Marketspaces
A design strategy for Alaba Electronics Market, Lagos

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Lagos: 20 million inhabitants, +58 people/hour
300,000 visitors/day
500 containers of appliances
Density and low-rise
Koolhaas: Lagos wide & close
Growth, although desirable, might threaten development and vital processes within the market: it has forced the market to relocate once already.
African urbanism

Lack of Means
Lack of Policy
Lack of Knowledge
Planning, in the Delftian sense, will not work.

How to plan, then?
2. Complexity
We can also understand the market as a complex social and spatial system, constantly changing and adapting. All decisions of a spatial nature are made by autonomous elements.
“In general usage, complexity tends to be used to characterize something with many parts in intricate arrangement.”
Ants: self-organization

*Odontomachus brunneus*
(all to the same scale)
Mathematics: Stephen Wolfram
Physical space (the market) is a residue of spatial decisions made by the smallest element within the system (the vendor).
3. The Vendor
Going up means slowing down
Sprawl
Clotting threatens diversity.
But what if we trust the inventiveness of the vendor when un-clotting?
The design as a catalyst

Based on a diagram from Constantinos Doxiadis - The developing urban Detroit area
“What would change in our arts, our sciences and our technics, if time were conceived as something real?”

Sanford Kwinter, Architectures of Time
What I propose, then, is an auxilliary architecture. Armatures.
4. Marketspaces
Fabrication
These points will stimulate the further development infrastructural networks...
5. Appropriation
I have not been in Lagos.

Karl May had not been in the US.
Slabs and beams
Construction: center pens and floor slabs.
Example 1
Example 2
Example 3
A catalogue of inventiveness
Extension
6. Epilogue