PRESCENCE OF THE ABSCENCE

City history museum and cemetery

Qian Ren
Simulation

Tourism Cuba: Image in our mind which come from guide books, pamphlets, slogans, and art.
Mapping

Reading the City
Mapping the city identity from presence to absence, from visual to tactile

reading city in different layers

presence of the presence

presence of the absent

absence of the present

absence of the absent

perception

visual

tactile

city color

material

trace in time

because of the special urban condition of havana,
depth reading this part

case study:catalog

case study:model

city fragment
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case study: catalog

visual
case study: catalog

material
tactile
trace in time

case study: model
city fragment

catalog 1

catalog 2

model study city fragment

Perforated
Functional
Color in time
Color
Original Color
Original
Additional Changed Material
Perforated
Circulation

case study 1
trace in time
different layers of material and color
case study 2
trace in time
different layers of material and color
case study 2
trace in time
different layers of material and color

case study 1
trace in time
different layers of material and color
case study 2
trace in time
different layers of material and color
case study 2
trace in time
different layers of material and color
sign of everyday life— laundry

sign of everyday life— tube
MAS
Unidos y Combativas
DEFENDIENDO al Socialismo

El CABA BASICO
REVOLUCION

CDP

YA ESTAMOS
EN
7mo
CONGRESO

VIVA
FIDEL

EL CHE
Y
FILIBERTO
NO
MUERTO

...La moral de la Revolución
está tan alta como las estrellas.

Fidel
sign—absent sign on the side way

sign—absent sign on the entrance

sign—absent hotel sign on the ground

sign—absent public sign on the private area

sign—absent company sign on the ground
sign on the sidewalk

sign of trace

scar of windows
propagand of spirit leader

propagand of memory

Che & souvenir

Che & function sign
empty shop

abandoned door
life in the abandoned building

empty first floor
Mapping the city identity from presence to absence, from visual to tactile

**Reading the City**

Mapping the city identity from presence to absence, from visual to tactile

*because of the special urban condition of Havana, deep reading this part*

**Catalog 1**

**Catalog 2**

**Model Study: City Fragment**

*model study: tactile experience of trace in time*

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catalog 2

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model study: tactile experience of trace in time

case study 1
different layers of material and color

trace in time

model study: tactile experience of trace in time

case study 2
different layers of material and color

trace in time

model study: tactile experience of trace in time

case study 2
different layers of material and color

trace in time
Mapping

Reading the City
Mapping the city identity from presence to absence, from visual to tactile

Understanding the city in different layers of perception:
- Presence of the presence
- Absence of the present
- Presence of the absent
- Absence of the absent

because of the special urban condition of Havana,
deep reading this part

Catalog 1

Catalog 2

Model Study: City Fragment

Case Study 1

Case Study 2

Different layers of material and color in time

Trace in time
Mapping Reading the City

Mapping the city identity from presence to absence, from visual to tactile

reading city in different layers

presence of the presence

perception

visual

city color

material

tactile

traces in time

presence of the absent

absence of the present

case study: catalog

absence of the absent

because of the special urban condition of Havana, deep reading this part

case study: model city fragment

catalog 1

model study city fragment

catalog 2

model study: tactile experience of traces in time

case study 1
different layers of material and color

case study 2

different layers of material and color
This place has some important element:

1. The old façade and the corridor space in between
2. Two old walls
3. The ruin ground

They all show some relation with presence and absence. The old façade is considered as a sign in the city. The different layers of old wall turn to be a book of city history. The trace of decay is a monument for memory. They are all presence of the absence.
This place is in the Central Havana. It occupied a whole block. The top part of the ruin faceade has a sign and time which indicated that this building used to be an important architecture in the Central Havana. And the old wall has different colors and materials displayed the evidence of time and memory.
STRUCTURE AND MATERIAL

The ruin ground is the trace of the city history. It is the nature beauty for memorizing the story about time.
Important Elements

This place has some important elements:
1. The old façade and the corridor space in between
2. Two old walls
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PROGRAM Cemetery + Museum

The relationship between cemetery and museum

**Cemetery**
- dead: body
- body: human
- sign: sign for the people

**Museum**
- lifeless: object
- body: object itself
- sign: object itself as a sign, label of the object

Presence of the Absent

HAVANA

TRACE

HISTORY

CEMETERY

MUSEUM

BODY

SIGN
Program Analysis

Programs of Cemetery
- route/connection
- visit part
  - burial niches
  - burial area
- toilet
  - ceremonial part
  - cortege passage
  - wreaths area
  - relatives area
  - priest area
  - chapel
- toilet
  - entrance
  - lobby
- toilet
  - service part
    - foyer
    - mortuary
    - furnace room
    - service
- toilet
  - void

Four Catalogs of Mapping
- Presence of the Presence
- Presence of the Absent
- Absence of the Present
- Absence of the Absent

Programs of Museum
- route/connection
- Exhibition part
  - Exhibition hall: 1000~1500m²
  - Temporary exhibition: 200
  - Media center: 300
- Entrance and Service
  - Entrance hall: 150
  - Clothing storage: 60
  - Toilet: 70
- Academic research
  - Collections library: 1300
  - Cataloging room: 70
  - Data library: 200
  - Toilet: 15
- Storage room: 100
- Sample room: 200
- Office room: 60 + 60 + 30 + 30 + 50 = 230
  - Office: 15 * 4 = 60
  - Big office: 30 * 2 = 60
  - Reception room: 30 * 2 = 60
  - Meeting room: 50
  - Toilet: 15
  - void

Elements of design
- water/reflection
- dark/light
- solid/void
- sign/wall

Presence of the Presence
- water/reflection
- dark/light
- solid/void
- sign/wall

Presence of the Absent
- water/reflection
- dark/light
- solid/void
- sign/wall

Absence of the Present
- water/reflection
- dark/light
- solid/void
- sign/wall

Absence of the Absent
- water/reflection
- dark/light
- solid/void
- sign/wall
Character of Space

Using architectural language to represent the "Presence of the Absence"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presence</th>
<th>vs</th>
<th>Absence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solid</td>
<td>vs</td>
<td>Void</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event space</td>
<td>vs</td>
<td>Silent space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting space</td>
<td>vs</td>
<td>Memory space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide space</td>
<td>vs</td>
<td>Narrow space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light space</td>
<td>vs</td>
<td>Dark space</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Absence of space _ Gap
Leave distance between OLD and NEW between different volumes
Absence of space — Void
Memory space under the volume
Visit interact with historical trace in the empty space
Absence of space _ Enclose of the absence
Memory space in front of the time monument
Memory corner
Three space zones in between old walls

All important elements shown together
Sketch Diagram - Sections of three zones

Solid vs Void

New volume vs old wall

Continual space
Cemetery_ zone1_ Conceptual Model

The burial part is interpreted as a solid block of absence. A repository of memory.
The event spaces are defined as absence of building. Void carved out of the functional solid.
Void1: Connection with exhibition
  - Visual connection

Void2: Event space for cemetery

Void3: Between inside and inside

Void4: Between old and new
Museum zone2 Conceptual Model

Void between old wall and new exhibition volume
Connection between exhibition and cemetery
Different height for reading the trace, touch the material, looking through the old wall
Different layers of continual space make the circulation of exhibition space
Narrow space and wide space
Light space and dark space
Void between old wall and new exhibition volume
Connection between exhibition and cemetery
The interaction between old wall and new volume reading the trace, touch the material, looking through the old wall
The interaction between old wall and new volume
reading the trace, touch the material,
looking through the old wall
Exhibition Space
Narrow space and wide space
Exhibition Space
Narrow space and wide space
Void between old wall and new exhibition volumet
Light change according to the time
Void between old wall and new exhibition volumet
Light change according to the time
Void between old wall and new exhibition volumet
Light change according to the time
Void between old wall and new exhibition volumet

Light change according to the time
Void between old wall and new exhibition volumet
Light change according to the time
Distance between different volume
CONSTRUCTION AND DETAIL

terrazzo tiles, 300/300/20mm
horizontal supports, metal alloy40/60mm
thermal insulation, 50mm
waterproof layer, 20mm
reinforced concrete, 200mm

horizontal supports for reinforce the steel frame, steel 120/120

lime plaster with gray pigment, 20mm
hard thermal insulation slab, 60mm
steel frame
plaster slab, 15mm
lime cement plaster with gray pigment, 8mm

detail_03_04 1:5
CONSTRUCTION AND DETAIL

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detail_horizontal section of old column 1:5
old facade and old column supports, steel 350/80mm

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faced compare new and old 1:20
reinforced concrete, 200mm
thermal insulation, 30mm
facade supports, metal alloy 40/160mm
laminated safety glass 16mm
 glue in between
metal alloy 40/40mm

horizontal section of new facade 1:5
old facade and old column supports, stell 350/80mm

terrazzo tiles, 300/300/20mm
bed mortar, 7mm
screed PE sheet, 65mm
bitumen sheet, 5mm
thermal insulation, 50mm
reinforced concrete, 200mm

lime plaster with gray pigment, 20mm
thermal insulation, 40mm
reinforced concrete, 160mm

oak floorboard, 22mm
floor battens, 40/60
anhydrite screed, 65mm
thermal insulation, 30mm
reinforced concrete, 200mm
services space, 300mm
lime plaster with gray pigment, 20mm

reinforced concrete, 200mm
thermal insulation, 30mm
facade supports, metal alloy 40/160mm
laminated safety glass 16mm
glue in between
metal alloy 40/40mm
Detail 02

- Terrazzo tiles, 300/300/20mm
- Horizontal supports, metal alloy 40/60mm
- Thermal insulation, 50mm
- Waterproof layer, 20mm
- Reinforced concrete, 200mm

Detail 02 01

- Horizontal supports for the steel frame, steel 120/120

Detail 02 02

- Lime plaster with gray pigment, 20mm
- Hard thermal insulation slab, 60mm
- Steel frame
- Plaster slab, 15mm
- Lime cement plaster with gray pigment, 8mm

Detail 02 03

- Reinforced concrete, 200mm
- Thermal insulation, 30mm
- Facade supports, metal alloy 40/160mm
- Laminated safety glass 16mm
- Glue in between
- Metal alloy 40/40mm

Detail 02 04
facade compare new and old 1:20

reinforced concrete, 200mm
thermal insulation, 30mm
facade supports, metal alloy 40/160mm
laminated safety glass 16mm
glue in between
metal alloy 40/40mm

horizontal section of new facade 1:5

lime plaster with gray pigment, 8mm
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terrazzo tiles, 300x300/20mm
horizontal supports, metal alloy 40/60mm
thermal insulation, 50mm
waterproof layer, 20mm
reinforced concrete, 200mm

detail horizontal section of old column 1:5

old facade and old column supports, steel 350/80mm

detail 02_01 1:5

terrazzo tiles, 300x300/20mm
horizontal supports, metal alloy 40/60mm
thermal insulation, 50mm
waterproof layer, 20mm
reinforced concrete, 200mm

detail 02_02 1:5

lime plaster with gray pigment, 20mm
hard thermal insulation slab, 60mm
steel frame
plaster slab, 15mm
lime cement plaster with gray pigment, 8mm

detail 02_03 1:5

horizontal supports for reinforce the steel frame, steel 120/120

old facade and old column supports, steel 350/80mm
1. lime plaster with gray pigment, 20mm
   thermal insulation, 40mm
   reinforced concrete, 160mm

2. oak floorboard, 22mm
   floor battens, 40/60
   anhydrite screed, 65mm
   thermal insulation, 30mm
   reinforced concrete, 200mm
   services space, 300mm
   lime plaster with gray pigment, 20mm

3. terrazzo tiles, 300/300/20mm
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   screed PE sheet, 65mm
   bitumen sheet, 5mm
   thermal insulation, 50mm
   reinforced concrete, 200mm
1. lime plaster with gray pigment, 20mm
   thermal insulation, 40mm
   reinforced concrete, 160mm

2. oak floorboard, 22mm
   floor battens, 40/60
   anhydrite screed, 65mm
   thermal insulation, 30mm
   reinforced concrete, 200mm
   services space, 300mm
   lime plaster with gray pigment, 20mm

3. terrazzo tiles, 300/300/20mm
   bed mortar, 7mm
   screed PE sheet, 65mm
   bitumen sheet, 5mm
   thermal insulation, 50mm
   reinforced concrete, 200mm
Interior space: view connection between new exhibition and old wall
view connection between people in different level
View relation between auditorium and old wall
Exhibition corridor between old and new
Distance between different volumes / old and new. Different materials comparison