(left)
A set of ironstone teacup and saucer from the 1960s with the crowned HK logo, manufactured by Dunn Bennett & Co. in England.

(courtesy of @93collectible, a digital archive of HK historic artefacts)

(right) A view of HK migrants' kitchen

(image by author, from Nov. 22 fieldwork in Reading)



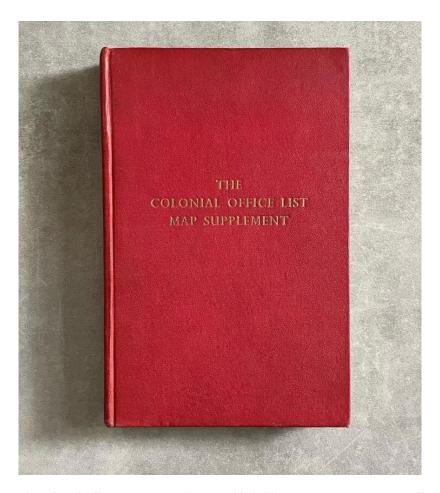


# constructing Belonging

#migration
#Hong Kong
#UK
#stranger encounters
#postcolonial identity

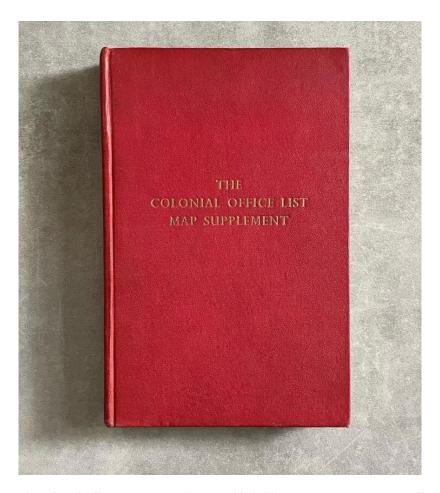
- 1. who migrated where?
- 2. how can we research?
- 3. what do we design?

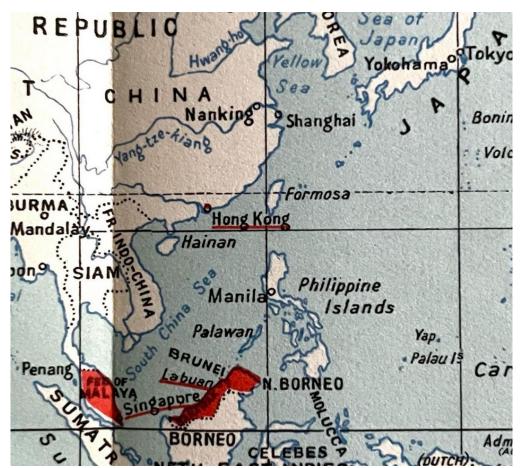
# who migrated where?



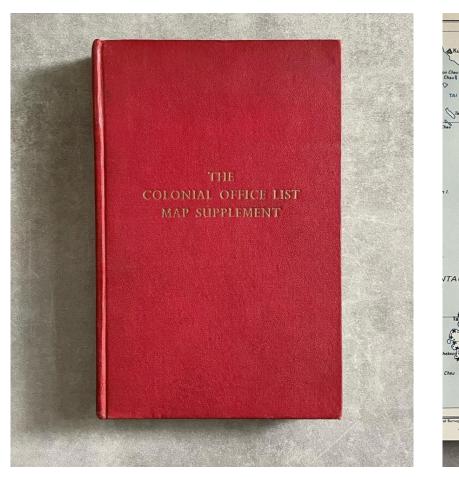


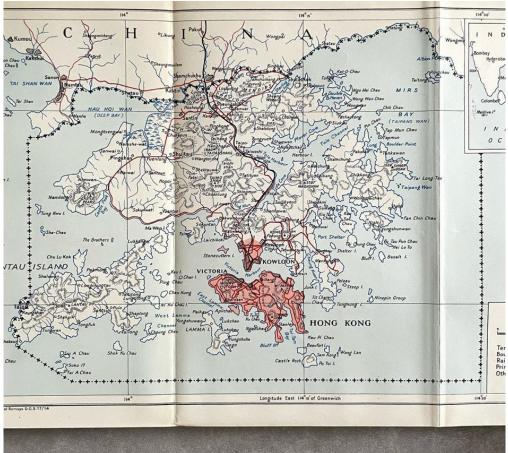
The Colonial Office List Map Supplement, published by His Majesty's Stationery Office (1948) (courtesy of @93collectible, a digital archive of HK historic artefacts)





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The Colonial Office List Map Supplement, published by His Majesty's Stationery Office (1948) (courtesy of @93collectible, a digital archive of HK historic artefacts)

## 1997

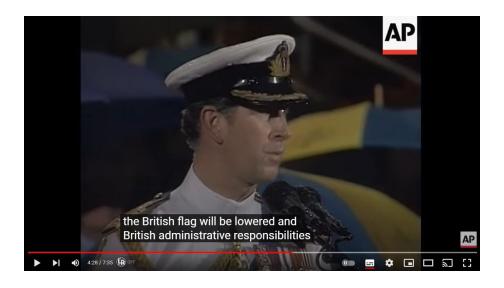
香港主權移交:BBC當時如何報導? - BBC News 中文 https://youtu.be/TfOB4hHS0k0





"For their [China's] leaders, it ends what they called an age of shame and humiliation."

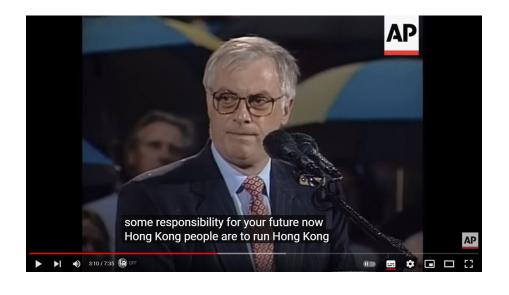
"At the stroke of midnight, history edged HongKong out of the arms of Britain"



"The British flag will be lowered, and British administrative responsibilities will end. But Britain is not saying goodbye to Hong Kong. More than 3 1/2 million Hong Kong residents are British national. Thousands of young Hong Kong men and women study in Britain every year. We share language and the English common-law. And thousands of Britain's too have made their homes in Hong Kong. The shared legacy of family and of friendship, trade and investment, culture and history run strong and deep. Britain is part of Hong Kong's history and Hong Kong is part of Britain's history.

We are also part of each other's future. We are confident of the ties between us will not only endure but will continue to develop."

- then Prince Charles, 1997 HongKong Handover ceremony



"For Hong Kong as a whole, today is cause for celebration, not sorrow. You have made us as welcomed. It has been the greatest honour and privilege of my life to share your home for five years and to have some responsibility for your future.

Now Hong Kong people are to run Hong Kong. that is the promise and that is the unshakable destiny."

- then Governor of HK, Chris Patten, 1997 HongKong Handover ceremony

# "Between imminent decolonization and an emerging postcoloniality lies what we consider to be a significant history: a history of becoming (postcolonial) Hong Kong."

Erni, John Nguyet. 2001. "Like a Postcolonial Culture: Hong Kong Re-Imagined." Cultural Studies 15 (3-4): 389-418.



A British National (Overseas) passport, left, and a Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) passport. Photographer: Paul Yeung/Bloomberg



## 2019



Photo of 2019 Anti-Elab protest in Hong Kong, demonstration with banner that wrote "All the best, Hongkongers", MingPao



Legislation of National Security Law, https://www.bbc.com/zhongwen/trad/chinese-news-53332916

HONG KON

#### Over 100 police officers raid office of Hong Kong pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily

by TOM CRUNDY 18:51, 10 AUGUST 2020 0000000

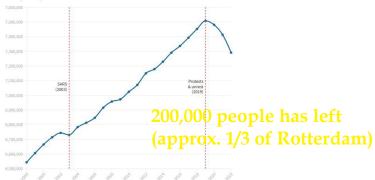


"Over 100 police officers raid office of Hong Kong pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily", Tom Grundy, HKFP, 10 Aug, 2020



Supporters hold signs featuring images of some of the 47 pro-democracy activists outside the magistrates court in Hong Kong. Photograph: Anthony Kwan/Getty Images\_ https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jul/08/hong-kong-trial-47-pro-democracy-activists-delayed-11-week-national-security-law

#### Hong Kong's mid-year population from 1998 to 2022



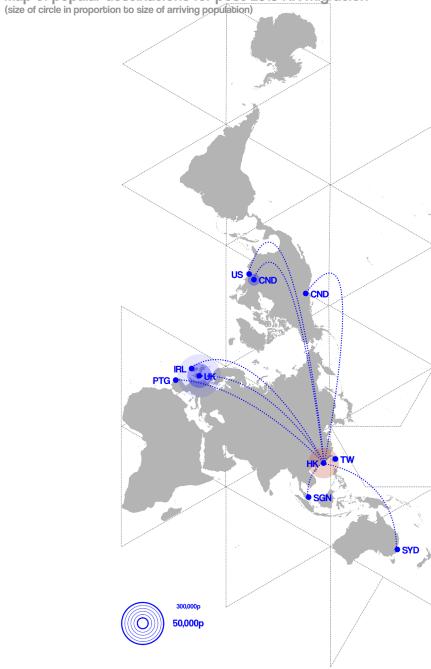
Source: Census and Statistics Department

Hong Kong witnesses largest population net outflow (>70,000) in years, last observed in mid-1966, Census & Statistics Dept., report from HKFP



The departures gate at Hong Kong International Airport last month. Since China introduced its sweeping national security law, tens of thousands of people have made plans to leave the city and start new lives elsewhere. Credit... Anthony Kwan for The New York Times

Map of popular destinations for post-2019 HK migration





A volunteer led a storytelling session in April about a migrant from Hong Kong with puppets she borrowed from a library. Mary Turner for The New York Time

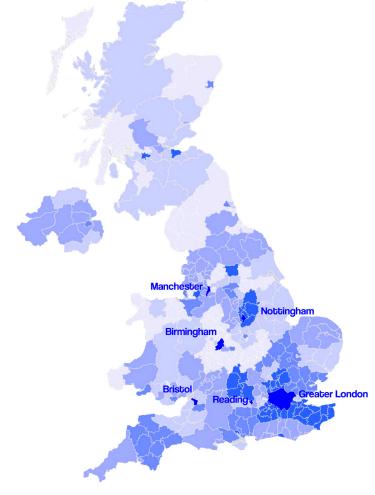


"if you don't connect with each other and help each other and do things for each other — what do you do?" said David Wong, a cellist who once played during Hong Kong protests and enjoys the sense of community in Sutton. Mary Turner for The New York Times

#### Population density by AREA of arriving HK migrants

	<u>popº % *</u>	<u>km</u> ²		
Greater London	22.3%	/ 1569	*100	= 1.4
Manchester	8.2%	/ 115.6	*100	= 7.0
Birmingham	4.8%	/ 267.8	*100	= 1.8
Reading	4.2%	/ 40.4	*100	= 10.4
Bristol	4.0%	/ 110	*100	= 3.6
Nottingham	3.2%	/ 74.61	*100	= 4.3

\*only the 6 most representative locations are included in this table; data taken from "Survey Report on HK BN(O) Arrivals' Preferred Destinations", June 2021, by HongKongers In Britain





View of Reading Train Station towards London (image courtesy to Reading Gov.)

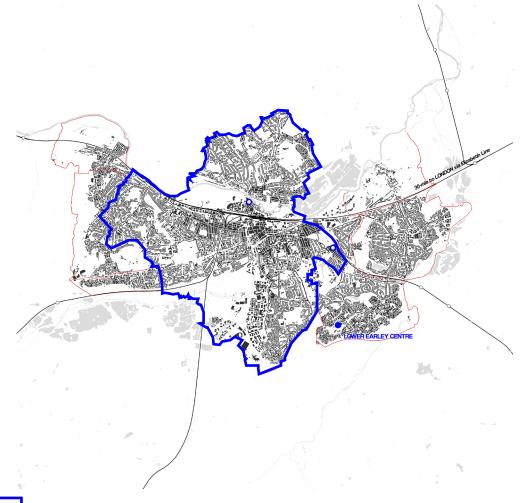


Opening of full Elizabeth Line in 2022, connecting Reading to the Underground network of Central London (photo taken by researcher on field visit in Nov, 2022)

### Map of Reading in relation to Greater London

(map below shows Reading municipal boundary in BLUE and the urban area around)





"The expectation is that this is going to be quite a distinctive migration wave because of how high-skilled it is and the kind of contributions it can make to the knowledge economy..."

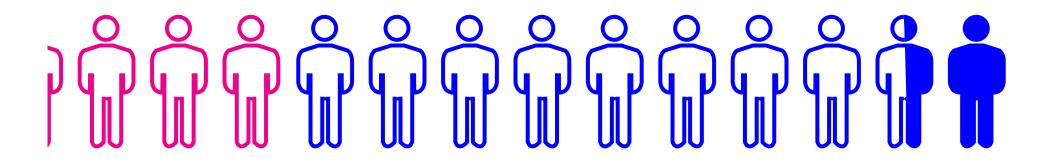
- Peter William Walsh, a senior researcher at the University of Oxford's Migration Observatory

population of HK arrivals from 2019

(Local Transport Plan 2011-2026)

**1.4**%

3,300 HongKong migrants



233,000

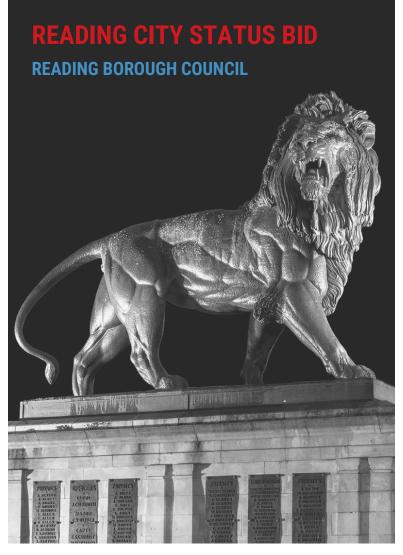
**@Reading's Greater Urban Area total population** 

+3.2%

population increase by 2043

(ONS population projections 2018-based)

Reading City Status Bid, 2021, prepared by Reading Borough Council in the hope of achiving the city status, a honorary title that has no monetary value, but could attract investment and the overall city branding scheme









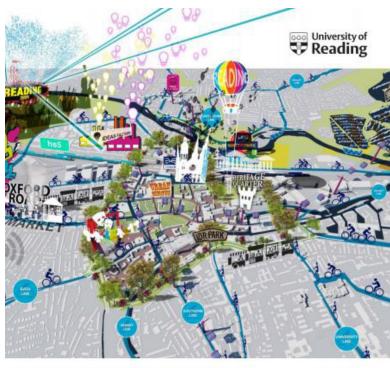












Reading City Status Bid, 2021, prepared by Reading Borough Council in the hope of achiving the city status, a honorary title that has no monetary value, but could attract investment and the overall city branding scheme

#### Reading 2050 a smart and sustainable city?

Edited by Tim Dixon and Lorraine Farrelly School of the Built Environment University of Reading

Public Lecture Series (2017-2019)



by 2050...

- 1. Green Tech City
- 2. City of Rivers and Parks
- 3. City of Culture and Diversity

now -----> 2050





(above) Reading now

(opposite) Reading imagined by artist in 2050

Reading City Status Bid, 2021, prepared by Reading Borough Council

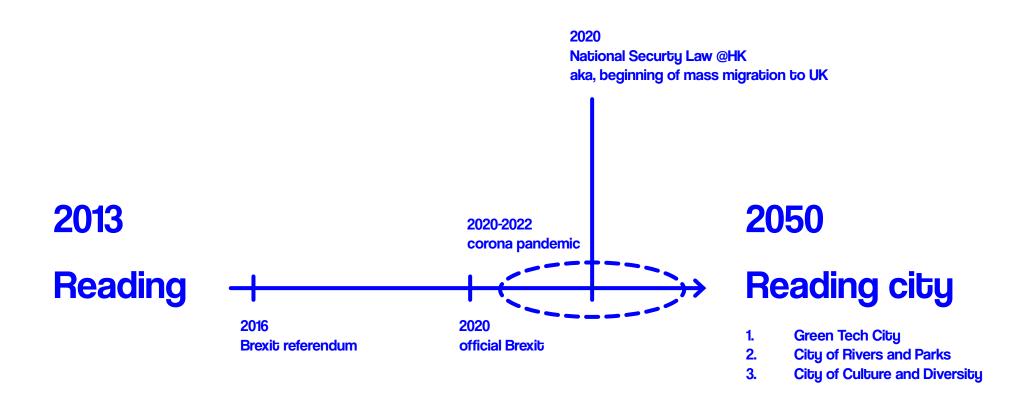


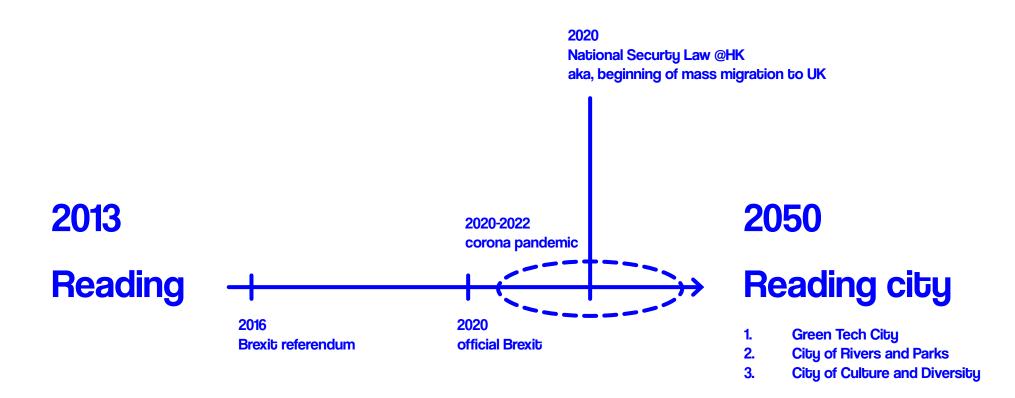


2013 2050

Reading — Reading city

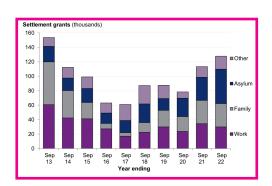
- 1. Green Tech City
- 2. City of Rivers and Parks
- 3. City of Culture and Diversity



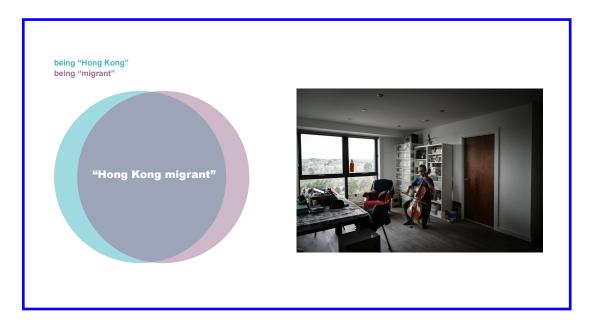


"Immigration is going to be a major part of British national life in the decades ahead."

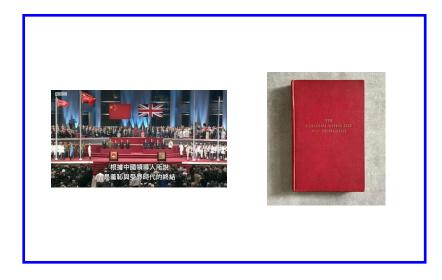
- James Kirkup, SMF



#### **HK migrants**



#### **British imperialism**



#### Reading becoming a city



#### **HK** migrants



#### **British imperialism**



#### Reading becoming a city



#### **HK migrants**

What are the spatial implications of this unique migration from HK to UK in relation to the construction of a cultural identity for the disaporic bodies?

#### **British imperialism**

How can we speculate a post-colonial spatial identity that is critical of the imperialist history of Britain?

#### Reading becoming a city

In reaction to the emerging global challenges, such as the recent HK immigration, how can we re-evaluate the Reading2050 vision?

Q: In establishing a critical attitude to British Imperialism, how does one take the unique case of recent HK migration to Reading (UK) as a field of conflicts to speculate a post-colonial space, that affords said HK migrant bodies to construct their Belonging, i.e. their diasporic identity?

## how can we research?

(left)
A set of ironstone teacup and saucer from the 1960s with the crowned HK logo, manufactured by Dunn Bennett & Co. in England.

(courtesy of @93collectible, a digital archive of HK historic artefacts)

(right) A view of HK migrants' kitchen

(image by author, from Nov. 22 fieldwork in Reading)





#### Menu of Gala Resaurant in 1930s Hong Kong (courtesy to D.K. Samuel LAI @samuellai.hkarchive)

	Dce Creamo	雪 糕
	1 Vanilla	\$ 1.00 香 草
Ehirot Quenchero 各式凍飲	2 Strawberry	
- X-4 W	3 Chocolate	
41 Couble Malted Milk	4 Neapoliten	
42 Horlick's Malted Milk	5 Mango	
43 Iced Ovaltine	J Mango	1.50 &
44 Fresh Orange Squash		To All 1 h 1
45 Fresh Lemon Squash	Dce Cream Sodas	雪糕梳打
46 Iced Coffee	See Cream Soado	
47 Iced Lemon Tea	4 1/ 111	
48 Fresh Milk	6 Vanille	
49 Iced Cream Coffee With Cream 2.00 实 啡 雪 糕	7 Strawberry	
50 Coca Cola	8 Chocolate	
51 Green Spot	9 Wild Cherry	
52 Sunkist Orange	10 Lemon	1.50 檸 檬
53 Sunkist Lemon	II Orange	1.50 香 橙
54 7 Up	12 Pineapple	
55 Lime Juice Soda	13 Mango	
Beverages & &	Oce Cream Sundaes	雪糕新地
56 Beef Tea	See Cream Sunadeo	查 术志刊 10
57 Chicken Tea		
58 Hot Milk	14 American Girl	\$1,50 美國女耶
59 Hot Chocolate	15 Pear Helene	
59 Hot Chocolate	16 Peach Melba	
61 Hot Horlick LOO 藝 好 立 克		
62 Tea (Per Person)	17 Pineapple Coconut	
63 Coffee (Per Cup)	18. Caramel	
64 Coffee With Cream 1.30 鮮奶油噪啡	19 Chocolate Nut	
65 Hot Cocoa	20 Maple Walnut	
	21 Crushed Strawberry	1.50 楊 梅 窘
Assorted Cut Cakes 蛋糕	22 Tutti-Frutti	
66 Cakes (Assorted) Each	6 . 19 8 8	# X #/ 12
67 Cream Puff	Special Dce Cream Creations	各式新地
68 Chestnut Cake (Per Portion)		
69 Fresh Cream Cake (Per Portion)	23 GALA'S Spacial	
70 Apple Pie (Per Portion)	24 Banana Split	
71 Apple Pie aala Mode (Per Portion)		
22 11 2 51 . 2 .		
Welles & Hot Cakes 热 新		
(Served with Maple Syrup or Honey)	27 Woodland	
72 Waffle with Syrup	28 Peter Pan Special	2.00 彼 得 潘
73 Chocolate Waffle	. 29 Washington	2.00 華 茲 頓
7.4 Banana Hot Cake		
74 Banana Hot Cake	Fruit Juices	40 22 M 24
75 Jam Pancake	Fruit Juices	新鮮菓汁
77 Toast Butter or Jam		
	30 Fresh Orange	
Sandwicheo 三文治	31 Grape	1.20 葡 菌 汁
	32 Tomato	
	33 Pineapple	
79 Chicken & Ham	- Company of the Comp	
	OMILL CLI	do to to al
	Milk Shakes	各式奶昔
83 Egg	34 Vanilla	\$160 季 並
	35 Chocolate	
	36 Strawberry	
87 Hamburger Sandwich	37 Ovaltine	
88 Hamburger Roll	38 Orange	
89 Hot Dog Roll	39 Wild Cherry	1.60 櫻 裸

Interview with D.K. Samuel LAI by Mill MILK, extracted from https://youtu.be/6\_IQBGeuDHs





"because this is our [HongKong's] food culture."

#### (left)

Interview with D.K. Samuel LAI by Mill MILK, extracted from https://youtu.be/6\_IQBGeuDHs

#### (right)

Plan of CaaCaanTeng typology (courtesy to D.K. Samuel LAI @samuellai.hkarchive)

















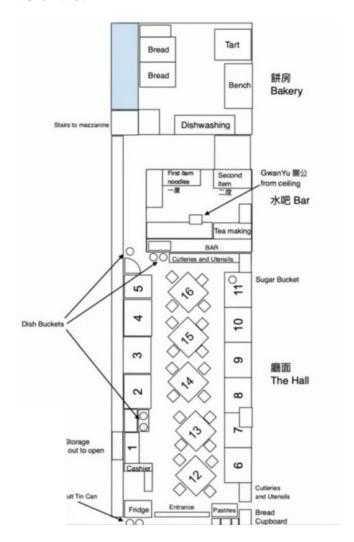
#### **Ice House**

#### Kopi tiam

冰室

#### CaaCaanTeng

茶餐廳



"Food has a constant tendency to transform itself into situation."

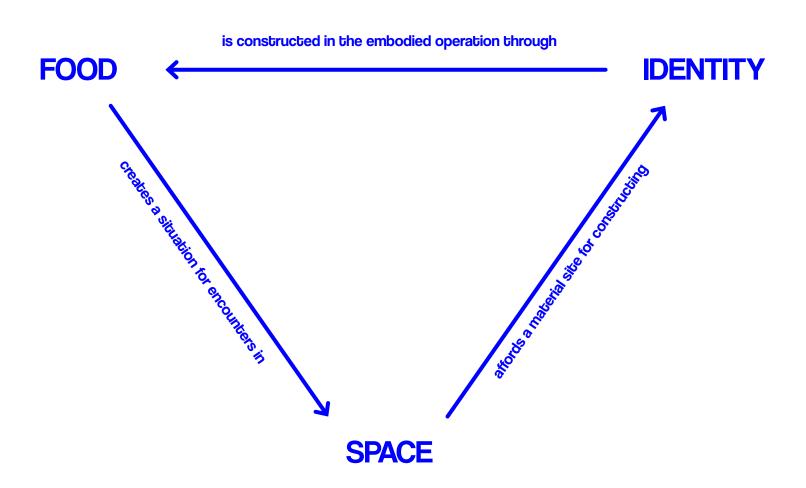
- Roland Barthes (1971)

"Food is not only a metaphor or vehicle of communication; a meal is a physical event."

- Mary Douglas (1994)

#### **FOOD x SPACE x IDENTITY**

#### the alimentary-spatio-political intersection



## **Sep, 2022**

## Nov, 2022



























1.



"walk together" 社區散步

[12-14]

researcher will follow the interviewee to prepare the meals, and conduct a walking interview along the trip

2.

+



"cook together"

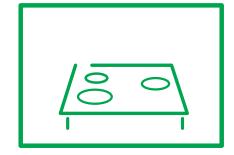
一齊煮飯

[16-18]

researcher will prepare the meal together with the interviewee in their home kitchen

3.

+



"eat together"

一齊食飯

[18-20]

researcher will sit at table with the interviewee, and have a meal together













Whatsapp conversations with interviewee to arrange visits (Nov, 2023)





Images from walking interview during grocery (Nov, 2023)

 $* faces\ of\ interviewees\ are\ covered\ for\ privacy\ reasons$ 



"ALDI" a.



Polish store b.





Asian store



"Reading Quality d. Fish"



open-air veg e. market

Chinese supermarket f.



"Morrison" g.





**Halal store** 

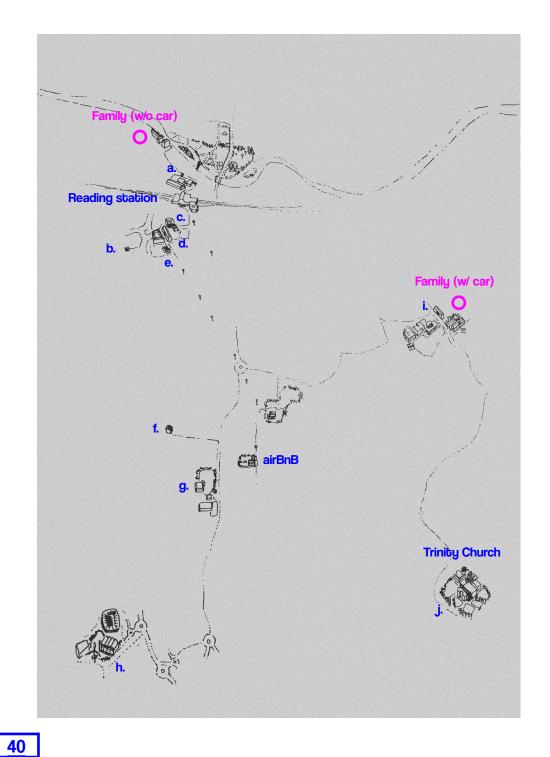
i.

h. "COSTCO"





"ASDA"



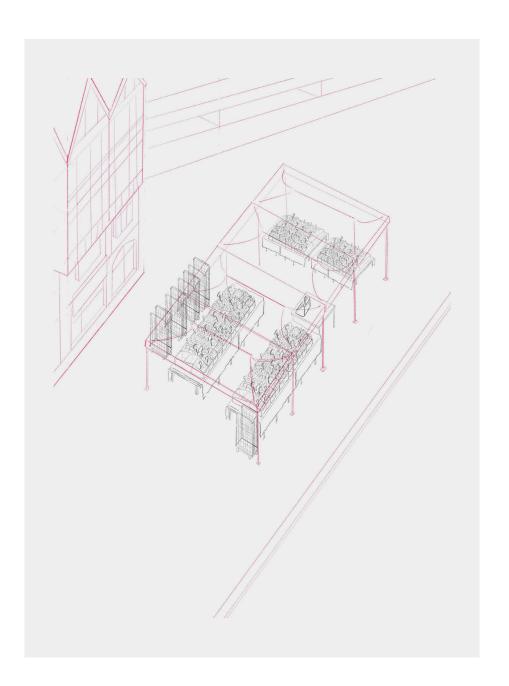






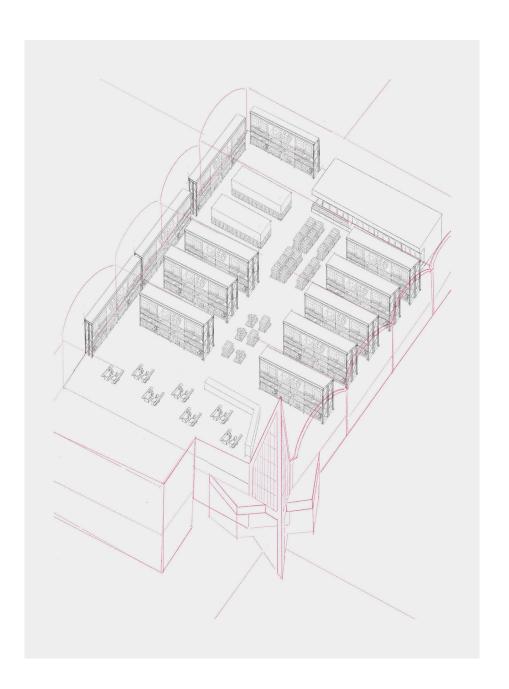














Video of the process of preparing the meal together with the interviewee host, with research-partner at London (Nov, 2023)













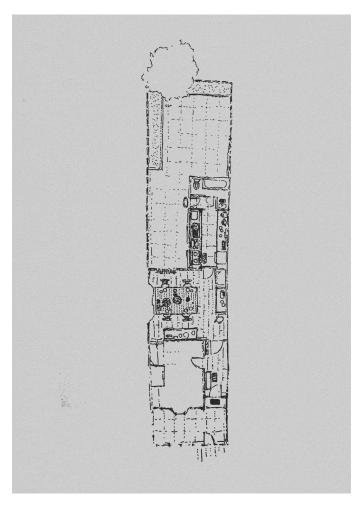


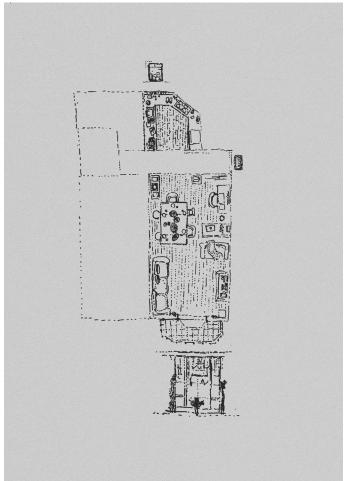




"Through embodied movements, the citation operates to recall and reconnect with places elsewhere that, through those very movements, are remembered; at the same time, a site of diasporic belonging is created."

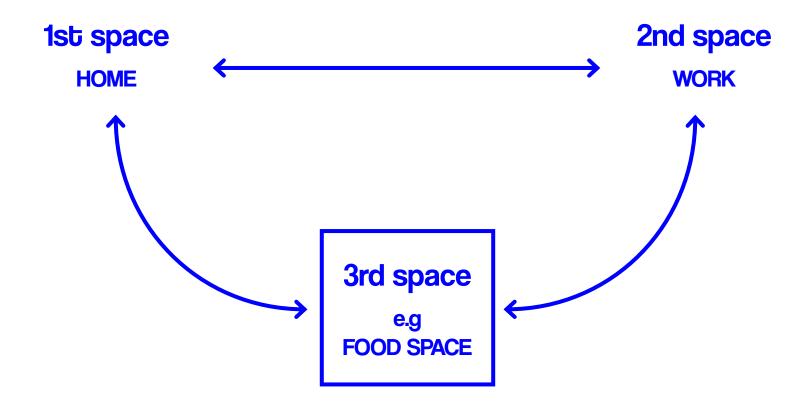
- Vikki Bell, Performativity & Belonging, An Introduction





Plan drawing recreated from documentation of HK migrants' home during event of hospitality (Nov, 2023)

1st space → 2nd space → work



Trinity Church, largest Cantonese chapter in Reading



HongKong-themed market at Reading (screenshot from instagram @what7theshop)





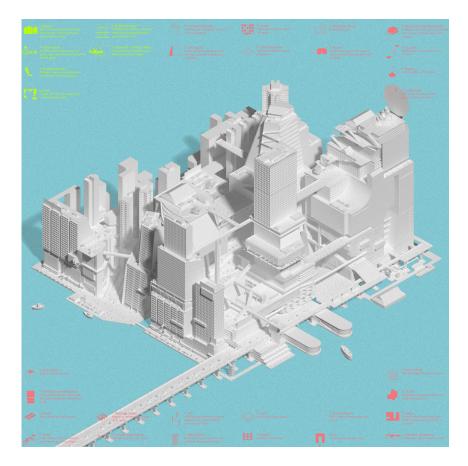
friendship festival (organized by church afiliated UKHK)



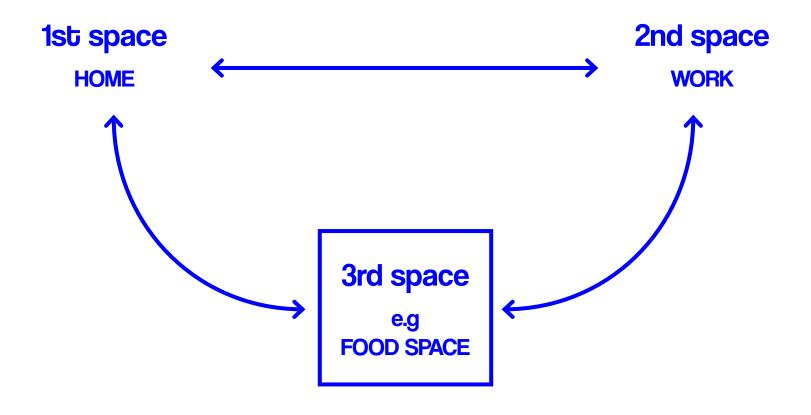


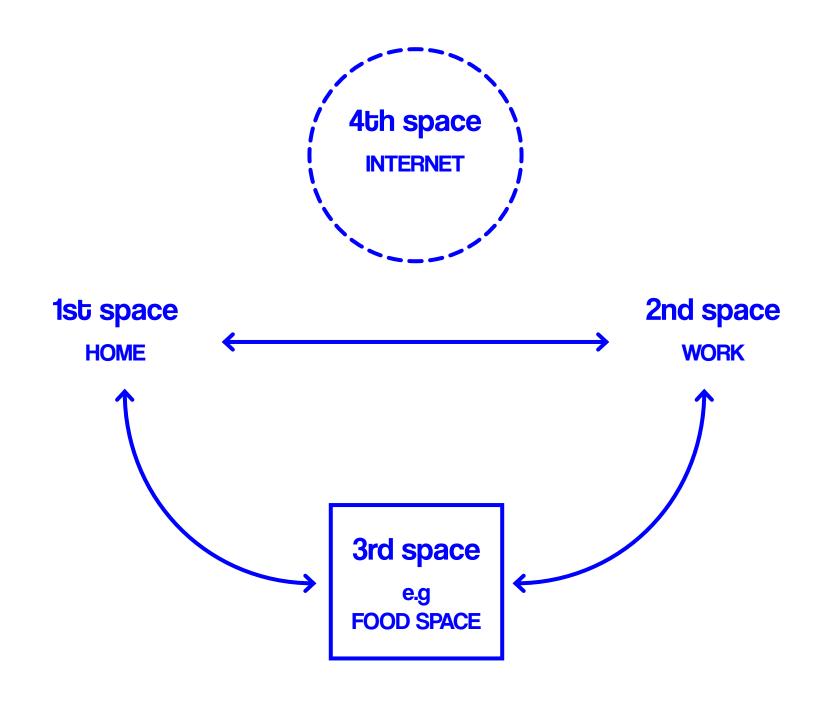
"Hong Kong is Dead, Long Live Hong Kong", thesis project speculating the architectural design of the rebuilding HK, by Desmond Man-kit Choi @KADK





A proposal of rebuilding the entire HK in the NW of Scotland with the chartered city concept, proposed in 1980s in the wake of rising anxiety over 1997 handover, and recently popular in HK society





Home-run Cantonese-style grills (@Reading, to be ordered through Facebook)

DancingWok, a food delivery platform connecting HK home chefs in the UK to online customers







Youtuber teaching Cantonese receipe to HK audience in the UK (extracted from https://youtu.be/AveY8fhk9RA)





Telegram group for HK mgirants in Reading (screenshot by researcher)



#### 雷丁Reading交流組◀

3.344 members, 144 online



笑口棗都好易整

就係將啲嘢溝嚟溝去、跟住搓波波擺落

Happy sharing | 😂





笑口棗 新手一次成功 移英新生活 唔識學到 識 #新年 #笑口棗 #賀年食品 #移英新生活 #移英 #技能解鎖

材料:

半磅(226g)低筋面粉

白芝麻 80g (浸水15分鐘後隔水)

糖 90g

1隻 雞蛋

1/2 茶匙泡打粉

1/4 茶匙梳打粉

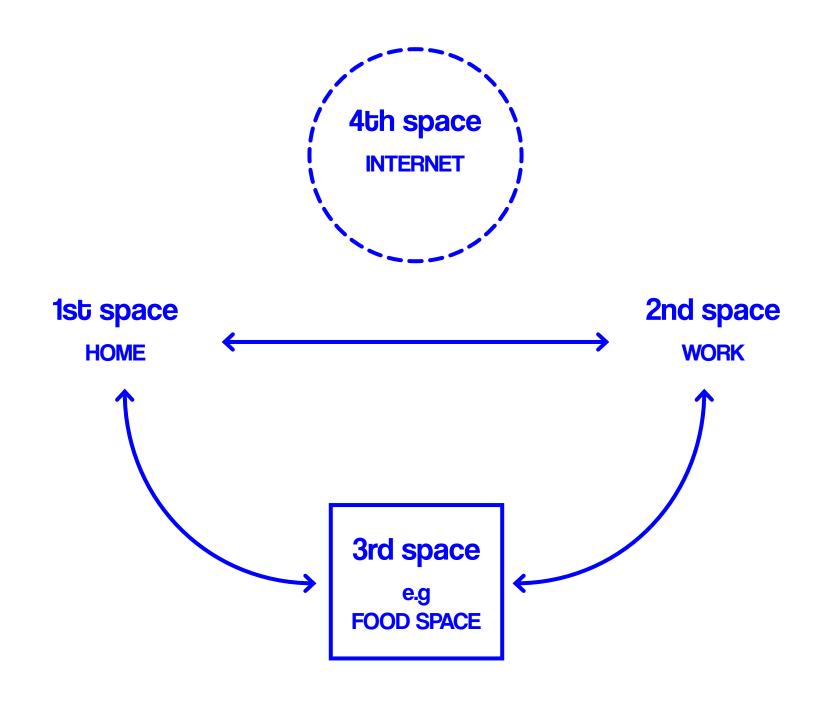
2 茶匙食油2 湯匙水4碗 煮食油做法:1...

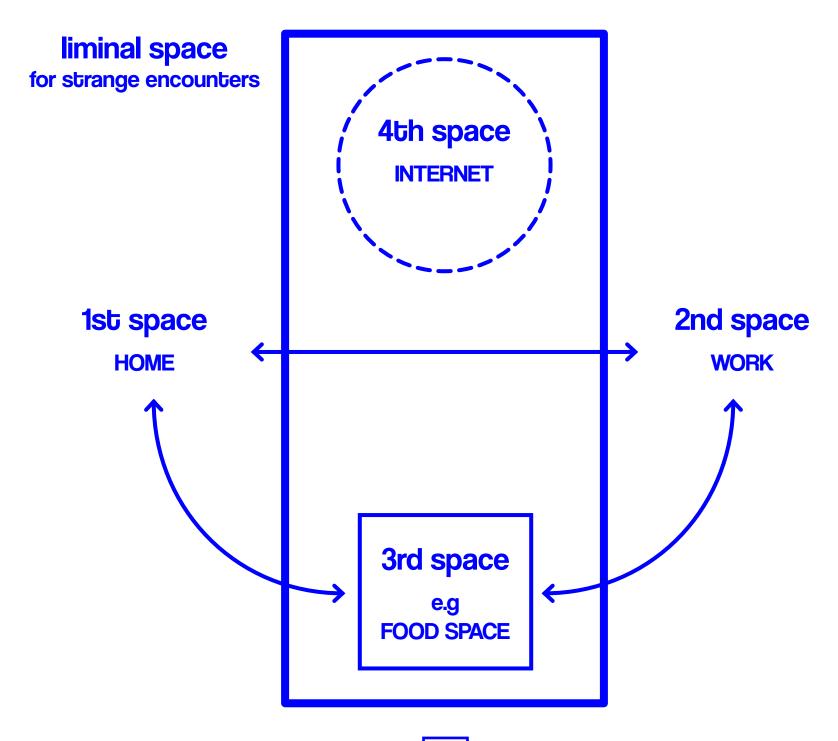
低筋面粉用邊隻? 16:04

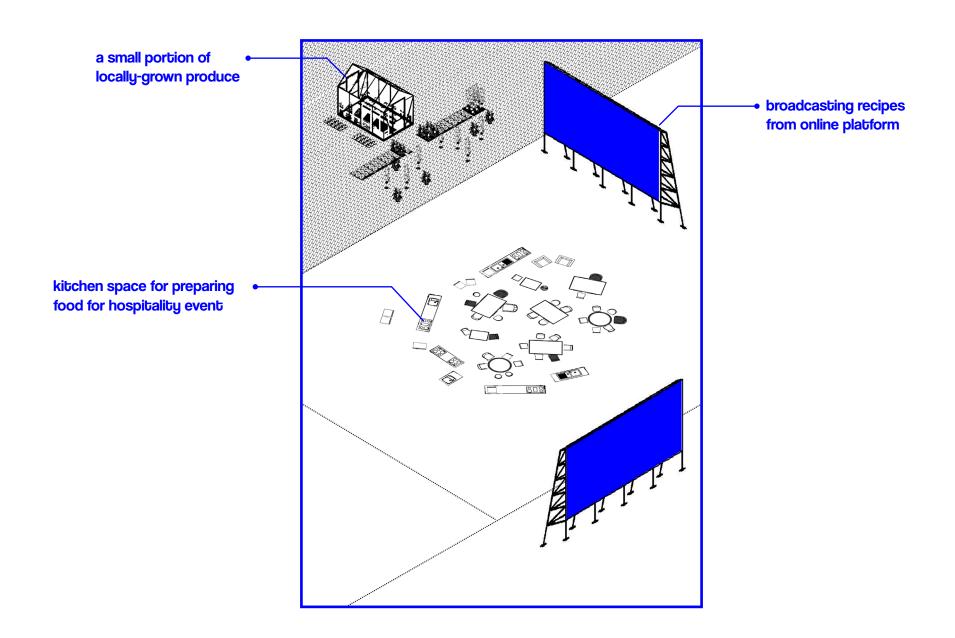
"My model of strange encounters as a form of political activism and collective work suggests that we need to find ways of re-encountering these encounters so that they no longer hold other others in place...

Collectivises are formed through the very work that has to be done in order to get closer to other others."

- Sara Ahmed, "Strange Encounters - embodied others in post-coloniality"







Q: Taking "food" as a situation around which diasporic HongKong migrant bodies construct their Belonging; and taking "food" as physical events displaying a global way of consumption,

how does one speculate a new typology (and architectural language) that stands critical to the British colonial history while programmatically providing the affordances for the construction of a new collectivity based on strange encounters?

## what do we design?

programme + site + design strategy

# programme:

Open Kitchen

#### **Urban Kitchen**

@Barcelona, Spain

"cooking does not form part of the domestic and private realm but happens in the public sphere as part of an open metropolitan organization that aims to have a political voice."



#### **Empire Remains Shop**

@London, UK

"We have developed this research looking basically at food, network and infrastructure, that was put in place by the British empire and tracking its legacies today. So what the empire marketing board did was to write a series of receipes. For us, many of these receipes really became a map, so in which you can really understand the how the empire was functioning."



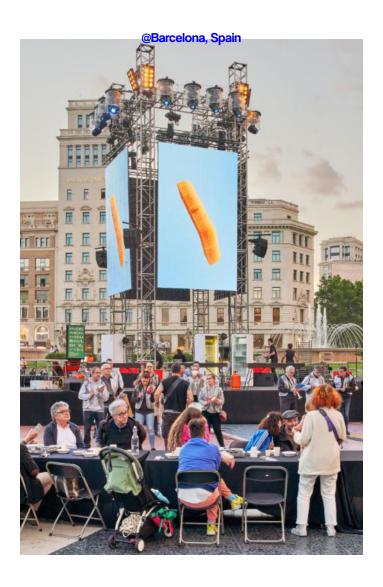
@São Paulo, Brazil

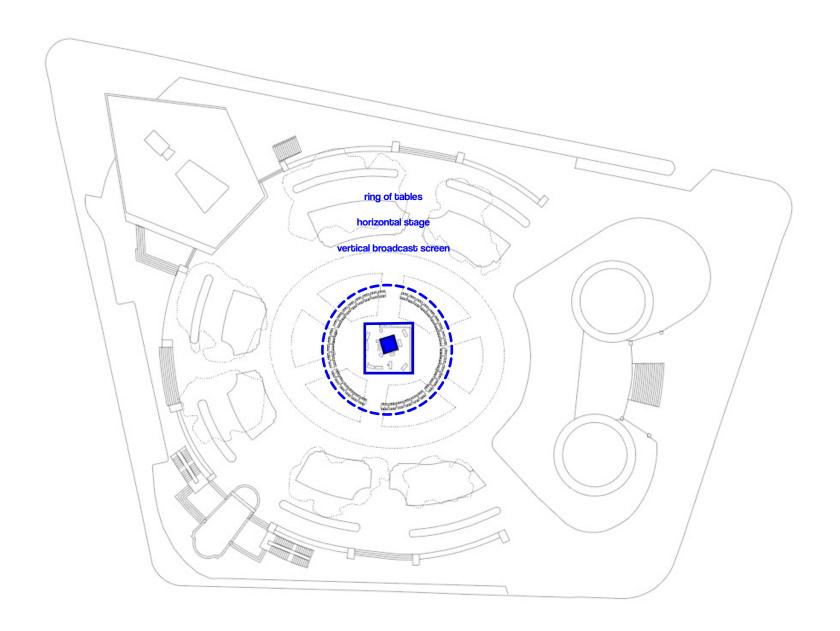
"the audience is not a target, but rather an active participant who, in addition to visiting, can also propose activities, making the space a locale for encounters, development and experimentation: a living monument, a place where to remember is to act."

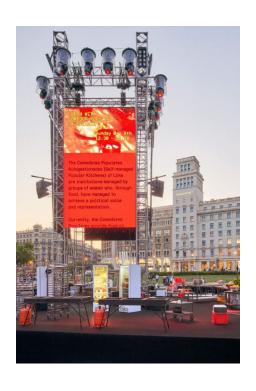




## **Urban Kitchen**













## **Empire Remains Shop**

@London, UK

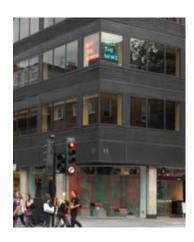


























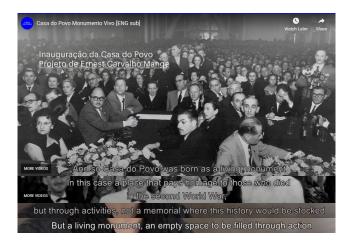




## Casa do Povo

@São Paulo, Brazil





Casa do Povo Cornerstone Ceremony, 1946, São Paulo, Brazil. Archive: Casa do Povo / Instituto Cultural Israelita Brasileiro.

(retreated from https://www.e-flux.com/ notes/480764/from-a-so-paulo-jewish-collective-frankfurter-allgemeine-zeitung-s-false-rumors-about-documenta-and-anti-semitism)

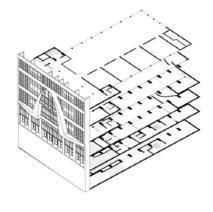


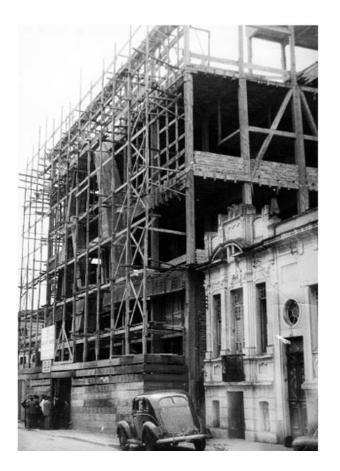
"And so Casa do Povo was born as a living monument. In this case a place that pays homage to those who died in the second World War, but through activities, not a memorial where this history would be stocked. But a living monument, an empty space to be filled through action."

























### design attitude(s)

**(1)** Be iconic form as cultural symbool [casa do povo] **(2)** Be public threshold as communication interface [empire remains shop] **(3)** Be open [casa do povo] positioned as a living monument with open floor plan **(4)** Be oppurtunistic concentric layout to existing square [urban kitchen] **(5)** Be bodily suspended table to discomfort guests [empire remains shop]

## site:

## abandoned English Pub

retrofitting an abandoned English pub into an open kitchen with new reception





#### Reading pub Earley Retreat now on the market

25th October 2021

The Earley Retreat has been shut since the first lockdown, with its closure being confirmed by owners Mitchell & Butler. Credit: Joy Luck

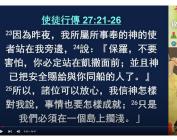


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A Reading pub remains closed after being shut since the first lockdown.

















Lower earley + M4 highway (1970)







### Reading city centre



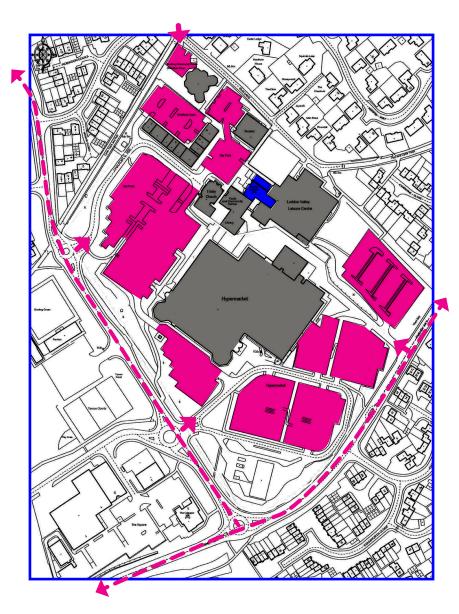
Trinity Church



Library



ASDA (supermarket)





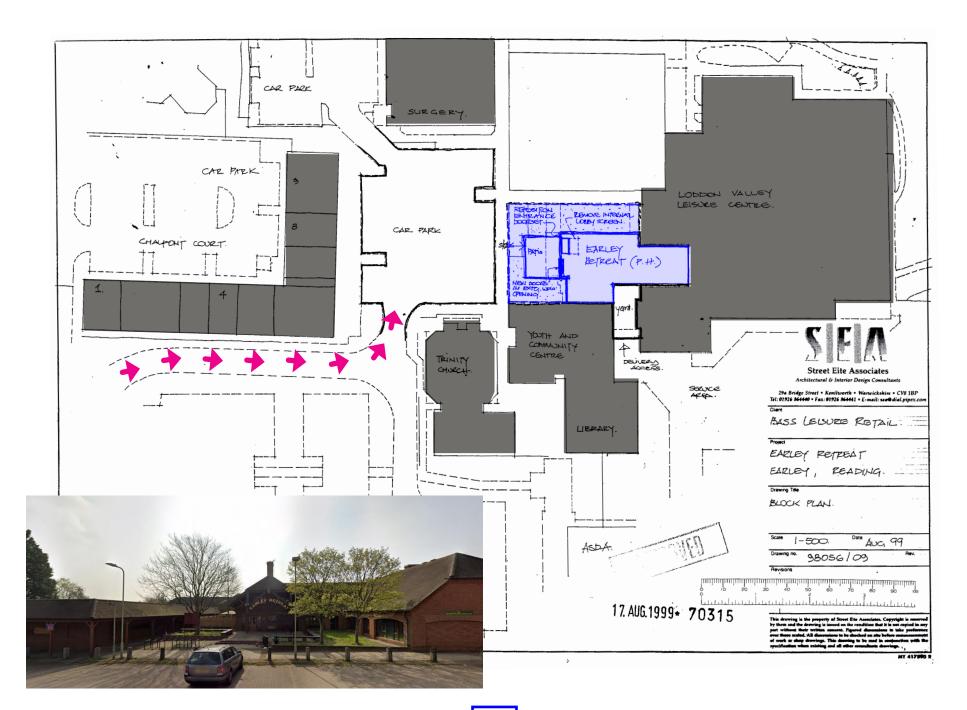
Salvation Army



English pub

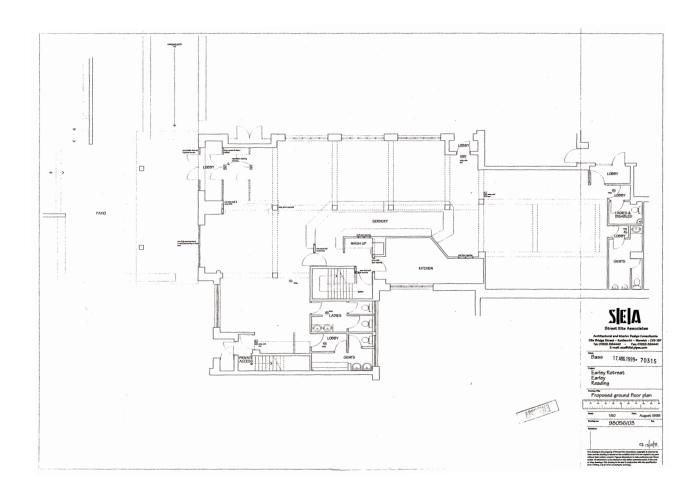


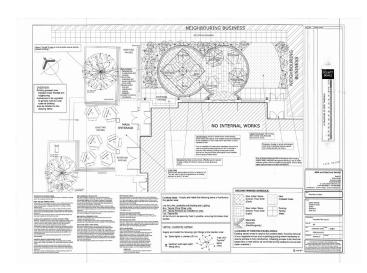
Leisure Centre

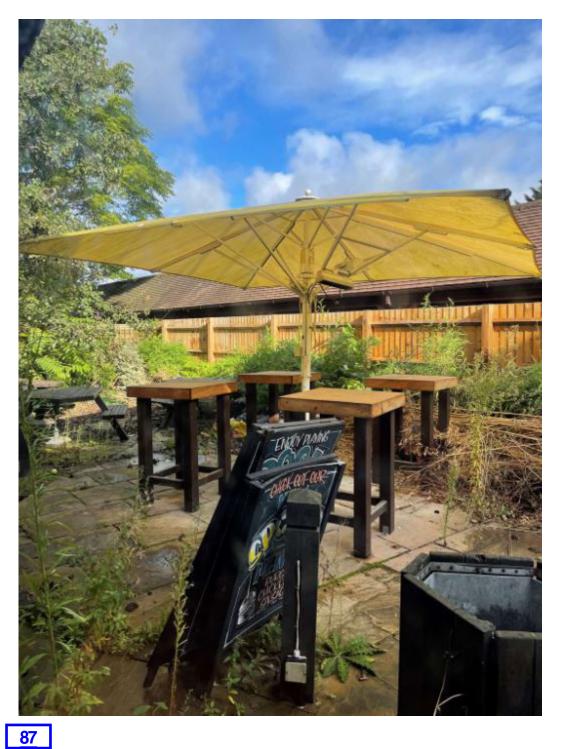




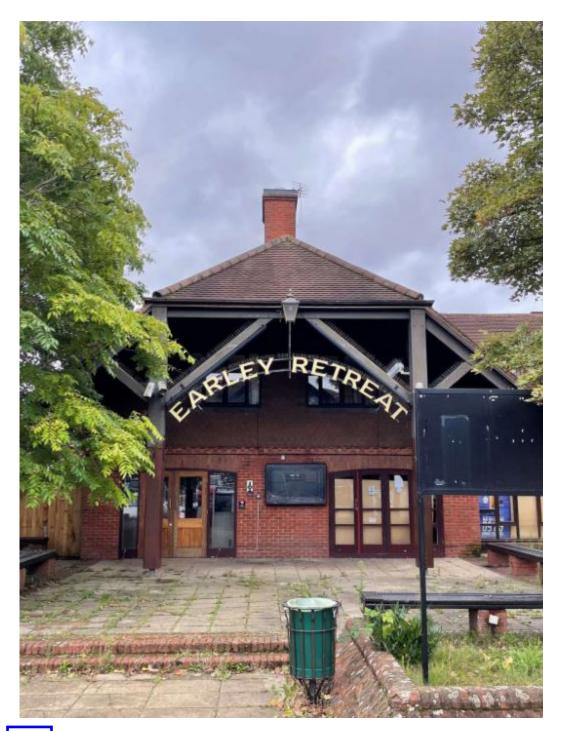


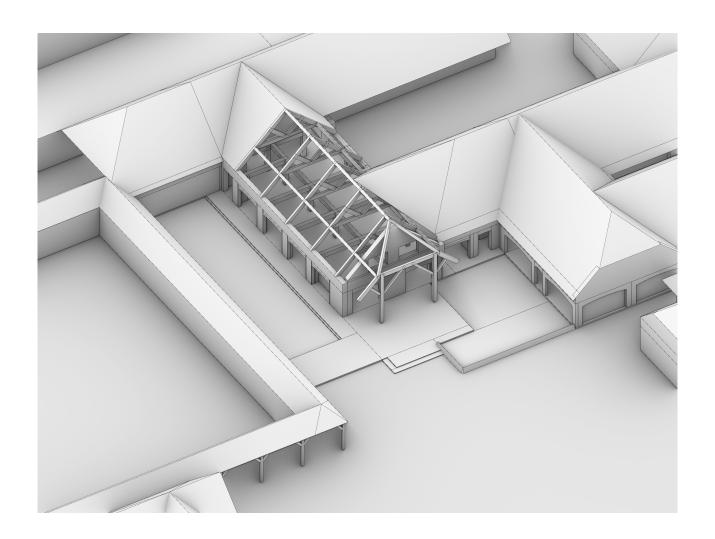












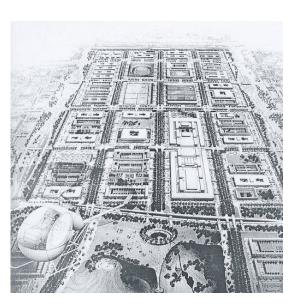
# design strategy:

## **Operation of Transfer**

- 1. form as formwork
- 2. form in new material

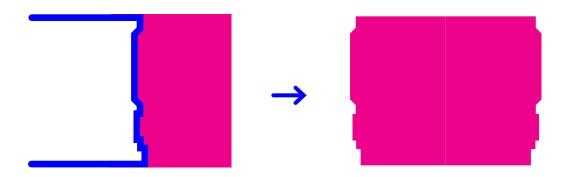
"The world is full of forms and shapes, and humans are very quick to spot pure or pattern form from complex environments. Placing them [the forms] can then pull a precise situation out of the background."

- 6a architects, interviewed by Lucia Allais in "Everything's found": Shapes in 6a architects' Recent Work





### 1. form as formwork





House (1993) Rachel Whiteread



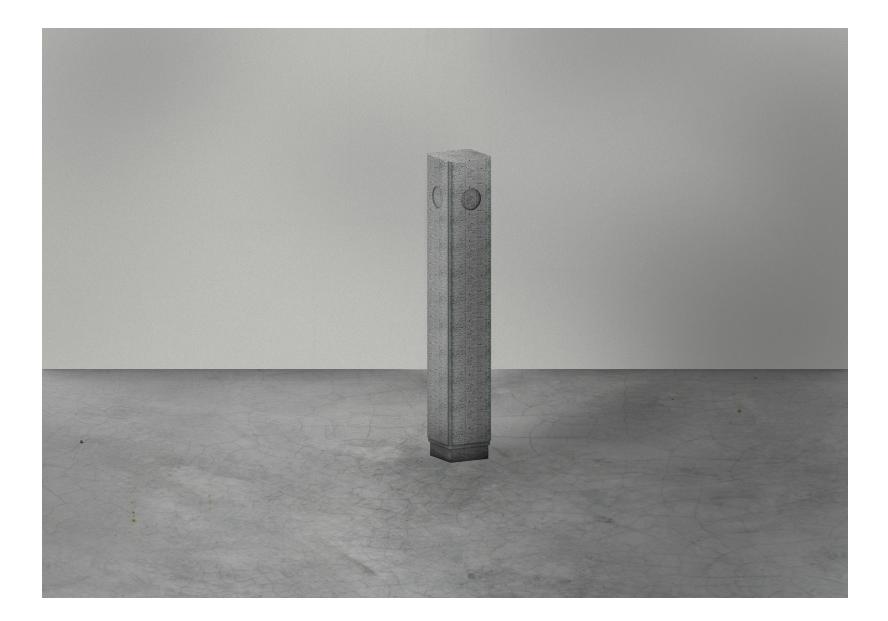






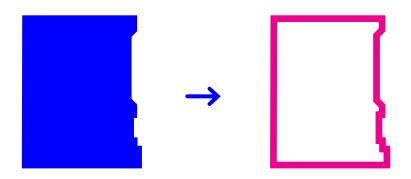








### 2. form in new material

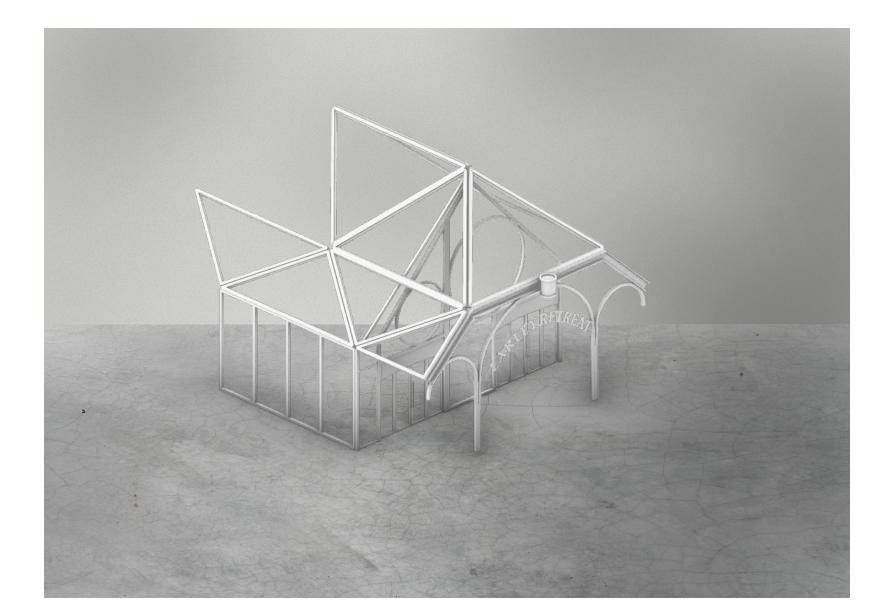




FRAC Dunkerque (2013) Lacation & Vassal









### **furniture**





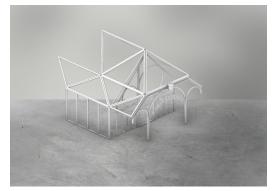






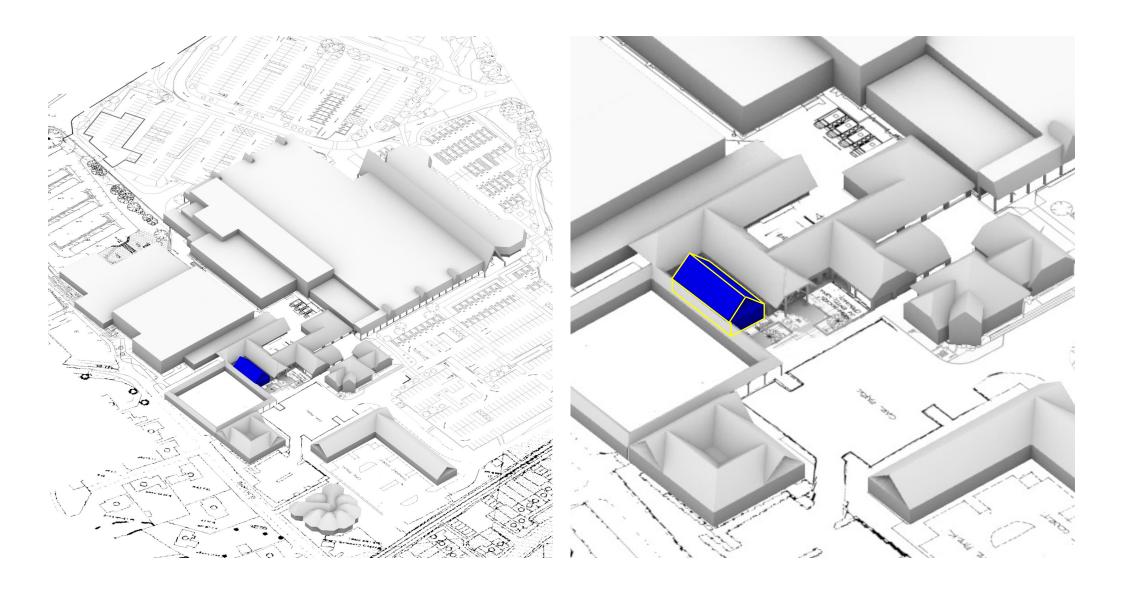














0 0.2 1 2 (m)

"... we may be postcolonial in the historical and administrative sense. But discursively, postcoloniality is nothing but the materialization of a distortion, of a surplus of confusion and perturbation introduced by a continuous sense of mutation into the so-called 'objective' Hong Kong historiography."

Ackbar Abbas (1997), quoted by John Nguyet Erni in *Like A Postcolonial Culture: Hong Kong Re-imagined (2001)*