PRESENCE OF ABSENCE:
MEMORY OF THE KOWLOON WALLED CITY

Li Ho Yin, Leo
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THESIS ADVISOR
ESTHER LORENZ

A thesis project submit to faculty of Architecture.
Degree of Master of Architecture
M.Arch.

Faculty of Architecture
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ABSTRACT

"With the signing of the Sino-British Joint agreement in 1984 - that the denizens of the colony began the search for a Hong Kong identity". People in Hong Kong began to search for a Hong Kong identity, hoping to give back a local culture in this "Borrowed Place". However, after the transfer of sovereignty, the Hong Kong Government takes the attitude of erasing proofs of the colonial period in an attempt to embrace history; the Queen's Pier, Lee Tung Street and many other important places that contribute to the Hong Kong identity and memories were torn down. The need to preserve places with such importance becomes a critical social issue in Hong Kong. The intention of my thesis is to use architecture as a vehicle to examine current social issues in Hong Kong Collective Memory and identity.

The Kowloon Walled City is a place full of historical, political and architectural value. Built before the colonial period, the Kowloon Walled city served as an important military fort for the Ching dynasty army to resist the British invasion; it was finally demolished just before the end of the colonial period. It was also an important symbol of the history of Hong Kong.

The aim of Museum of absent memory in Kowloon Walled City was to re-ignite interest about a way to re-imprint the erased history and bring back the forgotten memories to Hong Kong.
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INTRODUCTION

There is no division between past, present and future. What really exists is "the duration of the Now"

The Theology of Augustine's Time Philosophy on Confession Book XI
Issues & Context

"With the signing of the Sino-British Joint agreement in 1984 - that the denizens of the colony began the search for a Hong Kong identity". People in Hong Kong began to search for a Hong Kong identity, hoping to give a back a local culture in this "Borrowed Place". However, after the transfer of sovereignty, the Hong Kong Government takes the attitude of erasing proofs of the colonial period in an attempt the embraced history; the Queen’s Pier, Lee Tung Street and many other important places that contributes to the Hong Kong identity and memories were torn down. The need to preserve places with such importance becomes a critical social issue in Hong Kong.

The Kowloon Walled City is a place full of historical, political and architectural value. Built before the colonial period, the Kowloon Walled city served as an important military fort for the Ching dynasty army to resist the British invasion; it was finally demolished just before the end of the colonial period. It was also an important symbol of the history of Hong Kong.

The life and spatial experience within the walled city were always a doubt to many people who lived outside the walled city. It is true that many people found the walled city was an amazing architecture pieces when they first seen the image of it, in where hundreds of high-rise buildings were built within a very small area, they touched each other, you even cannot find a gap in-between buildings. It was the “future city” in the sci-fi movie but build in our time and our materials. The fantastic outlook of the walled city made it be a dream place to many people around the world. However, when its spectacular skin was peeled off, the facts we could find is not a lovely place of living but totally a mess.

The Kowloon Walled City was the only place which exception from Convention for the Extension of Hong Kong Territory so that the walled city became an enclave after the New Territories were leased to Britain in 1898. Due to its uniqueness situation, it become a forbidden place of both China, Britain, and Hong Kong government. The Kowloon walled city become a place where did not under the control of the lands and building policy in hong Kong, more than 500 high-rise buildings were built within a 6.5-acre lands. No ordinaries of the ventilation, nature lighting, or building separation need to obey in the walled city. As a result, a chaotic, crowded, irrational dwelling the walled city became.

"In The Birth of Tragedy Nietzsche presented his theory of the ancient dualism between two types of aesthetic experience, namely the Apollonian and the Dionysian; a dualism between the plastic “art of sculpture”, of lyrical dream-inspiration, identity (the principium individuation is), order, regularity, and calm repose, and, on the other hand, the non-plastic "art of music", of intoxication, forgetfulness, chaos, and the ecstatic dissolution of identity in the collective. The analogy with the world of the Greek gods typifies the relationship between these extremes: two godsons, incompatible and yet inseparable."

After the torn down of the Walled city in 1993, a memorial park of the Walled city was opened to public in 1995 at the original site of the
walled city. The memorial park was a traditional Chinese style garden, the Walled City’s Yamen and remnants of its South Gate was being kept in the park, with some new added Chinese style pavilion, in memorial park was targeted at recall the image of the original Walled city in 19th century. However, the most well-known image and character of the Walled city was absent in the memorial park. The cognition of the Walled city to many Hong Kong people was its ultra-high density, the darkness, the narrow corridor, and the illegal activities with in it. Those elements of the walled city represent the darkness in the very deep of the human’s mind, it is a mirror to reflect the desire, a outcome of the consumerism. The Walled city was a good example in where we could experience a high-rise city formed in “nature” and a irrational world created by the human beings. It may even give us some apocalypse of the future city.

Statement of Intent

The construction of Walled city was an accident, in a particular time and particular place. It represent the living style of the poor people in the old Hong Kong. It is a particular dwelling type that won’t exist anymore and it is an apocalypse of uncontrolled urbanization. The intention of my thesis is to use architecture as a vehicle to examine current social issues in Hong Kong Collective Memory and identity through architecture to re-ignite interest about a way to re-imprint the erased history and bring back the forgotten memories to Hong Kong.

Overall Context

This thesis is written into two part:

Part One collect the understanding the intention of this thesis, the importance of the memory and its signification to define our existence and identity. Chapter 1 introduces the social issue and issue of identity. Chapter 2 is to introduce the definition of memories and the classification of the collective memory. Chapter 3 is about the meaning and memory that carry by architecture. Chapter 4 focuses on the history background of the Kowloon Walled City and the its unique character in architectural style.

Part Two describes project and how architectural expression covey the messages to visitors which take on the absent memory through the architecture.

“Coruscant— the capital of the Republic— the entire planet is one big city.” [11]
PART 1

"One can say that the city itself is the collective memory of its people, and like memory it is associated with objects and place. The city is the locus of the collective memory"

Aldo Rossi, Architecture of the city
Chapter 1: Identity

Hong Kong Identity

After the day that the signature of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, Hong Kong finds itself in of being caught in a hard situation. There is a desperate attempt to clutch at images of identity, people in the city start to seek for the “Hong Kong culture” which is not in the favourites list form the people of this city. However, in most of cases people mis-recognize their own culture. Because of the distorted of self core value under the long time governance of the British government.

“One of the effects of a very efficient colonial administration is that it provides almost no outlet for political idealism, as a result, most of the energy is directed toward the economic sphere. Historical imagination, the citizens’ belief that they might have a hand in sharpening their own history, gets replaced by speculation on the property or stock markets, or by an obsession with fashion or consumerism.”

However, after the transfer of sovereignty, the Hong Kong Government takes the attitude of erasing proofs of the colonial period in an attempt the embraced history; the Queen’s Pier, Lee Tung Street and many other important places that contributes to the Hong Kong identity and memories were torn down. The need to preserve places with such importance becomes a critical social issue in Hong Kong.

Self-esteem

The issue of losing the “Hong Kong Identity” is caused by the despair which come form the mis-recognize of the self- value and did not realize the core value of Hong Kong Culture. Hong Kong well known as a “Borrowed Place. There is no prehistory before the colonial period, the core value of western culture that came with the rules under colonial government had significant influence in developing the local culture. Under the rules of British government, materialism and consumerism are being recognized as the core value of the Hong Kong people. Local culture is being neglected for decades. However, the signature of the Sino-British Joint Declaration put Hong Kong people in a dilemma. The impact of Chinese culture and the uncertain identity (china citizen or HK people) leading Hong Kong people start searching back the local culture as a prove of Hong Kong Identity.

Obviously, the appealing for collective memory in recent years do base on the needs of Hong Kong Identity. That a way that to reveal or keep those absent memory in Hong Kong is critical to the society nowadays.

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1 Culture and the politics of disappearance, Ackbar Abbas
Chapter 2: Collective Memory

Memories and Human

As time goes by, what can remain in the world. Everything has its day. All the artifices torn down and then replaced by the newcomer. Nothing is exception.

As time goes by, memory lost followed by man’s fall. Nothing can be immortal. The story of man in the land will be ended when they leave the world stage. What can remain? Man tends to give meaning to all things in the world, to get rid to uncertainty. Man needs memory to as a prove of alive. Man afraid lonely so we look back to the history to search for not alone.

"Human impose an order to the world according to their logic, not the world shows the order itself."

Nothing can be immortal even the highest edifice will fall down someday. “When history ends, memory begins” But Man tends to look for immortal, we look for some containers to store our memory, our history even our DNA. We keep the memory for the future.

Collective Memory

What is Collective Memory? The issue of the Collective Memory was suggested by Maurice Halbwachs. The collective memory is not the same as formal history. Unlike the formal history, which being recorded in the history textbook, Are the most notable facts in the memory of man but in most of cases not have a large impact to our daily life, Collective memory is a current of continuous thought whose continuity is not at all artificial, for it retains from the past only what still lives or is capable of living in the consciousness of the groups keeping the memory alive. And later on Jan Assmann, who wrote Das kulturelle Gedächtnis (The Cultural Memory). Assmann classify the collective memory into to two category: Cultural memory and the Communicative memory, whereas the former fulfills a storage function and the latter the function of an everyday memory that is situated in the present.

In response to Jan Assmann’s definition when in understanding the temporal horizon of collective memory, A theory of understanding the collective memory as collective episodic, semantic, or procedural memory is being suggested. In this thesis, I would like to use this method of category, rather than simply whether it is a communicative or cultural memory.

Collective Episodic Memory

Many collective memories are of events in the personal past of members of mnemonic community. When a group of friends go to a World
Cup match and see their national team play beautifully, they may form a collective memory of the game that they will share with each other for years to come. 2

Collective Semantic Memory
Although we were not in attending such event, we did learn about it from the media, friends, books, teachers, and other source while it was happening. What we learned may not properly be called episodic, since much of it lacks reference to any particular day or place in our lives, but there is a lived quality to these kinds of memories, and hence we will refer to them as lived memories.

Collective Procedural Memory
Some Roman Catholic parishioners may follow the procedure of the Mass without any explicit memory of what each movement symbolizes or where they learned the ritual. They know how celebrate Mass, but they surely do not need to know that the Mass as it is celebrated today has roots in the Council Trent, beginning in 1545.

Collective Anmensia
Collective memories have a fixed temporal horizon of around 80-100 years, after that time those memory will be buried under the ground, as the group of people die. People will easily forget when they find something better to replace. Take the star ferry pier as an example, no one can remember what it looks like the first and second generation. People don’t want to lost the Star Ferry Pier they have now, because they can’t find out a better substitution.

2 Cultural Memory Study p.215
Chapter 3: Architecture & Memory

Architecture & Memory Recalling

Man is easy to forget, the old memory will easily fade away. While the memory is becoming vague, man tends to turn it into other form which is more stable and immortal. People transfer it into books, movies or printings. When some memory is very significant, people even turn it into the form of Architectural, which may have the most visual and physical impact to our daily life. Architecture is not only a medium to store memory in the past, it will bring us to recall the past in other new attitude. Moreover, new meaning can be created for the future generation.

The memories recalling not the only aim of the architecture for memories. Architecture can be a tool to transfer message, communicate meaning, however, it also depends on inhabitants how to understand and inhabit in that. For example, the Berlin Holocaust Memorial by Peter Eisenman, a thousand of pillars erected in different height formed a man made landscape. In one hand it create a poetic atmosphere for people to rethink Jews who murdered during the war. In the another hand, it also provide a good place to play “hide and seek” over there. A place for both sadness and happiness.

There are two aspects for the discussion when we talk about the past history in the present situation.

The first one is related to the group identity. People would like to preserve their achievement as a prove of their past - an evident of identity. People afraid to lost, so they want to store the memory. People afraid to lost the connection to the past, people want to know where they come form and why they will be here. They don’t want to lost they identity.

The second one is focus on the mental value. Memory is not only a media to connect our past but also a tool to transmit the message which let all the levels of people including those have or have not directly experienced the events recall the fact. It passes a message of why we should remember the past. This kind memory must be created for the future generation to avoid the terrible fault made in the past.3

3 James E. Young, At memory’s Edge-images of the holocaust in contemporary art and architecture, introduction, p.4 New Heaven and London Tale University 2000
Chapter 4: Kowloon Walled City

Background History (provide by HK Government)

"Kowloon walled city park, the original site of the Kowloon Walled City, which become a Jiangnan garden style of the early Qing Dynasty. The Kowloon Walled City Park occupies one of the most historic sites in the territory. Once strategically located at the northeastern corner of the Kowloon peninsula and adjacent to what was to become Kowloon Bay, the site was used by imperial officials in the 15th century and was first fortified in 1668 when a signal station was established there. About 1810, a small fort was built at the head of the beach which then adjoined the site. The importance of the area to China’s maritime defences grew sharply following the British occupation of Hong Kong Island in 1841. Between 25th November 1846 and 31st May 1847, a walled garrison-city was constructed. Massive stone walls with six watchtowers and four gates enclosed the area, which measured about 6.5 acres.

In 1898, the New Territories were leased to the British for a term of 99 years. At first, Qing officials still continued to station in the City. In 1899, however, British troops were sent to take over the City, and the Qing officials and soldiers were expelled. The resultant vacuum of civil order from 1899 laid the seeds for the eventual deterioration of the area into a semi-lawless enclave and festering squatter slum.

After the WWII, high-rise tenements built without authority and completely lacking proper foundations mushroomed cheek by jowl over almost the whole site, and the Walled City with its dank alleyways became a notorious nest of drug divans, criminal hide-outs, vice dens and even cheap, unlicensed dentists.

Kowloon Walled City is a place of unique place in Hong Kong by it is historical background. After 60's the population of Kowloon Walled City expand dramatically due to a large number of the immigrants from China. Due to un-controlled by the building regulation. The height of the buildings inside the Kowloon walled city start to develop vertically. From 60's to 80's around 500 high-rise buildings were erected, as a result the walled city become a hyper density zone.

Form of the City

The development pattern of the Kowloon Walled City is quite unique. It expands vertically while it reach the boundary limit, but the development did not stop even it reach the height limit. It modify its internal to provide to survive.

Facade

In the facade of the Kowloon Walled City, thousands of "bird cage" are attached on the facade. Those "bird cage" provide a new layer of

information to the surface of the KWC. They are built for providing the safety for the residents. In the meanwhile, they are platforms which providing interaction space for the residents. Along Tung Tau Tsuen Road. The illuminated signs of doctors, dentists and others fortunate. The signages are the second element that enriched the surface of the KWC. It condense the informations and showing the informations to the public in a three- dimension way.

Streets

The Streets, typically no more than 2m wide, and lack of sunlight that can come to ground level of those streets. Inside the city, full of garbage and dampness from the overhead piping never cease. The smell of on the streets was often unbearable, illuminating by the artificial lighting giving the streets a muted, colourless quality. Sunlight ans sky were visible in the city only through narrow cracks between buildings.

Roofscape

The one place to escape the dark, smelly and claustrophobic spaces of the city was KWC’s roofscape. Without it day-to-day life within would have been unbearable, especially considering most residents did not venture outside of KWC. In this sense it is just as important as the streets and places of business and living below. 2

2 http://www.archidose.org/KWC/
PART 2

“One can say that the city itself is the collective memory of its people, and like memory it is associated with objects and place. The city is the locus of the collective memory”

Aldo Rossi, Architecture of the city
Chapter 5: Museum of absent memory

Re-Imprinting the memory

The project of this thesis was the vehicle to examine current day cultural and social issues in current social issues in Hong Kong Collective Memory and identity. The aim of Museum of absent memory in Kowloon Walled City was to re-ignite interest about a way to re-imprint the erased history and bring back the forgotten memories to Hong Kong.

The Kowloon Walled City is a place full of historical, political and architectural value. Built before the colonial period, the Kowloon Walled city served as an important military fort for the Ching dynasty army to resist the British invasion; it was finally demolished just before the end of the colonial period. It was also an important symbol of the history of Hong Kong.

The value and symbolic meaning of the city was significant in history of Hong Kong, however, fade out in the history with the disappearance of the city. The unique architecture characters of the city was impossible to mimic.

Project description

The memory is buried under the ground as time goes by ............... .

The absence of Kowloon Walled City is being reflecting by carving out the ground retraces the footprints of the buildings or even revealing some foundations of the buildings of the original Kowloon Walled City. By applying the tangible absence of space to abstracting the things which had gone. The sunken ground was the tangible form of the absent memory.

Five permanent architectural object called Memory Towers inserted on the site. They came up as iconic symbol of the museum complex as the only vertical element in the site. They were varied in height but all of them facing the same orientation as the yamen. This configuration created a non-hierarchical grouping while maintaining a visual connection between all of the towers. Two of the Memory Towers were linked with the museum body, while the rest were independent from the main body which severed as thematic exhibition space about the activities in the city. The visitors are free to choose his or her own sequence to visit those separated towers for there was no designated order among them. The journey through the site was personal and guide only by visitor’s intuition.

Elements like printing graphic on concrete, projection, sounds installation and trace (subtraction) were imprinted around the site. Visitors could through those elements to build up the information and image of the city in their mind while they walk through the site. Learning workshop and KWC Kai Fong Welfare association centre came along with
the museum, which providing the chance of future memory to this land.

The Entrance of the museum is located at the yamen which materialize the inseparable relationship of the yamen and the memory of the city.

* * *

The Journey of discovering the Kowloon Walled City start from the Yamen, which is the only remaining buildings of the city. The entrance of the museum located in a historical building means the inseparable relationship between the city and the yamen.

Passing through the entrance and foyer, arrived the “mushroom” exhibition space - go down to the ground level, sensing the underground water which is vital to the old KWC.

Two memory towers are linked to the museum. Different from the rest which focusing on the human activities of the city, the theme of these two towers is about the history- the rise and fall of the city.

Within this part of the journey, visitors can walk through the streets of the city and sense dimension and the lighting quality of the streets in the city.

After leaving the last memory tower, the journey almost come to its end. The leaving path is underneath the old Lung Chung Road, which is the earliest streets form in the city. Visitors can experience the foundation of the buildings in the city and appreciate the projecting information before they leaving the museum.

*** *** ***

Conclusion.

The foundation of this thesis is about the human memory and the way that architecture as container of memory and messages. Through the memory we can intimately related to the things we perceive and surroundings we live in; and through those surroundings are reminded of our existence and identity. This connection defines us as a culture as well as it distinguishes and individualizes us from each other.

With respect to this, these thesis is a investigation in the capacity of a piece of architecture which intended to design as a tool to memorize one another in the past. it strives the ability to bring meanings to the society through architectural expression, as close as possible to the individuals.

Having say said, the project avoid mimic of the spatial quality in the city, but through creating the void space as the architectural expression to the absence of memory. Inside the museum body visitors he or she can experience the dimension of the circulation of the original city. It intends to give visitors the sense of space within the city, however,
not the authentic Kowloon Walled City. The space in those retraced paths is ahistorical and timeless, through those paths visitors can witness rather than experience the void space in the ground.

If the museum were a text to be read, then the retraced paths would be the structure of its sentences and paragraphs, where as the mass being extracted would stand for the vocabulary. The different opinion about the void in the text would end up in different understanding of the story. The aim of museum of KWC is to evoke the memories about the Kowloon Walled City but not deal in absolute. There is no absolute collective memory as different people have different feeling to a thing. My thesis is only to convey a message that one important thing is missing in Hong Kong, but not to re-input or take on the memory of individuals by architecture.
BOOKS:

Ackbar Abbas, Hong Kong: Culture and the Politics of Disappearance, Hong Kong University Press, 1997.


Rosenfeld Gavriel David, Memory and the city: architecture, monuments, and the legacy of the Third Reich in postwar Munich, 1996.


WEBSITES:

http://www.archidose.org/KWC/
http://wikipedia.com
ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

DATA
Inhabiting a block the size of the Tokyo Dome, Kowloon Walled City resemble a living, breathing creature, born from its inhabitants over its long lifespan. But the walled city was more than a physical conglomeration of buildings and people, it was an inadvertent symbol of the long struggle between China and Hong Kong, ruled by neither. It was an “in-between zone” whose remarkable existence today can best be comprehended through images, statistics and interviews. These pages give a brief overview of Kowloon Walled City (KWC) in historical, personal, architectural and political terms. (by archidose.org)

35,000 people in 6.5 acres
5,600 people per acre
40 square feet per person
F.A.R = 12

HYPER DENSITY
KWC 13,000 person per hectare
New York City 91 person per hectare
KWC 3.75m square per person
Corbusier’s biological units 14m square per person

ABSENCE OF MEMORY
MEMORY MAP
MR HEI 08.03.2011

Mr Hei lived in the city with parents and brothers from 1970-1988.

"The most impressive memory was that getting fresh water from the public water supply. My brothers and I needed to get the water from the supply point and carry it back to our home. Every family in the city had a big water tank to store the fresh water.

There were many cats and dogs in the city. Since the bad hygiene, many residents feed with cats to catch the rats. People in the city also took those cats and dogs as meat. The life in the city is unique, the smell of making noodles and fish ball. The sounds which the wind pass through the crack of buildings. Where I couldn‘t find it anymore since leave from the city."

MR LI 02.03.2011

Kei Li lived with his parents in KWC form born to his 15 years old.

"I lived there until the week before the announcement of the demolition of the city. We can‘t get the compensation of from the government. Since we sell our house just a week before the announcement. I lived in the outside of the city and seldom go into the inner city, because there is so dark and like a maze. There were severable time, my friends and I went inside the city to go „exploration”, however, everytime we did get lost inside and need to ask someone to bring us out."

MR YIP 12.03.2011

Mr Yip is the vice chairman of the Kowloon Walled City Kai Fung Welfare Association. Mr Yip and his family move inside the city in 1975.

"We bought a flat in the Kowloon Walled City in 1975. The house in the city was cheaper than the rest in territory.

Living inside the KWC was not that as terrible as outside people think. In a way, the KWC solved the housing and employement problems in the Hong Kong society, the KWC was a very valuable place."
ROOFSCAPE
The roofs of buildings form a continuous roofscape in which a place to escape the dark and smelly spaces of the city. It is the most important communal space of the city the only leisuring space for those residents did not venture outside of KWC. Without it day-to-day life within city would have been unbearable.

FACADE
Saw the KWC from the outside, you would see just cheap usual concrete building. Most of them were builded with concrete. However, they show us really queer circumstances. Tiny hairs wriggled and rustled. It just seemed like something tremendously complicated creature. The precarious, illegal balconies that residents built to extend the little space they had were also dotted across the facades. Much of the time laundry was hung on these balconies, along with the constant presence of plants, creating a colorful backdrop to the bland exterior walls.

STREETS
The streets was lack of sunlight and full of garbage and unbearable smell, typicaly no more than 6 feet wide, and with a constant dampness from overhead piping. Only In a few spaces throughout the city glimpses of sunlight and sky were visible through cracks between buildings.

WATER SUPPLY
There was no fresh water supply connect to the buildings of the city. The residents in the city needed to get water from public water supply in which most of them is outside the city. Some houses were directly connected with the water hose. Most of them dug a well and pumped up to floors. And, also there were deliverly service for drinking water. There were not organized drainage, they had only ditch and it was always smelly.

FACTORIES
Registration and taxpajing was not required in the city, which in term attracted hundreds of factories. More than 80% of territory's fish balls were made in the city.

DENTIST STREET
Kowloon Walled City is a place occupied with illegal dentists and doctors. Considering they do not have the license in Hong Kong. The City become the only place for them to continue their business in Hong Kong. The dentists and Doctors tend to locate in the Lung Chun Road which together with Tung Tau Tsuen Road so that the customers would not have to enter the city.
THE FALL OF THE CITY
The decision of tearing down the walled city had been announced by Chinese and British Government in 1987. After the announcement, the Hong Kong Government started to manage the compensation and relocated the residents in the walled city. All the illegal immigrants were sent back to their own countries immediate.

DOCUMENT OF THE CITY
There are 16,000 copy of documents about the information of the resident in the Walled city to work for the compensation for the residents. These files retain the Walled City is a living history, the most fundamental information on the most primitive, twenty years because of compensation issues have been ongoing, has been staging these files to the Government of Hong Kong, Tuen Mun Government Storage Centre.

THE CITY TODAY
The area where the Walled City once stood is now Kowloon Walled City Park. The design of the park was inspired by the Jiangnan garden style of the early Qing Dynasty. Construction began in May 1994, completed in August 1995.
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Web:
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http://zoomimaging.mysinablog.com/index.php?op=ViewArticle&articleId=1832744
DENTIST STREET
The dentist tend to locate in the Lung Chun Road which together with Tung Tau Tsuen Road so that the customers would not have to enter the city.

KINDERGARTEN
The Salvation Army ran a kindergarten together with church in the Walled City for the children in the walled city. It offered a chance to children of illegal immigrant to learn and helping the parents to look after their children when they go to work. On Sundays, the kindergarten become a chapel and normally have 10-20 people attending the service there.

SKYNET
Daylight barels penetrated the rubbish-strewn grille over the City’s Tin Hau temple. It was built in 1951, on an alley off Lo Yan Street. It is a modern structure to replace for a temple that had once stood in a nearby coastal village which had been demolished during the Japanese occupation, to make way for the extension of airport, but local community leaders had managed to arrange

ST STEPHEN’ S SOCIETY
The religious meeting place establish by Jackie Pullinger in 1973. The congregation at this evangelical mission of the St stephen’ s society was mainly made up of drug addicts trying to give up their debilitating habit. The voluntary programme which attempted to replaced the vacuum created by the withdrawal form heroin with God.
KWC confronts the adjacent city most directly on the north, along Tung Tau Tsuen Road. Here one was bombarded by the illuminated signs of doctors, dentists and others fortunate to have businesses along this thoroughfare. The precarious, illegal balconies that residents built to extend what little space they had were also dotted across the facades. Much of the time laundry was hung on these balconies, along with the constant presence of plants, creating a colorful backdrop to the bland exterior walls.

The south and west “elevations” of the city overlooked a park built after the adjacent squatter huts were cleared in 1985. This act helped to bring more sunlight into the city, while enlarging its presence with more definitive boundaries. The same balconies were present here with slight hints at the cracks in the buildings that gave entrance to the Walled City.
BIRD CAGES

Boundary: Relationship of the cages to the building envelope. It increases the visual size of the building.

Organic: The cages give organic character to the building.

Interaction: The cages create semi public space providing a place allowing contact between neighbors.

SIGNAGES

Signages: Relationship of the signages to the building envelope. It increases the visual size of the building

Organic: The signages give organic character to the building.

Orientation: The signages change extend the information to the outside and change the orientation of display.

RESEARCH IN KWC
STREET

The streets, typically no more than 6 feet wide, and their lack of sunlight disoriented the visitor, if they dare step into the city, full of garbage and a constant dampness from the miles and miles of overhead piping (umbrellas were almost required gear for moving about). Often the smell was unbearable, with the artificial lighting giving these circulation spaces a muted, colorless quality. Occasional glimpses of adjacent businesses and residences reminded the visitor of a communal existence within the walls. In a few spaces throughout the city glimpses of sunlight and sky were visible through cracks between buildings.
Primary street: The actual width of primary street.

Non domestic units: Plan of non domestic units along the primary street.

Spatial reading: Expanded spatial reading of the primary street.

Street profile: The narrowness of the street limits the light entering the street.

Communal space: Street as a shared communal space.

Non domestic units: Spatial relationship between non domestic units and street.

Spatial readings: The common function in both street and non-domestic units allows for an expanded spatial reading of the street.
The one place to escape the dark, smelly and claustrophobic spaces of the city was KWC's roofscape. Without it day-to-day life within would have been unbearable, especially considering most residents did not venture outside of KWC. In this sense it is just as important as the streets and places of business and living below.
Communal: Upper floors - community travels to open spaces on roofs of the walled city. Lower floors - community travels to the open space outside the walled city.

Stair case: The stair case serve as a communal space

Communal space:
Horizontal zoning - communal space on each floor including landings and the roof.

Distribution: Upper floors - community travels to open spaces on roofs of the walled city. Lower floors - community travels to the open space outside the walled city.

Ground: The Flow of community exit the walled city.

Roof: The edge of the roof become the boundary which keeps the community in a contained environment.

Roof garden: The roof top of each buildings linked together form a roof scape, while the different height of the roof top defined a series of space and zone.

Communal space : The Roof top and the stair linked them form a continuous communal space.
PROGRAMME
CIRCULATION PATTERN

In the walkes city the typology of buildings can be categorized into a system based on the vertical circulation and building bulk.

The yellowed area represent the communal area.

Serveral buildings shared one common stair. This "shared circulation" not only allows for efficient use of floor area, but also provides an opportunity for residents from different buildings to encounter one another.
Communication Space:
Stair as a space which allows for social contact.

Individual Core:
No physical linkage between two buildings, stair case remains exclusive to its own building community.

Share Corridor:
Area of the bridge increases the total area of the communal space.

Share Stair:
Shared stair increases the area available for the private units; it also doubles the chances of social contact.
REFERENCE

Readings:


Web:
http://www.archidose.org/KWC/


http://zoomimaging.mysinablog.com/index.php?option=ViewArticle&articleId=1832744
BOOK FOUR
The conceptual collages in this chapter express the way how I perceive the city. Some may relate to my thesis project while some are not. They are important for me to get inspiration.
COLLAGE THE CITY
Above: City of Bridge
Below: linear City
Above: Dense City
Below: City of Chaos
BOOK FIVE
CHAPTER 1
The Kowloon Walled City Built before the colonial period, the Kowloon Walled city served as an important military fort for the Ching dynasty army to resist the British invasion.
圍城

The Kowloon Walled City became a well-known place which vacuums in civil order since 50's the illegal activities was happened everywhere in the city. Since 70's more and more buildings built in the city. KWC was being surrounded by a new "city wall".
In January 1987, the Hong Kong government announced plans to demolish the Walled City. After an arduous eviction process, demolition began in March 1993 and was completed in April 1994.
Methology

The memory is buried under the ground as time goes by .............

The absence of Kowloon Walled City is being reflecting again by carving out the ground retraces the footprints of the buildings or even more revealing some foundations of the buildings of the original Kowloon Walled City.

Two different types of museum buildings - Memory Tower and “Mushroom” are being inserted on the site.

The Memory Towers - Raised up on the ground, reflecting the height and the growth direction of the original KWC had been.

The “Mushroom” - go down to the ground level, sensing the underground water which is vital to the old KWC.
CIRCULATION OF KOWLOON WALL CITY
The footprint of the absence city.

MUSHROOM
Feeling the absence under the ground level.

MEMORY TOWER
Remembrance of the KWC above the ground.

PRESENCE OF ABSENCE
THREE LEVELS OF REVEALING THE ABSENCE
LUNG CHUNG ROAD
HISTORY OF KWC

KWONG MING STREET
CHASING DRAGON (DRUGS)

ILLEGAL DENTISTS

KWONG MING STREET
FACTORIES

FALL OF CITY

PRESENCE OF ABSENCE
The concrete mass wall inserted on the ground is the trace of the void in the KWC above ground level. Those mass served as the function of the circulation of the museum and the park, giving skylight to the underground space, meanwhile the wall as the important tools to carry as the screen which project the memory on it.
LANDSCAPE ZONEING

PRESENCE OF ABSENCE
PRINT CONCRETE

The concrete mass wall inserted on the ground is the trace of the void in the KWC above ground level. The graphics and texts are printed on the wall, which providing information of the KWC to the visitors.
At night time the video are projected on the wall in the park creating a unique atmosphere to the park at night, projection incorporated with the print concrete brings the visitors to another level of remembrance of the KWC.
SOUND INSTALLION

Sound source installation is being set up around the park which provide information about the denizens’ interview or history to visitors.
PRESENCE OF ABSENCE
TRACE (SUBTRACTION)

The subtraction way of imprinting memory is used in the park. Journey is being introduced by a subtle trace on the ground, like the trace on the street of Berlin which is served as the trace of Jewish.
Missing Part in the City

The aim of the thesis project is to use architecture as a vehicle to examine current social issues in Hong Kong Collective Memory and identity. The museum itself is not going to re-build the Kowloon Walled City in a tangible way, however, through applying a "physical" absence - subtracting the ground, after the mass being taken away in which the void left becoming a tools to highlight the absence of memory in that loci.
Memory Tower

There are 3 kinds of exhibition space inside the Memory Towers. The Roof Garden and the Watch-out at the top of towers. The projection hall which located in the middle part of the towers with some cantilever masses - respect to the “bird cages” (illegal balcony) in the KWC, which allowing visitors seat on it to watch the projection inside and the view outside. The third kind of exhibition space is the spiral exhibition staircase which providing the sense of the circulation and light well in the KWC to the visitors.
PLAN OF MEMORY TOWER
SCALE 1:300

96
BOOK FIVE
MUSHROOM

PLAN OF MUSHROOM
SCALE 1:500
EXHIBITION

SECTION PERSPECTIVE

PRESENCE OF ABSENCE

99
Sunken Courtyard (Void becoming Memory)

The sunken courtyard is the void of the original building mass being taken away, in which the observers sensing the absent masses along the original path of the KWC.
CHAPTER 3
Act 1

The Journey of discovering the Kowloon Walled City start from the Yamen, which is the only remaining buildings of the city. The entrance of the museum located in a historical building means the inseparable relationship between the city and the yamen.

Passing through the entrance and foyer, arrived the "mushroom" exhibition space -go down to the ground level, sensing the underground water which is vital to the old KWC.
Act 2

Two memory towers are linked to the museum. Different from the rest which focusing on the human activities of the city, the theme of these two towers is about the history—the rise and fall of the city.

Within this part of the journey, visitors can walk through the streets of the city and sense dimension and the lighting quality of the streets in the city.
Act 3

After leaving the last memory tower, the journey almost come to its end. The leaving path is underneath the old Lung Chung Road, which is the earliest streets form in the city. Visitors can experience the foundation of the buildings in the city and appreciate the projecting information before they leaving the museum.
Right: 1:50 Partial Study model of "bird cage system"
To be Continued......
Overdue Fines on Thesis  
HK$1.00 per hour

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