Domesticating Dalang
Finding home in a productive cityscape
Aiste Eidukeviciute I mentors L. Qu, L. Reinders | 2015 |
Landscape transformation

source: redd.it
Migration patterns towards coastal regions
Proportion of urban vs rural population growth in China

Population of Shenzhen
Introduction

Hukou - internal passport system

source: chainadaily.com.cn
Land for production
Hu Lin Shuan, 27, migrant worker as service boy in hotel:  
‘Living here I feel frustrated’.

Jia Jia, 25, mobile phone sales service / studying marketing:  
‘Nowadays many young people do not care about the development of China and the world. They only care about themselves and ignore other people and things around them’.

Xin Hong Li, 30, migrant factory worker:  
‘Even if I am offered a house of gold or silver, I still want to return to my poor home’.

Yang Lon Long, 30, farmer:  
(Iliterate) ‘When I go to the big city I feel like I don’t know anything’.

author: Adrian Fisk, photographer, UK
Types of migrant groups due to their migrations patterns (based on Friedmann, 2005)
Spatial duality at city scale
Problem statement

Present situation shows a high migrants’ isolation from a society, their locality and absence of awareness that the control of individual’s life is in one’s hands, which prevents from finding a feeling of home in the city.
Research question

How can public space become activating space (activator) that encourages socio-urban interaction and therefore stimulates greater adaptation to the new urban environment?

Sub research – questions

How can activating space empower migrant workers and increase the sense of belonging to the community and the locality?

What are the spatial criteria for activating space in the particular urban domain of Dalang?

How can local scale interventions complement the strategic redevelopment plans of municipality and contribute to urban vitality?
METHODOLOGY
How can public space become activating space (activator) that encourages socio-urban interaction and therefore stimulates greater adaptation to the new urban environment?

- **Activating space**
  - Attachment to the place
  - Self empowerment
  - Walkability

- **Three main criteria**
  - Permeability
  - Proximity
  - Places

**Social**
- Chinese society
- Dalang social structure

**Spatial constraints & potentials**
- Policies & governance
- Urban fabric

**References**
- Comparing local & international examples

- **Governance & planning**
- **Design**

**Evaluation of thesis process & raising new questions**
RQ: alternatives for governance & planning model + spatial design strategy

sub-RQ1:
- self-empowerment
- sense of control
- social learning
- participation

sub-RQ2:
- walkability
- permeability
- proximity
- places

sub-RQ3:
- involving & convincing various stakeholders
- local initiatives supported by top-down policies
- involving local communities into design process by facilitating the dialogue with residents while interviewing, collecting surveys, observing, meeting representatives of local initiatives and community centers
- inviting volunteers to contribute in physical transformation of potential activating spaces for production

| society with no feeling of belonging | liveable city |
| vulnerability                        | society that finds the second home in the city |
| personal existence                   | self-confident in control of ones life |
|                                      | personal upgrading |

Project approach
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
Alexander (1979) claims that ‘a person is so formed by his surroundings, that his state of harmony depends entirely on his harmony with his surroundings’
**Definition:** activating space is a public platform embracing the power to create ties within the community members and their urban locality (Anton & Lawrence 2014; Gehl, 1987; Rapoport 1997; van Dorst 2012).
Labour square

Self-empowerment, social learning, participation

source: Ruben Hoek, field trip, 2014
Furnicycle, Shanghai Biennale 2002
(atelier Bow-Wow based in Tokyo)
Spatial configurations
Permeability
Proximity
ANALYSIS
Exploring Dalang through the eyes of migrant workers

source: Ruben Hoek, field trip, 2014
Hello, we are students of Delft University in the Netherlands and we are in Shenzhen to study what people think about the space they live and work in. By answering our survey you would help us a lot. Thanks in advance!

Q1. Are you a Chinese or overseas student? If yes, where is your home town?
Q2. How many people do you live with?
Q3. How do you like to travel? (in winter)
Q4. How do you steal? (in winter)
Q5. How do you enjoy yourself? (in winter)
Q6. How do you like to travel? (in summer)
Q7. How do you steal? (in summer)
Q8. How do you enjoy yourself? (in summer)
Q9. How do you like to travel? (in spring)
Q10. How do you steal? (in spring)
Q11. How do you enjoy yourself? (in spring)

Sampling Method: The sample size was 96.

November, 2014
Results of questionnaires
November, 2014

- Age distribution:
  - 25-32
  - 15-24
  - 35-44

- Way of commuting:
  - Walking
  - Cycling
  - Public transport

- Type of job:
  - Service
  - White-collar
  - Commercial

- Length of commuting:
  - 5 min
  - 15 min
  - 20 min
  - 25 min

- Working days:
  - 6 d

- Working hours:
  - 8 h
  - 9 h
  - 10 h
  - 11 h
  - 12 h
  - 13 h
  - 14 h

- Results of questionnaires:
  - November, 2014
Time line of a casual workday of migrant worker

According to results from questionnaires, November 2014
Claiming the space. Informal urban farming
Claiming the space. Informal activities
Claiming the space. Informal playgrounds
Labour square
commercial centre
industries - major employment
urban villages - residential

Program of Dalang - mainly industries and Urban villages
Urban villages

Industrial park

source: Ruben Hoek, field trip, 2014
Urban morphologies

Type I

Type II

Type III

Type IV
INTRODUCTION

ANALYSIS

STRATEGY

PILOT PROJECT

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

METHODOLOGY

Ownership

Type I

ownership street network program open space

Type II

Type III

Type IV

INTERMEDIATE STREET

MAIN STREET

INDUSTRIAL PARK

OWNER

DORMITORIES

INDUSTRIES

PRIVATE STREET

NETWORK

SERVICES

INFORMAL ECONOMY

OPEN SPACE

URBAN VILLAGE

HEADQUARTERS

INFORMAL STREET

industrial park owner

JSC
ANALYSIS

Industrial park

Urban village

Urban village

Traditional village

Open space
STRATEGY
Collaborative governance model
Subsidy distribution
Spatial regulations

for Joint Stock Companies

- Reusing leftover spaces
- Creating pedestrian friendly environment & maintenance
- Commercial use of the ground floor

for industrial park owners

- Vacant
- Currently working
- Reusing to host creative industries & small businesses
- Bringing in functional mixture & opening for diverse users
PILOT PROJECT
Focus area
Analysis of focus area
Permeability application
Proximity application
Fig 61. Various scales of activating spaces

Proximity application
Places application
Design sites

- a
- b
- c
- d

Design sites

- river bank
- industrial park

PILOT PROJECT
- migrant workers have more options of different activities
- greater diversity of urban amenities
- greater diversification of users - greater social exchange
Claiming the space
River bank transformation
Visualization d; before........
.......after
Program & activities
Industrial park transformation
Visualization a; before.......
........after
Visualization c; before.......

PILOT PROJECT
.......after
How to convince stakeholders?

Municipality
- increasing social cohesion, better migrants’ adaptation to the city, liveable neighbourhoods contributes to achieved ‘World City’ image

Industrial park owners
- encouraged employees, shared maintenance of certain areas, financial benefits due to reuse of vacant buildings, subsidies from the municipality

JSCs
- more urban amenities, subsidies from the municipality, diversified income, lively urban environment, increasing safety

Small businesses
- more space for individual businesses, denser flow of passengers, therefore potential customers, greater diversity of businesses that can also work mutually

Migrant workers
- greater social exchange, more choices & more diverse urban amenities, expanded ‘private’ space, increasing attachment to the locality and the society
Thank you