

Quarry Village for the 21st Century

Honor Award

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THE CONTEXT: WEAKENING COMMUNAL SPIRIT

Living in a densely packed city, where media exposure and material culture have been integrated into our daily lives, we have become slaves of our desires. Wasteful consumption, fashions, and individualism have eroded much of our communal spirit. When it used to be normal to greet our fellow neighbors, or even invited them for a meal or tea, our hearts are now filled with such awkwardness even just to look at our neighbor as we meet along the street.

As the computer becomes an integral part of people's life in the 21st century and as communication becomes more dependant on electronic devices, we have the responsibility to promote the lost communal spirit in our vernacular culture whilst imposing privacy and tranquility for individuals.

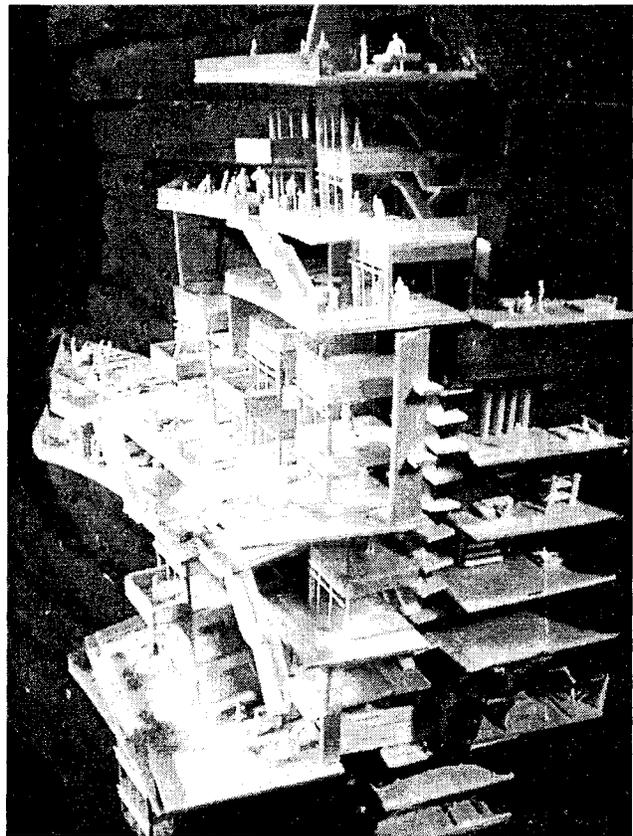
THE OBJECT: POOR HOUSING DESIGN

Housing design in Hong Kong has deteriorated, as the economy, land values, and lack of flat terrain for development have driven the construction of dense, compact and dull housing. The provision of communal space is neglected or over-sized in the old or new housing estates. This fuels the separation between neighbors and leads to selfish attitudes.

THE SELECTED SITE: EXPLOITED SCAR OF AN URBAN CITY, WE SEEK TO HEAL "IT"

The quarry site produces aggregates mainly for the concrete manufacturing industry. In Hong Kong, there is a great demand for concrete for the construction of buildings and so the local quarries were severely excavated. Permit quarry fees, in the form of a royalty based on the production of rock excavated, were assessed by the District Office. However, since the operator's own production records were found to be unreliable and the District Office staff were unable to assess the potential output of processed stone from individual quarries, an empirical formula based on the length of the quarry face was devised to compute that part of the quarry permit fee associated with the production of stone.

Quarry operators tended to exploit quarries with narrow but high working faces and with minimal overburden cover. The creation of undesirable high near-vertical rock faces, in places as high as 100 meters, and the general disfigurement of Hong Kong's countryside



became one of the legacies of the quarry system. Just like the Anderson quarry site.

CIRCULATION

Elevators and escalators are integrated into the living environments to encourage connectivity between residential units and living platforms, thus binding the community vertically as well as diagonally. Personal mechanical circulation will definitely be provided in future housing for the ease and convenience of residents.