South Works
INTRODUCTION

This book is a documentation of the research and design performed in the past year of graduation. The subject is the development of the South Works site in South Chicago. After analysing and visiting the site we formulated an urban strategy for the site. This holds a strong relation to social and economical conditions as we found them to be. From this strategy a smaller part of the site is developed in more detail, followed by the design of a building embodying the strategy as formulated for the urban scale. This book will move from the large to the small 1:5000 to 1:10.
CHICAGO IS A SEGREGATED CITY AND NEEDS TO CHANGE TO PREVENT FURTHER DECAY CURRENT ECONOMIC, SPACIAL AND POLITICAL CREATE A DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF SEGREGATION. THE CURRENT NORTH SOUTH DIVISION CREATES TENSION AND
SOCIAL DISTANCE THAT SHOULD BE CORRECTED IN FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. THE EMPTY SOUTH WORKS PLOT CREATES THE OPPORTUNITY TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITIES OF ITS DEVELOPMENT AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENTIRE CITY.
Chicago remains one of the most economically, socially, and physically segregated cities in the United States.
South Chicago is **not well connected** to the rest of the city via fast, public transportation, thereby limiting residents’ access to jobs and further dividing the city.
Big parts of the South are composed of monofunctional neighbourhoods.
The lakeshore is a very important element of the Chicago lifestyle.
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South Chicago has a very high crime rate. Gang violence is a part of everyday life.
Violence and Urban planning
The image of a violent city

Course:
New Urban Questions

Lecturer for evaluation:
N. Azlan
The cities we live in take physical form through the buildings we erect, but are nevertheless really shaped by the people inhabiting them. The way we interact with each other and perceive our cities are determining aspects of the way we shape our world. Throughout history we see that the build environment reacts to the social, economical, political and cultural values of that time and visa versa, thereby shaping our society.
Abstract
A sustainable city is an inclusive city that accommodates all kinds and classes of people in a common world. Unfortunately segregation and violence are conditions that determine an important part of city life and (re)development in large developed and developing cities around the world. To be able to improve these conditions we first need to have an understanding of them. The real material city and the way we perceive it can be two different things that both have their own implication when it comes to urban violent. Especially the image of the city (the way we perceive it) is influenced and manipulated by new media. To get an understanding of how this is related to violence and urban (re)development the literature of Raban on the “soft city”, Slavoj Zizek on Violence and Luca Patattoni and Yves Pedrazzini on Insecurity and segregation, rejecting an urbanism of fear, is used. The socio-symbolic identity that is imposed onto minorities through language, is reinforced by new media. This has a strong influence on how we perceive our cities and therefore how we react to it.

" – the scaremongering language of politicians and the media – institutionalizes the way we think about public safety and legitimizes an “urbanism of fear”". This clarifies the interrelation between symbolic violence and urban planning within the contemporary conditions of urban violence. Fear forms a violent implication on urbanism. The attempt to physically control public safety equals the abandonment of the cities ability to accommodate all classes of people. The abandonment of the ideal sustainable city.

Introduction
Globalisation and new media technologies change our world in an enormous pace. The influence on urban development, as it changes along with it, is something we need to be aware of. As new media spreads information faster than ever before, it becomes an important part of how we perceive our cities. Here I’m not talking about the physical material city, but about the “Soft City” as Jonathan Raban calls it. The city as we imagine and perceive it.

The political and the media’s pessimistic discourse on public safety in cities institutionalises the way we think about it. The image gets manipulated by the inescapable media forms of current day. Since the relation between politics and media is not to be underestimated, today’s politics are an important factor. The contemporary approach of politics can be described as post-political biopolitics. As it focuses on defence from potential victimisation or harassment, it is ultimately a politics of fear. The violent that is imposed on cities through media and political influenced manipulation of the way we perceive our cities. This essay will focus on the influences that change our (violent) image of the city and how this is related to the real material city. The relation between the soft city and the real material city is evident, yet how they influence one another is something that will be further explored.
The image of a violent city

The city as Jonathan Raban depicts it in Soft City, is a theatre. Meaning a configuration of different stages upon which individuals can perform various roles. He talks about individuals because he rejected the idea of a city build up of layers of occupation and class. As David Harvey describes the importance of Soft city (published in 1974) he mentions it was written in the moment in time where postmodernism emerged and the debate on urban life changed, giving life to a new kind of discourse. This new discourse is necessary to describe the “peculiar relation between man and material that exists in the continual creative play of urban living. The city as we imagine it, the soft city of illusion, myth, aspiration, nightmare, is as real, maybe more real, than the hard city one can locate in maps and statistics, in monographs on urban sociology and demography and architecture”. Although the “theatre” brought about a certain form of liberation, being able to play different roles on different occasions also presented a threat of inexplicable violence. The always-present tendency of total chaos in social life, the position that the individual villain or fool could take the stage and turn social life into a tragedy or violent melodrama shows how urban violence was perceived by Raban; as an act of an individual. A random unexplainable act of violence made possible by the anonymous urban landscape. In contemporary cities this threat of violence is still present. This threat of violent outburst influences our cities and legitimises an urbanism of fear.

The question of what it is we fear comes to mind. We can not consider these violent outbursts as isolated incidents that occur just because there are bad people among us. What is of interest here are the conditions that allow for this violence to happen. Slavoj Žižek starts his book titled “violence” with a story that explains the way we reflect on violence, and the paradox that it holds. The story is about a worker that is suspected of stealing;

Every evening, as he leaves the factory, the wheelbarrow he rolls in front of him is carefully inspected. The guard can find nothing. It is always empty. Finally the penny drops: what the worker is stealing are the wheelbarrows themselves...

What this story tells us in relation to violence, is to take a step back. The message is don’t be blinded by the fascinating directly visible violence; crime, terror, etc. but try to see the conditions...
that inaugurated these outbursts. The fascinating visible violence, he calls subjective violence, clouds our sight and therefore limits our understanding of violence overall. According to Žižek this would include two objective kinds of violence: Symbolic and Systemic violence.

The first named referring to a violence that is related to language and the socio-symbolic identity this could express. The best way to clarify the later is to literally quote Žižek on systemic violence: The often catastrophic consequences of the smooth functioning of our economic and political system. Systemic violence is thus something like notorious ‘dark matter’ of physics, the counterpart to an all-too-visible subjective violence. It may be invisible, but it has to be taken into account if one is to make sense of what otherwise seem to be ‘irrational’ explosions of subjective violence.

Although Zizek does not talk about cities specifically, but about the perception of violence in general, we can apply most of it to urban life.

Largely we can say that: Symbolic violence relates to the socio-symbolic identity that we impose onto “other” city dwellers, and I would argue also onto the city itself. And systemic violence is the segregation within a city that occurs through economic and political means. The political and the media’s pessimistic discourse on public safety in cities institutionalises the way we think about it. This legitimizes an “urbanism of fear” in most contemporary cities. This is a clear example of symbolic violence, the violence of language. The violence lies in the disconnection of the way we perceive the city and the real material city. Although Raban did not see the violence in the disconnection of perception, he did acknowledge a difference between the way we imagine the city (how we perceive it) and the hard city (the real, material), and noted that the way we imagine it is as real or maybe even more real that the hard city. (Since our perception is what we will react to, I believe Raban makes a valid point.)

Feeling safe has no real relation to real delinquencies. Factions of the population like poor people or youth are perceived as potentially dangerous. In France the suspicion of immigrant Arab youth as well as the negative image attached to unemployed or illegal alien status causes the humiliation of parts of the population. This humiliation can cause a violent response. Violent outbursts like this amplified by new media can lead to feelings of insecurity and fear among a large part of the city’s population. It is clear that this socio-symbolic identity that is imposed on, in this case Arab youth, has no relation to the actual person that is feared on the street.

Yet this identity imposed on a city’s minority changes the way we experience the city and is thereby also imposed onto the city. Urbanism and architecture form an important shackle in the relation between the image of the city and the real material city. Is it not that we shape our world according to what we perceive. To create sustainable cities, which should be the primary goal of every urbanist, a city should have the ability to accommodate all classes of people in a common world. Yet urban (re)development reacts to this fear by providing a market of security systems and services. This causes a fear based social and physical division of the city that force the physical and social into a new arrangement. A new urban order based on fear surfaces as a consequence of feeling safe. The securing of area’s by this new urban order subtracts them from the common world and thereby segregates its
While some city-dwellers understandably need to address their feelings of insecurity and the existence of genuine delinquency, many of the so-called solutions lead in one way or another towards a new “horizon of violence”

The attempt to physically control public safety equals the abandonment of the cities ability to accommodate all classes of people. The abandonment of the ideal sustainable city…….

The influence of the violent imposition of a socio-symbolic identity (the image, shaped by what we are told rather than what we experience) onto cities on the real material world is clear. What we can notice here is the vicious circle it creates. By trying to solve the “problem” we create new conditions that segregate our cities even more, leading to a horizon of violence. What becomes clear within this notion is the influence of the real material city onto the image. This relation is what causes the vicious cycle.

Architecture and urbanism holds a position that could contribute to breaking the circle. Medellin is a good example of how the real material city can change the identity of the city. Medellin has a history of violence and poverty and was not able to break the cycle up until current development. The image of the city, the way it is perceived is changed. As the socio-symbolic identity changes for the better, the city responds to this in a positive way, flipping the cycle. Sergio Fajardo explains how they approached the issues at hand in an interview. The goal of these interventions was not constructing buildings and generating capita, but rather constructing hope. Fajardo points out; To close some doors you have to open others. A shift in the established culture of the area had to be made. The only way they saw fit was to cause a rupture from the established culture, since it is a way of life that is often painful and framed by violence. This quote shows that the only way they see social change happening is by making a radical change in the way of intervening. What they communicate through architecture and urbanism is: the most beautiful for the most humble. Meaning that the best of society will be where the greatest need exists. The implied rupture, is a rupture with the idea that everything that you give to the poor is a plus. This new way of intervening would also show another way for its inhabitants, a new door would be opened. Here the real material city is changed, to change its identity. The use of inclusionary architecture and urbanism reconnects parts of the city by implying equality in this still segregated city. The new image of the city changes how people react to their surrounding.
The relation between the soft city and the real material city is very important to sensible urbanism. Reacting on the subjective (violent) conditions of the city, can inaugurate the expansion of these conditions. The attempt to physically control public safety equals the abandonment of the cities ability to accommodate all classes of people. The occurring segregation shows the vicious cycle of this expansion. The socio-symbolic identity that is imposed onto minorities through language, is reinforced by new media. This has a strong influence on how we perceive our cities and therefore how we react to it.

" – the scaremongering language of politicians and the media – institutionalizes the way we think about public safety and legitimizes an “urbanism of fear”\(^1\). This clarifies the interrelation between symbolic violence\(^2\) and urban planning within the contemporary conditions of urban violence. Fear forms a violent implication on urbanism. The image of the city has a central position within this issue. As shown in Medellin urban planning can be used to change this image. The use of inclusionary architecture and urbanism can reconnects parts of the city by implying equality in a segregated city. Here the real material city is changed, to change its identity. The new image of the city changes how people react to their surrounding. The awareness of the actual conditions the symbolic and systemic allows us to react accordingly, finding new ways to change the path our cities are on.

**Conclusion**

**Abstract**

1. Luca Pattaroni and Yves Pedrazzini, 2010
2. Quote, Luca Pattaroni and Yves Pedrazzini, 2010, p1
3. See the violence of language, Slavoj Zizek, Violence, p49

**Introduction**

1. Luca Pattaroni and Yves Pedrazzini, 2010
2. see Slavoj Zizek, Violence, p34

**The image of a violent city**

1. The conditions of postmodernity, David Harvey, p3
2. The conditions of postmodernity, David Harvey, p9-10
3. Quote Slavoj Zizek, Violence, p1
4. Quote Slavoj Zizek, Violence, p
5. Luca Pattaroni and Yves Pedrazzini, 2010
6. Quote Luca Pattaroni and Yves Pedrazzini, 2010, p6
7. Quote Sergio Fajardo, Lea la conversación original entre Sergio Fajardo y Giancarlo Mazzanti; Giancarlo Mazzanti
8. Lea la conversación original entre Sergio Fajardo y Giancarlo Mazzanti; Giancarlo Mazzanti

**Conclusion**

1. Quote, Luca Pattaroni and Yves Pedrazzini, 2010, p1
2. See the violence of language, Slavoj Zizek, Violence, p49

**Notes**

**Books**

David Harvey, The Condition of Postmodernity, 1990
Jonathan Raban, Soft city, 1974
Luca Pattaroni and Yves Pedrazzini, Insecurity and segregation: rejecting an urbanism of fear, 2010
Slavoj Zizek, Violence, 2008

**Websites**

Giancarlo Mazzanti, Lea la conversación original entre Sergio Fajardo y Giancarlo Mazzanti; http://bombsite.com/issues/110/articles/3368

Michael Kimmelman, A city rises along with its hopes; http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/20/arts/design/fighting-crime-with-architecture-in-medellin-colombia.html?pagewanted=1&_r=0&adxnnlx=1366531038-iDjzNatjAcUXRy94r44iWw

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Edited by R. de Bruin

**Bibliography**
The South Works site located at Lake Michigan used to be a vibrant industrial area. When in 1992 the steel factory left the area the neighbourhood, mainly consisting of workers cottages, fell into decay. The entire South Works plot was demolished with the exception of the Ore Walls that were too massive to take down. Its unique location on the Lake and its fast connection (by car) to the city centre made it an potential location for development in the pre-crisis growing economy of Chicago. After the crisis the plans as developed by SOM architects were put on hold. The question that arises in the dust of the crisis is; how can this site develop in a shrinking city, and can it contribute to the abandonment of the North-South division.
Typical block in south Chicago is rectangle 90 meters by 180 meters. The block is divided into the narrow lots which were created by the developer back in 19th century. An small alley runs lengthwise down the middle of the block enabling back access to the properties. Blocks used to be completely homogeneous and filled with workers cottages. During the time, cottages were enlarged and rebuilt. Today in south Chicago we can find two typologies: single family house which is similar to 18th century workers cottage and multi-family house which is enlarged cottage containing 2-4 living units. Moreover there are back-houses along alleys that mostly serve as garages and storage spaces but some of them are turned into additional living space.

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<th>Type</th>
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<td>Multi-family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-residential</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Typical block in south Chicago is rectangle 90 meters by 180 meters. The block is divided into the narrow lots which were created by the developer back in 19th century. A small alley runs lengthwise down the middle of the block enabling back access to the properties. Blocks used to be completely homogeneous and filled with workers cottages. During the time, cottages were enlarged and rebuilt. Today in south Chicago we can find two typologies: single family house which is similar to 18th century workers cottage and multi-family house which is enlarged cottage containing 2-4 living units. Moreover there are back-houses along alleys that mostly serve as garages and storage spaces but some of them are turned into additional living space.

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<td>Multi-family house</td>
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<td>Non-residential</td>
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South side neighbourhood
typical housing
View of the Chicago skyline from the north side of the site
URBAN STRATEGY
Holistic city
(South Works)
POSITION
As a response to the segregation of the city, an emphasis should be put on the integration of the new development into the existing, adjacent neighbourhood. For this new development to be sustainable, the adjacent neighbourhood should be improved alongside the new development. For this to happen, the two areas need to function as one. This is the most important standpoint in the development of the urban strategy. The inclusion of the neighbourhood form the start of the development and attracting new people to the site are essential to achieve this.
Adding a diversity of now missing functions and providing a better connection with the rest of the city.
Micro districts based on the holistic approach ensure programmatic diversity and add identity on a smaller scale.
Amenities & Drivers are central points in these districts. Each district supports at least one of them, some both.
The in- and outdoor market is introduced to improve the now lacking access to healthy products and therefore placed within the neighbourhood.

A low access sport area will contribute to a healthier lifestyle and will include all ready more popular features like the Velodrome.

Providing affordable vocational training, continuing education, and a first step towards higher education, the community college gives residents the tools to succeed. Students stimulate the local economy.

The CTA (red line) is extended to the site to provide a better connection to Chicago city, thereby providing better accessibility to a larger public and extending the reach of the neighborhood.
The concert venue works as an independent structure introducing this part of Chicago to a larger public, because it will be able to facilitate concert throughout the year despite the harsh climate.

Google Chicago purchased Motorola Mobility and will move the Motorola headquarters into Chicago. Motorola teamed up with 3D systems to 3d print the interchangeable phone parts.
The spacial framework will be the backbone of the future development and therefore needs to contribute to the task of the Holistic city that was formulated out of the position.

The existing neighborhood is based on a strong grid pattern on the edge of it, there are discontinuities in the grid which disconnects the neighborhood fabric from the south works area and Michigan lake.
Connect the existing neighbourhood to the waterfront with a pedestrian strip
Morning sun

Midday sun

Evening sun
CONNECTOR
The connector is the first part of the development. It forms the connection of the neighbourhood to the lake shore and links to the new CTA station along Lakeshore Drive. The park is lifted over Lakeshore Drive as a symbolic gesture of reconnecting to the city centre (by CTA) and the lakeshore.
The connector is a light programmed park strip with a more urban square at the point of crossing Lakeshore Drive. The program elements facilitate in neighbourhood facilities as well as drivers for new development. The attract and include principle is clearly visible and very important in this first phase.

Proposed “anchor” elements Urban strategy

Proposed programme first development

Connector
MEDIA PLATFORM
Media Platform:

The Media platform is the first initiative to start small scale business in the South. The CTA line is of great importance to make this a success. The platform will be a combination of an incubator for start up businesses and “public and communal” functions. The theme of media and media production is related to two aspects. The first being the future prospect of the high tech campus which makes this area an important new media development area within Chicago, and therefore a very interesting place for business. Secondly the lack of proper extra curricular activities on schools, the media platform is a way to offer art and media related activities to the student of this area.

Attracting start-up businesses to create a lively environment

Offering facilities to the neighborhood. Especially the education of the adjacent neighborhood is in need of extra creative programs.

The platform for new media is a creative platform that provides new media related facilities for start-up businesses, schools and communities.

Gaining and sharing knowledge is the focal point of the platform

It is located at the heart of the first development and directly connected with public transport, making it a perfect location for new companies to start.

It will offer programs to engage local youth and improve and promote education
Program

START-UP OFFICE SPACE
3500M²

MEDIA PLATFORM
1150M²

MEDIA LIBRARY
1000M²

EXPOSITION
800M²

COMMERCIAL SPACE
600M²

CONFERENCE SPACE / MULTI-PURPOSE AUDITORIUM
600M²

CAFE/RESTAURANT
500M²
The building needs to be strongly connected to the square above Lakeshore Drive to facilitate livelihood of the area and function as an incubator. To this end the building is made as open to the square as possible. The void created at the level of the square can be seen as a continuation of public space.
The building is constructed of two main load bairing structures. The closed core on the north side of the building and the V shaped columns on the south.
In between them four, two story high trusses span the 35 meter open space of the building. The rest of the floors are hung underneath.
To emphasize the way the building structure works the load bearing steel columns are detailed with clearly visible joints.
Displacement of core
The core is displaced to the north side of the building for several reasons. They will be shown one by one.

- Continuation public space
- Vertical interaction
- Reusability
- Climate
To enforce the connection between the urban square and the building the ground floor is designed as an open continuation of public space.
To facilitate interaction between the different users of the building and thereby support inclusion. The heart of the building is designed as a centre of vertical interaction.
The vertical interaction is continued horizontal on each floor. The floors are divided in two zones. When one enters a floor you first enter the interior square of the floor. In this space functions are less defined and will enforce people to move around and explore without feeling out of place. The outer ring of the building contains the more defined private functions.
To create a sustainable building in a fast changing area of development with an unclear future, the possibility of reuse should be taken into consideration. specially with a new media related program, since this on its own is already a rapidly changing element.

To create the possibility for reuse, current reuse projects have been analysed and the essential elements are used in the design. The main starting point was creating an excess of space. Large flexible floor spaces and proper ceiling heights are important elements to allow as much change as possible. This is realized by the structure, as explained before.

Next to this practical matter, there is also the matter of sentiment. Buildings that have their own unique identity are more likely to be reused. My search for identity has been mainly related to light quality and adaptability to the different weather conditions of Chicago.
3D printed shutters on the facade provide the building with a unique interior light quality that changes during the day and the seasons. They can be printed from 80% bio-plastics and 20% recycled plastics. These shutters are also an important part of the climatological system of the building.
The Chicago climate knows extreme temperature changes. From -30 degrees in winter and 30 degrees in summertime.
The shutter system has three basic positions:

- Open
Semi-open
The shutters are always applied in sets of two. These tot elements are each others inverse and form a completely closed shutter when put on top of each other. The only light that will penetrate the building in this situation, is the light entering is true the transparent elements that are placed on the exact same location of bolt shutters. The reason for this system is related to the extreme climate of Chicago. The shutters enable the building to block out the sun during the summer, and gain solar heat in winter time. When there is no sun in wintertime the shutters can be closed to form an extra insulating layer over the glass facade, preventing heat loss.
Sections 1:500
2x 3D printed shutter
Curtain wall CW 60
TG Tri glazing
Fibreglass concrete panel
Aluminium lattice
breather membrane
Insulation
PET film
Prefabricated concrete

Curtain wall CW 60
TG Tri glazing

07 HORIZONTAL 1:10
Fibreglass concrete panel
Aluminium lattice
breather membrane
Insulation
PET film
Prefabricated concrete

Plastic, bleach filled solar bulb

2x 3D printed shutter
Curtain wall CW 60
TG Tri glazing

06 HORIZONTAL 1:10