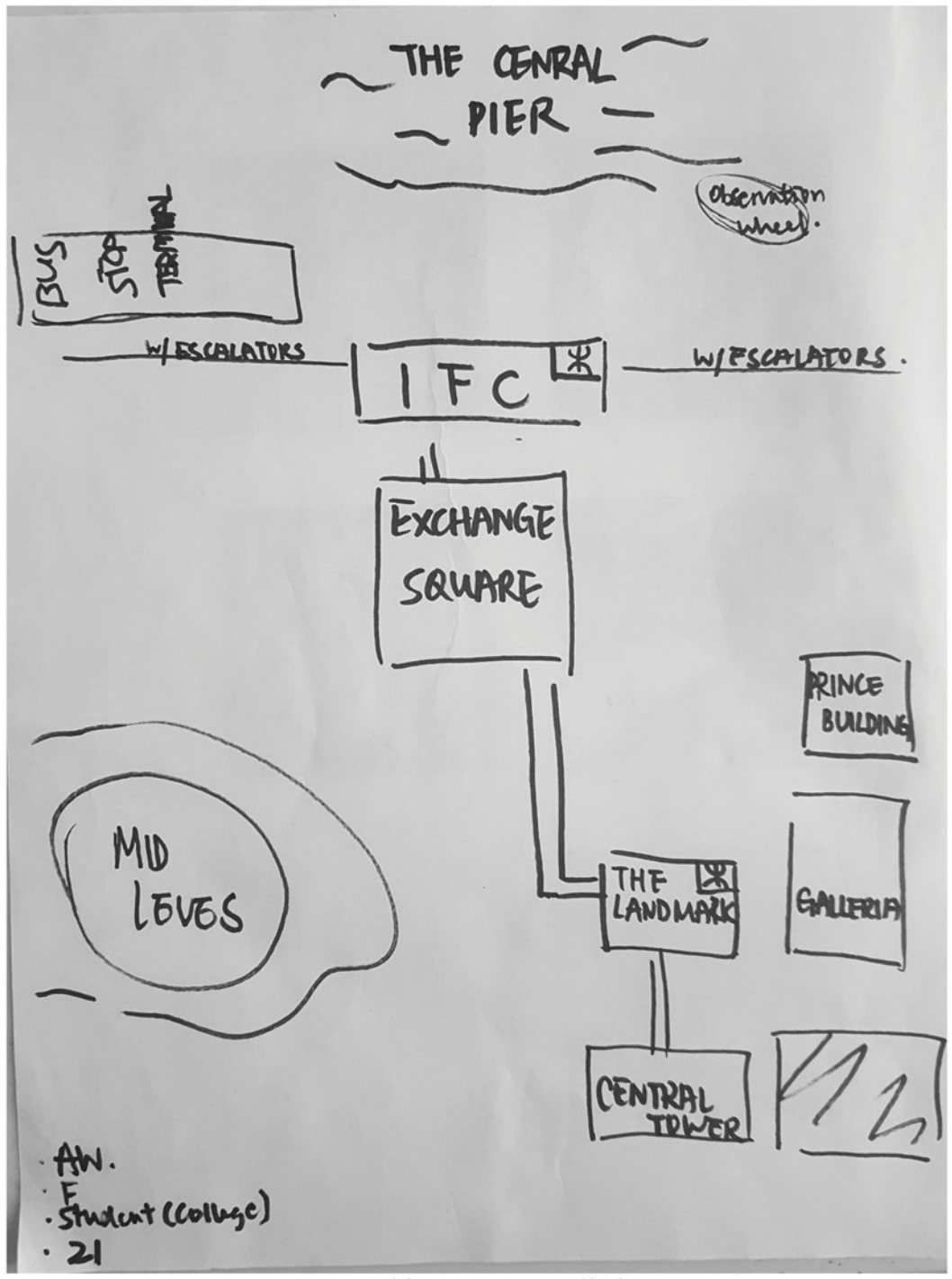
Name	CH
Age	22
Gender	Female



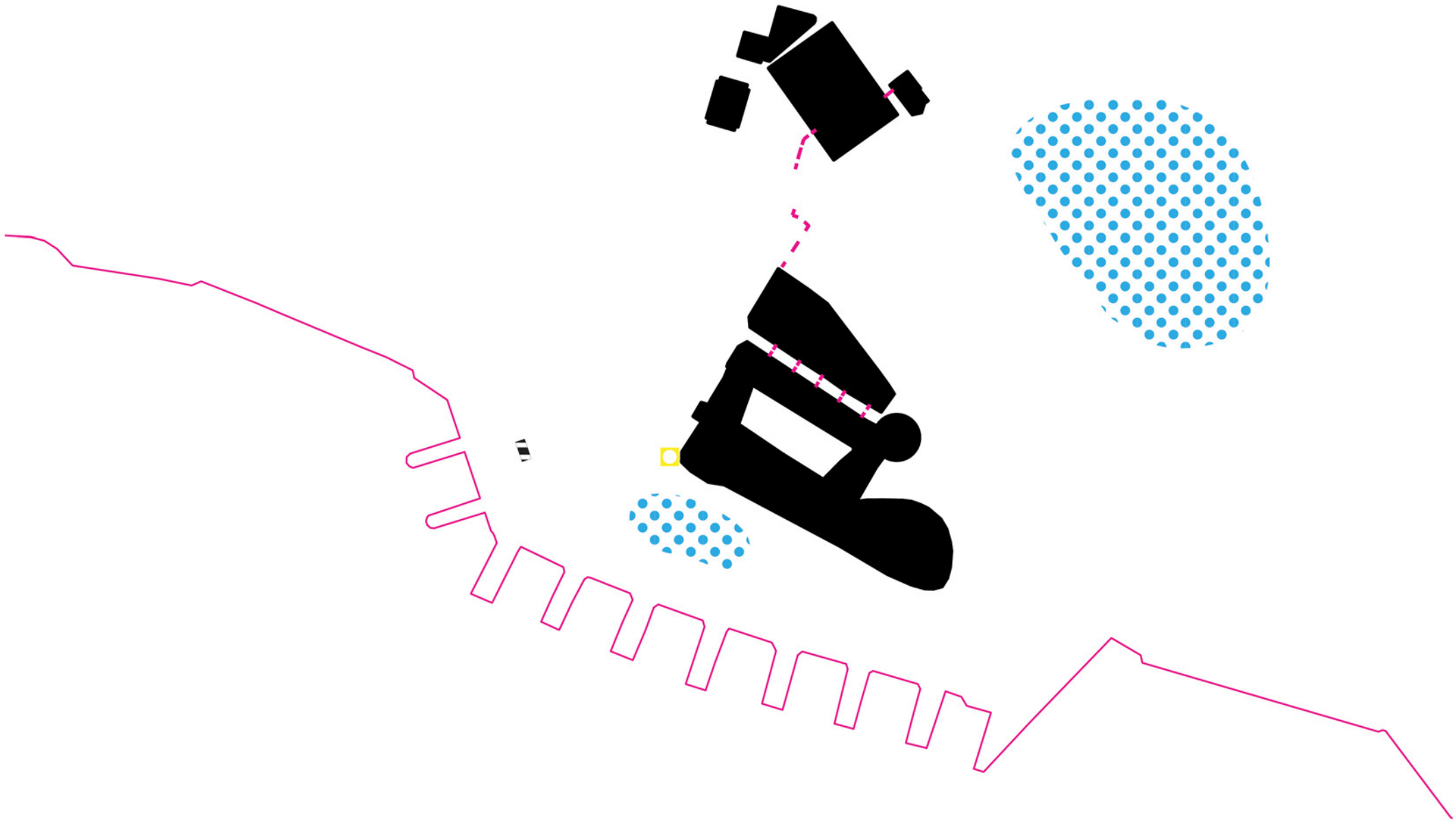


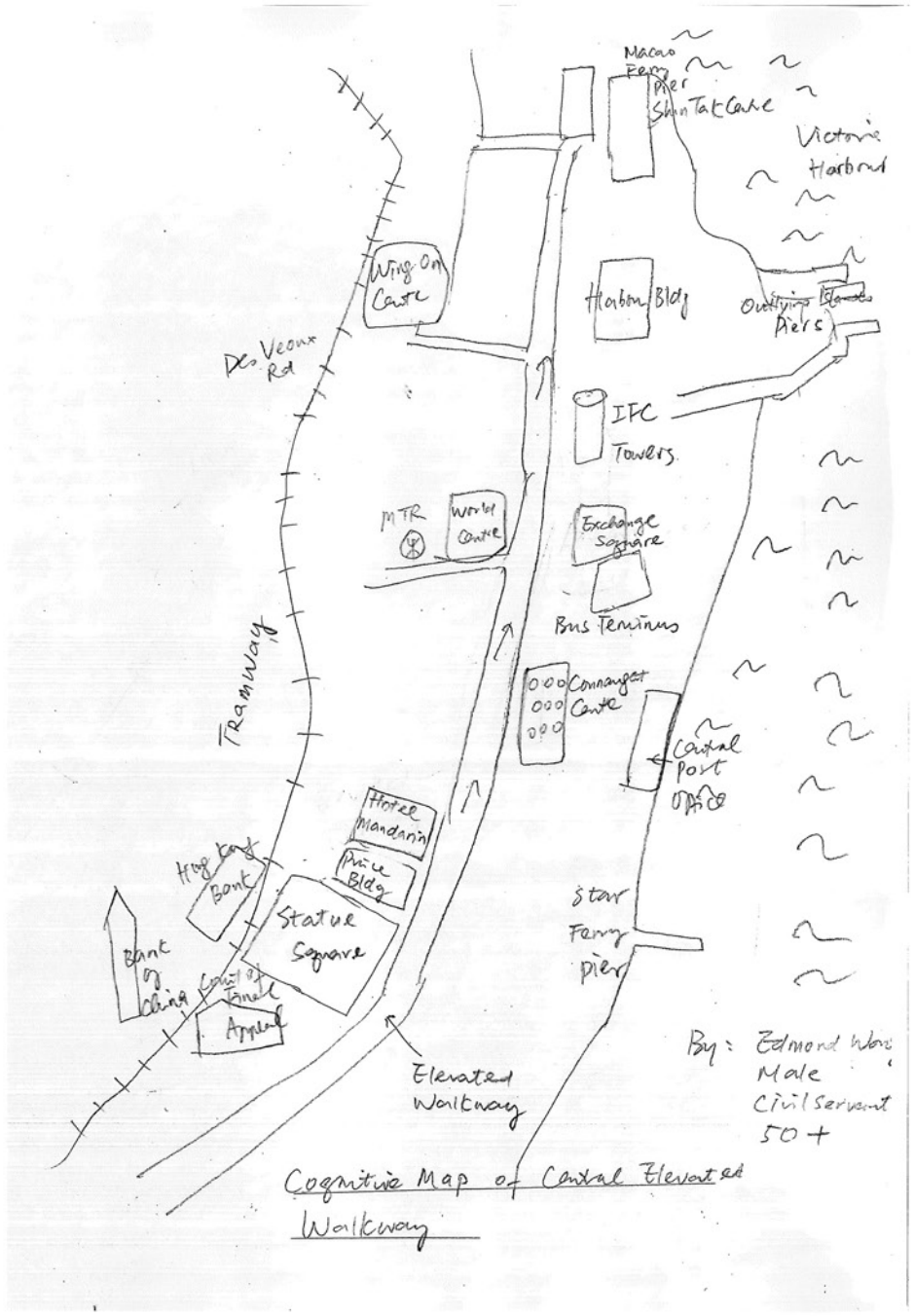
Name	Kwong
Age	57
Gender	Male



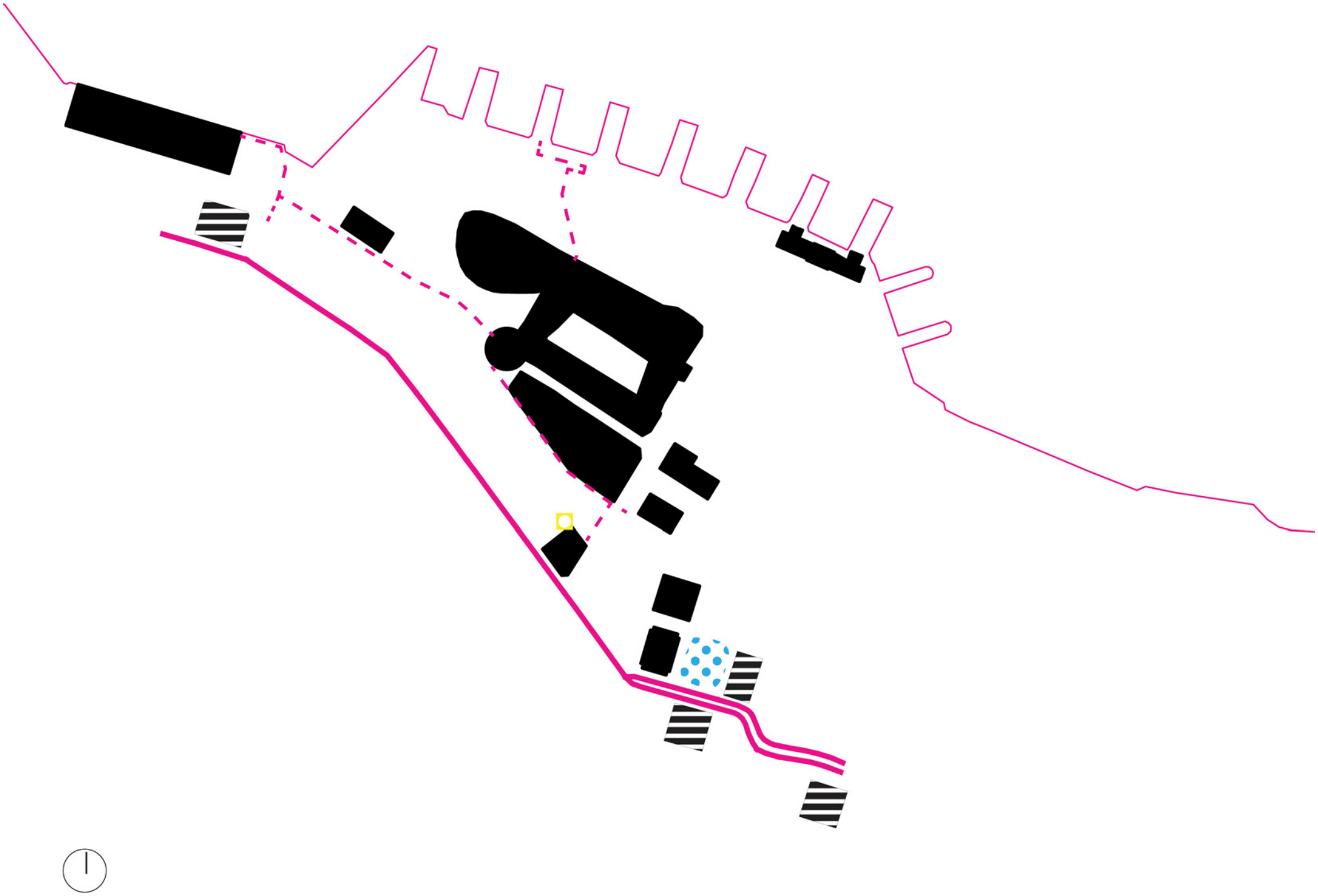


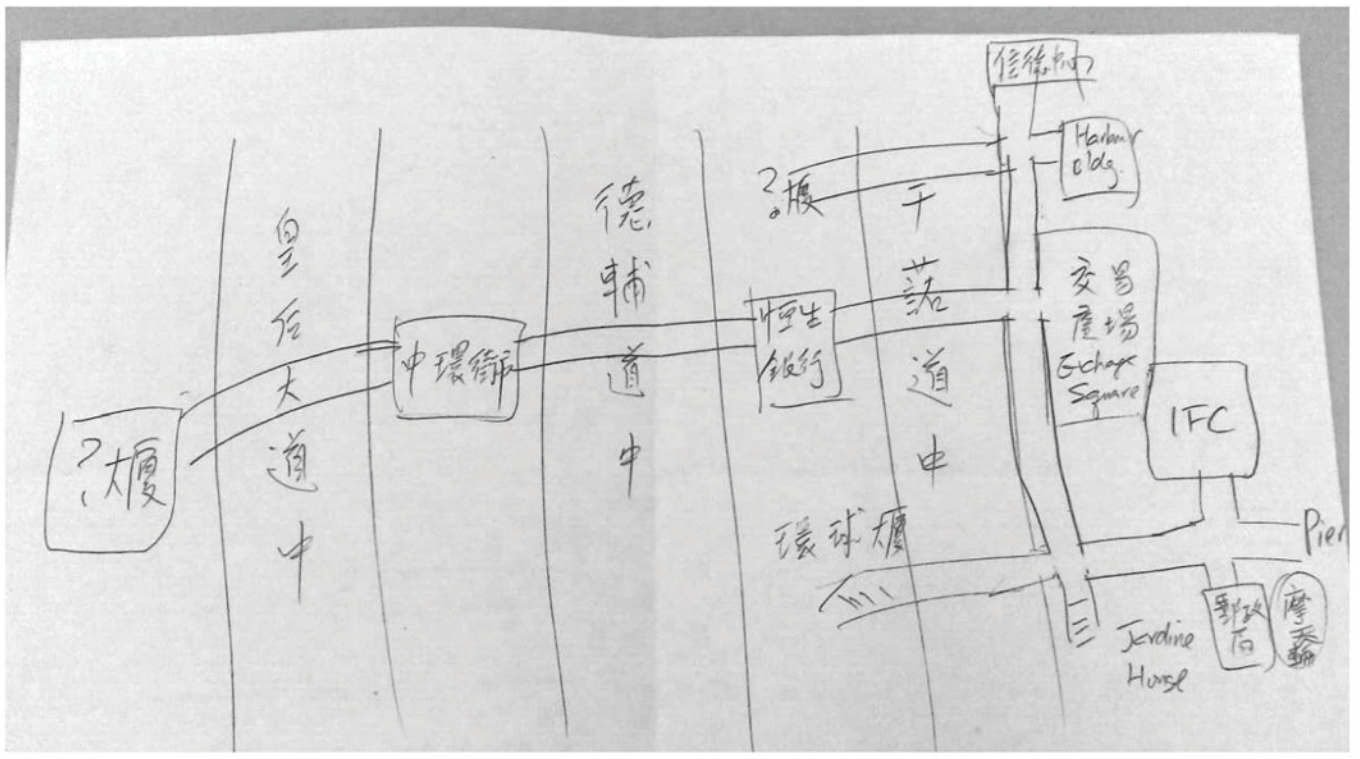
Name	AW
Age	21
Gender	Female



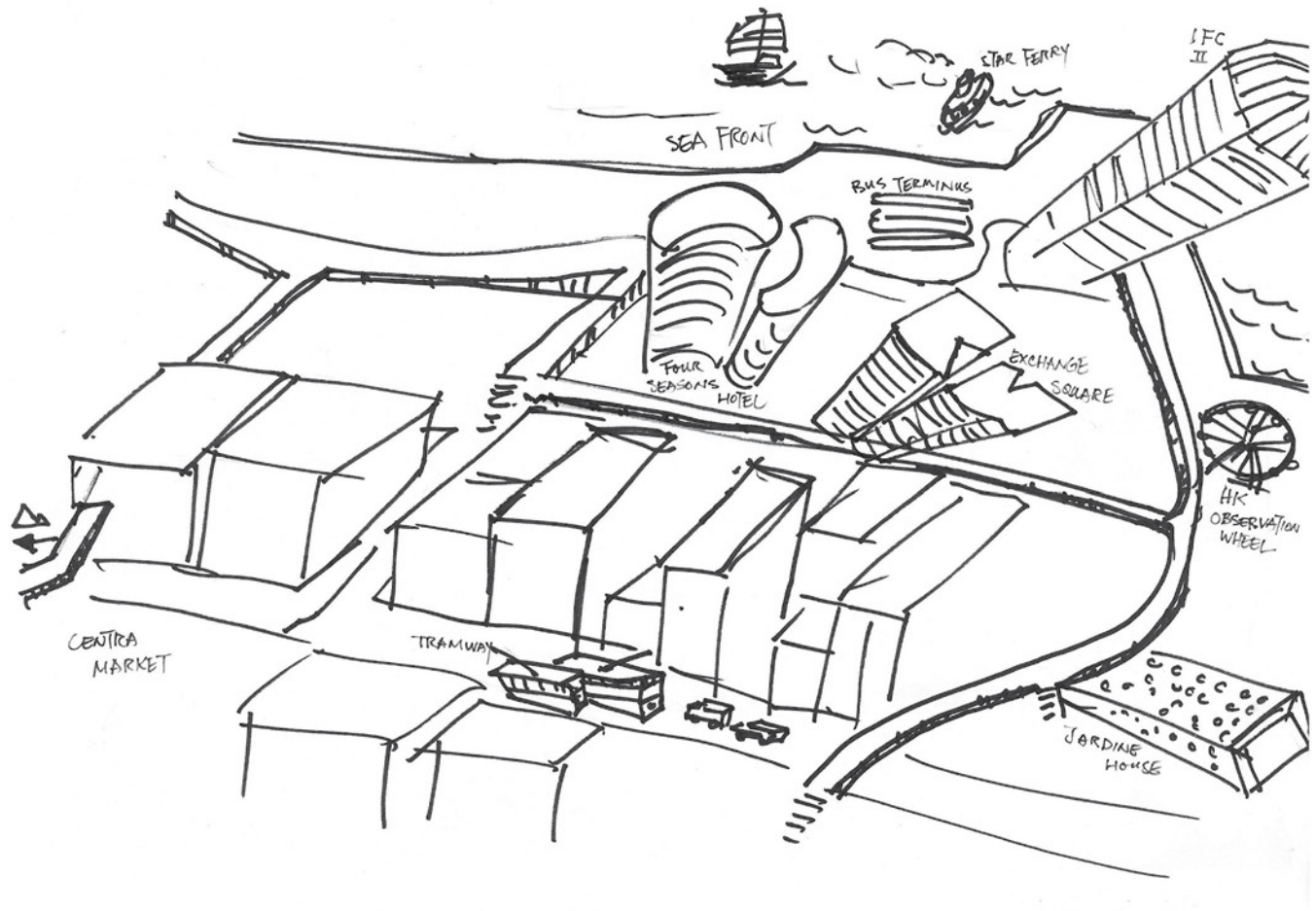


Name	Edward
Age	50
Gender	Male

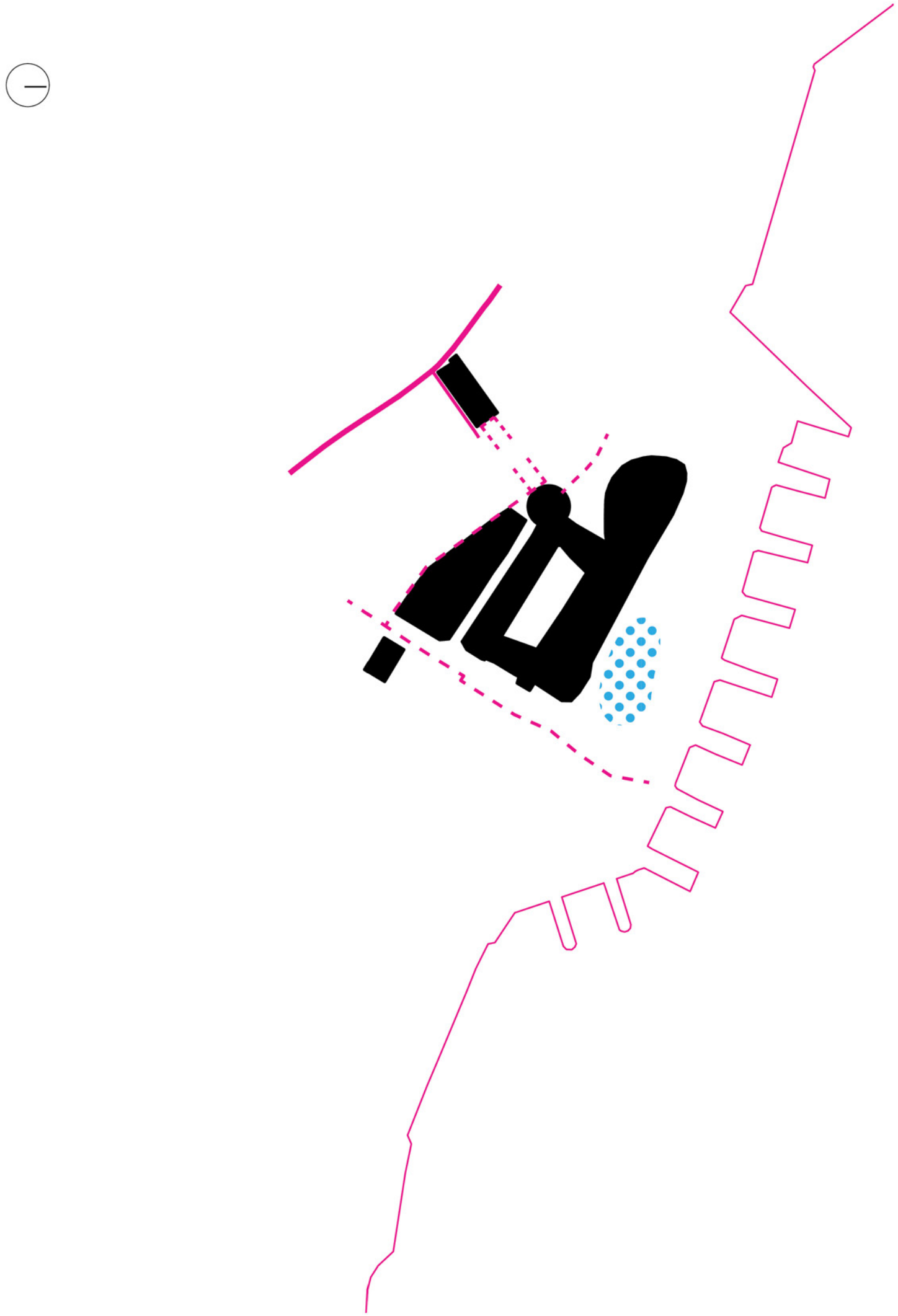


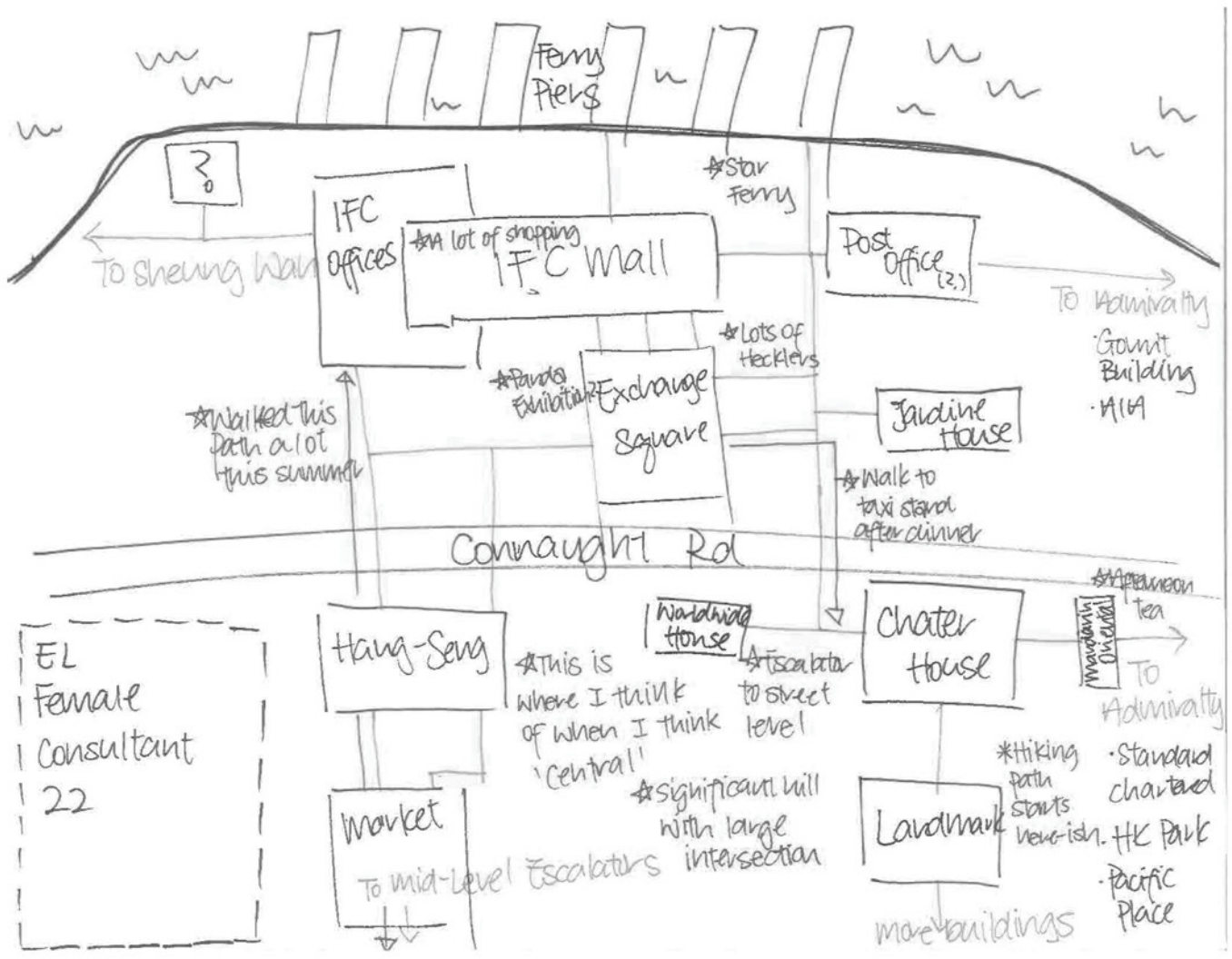


Name	JS
Age	50-60
Gender	Female

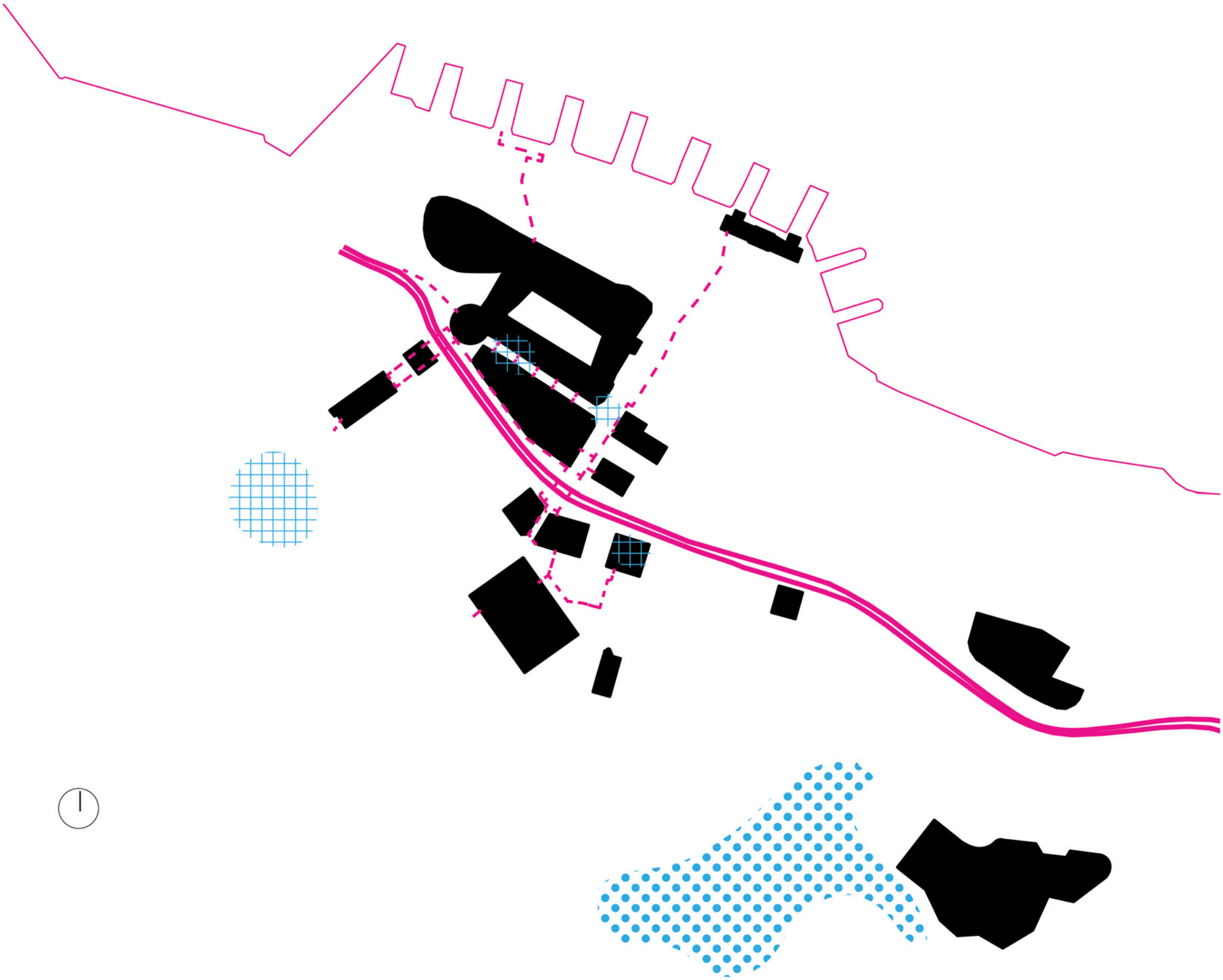


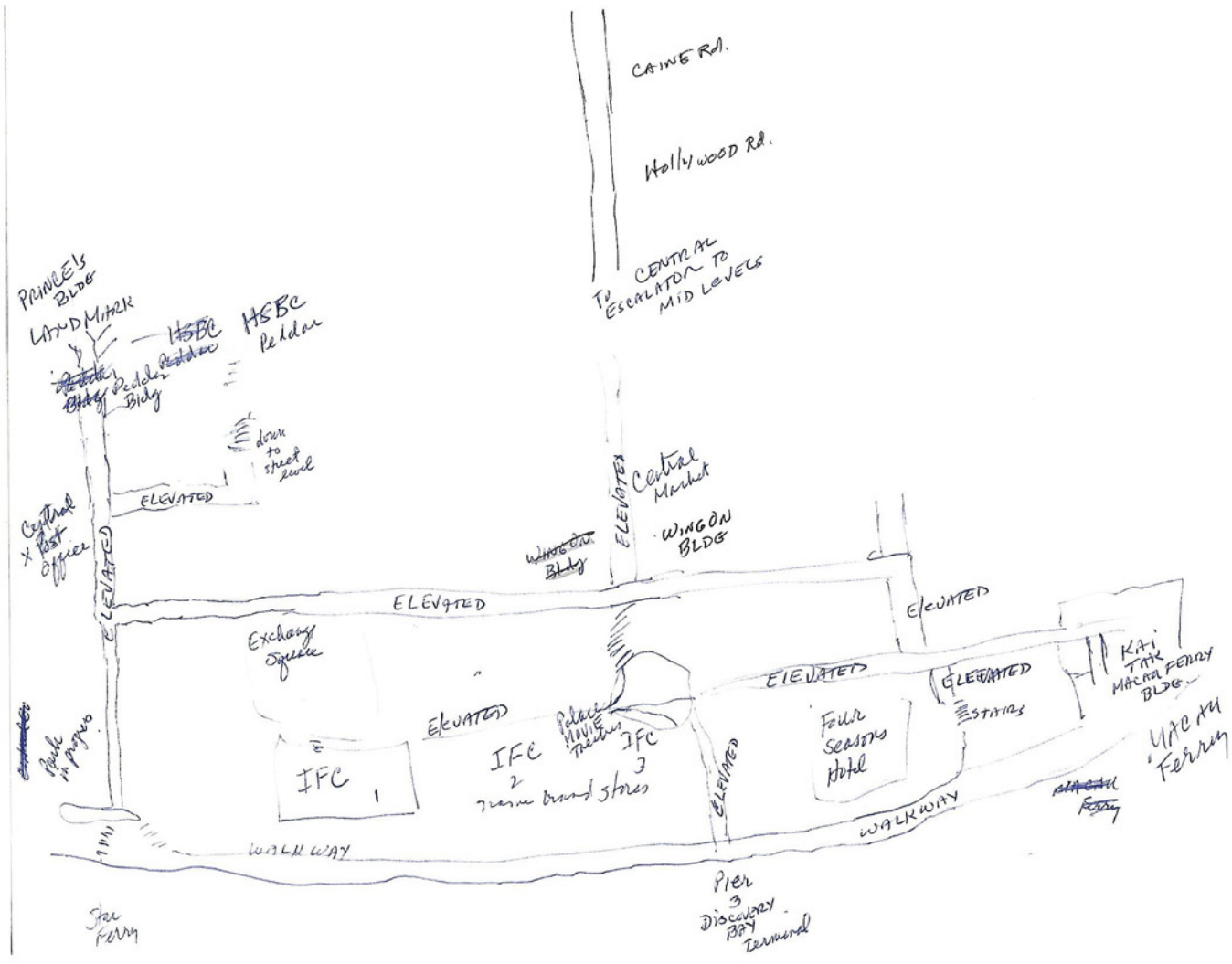
Name	Haymond
Age	-
Gender	Male



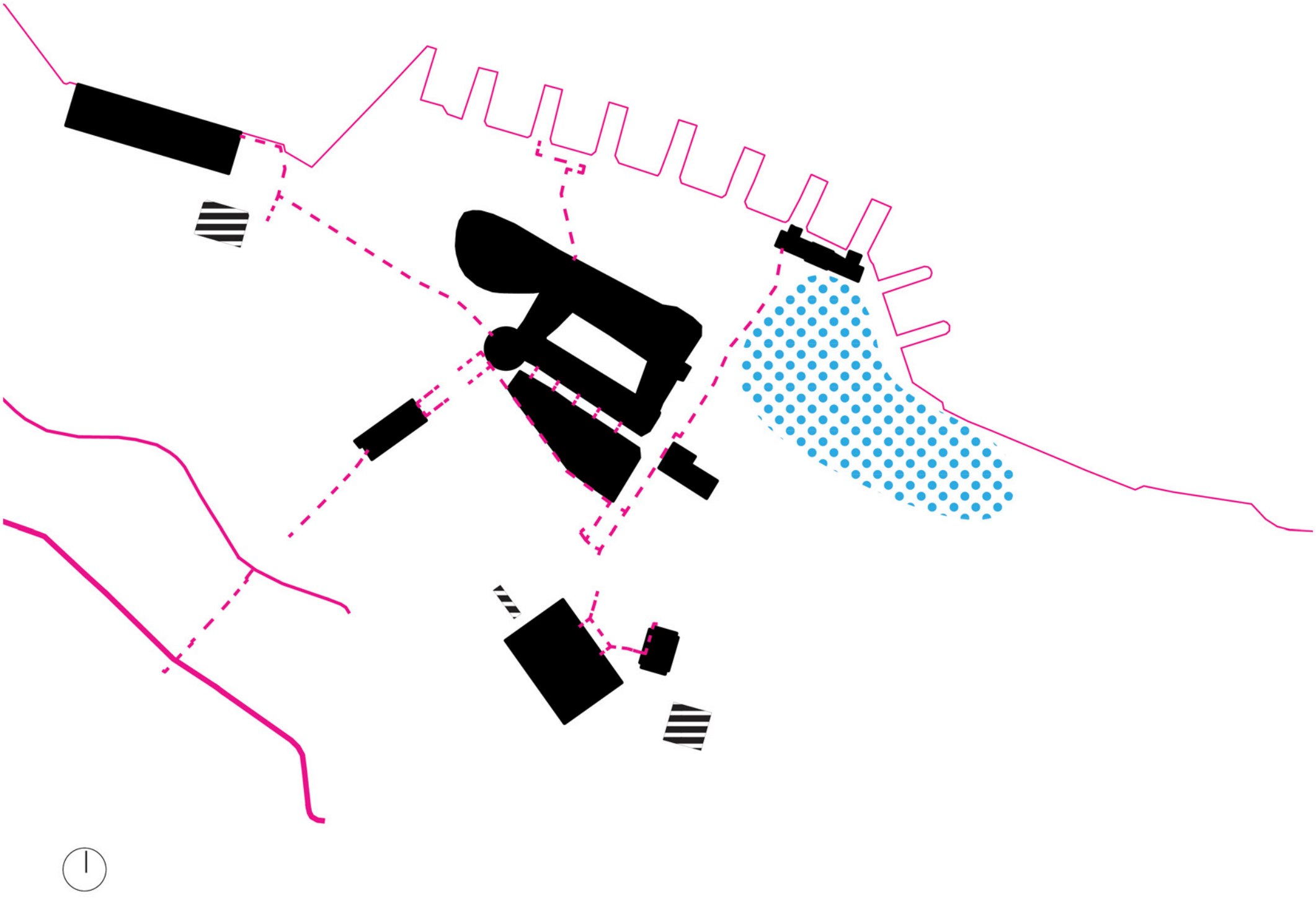


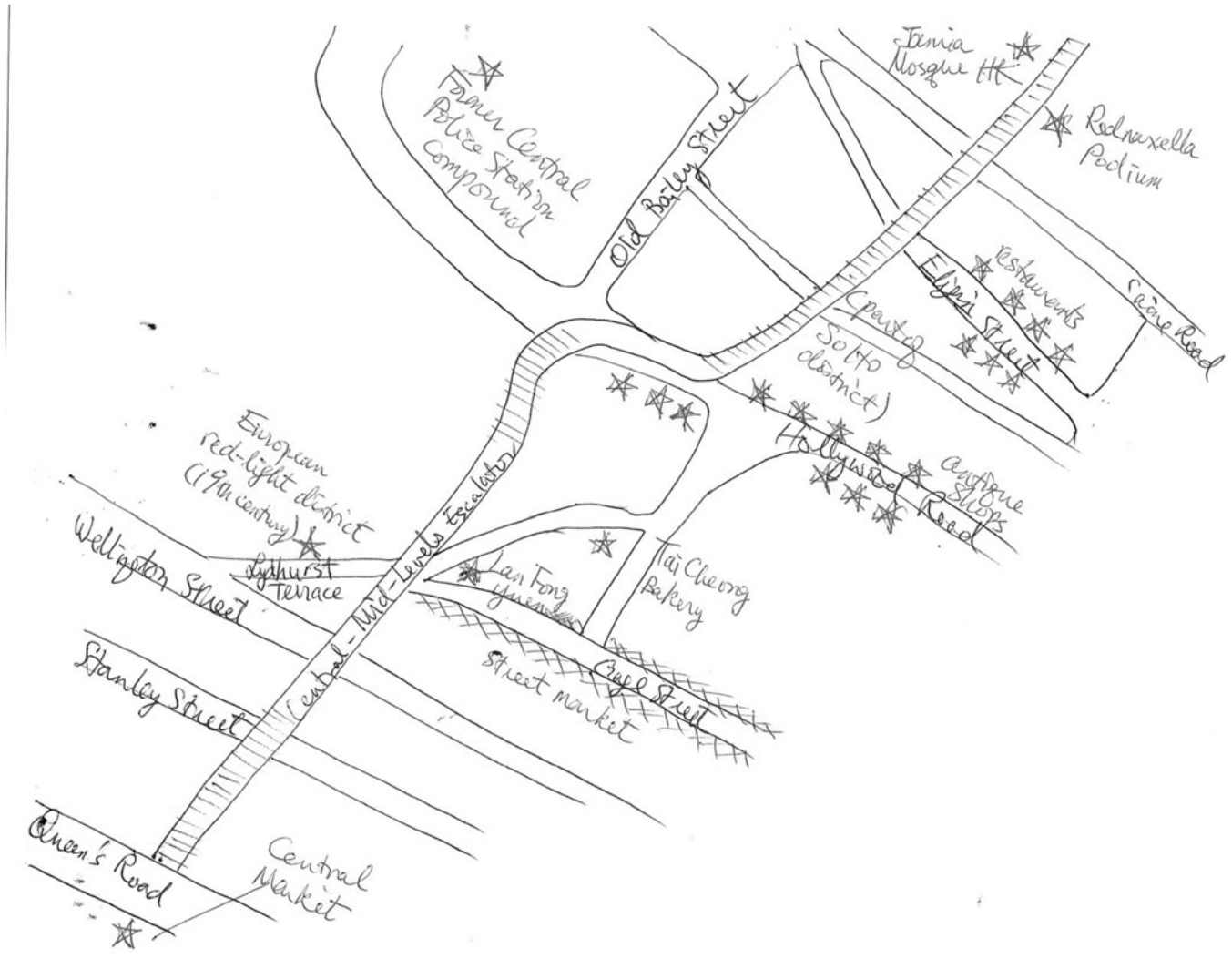
Name	EL
Age	22
Gender	Female



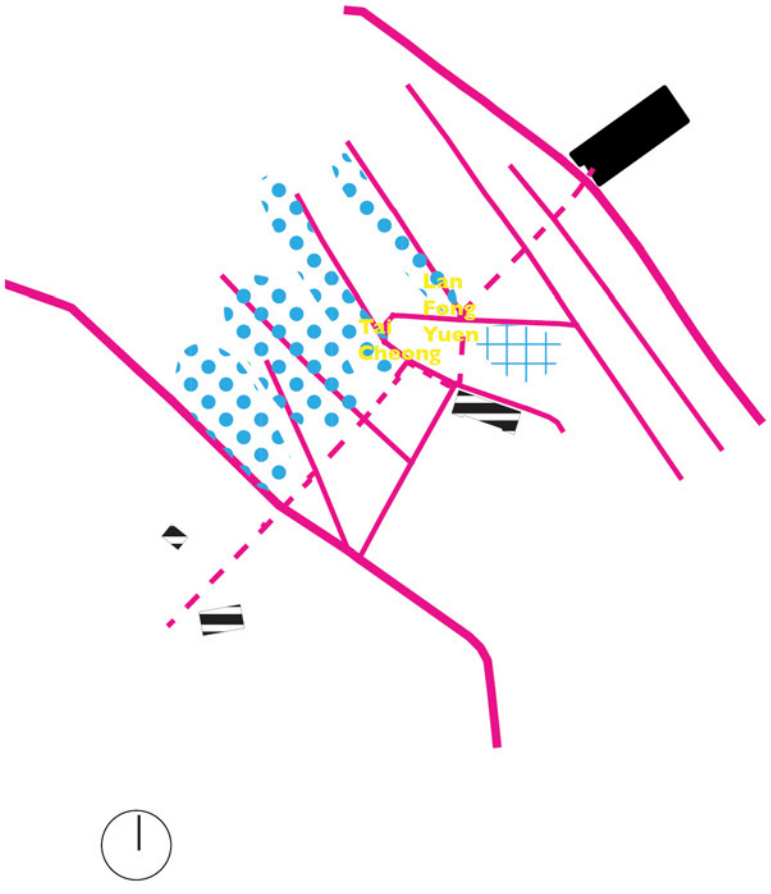


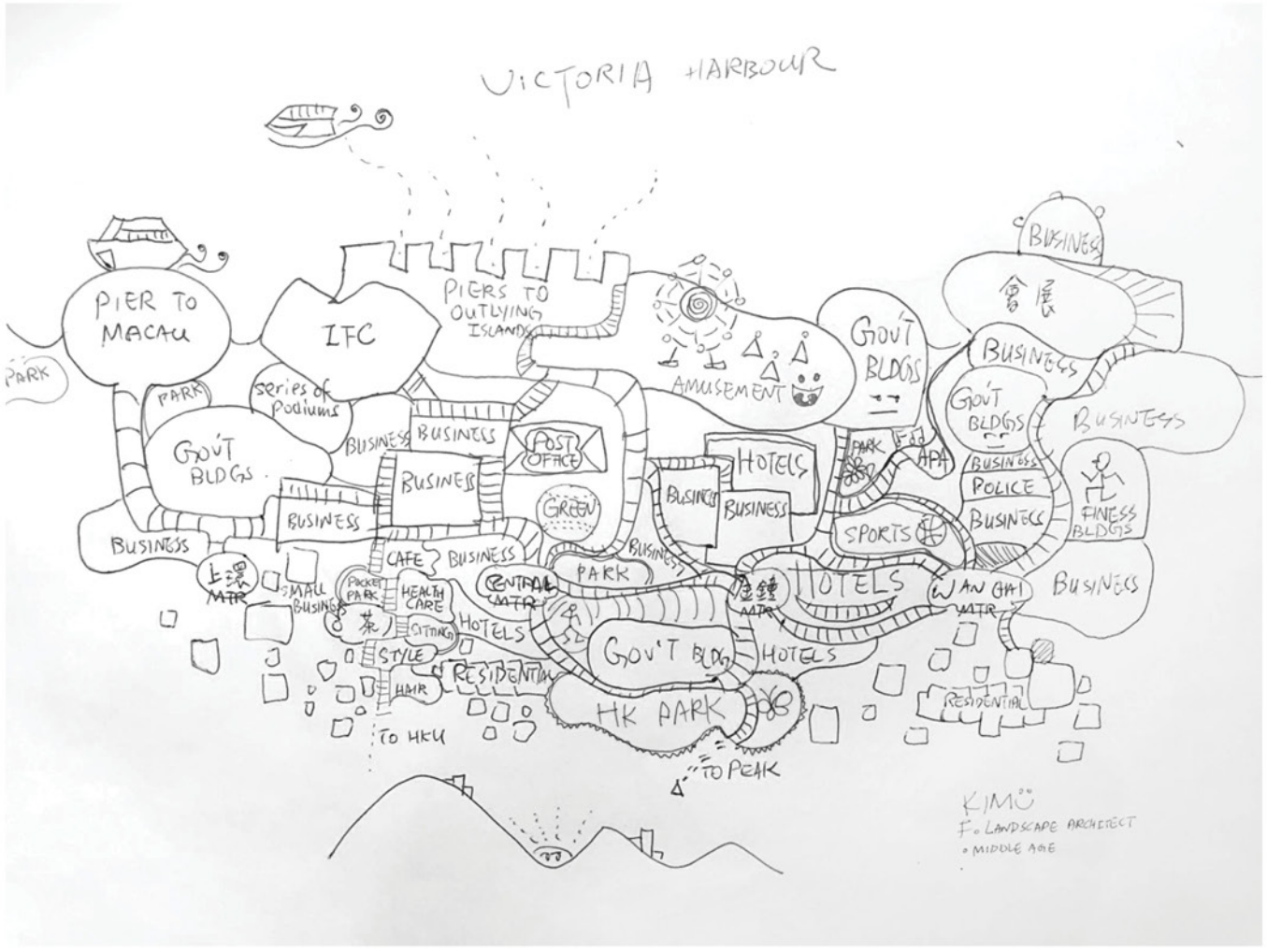
Name	Gary
Age	65
Gender	Male



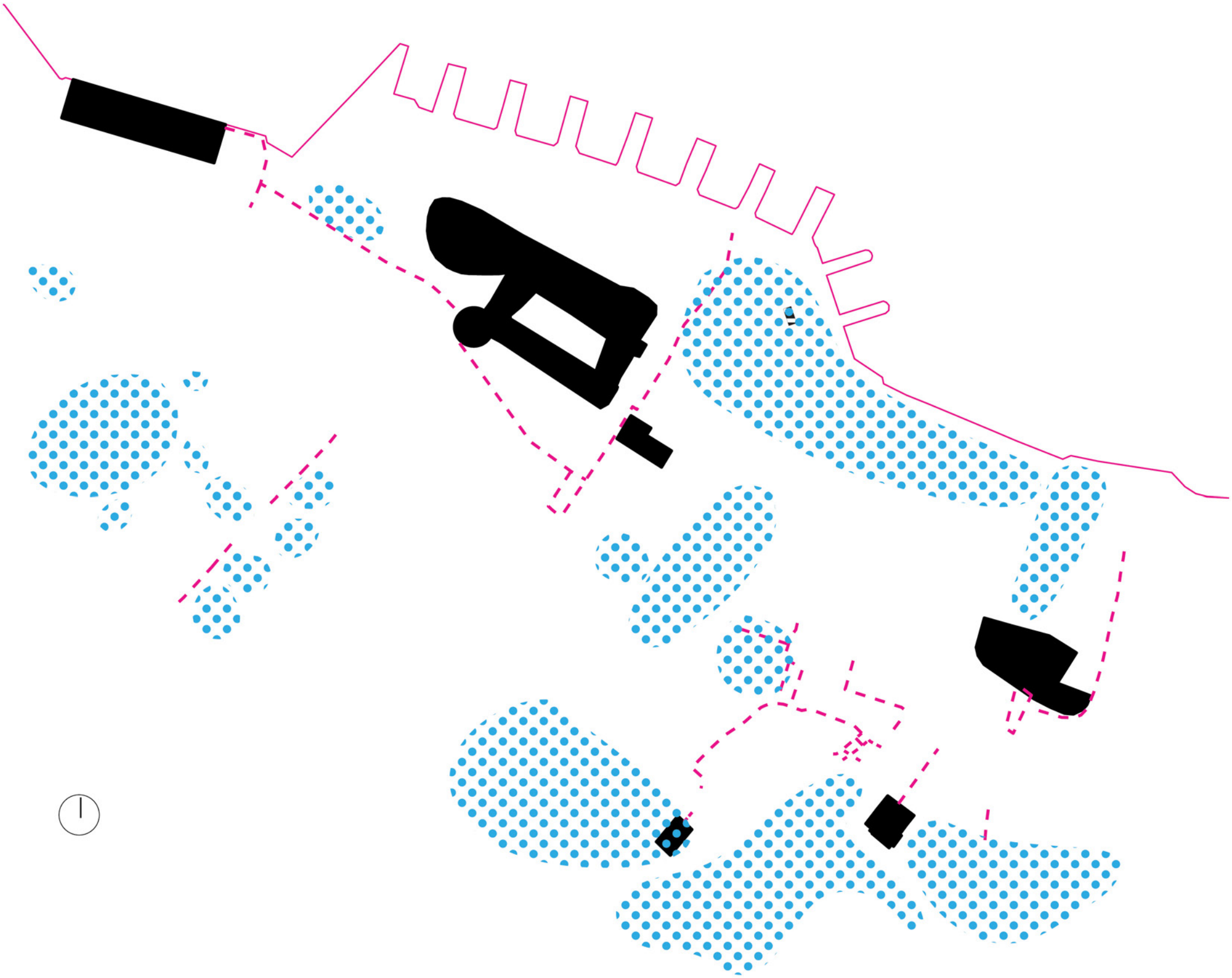


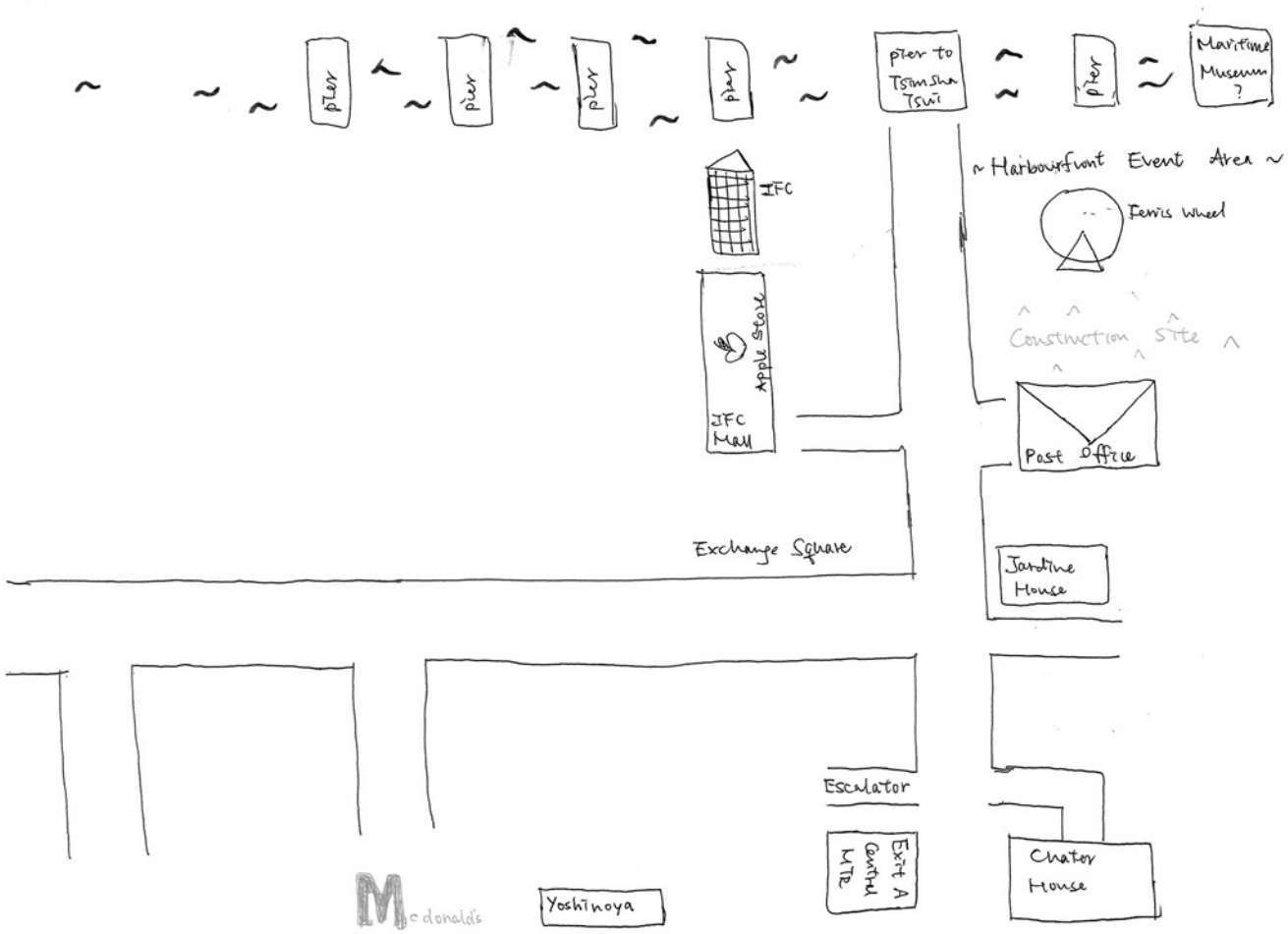
Name	DB
Age	60
Gender	Male


Lan
Fong
Yuen
Tai
Cheong



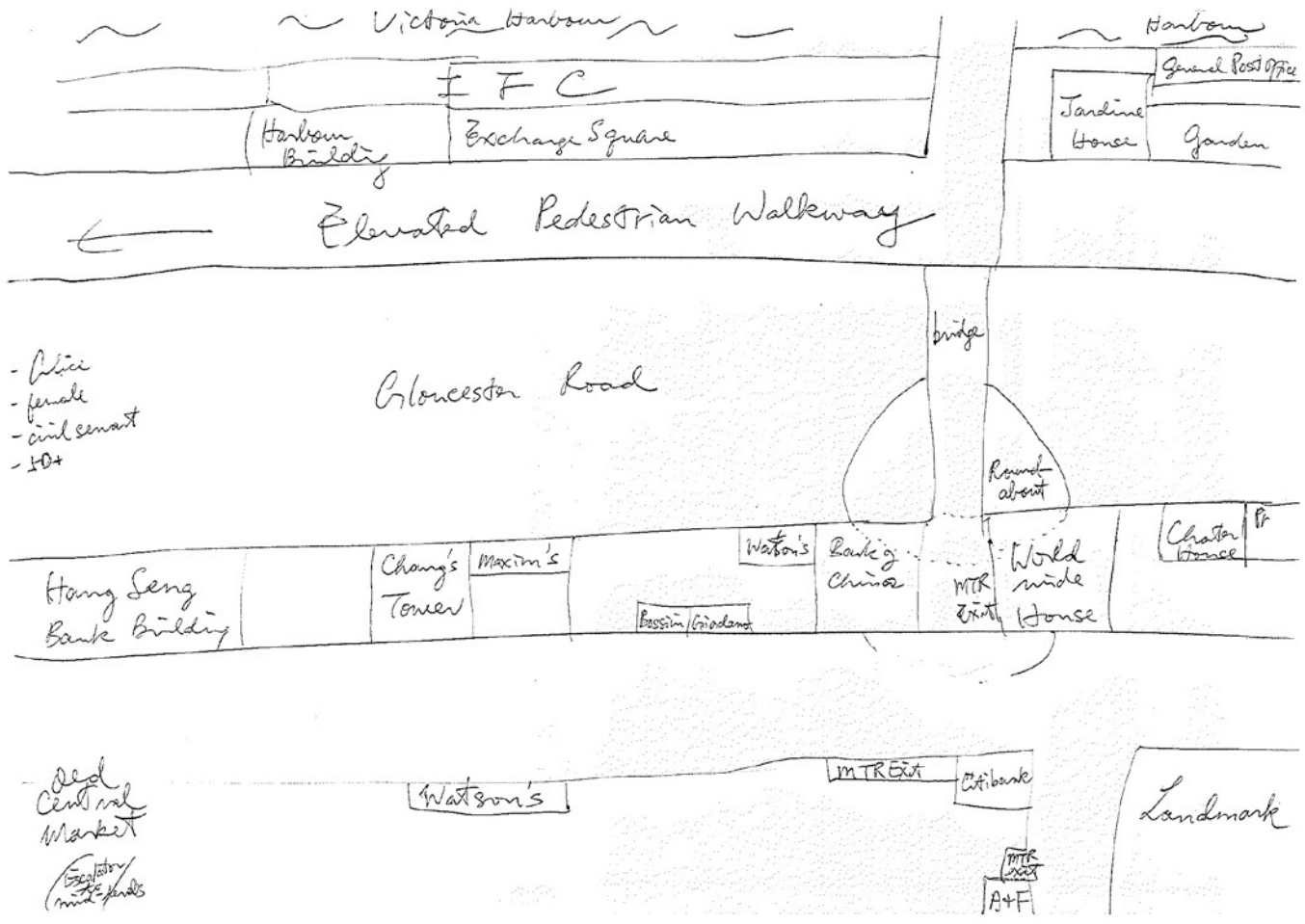
Name	Kim
Age	-
Gender	Female



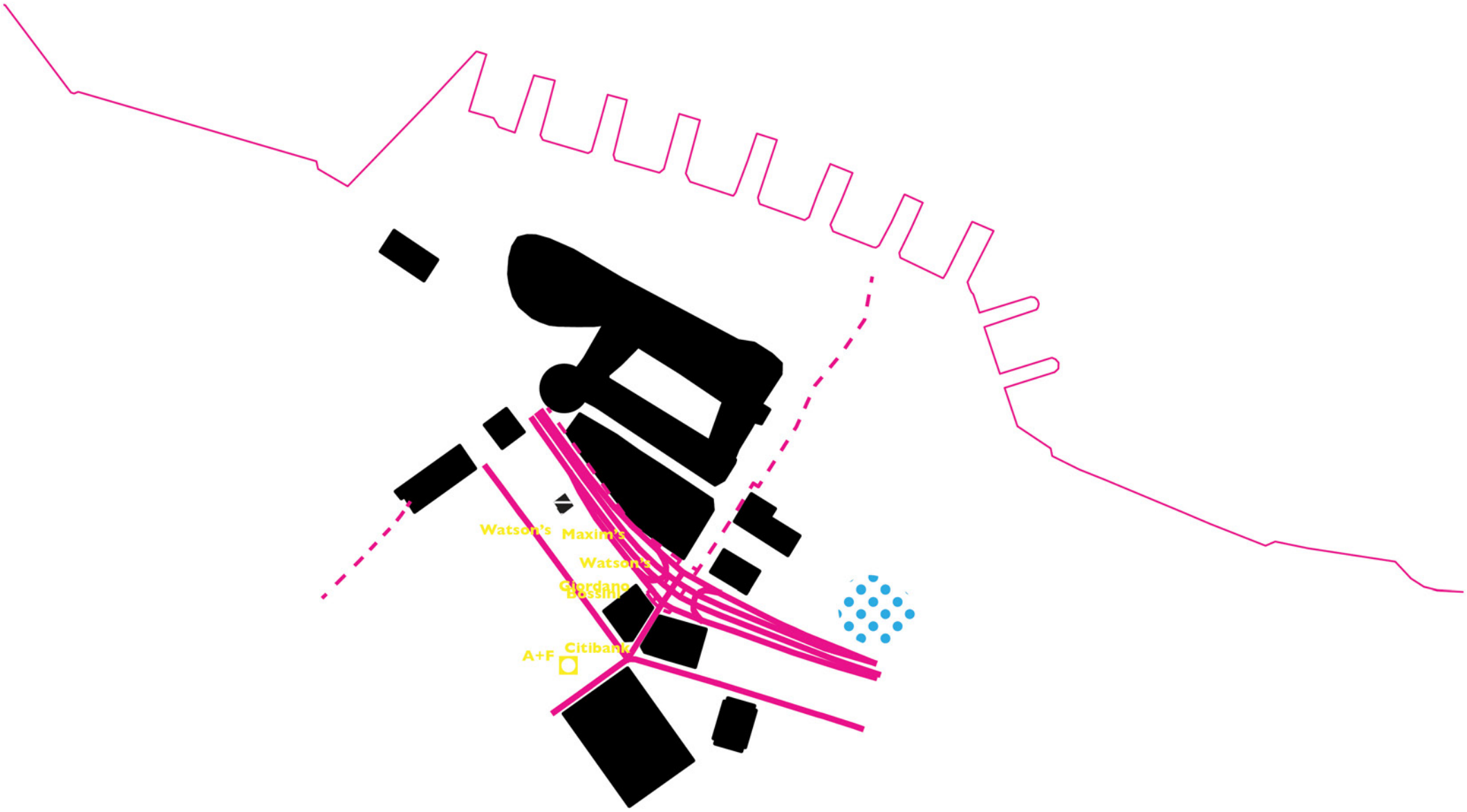


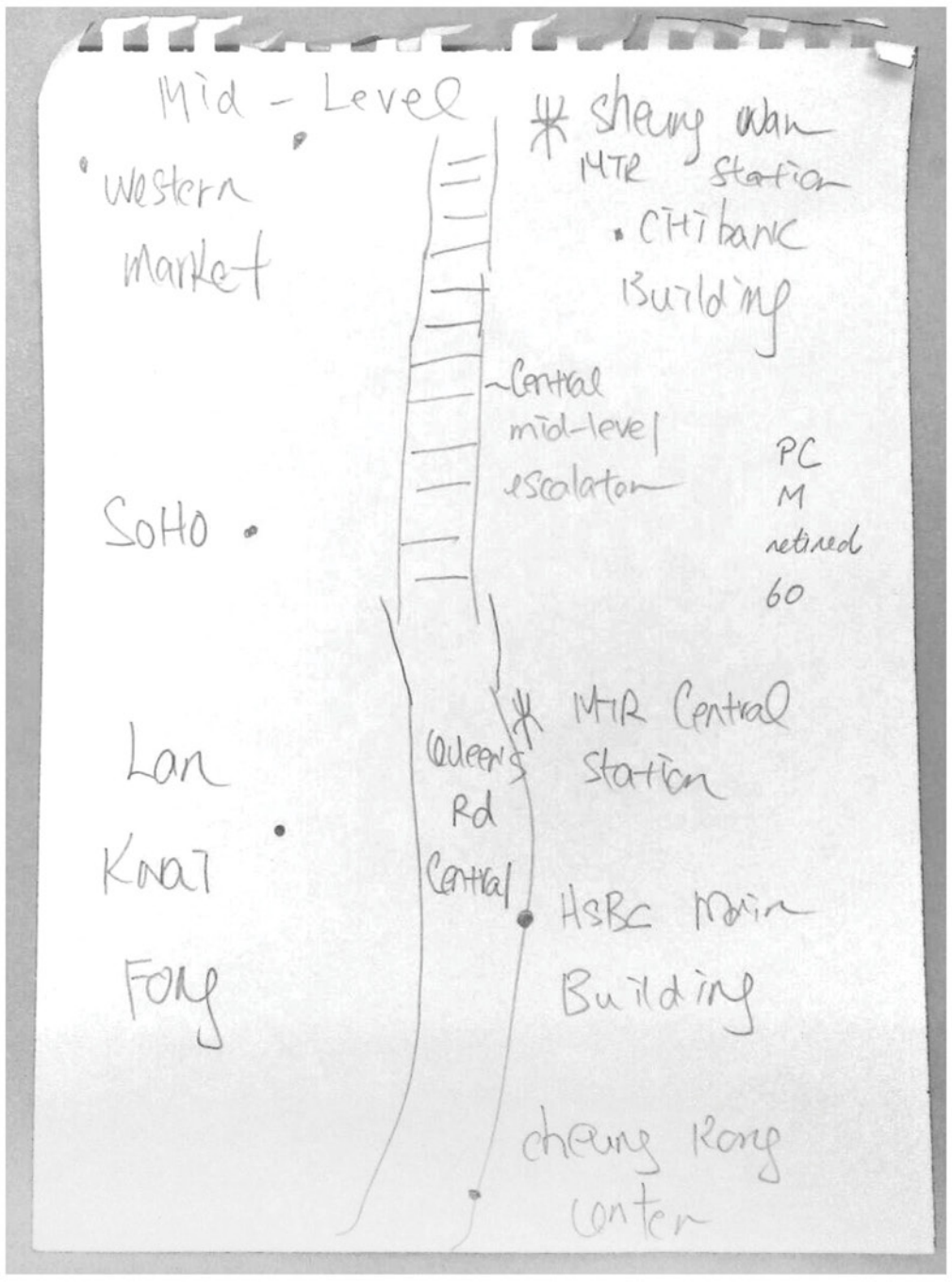
Name	Angie
Age	24
Gender	Female

Yoshinoya

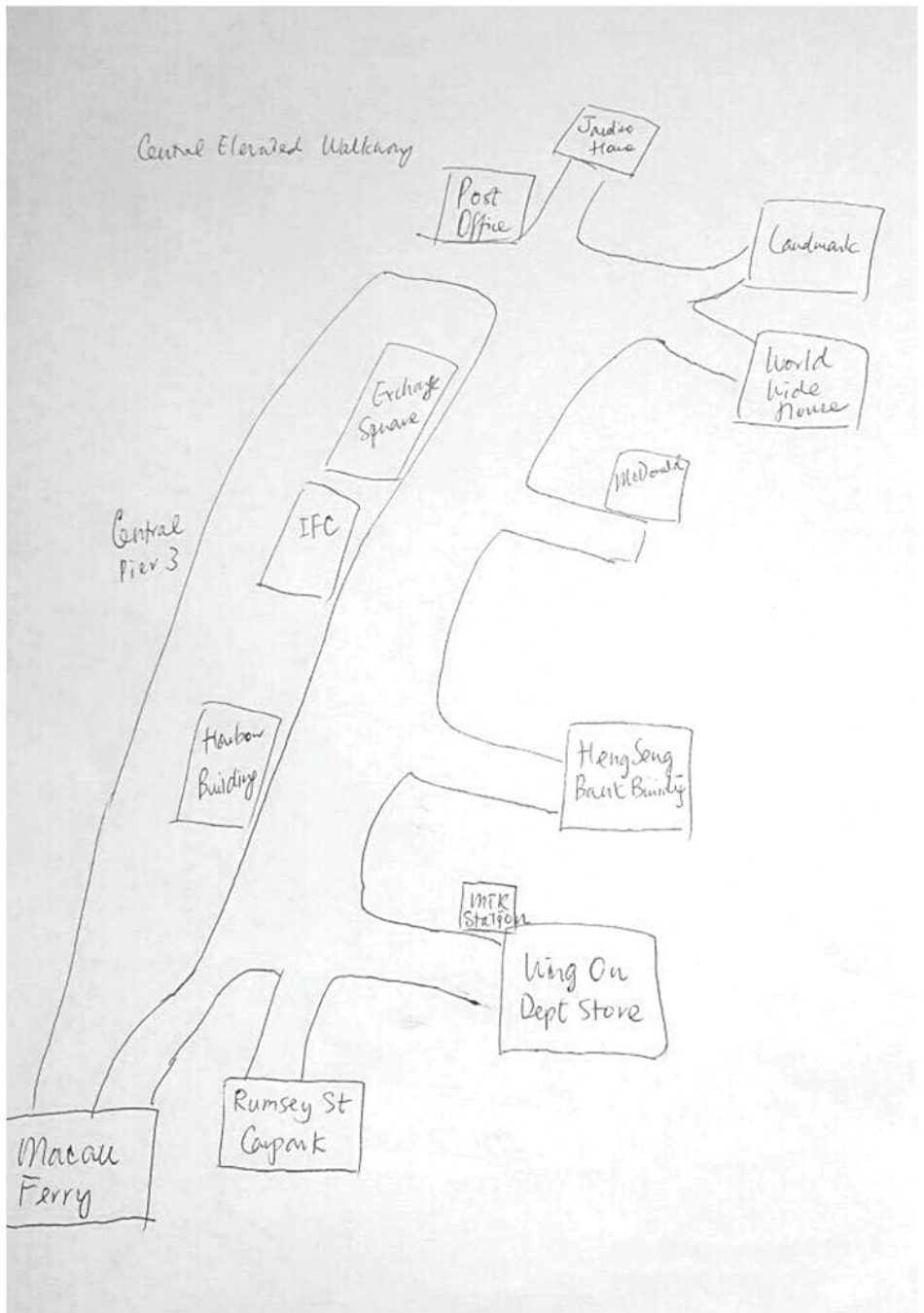


Name	Alice
Age	50
Gender	Female

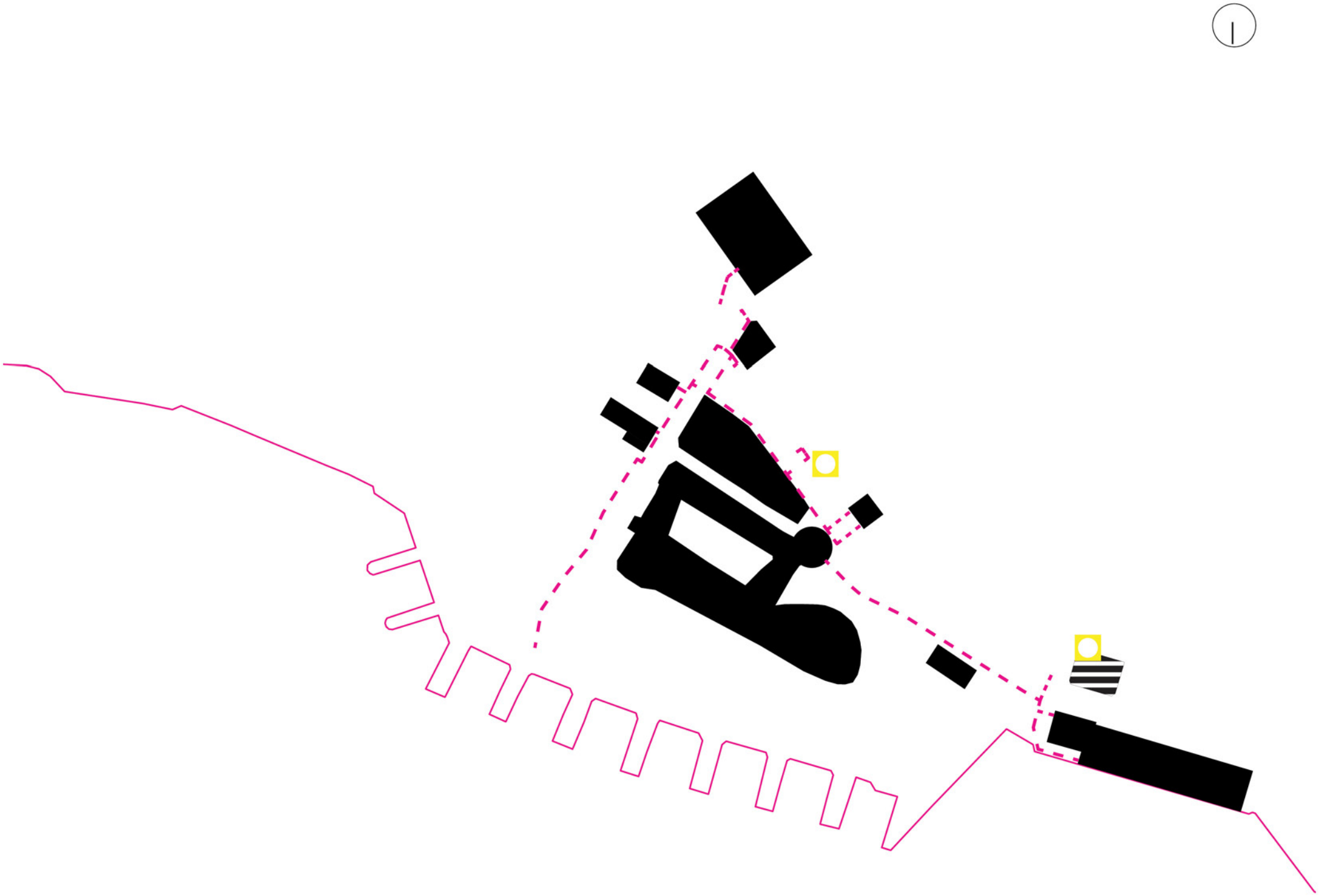

Watson's
Maxim's
Watson's
Giordano
Bossini
A+F
Citibank



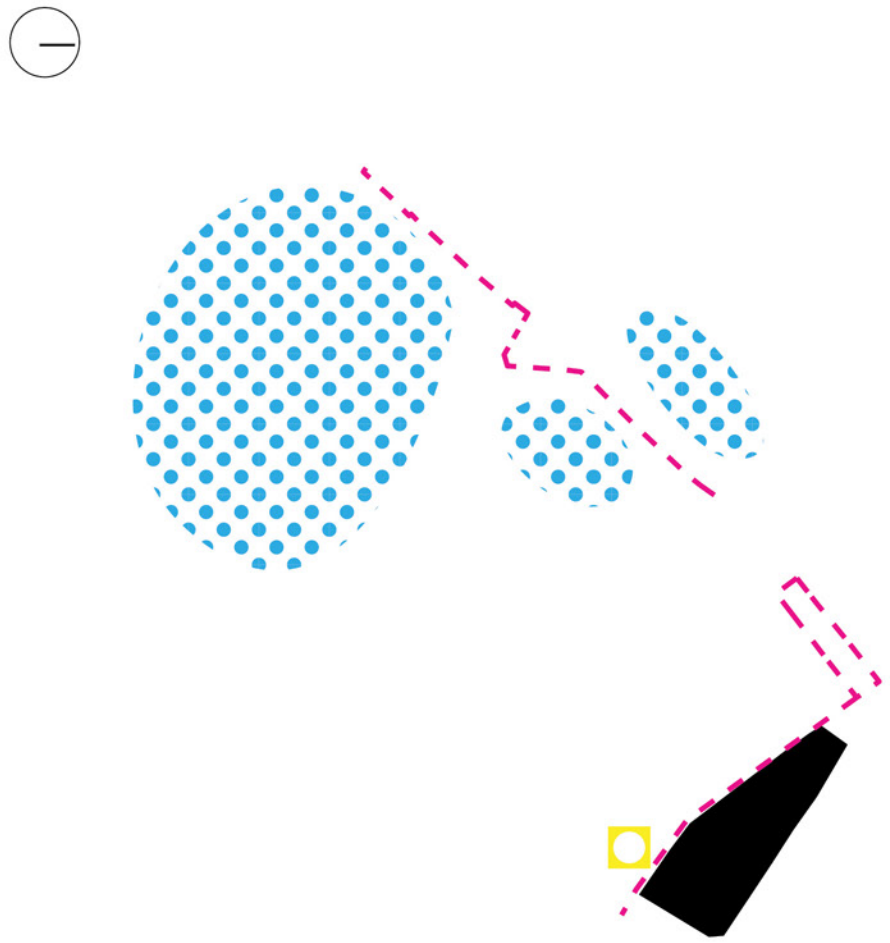
Name	PC
Age	60
Gender	Male

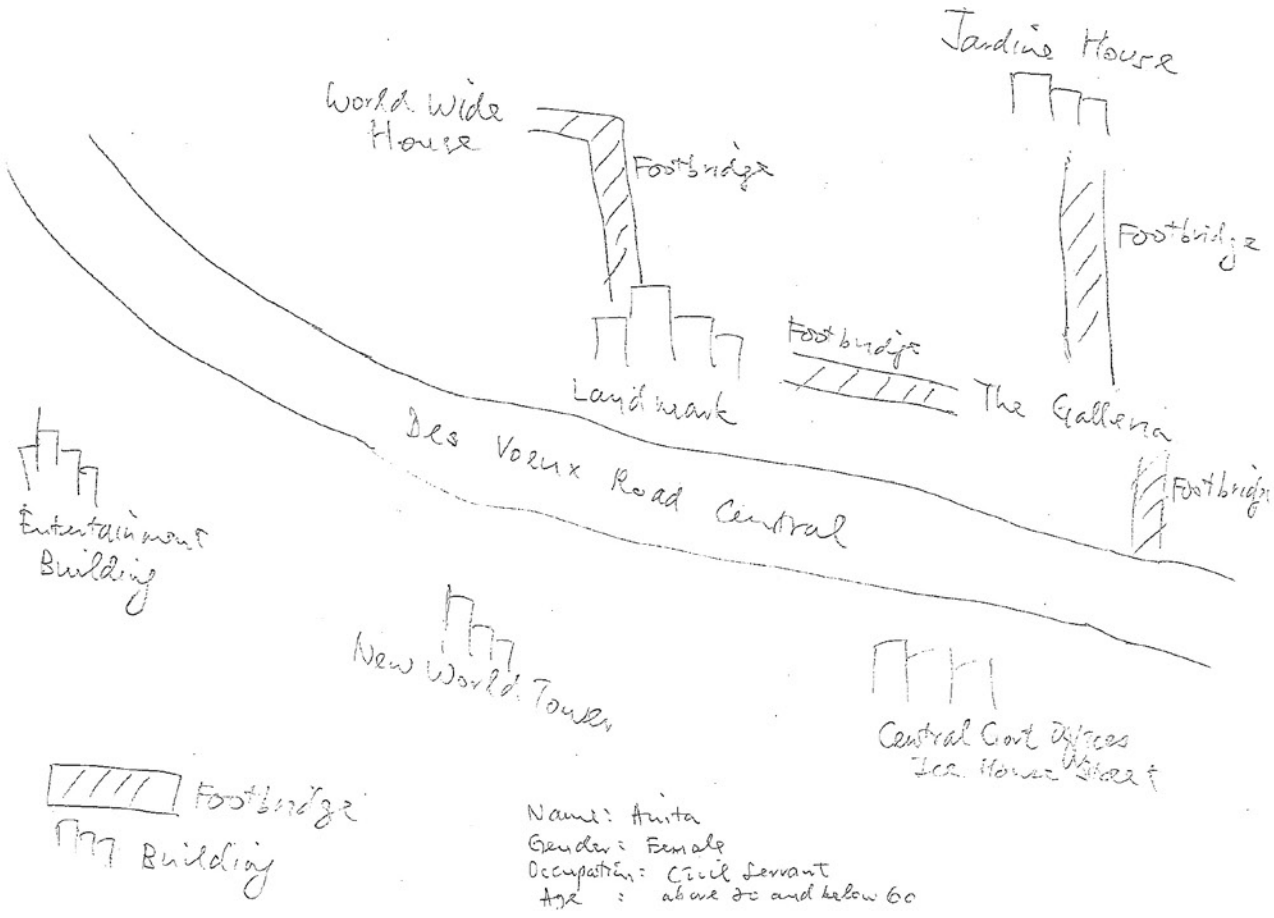


Name	EC
Age	-
Gender	-

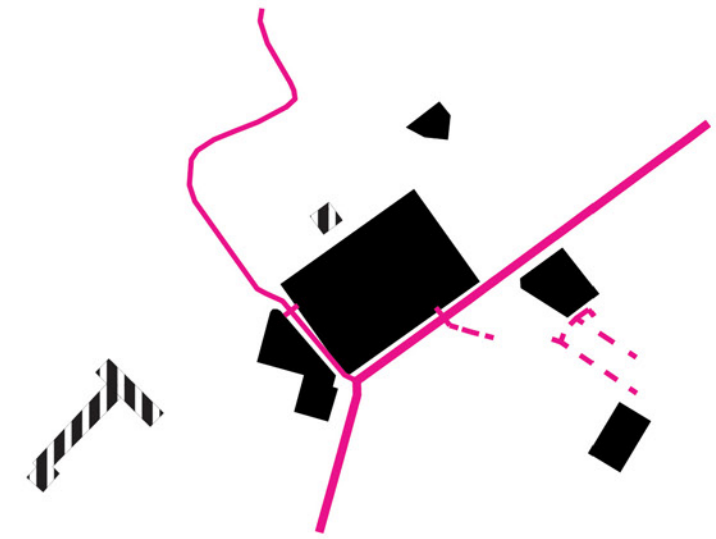


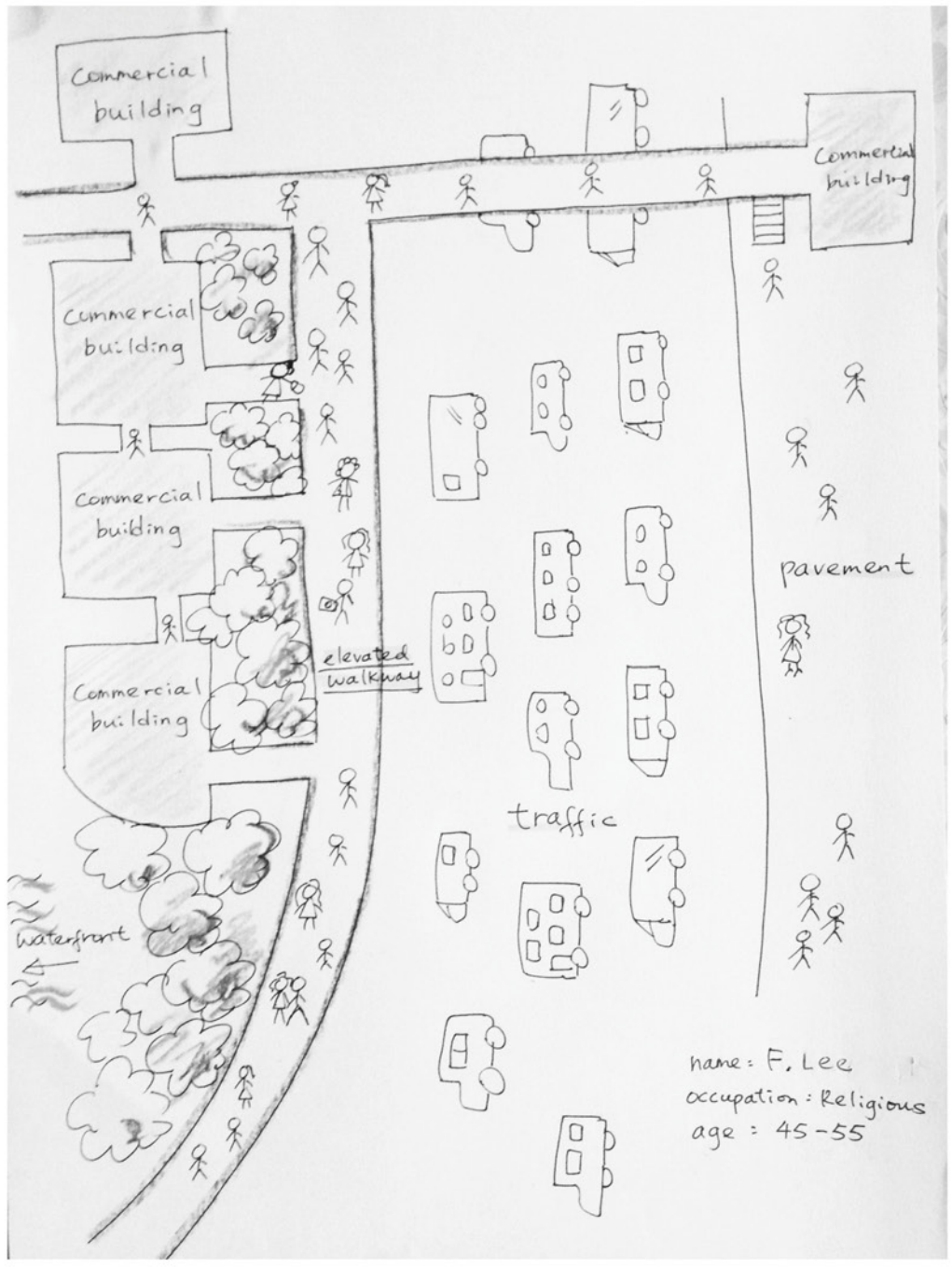
Name	CT
Age	20
Gender	Female



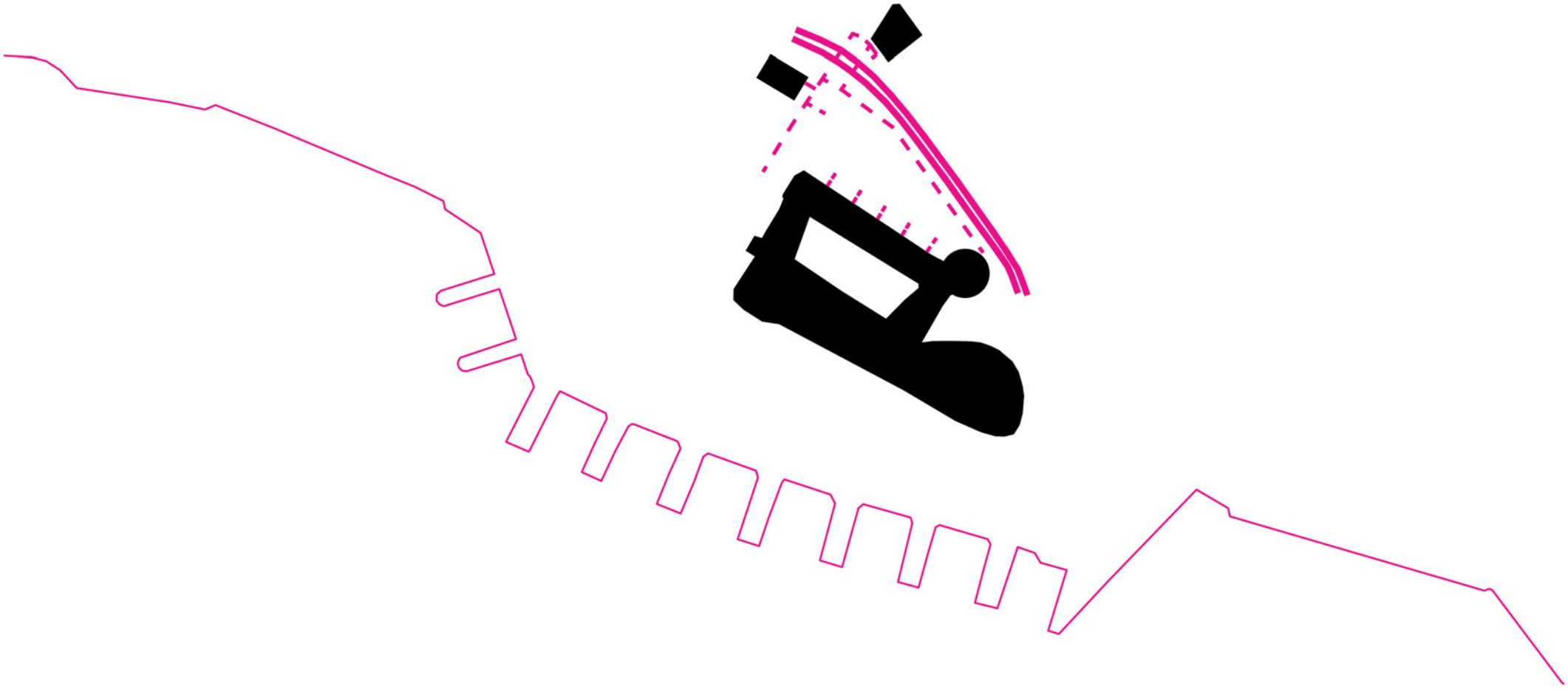


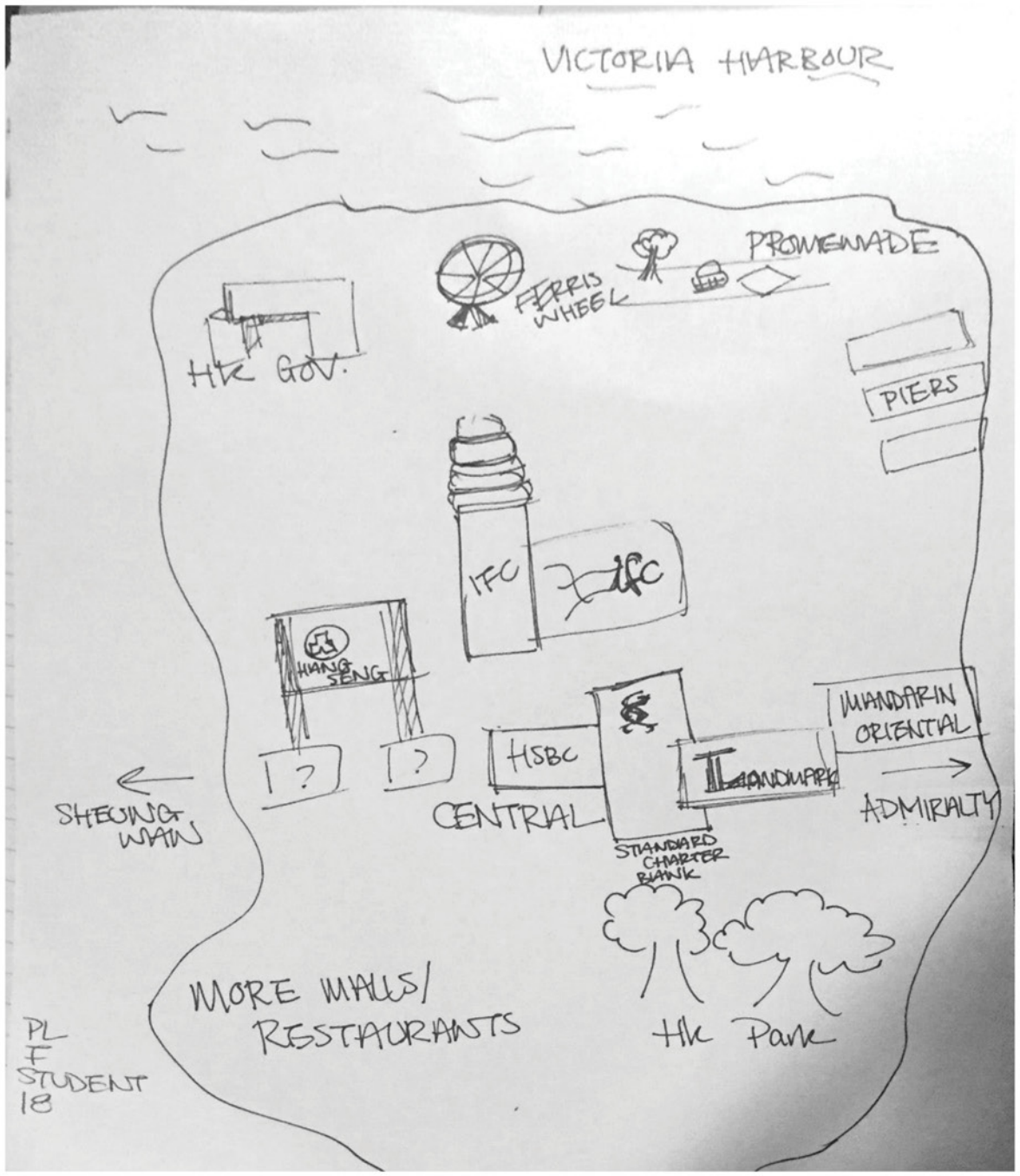
Name	Anita
Age	-
Gender	Female



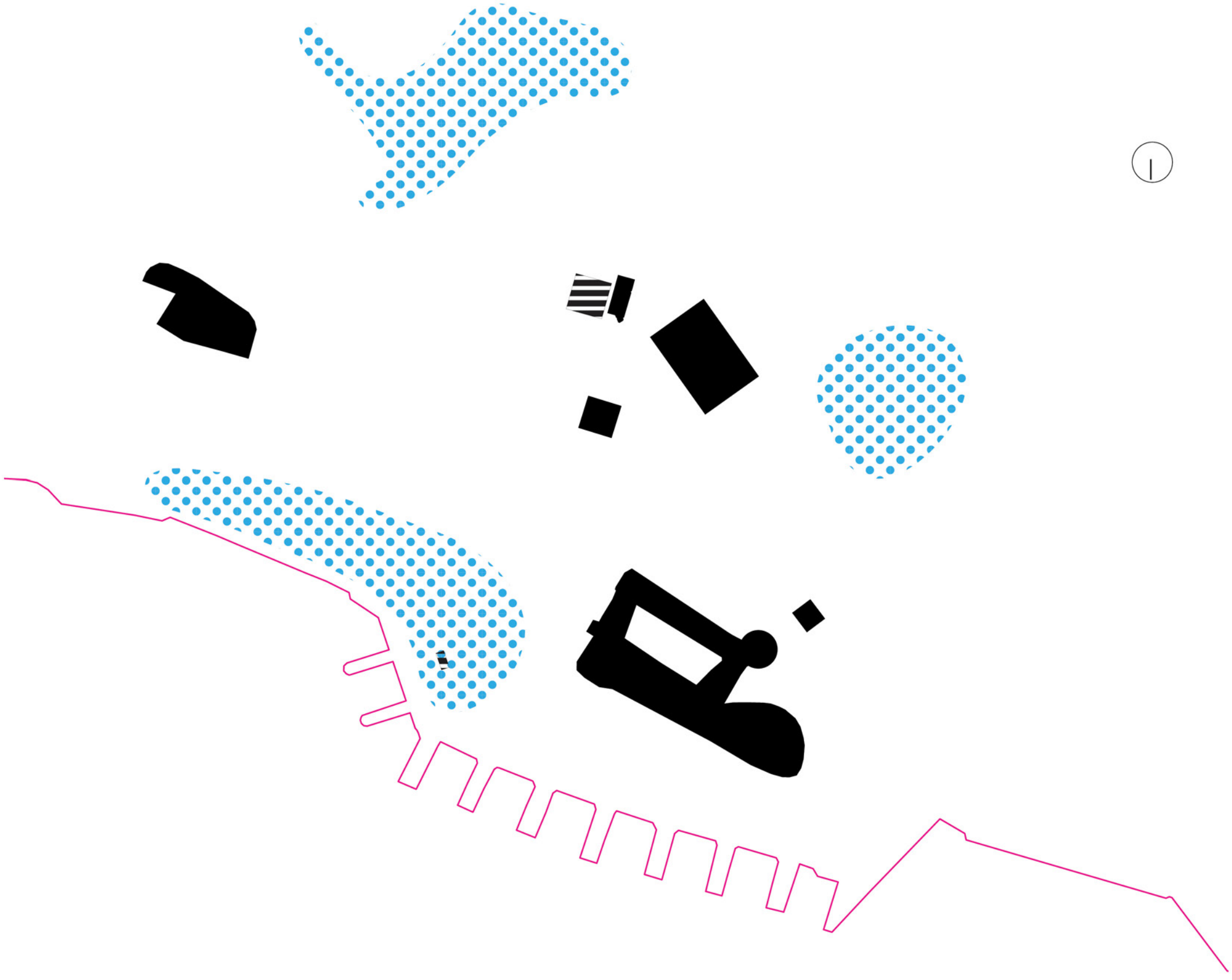


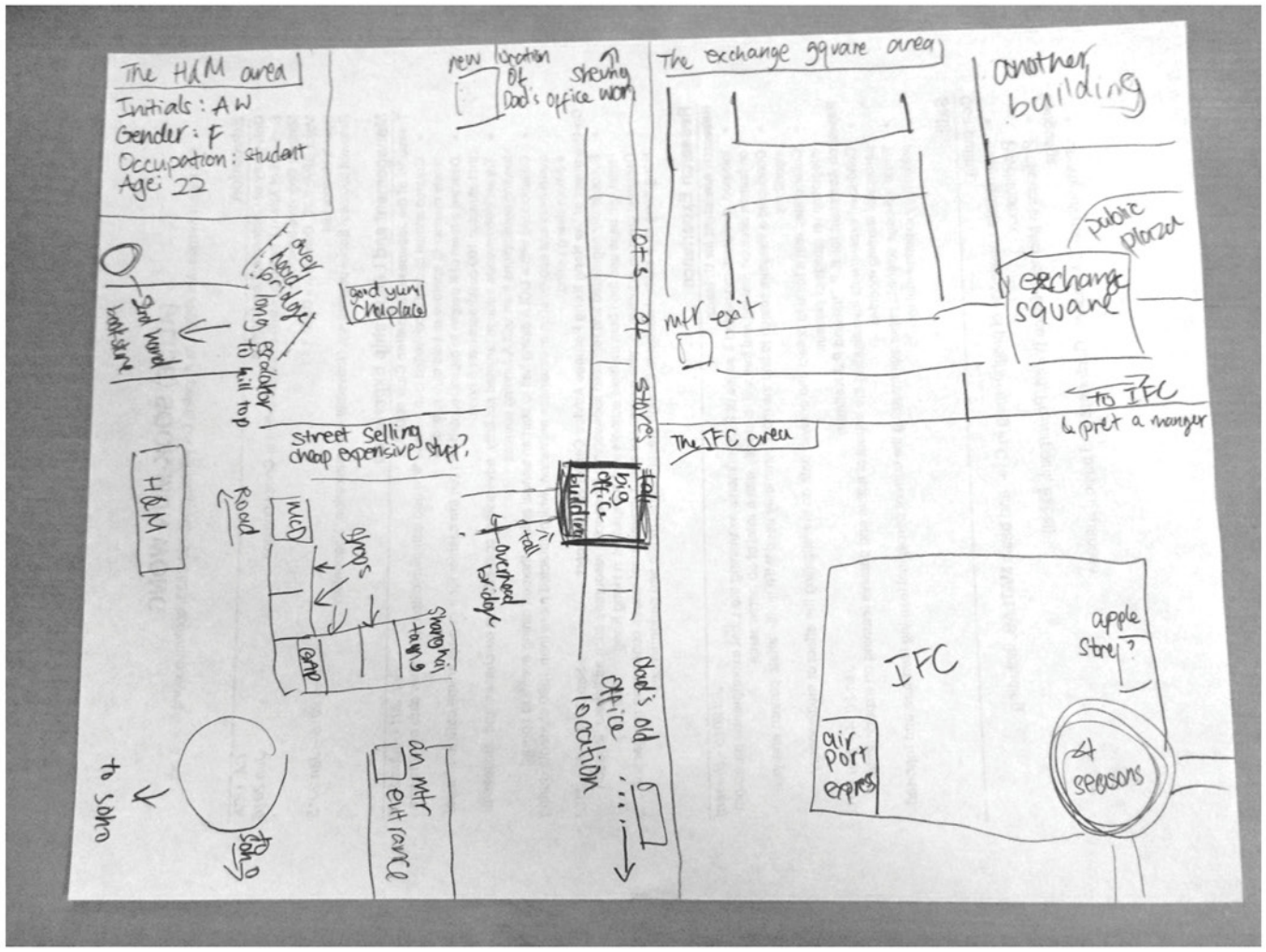
Name	FL
Age	50
Gender	Female



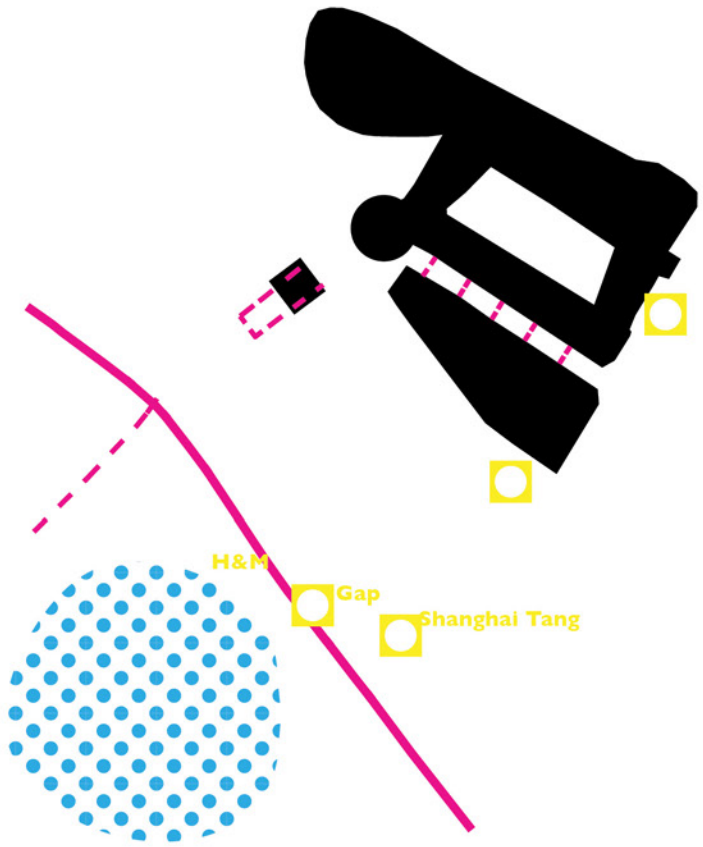


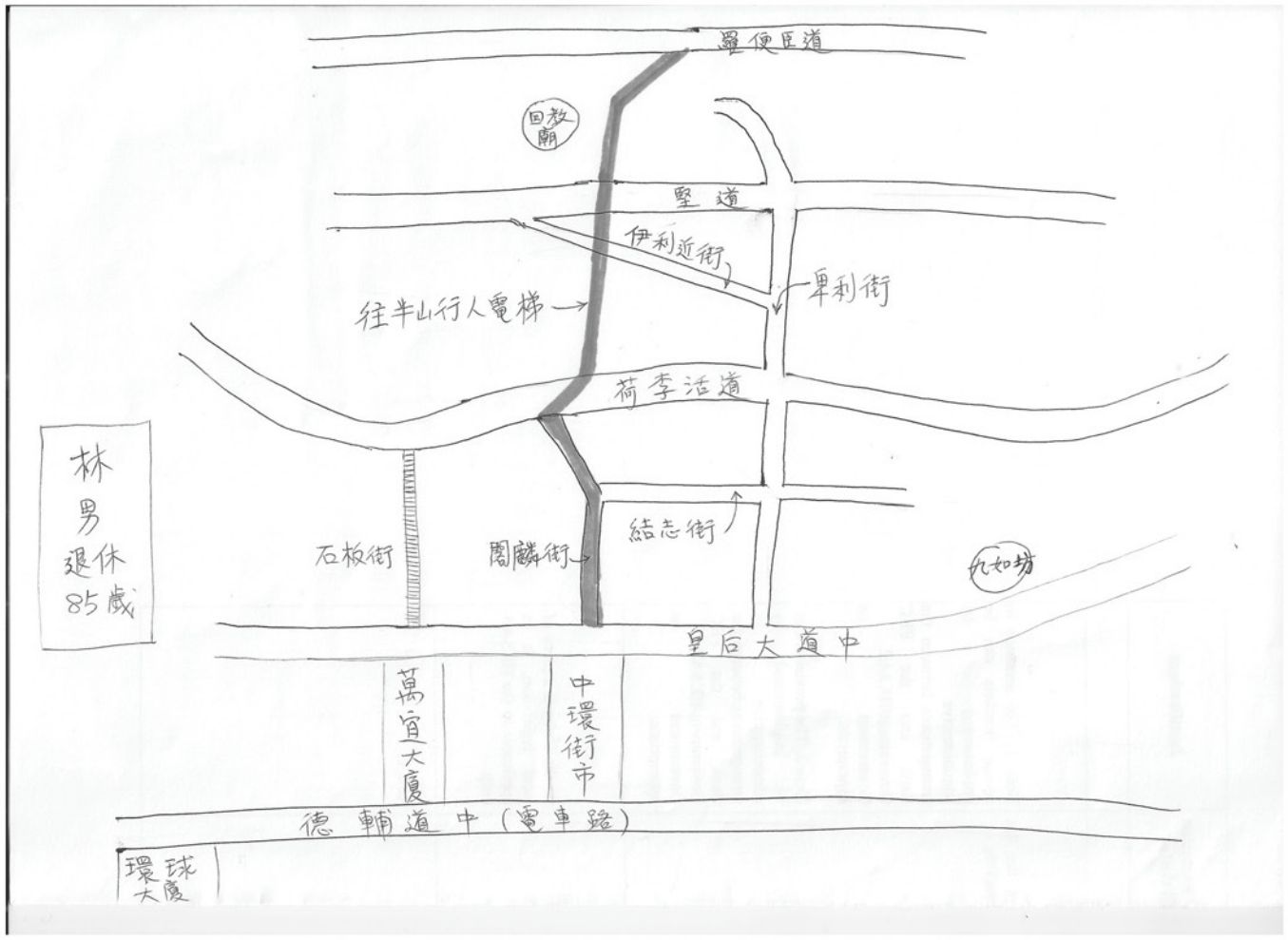
Name	PL
Age	18
Gender	Female



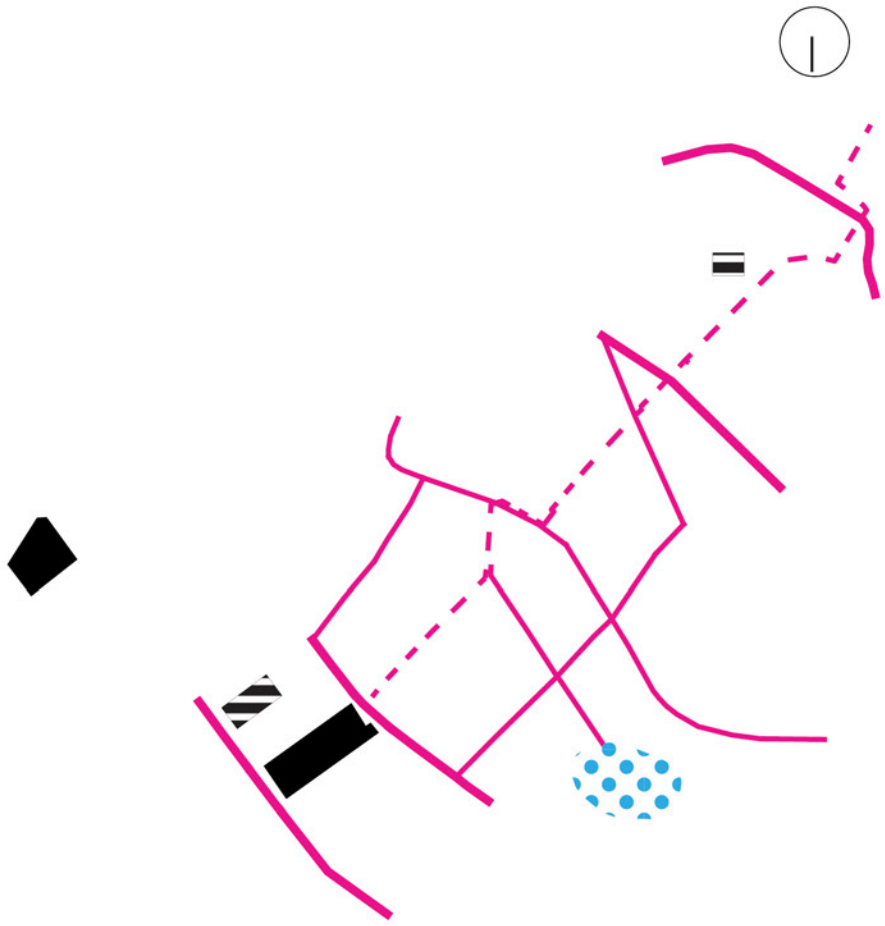


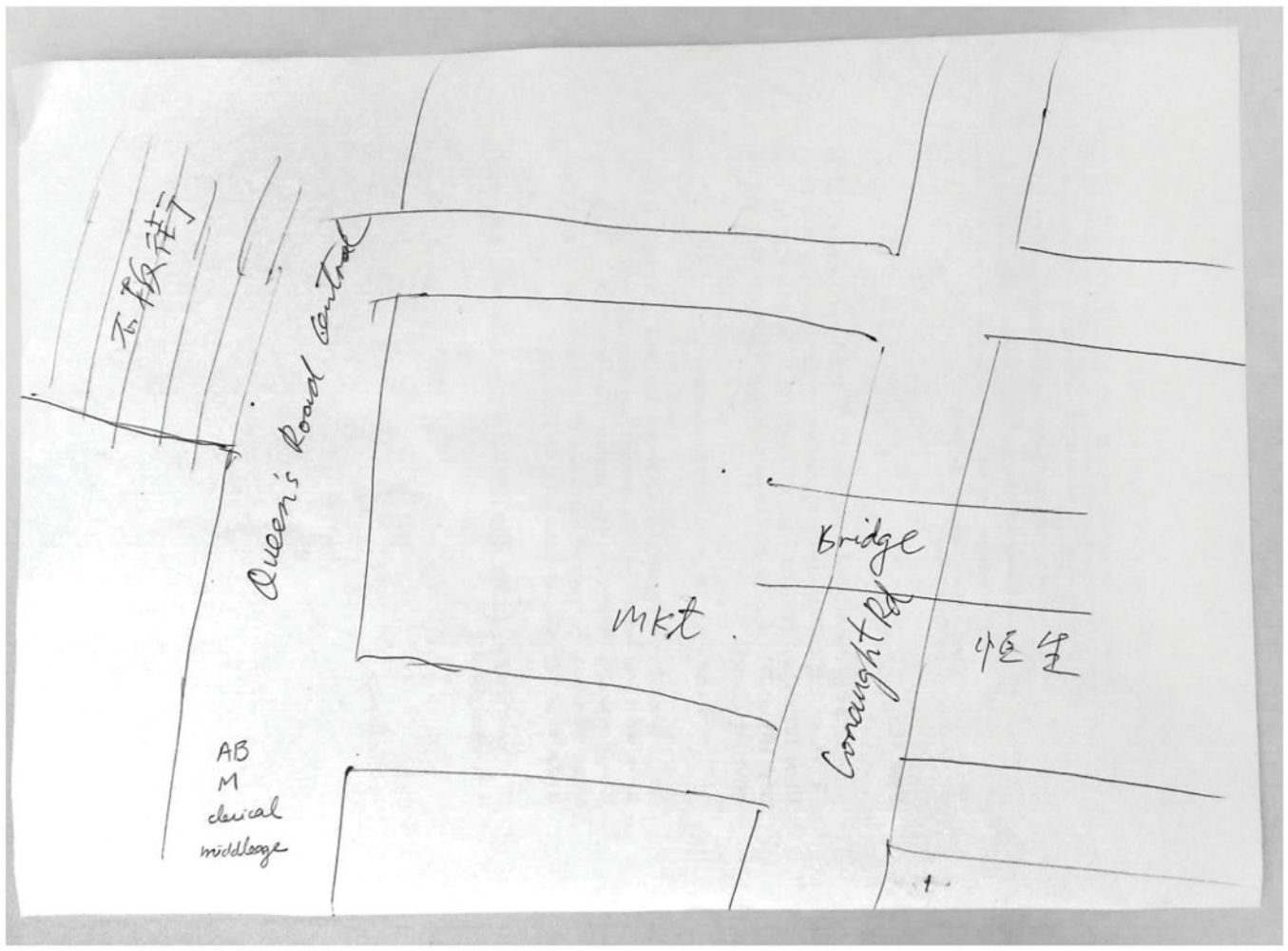
Name	SMW
Age	22
Gender	Female


H&M
Gap
Shanghai Tang

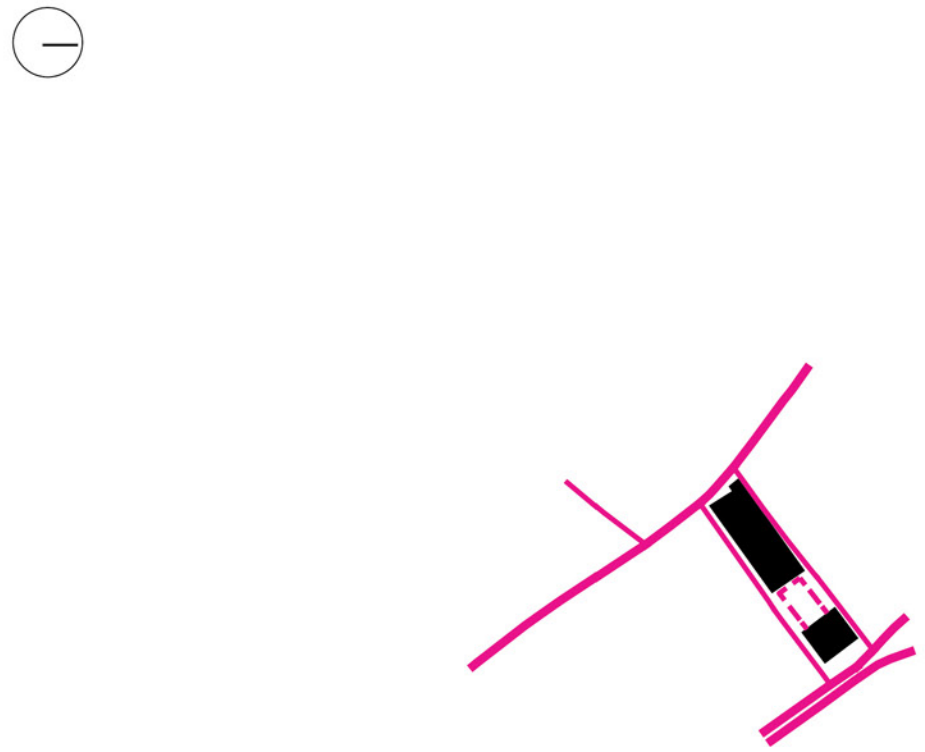


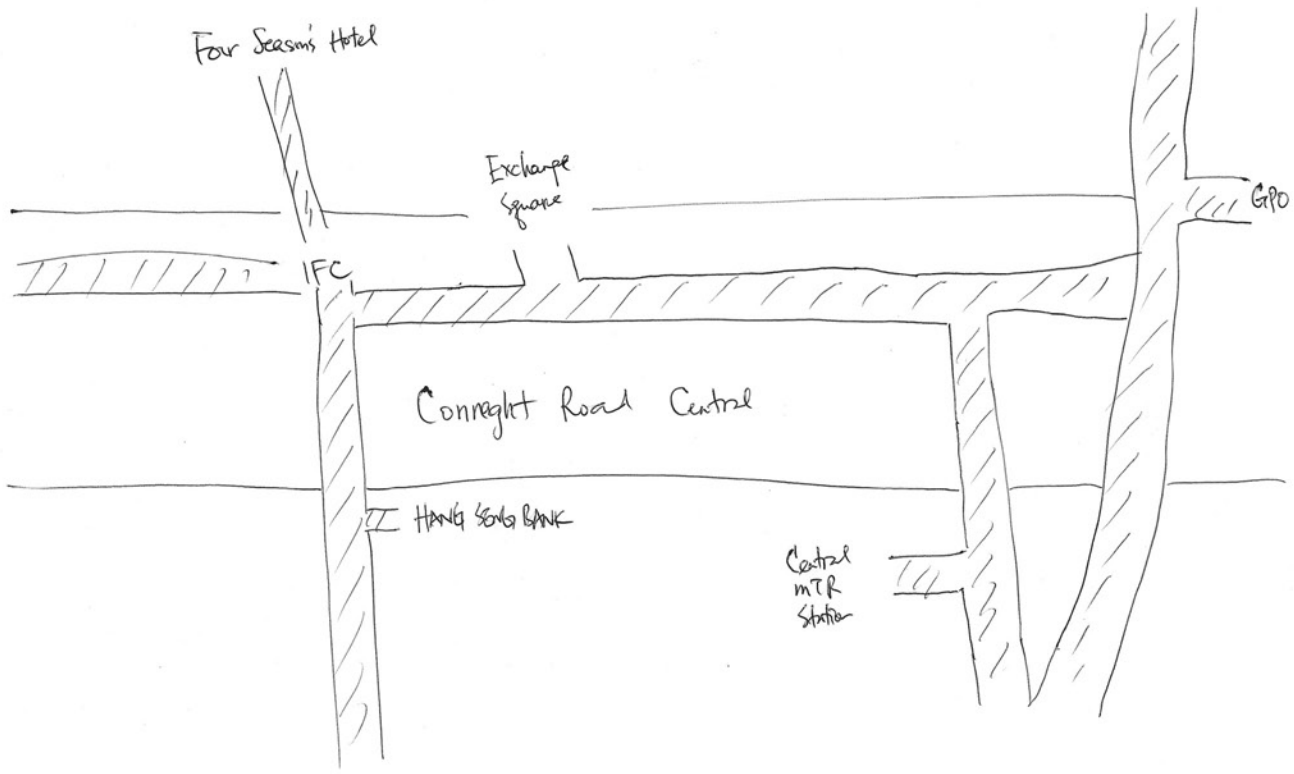
Name	YY
Age	80
Gender	Male



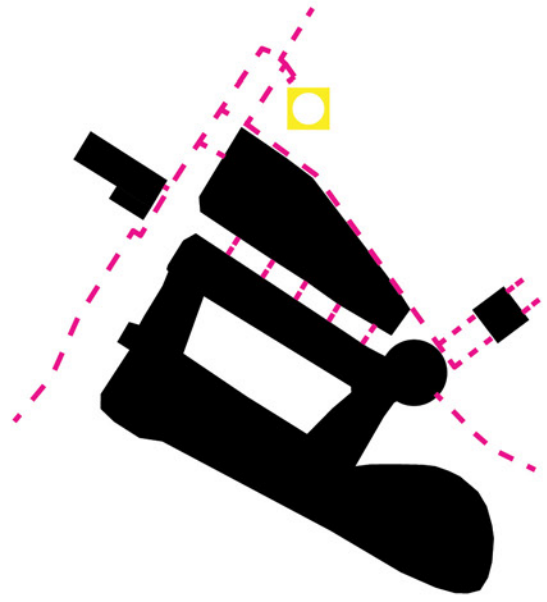


Name	AB
Age	-
Gender	Male

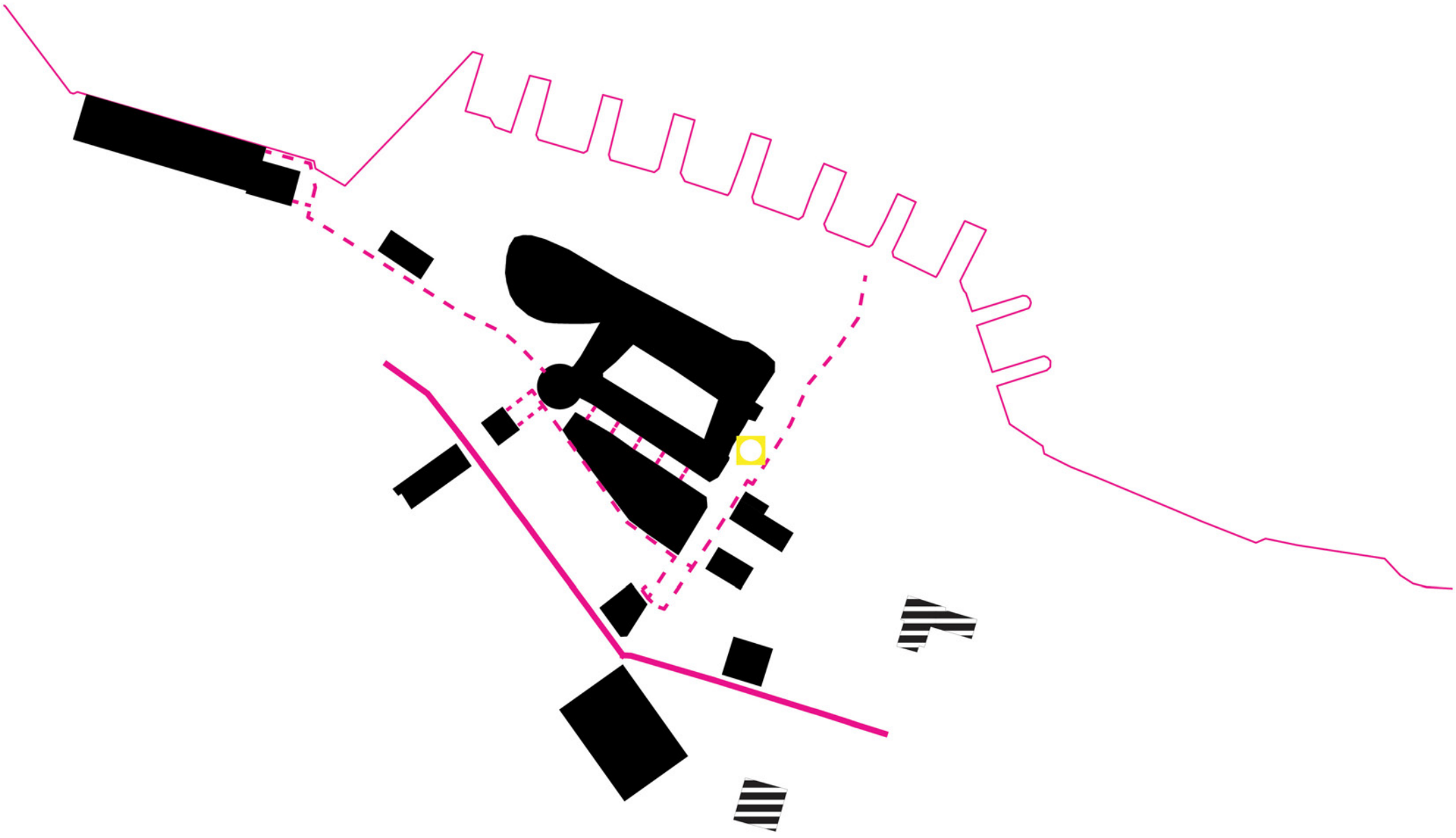


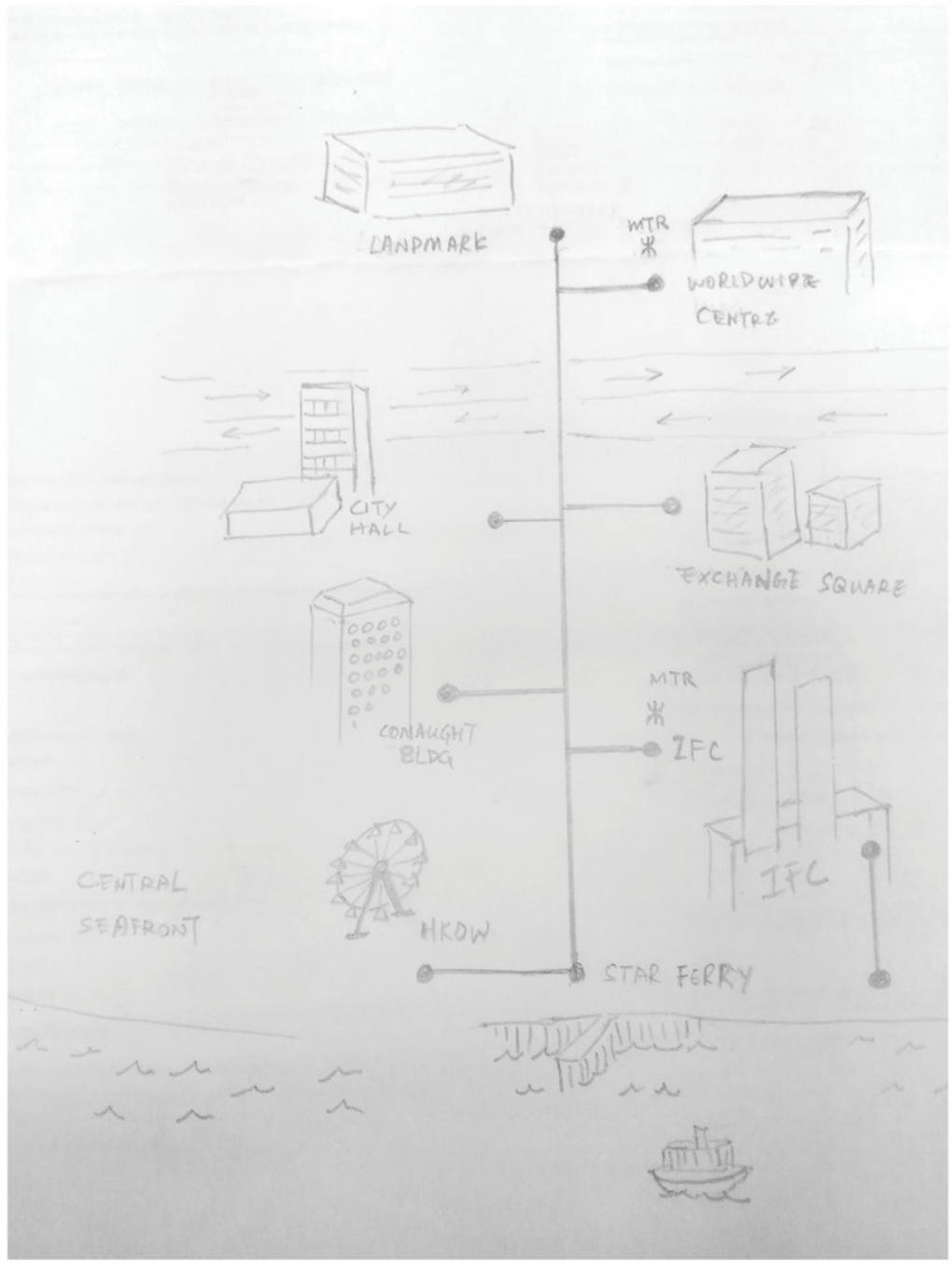


Name	MS
Age	46
Gender	Male

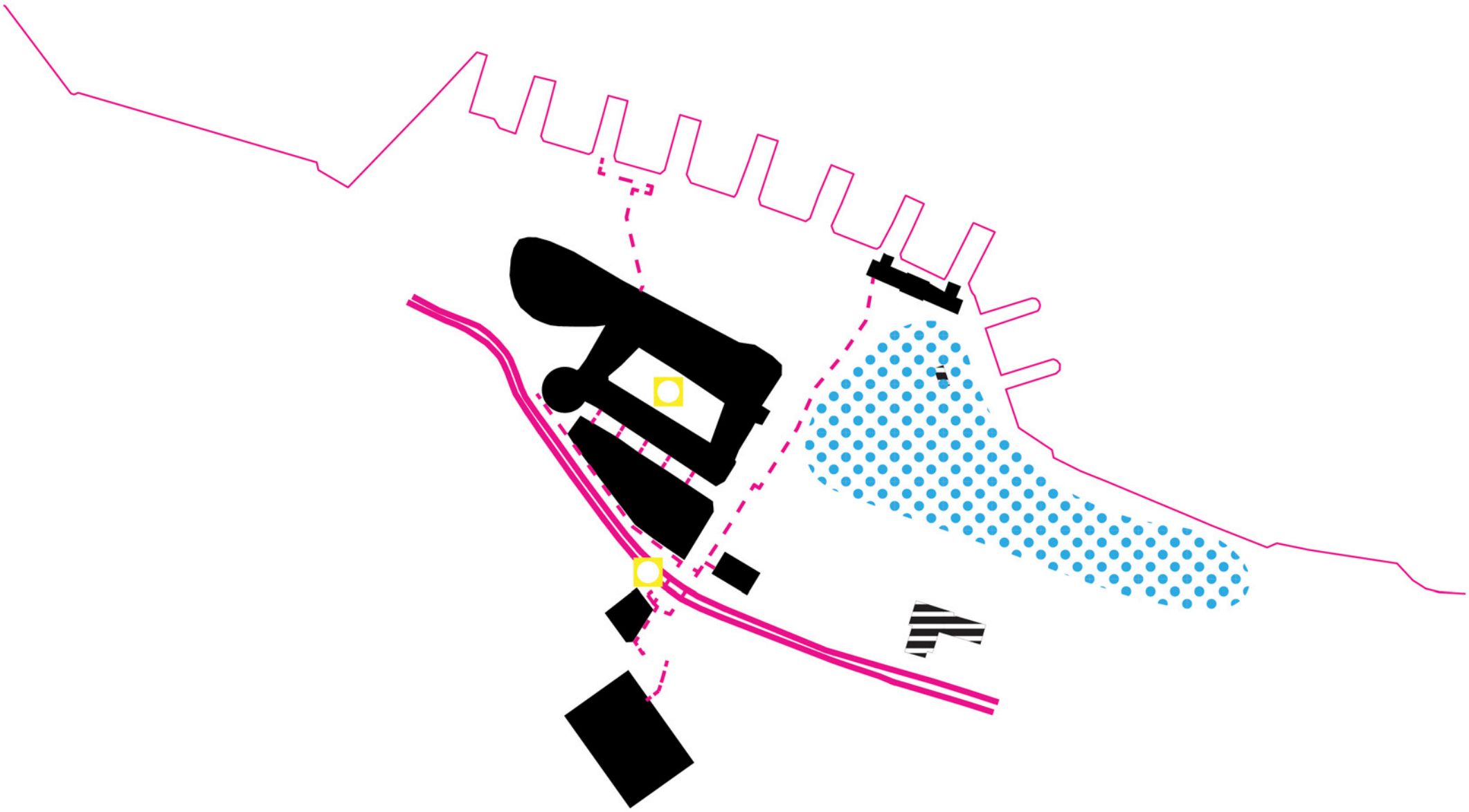


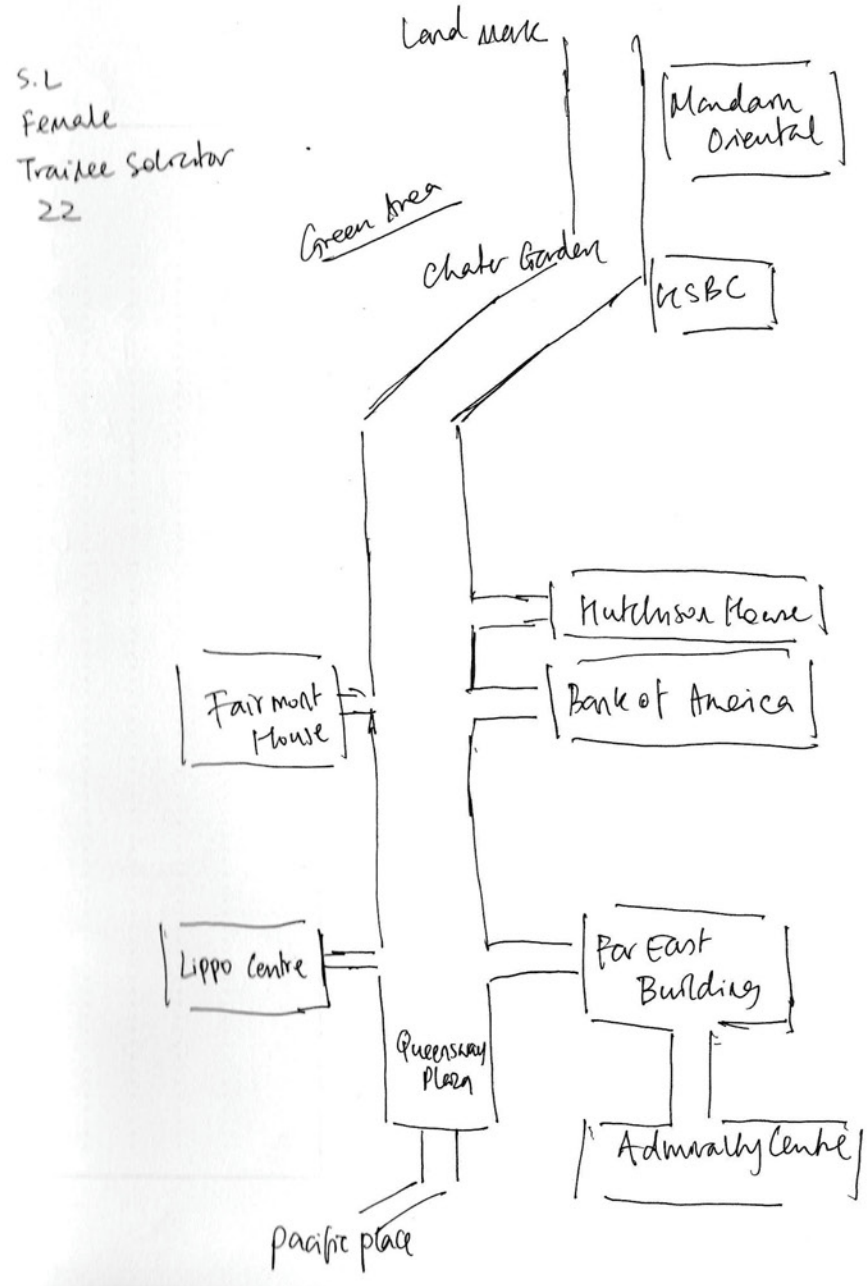
Name	Jenny
Age	45
Gender	Female



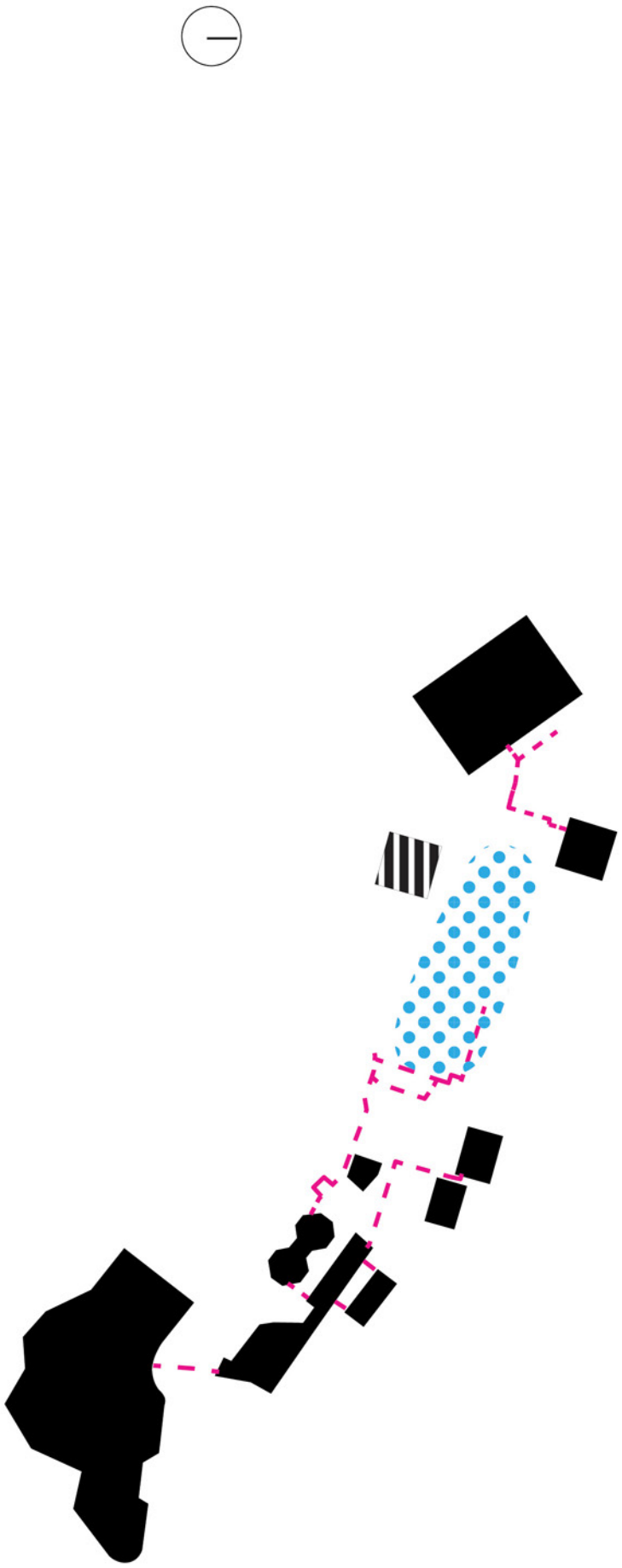


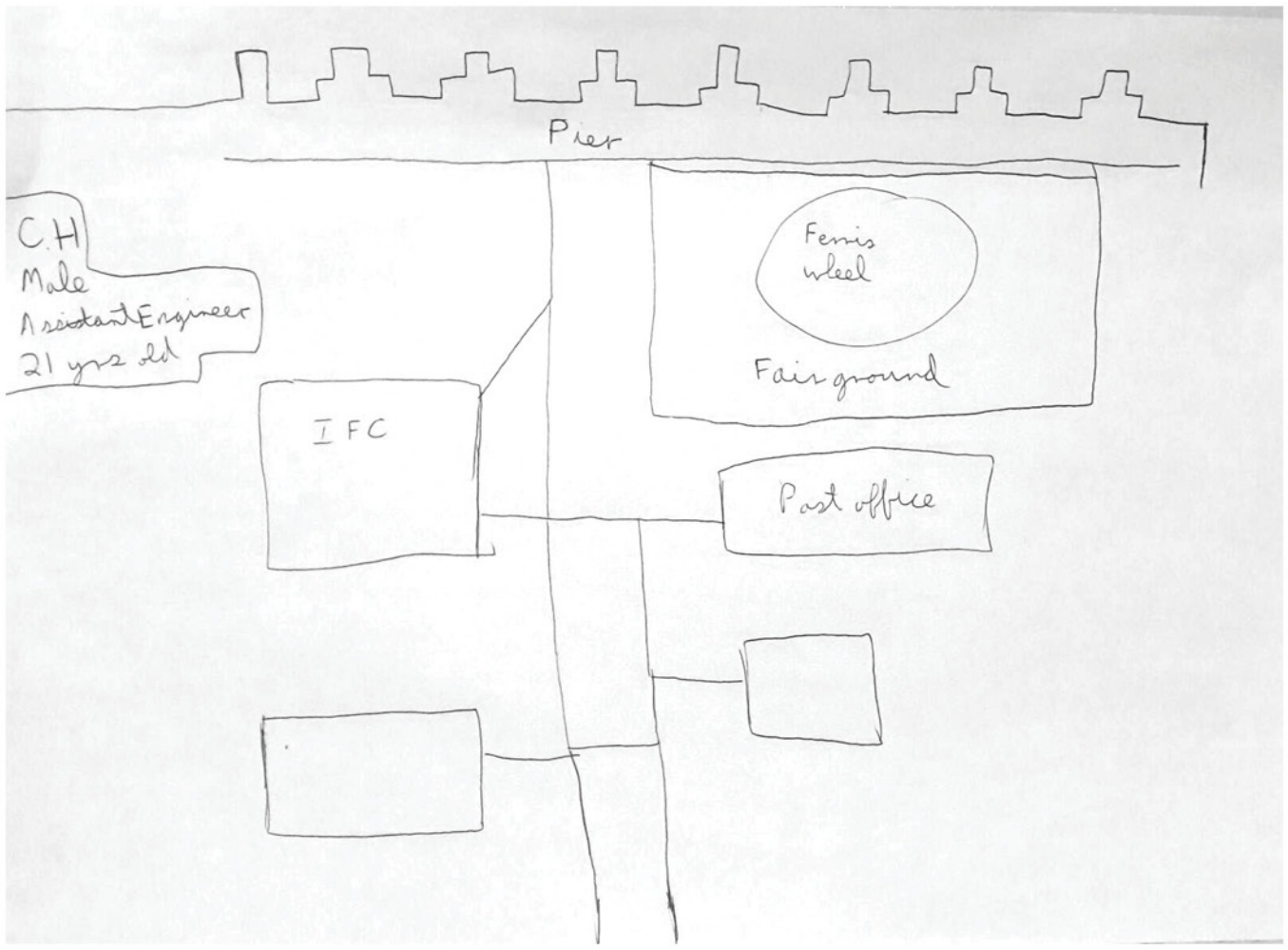
Name	EL
Age	-
Gender	-



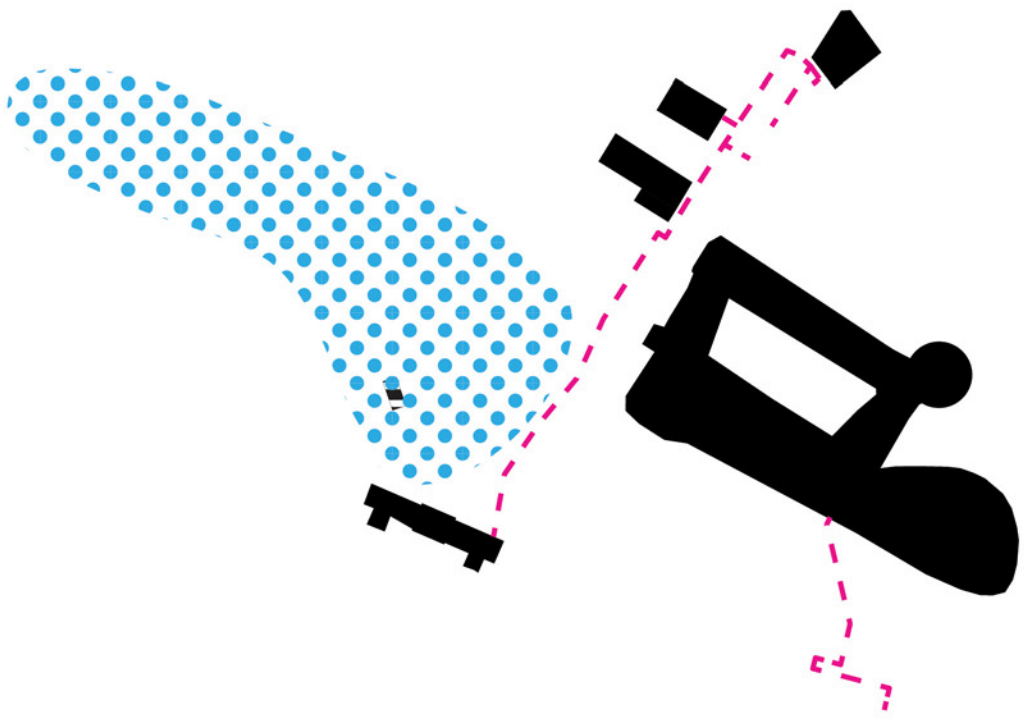


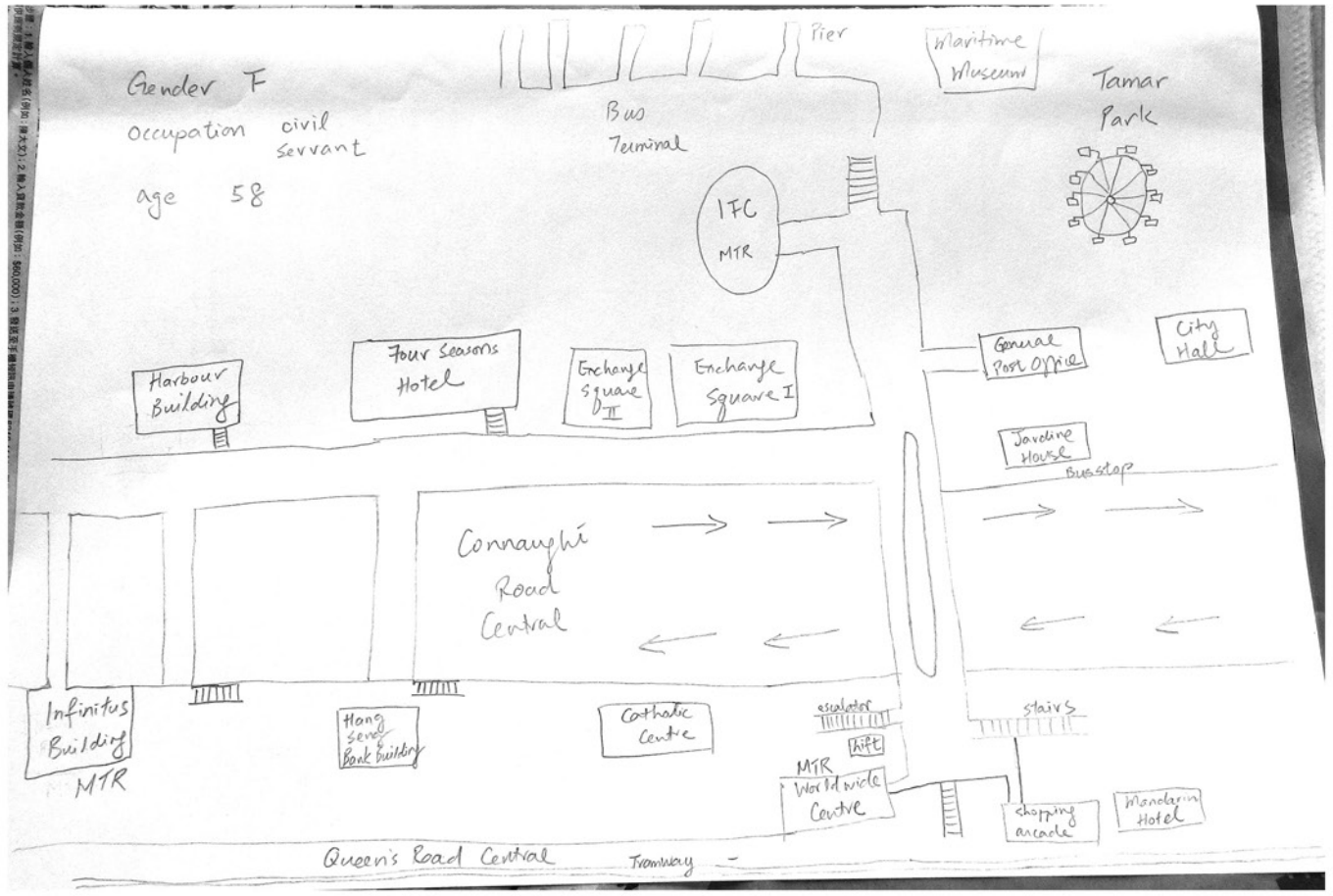
Name	SL
Age	22
Gender	Female



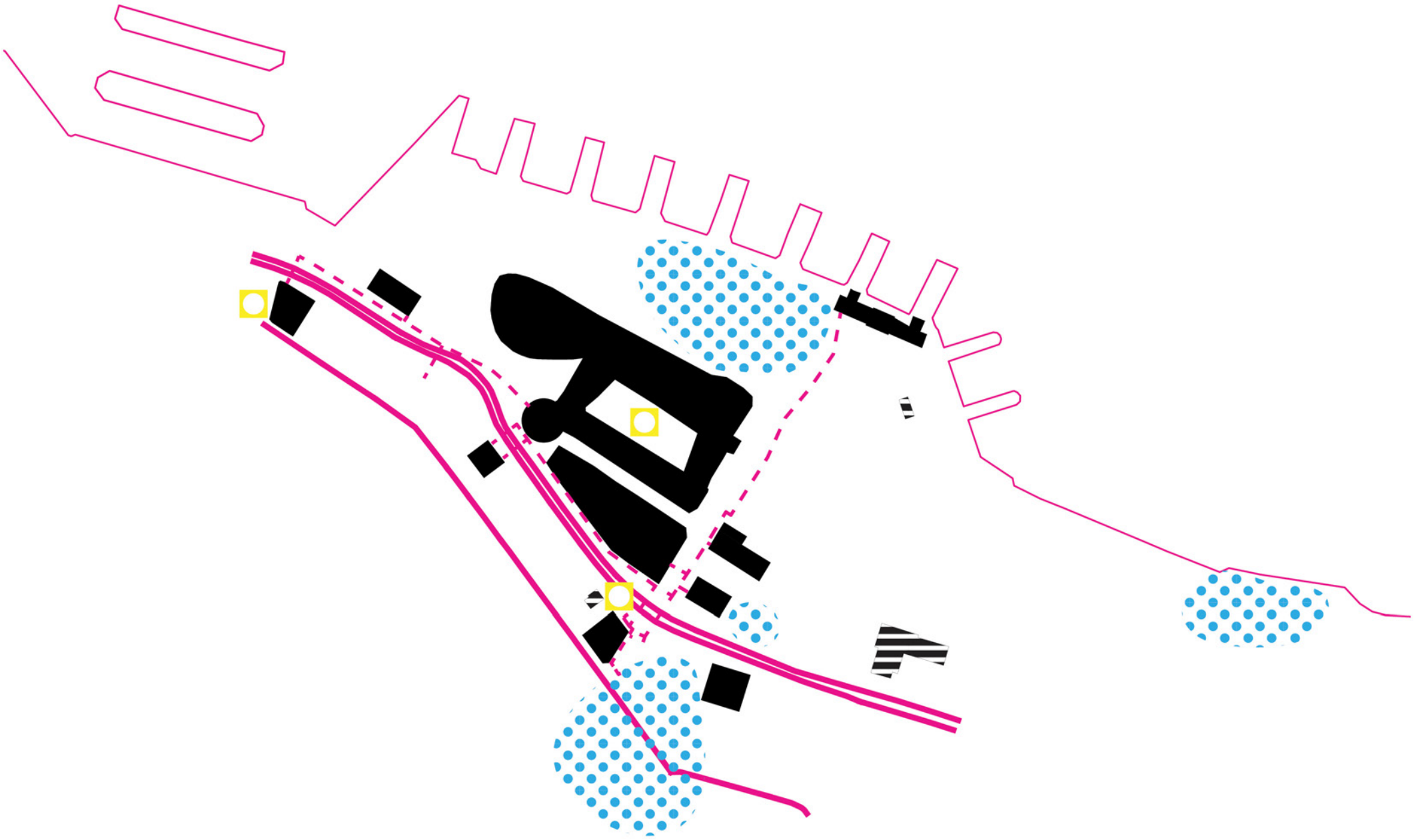


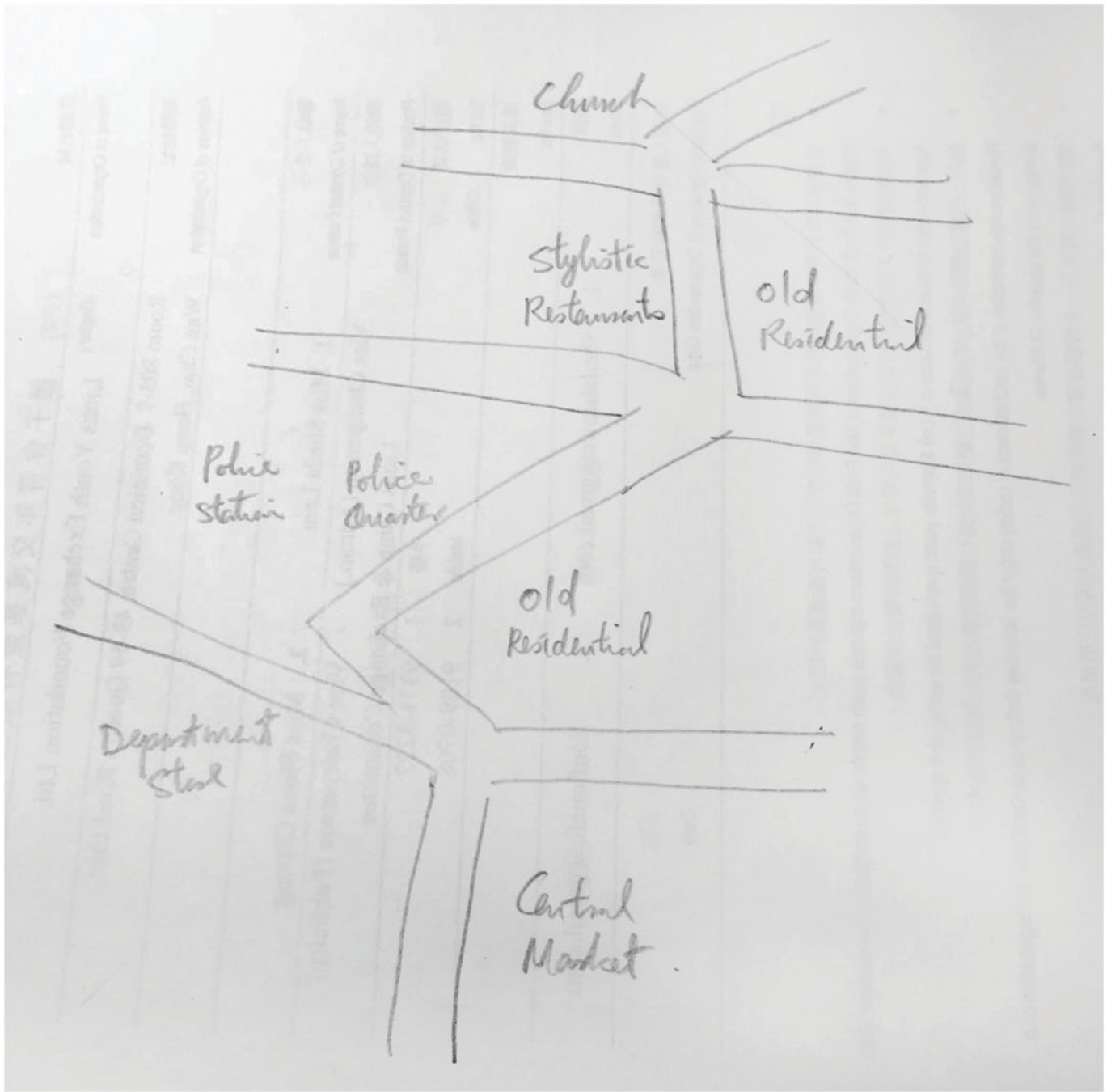
Name	CH
Age	21
Gender	Male



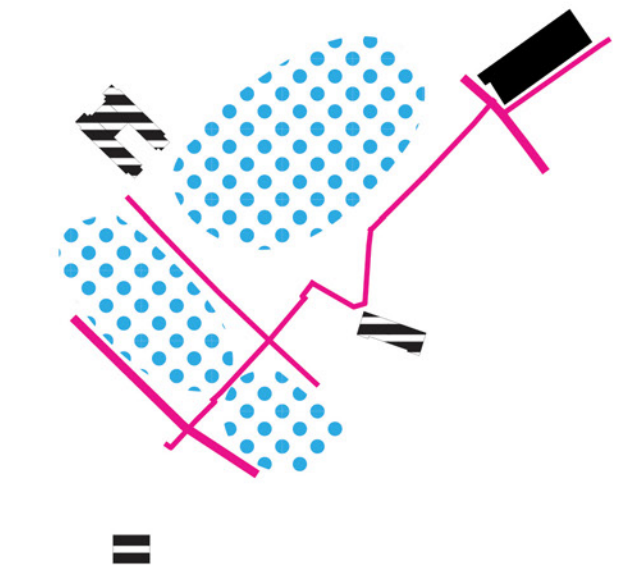


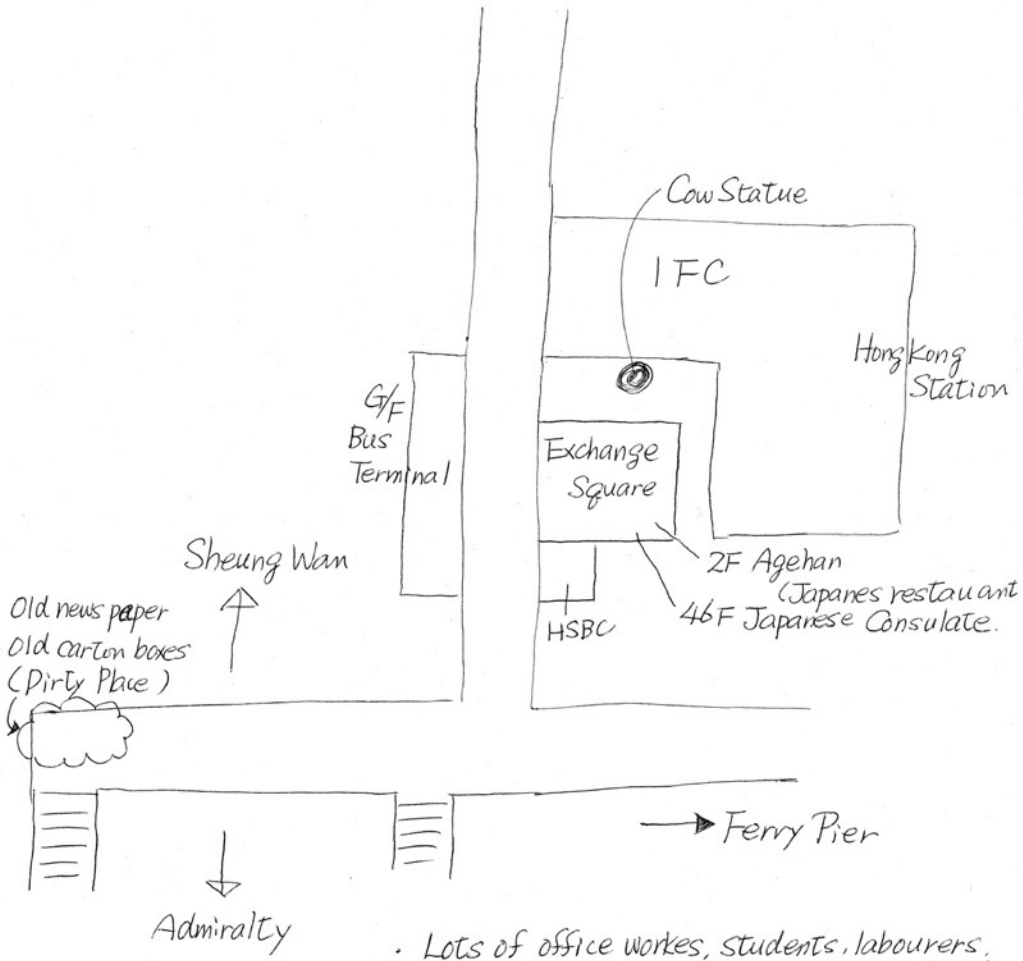
Name	Ivy
Age	58
Gender	Female





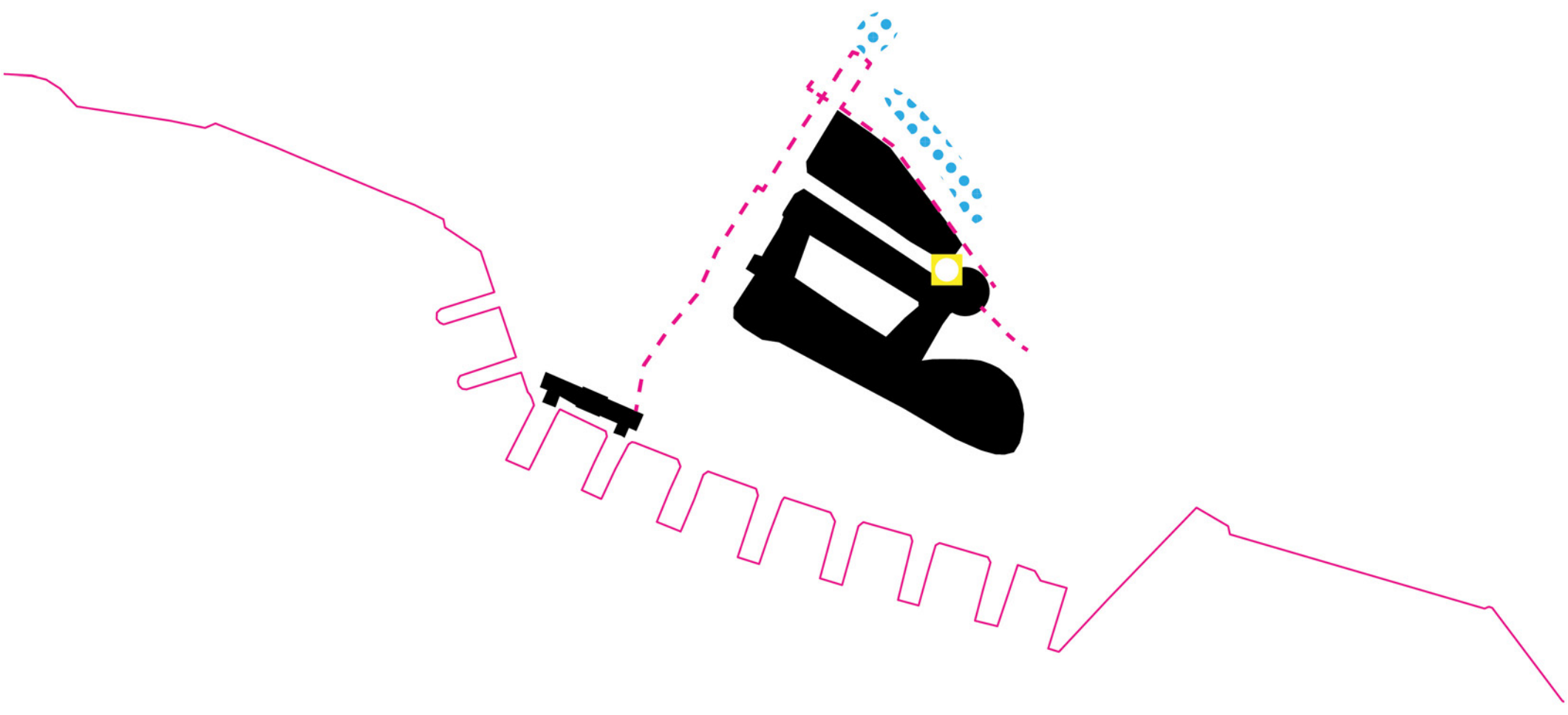
Name	YL
Age	-
Gender	-

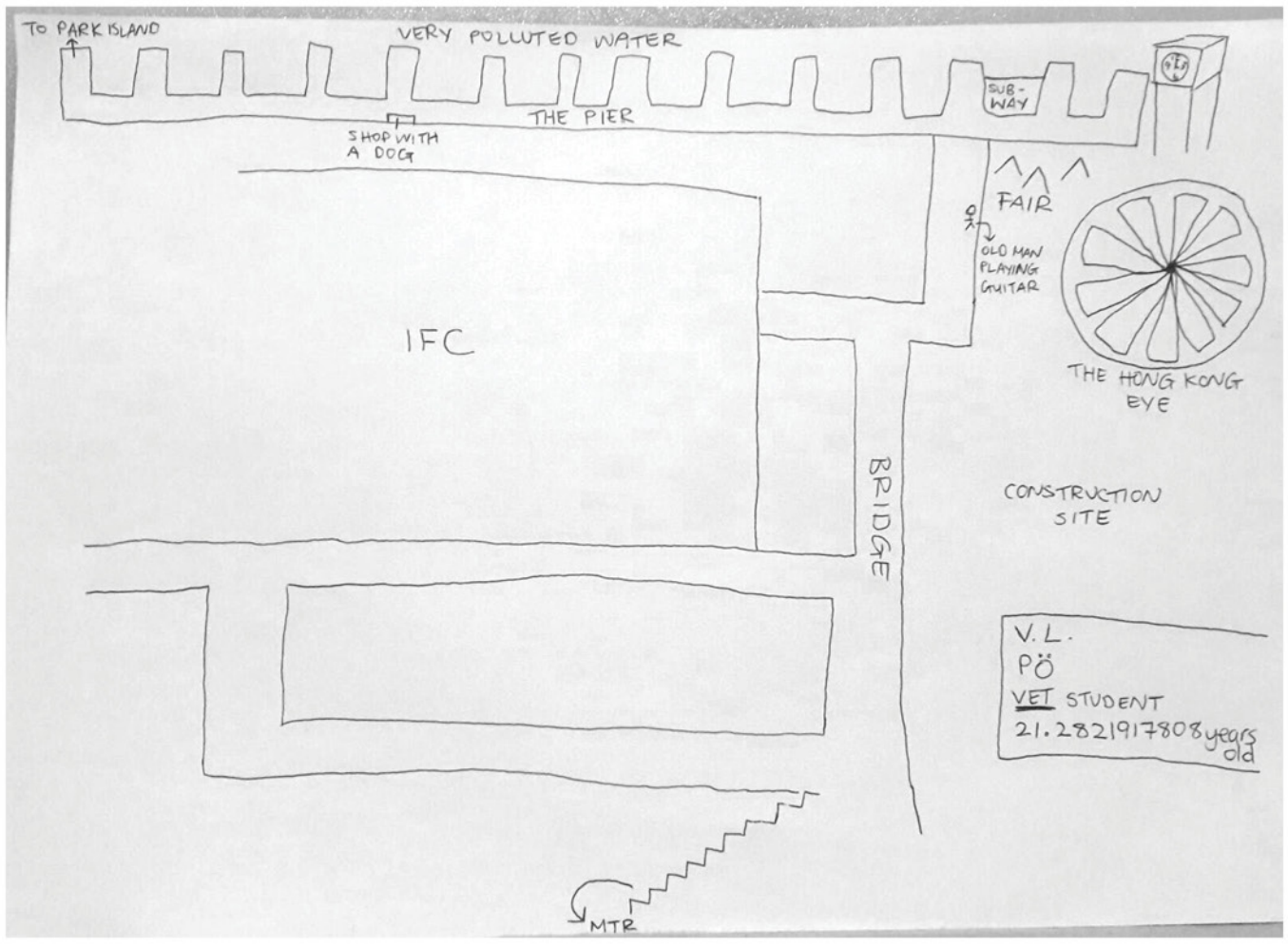




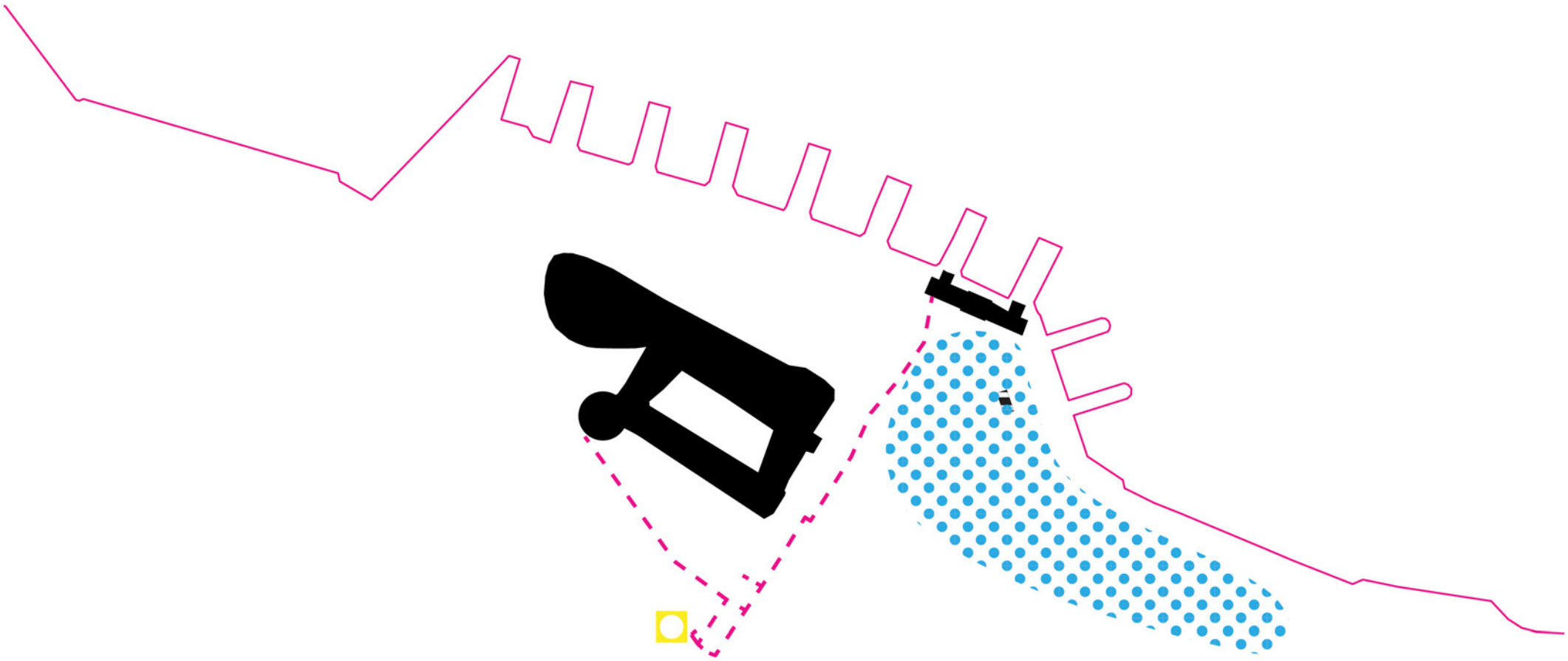
- Lots of office workes, students, labourers, Many domestic helpers during the weekends
- There are places that feel very high class. places that look like old Hong kong, lively place, and gloomy places. Each area has a difficult

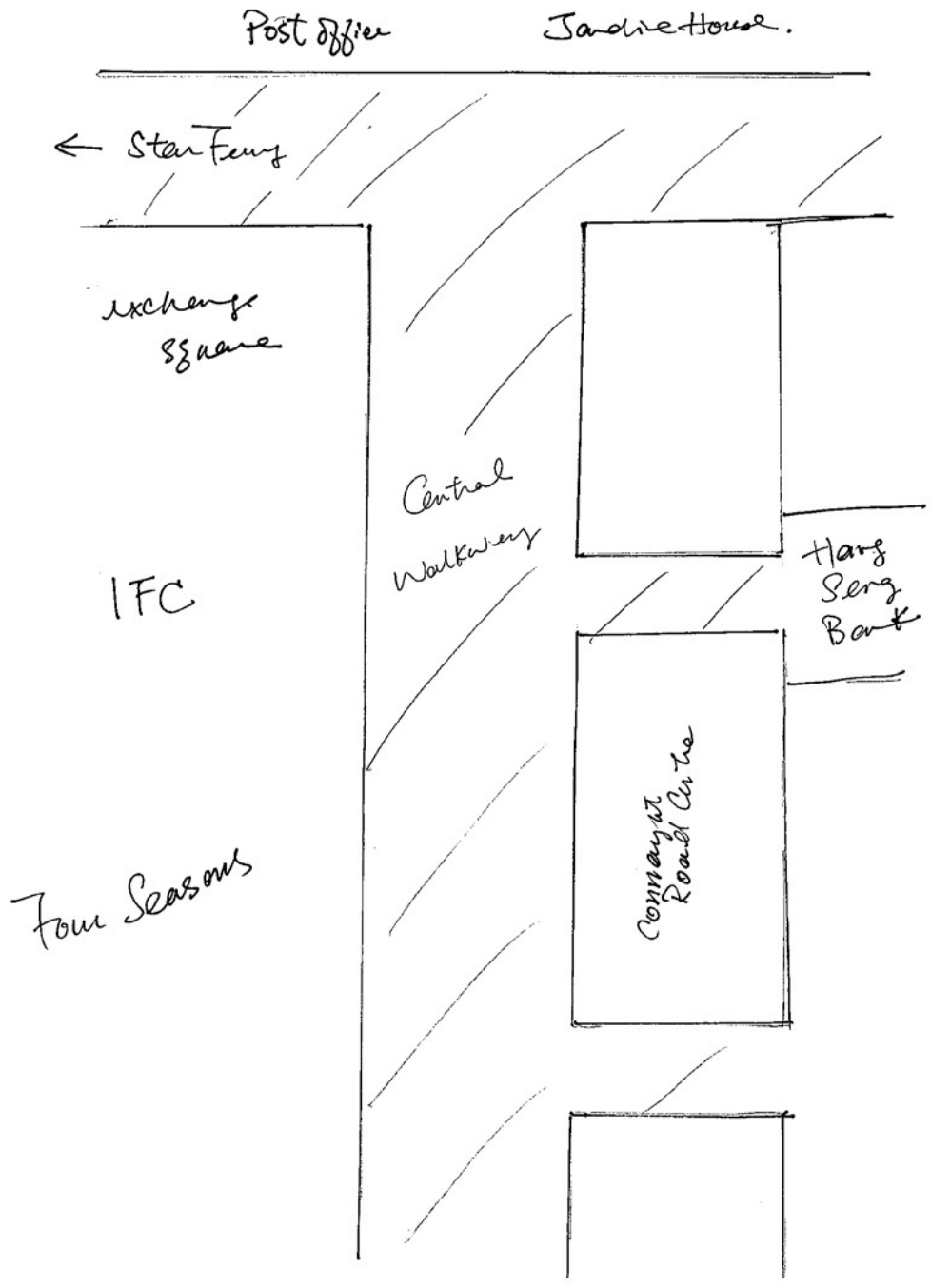
Name	YH
Age	59
Gender	Female



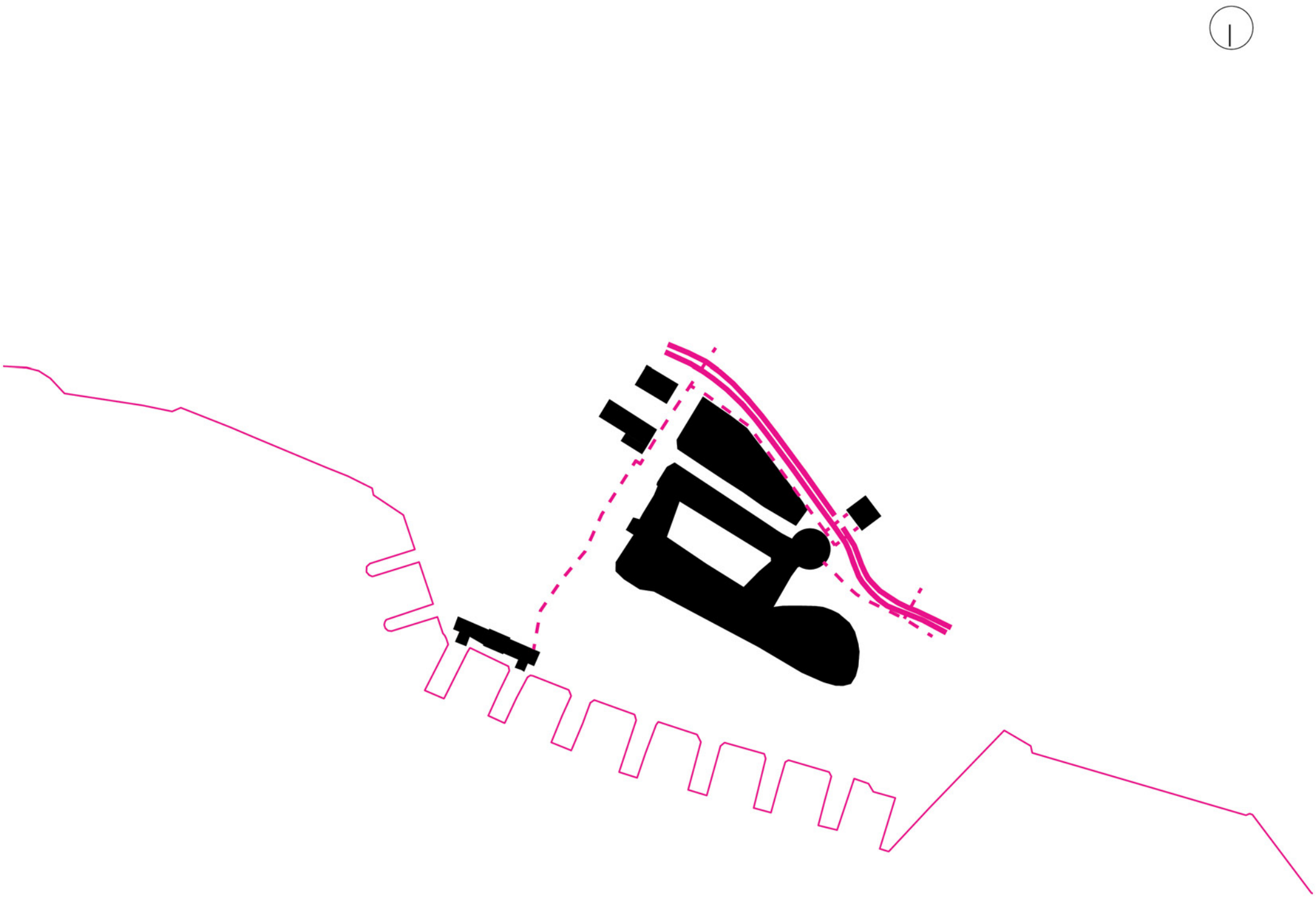


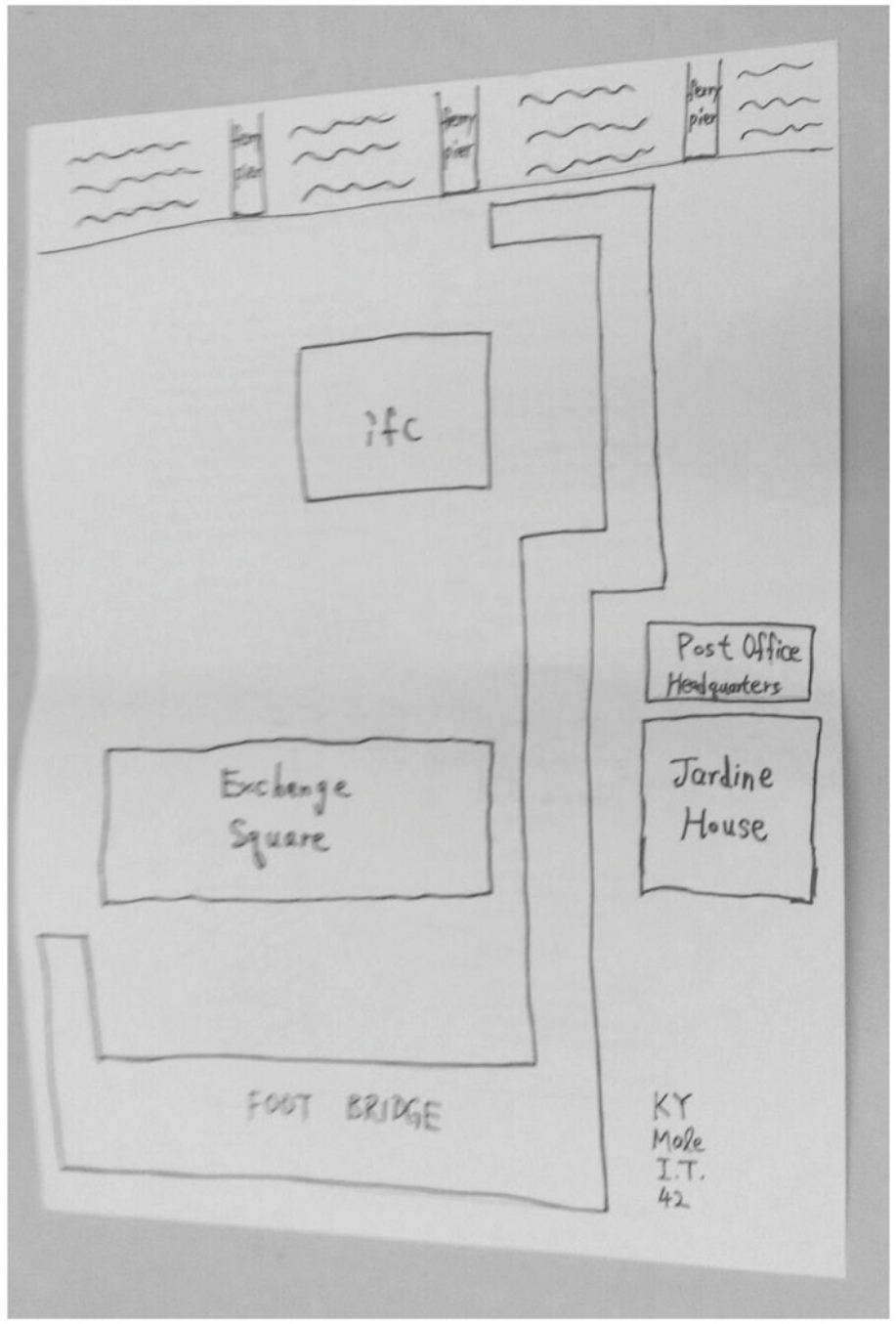
Name	VL
Age	21
Gender	Female



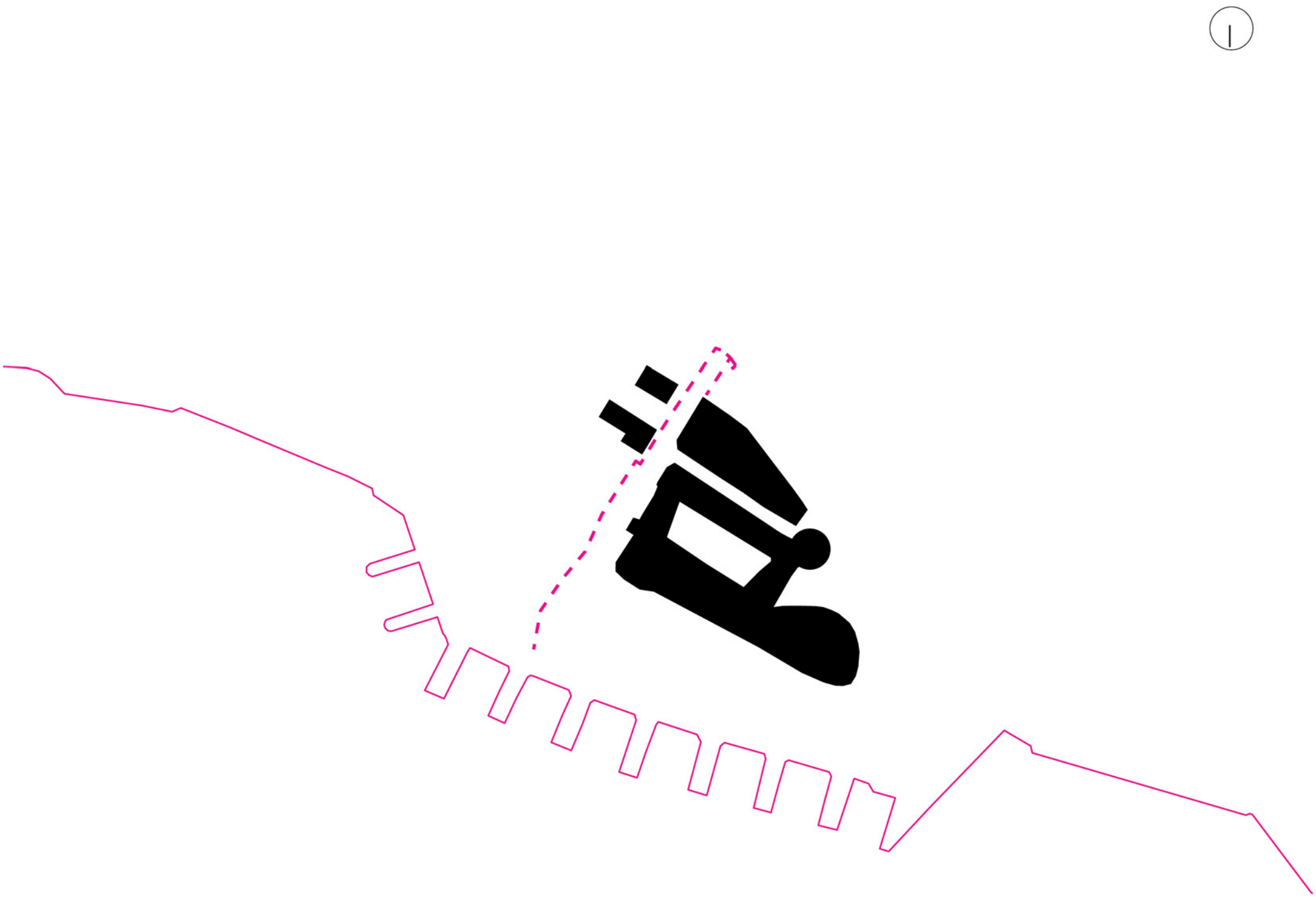


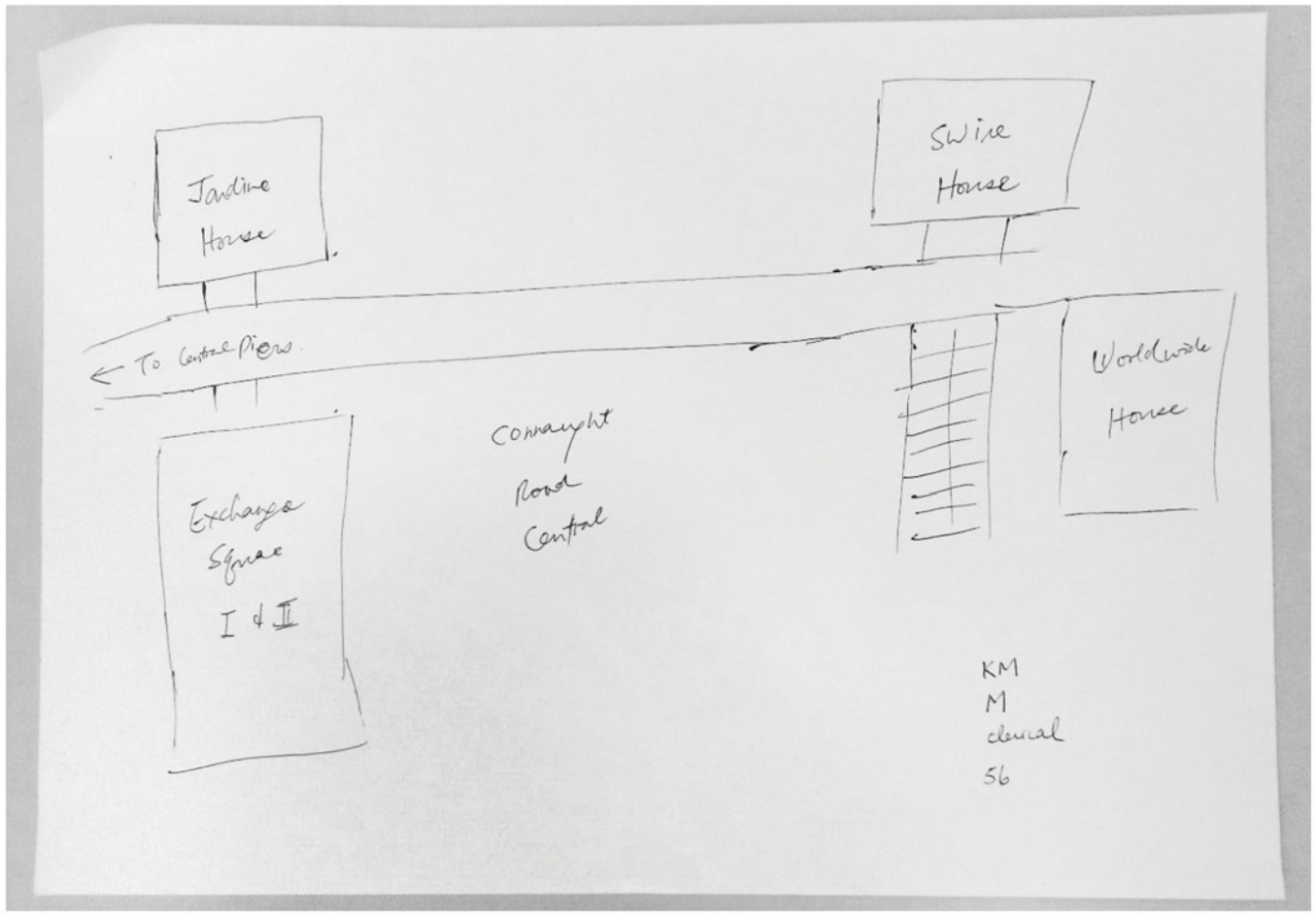
Name	Vivian
Age	-
Gender	Female



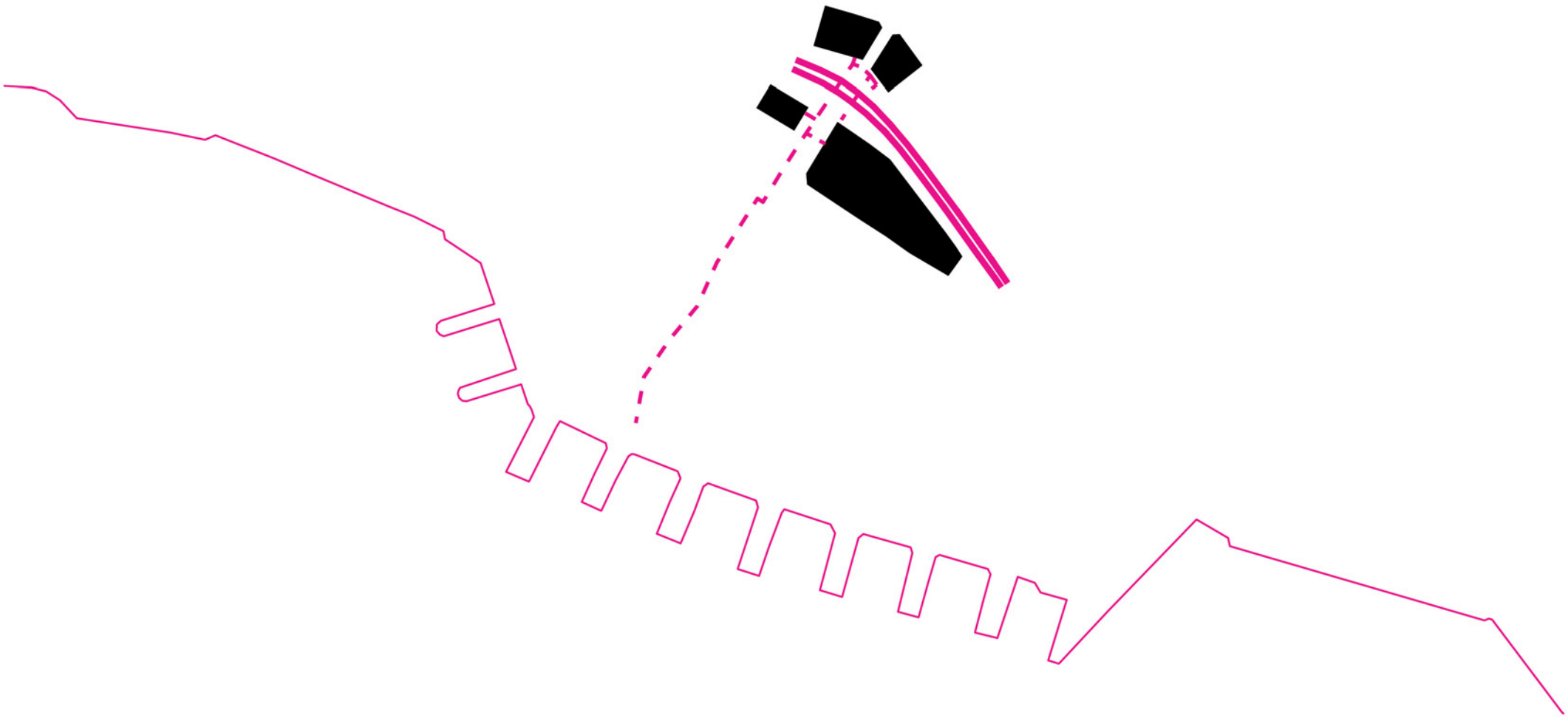


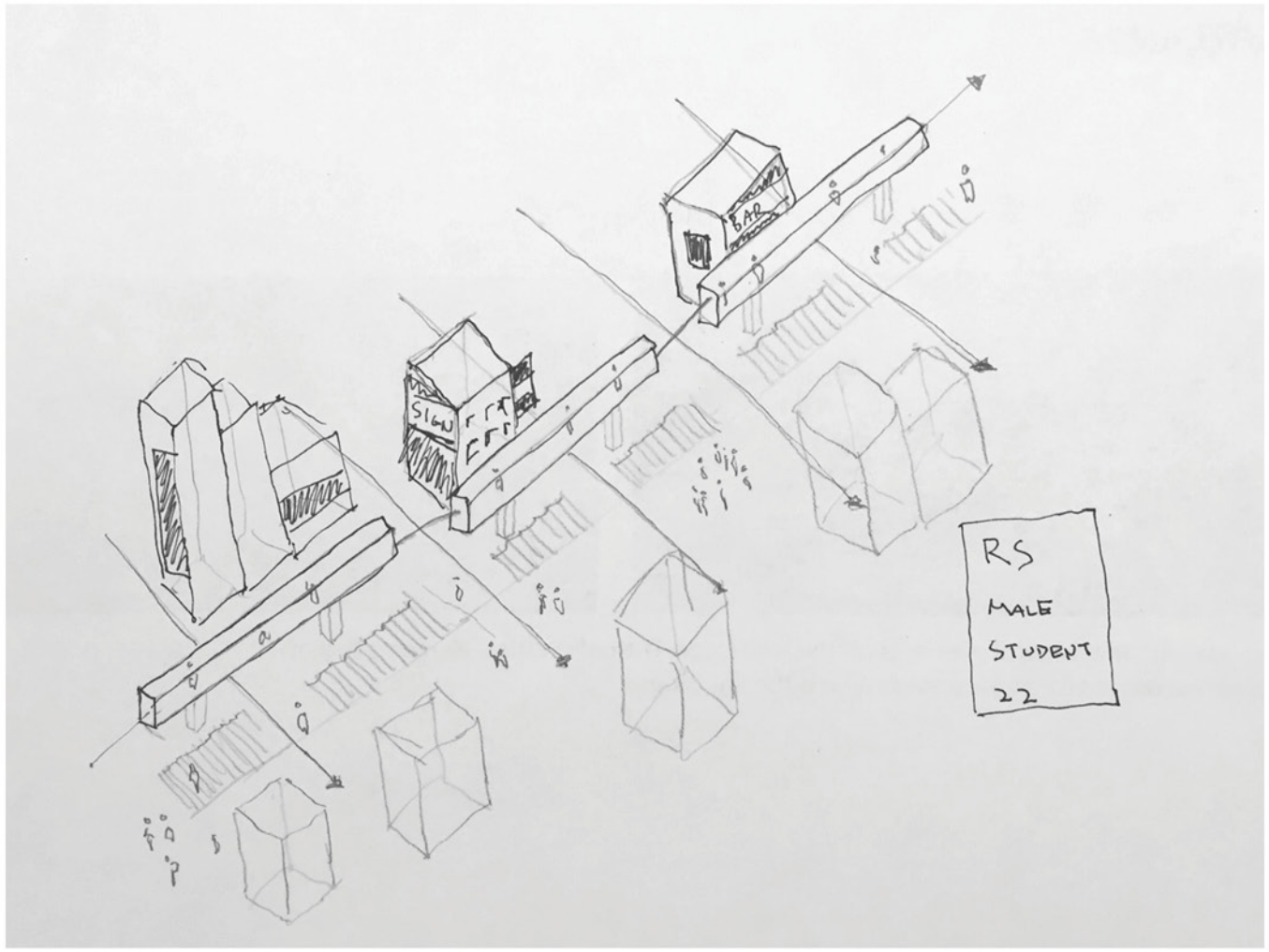
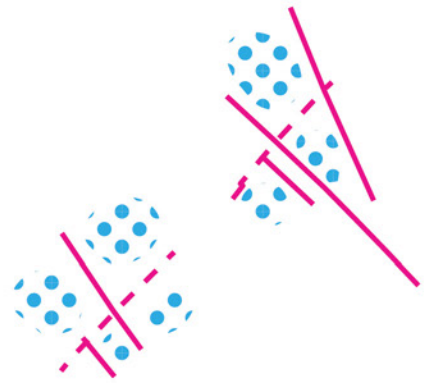
Name	KY
Age	42
Gender	Male





Name	KM
Age	56
Gender	Male





Name	RS
Age	22
Gender	Male