

P4 REFLECTION

REASSEMBLE THE CO-EXISTENCE:

THE CULTURAL COMMUNITY ON THE CLIFF

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METHODS AND ANALYSIS, TUD

0 Preface

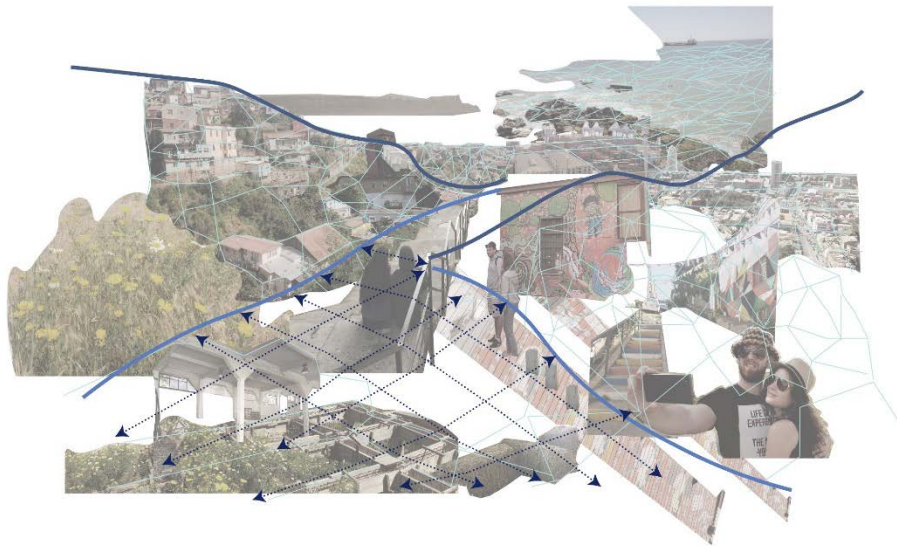
“Constructing the commons” in the context of Valparaiso, Chile, South America is the topic under the theme “Position in Practice”, in the track of Method and Analysis. Since September last year, throughout the nine months of graduation studio, I have observed, analyzed, researched, reorganized, and envisaged some aspects in the urban to explore what exactly is the real commons in the city.

What are the commons in contemporary and local contexts, what are the commons in the architectural vocabulary, and what are the interventions that we achieve commons by, in practice? The following are my research and design results until P4, including the presentation of the theory, program, function, atmosphere, generation process, and results, which are my answers to those questions.

1 Problems: conflicts among common resources

Valparaiso, a traditionally port city, as well as a cultural city now, is facing both challenges and opportunities. From the 19th century, Valparaiso began its development benefiting from the global shipping trade. Its organization of the city, industry and culture grew as a result of the port, which was one of the most important gates on South America coast facing the Pacific Ocean. But with the opening of Panama Canal in 1914, the shipping channels changed, and new means of transportation peeled Valparaiso off from the rapidly changing world. Therefore, the urban space and scene were kept with small changes. And this unique outcome of specific time, economy and nature makes Valparaiso an excellent world heritage and tourist destination under a new round of globalization. The old city faded, while bring the opportunity of the new city. The new city was born from the old, while fighting with the old one.

Common Resources are defined as all the material, space, culture core that affects different groups of people, social issues and relationships. The dismatching of the abundant common resources and the conflicts make me rethink the possibility of reassembling: How shall the city deal with the role of the port when the need of the city changed? How shall the city balance the relationship between tourism and local people? How shall the government and designers solve the unbalanced development of the plain and the hill? How can the local community and traditional workers keep up with the pace of new demand?



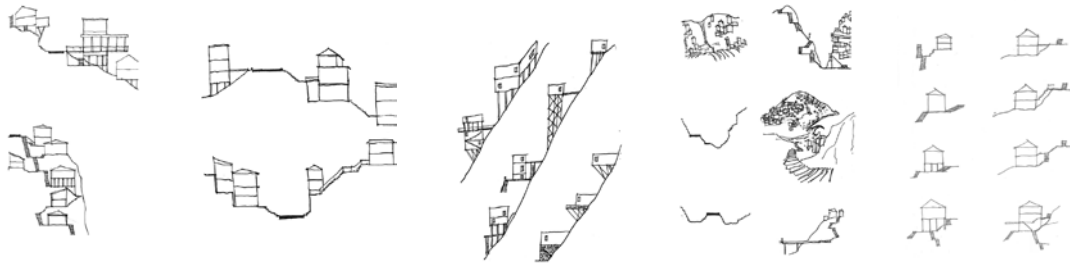
F1. Resources, conflicts, dynamics and frames

2 Observe and research methods

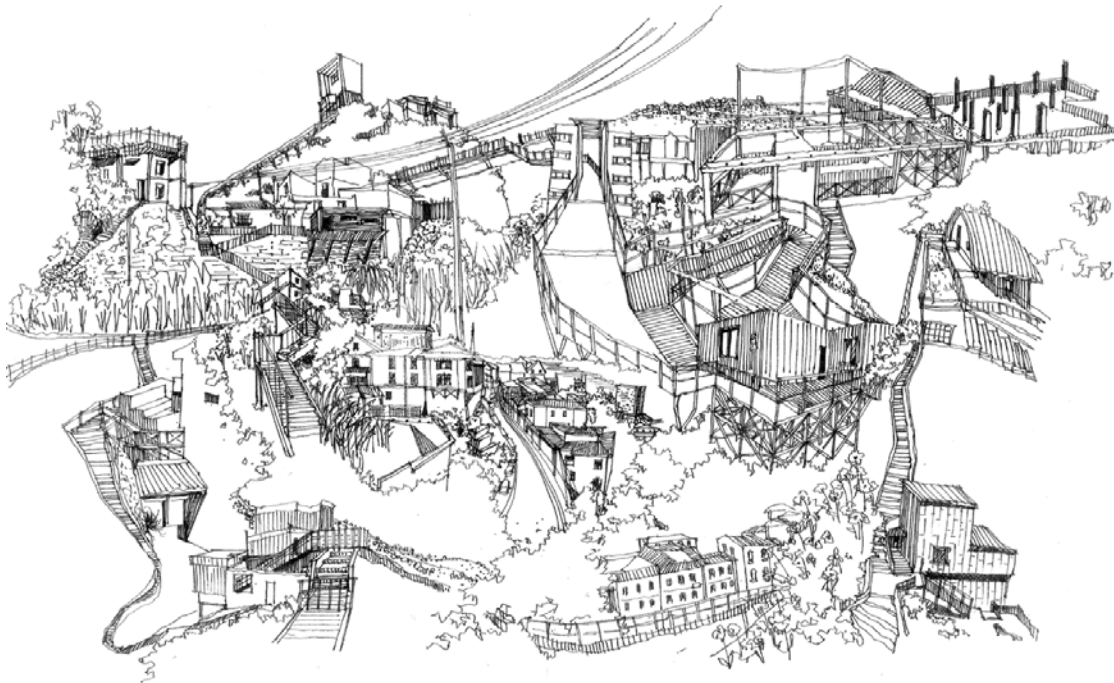
From September to October, I sought for the information online, read books, consulted teachers, email locals, mapped the typical local architectures. In this way, I built a general understanding of the history and context of the entire city, and marked some of the cities' interesting spaces that may produce commons. From October to mid-November, I explored the ground and recorded the city through walking, writing, sketching, data recording, and image recording. Moreover, there is a deeper understanding of the collision between cultures among people in cities and between different groups in cities.

After that, I combed and classified different communities, buildings, materials, which reflects the co-existence of common resources. I narrowed the entire conflict space down to the cliff in the field of spatial types, and to the Cerro Alegre in the field of location.

Starting from these two fields, I assumed the project from the theoretical study and the actual location, then spatialized the project by combining with the typology, and finally determine the intervention method on the site.



F2. Observation and sketches



F3. Experience recording

A stairs	a1	continue	
	a2	split	
	a3	turn	
	a4	disperse	
B balconies	b1	open	
	b2	semi-open	
	b3	closed	
C junctions	c1	flat	
	c2	inclined	
D balconies	d1	roof	
	d2	half-roof	
	d3	linear	
	d4	suspending	

F4. Typology theory

E buildings	e1	level	
	e2	inclined	
F courtyard	f1	open	
	f2	semi-open	
	f3	closed	
	f4	underbuilding	
G passage	g1	open	
	g2	semi-open	
	g3	closed	



F5. Classification on site

3 The research result: The position

3.1 co-existence

The co-existence of common resources includes the following 3 aspects:

The co-existence of Tourist and Locals;

The co-existence of Publicity and Privacy;

The co-existence of Human and Nature;

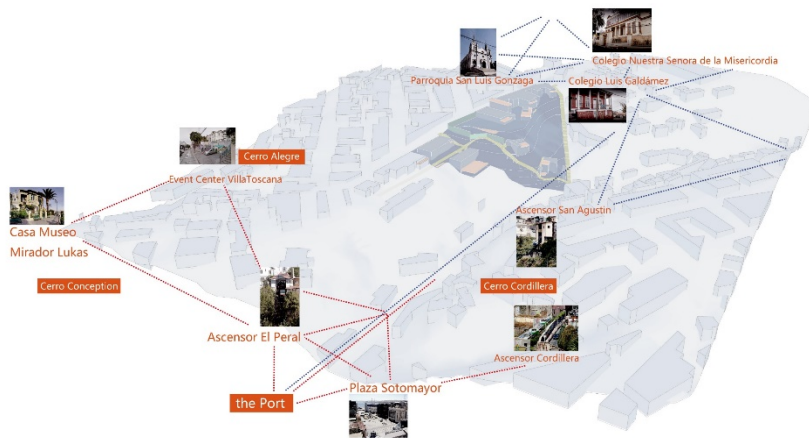
In Valparaiso, a distinctive spot which concentrated the various co-existing issues must be on the Cerro Alegre. Cerro Alegre locates behind Cerro Concepcion and Cerro cordillera, which are the closest two to the port. So the Cerro Alegre is in an in-between place of tourism area and local residence area. This means it has a co-existence of the tourist and the local, the new culture from overseas and the tradition lifestyle.

The public space is in short on the hill, most of which is scattered and hidden. While the stair, balcony, courtyard, bridge, which are built to offer access, serve as common resources for the

local people. They are normally spontaneously constructed by the residents, used by one or several families, so they share the characteristic of both private and public. If we organize those accessing element in a proper way, they may compose common space system, where the publicity and privacy co-exist. Here is also a co-existence of the private domain and the community, which is now declining on the hill. That's why I chose the cliff beside the Monte Alegre Street as my site.

Because of the unique location of the site, you can not only see the busy port and artificially planned plain in distance but feel the rural nature and human inhabitation mixing with each other, as well as shaping each other. Here I would explore the co-existence of nature and human.

The project should fully make use of nature, such as the grass, the terrain, the tree, the sunshine, the sea, to provide an inspiration of the relation between human inhabitation and nature.



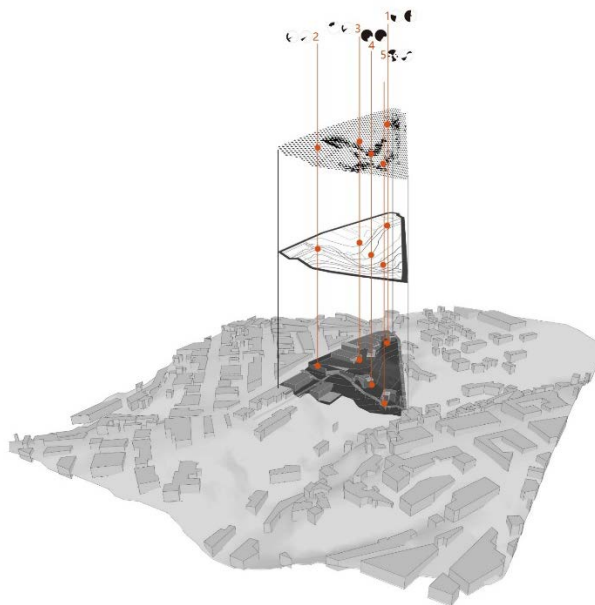
F6. Tourist system and Local system

This complicated and compound reality show the co-existence of differentiations in many aspects. But from my observation and experience in Valparaíso, those differentiation don't persist to be conflict, but can be mutual benefit symbiosis relationship. For example, the tourists may disturb the local's domain, but also in a way inject new vitality to the community. The traditional buildings were old, cheap and built spontaneously, so they are never the same and perfectly adapt to the environment. In my view, the whole city is in a transitional period, and it is the displacement of the co-existence causing the problem, as well as offering the chance.

3.2 reassemble the co-existence

In order to answer the questions about conflict and coexistence, I propose to reassemble the co-existence by analyzing and collecting the already existing resources, then classifying those to neutral elements, evaluating those elements in order to formulate a comprehensive assemblage. The assemblage may include different groups of people and their demands, the activity of people, the existing built environment, and the relationship between people and nature, etc. Those assemblages share some same characteristics, connect with each other in different ways, and enable us to comprehend the city as a whole.

The reassembling means “in-between”. The in-between position of “Tourist and Local” is “exchanging”, of “Publicity and Privacy” is “commons”, of “Human and Nature” is “organic”.



F7. Human and nature factors on site

4 Translate and Design

4.1 program

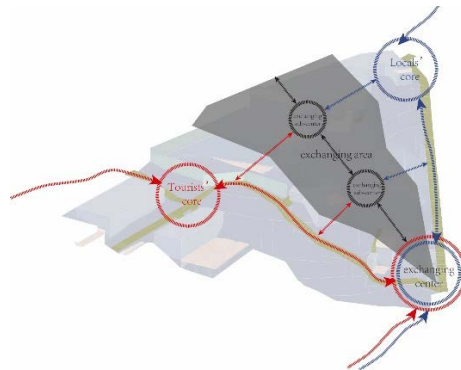
As the basic conflict and segregation of this project locates on the tourist and locals, which is also an important issue of Valparaiso, I define the tourist as a role to buy—such as the postcards, the

sightseeing, the exotic culture; and define the local as a role to sell—sell their tradition, their behavior, and their everyday lives. Reassemble the co-existence means that we create space not for buying nor selling, but for something in-between: exchanging.

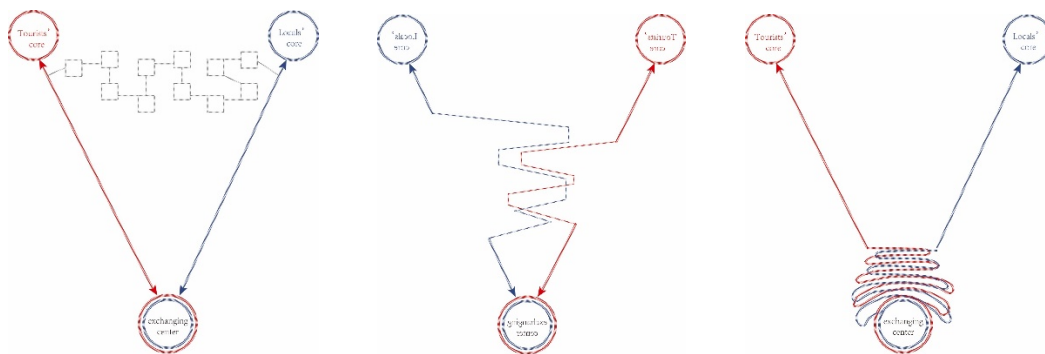
An exchanging place means where the movements of products, impression and people are bidirectional, they are interactive and resonating, thus giving birth to more positive possibilities more than only existing or even conflicts.

Exchanging activities can be sorted to different patterns according to the exchanged objects and people’s behaviors: they exchange products in retail store and recycling organization; they exchange cultural experience and thoughts in exhibition and library; they exchange emotional resonance and spiritual commons.

Based on those 3 patterns, the whole projects are composed of 3 segments: the renewal community, the museum and the theater.



F8. Tourist system and Local circulations on site



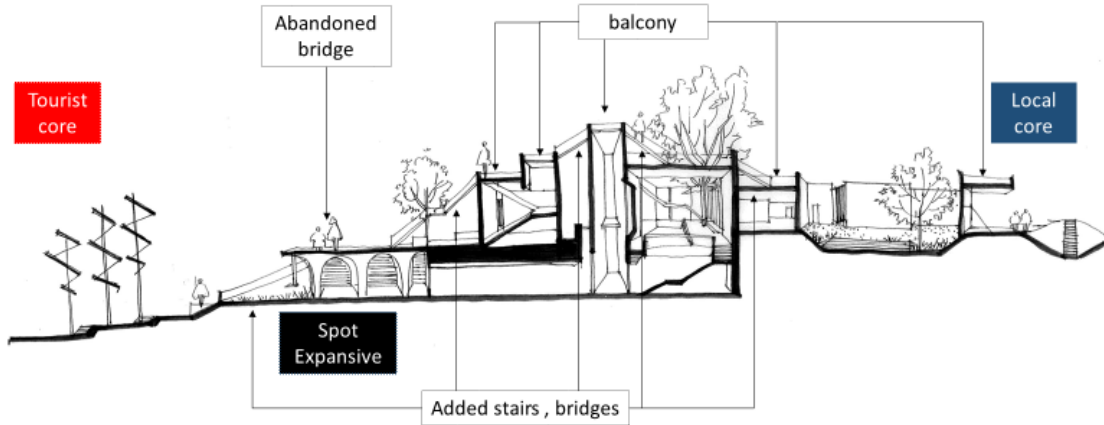
F9. 3 exchange patterns



F10. The cultural center program on the cliff

As the top part of the entire lot, I define this part as the exchange of materials. This is also the starting point of the whole project, and it is also the most closely integrated part of the existing city, so I focus on this part in graduation studio. There are already 11 houses, and I demolished one of them. Among the rest, 4 of them are kept as local living houses, 3 become semi-public housing, like museum and co-working studio and three of them turn to a fully public zone restaurants and artist studios. In addition, I also carried out a detailed division of the left-over space into different modes. These different yards and different buildings interact with each other, forming a place that can satisfy not only the residents, visitors but also the material exchange between them.

On the one hand, I hope that tourists and residents can enjoy what they have in common and experience a new kind of coexistence pattern. On the other hand, I hope people can enjoy the connection of urban space and natural valleys, oceans. I also hope that people can experience different public and private space atmospheres.



F11. The top area—cultural community for exchanging material

4.2 spatialize

In order to satisfy the space of three different atmospheres and the exchanges as well as distances between two different groups of people, I designed a major circulation and two sub-circulations. The major circulation is always open, while the sub-circulations is partially closed. One can only be used by locals and the other can be used by tourists at certain times. The three flow lines can guarantee the division of three different spaces and the needs of two different groups of people. On my site, these spaces make full use of the existing buildings on the site as well as the height, orientation, and landscape, and in combination with previous research, they use the common resources on site.



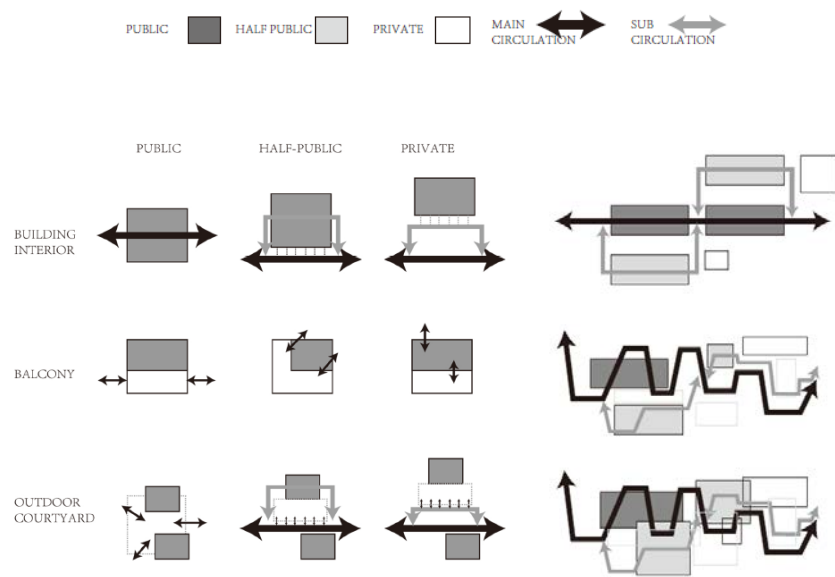
F12. The hypothesis of exchanging space

4.3 intervention

Then, how can such space and programs be implemented with the most succinct and appropriate intervention, especially in an already built urban space? The means to intervene should be very cautious and completed after careful consideration.

Through the analysis of the entire city of Valparaiso, I chose the in-air passage and the terraced wood platform to connect different rooftops or terraces. Under the passage, outdoor space are divided. Many platforms provide people with conditions for recreation and viewing. Trapezoidal interposition language organizes people's streamlines, echoing the texture of the city. In addition, to distinguish new materials from the old buildings, I covered the new building space with glass, while in the old building part I retained all the brick walls and most of the wooden walls. From the double hints of materials and space, the most public, most open and core parts of the entire building are the artwork gallery.

Such an intervention reflects my previous research and position. For example, such a wooden corridor can well achieve two circulations and a combination of three different architectural spaces. It has diversified accessing conditions, so different publicity and privacy can be achieved. In addition, the comparison of old and new materials, and the use of trapezoid language can enable people to experience nature's movement and the collision and connection between human's city and nature.



F13. The division and connection of different types of outdoor/ indoor space

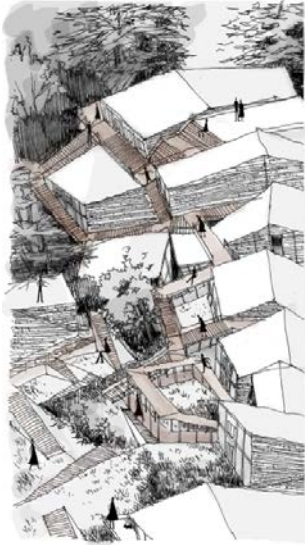


F14. The in-air wood trapezoid passage intervention

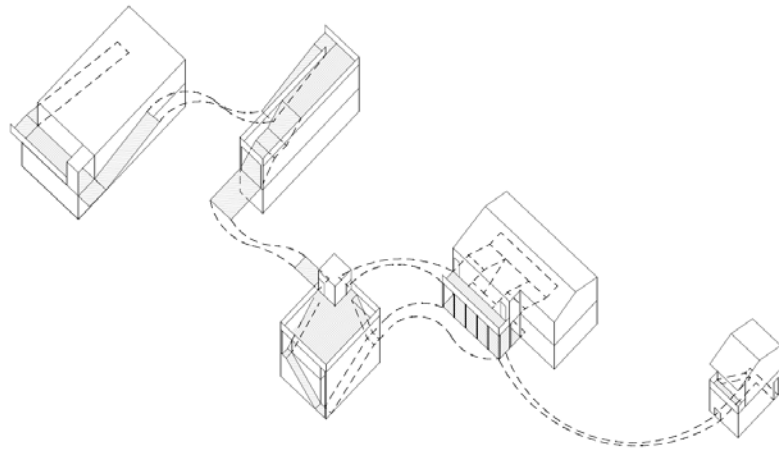
5 Review

This entire project of research and design enable some inspiration for architects in the construction practice and the operation of public space. For example, what should our city think of the abandoned space? In the program, I changed the original abandoned bridge on the site to a monumental park to present and echo those that have passed. What should we do with the past culture and current culture? In the program, I will deal with tourists and residents, who represent different ways of life and cultures, in an exchange process, and define the new ways they can perform in the specific urban environment. In other fields, how should individual forces,

in cities and communities, are emphasized and respected? So I take the publicity and privacy as a theme to position a more collective, involving, and diversifying program.



F15. The connection and segregation overview



F16. The reforming of the existings

6 Literature and Precedents

Literature

1. Klaske Havik, *Urban Literacy : Reading and Writing Architecture*. Rotterdam, nai010, 2014
2. Avermaete, Tom, Klaske Havik, and Hans Teerds (eds.). *Architectural Positions, Architecture, Modernity and the Public Sphere*. Amsterdam: SUN Publishers, 2009
3. Manuel Casanueva Carrasco, *El Barrio acantilado como identidad de Valparaiso*, Impresos EL Mercurio de Valparaiso, 2009

Precedents

1. Ascensor San Agustín, Valparaiso, Chile
2. CROSSING PARALLEL(S), winner of the Korean DMZ Underground Bath House competition, 2017
3. Village on the Building, Tokyo, Japan