a literal intervention in the context of Central Havana: The Collective in-Between
SOCIETY
SOCIETY

Economy

Politics
**COLLECTION** of political things* any "thing" that creates political character in the space occupied,

- politicizing the space occupied,
- links the space to politics,
- directly or indirectly...
CATALOGUE of political things

based on the attributes experienced/observed at first sight:

FORM
SCALE
TIMESPAN
IDEOLOGY
ACTOR
SOCIETY IS CONSTITUTED SPATIALLY
SOCIETY IS CONSTITUTED SPATIALLY

SPACE IS CONSTITUTED Socially
SOCIETY IS CONSTITUTED SPATIALLY

Societies produces spaces

Politics influence space

SPACE IS CONSTITUTED SOCALLY

Spaces produces societies
SOCIETY IS CONSTITUTED SPATIALLY

Societies produces spaces
Politics influence space

SPACE IS CONSTITUTED SocialLY

Spaces produces societies
Space influence politics
SOCIETY IS CONSTITUTED SPATIALLY

Societies produces spaces

Politics influence space

Formal Production of Space

SPACE IS CONSTITUTED SOCIALY

Spaces produces societies

Space influence politics
SOCIETY IS CONSTITUTED SPATIALLY

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Formal Production of Space

SPACE IS CONSTITUTED SOCALLY

Spaces produces societies

Space influence politics

Informal Production of Space
SOCIETY IS CONSTITUTED SPATIALLY

Societies produces spaces

Politics influence space

Formal Production of Space

Architecture

SPACE IS CONSTITUTED socIA LLy

Spaces produces societies

Space influence politics

Informal Production of Space
SOCIETY IS CONSTITUTED SPATIALLY

Societies produces spaces

Politics influence space

Formal Production of Space

Architecture

SPACE IS CONSTITUTED SocialLY

Spaces produces societies

Space influence politics

Informal Production of Space

?
in central Havana
Architecture’s role as you know it, is **nullified** within the socio-political and economical paradigm of Havana.
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Produces new spaces within existing places; Recodes...
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Produces new spaces within existing places; Recodes...

- Barbacoas ("in-house" shanties)
La vivienda originaria recibe una "barbacoa"
Architecture’s role as you know it, is nullified within the socio-political and economical paradigm of Havana.

Produces new spaces within existing places; Recodes...

- Barbacoas (“in-house” shanties)
- Casa Particulares (“in-house” hostels)
Architecture’s role as you know it, is **nullified** within the socio-political and economical paradigm of Havana

Produces new spaces within existing places; **Recodes**...

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- Paladares (“in-house” restaurants)
- Parcelas (urban agriculture)
- Public reuse of emptied plots (parks, playgrounds, sports)
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- Public reuse of emptied plots (parks, playgrounds, sports)
- Commercial reuse of empty plots (cafe/bar/restaurants)
Architecture’s role as you know it, is nullified within the socio-political and economical paradigm of Havana. State authority recognizes the informal initiatives; tolerates and/or compromises.

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Architecture’s role as you know it, is nullified within the socio-political and economical paradigm of Havana.

State authority recognizes the informal initiatives; tolerates and/or compromises.
The authority regulates, maintains, assists the informal production of space, taking the role as the organizer of this process; willing to stay in control.

Produces new spaces within existing places; Recodes...

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SPATIAL TACTICS
SPATIAL TACTICS

- subdivide(\(\))
SPATIAL TACTICS

- `subdivide(/)`
- `add (+)`
SPATIAL TACTICS

- subdivide (/)
- add (+)
- modify use
SPATIAL TACTICS

- subdivide (/)
- add (+)
- modify use
- reuse
Margins
Margins (emerging possibilities for production of space within the stagnant context):
Margins (emerging possibilities for production of space within the stagnated context): self-organization and financial benefit
<INTERVENTION>
1. provide new private and common spaces within the existing building stock
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2. provide new public circulation linking the street, balconies, courtyards and rooftops
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3. utilize the potential of rooftops
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2. provide new **public circulation** linking the street, balconies, courtyards and rooftops
3. utilize the potential of **rooftops**

- a questioning of the tension between the public and the private: **exterior-interior**
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- the aim to stimulate transformation; change for better or worse; not seeking a state of stability, but a state of constant transformability: dynamic stability*
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The Utopia...
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The Utopia...

Accepting the built environment as it is, and transforming it in accordance with socio-spatial dynamics.
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The Utopia...

Accepting the built environment as it is, and transforming it in accordance with socio-spatial dynamics.

The Reality.
disruption by informal spatial tactics

“...the mysterious Piranesi effect of consciously created confusion...”
Robin Evans, The Projective Coat

<intentional - the medium of critical thinking
unintentional - the medium of socio-spatial reality>

on the left: Untitled (The Smokey Fire), The Imaginary Prisons (Le Carceri d’Invenzione), Giovanni Battista Piranesi, plate VE of 16 (1745-61).
below: Courtyard of a colonial house in Habana Vieja, Mehtab Akhavan, 2008.
on the left: Untitled (The Drawbridge), The Imaginary Prisons (Le Carceri d'Invenzione), Giovanni Battista Piranesi, Plate VII of 16 (1745-61).

below: Courtyard of a colonial house in central Havana, Mahtab Akhavan, 2008.
The release of a potential by the revealing of the weaknesses and inconsistencies of the built environment.

The aim is to materialize this potential within the existing places, beyond the limitations of the physical environment.

counterclockwise:
2. The Conical Intersect, view from the interior towards the street.
implants*
implants*

implant ɪmˈplænt (ɪmˈplænt')

v. im·plant·ed, im·plant·ing, im·plants

1. To insert or embed an object or a device surgically.
2. To graft or insert a tissue within the body.

n. (ɪmˈplænt')
Something implanted, especially a surgically implanted tissue or device

The American Heritage® Stedman's Medical Dictionary
implants*

(\/) subdivide (vertical and horizontal)
(+) add
implants*

(/) subdivide (vertical and horizontal)

(+) add
implants*
(Õ) subdivide (vertical and horizontal)
(+) add

positioning
questioning the codes of private property in relation to the socio-spatial dynamics
nexus*

nex-us (nɛksəs)
n. pl. nexus or nex-us-es

1. A means of connection; a link or tie.
2. A connected series or group.

*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition*
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