Manila Sketch Book:
Recorded Memories from SIGUS Workshop

SKETCHES FROM INFORMAL FIELD SURVEYS IN THE TONDO REGION OF METROPOLITAN MANILA.

FOCUS ON OLDER LOW INCOME HOUSING PROJECTS AND RECENT PROJECTS OF THE GAWAD KALINGA NGO (GK).

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Reflections from the Manila Workshop.
(http://web.mit.edu/sigus/www/NEW/files/Manila/Student%20Reflections.pdf)

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City has “memory” and it is this memory that makes each city a place for people. City, as a case study of urban settlement in the Southeast Asian—in this case, Manila—is vibrant because it has a true sense of authenticity, culturally and socially. The Philippines today is experiencing unprecedented urban transformation through a process of global urbanization. Southeast Asian urban growth is different from its Western counterparts. What was proposed and determined upon considerations manifested back in 1796 must be traced via its historical and theoretical trajectory, with an intensive understanding of the essence of urban culture.

To conduct an urban analysis of Eastern cities, implementation of urban planning and design is mandatory with extended investigations of Eastern perspectives. The decision to shape the city is not dependent solely on physical aspects, particularly for a hyper-growing city like Manila but also on social structure and cultural traditions. The city where I come from, Bangkok, Thailand, is also shaped by the same forces. As urbanization is unavoidable, urban designers must anticipate changes that lead to urban and regional sustainability.

In these circumstances, I believe it is necessary to develop a method of historical that retains the cultural and historical values of the city. My experience in several collaborative projects in South-East Asia and extensive teaching experience and professional practice as an architect will serve as a springboard for creating model of urbanism appropriate to eastern culture, to achieve an organic integration of Western and Eastern development. My contributions will be greatly on the historical research of the site and the critical discourse of the paths this urban alteration takes place. This opportunity will associate me in a more pragmatic framework of my recent research, funded by Asian Cultural Council and Thammasat University, in urban development and architectural identity of Bangkok.
Top: Snap shots of several GK villages visited by the author

Right: Possible proposed renovation of the GK village near by the river
Top: Emma’s house and the observed changes from 1976 to present. The house is extended to the open space to accommodate more members of the family and generate more income: rental rooms and grocery store.

Right: An analysis of courtyard in front of Emma’s house. There are four layers of system: circulation, utilization, flooding and the physical condition, which have been adapted for the changing of their usage, condition and spatial hierarchy through time.
Top: Typical elevations of cluster in Dagat-Dagatan

Right: Perspective sketching of house in Dagat-Dagatan
Left: The general process of expansion of typical row houses in Tondo. After people inhabit the lot, they first build a small house that can only accommodate family members sufficiently and then expand it by the time the number of members increased.

Right: The expansion process of Jonas’s house
Left: An elevation of Jonas’s House

Right: An analysis of building system in Tondo
Left: A proposed possible plan for the development of housing condition in Tondo

Right: A perspective sketch of the houses in Tondo
Bottom: An existing condition of courtyard in Tondo. This plan shows that it is mainly occupied by motor vehicles as parking space and being used as storage rather than community gathering area.

Right: A proposed possible plan for row house in Tondo and the developmental plan for the use of courtyard.
Left: Existing elevation and plans of Gonzalez’s house. The original building was torn down and the family built the new house according to their understanding of family’s need by themselves: no architect was involved in the design.
Top: Plans of Gonzalez’s house
Top: A perspective sketch of Gonzalez’s house (left) and the proposed idea for the physical improvement of the house
Right: A bird-eye-view perspective sketch of Gonzalez’s neighborhood (view from roof deck of Gonzalez’s house)
A comparison of Lena’s original and the new house in Kapitbahayan. The new house was designed with numbers of room to accommodate family members and renters.
Below: Elevations of Lena’s house

Right: A perspective sketch of Lena’s house
Left: A perspective sketch of Shell GK village emphasizing an employment of pigment colors

Top: Photographs showing the color schemes of visited GK villages (continue to next page)
Top: Juxtaposition of developed GK houses (right) and undeveloped man-made shelter (left)

Right: Some proposed ideas of re-designing typical GK village for 3 main reasons: to enable the house to be able to self-ventilate, for to house to be able to accommodate more family members, and for an individual style