

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
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Master of Science in Architecture Construction City
Honors theses

THROUGH HONG KONG

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This thesis belongs to the intention of telling the public spaces in contemporary cities, their relationship with practices of everyday life, bringing as object of study the city of Hong Kong.

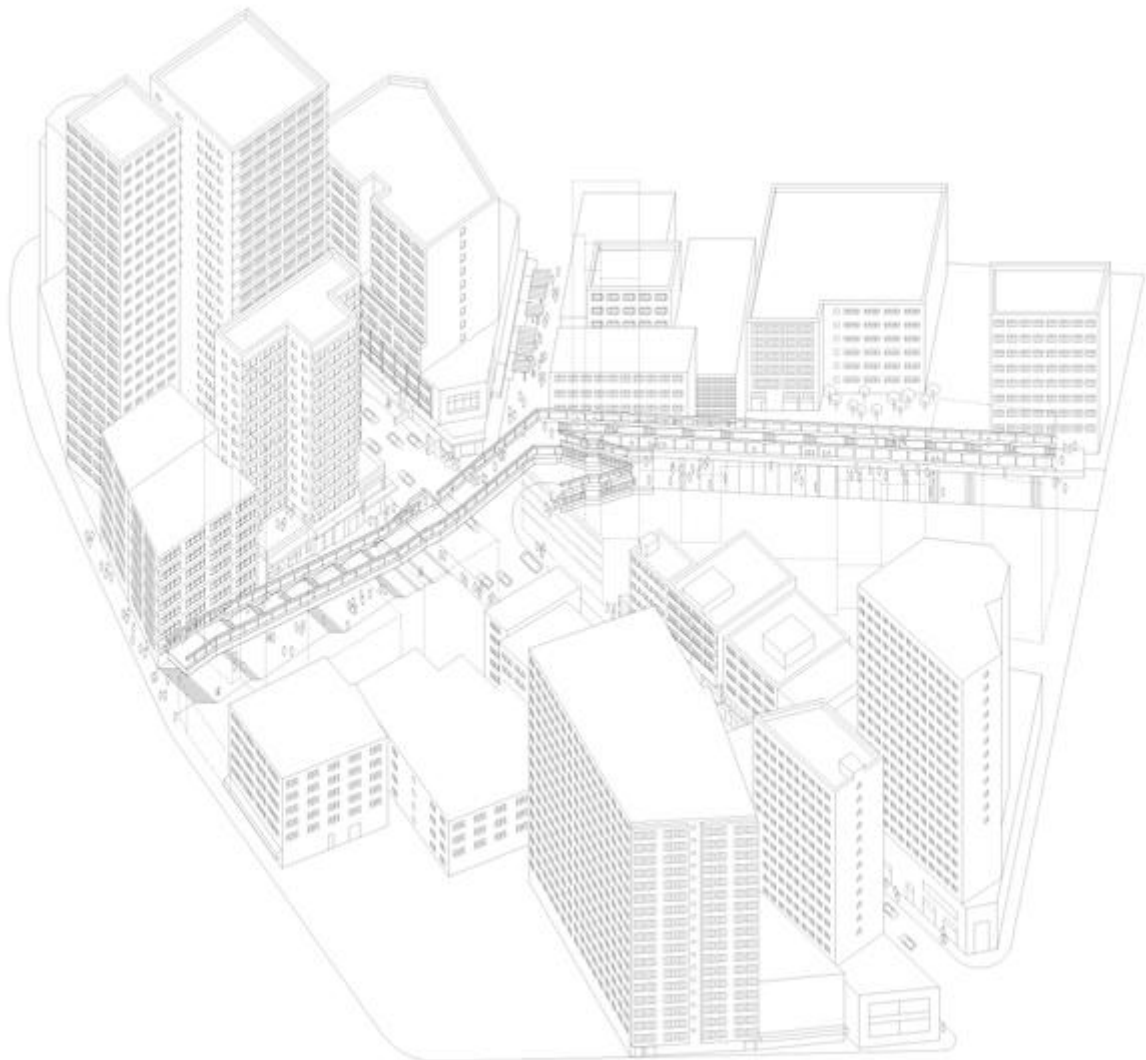
At the beginning we question how is it possible to design a physical space -the architectural one- that is stable over time, but has to relate to the reality of everyday life, that is action and movement. The desire to understand the space and its dynamics of impermanence leads us to shift the focus on urban practices, the relationship of mutual change between people and places.



The intent is to tell, and even before to discover the city through its discontinuity, referring to an international debate that bases descriptions of urban spaces on fragmentary details, and works on the juxtaposition of several methods and tools.

This results at first in the development of a plurality of points of view on urban space, interlacing experiences with theoretical research, the ability of perception and reflection with those of abstraction and deduction. Of the two main approaches used, the flaneuristic way of walking allows a perceptual, emotional and sensory immersion in the city's pathways, combining the space's codes of expression to those of language and subjective sensory sphere.

In the second approach, theorized by Lefebvre in his rhythm analysis, the "window " encourages to expand horizons and perspectives. Through the symbolic element of the window, it is possible to become spectators of urban practices, and to reveal causes and implications of the interaction between people and space.



In the description of the case study can be found the juxtaposition of three codes of reading, namely the text, as a tool of direct reasoning, the video, which allows to integrate the time dimension, and the isometric drawing, familiar to us in the interpretation of urban space.

We have identified three types of areas relevant to explain some phenomena: circulation, appropriation and manifested spaces.

Spaces of circulation, because Hong Kong is a city in which the density of the built environment, the intensity of practices and activities are developed on multiple levels. The connection system is characterized by three-dimensional paths which, vanishing any reference with the ground, combine experience in both spatial and temporal movement .



Spaces of appropriation, because conflict and negotiation in urban space become, in this context, customary practices of everyday life.

Manifested spaces, commercial spaces with minimum dimensions, because, facing the street, change the perception and relationships with urban environment.

Direct experience suggests that crossing these spaces allows to draw interesting geographies of the city.

The only way to understand and return a reality that is not fixed, and not even closed, is action. To use representation -written, graphic and video- as a practice, means to become personally part of the action, and get inside the everyday life mechanism. Living the spaces we talk about, understanding the relationships between places and people, perceiving smells, light, colour contrasts; all of this open your eyes to another city, revealing something different than what is conventionally said.

Link at video: <http://vimeo.com/87039790>

Link at blog: <http://attraversohongkong.wordpress.com/>

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