

Reflection P4

1. Personal information

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Studio

Chair The Why Factory
Theme The Vertical Village, Jajakarta
Teachers Professor Winy Maas, Ulf Hackauf, Adrien Ravon

Aspect 1:

What is the relationship between research and design in the graduation project?

The graduation project is set up as a research by design studio. We test the impact of a variety of densification strategies through various scales and models.

As a group we researched on the qualities and issues of kampungs and re-use rules and tools in our new design proposals. We also researched the current qualities and issues of Jakarta in regard to the cities future growth projections and writhen a manifesto based on the conclusions from that research.

The goal of my project is to show various scenarios for densification of the current apparel industry, which are a major employer and creator of wealth for kampung residents.

Aspect 2:

What is the relationship between the theme of the studio and the subject/case study chosen by the student within this framework (location/object)?

We started this project as a group within T?F with the goal of researching possibilities of increasing the density of urban villages in South East Asia. The Why Factory started a research on this topic in 2007 with the Vertical Village studios, which lead to a publication in 2011. We planned on brining the knowledge and research further by focusing on the city of Jakarta, Indonesia.

Jakarta as a city was chosen because of the fact that 70% of the city consists of kampungs which are urban villages. The city is in a desperate need of a new vision on this informal part of the city while maintaining the growth of its global and formal city, the kota.

The studio research is divided into scales ranging from XL (the entire city) to XXS (details). XL and L (Kebon Kacang, an kampung area of 2km in Jakarta) have been researched and designed by the group. The individual research focuses on 1 of 4 specific situation which can be found within the L scale site (Kebon Kacang). These are the M scales and are: the innercity-kampung, the kampung kota border, the riverfront and the economic and production centre.

My project (from the M to XXS scale) focuses on how to increase the local commercial activities, where so many of the kampung residents benefit from. These commercial activities emphasize the already present apparel industry, in the Kebon Kacang area, and how they can contribute to a densifying city.

Aspect 3:

What is the relationship between the methodical line of approach of the studio and the method chosen by the student in this framework?

The Why Factory's research projects are positioned in a classical research tripod of models, views and software; of model cities, applications and storage. The research on the Future City is undertaken through the interactive composition of three fields. It speculates on possible theoretical models in the model city program. It makes counter proposals for existing cities.

Both the group and the individual parts of the graduation project have aspects in all 3 of the elements of the research tripod. 3D models of the city are been used to test the quality and impact of both architectural and infrastructural strategies. Parametric software tools have been used to show the impact of various scenarios of densification. Axonometric and section drawings of both the current and the future situation are used to test and showcase qualities.

Aspect 4:

What is the relationship between the project and the wider social context?

Jabodetabek, the urban agglomeration consisting of DKI Jakarta, Bogor, Depok, Tangerang and Bekasi, is the second fastest growing megacity on the planet (Robinson, 2011). Current projections show that Jabodetabek's population will reach 38 million people in 2030 (Jakarta municipality, 2014). However, this growth will take place in a city that is facing major problems; all these issues are deeply interconnected and are seriously jeopardizing the city's livability. (Kusno, 2010; Robinson, 2011; Silver, 2007). We believe these problems should be tackled with a radical reconsideration of Jakarta's urban fabric. We propose the double the amount of inhabitants, going from Jakarta to Jajakarta. In 2030 Jakarta will have expended so much due to migration and population growth, and in this process overtaken many adjacent cities, that it will be called Jabodetabekasepususesuci (Jakarta municipality, 2014). An unpronounceable name for a megacity that has become so addictive to growth that it will become uncontrollable. The municipality will be left incapable in effectively managing the dramatically enlarged city.

Stopping the urban sprawl will mean that the city center, known as DKI Jakarta, should increase its density; both in its inhabitants as in floor space, in order to be able to house the majority of the expected growth for all income classes. This change will require a new kind of urban fabric, in which the kampung is intensified. The re-envisioned Kampung will have to house more people then ever while maintaining its diverse income groups. Doubling the population density will offer the opportunity to tackle some of Jakarta's major issues while reimagining the core fabric of the city which is in grave need help.

Jakarta is not the only city that faces these kinds of issues. Other cities in Indonesia such as Yogyakarta, Semarang, Surabaya and Bandung are all facing similar issues due to massive migration from the countryside to the cities. The strategies on an architectural and infrastructural scale are therefor not site specific, but could be implemented within various all of Indonesia's kampungs and other south east Asian cities.

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