

FACADE
OF
DEMOCRACY

Johnny Yueh Han Lin
Rhode Island School of Design
Master of Architecture Thesis
2018

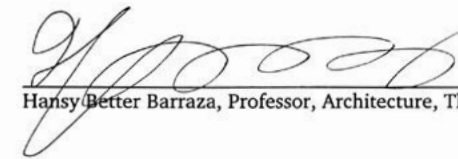
Facade of Democracy:
Realizing the Architecture of the Fourth Wall

A thesis presented in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree
of Master of Architecture in the Department of Architecture of the Rhode
Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island.

by

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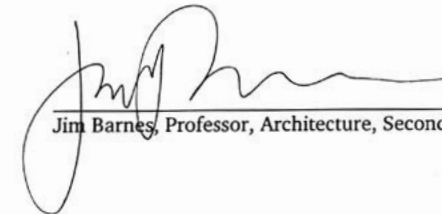
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This thesis project explored the scope of democracy and seek the opportunity to relate the research into the discipline of architecture. This one-year thesis journey started from “Democracy in Words”, “Democracy as a Rule of Drawing”, which seek to develop a representation system under the wide topic of democracy. The second part, “Behind the Democratic Illustration”, used a series of collages and drawings to understand a contemporary democratic crisis. And in the last part of the thesis “Reveal the Democratic Truth”, develop an architectural project based on the previous knowledge to reveal the predicament of the society through a counter-design architectural proposal.

Democracy in Words

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Democracy as a Rule of Drawing

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Behind the Democratic Illustration

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Reveal the Democratic Truth

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Democracy in Words

What is “Democracy”? Whether it is a political system or a way of living, we’ve all agreed that it is a pillar to a modern society. There are different literatures describing the idea of democracy. In all the nations that operating democratic form of government, democracy is written down in the constitution documents. In this beginning part of the thesis project, I am exploring the democracy in this language perspective, seeing how it is described and relates to other vocabulary and expressions.

I picked the officially-written-in-English constitutions in 4 democratic countries on the top list of Democratic Index from Economist Intelligence Unit: Australia, Botswana, Ireland and United States. The documents were deconstructed into the category of verbs, nouns and prepositions for further discovery.

provisions of this Article, continue to be a member thereof and shall hold office by the like tenure and on the like terms as theretofore unless he signifies to the Taoiseach his desire to resign. Every such judge and justice who shall not have so signified his desire to resign shall make and subscribe the declaration set forth in section 5 of Article 34 of this Constitution. This declaration shall be made and subscribed by the Chief Justice in the presence of the Taoiseach, and by each of the other judges of the said Supreme Court, the judges of the said High Court and the judges of the said Circuit Court in the presence of the Chief Justice in open court, in the case of the justices of the said District Court the declaration shall be made and subscribed in open court. Every such declaration shall be made immediately upon the coming into operation of this Constitution, or as soon as may be thereafter. Any such judge or justice who declines or neglects to make such declaration in the manner aforesaid shall be deemed to have vacated his office. On the coming into operation of this Constitution, the person who is the Attorney General of Saorstát Éireann immediately before the coming into operation of this Constitution shall, without any appointment under Article 30 of this Constitution, become and be the Attorney General as if he had been appointed to that office under the said Article 30. On the coming into operation of this Constitution the person who is the Comptroller and Auditor General of Saorstát Éireann immediately before the coming into operation of this Constitution shall, without any appointment under Article 23 of this Constitution, become and be the Comptroller and Auditor General as if he had been appointed to that office under the said Article 23. **On the coming into operation of this Constitution, the Defence Forces and the Police Forces of Saorstát Éireann in existence immediately before the coming into operation of this Constitution shall become and be respectively the Defence Forces and the Police Forces of the State.** Every commissioned officer of the Defence Forces of Saorstát Éireann immediately before the coming into operation of this Constitution shall become and be a commissioned officer of corresponding rank of the Defence Forces of the State as if he had been appointed to that office under Article 13 of this Constitution. Every officer of the Defence Forces of the State at the date on which the first President enters upon his office shall receive a commission from the President as soon as may be after that date. **This Constitution shall come into operation on the day following the expiration of a period of one hundred and eighty days after its approval by the people signified by a majority of the votes cast at a plebiscite thereon held in accordance with law, or, on such earlier day after such approval as may be fixed by a resolution of Dáil Éireann elected at the general election the polling for which shall have taken place on the same day as the said plebiscite.** A copy of this Constitution signed by the Taoiseach, the Chief Justice, and the Chairman of Dáil Éireann, shall be enrolled for **public use** in the office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court, and such signed copy shall be conclusive evidence of the provisions of this Constitution, in case of conflict between the Irish and the English texts, the Irish text shall prevail.

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives. The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature. No Person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the Age of twenty-five Years, and been seven Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State in which he shall be chosen. Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct. The Number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty Thousand, but each State shall have at Least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the State of New Hampshire shall be entitled to three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New-York six, New Jersey six, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware six, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three. When vacancies happen in the Representation from any State, the Executive Authority thereof shall issue Writs of Election to fill such Vacancies. The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other Officers; and shall have the sole Power of Impeachment. The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote. Immediately after they shall be assembled in Consequence of the first Election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three Classes. The Seats of the Senators of the first Class shall be vacated at the Expiration of the second Year, of the second Class at the Expiration of the fourth Year, and of the third Class at the Expiration of the sixth Year, so that one third may be chosen every second Year, and if Vacancies happen by Resignation, or otherwise, during the Recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary Appointments until the next Meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such Vacancies. No Person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty Years, and been nine Years a Citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an Inhabitant of that State for which he shall be chosen. The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no Vote, unless they be equally divided. The Senate shall choose their other Officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the Absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the Office of President of the United States. The Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments. When sitting for that Purpose, they shall be on Oath or Affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no Person shall be convicted without the Concurrence of two thirds of the Members present. Judgment in Cases of Impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States: but the Party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to Indictment, Trial, Judgment and Punishment, according to Law. The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except as to the Places of choosing Senators. **The Congress shall assemble at least once in every Year, and such Meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by Law appoint a different Day. Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members, and a Majority of each shall constitute a Quorum to do Business; but a smaller Number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the Attendance of absent Members, in such Manner, and under such Penalties as each House may provide. Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly Behaviour, and, with the Concurrence of two thirds, expel a Member. Each House shall keep a Journal of its Proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such Parts as may in their Judgment require Secrecy; and the Yeas and Nays of the Members of either House on any question shall, at the Desire of one fifth of those Present, be entered on the Journal. Neither House, during the Session of Congress, shall, without the Consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other Place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting. The Senators and Representatives shall receive a Compensation for their Services, to be ascertained by Law, and paid out of the Treasury of the United States. They shall in all Cases, except Treason, Felony and Breach of the Peace, be privileged from Arrest during their Attendance at the Session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any Speech or Debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other Place. No Senator or Representative shall, during the Time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil Office under the Authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the Emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time; and no Person holding any Office under the United States, shall be a Member of either House during his Continuance in Office. All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills. Every Bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a Law, be presented to the President of the United States. If he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his Objections to that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the Objections at large on their Journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such Reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the Bill, it shall be sent, together with the Objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a Law. But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and Nays, and the Names of the Persons voting for and against the Bill shall be entered on the Journal of each House respectively. If any Bill shall not be returned by the President within ten Days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the Same shall be a Law, in like Manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their Adjournment prevent its Return, in which Case it shall not be a Law. Every Order, Resolution, or Vote to which the Concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of Adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the Same shall take Effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the Rules and Limitations prescribed in the Cases of a Bill. **The Congress shall have Power: To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; To borrow Money on the credit of the United States; To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes; To establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States; To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures; To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States; To establish Post Offices and post Roads; To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries; To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court; To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations; To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water; To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years; To provide and maintain a Navy; To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces; To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions; To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part
of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress; To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof. **The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight; but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person. The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it. No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed. No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken. No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State. No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another. No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time. No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State. **No State shall enter into any Treaty, Alliance, or Confederation; grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal; coin Money, emit Bills of Credit; make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts; pass any Bill of Attainder, ex post facto Law, or Law impairing the Obligation of Contracts, or grant any Title of Nobility. No State shall, without the Consent of the Congress, lay any Imposts or Duties on Imports or Exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection Laws; and the net Produce of all Duties and Imposts, laid by any State on Imports or Exports, shall be for the Use of the Treasury of the United States; and all such Laws shall be subject to the Revision and Control of the Congress: No State shall, without the Consent of Congress, lay any Duty of Tonnage, keep Troops, or Ships of War in time of Peace, enter into any Agreement or Compact with another State, or with a foreign Power, or engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay. **The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows: Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors, equal to the whole Number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress; but no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector. The Congress may determine the Time of choosing the Electors, and the Day on which they shall give their Votes; which Day shall be the same throughout the United States. No Person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President; neither shall any Person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained to the Age of thirty five Years, and been fourteen Years a Resident within the United States. The President shall, at stated Times, receive for his Services, a Compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the Period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that Period any other Emolument from the United States, or any of them, before he enters on the Execution of his Office, he shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:—I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. **The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States; he may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices, and he shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offences against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment. He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments. The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session. He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper; he shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers; he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States. The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors. **The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. 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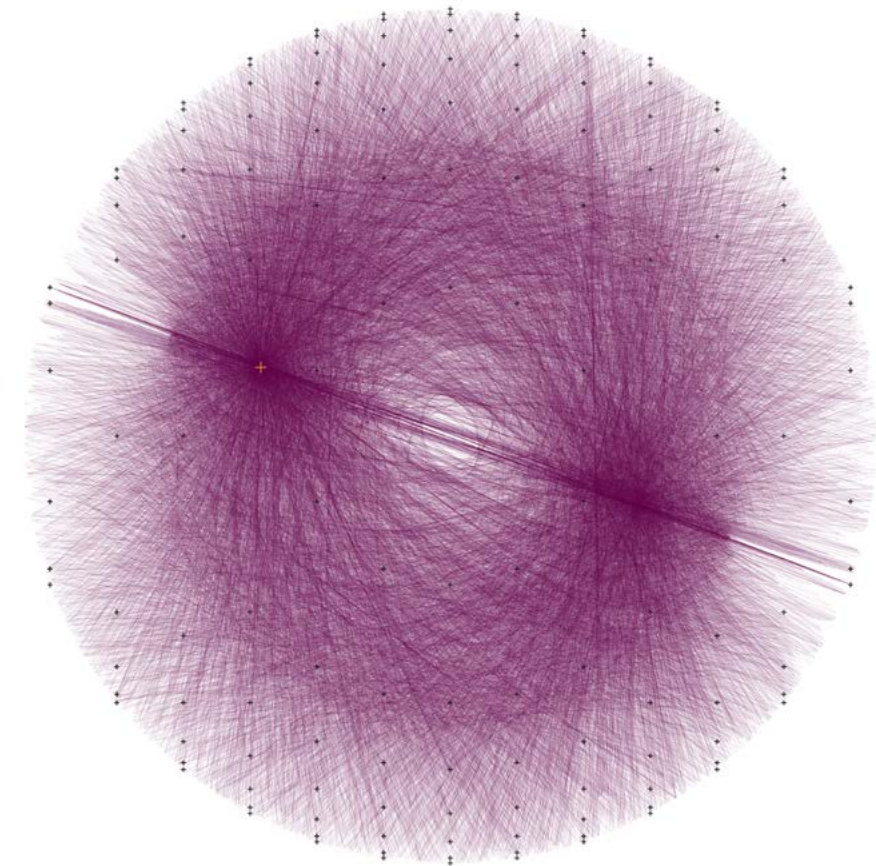
Deconstructing the constitutions into individual words allows some exploration of the actions, figures, frames and spatial relationships in the democratic mechanism. These groups of words starts to reveal the system behind the democratic structure. The nouns includes the role, the place and power structure within a governmental framework, which are the requiring persons of the democratic operation and certain programs within the democratic process; The verbs describe the electing different groups of delegates, and the execution of power in individual roles or collective decision making; the prepositions depict the hierarchy and relationships of the roles and spaces, which show the passing and using of power within a certain order.

ADD (v.), ADHERE (v.), ADMINISTER (n.), AFFIRM (v.), AFTER (prep.), AGAINST (prep.), ALTER (v.), AMEND (v.), AMONG (prep.), APPLY (v.), APPOINT (v.), APPORTION (v.), ARM (v.), ASSEMBLE (v.), ASSEMBLY (n.), ASSISTANT (n.), ATTORNEY (n.), AUDITOR (n.), AUTHORITY (n.), BECOME (v.), BEFORE (prep.), BETWEEEN (prep.), BIND (v.), BODY (n.), BOUND (v.), BY (prep.), CAST (v.), CHIEF (n.), CHOOSE (v.), CITIZEN (n.), COLLECT (v.), COLONY (n.), COMMISSION (n.), COMMITTEE (n.), COMMONWEALTH (n.), COMPOSE (v.), COMPTROLLER (n.), CONCUR (v.), CONGRESS (n.), CONSIST (v.), CONTAIN (v.), CONTUNUE (v.), CONSTITUTE (v.), CONVENE (v.), COUNCIL (n.), COURT (n.), CREATE (v.), DAIL EIREANN (n.), DEPARTMENT (n.), DEPRIVE (v.), DEVELOP (v.), DIMINISH (v.), DISAPPROVE (v.), DISSOLVE (v.), DIVIDE (v.), ELECT (v.), ELECTION (n.), ELECTOR (n.), ELECTORATE (n.), ENTER (v.), ESTABLISH (v.), EXCEED (v.), EXCEPT (prep.), EXCLUDE (v.), EXIST (v.), EXPRESS (v.), EXTEND (v.), FAMILY (n.), FOLLOW (v.), FOR (prep.), FORM (n.), FORM (v.), FROM (prep.), GENERAL (n.), GOVERNMENT (n.), HEREBY (prep.), HOLD (v.), HOUSE (n.), IMPORT (v.), IMPOSE (v.), IN (prep.), INCLUDE (v.), INCREASE (v.), INDIVIDUAL (n.), INFORM (v.), INHABITANT (n.), INTO (prep.), INVADE (v.), JUDGE (n.), JURY (n.), LAY (v.), MAINTAIN (v.), MAJORITY (n.), MEET (v.), MEMBER (n.), MIGRATE (v.), MINISTER (n.), MILITARY (n.), NATION (n.), OF (prep.), OBJEECT (v.), OFFICE (n.), OFFICER (n.), OIREACHTAS (n.), ON (prep.), OVER (prep.), PARLIAMENT (n.), PART (n.), PASS (v.), PEOPLE (n.), PERFORM (v.), PERSON (n.), PLACE (n.), PRESENT (v.), PRESIDENT (n.), PREVILEGE (v.), PROVIDE (v.), QUEEN (n.), RAISE (v.), RECEIVE (v.), RELATE (v.), REMOVE (v.), REPRESENTITIVE (n.), REPUBLIC (n.), RESIDE (v.), RETURN (v.), SEAT (n.), SENATE (n.), SENATOR (n.), SESSION (n.), SPEAKER (n.), STATE (n.), SUMMON (v.), THAN (prep.), TO (prep.), TOGETHER (prep.), TRANSFER (v.), UPON (prep.), UNDER (prep.), UNION (n.), VACANCY (n.), VACATE (v.), VEST(v.), VOTE(v.), VOTER (n.), WITH (prep.), WITHIN (prep.), WITHOUT (prep.), WRIT (n.)

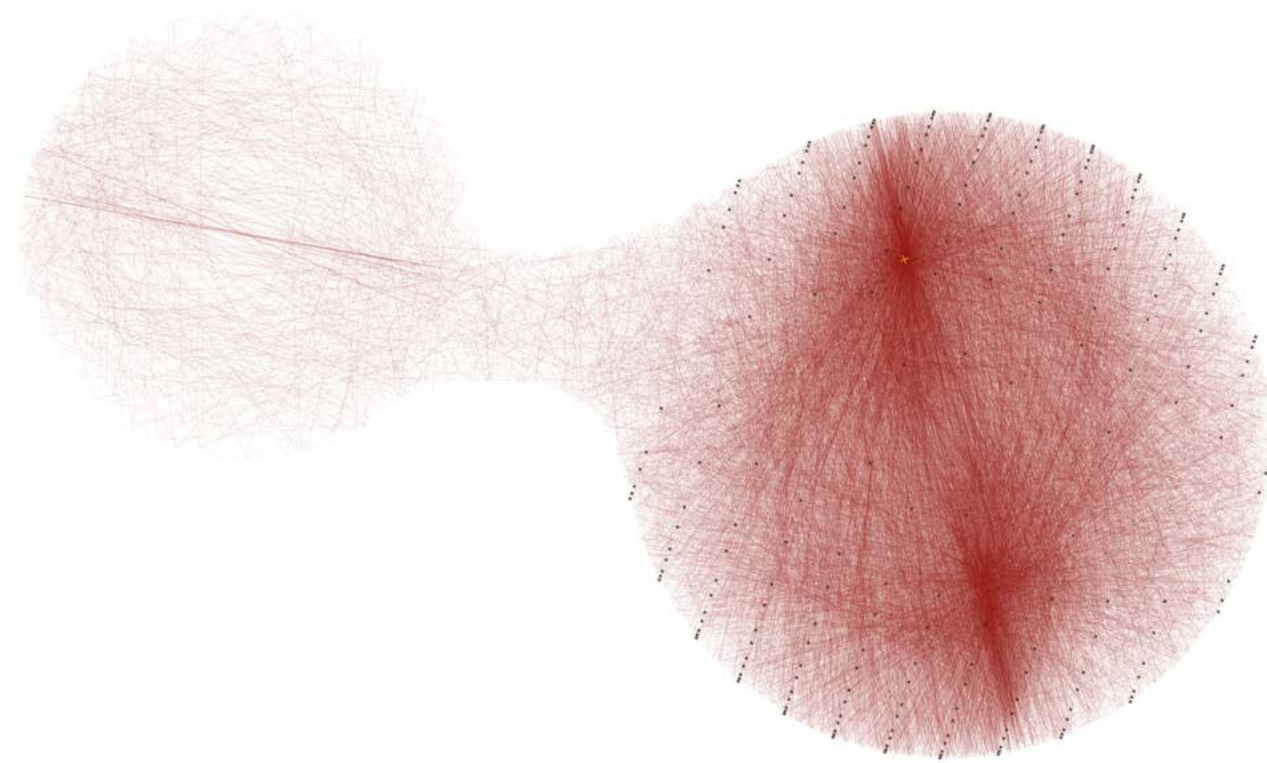
Democracy as a rule of Drawing

Using these elements from last chapter of study as tools in a 3-dimensional drawing, these words are acting as guidelines to the composing of lines, boundaries, orientation and density. Set 0 is a sphere – a space with no hierarchy – and evenly distributed reflected beams. The add-on of the constitutional elements will change the shape of the sphere and the form of the depicting spaces.

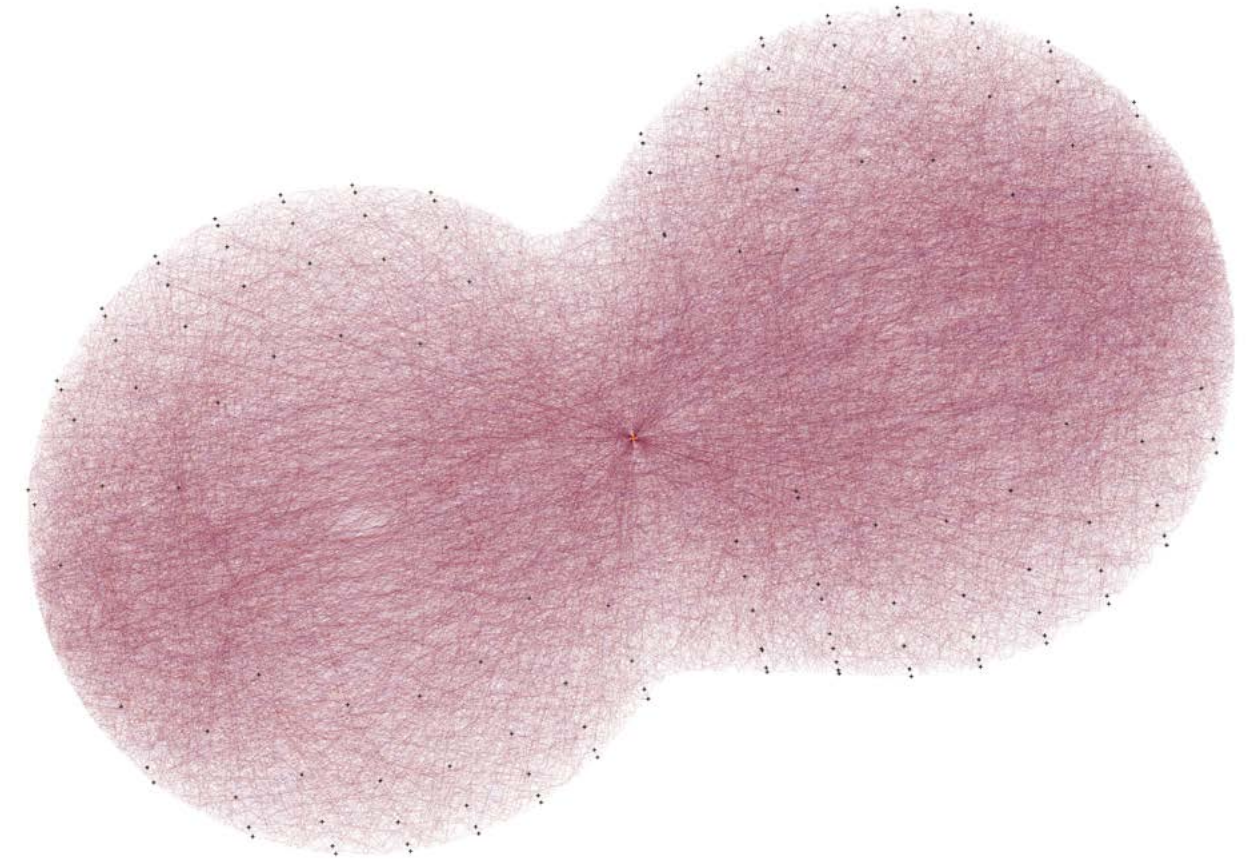
The developing of this representational method embodies power structures, democratic actions and intergroup relationship into the making of forms. This system is with potential for a morphology of spaces. The goal is to transfer the principle of democracy into the design of a political infrastructure within the public realm.



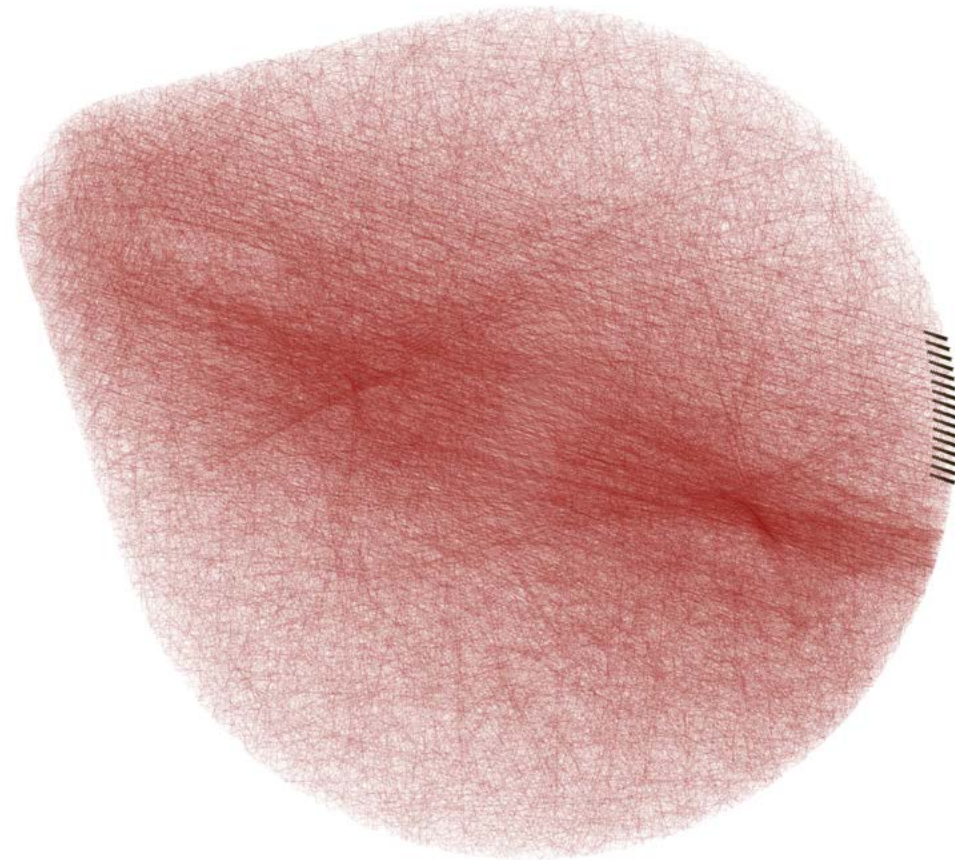
PLACE	(n.) sphere space.
PEOPLE	(n.) figure, evenly distributed beam along the sphere
ASSEMBLE	(v.) the action on the figures, beams are focusing on only one location.



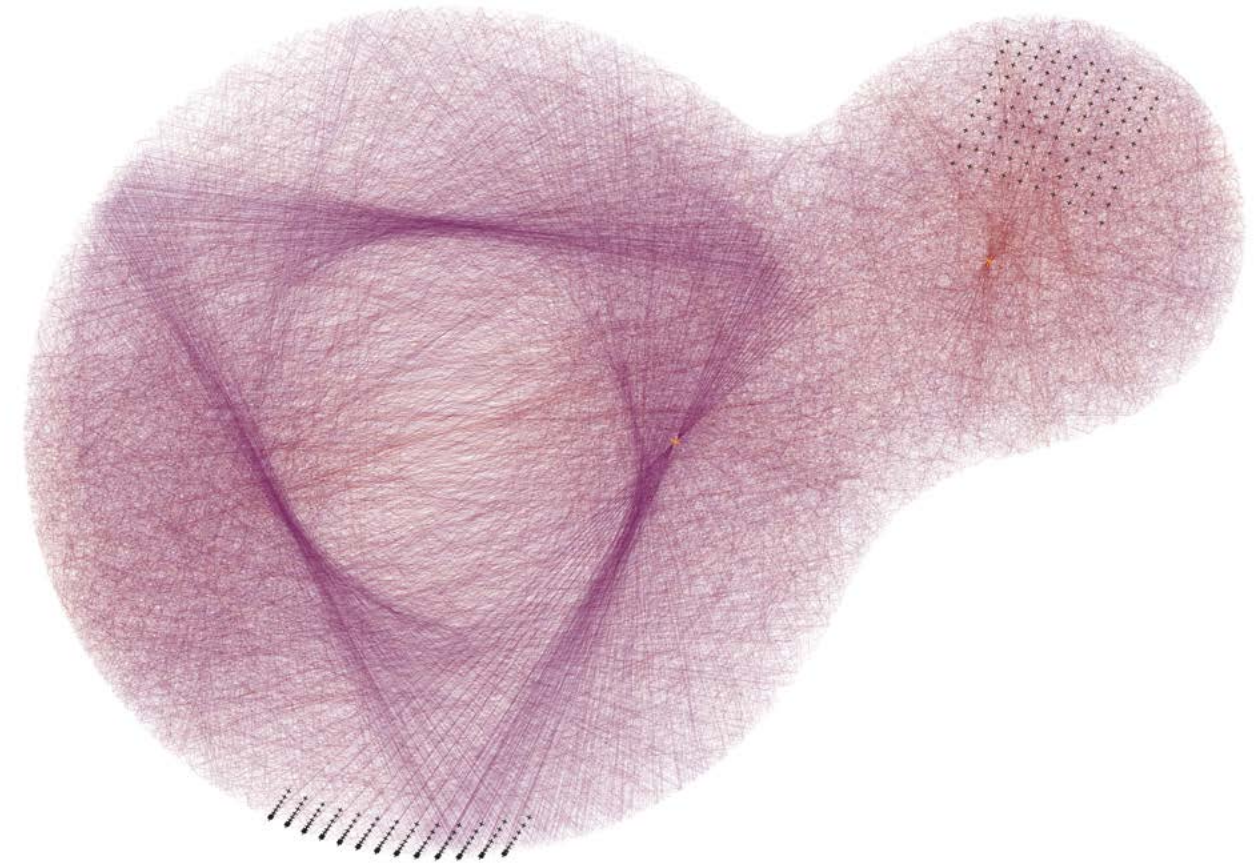
SENATE (n.) sphere space 1.
 HOUSE (n.) sphere space 2.
 FORM (v.) the action on the figures, the beams always gather at one location.
 TO (prep.) hierarchy of the space, the beams always travel from one certain sphere to another.



HOUSE (n.) sphere space 1.
 SENATE (n.) sphere space 2.
 PRESIDENT (n.) figure specified in the second space, the beams are clustered within certain starting area.
 CONVENE (v.) the action on the figures, beams are focusing on only one location.
 BETWEEN (prep.) relationship between the spaces, two spheres share one focus point.



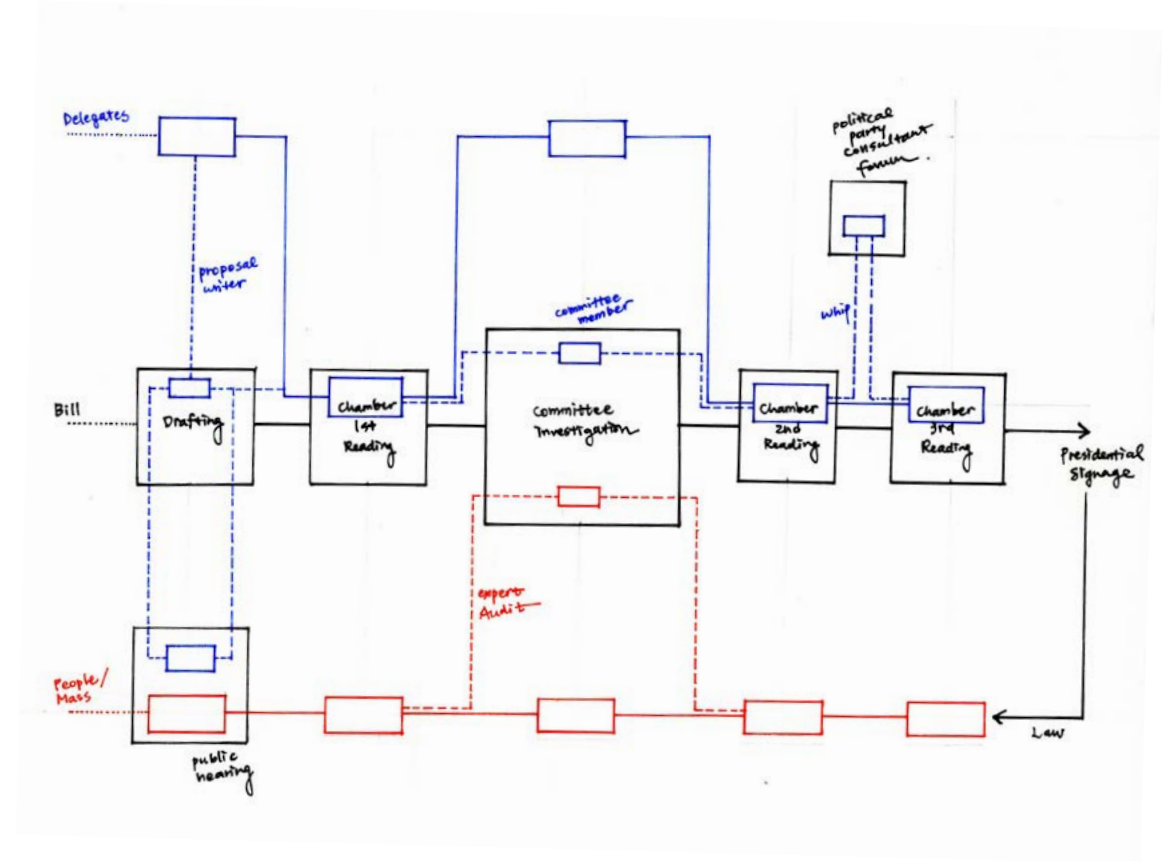
CONGRESS (n.) sphere space 1.
 HOUSE (n.) sphere space 2.
 PRIVILEGE (v.) the action on the figures, the beams are only starting from selective location.
 IN (prep.) relationship between the spaces. one sphere is in another



OFFICE (n.) sphere space 1.
 COURT (n.) sphere space 2.
 PRESIDENT (n.) figure specified in the first space, the beams are clustered within certain starting area.
 JUDGE (n.) figure specified in the second space, the beams are clustered within certain starting area.
 VEST (v.) the action on the figures, the beams are aiming on one location.
 CHOOSE (v.) the action on the figures, the beams are concentrating on one point.
 AGAINST (prep.) relationship between the spaces, two of the concentrating points are away from the center of two spheres

Behind the Democratic Illustration

In this chapter of the thesis is the collage of a complete picture of the contemporary democratic operations. The first part is the spark of the research: a contemporary political event happened in Taiwan in 2014, which raised the awareness of the tension between public, politicians and media. The second part is the illustration of the democratic vision that the politicians and the media are seeking to embellish. The third part is the revealing of the political operations beneath surface of the democratic illustration, which reveal the secret of the democratic system.



The sparkle:

“Sunflower Movement”, the occupation of the Taiwanese parliament, in 2014 was triggered by a Taiwan-China free service/trade agreement that passed the committee investigation in a very short period of time. The bill has gone through all the nominal democratic process yet with very little information that was released to the public, given the very controversial relationship between the two countries. The occupiers used the protest as an opportunity to raise the public awareness of the untold story from within the parliament

This research of the chaotic phenomena in Taiwanese politic is not solely focusing on the free trade agreement itself, but to use this event as a starting point to understand the full picture of the Taiwan’s contemporary democratic operations, especially the relationship between politicians, public and media.



Illustration 1: Committee investigation

The committee investigation is referred to as the most informative and should be the most thorough process during a law making process. The delegates take this chance to debate and discuss the subject matter. The media also has a responsibility to deliver the full message to the public.

However, in the Sunflower Movement, the committee investigation seems to be shortened and become only a place for the delegate to show up and fulfill democratic process. Where did the real discussion take place?



Illustration 2: Political party consultant forum

This very special setup within the Taiwanese Parliamentary framework is to give each party, no matter big or small, an equal seat in the discussion. The controversial act or bill will go through this forum so that one delegate from each party could discuss more thoroughly about Why couldn't we open the room of secrets to everyone. The meeting of the whips shouldn't be a place for exchange of interest.

However, for this very controversial agreement to be passed in the parliament. We didn't see this forum being used. Then how did the party defend different groups of people in this case?



Illustration 3: Public opinion

The delegates were supposed to hold public discussion meetings, gather information from the public, match his own value, principle and beliefs with different advocating individuals/groups. and form his own opinion accordingly.

There was indeed a record of public meetings for this Service/Trade agreement bill. However has the true public opinions being reflected on the vote of the delegates? We saw that the politicians have been in favor of certain groups of people, no matter the left/right wing party they are in. What is controlling our delegates decision?

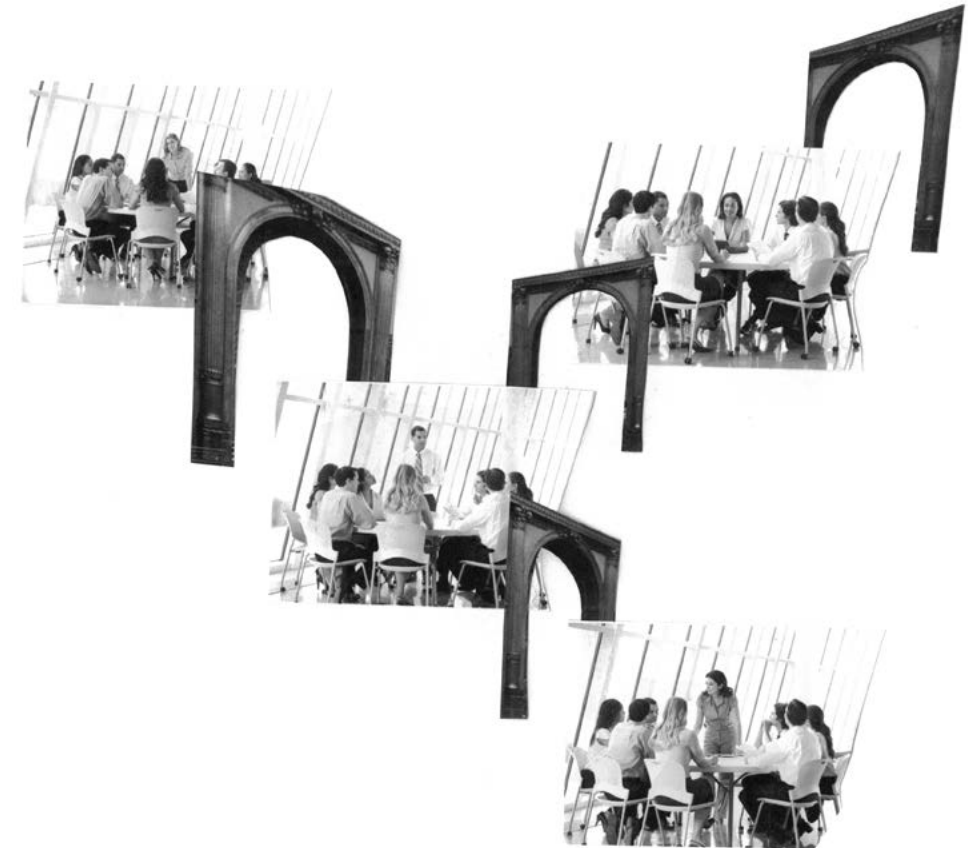




Illustration 4: Drafting the bill

After a series of discussion, the delegates come back to the office and drafting the bill and speech. Maybe doing more research on their own. He/She is supposed to be clever and wise to decide the words to put down.

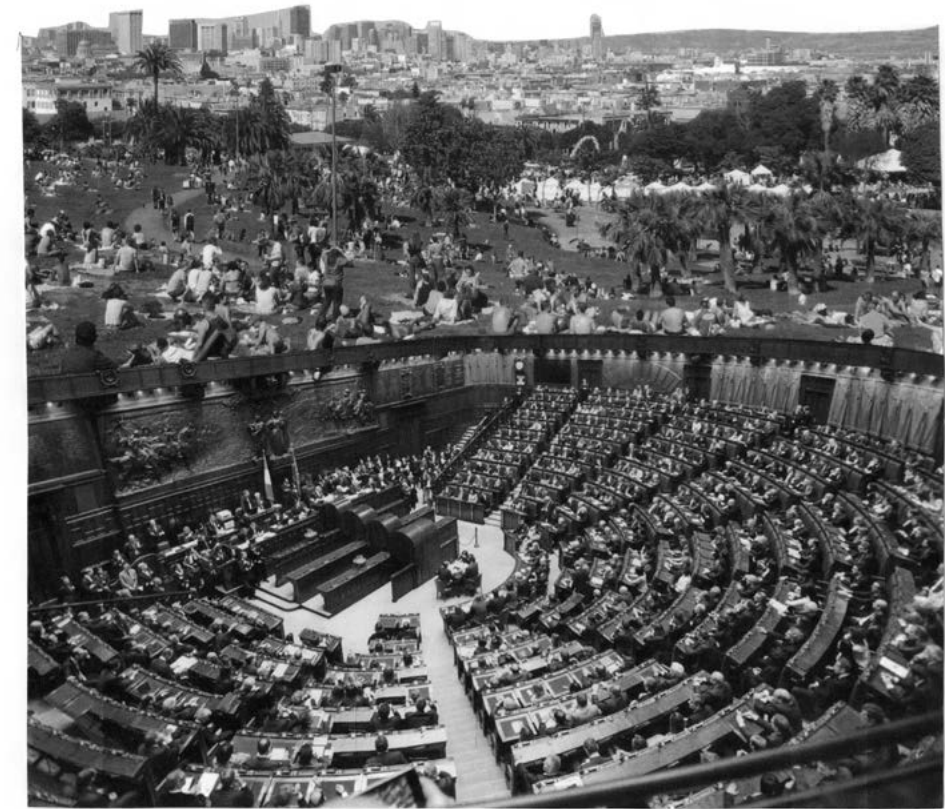
However in the Taiwanese parliament, the delegates seemed not to carefully doing their drafting work. After the public appearance the rest of the democratic process seemed to be very detached from the public. The delegates still follow the order from their party, or whichever group that can provide more support in the next election. Who is controlling the direction of the bill?



Illustration 5: The voting

Because of the television, we will be able to see the voting in the parliament from the TV screen. The delegates raised the hand for showing their position in public eye.

In many of the streaming video of Taiwanese parliament, we saw the fight and serious argument during the debate session. But however when it comes to the voting session we often see the absence of the opposition party. Is it just as what they said, that they are under protest, or this is an orchestrated act?





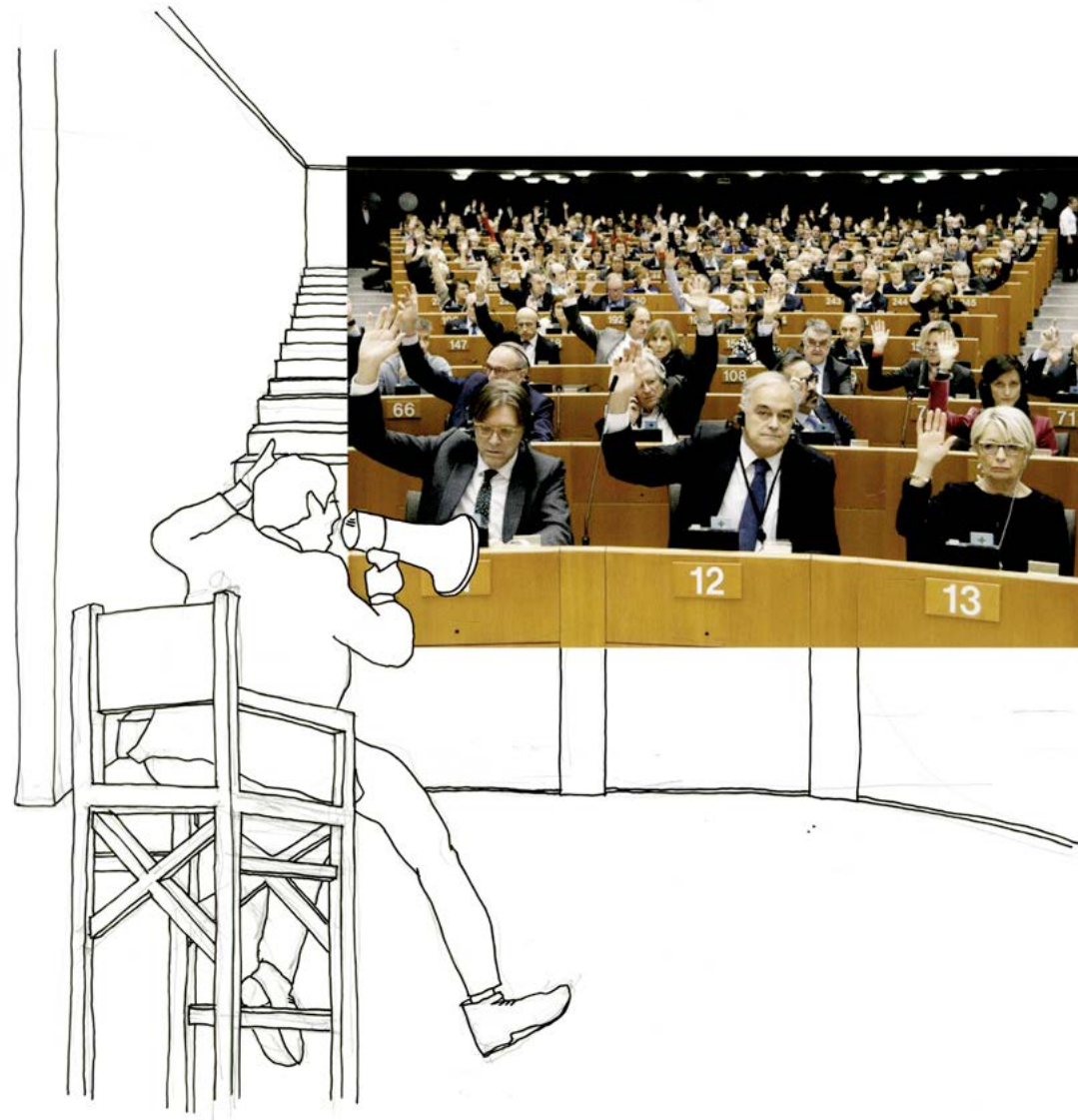
Truth 1: The delegate's office

Our delegates have no longer focused on the study of a bill. Instead they cherish more the public appearance and the media exposure. The office now becomes a place just for showing.



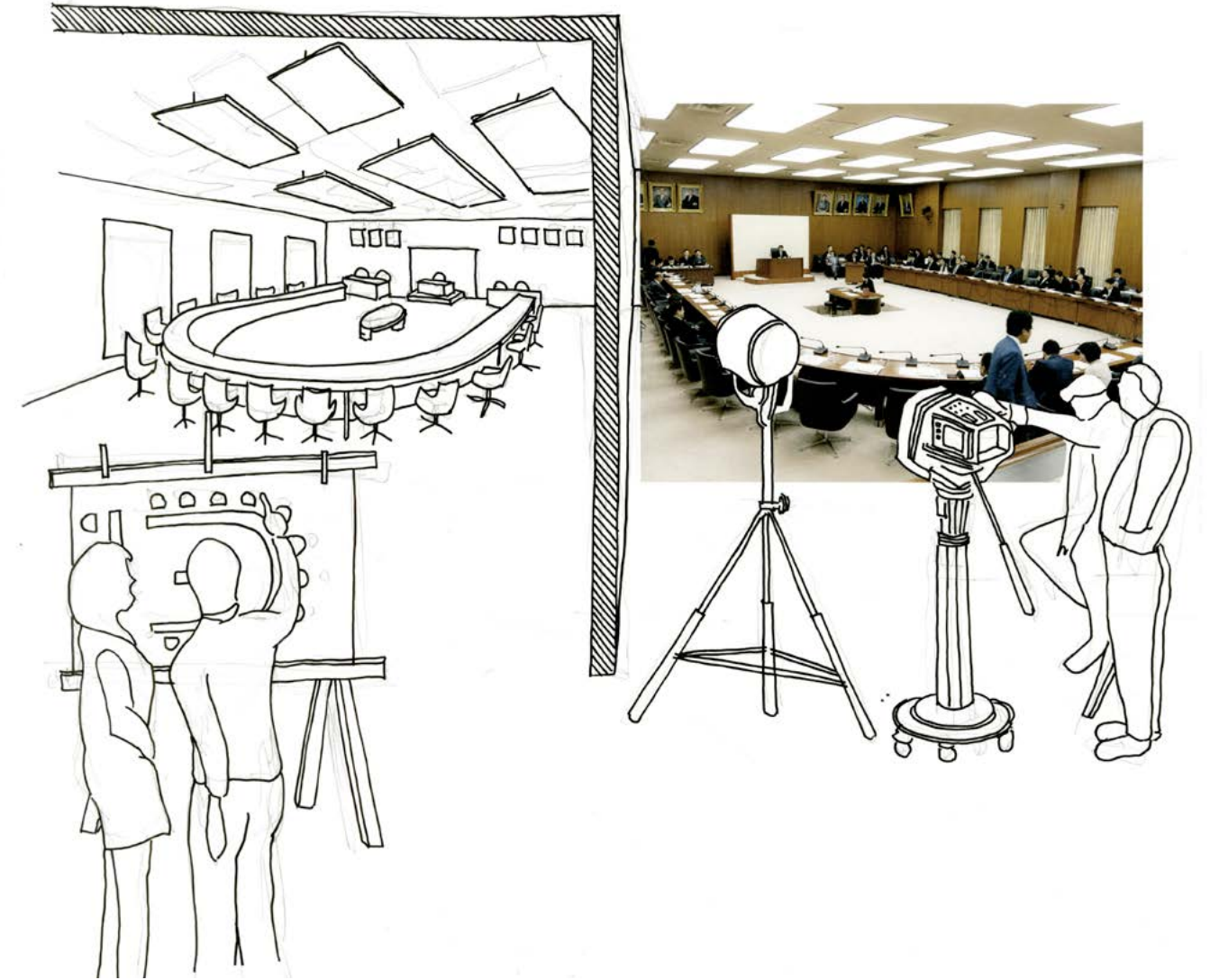
Truth 2: Drafting of the bill

The direction of the bill is no longer being controlled by the resourceful donors and advocate groups. The way they manipulate is by the donation or the control of the vote within their group in the next general election. They are like the producer of a show that decides a big concept of the story.



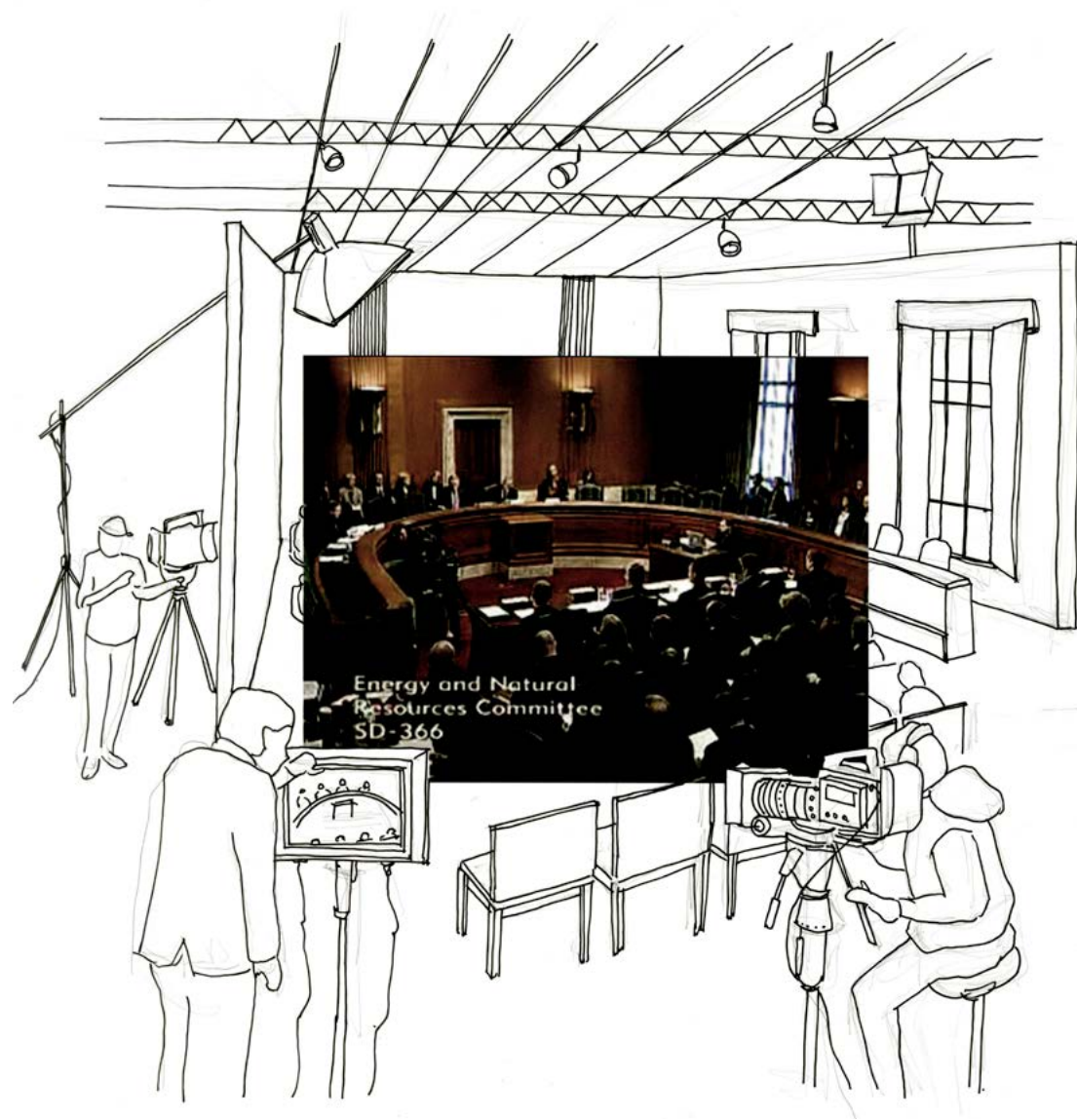
Truth 3: Party Whip

The party whip is not an official position in the parliament. The position is set to coordinate the opinions within the same party. However now the whips take more control over the delegates vote instead of their individual decision. The delegate who is not following the party over often face the expulsion from the party.



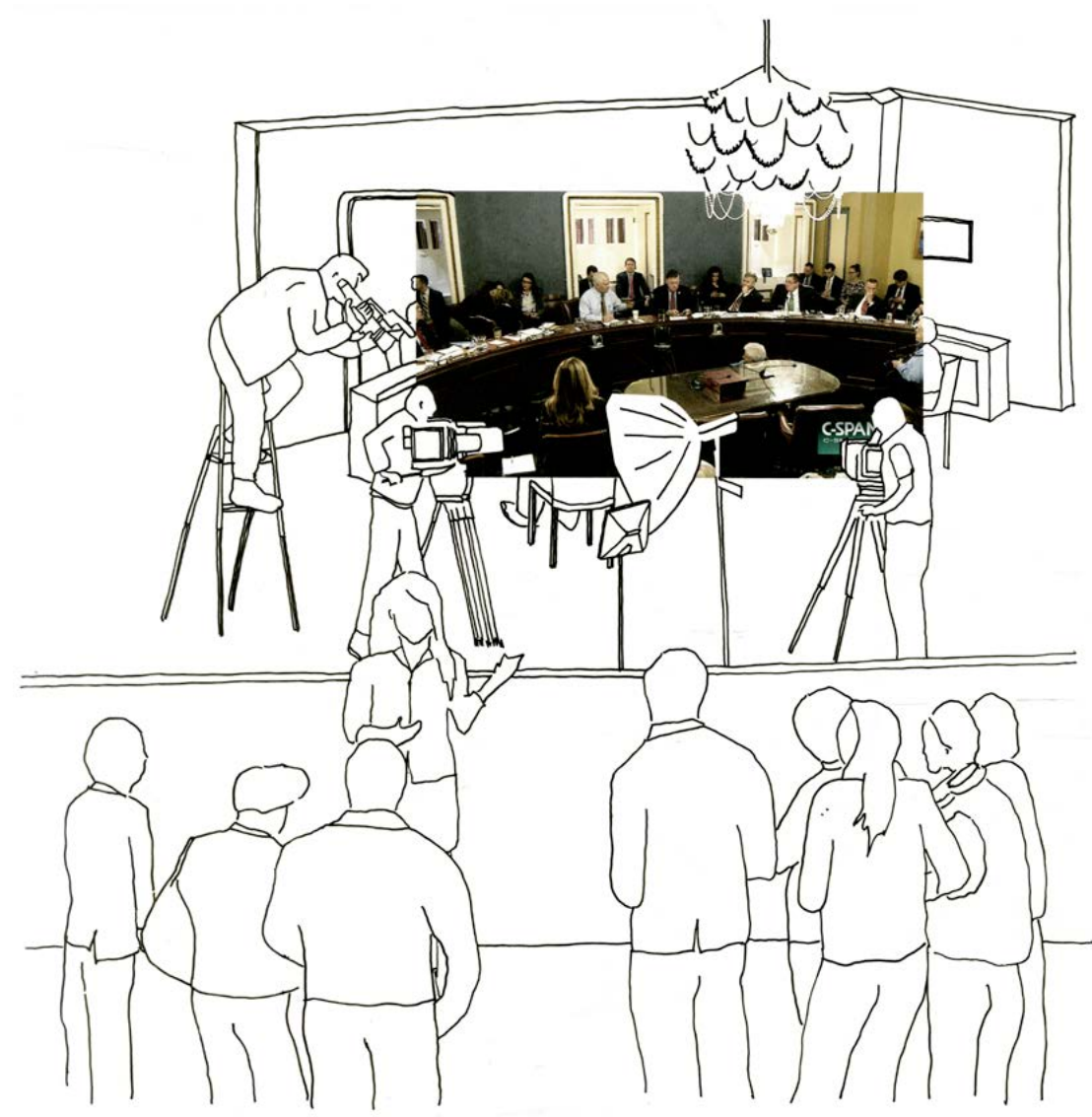
Truth 4: The rehearsal

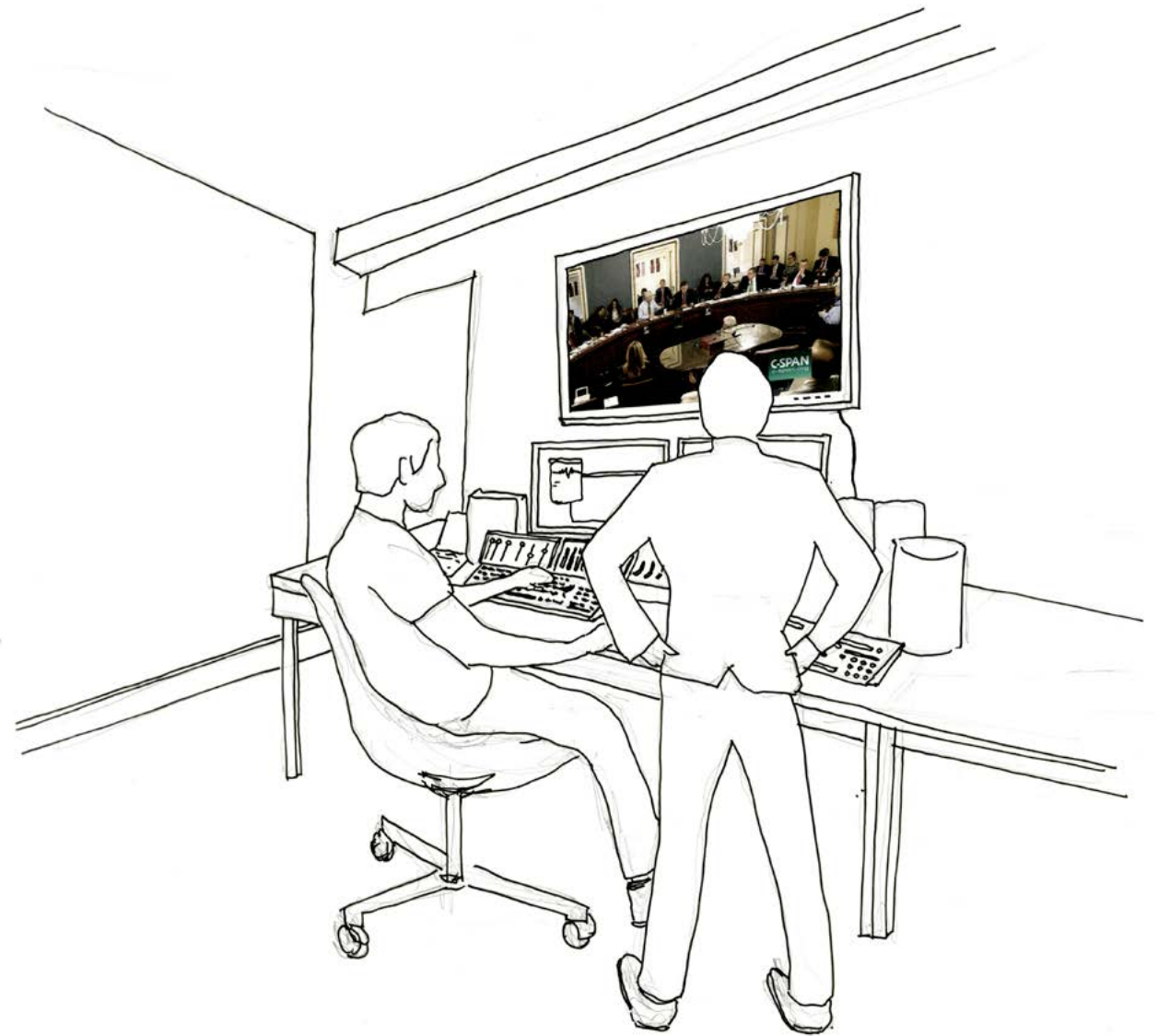
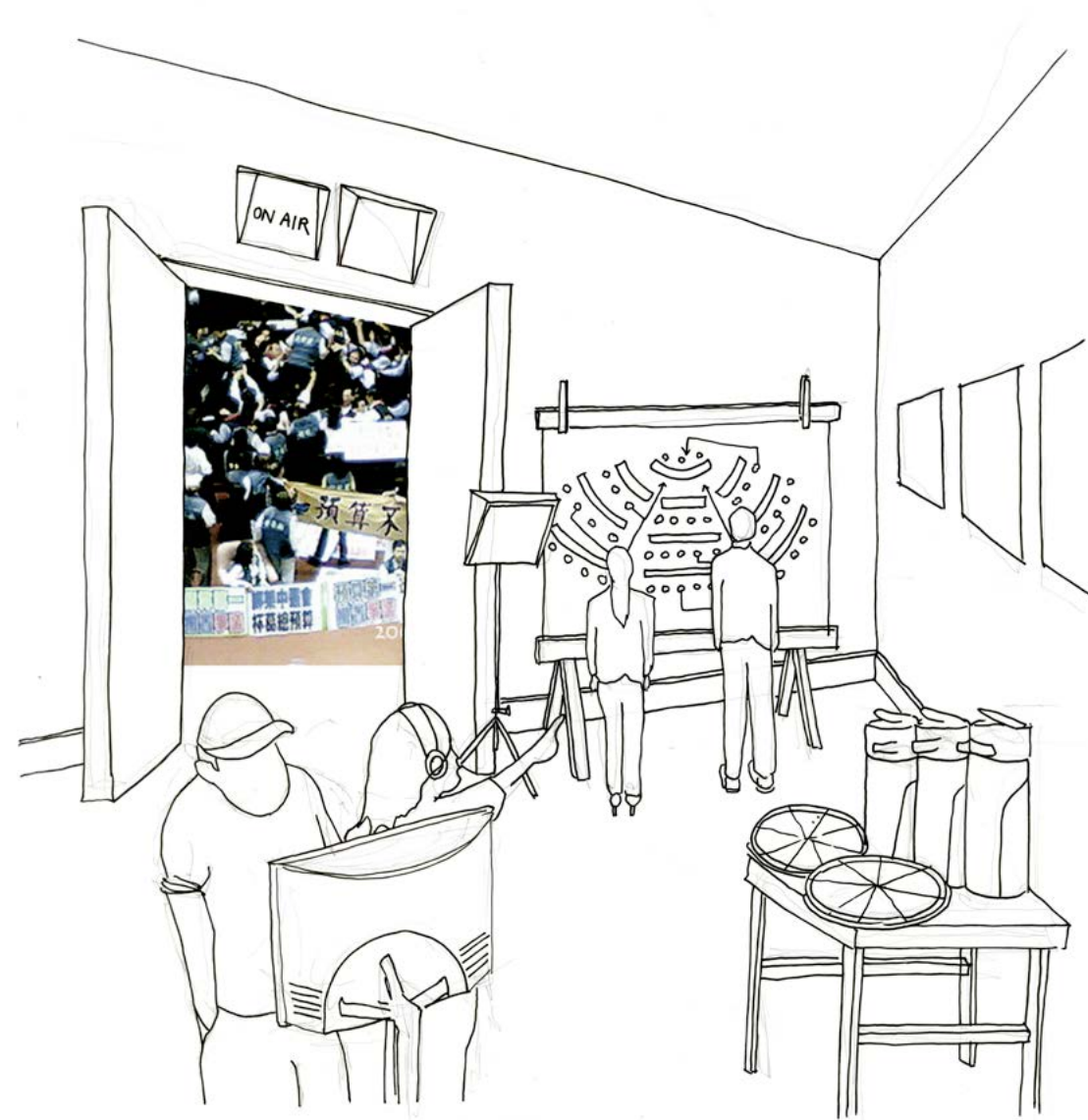
Before the real meeting takes place, the politicians has already rehearsed the discussion before. There is an imaginary space other than the one we've seen on TV and media that all of the secretive practice take place.



Truth 5: The show

We all know the filming devices has given the public an access to the events that take place in the parliament. However it also makes the politic a "Show" for the TV screen. The politicians prepare for the actions and behavior for the TV appearance and that makes the secretive operation behind the scenes even more secretive.





Truth 5: The media

The final operation of the media is to pass the selective information and the biased comments to the public. These mediums includes the TV, the social media and the website streamings. The operation of the media not only include the embellishment of the democratic image, and also the comments that will instruct/effect the public opinion.

Reveal the Democratic Truth

“The subversive analysis uses environmental knowledge in order to accelerate radical change through demystification, that is an analysis that reveals the absurd as well as accelerates the downfall of the socially repressive, be it political or scientific, military or cultural.”

--Bernard Tschumi “Environmental Trigger”

In the last chapter of the thesis, I referenced Tschumi’s theory about architecture’s role as catalyst in revealing a social condition to the public. Though the hope of solving the current political climate through the architectural design, we are living in a reactive society and this social reconstruction would take a larger panel of discussion. But luckily, the architect could act as an initiation for this discussion.

Through the architectural representation, the tension of the targeted issue would be highlighted and presented in a believable form, which is architecture, so that to raise the awareness of this social condition. Like in many dystopic sci-fi story we’ve read, the contemporary social issues are being exaggerated and written in the timeline of the future so we would believe this trajectory of social development. The social absurdity to reveal here is the democratic operations in the previous chapter, which is the democracy being a well-planned political show calibrated for the media.

MEMORIAL HALL
(Planned dismantling)
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(Planned)

COMMITTEE
PAVILION 8
(Planned)

COMMITTEE
PAVILION 7
(Planned)

COMMITTEE
PAVILION 6
(Planned)

COMMITTEE
PAVILION 5
(Planned)

NATIONAL
CONCERT HALL
(Preserved)



COMMITTEE
PAVILION 4
(Planned)

COMMITTEE
PAVILION 3
(Planned)

COMMITTEE
PAVILION 2
(Planned)

NATIONAL
OPERA HOUSE
(Preserved)

The counter-design architectural proposal that response to these political conditions is a committee pavilion that serves the need of filming and performing of the delegates. The background of the site is set to be in Taipei city, within in a close distance to the political core of the country.

With the 120 delegates in the parliament and split into 8 professional committees with 15 delegates of each. This committee pavilion is designed for 1 of the 8 committees. The site is a current memorial hall for a passed dictator. There has been debates about the demolishing of this authoritarian symbol in the democratic time. For the background of the project, it is assumed that the memorial hall is removed and substitute with the General assembly pavilion, and my committee pavilion as one of 8 committee pavilions will be on the side. Along with the preserved programs on the site, which is the National Opera House and National Concert Hall, will form a new Democracy/Performance Space.

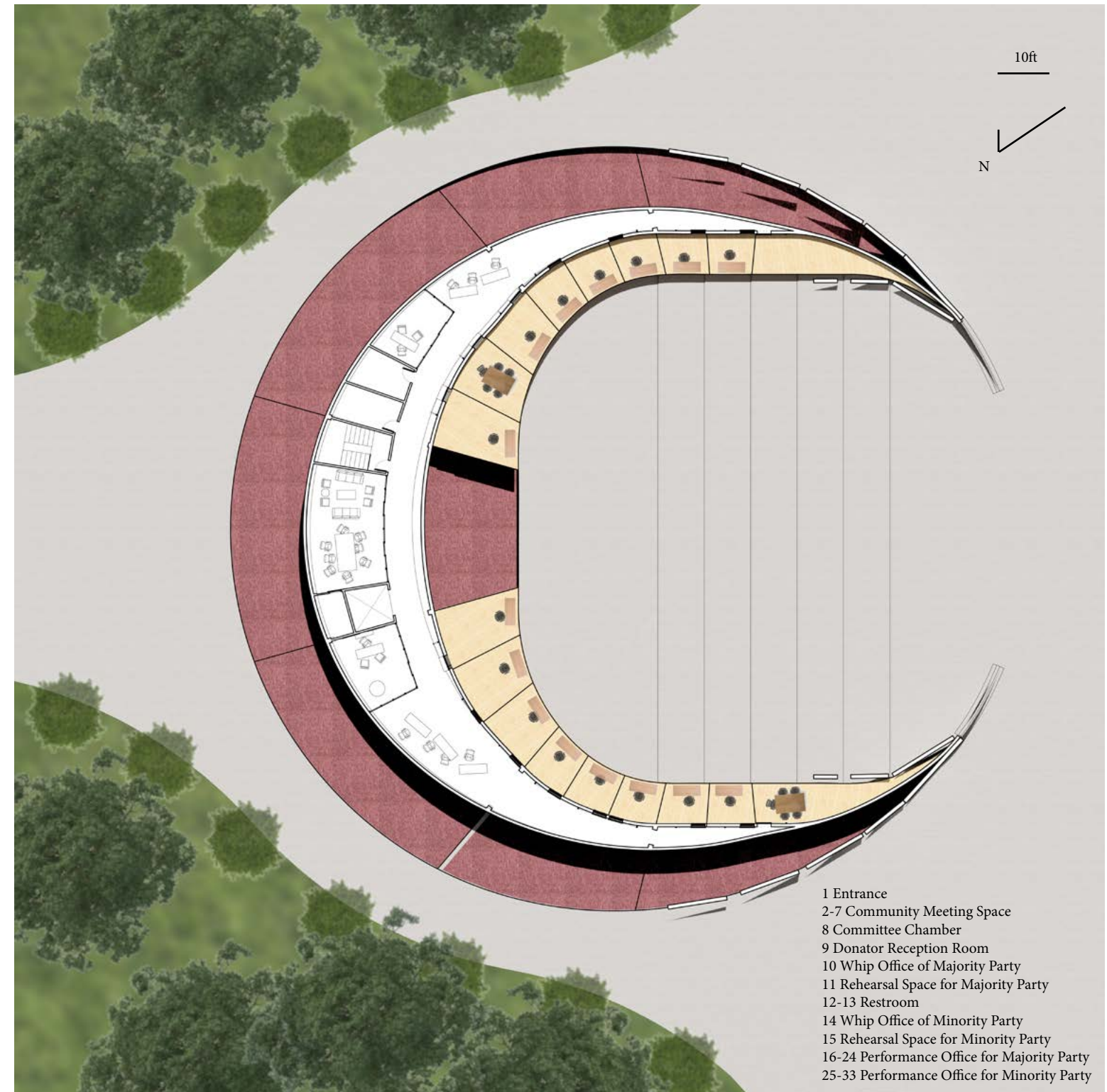
The intention of the site pick is to compare the idea of the authoritarian and the democracy, and also an important message that even with the removal of the authoritarian symbol, there is still troubles in our democratic development.

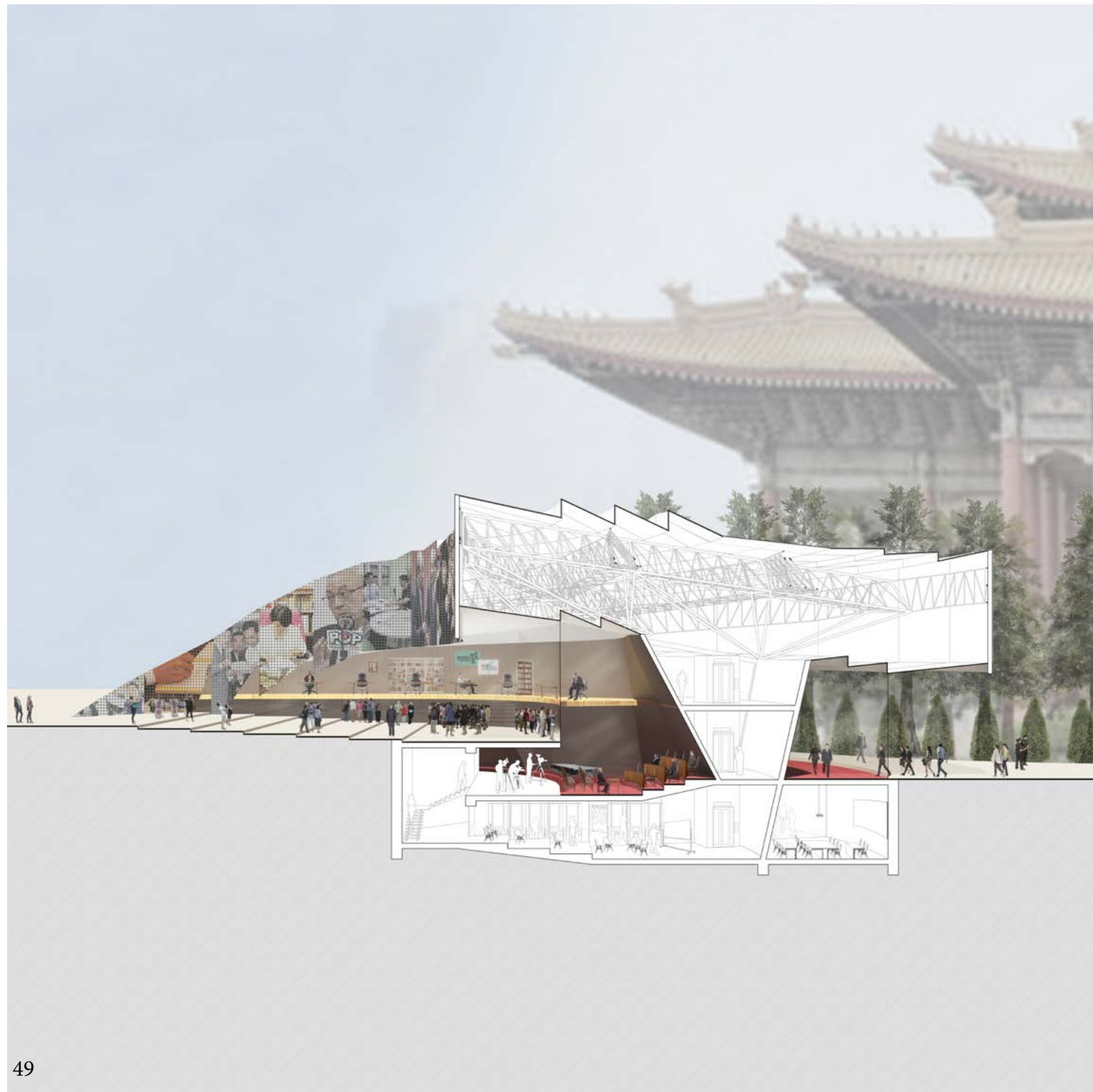
The design of the space rethinks the function of façade to address the relationship between politicians, public and media. In many of the traditional political architecture we've seen the façade being treated as a skin for attaching political norms and visions. Here in my pavilion, the façade becomes the fourth wall of this political live show. The secretive operations are reversed inside to hide the planning and prior discussion behind the scenes. The programs are aggregated in 3 layers:

First Layer – The façade layer of the front side. It is where all the entrance and the participatory programs are, like the meeting room for the delegates and the community, the visitors hall, the delegates entrance and the bookstore.

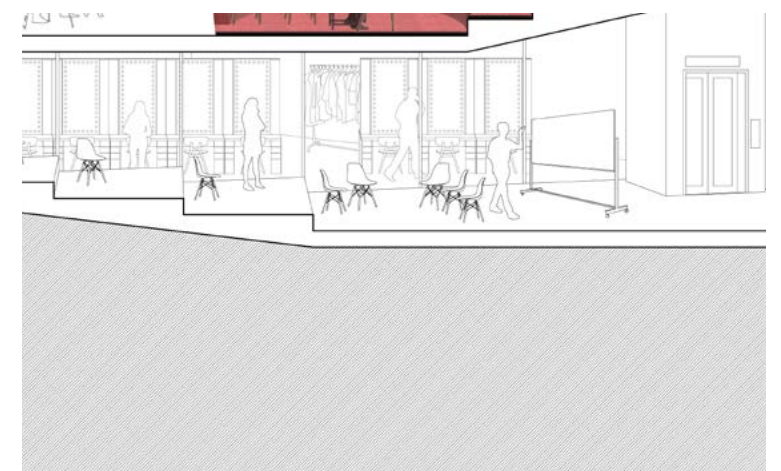
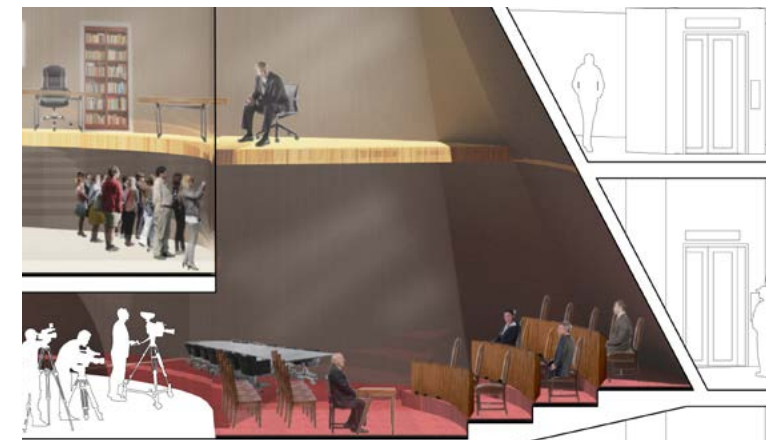
Second Layer – The façade of the courtyard side. It is where all the performative programs are. Standing in this courtyard you'll be able to see the whole "Nominal" democratic process, like the delegates' personal offices, the meeting room of the committee member, committee chamber and the media room for the interview. There's also a giant Tv screen on top that streaming the political show.

The third layer – which is the layer that's hidden from public view – is where all the secretive program locate, like the whip's office, the delegate's dressing room, the rehearsal room. The wall that contain these secretive programs will converge into a single wall in the end, and with it being curved, the public are losing the sense of dimension of the thickness of the inner-wall space.





The design of the roof is inspired by many section drawings of opera houses. In these opera house drawings, the double layered dome serves the need for the appearance from the outside and (maybe) the acoustic function of inside. And there is this hidden porche space in the middle. In the roof of this Committee Pavilion the Outside surface serves as the live streaming TV wall of the political show, and the inner surface serve the interior wall of the parliament program. The porche space is where the secretive operation takes place.





As a counter-design, this project initiates from a pessimistic view of the current society and exposes the reality through the graphic/rhetorical representation. Though seemingly depressing, the project itself becomes the first step towards social reconstruction. Hopefully, this hyper-real and skeptical architectural proposition is not entirely dystopic, and there are moments of hopefulness that can be gleamed from the project.



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