CONTEXTUAL NARRATIVES

SUSHMITA SHEKAR COLUMBIA GSAPP MSAUD 2020



Stories and narratives in Urban Design can inform and condition the design of places in multiple ways. Urban designers can curate the narrative landscape of a place to nurture a virtuous cycle of interactions between stories of place, built form, and the emergent form of a settlement. This creates formats for the inclusion of multiple actors and a diverse set of independent stories rather than master narratives.

"Contextual Narratives" is a collection of design dialogues and interpretation during the Urban design program at Columbia GSAPP.

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01 DESIGN STUDIO

RE-DEFINING | Spring 2020 | Leveraging potential of Social and Ecological Capital

COLLABORATIVE Re-thinking retail scape in the Hudson Valley

"TRANSIT"ION | Fall 2019 Enhancing Transit System in Hudson Valley

RENEWING THE BROWNFIELD Summer 2019

Re"scaping" Brownfield areas

02 MAPPING & TYPOLOGIES

STARBUCKS | Fall 2019

EFFECT | GIS analysis of relation of Starbucks location and gentrification

SEOUL Spring 2020
Comparing Normative
Urban models with Seoul

03 RESEARCH

"GENTRI"FIND | Fall 2020

Tools and policies to mitigate gentrification

DESIGN | Spring 2020
OPTIMIZATION | Ladybug environmental analysis

FLEXCITY | Spring 2020

Application to foster cities resiliency during crisis

01

RE-DEFINING CAPITAL

LEVERAGING THE POTENTIAL OF SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL CAPITAL

Location : Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Course : Urban Design Studio
Role : Research and Design
(Einat Lubliner, Hatem Alkhathlan, Pratibha Singh)

Duration: 14 weeks, Spring 2020

Addis Ababa is undergoing massive development driven by foreign investments, which extracts capital from the city rather than benefit the locals. This development causes displacement and disrupts social networks. In addition, the city's natural assets like the Akaki river lacks connectivity to the city fabric and also suffers from ecological degradation which will worsen with the Beautifying Sheger project's proposal to channelize the river by concreting its banks. Today's development is mono-functional and most of the capital is invested in realestate. These imported ideologies of development fail to address the current challenges of Addis Ababa. We see the potential of reversing this type of urbanism driven solely by real estate interests to a multifunctional capital system. Hence we propose inclusive development where financial capital is only a means towards enhancing social and ecological capital.



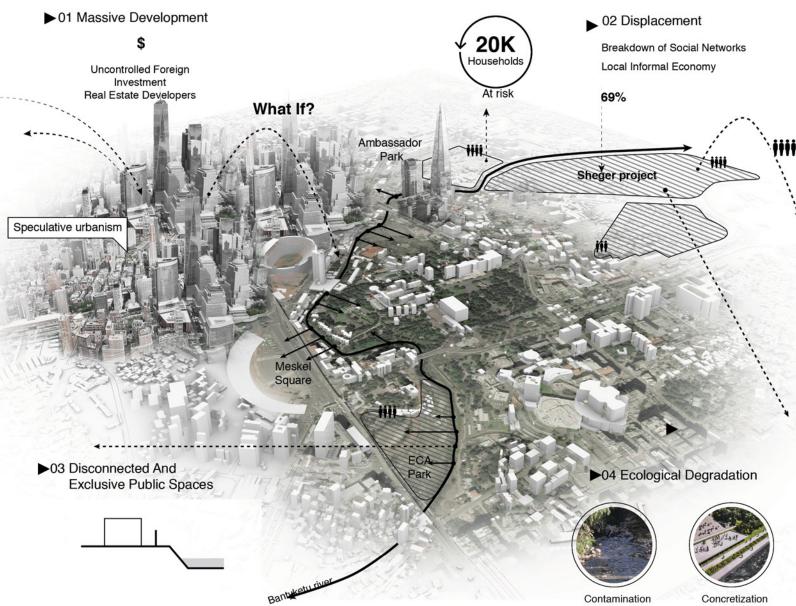
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Challenges I City center

Is there a better alternative to the changes planned?

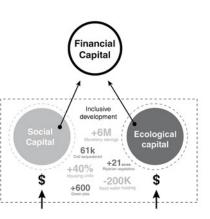
2020 ·····> 2050+



Trigger of change for sustainable development

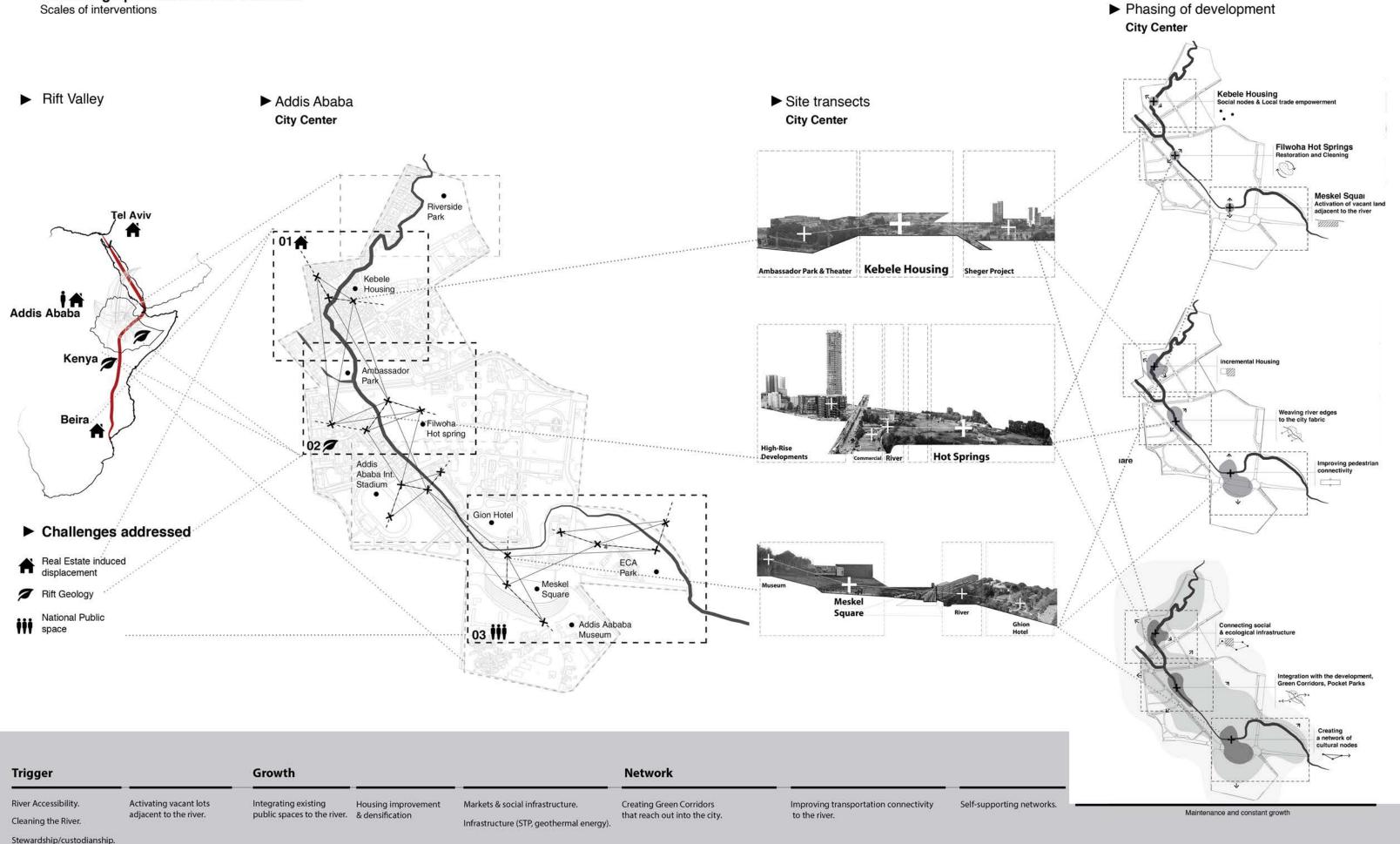
Today's development is **monofunctional** and most of the capital is being invested in condominiums, real estate, infrastructure for the rich, and privatized spaces.

We see the potential of reversing this type of urbanism driven solely by real estate interests to a **multifunctional capital system**. Hence we propose inclusive development where financial capital is only a means towards enhancing social, and ecological capital



Examining Specific Sites and Transects

Scales of interventions



Kebele Housing

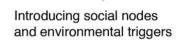
Improving housing and living standards through social and ecological networks

The incremental housing transformation will start from the current public space in the center of the Kebele housing typology, and will evolve vertically, saving 50% of the coverage area for future densification.

The section demonstrates operationalization of the ecological and social capital through storm water collection and reuse, decentralized STPs and retention ponds that will mitigate flood. People from the community could work in the Edir organization in building and maintenance to gain rent subsidies and benefits.



Existing Kebele housing

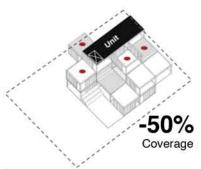




Incremental housing - Increasing density by 50%

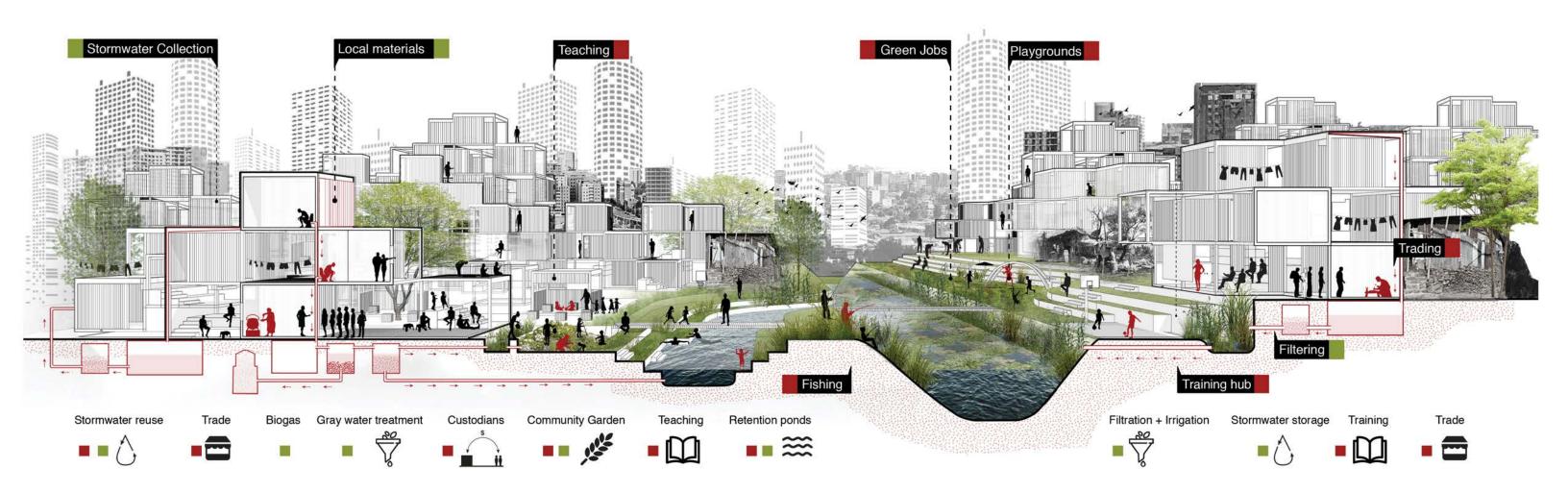


Self built housing with public and recreational space



Staggered Vertical densification reduces coverage by 50%

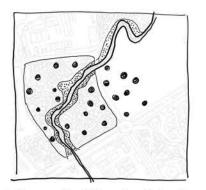
Social CapitalEcological Capital



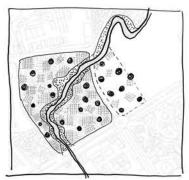
Kebele Housing

Improving housing and living standards through social and ecological networks

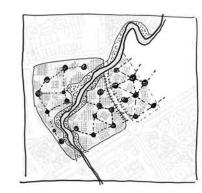
The new development in the city center puts pressure on the Kebele residents to be displaced. The design of the trigger points will help to empower the residents with **social infrastructure** inside the urban fabric of the Kebele to support their needs of financial empowerment, education, training center, health and recreation. The community organization will mediate incremental housing which will be funded as part of the private investments that come into the city center



Trigger: Social **nodes** & local trade empowerment



Growth: Incremental housing Provided by the Edir ec



Network: connecting social and ecological infrastructure

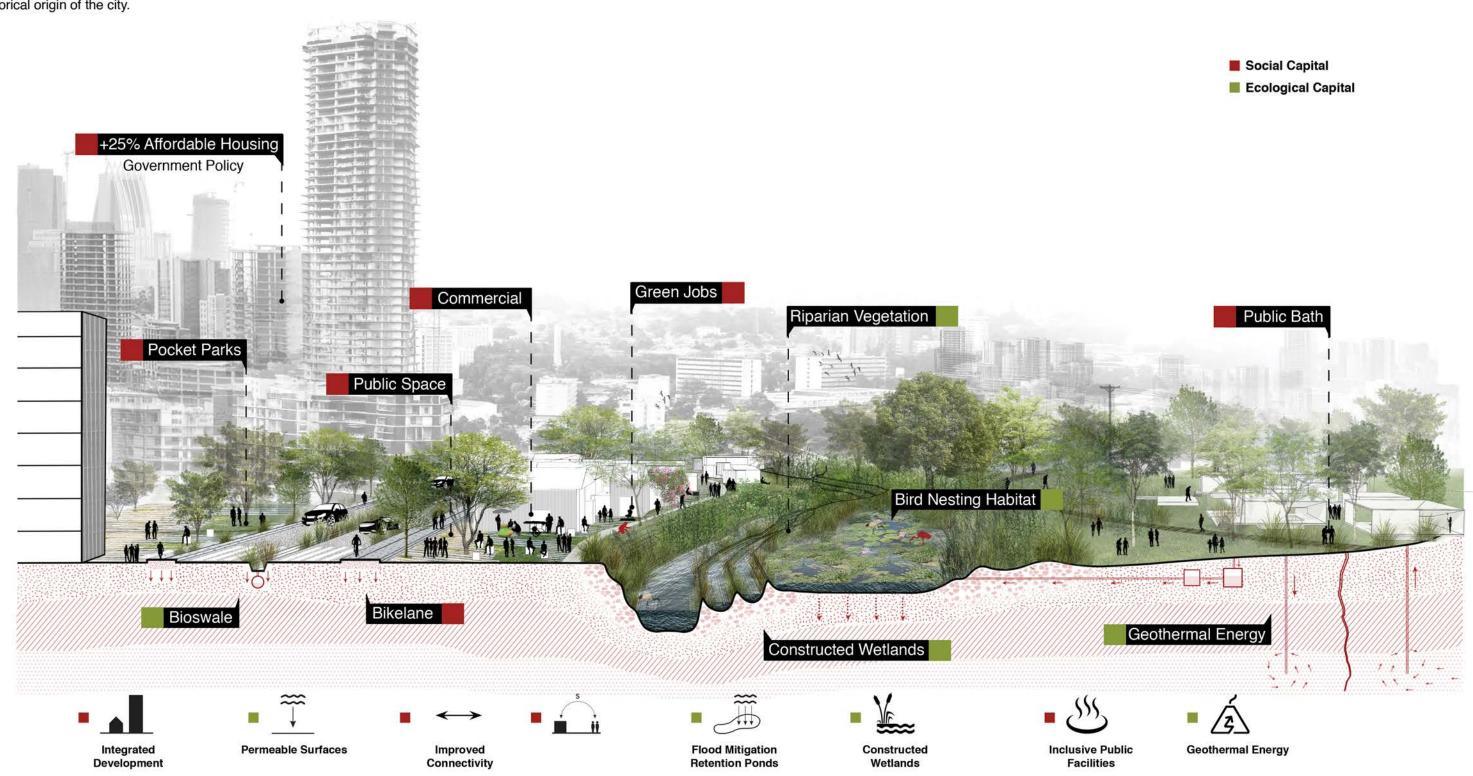


Filwoha Hotsprings

Integrating Ecological capital with city center development

In order to enable **inclusive public spaces**, green pockets parks will be intertwined between the new development and the existing fabric as a public duty to be built by the developers. Additional 25% affordable housing will be added to the city center.

Bike lanes and continuous trails will **improve connectivity** from the CBD to this green lung, enabling accessibility to the hot spring area which embodies the historical origin of the city.



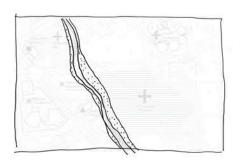
Filwoha Hot springs

Integrating Ecological capital with city center development

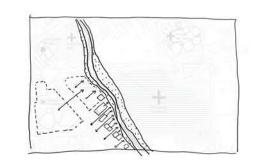
The Filwoha hot springs that formed the basis of the establishment of Addis Ababa, now form the ecological center of the city.

The trigger project will consist of a series constructed wetlands and restored riparian vegetation which will clean the River, retain flood water and allow biodiversity to thrive. This ecological infrastructure will grow to include the commercial areas, thereby empowering local custodians to maintain the river. Inclusive recreational spaces and walking trails will improve accessibility, and the bath will create a public space.

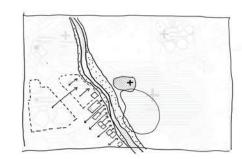
- Social Capital
- Ecological Capital



Trigger: Wetlands, Riparian Vegetation, Public Spaces



Growth: Weaving the River edges to the city fabric



Network: Integrated Development, Green Corridors, Pocket Parks

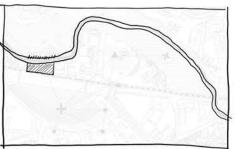


Filwoha Hot springs

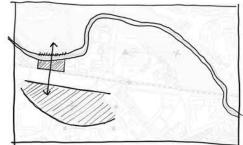
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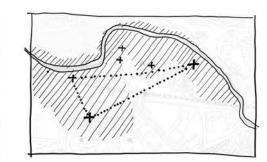
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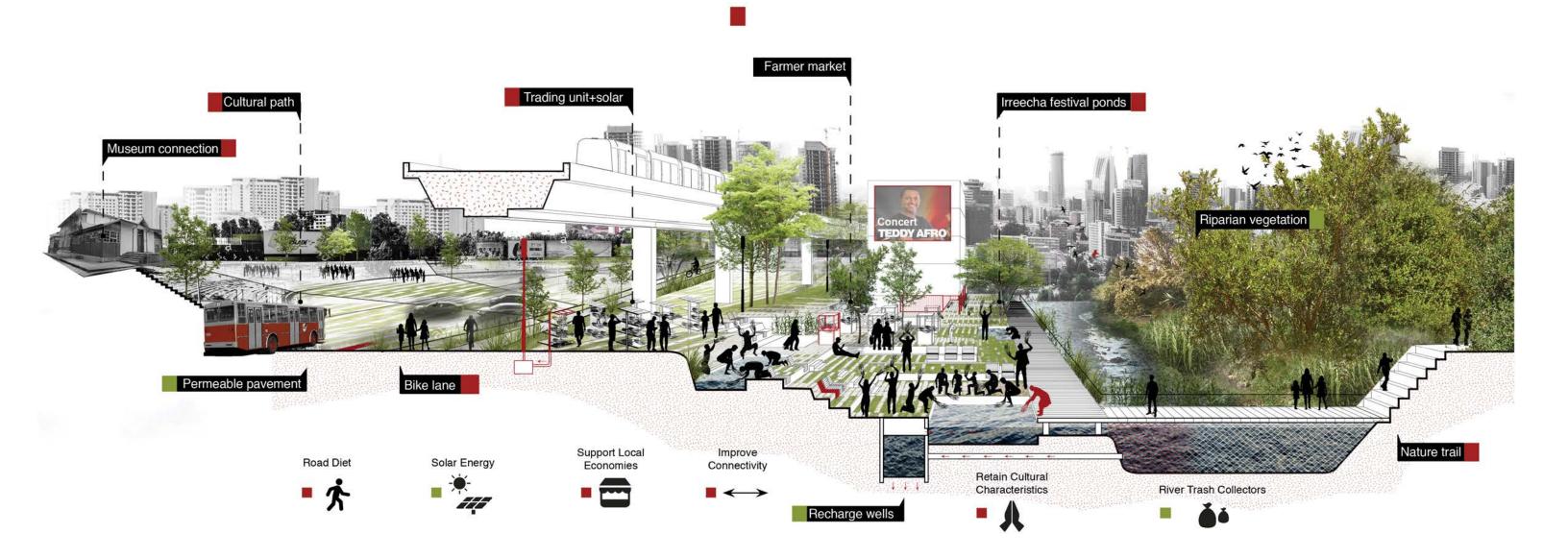
Trigger: Revitalize Vacant lots with local trade



Growth: Improve connectivity through road diet and pedestrianization



Network: Create a network of cultural nodes



02

COLLABORATIVE RETAIL

REDEFINING RETAIL SCAPE IN HUDSON VALLEY

Location : Kingston ,Hudson Valley
Course : Urban Design Studio
Role : Research and Design
(Chris, Einat Lubliner, Hatem Alkhathlan)

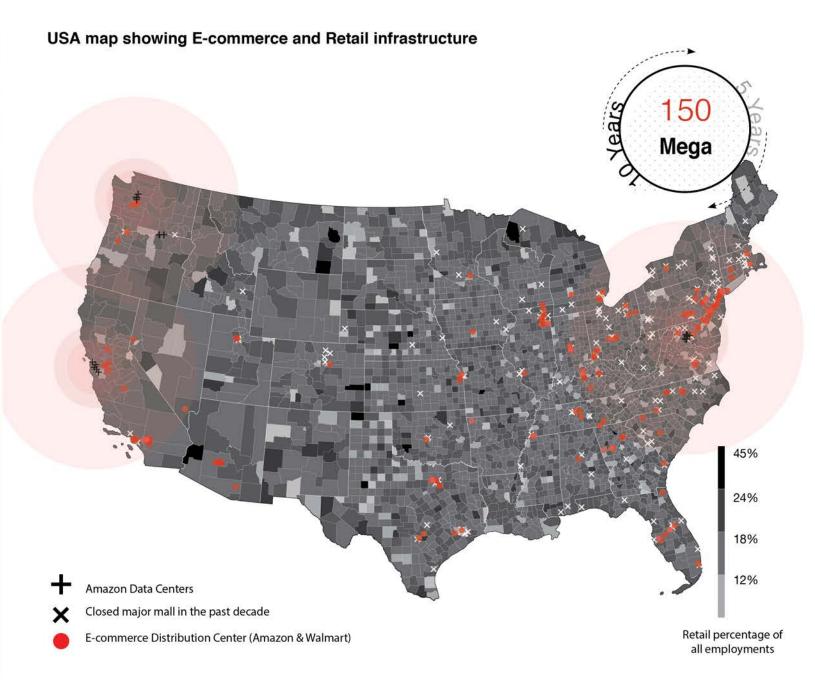
Duration: 14 weeks, Fall 2019

With the global transition from traditional shopping to e-commerce and the change in consumer trends, the main street retail, Big Box stores and malls which were a de facto social space for American small towns have transformed into redundant infrastructure. The repercussions of this have highly impacted social interaction, local economy, existing infrastructure, jobs and services. This gives an opportunity to redefine a new retail module that spurs from a bottom-up approach through main street revival and by providing experiences and awareness to consumers along with establishing a shared collaborative platform for small businesses by sharing space, energy, resources, waste management and storage. This sharing of assets not only reduces cost and carbon emission but also funnels local economy, promotes interaction, elevates jobs and social equity. It further encourages collaborative consumption

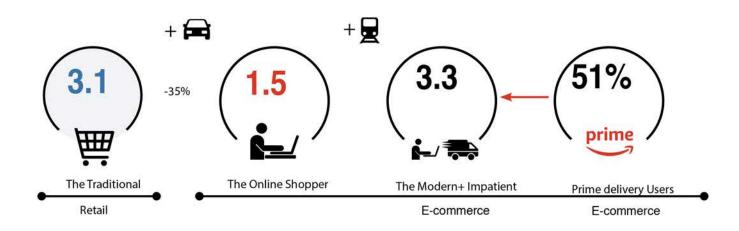


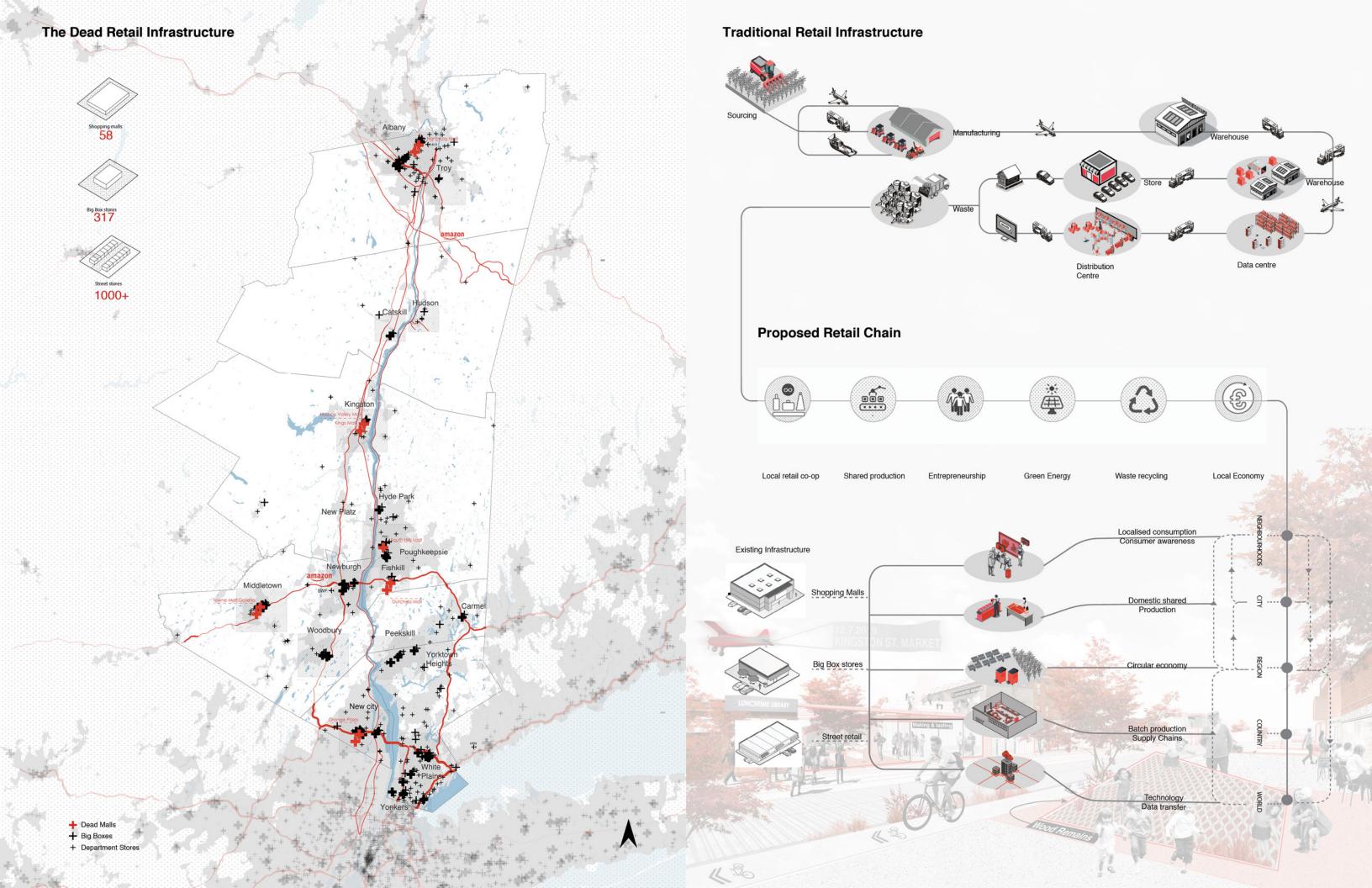
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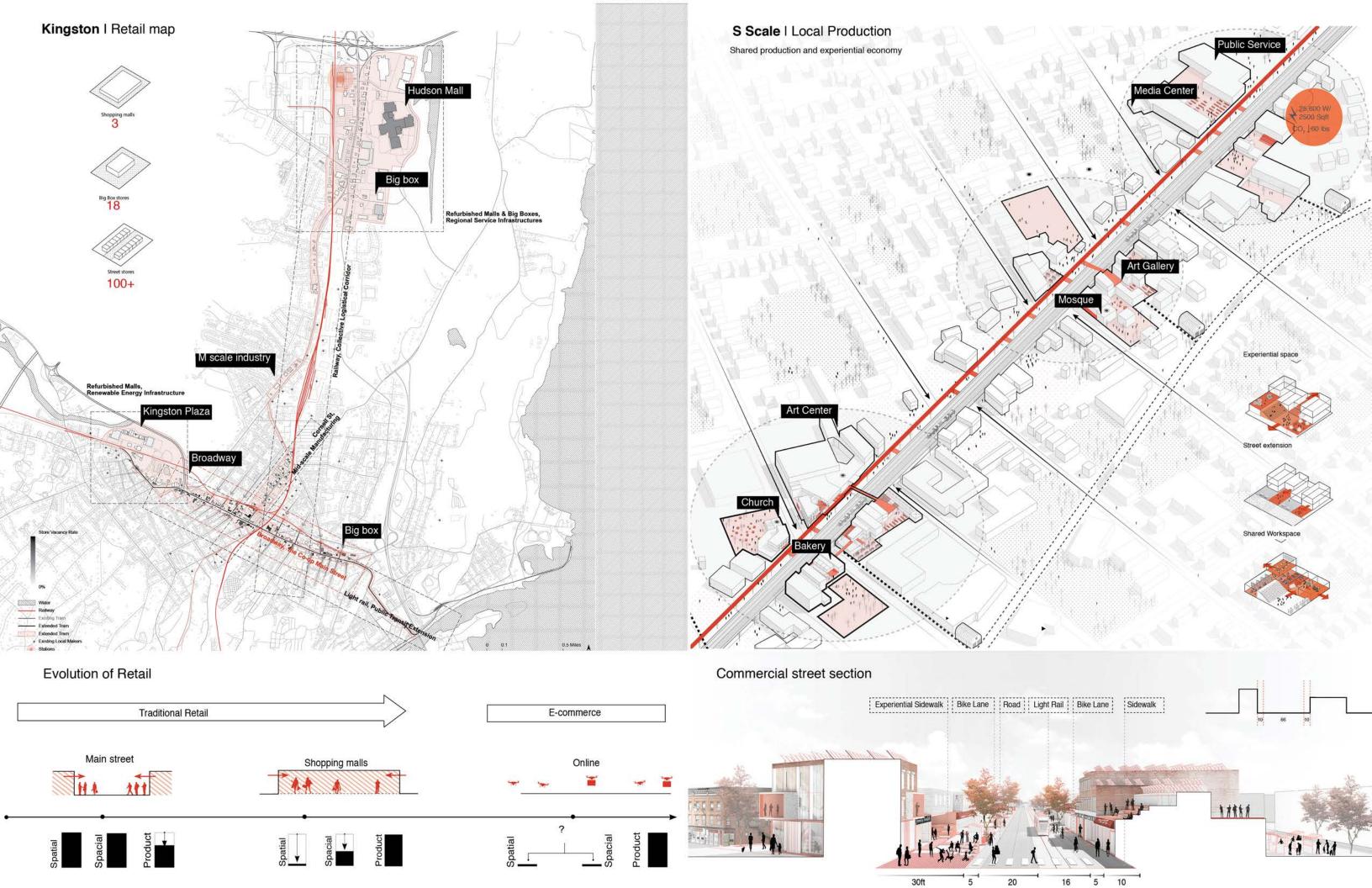




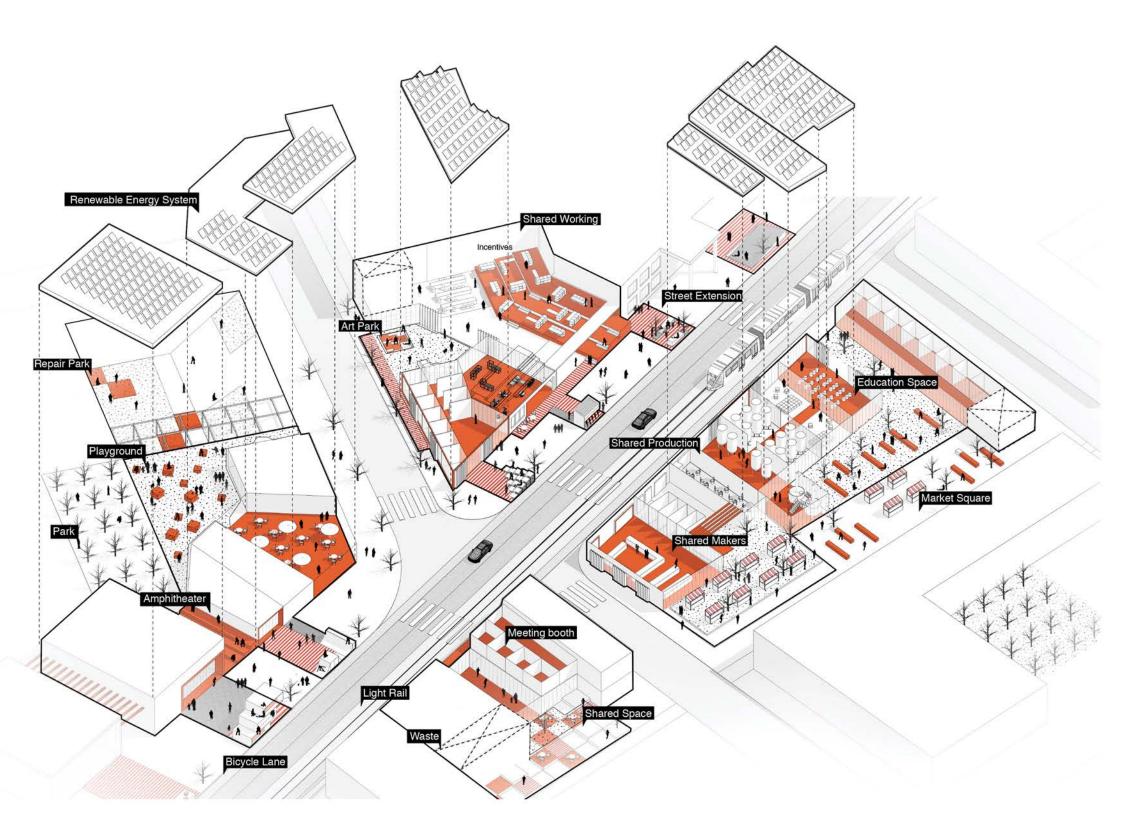
Consumer Behavior and CO₂ emission (kg per journey)

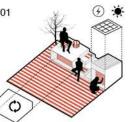






Street Extension | Collaborative Consumption

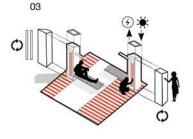




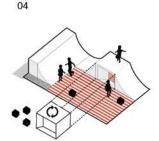
Play area+Recycle box



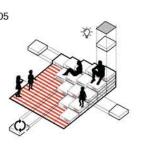
Seating + Recycle box



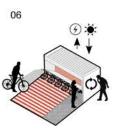
Seating + Recycle box



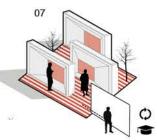
Play area+Recycle box



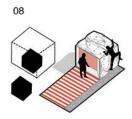
Play area+Recycle box



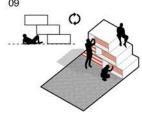
Bike station+Product trade



Education+Product trade



Play area+Recycle box

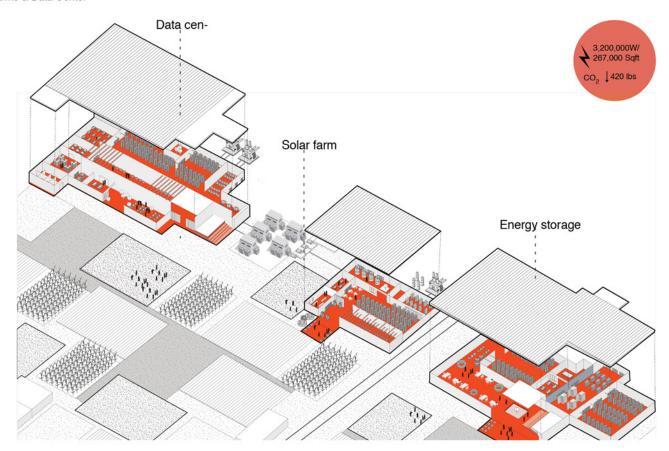


Seating + Recycle box



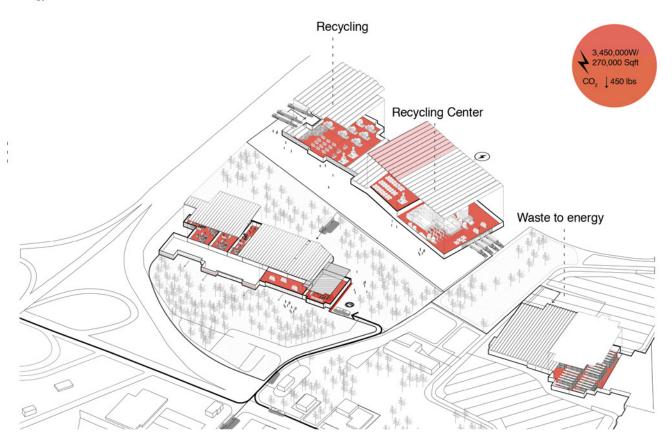
Seating + Recycle box

M Scale | Renewable Energy Production Solar Farms & Data Center



L Scale | Recycling and Distribution Center

Recycle to Energy Plant & Distribution Center



Renders showing collaborative spaces



View showing the Big box converted to a shared Maker space with a public front



Repair & Recycling Park as a part of the street collaborative retail

03 "TRANSIT"ION

ENHANCING TRANSIT SYSTEM IN HUDSON VALLEY

Location : Kingston ,Hudson Valley
Course : Urban Design Studio
Role : Research and Design
(Annie Wu, Ting Zhang, Yuan Qin)
Duration : 2 weeks, Fall 2019

Transit sector is the largest contributor of carbon emission in comparison to all other sectors. It counts to almost 46% percent of the total carbon emission in the United States. In the Hudson Valley, there is interregional, intra-regional and local level transit infrastructure run by several private companies. These services are not reliable and accessible to all residents in the Hudson. Hence the projects addresses this challenge through a multi model transit system with focus on micro-transit options to provide better accessibility. In order to reduce carbon emission, we look at autonomous transport run by renewable energy and Complete streets with pedestrian, bike and segregated bus lanes. Further Transit Oriented development module focuses on congregating housing, shopping, job opportunities, public amenities and leisure at convenient access to transit. This system ALSO promotes localization, in terms of providing more jobs and using local resources to limit travel.



Transit access-County level Columbia County Transportation Network Median income **Dutchess County** Car ownership Greeen County Selected county's **Ulster County** Median Income

Proposed Interventions



Micro transit access to big box stores and transit oriented development



Complete streets project focusing on pedestrian access and bike lanes



RE"SCAPING" BROWNFIELD AREAS IN JERSEY CITY

Jersey city and Hoboken Location: Course Urban Design Studio Research and Design Role (Yao Yao, Hatem Alkhathlan)

Duration: 14 weeks, Fall 2019

This project is an attempt to foster a holistic system of interventions that informs and strengthens each other by focusing on revitalizing the brown field and underutilized areas in Jersey city. The project will transform the potential brownfield areas along with the heart of city into a linear urban trail and create a new destination and accessible green corridor for the neighborhoods in the core of the city. The design aims to connect neighborhoods, create an engaging experience and develop a resilient urban corridor away from the waterfront. The project will connect civic, public, commercial, cultural spaces with soft infrastructure to engage with the ecological asset of the city.



Jersey city Urban Challenges
Transforming Jersey's green inaccessible space and brown-field areas to potential green urban public space



I want a safe place where you can leave your kid and just enjoy and relax.



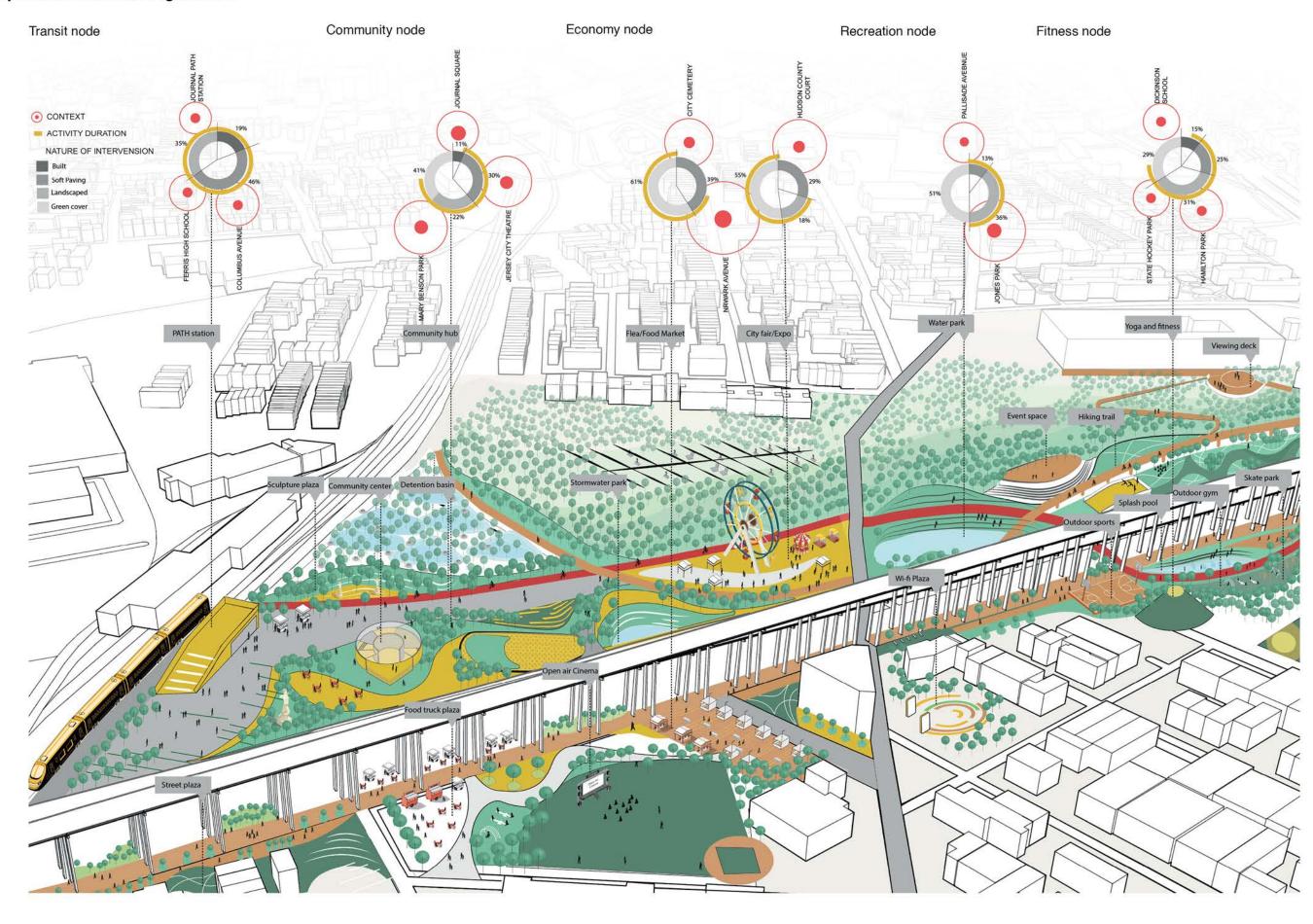
Highway

Jersey City has parks, but if you don't drive or you don't live close to one, your access is limited.



Design Proposal 01. Liberty State Park 05. Second street station 03.Dickinson Highschool 02. Mary Benson Park 04. Hoboken, NJ Transit line 02 (E---)

Design Proposal at Dickinson Highschool





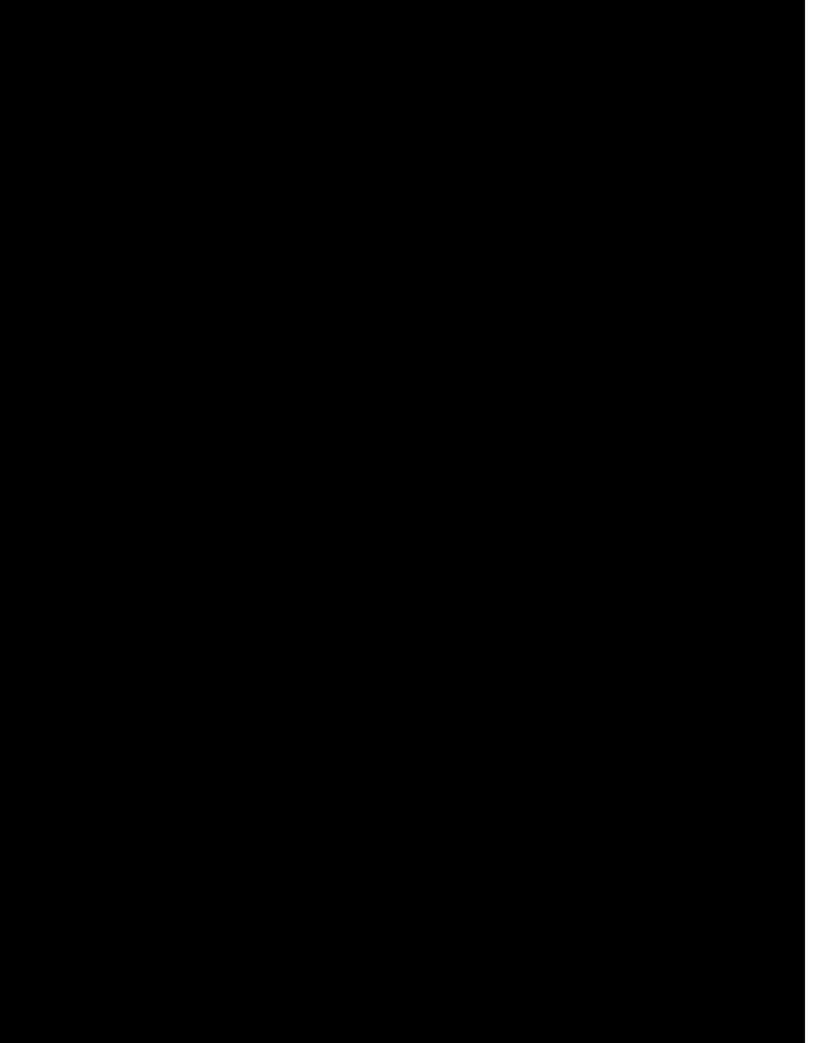
View of bike and pedestrian walkway

Development of the brown field areas under the highway in the heart of Jersey city, to provide better connectivity to the transit stations and integrate neighborhoods on the east and west of the palisade.



View of the concert amphitheater

Development of public spaces along the abandoned railway to reduce crime and provide accessibility to green space to the residents of Jersey city and Hoboken.



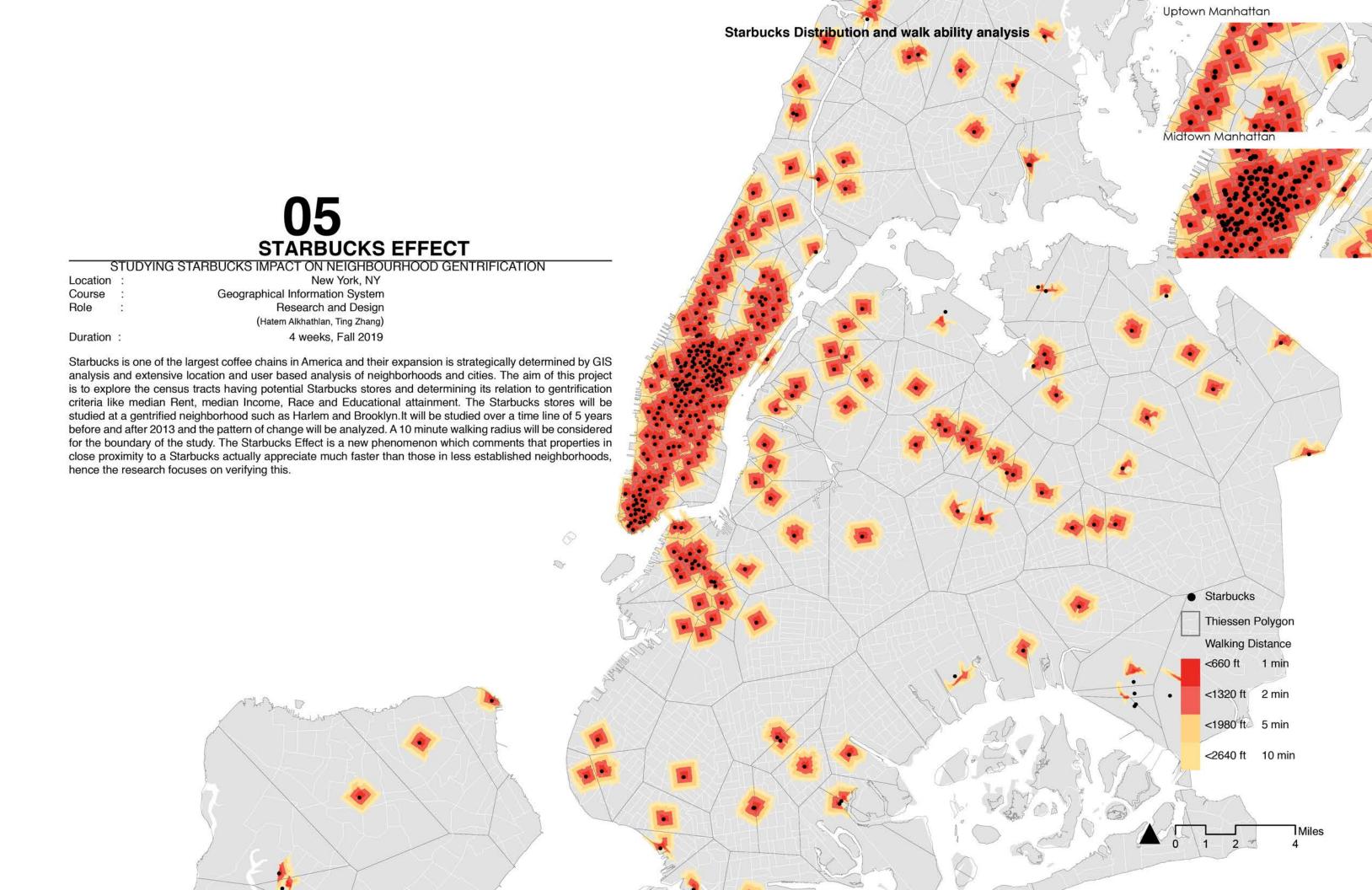


02 MAPPING & TYPOLOGIES

STARBUCKS | Fall 2019

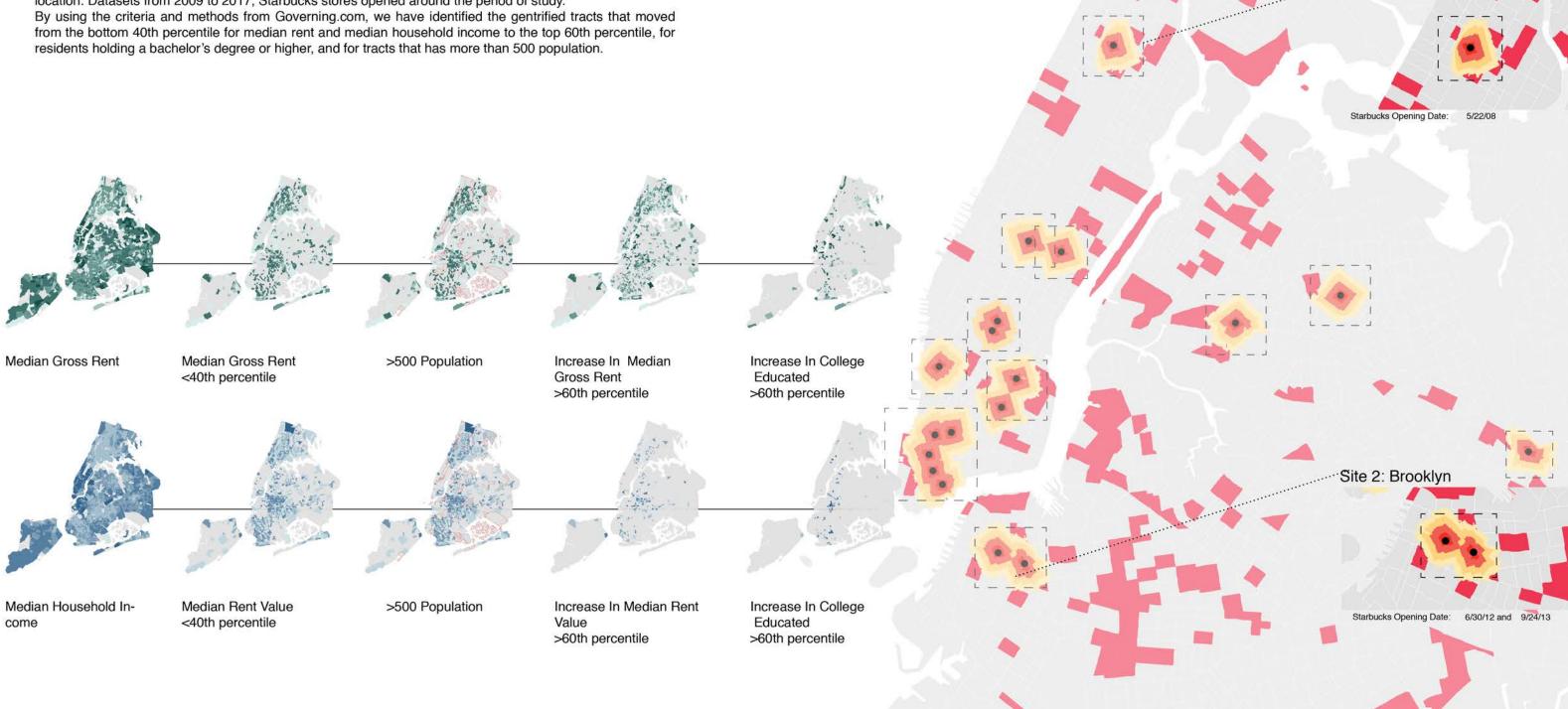
EFFECT | GIS analysis of relation of Starbucks location and gentrification

SEOUL Spring 2020
Comparing Normative
Urban models with Seoul



Process of identifying gentrified neighborhoods

In this section, we examine the correlation between gentrification and the impact of opening a Starbucks location. Datasets from 2009 to 2017, Starbucks stores opened around the period of study.

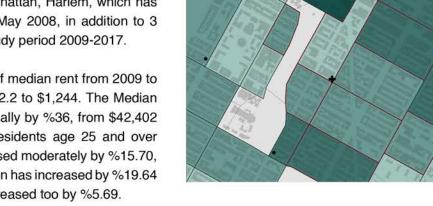


.Site 1: Manhatten-Herlem

Site 1: Manhatten-Herlem

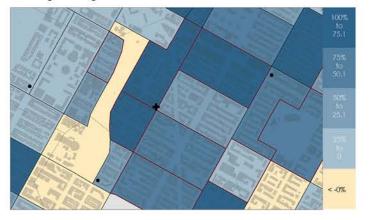
The second site is located in Manhattan, Harlem, which has one Starbucks stores opened in May 2008, in addition to 3 other stores opened before the study period 2009-2017.

This study area saw an increase of median rent from 2009 to 2017 by %35, a change from \$812.2 to \$1,244. The Median income also has increased drastically by %36, from \$42,402 to \$58,107. The percentage of residents age 25 and over holding bachelor's degrees increased moderately by %15.70, and the percentage white population has increased by %19.64 while the black population has increased too by %5.69.



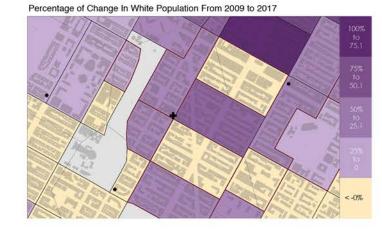
Percentage of Change In Median Income From 2009 to 2017

Percentage of Change In Median Rent From 2009 to 2017





Increase in
Education of bachelor's
degree or higher



Percentage of Change In Higher Education From 2009 to 2017

Established Starbucks in the study period. (2009-2017)
 Established Starbucks before/after study period.

Identified Gentrified Tracts.

Starbucks Boundary (Voronoi diagram)

Increase in

White Population

Identified Gentrified Tracts from 2009 to 2017 & Starbucks Locations



+100% 100% 10 75.1 75% 10 50.1 25.1

Site 2: Brooklyn

The first site that we chose to examine is located in Brooklyn, which has two Starbucks stores opened in June 2012 and September 2013, located 0.43 Miles from each other, in addition to 12 other stores opened before the study period 2009-2017.

This study area saw q drastic increase in median rent from 2009 to 2017 by %48, it increased from \$1,135 to &2,000. The Median income also has increased by %41, from \$65,521 to \$11,0191. The percentage of residents age 25 and over holding bachelor's degrees jumped to %61.68, and the percentage white population has increased by %9.91, while the black population decreased by % -58.53.







Increase in
Education of bachelor's
degree or higher

Established Starbucks in the study period. (2009-2017)
 Established Starbucks before/after study period.

Identified Gentrified Tracts.

Starbucks Boundary (Voronoi diagram)

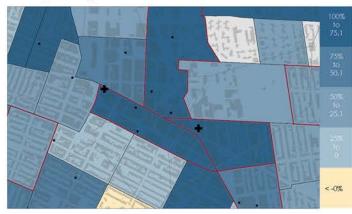
Identified Gentrified Tracts from 2009 to 2017 & Starbucks Locations



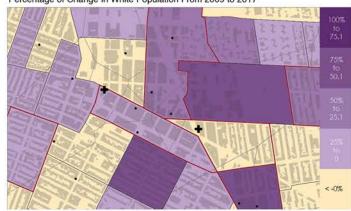
Percentage of Change In Median Rent From 2009 to 2017



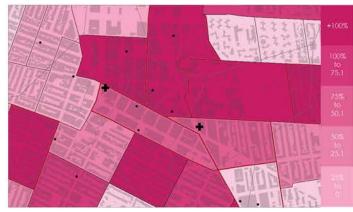
Percentage of Change In Median Income From 2009 to 2017



Percentage of Change In White Population From 2009 to 2017



Percentage of Change In Higher Education From 2009 to 2017



06

SEOUL PALIMPSEST

NORMATIVE URBAN MODEL COMPARISON

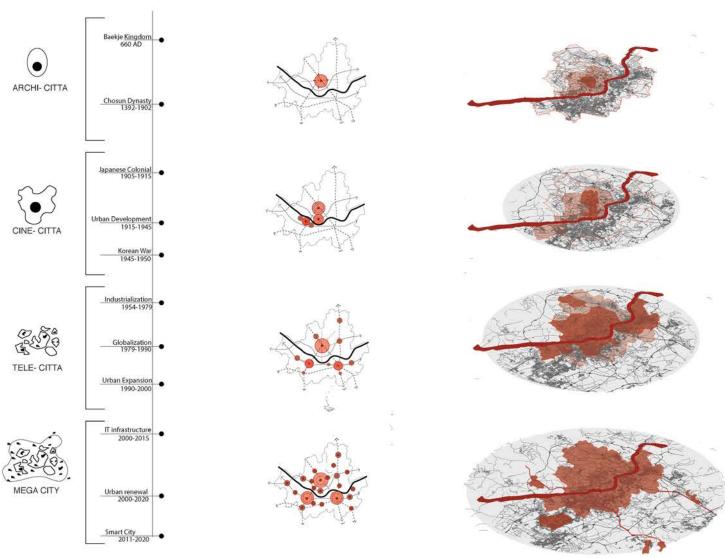
Location : Seoul, South Korea
Course : Recombinant Urbanism
Role : Research
(Einat Lubliner, Minjung Lee)

Duration: 4 weeks, Spring 2020

Seoul underwent a gradual transition from a monocentric urban model in the Archi Citte period to a polycentric organic model that exists today. In the Archi citte period, focus was mainly on the center of the walled city, Mapo, and Yeongdeungpo. There was a clear top down management and clear geometric order. During the Cine Citta period, the city expanded with colonial influence. Due to ongoing wars the development was hindered and there was a huge socio-economic divide in development. After liberation from Japanese colonial rule in the Tele Citte period, the city experienced explosive growth in population and urban development. The Basic Urban Plan was set up to respond to housing, transportation and infrastructure challenges and to lead the change through systematic and comprehensive planning with a long-term vision. Today, Seoul's urban development serves as a model to partnering economies and hubs of technology and innovation.



Normative model Comparison



Pandemic City

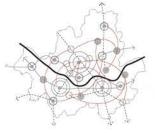








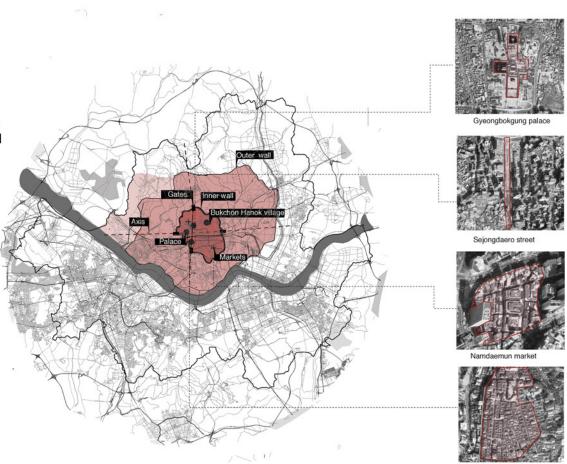




City of Faith (Archi Citte)

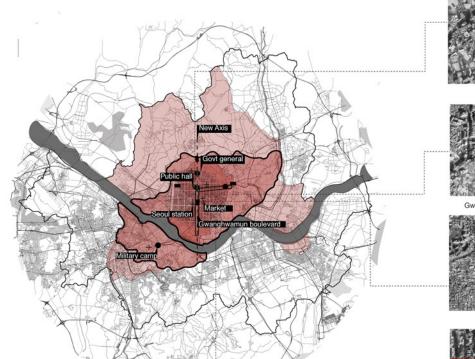
In the city of faith ,fortified walls were constructed in two tiers to protect the palaces, markets and the public boulevard. The main boulevard is connected to the rest of the city through small alleys containing residences and commerce.





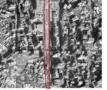
City as a Machine (Cine Citte)

During this period the city colonised by the Japanese. There was an intentional change in the city axis and administrative buildings were aligned with this axis. The grid established a strong organization, segregation of functions and an overarching visual and social order.





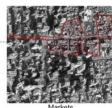
ublic hall



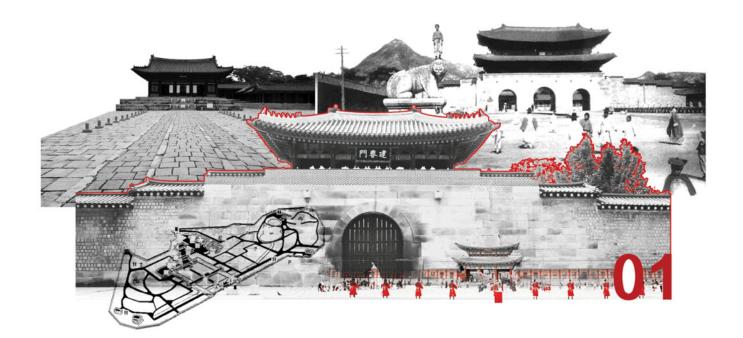
awangnwamun boulevard



Secul Station



Gyoengbokgung Palace

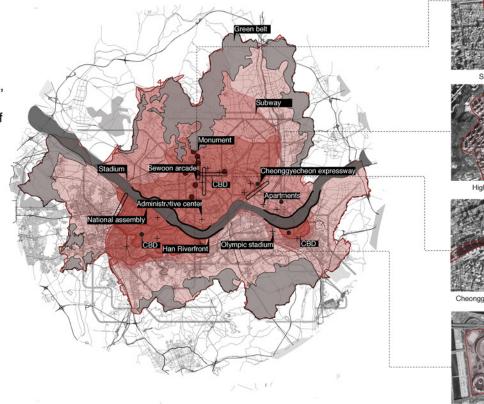


Colonial Administrative buildings

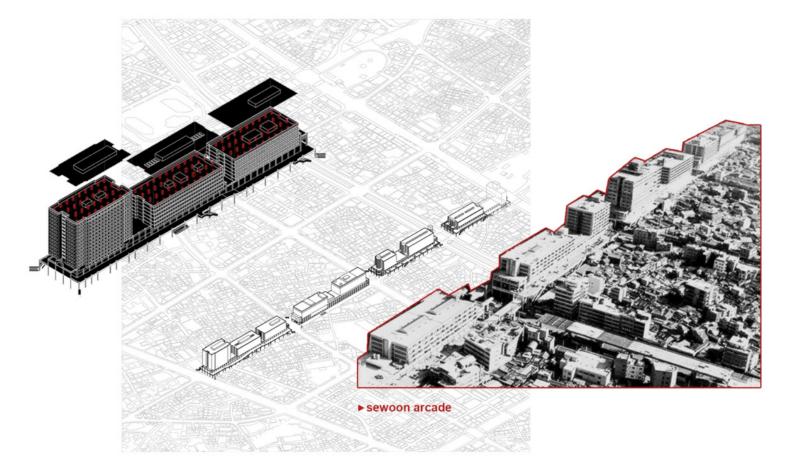


Organic City (Tele Citte)

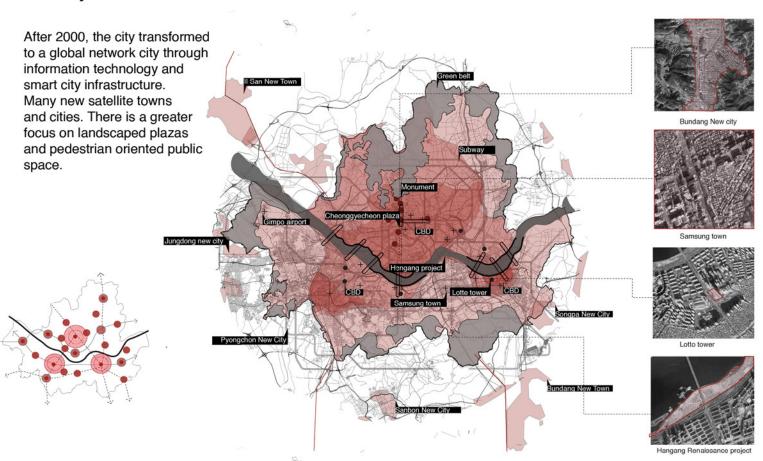
The Tele Citte is a polycentric urban model. Due to improved transportation infrastructure like the subways and expanded roadways, urban sprawl was prevalent. There was increased specialization of uses, proliferation of private high-rise development and segregation of class...



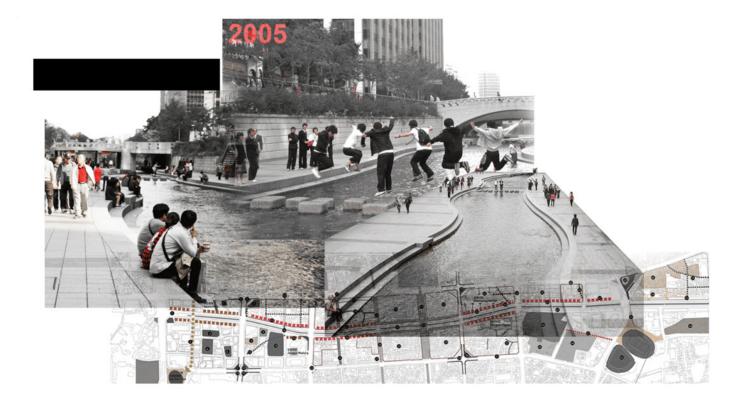
Sewoon Arcade



Metacity



Cheonggyecheon plaza





PROJECTS DESIGN STUDIO MAPPING & TYPOLOGIES RESEARCH

03 RESEARCH

"GENTRI"FIND | Fall 2020

Tools and policies to mitigate gentrification

DESIGN | Spring 2020
OPTIMIZATION | Ladybug environmental analysis

FLEXCITY | Spring 2020 Application to foster cities resiliency during crisis



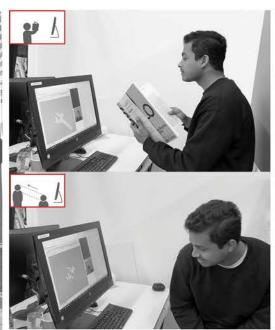
REDEFINING RETAIL SCAPE IN HUDSON VALLEY

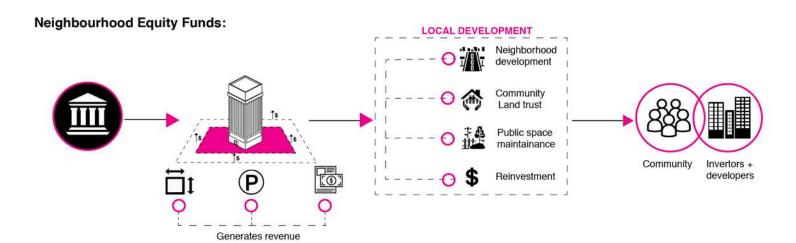
Location : New York, NY
Course : Difference in design
Role : Research
(Einat Lubliner)
Duration : 5 weeks, Fall 2019

This research explores the debate about the criteria and parameters of gentrification and attempts to understand the real and perceived impacts and causes of such change on the physical, economic, social and cultural dynamics of community, through a tool based approach that informs urban planners, designers and communities about the change. It can further inform an combination of policies (top-down approach), public engagement tools (bottom-up approach) and spatial design solutions that can prevent the displacement of people and instigate positive growth of the neighborhood. An Interactive tool can not only collect information but also educate citizens abouts impacts of gentrification and neighborhood change.









Proposed Gentrifind Platform:

To identify gentrification we developed a prototype which is a data driven platform based on GIS and Grasshopper softwares, and programmed it to identify gentrification according to specific parameters. The outcome of the tool could assist in 3 aspects: Policies (top-Down), awareness and education (bottom-Up) and spatial Design (both top Down and bottom-up).

How?

The first step is collecting data according to the defined parameters. It is collected through a combination of census data (GIS) and latest app based resources. This data is then filtered by a set of 'rules' from earlier case studies of gentrification. The overlapping areas between the different parameters - indicates the areas at risk. This further helps in educating the local residents , policy making and spatial design.

Policies:

1. Neighborhood Equity Funds:

Neighborhood Equity Fund is a collectively-managed, collectively-owned fund created through the capture of real estate development profits with the purpose of mitigating the effects of gentrification by providing access to capital for residents affected by escalating land values.

2. Equal Distribution of resources:

While zoning plans are revised, equal distribution of affordable housing, public amenities are made mandate.

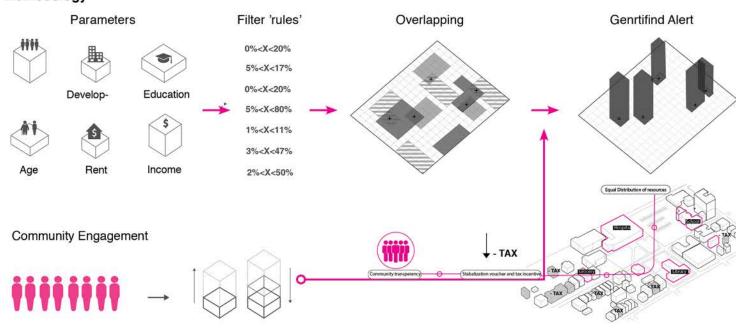
3. Stabilization Voucher and Cost control:

Reduction or freezing of property taxes to protect long-time residents and local business.

4. Community Involvement:

Empowering all the residents involved through app-based community surveys or interactive urban information booths.

Methodology



08

DESIGN OPTIMIZATION

LADYBUG ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Location:
Type:
Role:

New York, NY
Rethinking BIM
Research and coding
(Einat Lubliner)

Duration: 14 weeks, Spring 2020

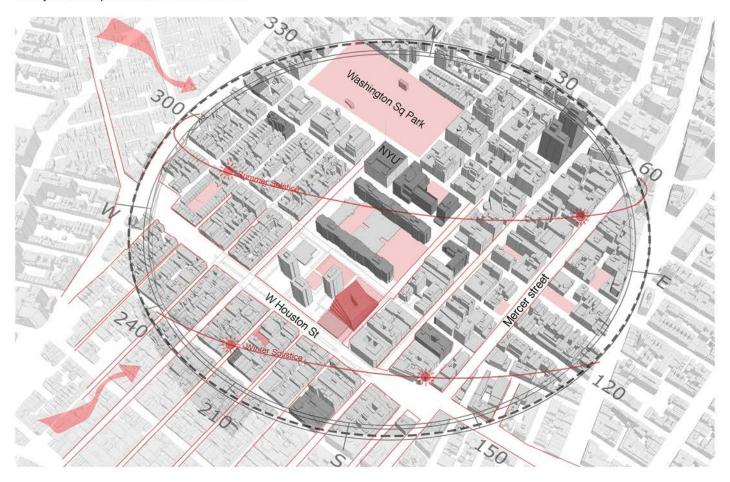
This project aims to optimize massing and facade design through radiation analysis, sunlight hour and shadow study to design a sustainable, climatologically oriented and energy efficient building. These studies are conducted through ladybug analytical tools .Several massing geometries are tested for sunlight hour, radiation, shadow range using ladybug tools After the studies are conducted an optimum building massing option is chosen for further study of facade openings.

Ladybug supports the evaluation of initial design options through solar radiation studies, view analyses, sunlight-hours modeling, and more. Integration with visual programming environments allows instantaneous feedback on design modifications and a high degree of customization.

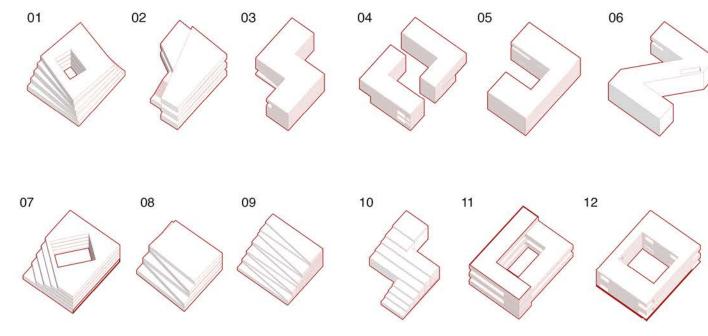


Urban context

Study of solar path and wind directions

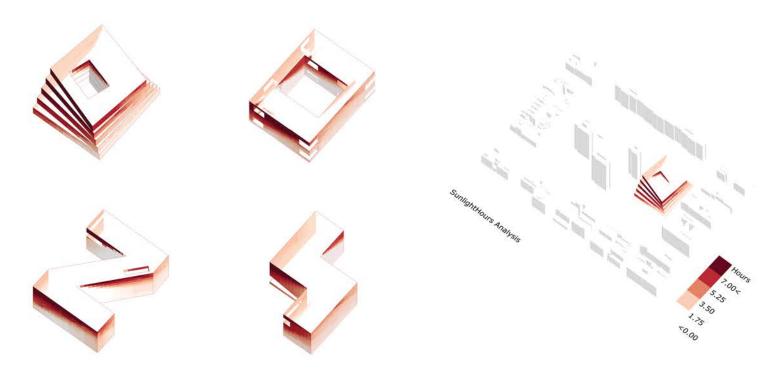


Massing options for design



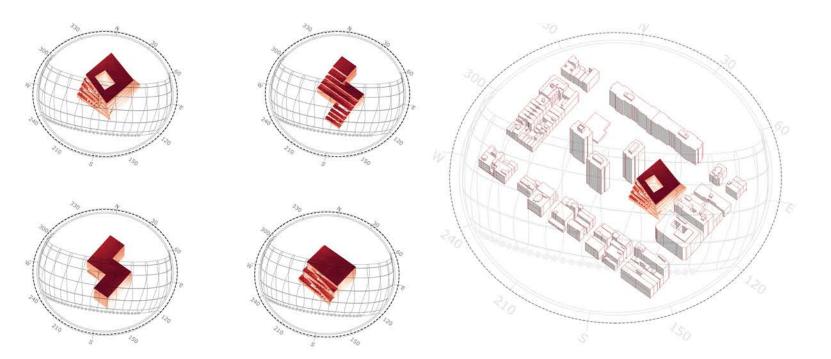
Sunlight hour Analysis

This study is represents the total sunlight hours received by the massing in winter. The study will be conducted in all seasons and an the mass that receives maximum number of sunlight hours in winter and least in summer will be nominated for further study.



Radiation Analysis

This study represent the total radiation that the building facade (especially the roof) is receiving. The study was done during the summer, so the lowest range of radiations is the favorable,



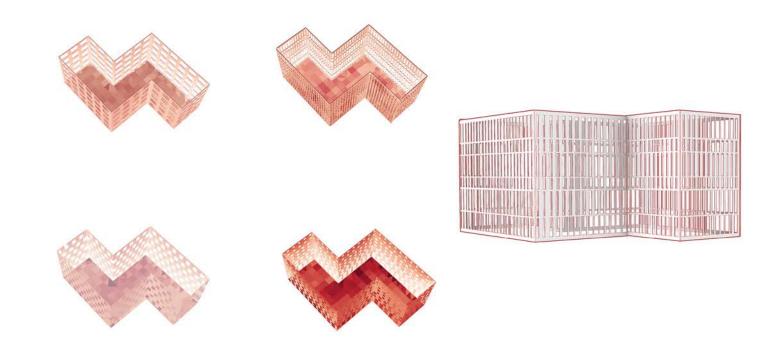
Shadow range Analysis

Comparing shadow impacts of various construction options in respect to the context can determine outdoor public spaces and indoor courtyards.



Radiation Analysis: Facade

Further the facades were analyzed to understand the thermal comfort and the amount of heat and light received within the building. Modulating the facade can further help regulate microclimate and wind circulation within the building.



09 FLEX(CITY)

AN APP TO FOSTER CITIES RESILIENCY DURING CRISIS

Location : Global
Type : Academic(Columbia GSAPP)
Role : Research and proposal
(Einat Lubliner,Tal Fuest, Eduardo Veronese)

Duration:

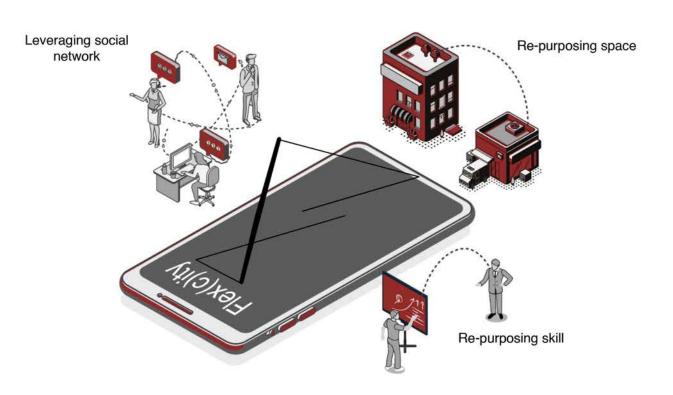
Rapid population growth, increase in consumption, climate change threats and economic inequality have led to a intolerable reality, where humankind is dealing with some of the most devastating and impactful crises. The disastrous outcomes had brought loss in human life, damage to property which left many individuals homeless, and vast unemployment throughout the world. We propose an application that mediates between the existing Infrastructure and the new need during a crisis. It will assist in re-purposing space, skills and create social-groups or networks to provide effective assistance during a crisis.

2 weeks, Spring 2020



Mission of the technology

The Application is a technological platform for re-purposing skills and space and leveraging social networks at the time of stress to provide immediate and efficient action. Our aim is to advance the potential of human resource during a crisis that can intern support people in need.



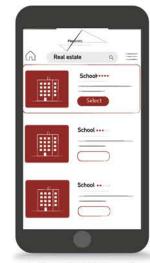
Visualization of Application



Flexcity application launch page



Interface to connect with people of varied skills and professions



Interface that lists real estate properties available during a crisis



Interface that helps connect people and build social networks

Scenario:

Application of the to search for shelter during a disaster or a crisis.



Flexcity application launch page



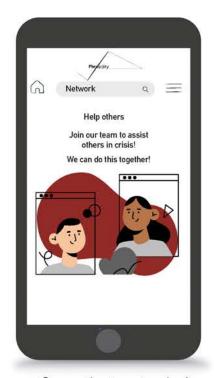
Platform collecting user information and location



Options to browse for shelter and space



Matching location of the shelter confirmed



Connecting to network of people

