

Knowledge is Power: the production of the city

When we talk about urban space, whose urban space are we talking about?

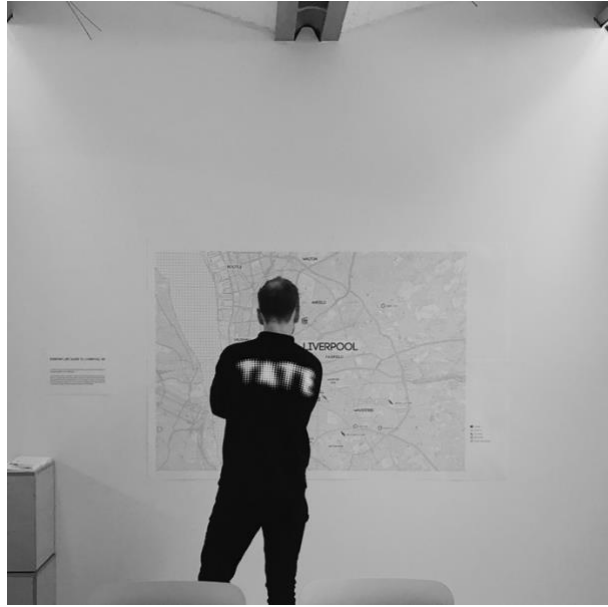
Cities are shaped by people. From self-built settlements on the rooftops of Hong Kong to feminist graffiti and flags under bridges, people negotiate with the city produce safe, small territories that belong to specific groups.

It is this process of negotiation between individuals and authorities (both public and commercial) that shapes the everyday urban spaces that we choose to spend time in. Often, these places are made through the reaction and resistance of ordinary people. In this way, power is shifted from the 'ruler' to the people, and communities form and become stronger.

To echo Theaster Gates' exhibition *Amalgam*, this programme explores the relationship between individuals and the city, the practice of empowerment and the erosion of grassroots power. It focuses on specific areas in two cities: Liverpool and Hong Kong.

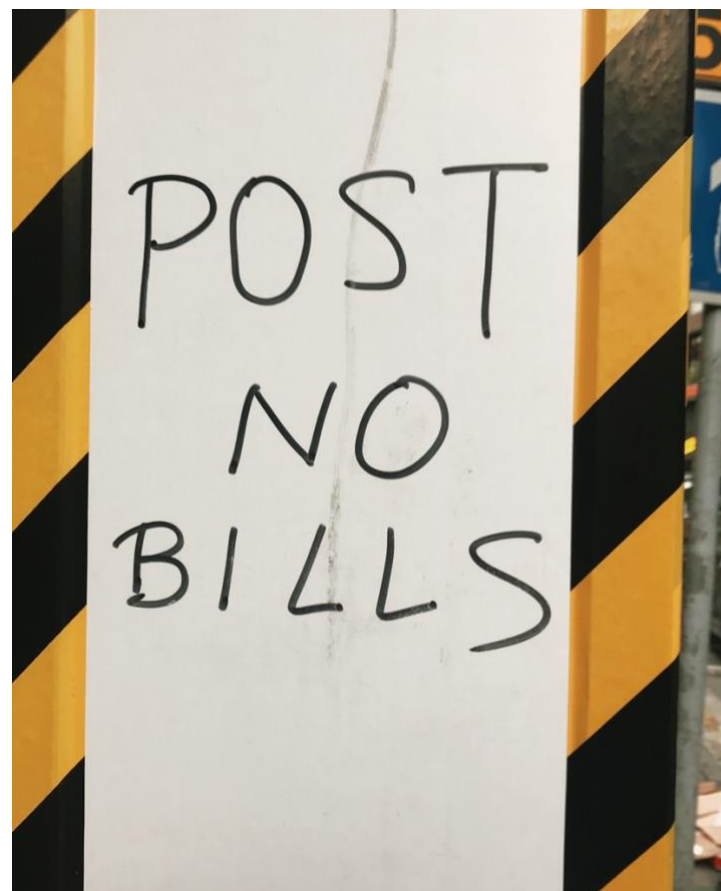
Throughout the residency, an alternative map of Liverpool will be made, developed through contributions from the public — you are invited to add to this map, and cartograph what makes the city meaningful to you.

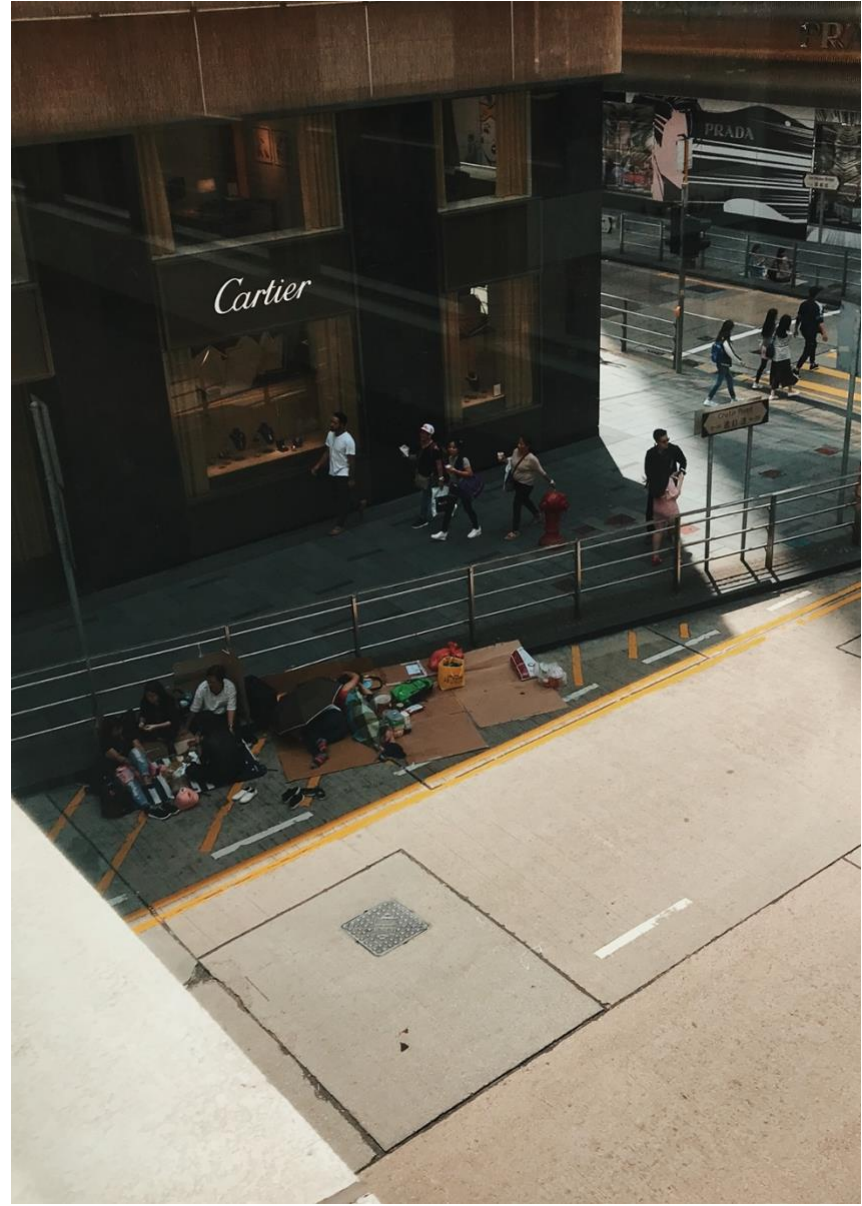
















Everyday Life Guide to Liverpool #01

Do we have to go to a cinema to watch a film? Can we enjoy live music outside of a concert hall? This map initially shows the venues of several activities prominently listed on Google Maps. You are invited to add your own places for such activities. Together, we can visualise the hidden layer of everyday life in Liverpool, made visible through pooling local knowledge.



Everyday Life Guide to Liverpool #02

A collective collage of Liverpool urban space.

Playing with the role of an architect, Zhuozhang developed this collage of an empty Liverpool with only buildings and streets. You are invited to 'move in' and annotate the map with the way you use these spaces in your daily life. This collage demonstrates the relationship between people, planners/architects, and the city.



Hong Kong Kowloon Walled City

This collage presents the life and death of Kowloon Walled City. The timeline shows the history and transformation of the city.

The Walled City was the densest place in the world, with at least 3.2 million people per square mile (Liverpool has a density of 10 thousand people per square mile). More astonishingly, the city was built without architects, planners or engineers. In their book *City of Darkness Revisited*, Greg Girard and Ian Lambot described this bottom-up development in detail:

Because there was no masterplan to follow – or regulations to adhere to – unconventional circulation routes started to weave through the city, rising and descending through adjacent structures. Existing staircases were co-opted, windows in adjacent buildings were ignored and walled over, floors were cantilevered over alleys, sometimes until they touched those across the way... Lower buildings were not always demolished, but simply had additional storeys built atop them, occasionally even by taller buildings next door. At higher levels, corridors were connected to allow people to traverse different structures without returning to ground level...

The city, being named the 'City of Darkness' and the 'City of Anarchy', has become an inspiration of many dystopian films and novels. However, instead of emphasising its legacy once again, this collage aims to examine the shift of power behind the city's transformation in different periods.

References of the text and photos:

Girard, G., Lambot, I., *City of Darkness Revisited*, Watermark Publications, 2014;

Hong Kong Government Records Service, *Kowloon Walled City in the 1960s to 1970s*;

Pan, G., *City School: Hong Kong Cultural Notes*, Century Publishing Group, 2009;

1847 Kowloon Walled City was originally a Yamen (Official, 衙門) and a military fort of Qing Government in 1847.

1898 After the first Sino-Japanese War, The Qing China and Britain signed The Convention for the Extension of Hong Kong Territory. The surrounding island have territories were leased to the United Kingdom for 99 years rent-free. However, Kowloon Walled City was excluded in the lease.

1899 British forces attacked the Walled City in 1899 and the Qing officials left the fort after.

1915 In a census map of Hong Kong region, Kowloon Walled City was named as Chinese Town.

1920 It became home to brothels, opium dens and gambling parlours, as well as poor and fast-moving families. The city became one of most denser area in the world after the 1920s.

1920 A new tower block on Tung Tau Team Road in 1925.

1935 The city was demolished in 1963, and in 1995, the Kowloon Walled City Park was opened, with only a model of the city left inside and a general description of the past Kowloon Walled City occupies 2.6 ha. It locates at the northeast corner of Cranswick Road Park and was once a flourishing place of 30 buildings. (香港壁城遺址，位於德輔道東，佔地2.6公頃，位於德輔道東的東北角，曾一度繁榮，共有30多座建築。)

1950 1950, after the Chinese Civil War, a large number of refugees arrived Hong Kong from the mainland and mainly settled in the walled city.

1963 1963, the city started massive construction in 1960s, with new structures above old building.

1965 In 1965, the government announced the demolition plan of the Walled City and the residents were forced to leave the city from 1963.

1966 In 1966, before its demolition, a group of Japanese scholars, led by historian and cultural anthropologist Inoue Enryū, visited the Walled City and created a thorough survey of the area. A panoramic section drawing was made by the team and later published in the book "Yokohama Kenkyū" (横浜研究, "Grand Kowloon Walled City Sketches"), 1967.

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