The Museum of Modern Art

UNEVEN GROWTH PROPOSES NEW AND INVENTIVE WAYS TO ADDRESS INCREASING INEQUALITY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN SIX GLOBAL METROPOLISES

Fourteen-Month International Project Concludes with Proposals for Hong Kong, Istanbul, Lagos, Mumbai, New York, and Rio de Janeiro

Uneven Growth: Tactical Urbanisms for Expanding Megacities
November 22, 2014–May 10, 2015
The Robert Menschel Architecture and Design Gallery, third floor
Press Viewing: Wednesday, November 19, 9:30–10:30 a.m.

NEW YORK, October 1, 2014—*Uneven Growth: Tactical Urbanisms for Expanding Megacities*, a 14-month initiative to examine new architectural possibilities that address the rapid and uneven growth of six global metropolises—Hong Kong, Istanbul, Lagos, Mumbai, New York, and Rio de Janeiro—culminates in an exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art from November 22, 2014, through May 10, 2015. In recent years, tactical modes of urbanism have arisen in the form of everyday, bottom-up approaches to local problems as a counterpart to a classic notion of top-down planning. *Uneven Growth* asks how current practices of architecture and urban design can learn from such developments by presenting design scenarios based on this type of urbanism, while also mapping emergent modes of tactical urbanism around the globe. The exhibition features design visions comprised of drawings, renderings, animations, and videos produced by six interdisciplinary teams of local practitioners and international architecture and urbanism experts, each focusing on a specific city. *Uneven Growth* is organized by Pedro Gadanho, Curator, Department of Architecture and Design, in collaboration with the Austrian Museum of Applied Arts (MAK), Vienna.

Tactical urbanism is a highly pragmatic movement that applies to a spectrum of designers, from those who perform guerilla interventions of short-term change to those who seek to prod, provoke, or stimulate the political process toward incremental realization of fragments of what might be larger networks. To further explore these ideas, the Museum has published a book and created a user-generated [Tumblr] blog that collects examples of emerging modes of tactical urbanism happening in the six cities.

Mr. Gadanho states: "The exhibition features design scenarios for future developments that simultaneously raise awareness of the prevailing inequalities in specific urban areas and confront the changing roles of architects vis-à-vis ever-increasing urbanization. Each team in the exhibition was asked to consider how emergent forms of tactical urbanism can respond to alterations in the nature of public space, housing, mobility, spatial justice, environmental conditions, and other major issues in near-future urban contexts."

For the workshop phase of *Uneven Growth,* six interdisciplinary teams of international architecture and urbanism practitioners and experts studied megacities in diverse world regions. The choice of these urban conglomerations was determined by the way in which they display different degrees, stages, and conditions of urban inequality. Because of the scope of problems presented by each of these specific urban conditions, each team included participants who have an intimate knowledge of local circumstances and are embedded in their object of study. Experts in urban studies at an international level where brought in to provide a collaborative, transgeographical design chemistry that could respond adequately to the complexities of the themes. Following an initial workshop at MoMA PS1 and subsequent workshops at The Value Factory in Shenzhen, China, and at MAK in Vienna, the collaborating teams produced responses to the theme and developed new projects under the curatorial and critical guidance of MoMA's Department of Architecture and Design and an advisory board that includes Saskia Sassen, David Harvey, Ricky Burdett, Neil Brenner, Nader Tehrani, Michael Sorkin, Marc Angélil, and Teddy Cruz.

Uneven Growth confronts the global threats of accelerated income discrepancy and a polarization of wealth and poverty that are manifesting in various ways due to rapid urbanization. The exhibition is a laboratory experiment devoted not only to bettering life in the expanding city, but also to defining an effective, activist role for architects in the wake of two generations of disinvestment in public projects from housing to urban infrastructure. The design scenarios presented in *Uneven Growth* counteract the dystopian outcomes that can be expected of the progression of current urban trends, both in terms of spatial segregation and of socioeconomic inequality. Even if offering only acupunctural outlooks on how to change for the better, they present visions that are intended to advance public discussion and suggest models to be applied to diverse urban contexts.

Uneven Growth is the third in a series of exhibitions at MoMA called Issues in Contemporary Architecture, which focuses on timely topics in contemporary architecture, with an emphasis on the urban dimension, in order to increase public dialogue about critical issues in architecture. The series was launched in 2009 with *Rising Currents: Projects for New York's Waterfront,* a major initiative that brought together teams of architects, engineers, and landscape designers to instigate a debate on New York City's relationship to sea level rise and to provide ideas and images that might help activate debate for the millions of people worldwide living in floodable zones. In 2011, *Foreclosed: Rehousing the American Dream* used the same approach to address the challenges of the urban fringe of five American cities that were hard hit by the subprime mortgage crisis and the tsunami of foreclosures that came in its wake.

Hong Kong
MAP Office, Hong Kong, China
Network Architecture Lab, Columbia University, New York, U.S.

Compressed between sea and mountains, Hong Kong is a chaotic, hybrid, and colorful urban territory characterized by its extreme density and geography. Formed by a collection of more than 250 islands, mostly inhabited, the city/territory is under pressure from Beijing to absorb new waves of mainland migrants in order to accommodate a 50 percent population increase to its 7.2 million inhabitants. The threat of exponential population growth in combination with scarce land resources and rising sea levels suggest an opportunity to test an artificial island scheme that could extend to the Pearl River Delta and farther along the Chinese coastline.

Man-made islands offer an alternative, sustainable urban expansion with new modes of living, working, and entertaining. Paradigms of living conditions, islands exaggerate existing modes of production and consumption of urban spaces. As territorial fragments, their construction and destruction concentrates many of the forces of human civilization and offers a way to escape the present and to project the future.

"Hong Kong Is Land" proposes to add eight new artificial islands, including "The Island of Sea," "The Island of Resources," "The Island of Surplus," and "The Island of Self," to the existing territory. In this way it addresses various needs and features of both prevailing contexts and communities of the near future. At the center of the project, beginning in Hong Kong territorial waters, there is a global awareness of specific contemporary issues that aims to reach other parts of the world. The location of the eight proposed artificial islands across Hong Kong territory is based on a process of decontextualization and "reterritorialization" of existing scenarios. Each island epitomizes one of Hong Kong's characteristic values from a territorial, social, economic, and futuristic perspective.

Istanbul
Superpool, Istanbul, Turkey
Atelier d'Architecture Autogérée, Paris, France

Turkey is currently one of the fastest-growing economies in Europe. At 14 million inhabitants and a yearly growth rate of 3.5 percent, Istanbul has fully benefited from this economic boom. Starting in the 1960s, its rapid urbanization has had three main phases: *gecekondus* squatter villages; post-*gecekondus'* additional building rights; and mass housing since the 1990s. Unlike earlier "self-building" phases, the recent mass housing is organized predominantly through the Housing Development Agency of Turkey (Toplu Konut İdaresi Başkanlığı, or TOKI), and it employs a single urban typology: gated complexes of repetitive tower clusters on open land.

TOKI development parallels the emergence of a new middle class in Istanbul, for whom a TOKI flat is part of a dream of car and house ownership, even if this brings social isolation, long hours in traffic, and long-term debt. This deeply indebted middle class is also prone to be the most vulnerable during periods of recession. In the face of continuing political, economic, and ecological uncertainties, and the rising costs of energy, TOKI inhabitants have to become more resilient.

"Kolektif İşbirlikçi Toplum Oluşumu/The Collective and Collaborative Agency (KITO)" is a proposal for a post-urban development initiative, which features an alternative positive scenario for the future of TOKI complexes. KITO works at different scales and levels of resilient action to retrofit spaces, equipment, services, and institutions. KITO's collective interaction is facilitated via KITO'da, an online network that creates an alternative economy, assigning value to local actions

and empowering people to make, give, share, and save energy, services, goods, knowledge, and skills. Instead of consuming the city, residents share in its production.

Lagos
NLÉ, Lagos, Nigeria and Amsterdam, Netherlands
Zoohaus/Inteligencias Colectivas, Madrid, Spain

Nigeria, Africa's largest economy and most populous country, is inhabited by over 170 million people. Lagos, its commercial capital, is home to about 20 million people, many of whom live in unplanned settlements with little formal infrastructure. Lagos is a paradigmatic mix of traditions, a place where history, culture, and popular wisdom interweave local knowledge and global awareness.

Challenges remain common for all Lagosians, regardless of social or economic status. While oil is cheap, in many areas the state energy network is only reliable for about three hours per day. Most homes and businesses depend on generators for electricity. Nearly 30 percent of Lagos state is covered by water, yet water is highly underutilized and inadequately managed by the city's infrastructure. A poorly connected public transportation system and bad roads boost SUV use among middle and upper classes, while mini-transport vehicles like *okadas* (motorcyles) or *danfos* (vans) proliferate among lower-income Lagosians. Urban growth is so rapid that strategies devised by authorities and city planners become obsolete before implementation. Most citizens have to set up their own businesses, often in semi-illegal conditions.

There are no current detailed maps of Lagos, because the city is constantly transforming. The team developed their own map to understand how their findings relate to the city context. The resulting project employs tactical urbanism, creating a network of spaces that act as infrastructure for the city, strengthening what already occurs there. Combining large-scale with small-scale urban interventions, the proposal of NLÉ and Zoohaus/Inteligencias Colectivas features a series of physical and strategic prototypes that enrich the city fabric, merging its local intelligence with global technologies.

Mumbai
URBZ: user-generated cities, Mumbai, India
Ensamble Studio/MIT-POPlab, Madrid, Spain and Cambridge, U.S.
Mumbai is a city of disparate habitats that emerged through various historical encounters to form a global, but unique, metropolis. Often represented in bipolar terms as a city of slums and high-rises, contemporary Mumbai's diversity of built forms represents the creative ways inhabitants occupy urban space. Within the complex city fabric, unplanned settlements have grown incrementally, and now absorb over half of the metropolis's 12 million residents, most typically in thousands of tiny "tool-houses" squeezed into a disproportionately small share of the city's land.

Serving as both a residence and workspace, Mumbai's tool-house echoes a housing type common across Asia, from Singapore's shop-house to Tokyo's home-factory, and generates its value through use rather than from land speculation. It represents a lifeline that keeps millions of people afloat and allows them to productively occupy the city. In the name of redevelopment, however, these neighborhoods are being replaced by single-function high-rises, revealing the arrested imagination of the authorities.

Instead of a planet of slums in need of clearance, the team sees neighborhoods in different stages of evolution. The creative engagement of URBZ in homegrown neighborhoods and Ensamble Studio/MIT-POPlab's innovative research respond to this vision with a collage of tactics, technologies, and imaginations. The air is proposed as new territory where live-work conditions

and public infrastructures recover their rightful place, liberating the excessive pressure on the land. It is the users themselves who will make the final difference by seizing the tools of institutions and experts to continue doing what they have always done—to control and shape their environments with higher levels of professionalism and good sense. This is not a speculative future, but an expanded present where inhabitants can reclaim growth for themselves.

New York
SITU Studio, New York, U.S.
Cohabitation Strategies (CohStra), Rotterdam, Netherlands AND New York, U.S.

Over the past two decades, global investment and profit-driven development, as well as housing policies at all government levels, have engineered New York's social divide. With middle-income households in decline, the city's rapid growth manifests in transformed neighborhoods, luxury developments, and a marked scarcity of affordable housing. Deregulation of private rental housing, withdrawal of funds for rental subsidies, disinvestment in housing provisions for the poor, wage stagnation, and high rents—causing more than half of all renter households to be rent burdened—have created a crisis of affordability.

A lesser-known consequence of the affordability crisis is an informal rental market that has illegally adapted, subdivided, and converted existing apartment buildings, townhouses, and high-rises to accommodate the lowest-paid populations. More than a century ago, Jacob Riis identified this same injustice: poor citizens, made invisible within existing housing stock, are left out of the policies and design decisions that shape their homes.

Two alternative approaches address New York's housing crisis: Cohabitation Strategies proposes "Housing Cooperative Trusts" that challenge traditional conceptions of property through hybrid tenure frameworks. Land and buildings are owned collectively by nonprofits, community stakeholders, tenants, and city authorities, to guarantee permanent affordable housing while building social equity for future generations. SITU Studio proposes neighborhood-based "Community Growth Corporations" to open up underutilized spaces to incremental growth. Outer-borough neighborhoods leverage undeveloped air rights to collectively finance community-wide improvements that provide access to rooftops, backyards, and other occupiable spaces, facilitating a new informal rooftop urbanism for a city with scarce remaining land.

Rio de Janeiro
RUA Arquitetos, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
MAS Urban Design ETH, Zurich, Switzerland

Unevenness is a dominant feature of Rio de Janeiro's urban landscape, making it exemplary of Brazil's reputation as an unequal country. Extreme topography confronts the city with nature and the division between rich and poor neighborhoods is articulated in *asfalto* (official city) and *morro* (favelas). Yet this strong polarization is about to change, as Brazil's income distribution has drastically shifted during the last seven years—the lower middle class has increased by 40 million people and now represents the largest segment of the population. In Rio, 60 percent of favela residents now belong to this emerging middle class.

As Rio becomes a middle-class city, the government and prevailing economic system are transforming the city into a setting for market-driven development. However, the discontent of large portions of the population—demonstrated by recent protests against the FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympics—expresses the gap between the aspirations of an emerging consumer class and the lack of urban equality.

The *cariocas* (Rio's inhabitants) have always found ways to appropriate and subvert their built environment through *puxadinhos*—add-ons to existing structures made from leftover materials. Operating as extensions beyond the boundaries of private property, *puxadinhos* collectively transform the built environment, incorporating and embracing new qualities and uses. Inspired by *puxadinhos*, the proposed "Varanda Products" accommodate the logic of the market in order to transform it. As an interface between individual and community, the veranda offers a middle ground for negotiation, gathering, and play. Varanda Products is a catalog of everyday consumer products that promotes city-making as a collective endeavor bringing together diverse social milieus. Insinuating itself everywhere, Varanda Products encourages small-scale urban entrepreneurship with the openness and playfulness typical of the *carioca* way of life.

SPONSORSHIP:
This is the third exhibition in the series Issues in Contemporary Architecture, supported by Andre Singer.

The exhibition and accompanying workshop at MoMA PS1 were made possible by MoMA's Wallis Annenberg Fund for Innovation in Contemporary Art through the Annenberg Foundation.

Major support is provided by The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

Additional funding is provided by the MoMA Annual Exhibition Fund.

PUBLICATION:
In 2030, the world's population will be a staggering eight billion people. Of these, two-thirds will live in cities, and most will be poor. With limited resources, this uneven growth will be one of the greatest challenges faced by societies across the globe. To engage this international debate The Museum of Modern Art presents *Uneven Growth, Tactical Urbanisms for Expanding Megacities*, its third iteration in the "Issues in Contemporary Architecture" series. Featuring proposals for six global metropolises—New York, Mumbai, Rio de Janeiro, Istanbul, Hong Kong, and Lagos—each developed by a team pairing local practitioners with international researchers, Uneven Growth documents the brainstorming sessions and workshops. Interviews with each team and essays by leading scholars on the issue make the publication a rich resource for students and professionals alike, and a catalyst for worldwide change.

WEBSITE:
In conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum has created a user-generated Tumblr blog that collects examples of emerging modes of tactical urbanism happening in the six regions of exhibition. This custom-designed Tumblr blog acts as both a dynamic, growing catalogue—with public submissions updated in real-time—and a platform for conversation that extends the exhibition's provocations beyond the gallery. Submitted posts are can be viewed either by region or by date of submission, reflecting the global variety of tactical responses. The website can be viewed at http://uneven-growth.moma.org/.

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For downloadable high-resolution images, register at MoMA.org/press.

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Public Information:
The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, NY 10019, (212) 708-9400, MoMA.org.
Hours: Saturday through Thursday, 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Friday, 10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m.
Museum Admission: $25 adults; $18 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; $14 full-time students with current I.D. Free, members and children 16 and under. (Includes admittance to Museum galleries and film programs). Free admission during Uniqlo Free Friday Nights: Fridays, 4:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

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Film and After Hours Program Admission: $12 adults; $10 seniors, 65 years and over with I.D.; $8 full-time students with current I.D. The price of an After Hours Program Admission ticket may be applied toward the price of a Museum admission ticket or MoMA Membership within 30 days.

MoMA/MoMA PS1 Blog, **MoMA on Facebook**, **MoMA on Twitter**, **MoMA on YouTube**, **MoMA on Flickr**