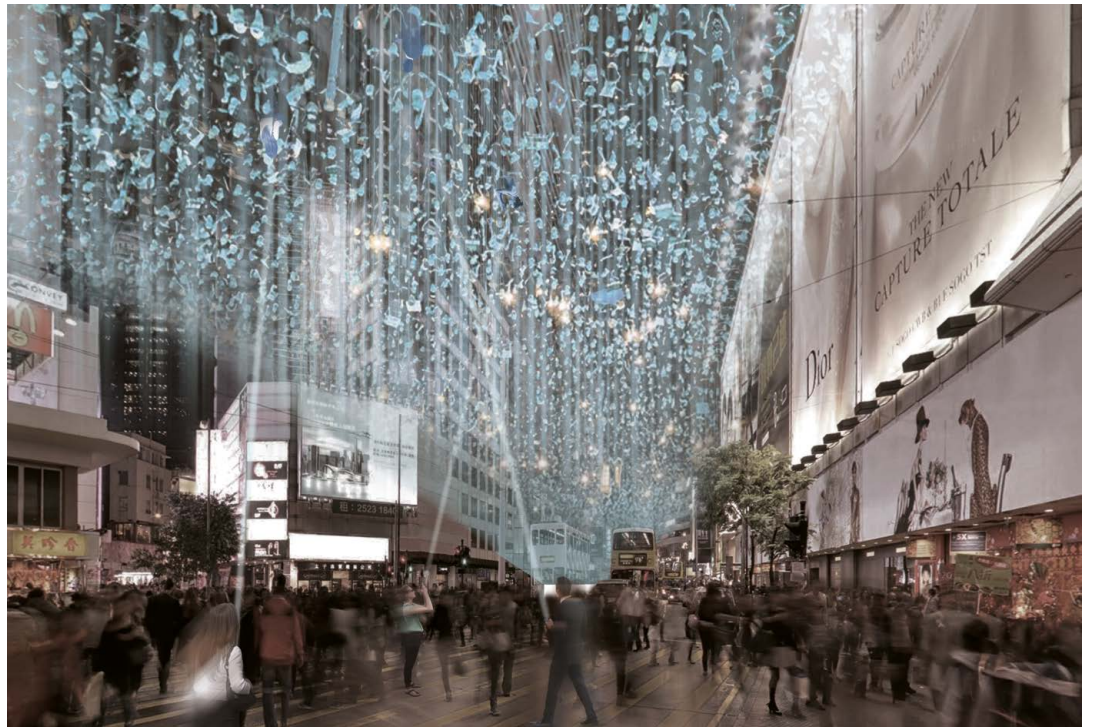


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RESISTANT HETEROTOPIA

- A narrative-based study on a counter-factual virtual social movement in Hong Kong



MATERIAL TURN

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Spaces made for human activities lose their purpose when no one uses them. Only when people interacts with the space it starts to function. This interaction generates events, which makes the space complete. Architecture is a vessel that contains occurrence. It reflects its ability of narrating.

However, even though current urban spaces and architecture are mostly programmed, people's actions, behaviors and movements are not limited by these programs. The events architecture facilitates can be diverse. This fact makes architecture consist complexity and rich possibility of narration. The 2019-20 Hong Kong protests is an extreme example. The urban spaces transformed completely when the movement took place.

The idea "Right to the city" proposed by Henri Lefebvre discussed the relationship between citizens and the urban spaces. The Hong Kong protests are uprisings against the authority, whose approach is using urban spaces to address the appeals, which can be seen as a claim of the "right to the city".

Heterotopia is a concept elaborated by philosopher Michel Foucault to describe certain cultural, institutional and discursive spaces that are somehow 'other': disturbing, intense, incompatible, contradictory or transforming. When the protests take place, the spaces that protesters create can be seen as heterotopias. They are transitory and temporary spaces that isolated from the rest of the city.

This thesis is about narrative. It is represented by a semi-fictional story that showcases counter-factual scenarios of the movement when it became virtual and how the urban spaces could accommodate the situations. In those scenarios protesters claimed "the right to the city" by occupations that are performed in a different way. The space that contains it is virtual yet influences the physical environment, which is people's heterotopias. The thesis also explores how people could be a factor of forming spaces under a semi-fictional setting.

Keywords: Narrative; Social movement; Virtual; Hong Kong; Urban space