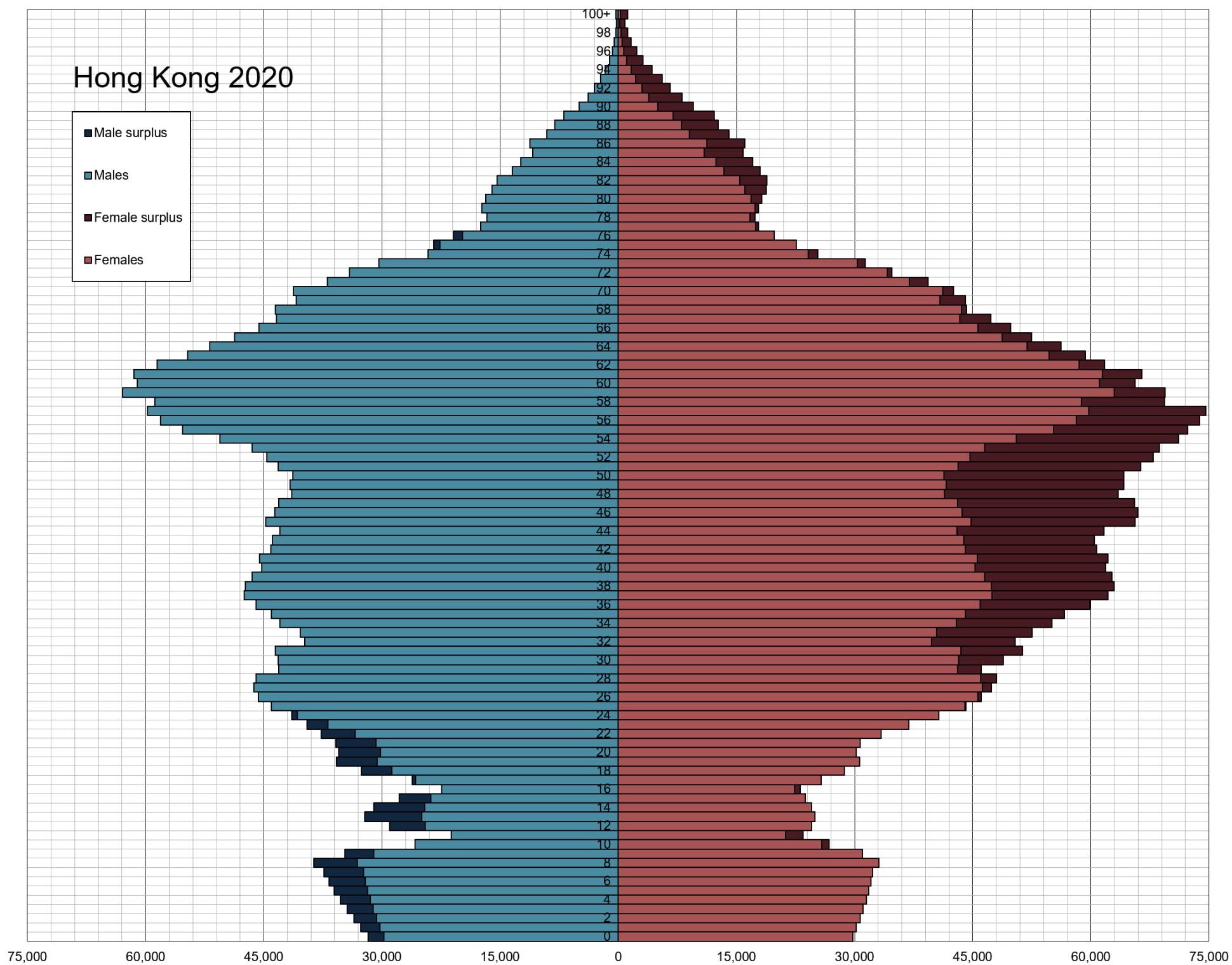


'The City in A City'
Research Booklet

1. Anatomy of the Chungking Mansions
Location, Layout, History and Typologies of Composite
Buildings

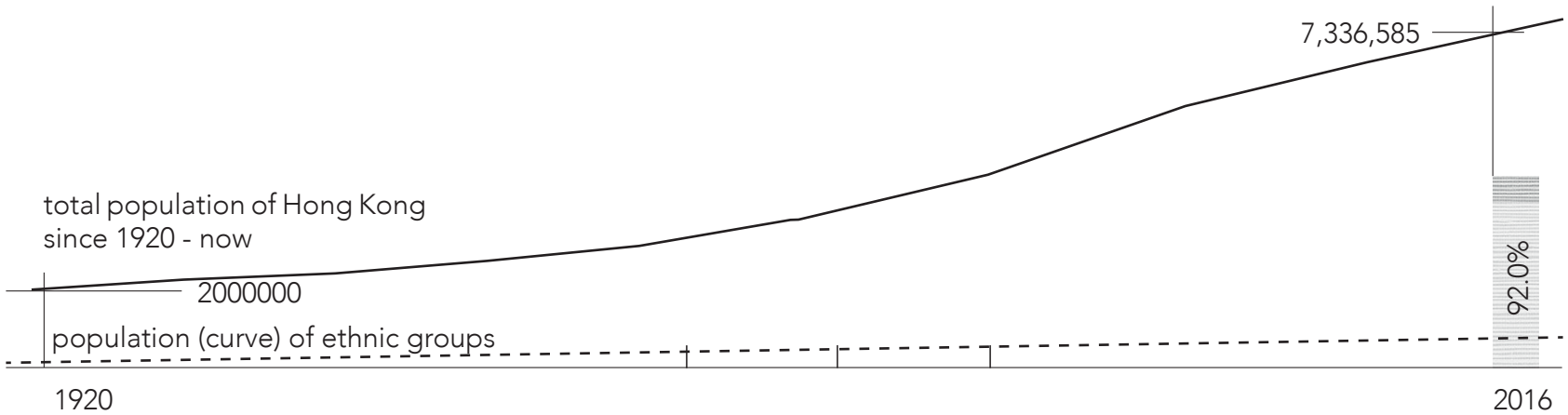
Population of Hong Kong

As one of the most densely populated areas in the world, with an overall density of approximately 6,300 people per sq. km. Ethnically, Hong Kong mainly consists of Han Chinese who constitute approximately 92% of the population mainly immigrants from Guangdong; 8% are categorised as 'ethnic minorities', including the large number of Filipinos and Indonesians.

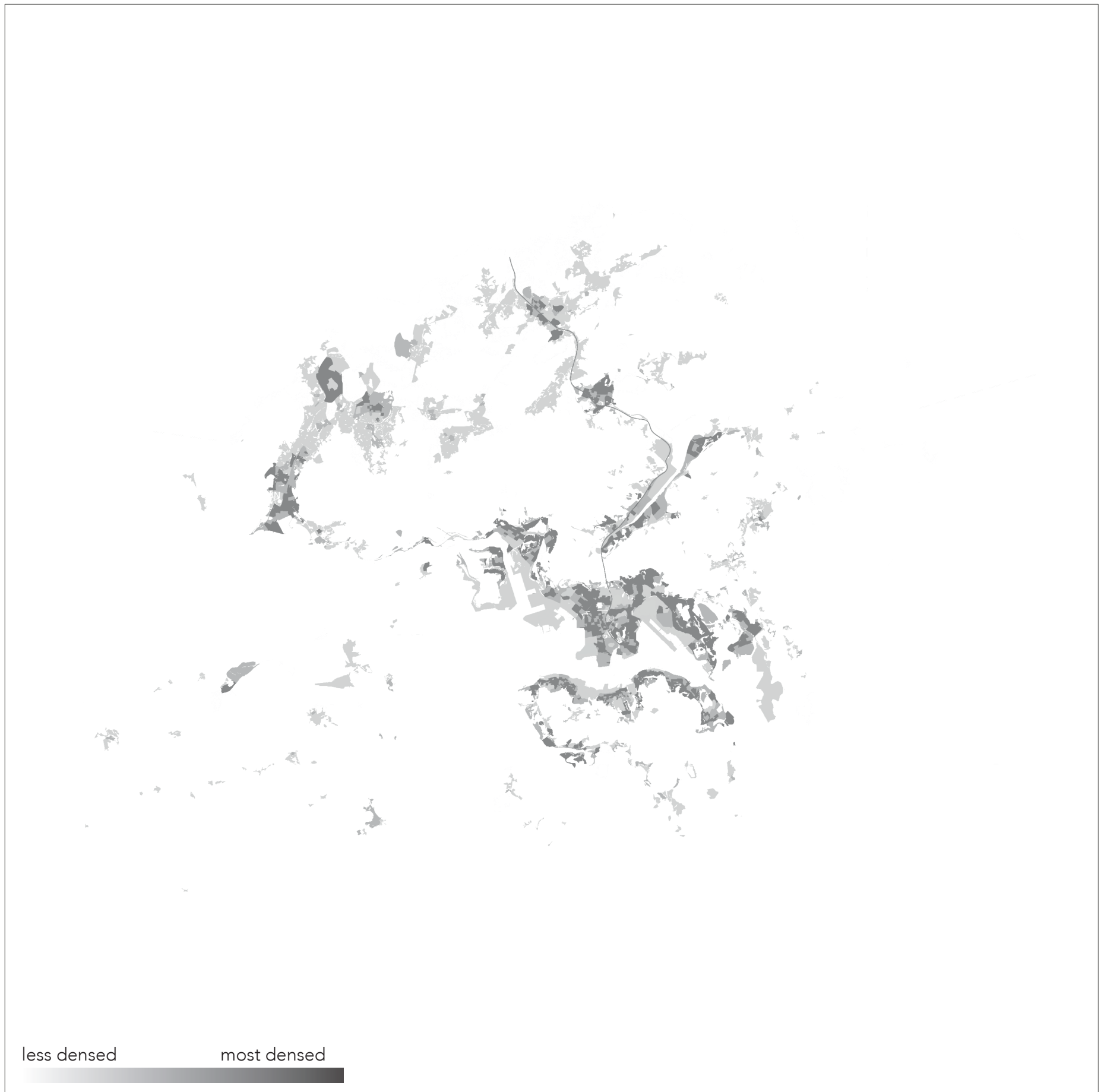




Historical Population			Ethnic groups/ Population (2016)		
Year	Pop.	+/-% p.a.	Ethnic groups	Number	%
1841	7,450	-	Chinese	6,752,202	92
1851	32,983	+16.05%	Filipino	184,081	2.5
1861	119,320	+13.72%	Indonesian	153,299	2.1
1871	120,124	+0.07%	White	58,209	0.8
1881	160,402	+2.93%	Indian	36,462	0.5
1891	221,441	+3.28%	Nepalese	25,472	0.3
1901	368,987	+5.24%	Pakistani	18,094	0.2
1911	456,739	+2.16%	Thai	10,215	0.1
1921	625,166	+3.19%	Japanese	9,976	0.1
1931	840,473	+3.00%	Other Asian	19,589	0.3
1941	163,000	-15.13%	Others	68,986	0.9
1951	2,070,000	+38.51%	Total	7,336,585	100
1961	3,128,648	+22.92%			
1971	3,936,630	+4.22%			
1981	5,183,400	+2.32%			
1991	5,752,000	+2.79%			
2001	6,714,300	+1.05%			
2011	7,071,600	+0.52%			
2019	7,507400	+0.75%			



"Main Tables". Archived from the original on 20 November 2017. Retrieved 13 March 2017.

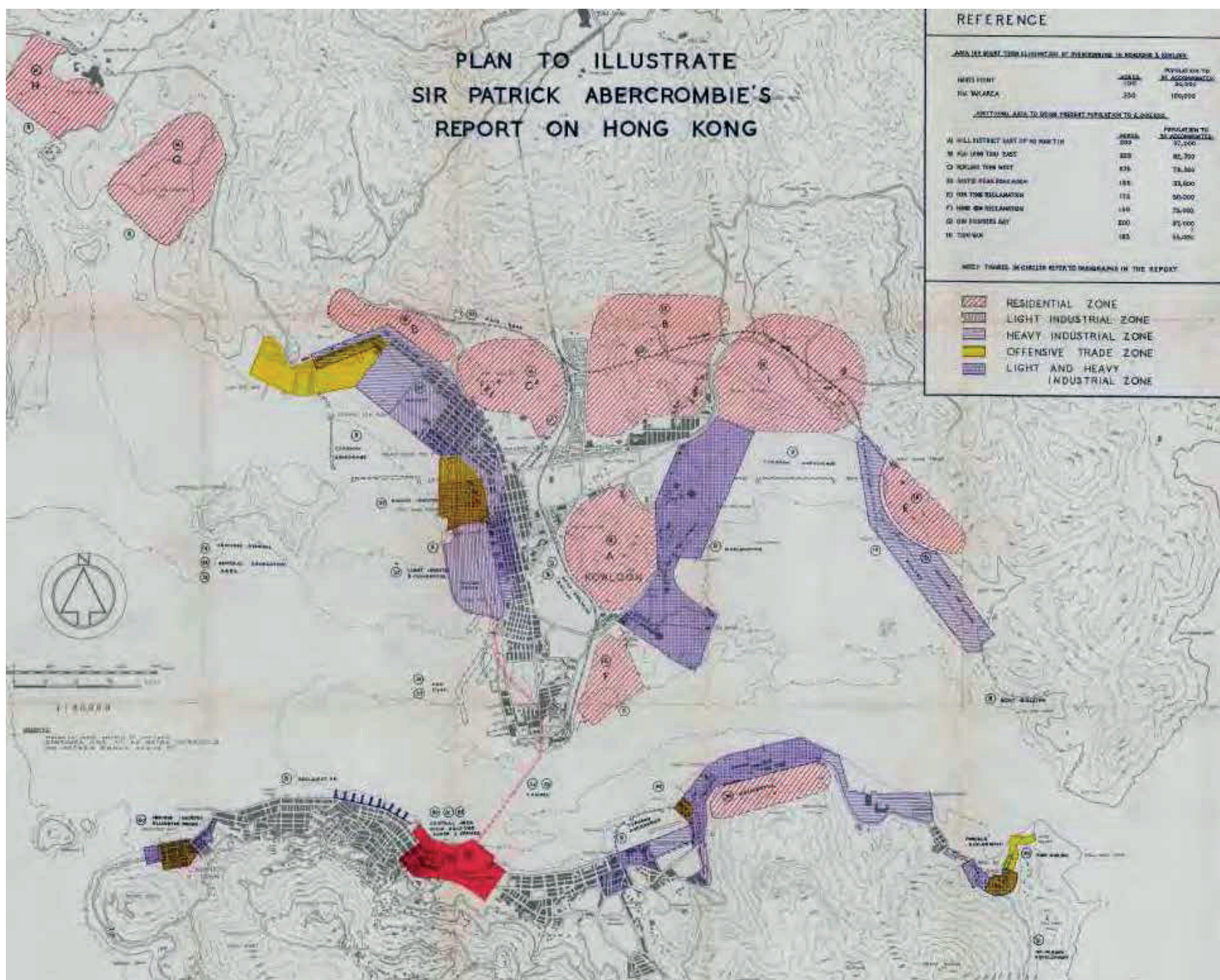


Post-war Period and the Establishment of HKHA

Post-World War II Hong Kong was politically and economically valuable to the newly formed People's Republic of China, especially with the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 and the intensification of the Cold War in East Asia. Hong Kong faced her challenge in the transformation of economy and embarked on a full-fledged industrialization process, with the obtained modern technology, skills and capital.

The postwar decades up to the 1970s were a period of experimentation and reorganization in planning and housing development. In 1946, the planner Sir Patrick Abercrombie was invited to carry out the first comprehensive urban planning for Hong Kong, for which he produced a report in 1949 that highlighted the need for infrastructural connections.

Town planning development trials can be found during 1950s, with the establishment of Resettlement Department in the Urban Council (UrbCo.) due to the completion of Shek Kip Mei. In 1973, the Government under the British Governor Murray MacLehose, established the Hong Kong Housing Authority (HKHA) under the revised housing ordinance. Following the 1956 Building Ordinance based on volumetric control to the 1962 amendment on plot ratio control through the 1970s, the composite buildings are built massively to accommodate the living and economical needs.



Hong Kong Preliminary Planning Report (by planner Sir Patrick Abercrombie)

Composite Building

From the onset, within Hong Kong's building regulations, the definition of a 'composite building' refers to a building that contains domestic and other functions.

The mix-used composite building became the dominant architectural type in the immediate decades following 1949 for its ubiquity to the following three factors:

- (1) It provided spatially compact housing for a city with an escalating population
- (2) It offered expanding middle class opportunities for investing in relatively inexpensive and profitable properties boosted by the introduction of multiple ownership and the mortgage system; and
- (3) It was an agent of the expansion of the construction industry, which bolstered by the relocation of building expertise from the Mainland.



COMPACT FLATS IN BIG DEMAND BY MIDDLE CLASSES

Architects: — E.Y. Wu, C.N. Chow
and Associates.

THE urgent need for compact accommodation for Hong Kong's middle classes, both Chinese and European, is continually being spotlighted. An excellent example of the type of residence being sought is that provided in the recently completed Broadview Mansion in Wong Nei Chong Road, Happy Valley.

This 11 storey building was designed to fully utilise the floor area. Only 400 square feet out of a total of 4100 square feet of building area on each floor are taken up by staircases, lifts, entrance hall and corridors. This area represents less than 10 per cent of the building area. The almost complete absence of corridors is one of the main features of the building. About the only wasted space in each flat is a small three feet by three feet "hall" between two bedrooms.

The new building contains four European style apartments to each floor — the front pairs face the Racecourse and have an area of about 1150 square feet, while the rear two, smaller apartments, facing Ventris Road, have an area of about 700 square feet.

Each apartment contains a living/dining room, three bedrooms, two bathrooms (only one for the rear apartments), kitchen, servants' room with a servants' W.C.

The servants' quarters are particularly well situated in all flats, being placed out of the way at the rear of the kitchen and adjacent to two verandahs, another feature of every flat.

"Compact Flats in Big Demand by Middle Class," article in The Far East Builder (1964).

Composite Building, Layout

As the war ended, Hong Kong as its premier entrepot, and spearheaded industrial development of the 1950s urged the economic transformation. Low-cost multi-story industrial buildings for light industries were built in particularly new towns. The enactment of 1956 Building Ordinance were completed in defining the nature of composite building and the intentions.

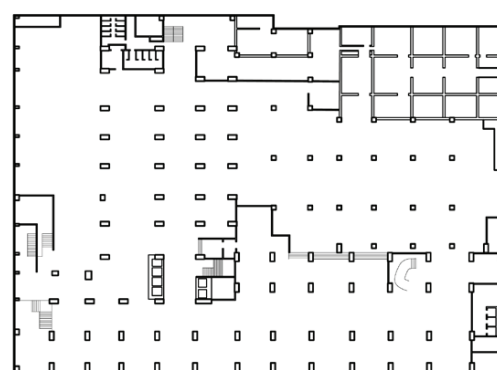
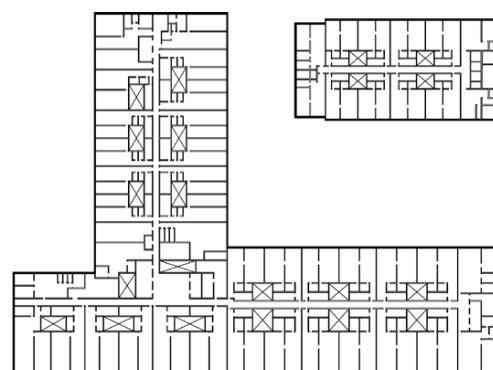
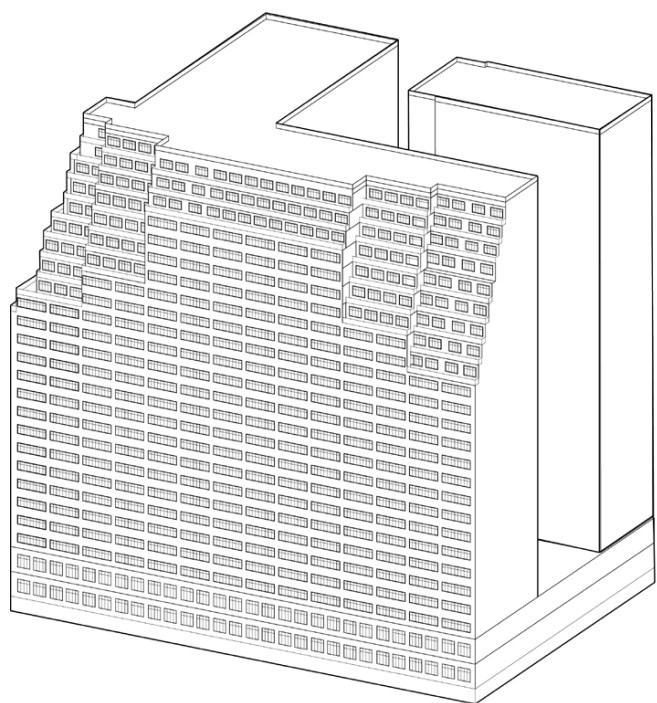
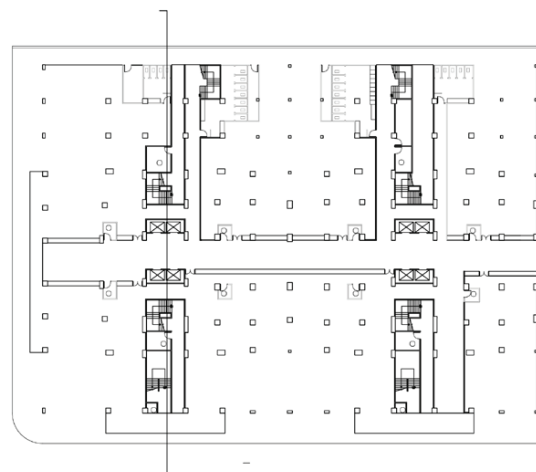
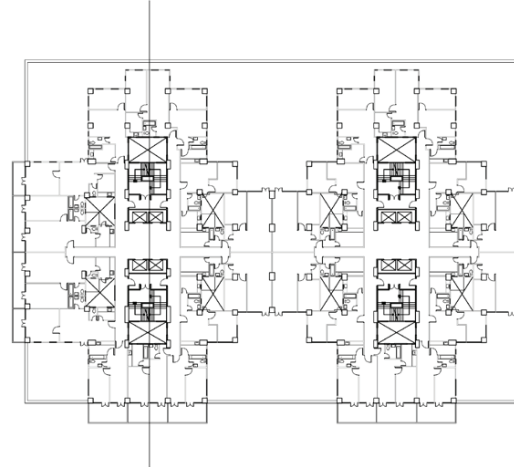
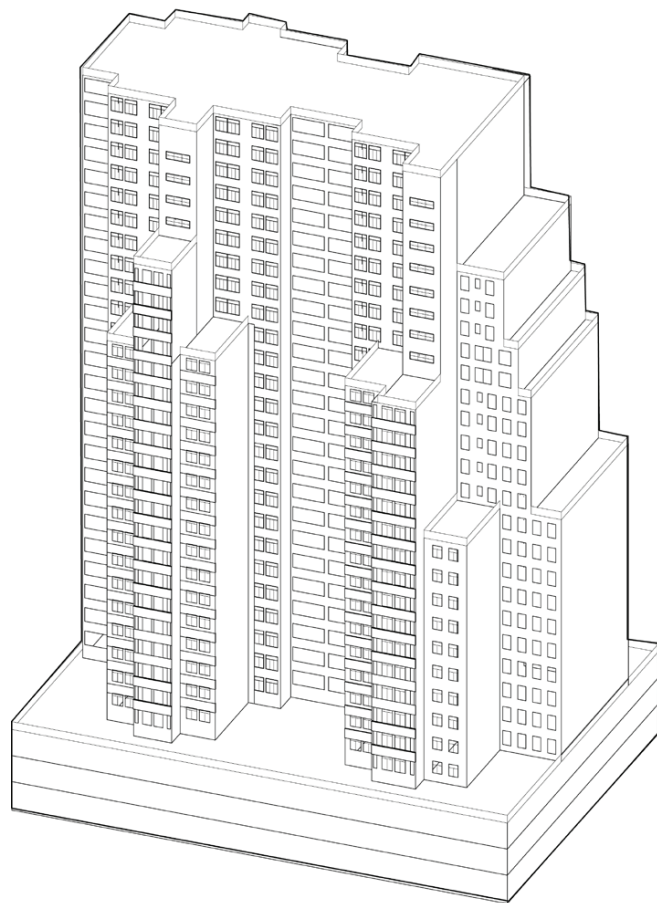
Composite buildings, embodies the containment of a social heterogeneity in a unifying framework defined by the collision of the private and the public, the imbrication of the urban and domestic, and the continuity of every aspect of urban space in the interior.

Cap. 123F Building (Planning) Regulations,
Enactment of 1956 Building Ordinance

"composite building (綜合用途建築物) means a building that is partly domestic and partly non-domestic; (Added 73 of 1983 s. 2) "

"domestic (住用), when used in relation to a part of a composite building, means a part that is constructed or intended for habitation; (Added 73 of 1983 s. 2)"

"non-domestic (非住用), when used in relation to a part of a composite building, means a part that is constructed or intended for use otherwise than for habitation; (Added 73 of 1983 s. 2)"

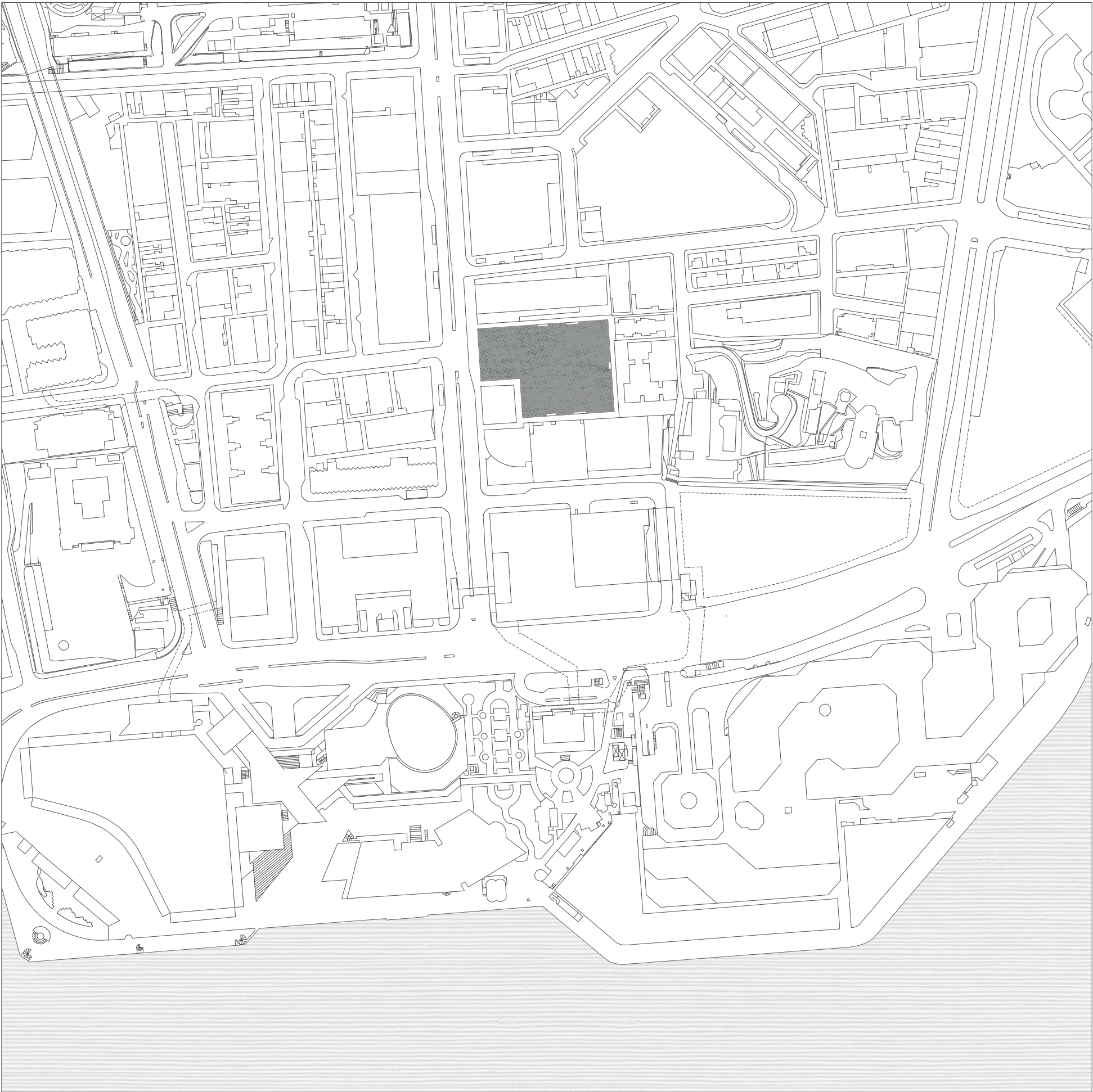


Above: Kiu Kwun Mansion designed by Steven Yue in North Point, Hong Kong, 1963.
Below: Metropole Building designed by Tam Heung Sing in North Point Hong Kong, 1972.

Chungking Mansions, Layout

Chungking mansions situates between 36-44 Nathan Road, in Tsim Sha Tsui District. It is the most popular tourist shopping district in the city, at the southern tip of the Kowloon Peninsula. The building is a 17-storey concrete column-slab structure that accommodates a wide varieties of activities, programmes and people. Cheap hostels, shops and residences are intervened within the concrete fortress.

Among the 'podium tower' in 1960s, it is the fist completed ones in the former site of Chungking Market. It followed the amendments of the building ordinance in 1956 and 1962 that covers 100% of the site, great plot ratio and new street-building height relationship that permitted twice the street width in height.

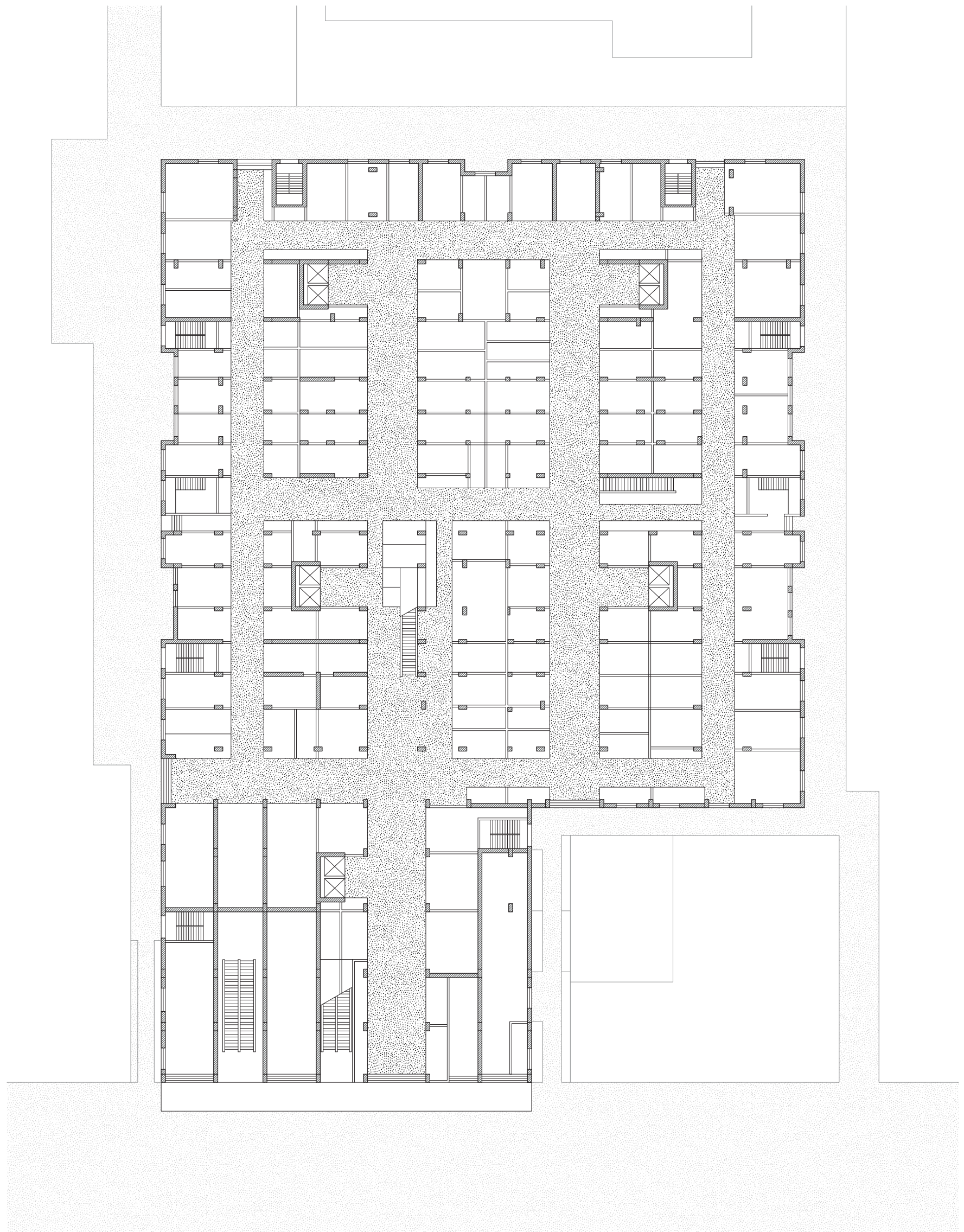


50m

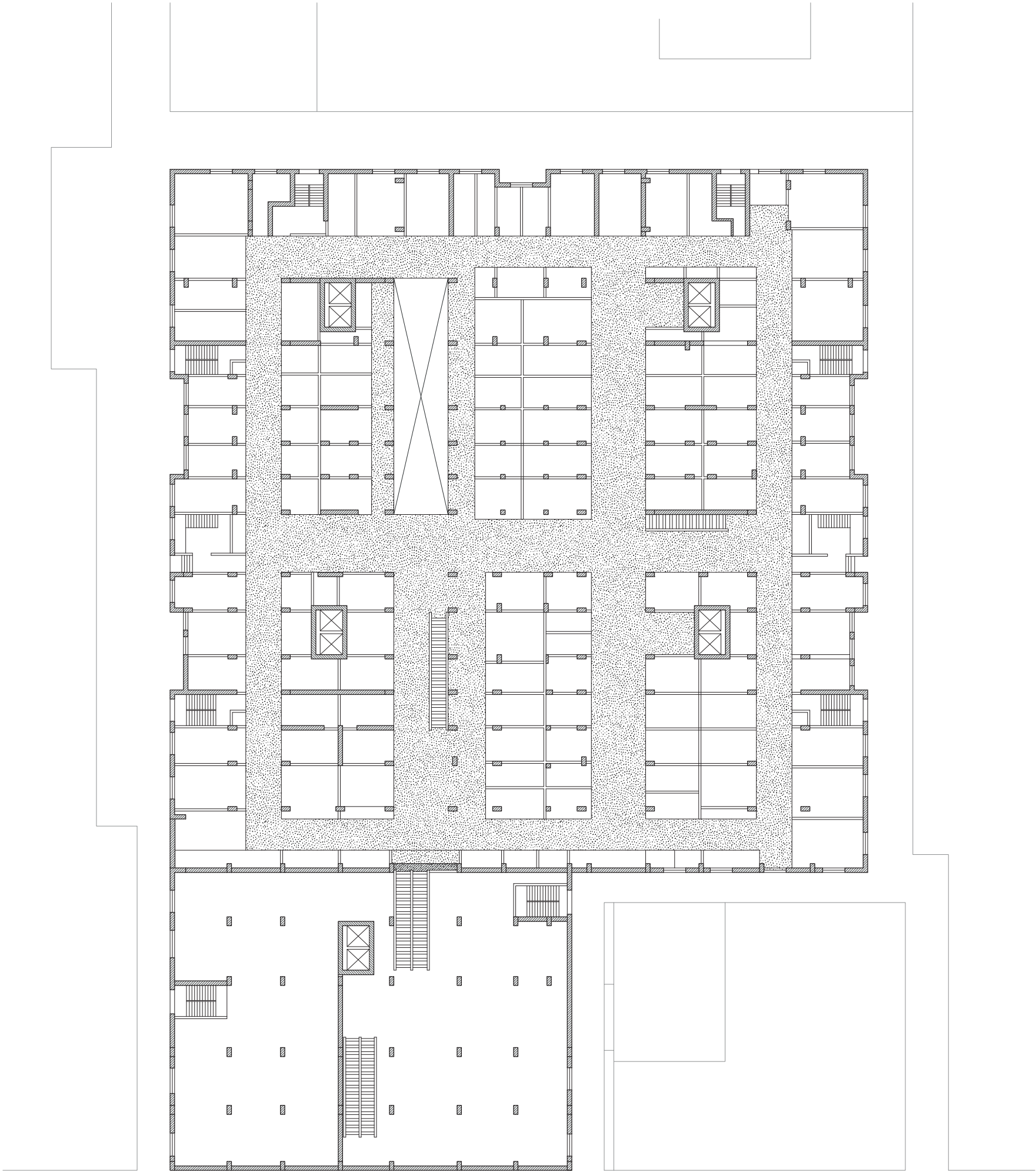
ChungKing Mansions, Layout

The 17-storey building is a straightforward concrete column-slab structure divided into two distinctive parts - the podium and the towers.

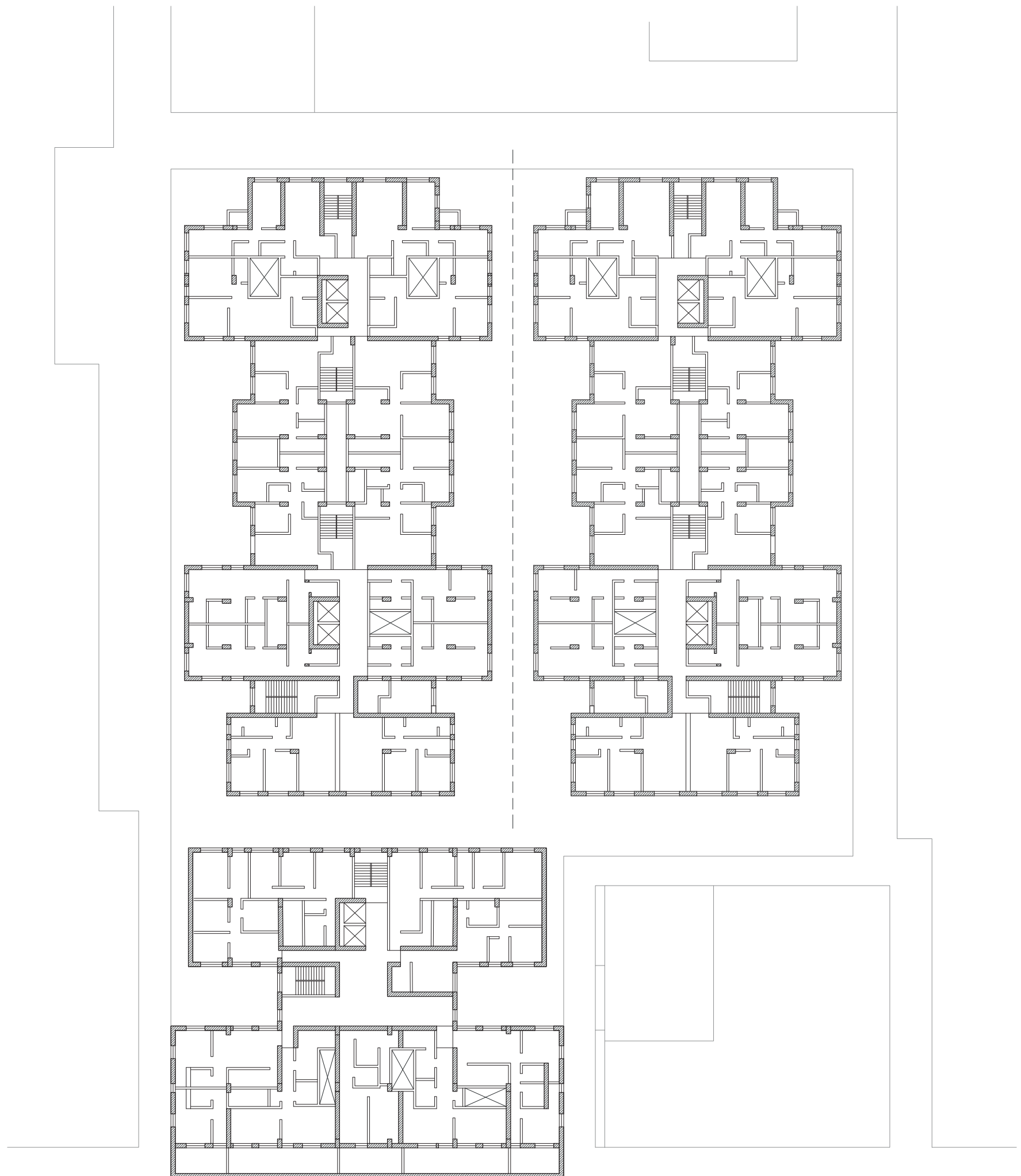
The podium is formed by the 2-storey vertical extrusion of the city block that houses 2 separate shopping malls. Above the podium are the three tower blocks consist of 15-repeating floor plans that rise to the 17th storey. There are 5-set of elevators connecting the towers to the ground floor, with 3 separate tower blocks in total. Yet the three blocks are not reachable by one another, except they are only connected by the ground floor.



Ground Floor Plan



First Floor Plan



Typical Floor Plan (3/F onwards)

Chungking Mansions has been a place full of incidents, in much due to the difference of being a luxurious place at first and become a problematic and neglected buidlings throughout the years. The history has shown the deficiency and lack of considerations for future uses in particular in the interiors, services and structural systems.

Chungking Mansions opens

1958

Plans are made to built the tallest building in Tsim Sha Tsui after wealthy Fujian man Jaime Chua Tiampo, living in the Philippines, bought Chungking Arcade for a luxury residential development.

November 11, 1961

Construction of Chungking Mansions is finished and the buidling is awarded an occupancy permit. Lots of 1,000 sq ft are sold for \$30,000.

‘Super-shopping market’ opens

May 1, 1962

With renovations to the retail floors completed, the place opens to great fanfare with Hong Kong’s first Japanese-style nightclubs, cinemas and restaurants.

Inferno

September 14, 1966

A blaze rips through six shops in one of the earliest reported fires at the building – which would endure many more. Residents, including South China Morning Post staff, report panic at the smoke-filled building as exits and roof access are found locked. Damage is estimated at HK\$3 million at the time, or \$26.6 million in today’s money.



May 1, 1962 - ‘Super-shopping market’ opens



May 1, 1966 - Inferno

(Reference:A fortunate place. The secrets and truth inside Chungking Mansions. (n.d.). <https://multimedia.scmp.com/chungking-mansions/index.html>.)

Where to Stay 75

government tax. You won't get troubled with either in the cheap places.

There is only two words for dirt cheap accommodation in Hongkong *Chungking Mansions*. It is a vast block, built in four sections. It stands in Nathan Rd, shoulder to shoulder with the *Holiday Inn*, right in the middle of Kowloon. You enter through a drab, unpromising looking shopping arcade. Cheap boarding houses are scattered throughout the "Mansions". More are opening up too which helps to keep prices competitive. Prices vary according to the season (June to September is peak time) and length of stay, and it is worth bargaining. If you want something cheap it is worth by-passing A block and going to ones further back. The front blocks tend to get the "can't walk a step further" trade who are willing to pay accordingly. Ignore any shock horror stories you hear about Chungking. I lived there quite happily for two months. It was friendly, comfortable and clean. It was, and still is, a good place to eat cheaply as well. Interspersed with the floors of boarding houses are cheap restaurants and you will find that many of the guest houses can send out for bowls of noodles and even if they don't have restaurants can come up with tea and toast for breakfast.

Bus 1A or 9 will bring you to Nathan Road from the airport. When you get there hunt around — if your feet can stand it — that's the best advice. Each "block" has its own lift. Here's a selection, all prices in HK dollars.

A Block

Travellers' Hostel, 1 girls' dorm, 2 boys', cooking facilities. Not too clean but only \$10 a night.

International Guest House, floors 9 and 10, tel 3 — 664256/3 — 667 458. Billed as your "home away from home". Very respectable. Air con in some rooms. TV, meals, and laundry service, singles from \$25, doubles from \$35.

Chungking House, Floors 4 and 5, tel 3 — 665362. Also respectable. Dining room. Singles from \$30, doubles from \$35.

B Block

Crown and Astor (floor 16), *Carlton and Ruby* (15), *New Washington* (13), *Columbia* (12) all at \$15 to \$18.

D Block

Woodstock Hostel (floor 7). Quite a find this one and the bargain of Chungking at present. Run by Londoner Ivan Brentnall who has been in Hongkong for 13 years and is a fund of information. Very clean, cooking facilities with fridge. Even a safe for valuables if you travel with them. 1 men's dormitory, 1 women's, \$10. Tel 3-691867.

Block D is a happy hunting for cheapies. Try *Ices* (floor 16), *New York* (15), *Mandarin and Far East* (14), *Boston* (10), *Hoover* (9), *Fortuna* (8), *Princess* (3), and don't forget to bargain. Try \$14 for a single and \$20 for a double.

Other

International Youth Accommodation Centre 21A, Lock Rd, 6th floor, behind the Hyatt Hotel in Nathan Rd. Good, clean and

1978 - Longly Planet makes a booking

Five-alarm fire

March 11, 1971

Residents live without reliable water and power supplies after a fire at Tung Wan Kok nightclub. The colonial administration issues a repair order a week later.

Sin Bin

September 16, 1973

“European” prostitutes – usually Australian, Canadian, American and New Zealanders as well as actual European women – come to Chungking Mansions where they make an estimated HK\$40,000 a month in “six-month sex assignments” according to sources who spoke to the Post.

Longly Planet makes a booking

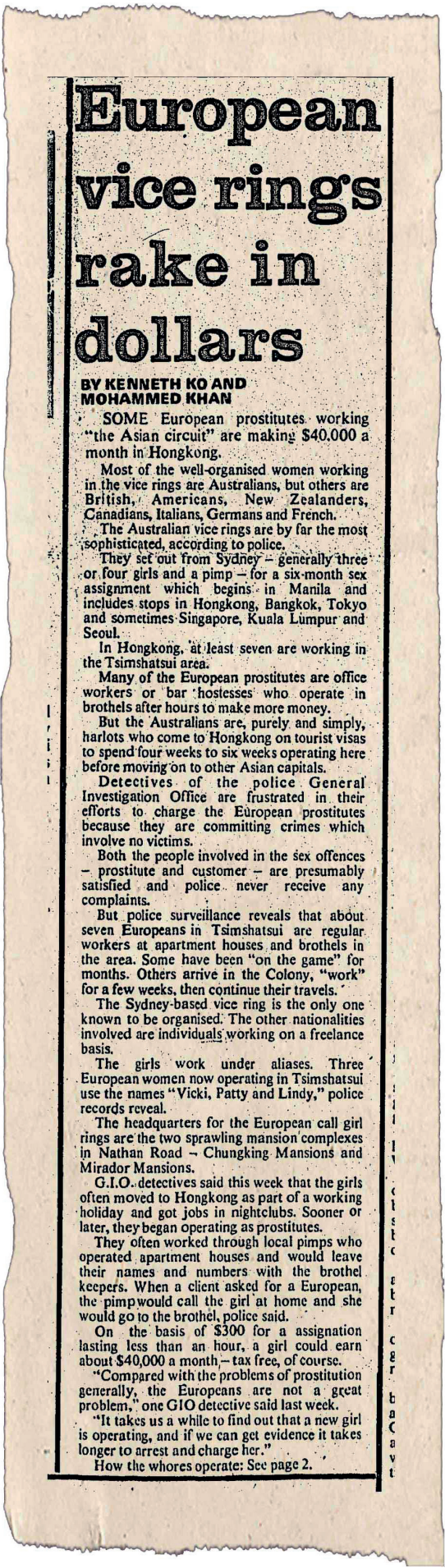
1978

Having been popular in backpacking circles since the early 1970s, the building’s reputation for cheap guest houses became official when Lonely Planet published its review of Chungking Mansions accommodation.

Concrete smashes taxi

July 3, 1985

A chunk of concrete falls from the 15th floor of Chungking Mansions, injuring a taxi driver as it bursts through the windscreen of his car. The incident alerted the Buildings Ordinance Office, which found more risky sections of the ledge.



September 16, 1973 - Sin Bin

Vol. XXVII No. 59

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1971.

Price 40 cents

Where have all the neonlights gone?

The 17-storey Chungking Mansion was a house of darkness yesterday after a fire ravaged a basement nightclub the day before.

Power supply has failed since Thursday evening — at the height of the blaze — and the 6,000 residents in the many flats and shops worked under candle light or pressure lamps.

And for those living on the upper floors, their inconvenience was compounded by a complete disruption of another necessity — water.

The pumps that bring water to a tank to meet the needs of these upper floors, failed to work because there was no power.

As tenants groped through their difficulties, many tourists checked out of the several guest houses in the mansion. They moved into guest houses in other buildings nearby and these establishments promptly doubled their rates.

"I don't mind paying higher rates," said a visitor from the Philippines. "At least I can have some place to wash and shave."

The tourists were not the only ones to quit Chungking Mansion. Many residents have also left because of the inconvenience.

Said Mr M. K. Wilson, who decided to leave his 12th floor flat to stay with a friend: "I climbed the stairs last night (the lift having failed to work, too), and I am not going to do it again tonight."

For those who chose to stay home, life was one big struggle. Not only did they have to do without light and water, but they had to give up many amenities, too.

For music lovers, there was no hi-fi music — their sets remained inoperative. For television viewers, there was no TV. The only things that did work were the telephones and the piped music of Rediffusion.



One of the usually busy shops in Chungking Mansion doing business by the light of petromax lamps.

They chose to stay, too, for another good reason. During the night, as residents were being evacuated from the building, one shop was burgled.

Said the manager of the firm, the Soul Power custom tailors, Mr L. Ashok: "We forgot to lock the door when we dashed out during the fire. We lost \$3,685 and jewellery worth about \$2,000."

Looters broke the glass door of the Scandinavia shop on the first floor and stole several silver rings worth \$1,000. They also tried to break into the Duru's International Mail Order Co on the second floor, but failed.

Police promptly stationed extra men in the building to prevent further looting.

"We are also here to protect the residents returning home by the dark staircases," said an officer.

"We hope to prevent thugs from taking advantage of the situation."

Most of the shops in the mansion were closed because of the blackout and "ventilation problems."

Some were also awaiting insurance companies to check the extent of damage to goods caused by water and smoke.

A few, however, opened for business, though for only a couple of hours.

Explained Mr Biscuit Shanker, owner of the Mapers Inc:

"I have been forced to open for business because we have to deliver our goods to the tourists. They have paid for them and they are leaving today."

The mansion's management committee placed pressure lamps in the arcade and the main staircase for the convenience of residents.

But residents were not satisfied. The management committee office was flooded with enquires as to when electricity and water supply would be resumed.

The Chief Fire Officer, Mr R. Holmes, inspected the fire scene yesterday. He recalled that his men has been greatly hampered by the "fantastic heat and smoke."

"All basement fires are difficult," he said.

He said the smoke was caused by decoration and construction materials in the basement.

Mr Holmes said the fire was confined to the basement and there was little chance of it spreading to the upper floors.

But his main concern was to reduce the smoke to prevent residents on the upper floors from panicking. He added that he was looking into the cause of fire.

March 11, 1971 - Five-alarm fire

Concrete proof of danger

On July 3, a chunk of concrete fell from the 15th floor of Chungking Mansions and crashed through a taxi, smashing the windscreen and injuring the driver.

Staff from the dangerous buildings section of the Buildings Ordinance Office went to the scene and found that part of a ledge was unsound.

An immediate survey was carried out to see if other concrete protuberances at Chungking Mansions were unsafe. Some had deteriorated to such an extent they could have collapsed at any time.

The risk was considered so great that a Government contractor was called in to remove dangerous parts.

"The situation demanded immediate action," a BOO building surveyor said. "There was an immediate danger of the other parts collapsing."

Since then, BOO has conducted a more detailed survey of the building and identified other areas where the concrete is failing although the risk is not so immediate.

The department is currently planning to issue a statutory repair order to require the

building's multiple owners to make the place safe.

But this is a time-consuming task since hundreds of owners are involved and the addresses of each has to be located before the orders can be sent out.

Concrete chunks have also fallen from other buildings.

On April 9, part of a concrete clothes-drying enclosure on the 24th floor of 5 Belcher Street, a 15-year-old building in Kennedy Town, broke off and fell down. Luckily it hit the first floor podium and no one was injured.

Again, BOO staff called to the scene found that in addition to the concrete enclosure which had partly collapsed, another was also on the verge of falling away.

A Government contractor had to be called in to remove both. Later, a more extensive survey identified 254 defective concrete clothes-drying enclosures in the rest of the building where the risk of collapse was not immediate, but which would also have fallen down "sooner or later" if not repaired.

The owners have since been served with repair orders

to have the defective parts taken out and work has progressed on about 40 so far.

On May 3, at 5-7 Tai Hang Drive, a concrete slab from a window sill fell from the 15th floor, injuring a pedestrian and damaging a car.

This time the BOO investigation showed there was no immediate danger of further collapses although a survey identified defects in the building's concrete window hoods and sills.

Again, repair orders have since been served to require that the potential dangers be eliminated.

On March 29, at 60 Bute Street in Kowloon, a concrete window hood fell three storeys on to Sai Yeung Choi Street where it damaged a taxi.

BOO staff called to the scene found that other window hoods in the building were also "dangerously loose" and had to be removed immediately.

A later survey identified serious problems of concrete deterioration in other areas in the building and repair orders have since been served on the owners.

According to BOO, the department normally issues repair orders to landlords and leaves it to them to rectify failing concrete problems. The exceptions are when the owners cannot be readily located and the risk of collapse is so great that there has to be immediate action.

In such cases, a Government contractor is used and the cost is subsequently recovered from the owners.

Concrete repair specialist Brian Hubbard advises owners who suspect concrete deterioration in their buildings to seek expert advice.

Examination is needed to determine whether the deterioration has any structural significance or whether the danger lies primarily in concrete falling off and poses risks to life and property.

"The repair work doesn't necessarily have to be very expensive," said Mr Hubbard, who heads a new Shui On subsidiary set up to diagnose and repair concrete problems.

"And in some cases, it may not even be economical or advisable to make costly repair work."

Concrete smashes taxi - July 3, 1985

‘Hong Kong’s mansion of ill-repute’

May 19, 1986

The “tawdry silhouette” of Chungking Mansions was meticulously laid bare as the Post’s John Blanton gave his view from inside the building. What he found was “an ambience of ill-repute”, and delicious curry.

Gold smuggling rings exposed

February 8, 1987

Cash-strapped backpackers risked a life sentence to earn thousands by smuggling gold inside their bodies to South Asian nations like Nepal, Bangladesh and India, as well as South Korea. Perhaps it’s not a surprise that the operation had its base in Chungking Mansions.

Transformer room explodes

July 21, 1993

The building was constructed without its own electricity transformer, so in the 1960s one was built. By 1993 it blew up, forcing the building’s management to install another one with greater capacity.

Gold smuggling rings exposed

Travellers tempted into Asian courier network

By CAROLINE DEWHURST

GOLD smugglers are using Hongkong as a base to illegally import millions of dollars worth of the precious metal into several Asian countries, hiring young travellers as couriers.

They are operating openly, out of at least two premises in Tsim Sha Tsui, smuggling gold to South Korea, Bangladesh, India and through China to Nepal.

Couriers are being paid up to \$6,500 per operation during which they carry the precious metal in their bodies to their destination, drop it off and then return with currency.

Many couriers are unaware of the risks they are facing which include extensive jail sentences and, in the case of Bangladesh, life imprisonment. The government there is now considering imposing the death penalty for gold smuggling. In Nepal, a gold

Exclusive

smuggler may receive a five-year prison term.

Several couriers have already been caught and have served or are serving prison sentences. (See story page 2).

In a month-long investigation the *Sunday Morning Post* has uncovered that the groups form part of an international network operating legally out of Hongkong but illegally into other countries.

We were able to easily infiltrate three of the operations posing as possible couriers and in one case a reporter was hired to smuggle 32 tael of gold – worth about \$120,000 – into South Korea.

Two of the groups penetrated were operated by English expatriates and the third by a Nepalese.

They are:

- Andrew Matthews, a Briton about 23-years-old, who operates from Room 2 at the First

Class Guest House in Nathan Road. Matthews admits that he has served time in jail in Hongkong for possession of drugs.

- Three Britons known as Steve, Richard and Barry, who run their smuggling business from E Block in Chungking Mansions in Tsim Sha Tsui. They are all in their mid to late 20s. Steve is banned from entering South Korea after serving six months in jail there for organising gold smuggling. Richard spent six weeks in a Korean jail for similar offences.
- Kuma Gurung, a Nepalese in his mid-30s. Using Room 3 at the First Class Guest House he uses couriers to smuggle gold to his home country.

The groups are taking advantage of Hongkong’s “free port” policy where there are no laws against taking gold out of Hongkong or bringing cash into the territory. There are also no laws against coercing people to break the laws of another country.

All the operations identified work through the cheap hostel



□ Three smugglers: At left, Richard, and pictured right are his cohorts Steve and Barry.

accommodation in Nathan Road. They hire recruiters who are paid commission to find couriers, and are promised cash, return air tickets and nights in expensive hotels for smuggling gold.

They buy cheap air tickets in the name of the courier and accompany him or her to the airport. The courier is given the gold just before he enters the departure lounge and carries it straight onto the plane.

He is instructed to secrete the gold on the plane shortly before it lands. After going through cus-

tomers the courier is met by a member of the group, taken to a nearby hotel and relieved of the gold. He is paid and is then free to stay in the country for a holiday or return immediately to Hongkong.

A *Sunday Morning Post* reporter played the part of a tourist who had spent a few weeks in China, had little cash left and wanted to go to Nepal to catch up with her boyfriend. She began her search by checking into the Traveller's Hostel on the 16th floor of A block.

Within an hour of talking to fellow hostellers she got into conversation with a young Englishman who admitted to having been on 27 separate smuggling trips. When pressed he offered to put her in touch with one of the smuggling operations.

She met Andrew Matthews who told her: “I do it for the adrenalin. It is a way of making quick money.”

“The adrenalin is addictive. I wouldn't like a nine-to-five job. But when I work I like to make good money.”

Matthews claimed he was very professional about his

smuggling trips. He took great care to create the image of a respectable businessman to fool customs men into thinking he was on legitimate business.

He wore a suit, dark glasses and carried a briefcase containing business papers. The gold could be carried in several places, but it was always well hidden. Sometimes it would be concealed behind the metal rim of the briefcase. Sometimes it would be carried within the body.

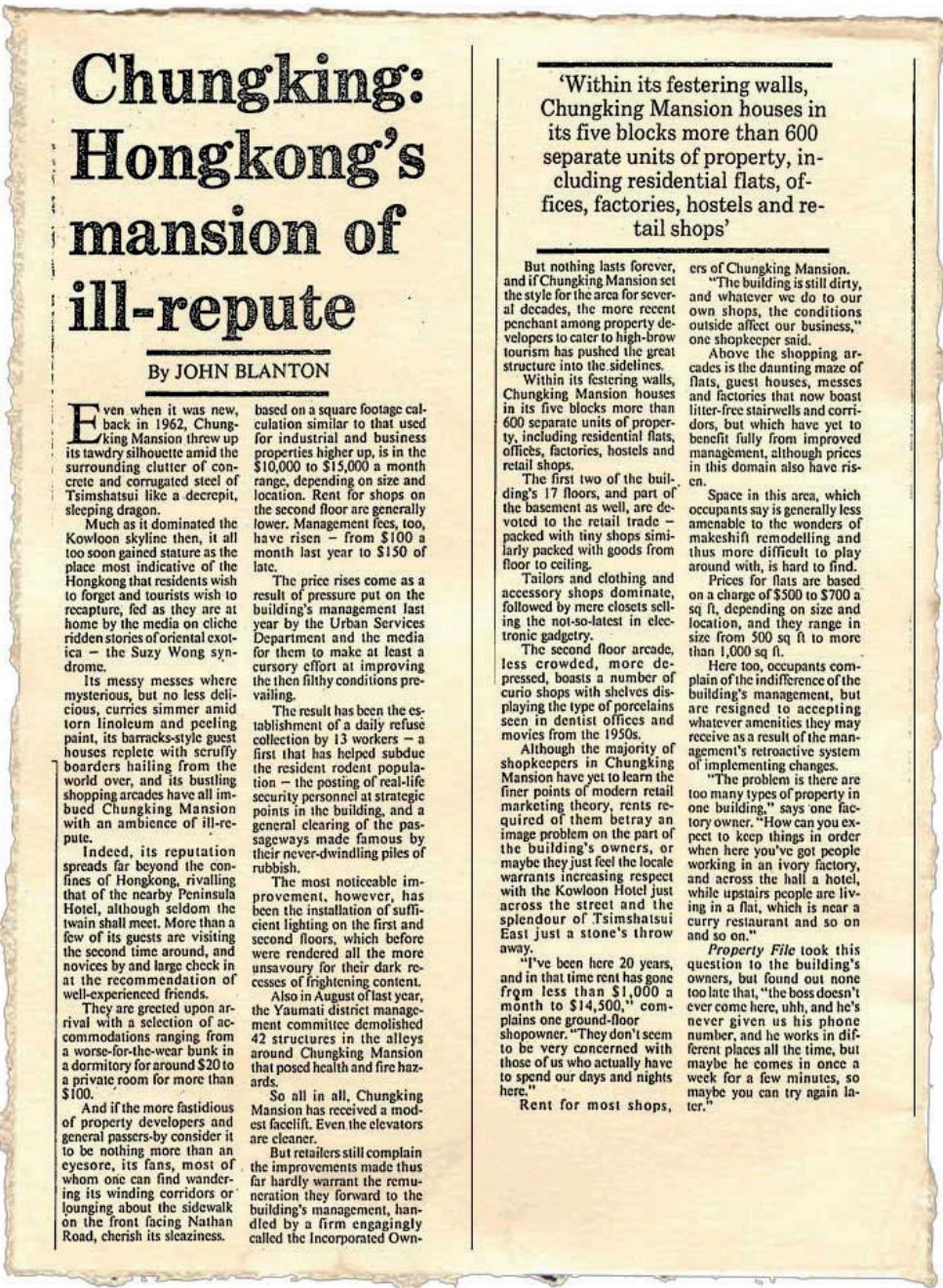
He told several stories of friends who were caught smuggling gold. One group of about five people were going to Nepal across the border from Tibet. The group included a 44-year-old woman who had already successfully completed several smuggling trips.

But two American college girls in the group were nervous and did not take the operation seriously enough. The customs men became suspicious and searched the group. Matthews said they were still in jail in Nepal.

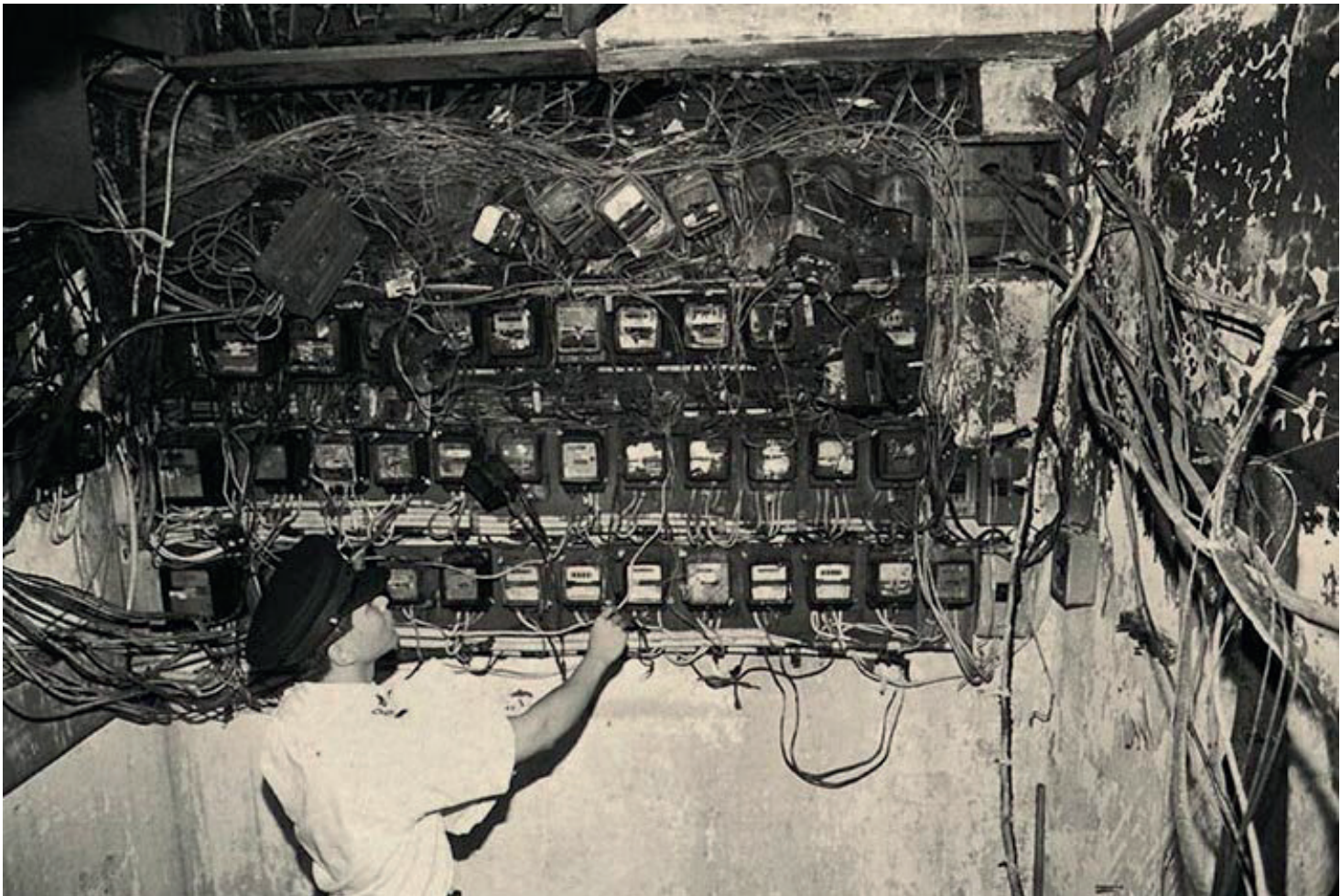
Another time a friend was supposed to fly from Hongkong to Katmandu with a large quantity of gold. A number of customs men had been paid off at Katmandu airport. But the plane had a short stopover in Bangkok and due to a typhoon the plane was delayed for three hours.

● Continued Page 2

February 8, 1987 - Gold smuggling rings exposed



May 19, 1986 - 'Hong Kong's mansion of ill-repute'



July 21, 1993 - Transformer room explodes

Chungking Express

July 13, 1994

Wong Kar-wai's Chungking Express – which Sight and Sound magazine named in 2002 among the 10 best films of the previous 25 years – features a drug smuggling operation hosted in the Chungking Mansions retail floors. The release sparked a rush of cinephiles to the building. Long-time guest house owner Wah Fat-chun says the film “saved Chungking Mansions”.

Maintenance issues plague building

1995

In the two years to 1997 the Hong Kong administration issues eight maintenance orders for issues at Chungking Mansions. Property prices fall to \$600 per sq ft as the cost of repairs reaches nearly HK\$13.5 million after completion in 2001.

Triad cleared of bomb plot

November 8, 1995

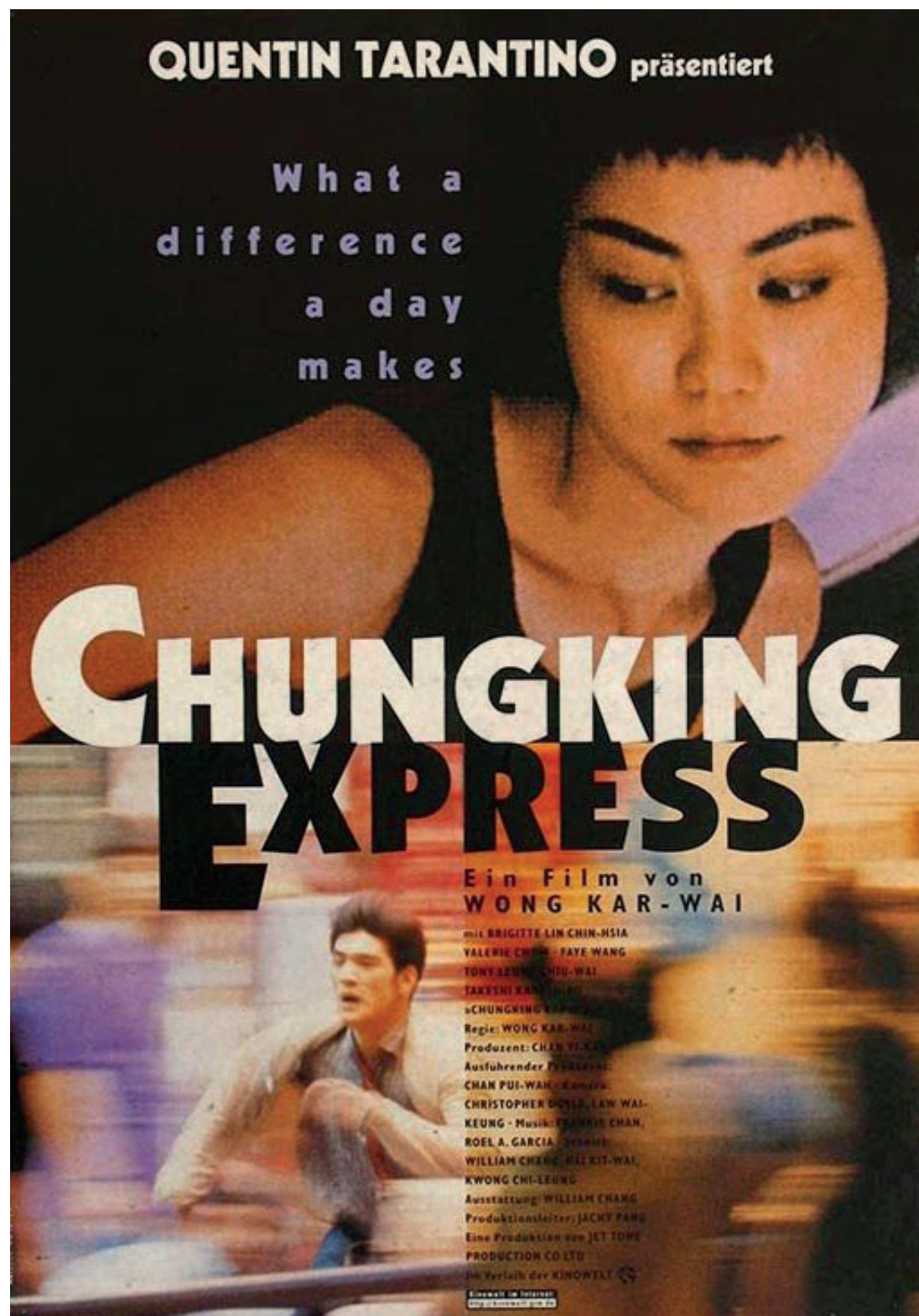
A triad member, Tsang Ting-yat, is acquitted of conspiring to cause an explosion after a fire at the China Palace nightclub at Chungking Mansions. The judge rules that the notes of an undercover policeman who had infiltrated the Sun Yee On gang were not accurate after he gave inconsistent testimony.



1995 - Maintenance issues plague building



November 8, 1995 - Triad cleared of bomb plot



July 13, 1994 - Chungking Express

2. Ethnography

History and Research Methodology

Early Armchair Anthropology

Early scholars and their work:

Wilhelm Schmidt

Sir E.B. Tylor

Sir James Frazer (*The Golden Bough*)

It was developed in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that were highly reliable on the gathered data about people throughout the world. It was symbolizing the comfortness of their homes and library armchairs that early scholars collected others' (often missionaries, colonists, adventurers etc.) travel accounts and used them to come to conclusion about far-flung cultures and peoples.

Apparently the main problem is the inaccuracy and incompleteness of the collected data, or more often a more misleading, exaggerated or omitted important information and romanticized the culture.

Off the Veranda

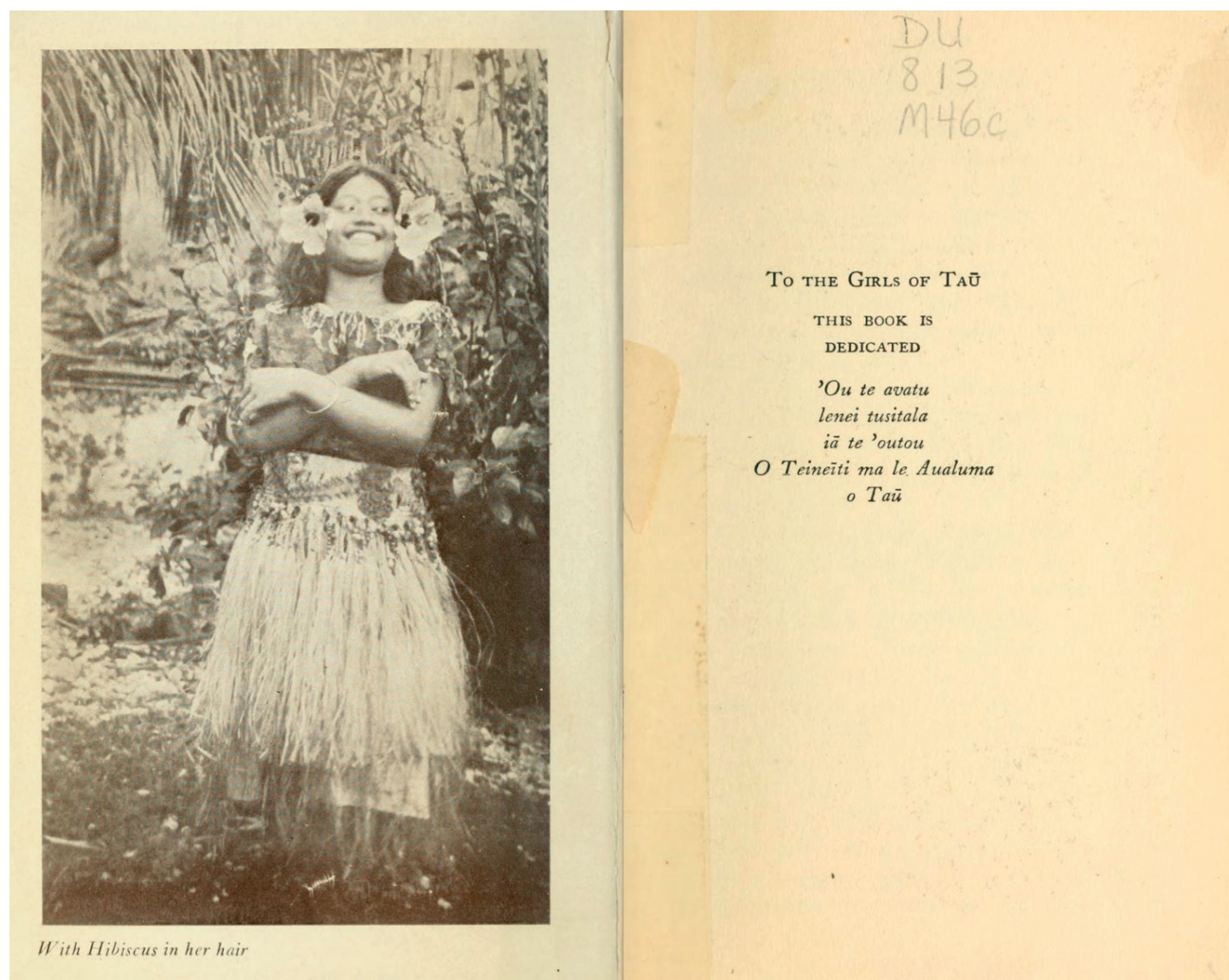
Early scholars:

Franz Boas

Alfred Cort Haddon

Bronislaw Malinowski

In the twentieth century, anthropologists trained in the natural sciences began to reimagine what a science of humanity should be like and how social scientists ought to go about studying cultural groups. Generally, they did not spend significant time with the locals, thus their observations were primarily conducted from the relative comfort and safety of a porch - from their veranda.



Bronislaw Malinowski changed the way that field studies were carried out. He worked on a remote group of Pacific islands—the Trobriands—and lived for long periods among the people he was studying. A brilliant linguist, he quickly learned their language and later published books which brought the islanders to life. The idea that native peoples were primitive savages was altered for good with Malinowski's insight into their mastery of their world.

Salvage Ethnography

A common view in the first half of the twentieth century was that many 'primitive' cultures were quickly disappearing and features of those cultures needed to be preserved (salvaged) before they were lost. This can be seen in the following works:

- Robert Flaherty, *Nanook of the North* (1992)

He filmed the life of an Inuit man named Nanook and his family in the Canadian Arctic, with an effort to preserve on film what many believed was a traditional way of life soon to be lost (including some staged scenes to make the film seem more 'authentic').

- Painter George Catlin (1796 - 1872)

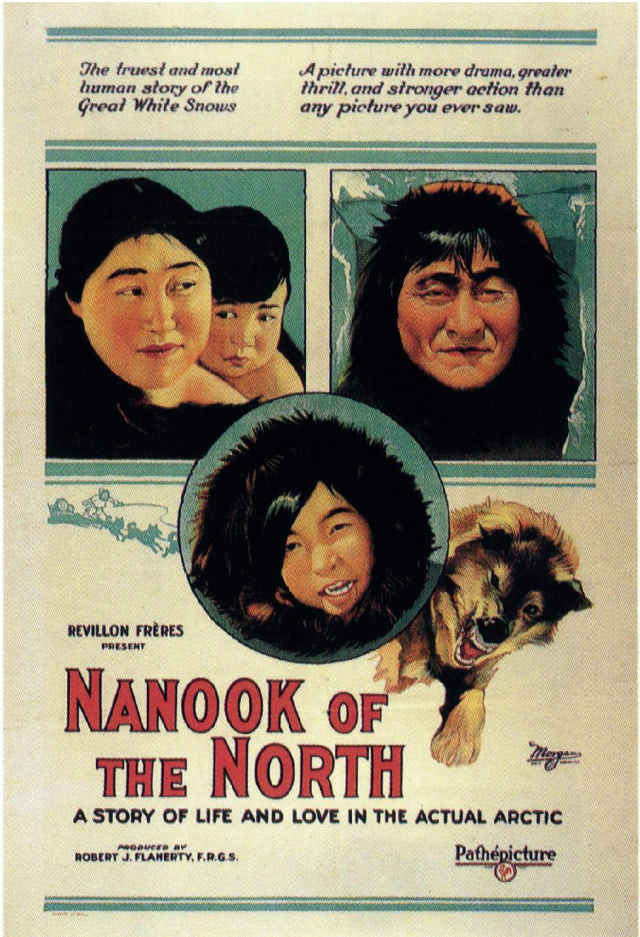
He is known to have embellished scenes or painted them in ways that glossed over the difficult reality that native people in the 19th Century were actively persecuted by the government, displaced from their lands and forced into unsustainable lifestyles that led to starvation and warfare.

- Photographer Edward S. Curtis (1868 - 1952)

He has been criticized for reinforcing romanticized images of 'authentic' native scenes. He is accused of having reinforced/perpetuated the problematic idea of the noble savage and, in the process, distracted attention from the serious social, political, and economic problems faced by native people.

Holism

In the US, the efforts developed into what is known today as the **four-field approach** or simply as **general anthropology**. This approach integrates multiple scientific and humanistic perspectives into a single comprehensive discipline composed of cultural, archaeological, biological/ physical, and linguistic anthropology.

















George Catlin, Stu-mick-o-sucks, Buffalo Bull's Back Fat, Head Chief, Blood Tribe, 1832






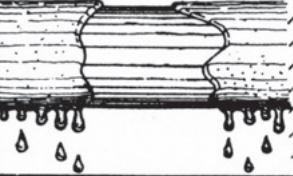
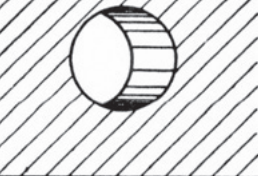

"The North American Indian." by Edward S. Curtis, 1930.

Anthropology’s Distinctive Research Strategy

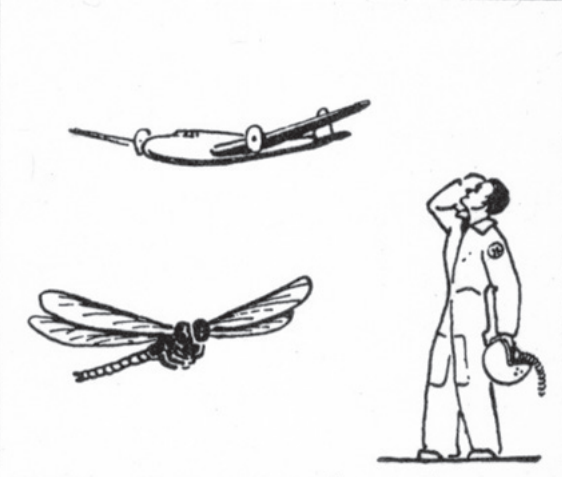
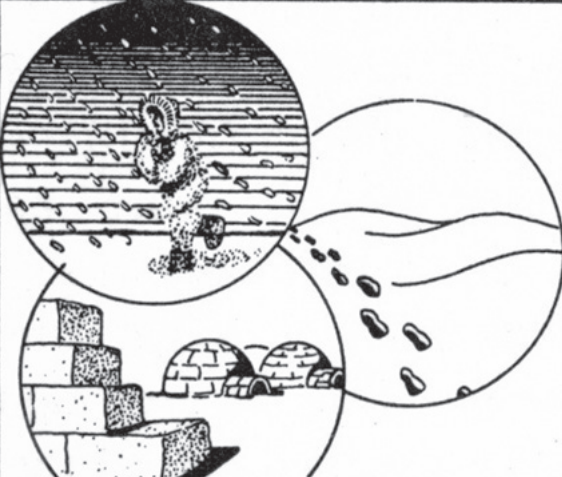


Ethnography is cultural anthropology’s distinctive research strategy, which originally developed by anthropologists to study small-scale relatively isolated cultural groups. Ethnographers spent months to live in the community, and in that time, they documented in great detail every dimension of people’s lives, including language, subsistence strategies, political systems, formation of families and marriages, and religious beliefs. This was important to appreciate the interconnectedness of all dimensions of social life.

OBJECTIVE FIELD	SPEAKER (SENDER)	HEARER (RECEIVER)	HANDLING OF TOPIC, RUNNING OF THIRD PERSON
SITUATION 1a. 			ENGLISH... "HE IS RUNNING" HOPI ... "WARI" (RUNNING, STATEMENT OF FACT)
SITUATION 1b. OBJECTIVE FIELD BLANK DEVOID OF RUNNING			ENGLISH... "HE RAN" HOPI ... "WARI" (RUNNING, STATEMENT OF FACT)
SITUATION 2 			ENGLISH... "HE IS RUNNING" HOPI ... "WARI" (RUNNING, STATEMENT OF FACT)
SITUATION 3 OBJECTIVE FIELD BLANK			ENGLISH... "HE RAN" HOPI ... "ERA WARI" (RUNNING, STATEMENT OF FACT FROM MEMORY)
SITUATION 4 OBJECTIVE FIELD BLANK			ENGLISH... "HE WILL RUN" HOPI ... "WARIKNI" (RUNNING, STATEMENT OF EXPECTATION)
SITUATION 5 OBJECTIVE FIELD BLANK			ENGLISH... "HE RUNS" (E.G. ON THE TRACK TEAM) HOPI ... "WARIKNGWE" (RUNNING, STATEMENT OF LAW)

Contrast between a ‘temporal’ language (English.) and a ‘timeless’ language (Hopi).
What are to English differences of time are to Hopi differences in the kind of validity.

ENGLISH			THE THREE ISOLATES FROM EXPERIENCE OR NATURE USED IN ENGLISH TO SAY "I CLEAN IT (GUN) WITH THE RAMROD."
"CLEAN"	"WITH"	"RAMROD"	
			
SHAWNEE			THE THREE ISOLATES FROM EXPERIENCE OR NATURE USED IN SHAWNEE TO SAY "NIPĒKWĀLAKHA", MEANING "I CLEAN IT (GUN) WITH THE RAMROD."
"PĒKW" (DRY SPACE)	"ĀLAK" (INTERIOR OF HOLE)	"H" (BY MOTION OF TOOL, INSTRUMENT)	
			

Languages dissect nature differently. The different isolates of meaning (thoughts) used by English and Shawnee in reporting the same experiences, that of cleaning a gun by running the ramrod through it. The pronouns 'I' and 'it' are not shown by symbols, as they have the same meaning in each language. In shawnee ni-equals 'I'; -a equals 'it.'

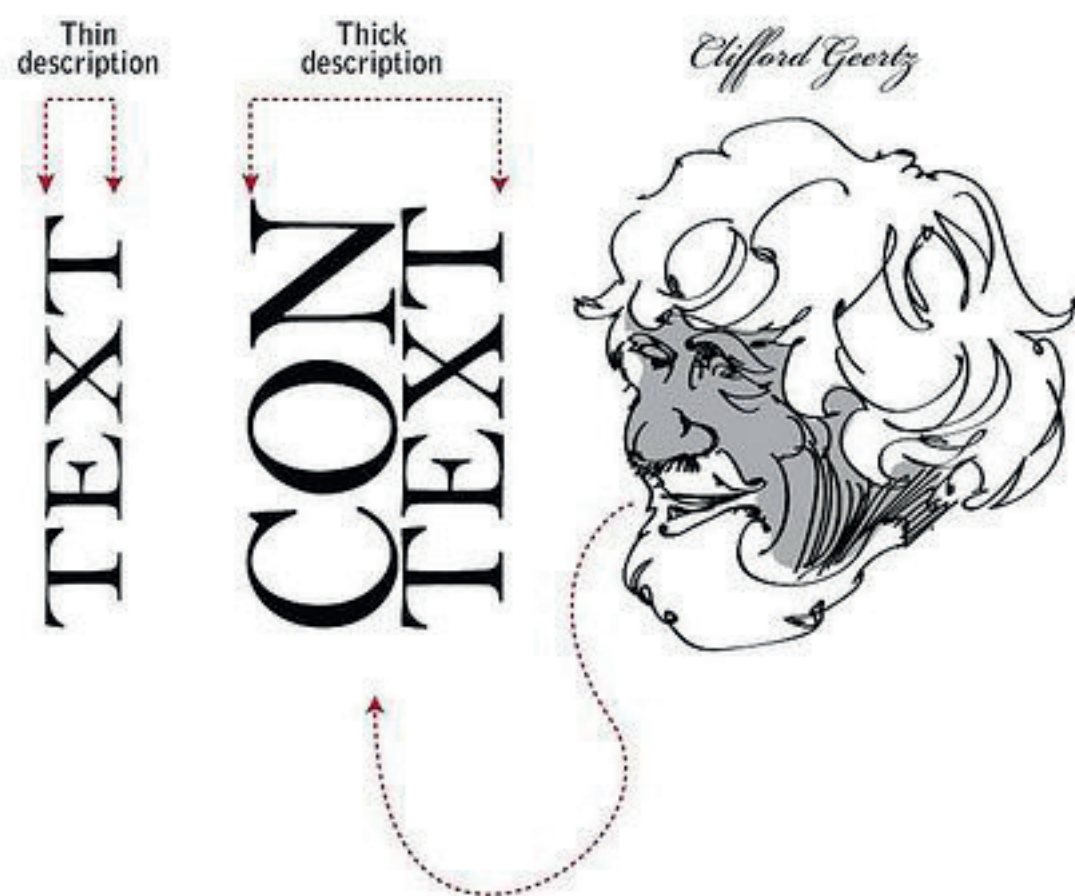
 HOPI - ONE WORD (MASA'YTAKA) ENGLISH - THREE WORDS	 ENGLISH - ONE WORD (SNOW) ESKIMO - THREE WORDS
 HOPI - PĀHE ENGLISH - ONE WORD (WATER); HOPI - TWO WORDS	 HOPI - KĒYI HOPI - TWO WORDS

Languages classify items of experience differently. The class corresponding to one word and on thought in language. A may be regarded by language B as two or more classes corresponding to two or more words and thoughts.

Thick Description

Ethnography, is the tool for gathering anthropological data by carrying out fieldworks - the in-depth study of everyday practices and lives of a people. Ethnography produces a detailed description of the studied group at a particular time and location, known as '**thick description**', a term coined by anthropologist Clifford Geertz in his 1973 book *The Interpretation of Cultures*, to describe this type of research and writing.

Thick description explains the behavior or cultural events in question, and the context in which it occurs with the interpretation of it. It is to understand the attitude, perspectives and motivations of cultural insiders.



Data Collection Method

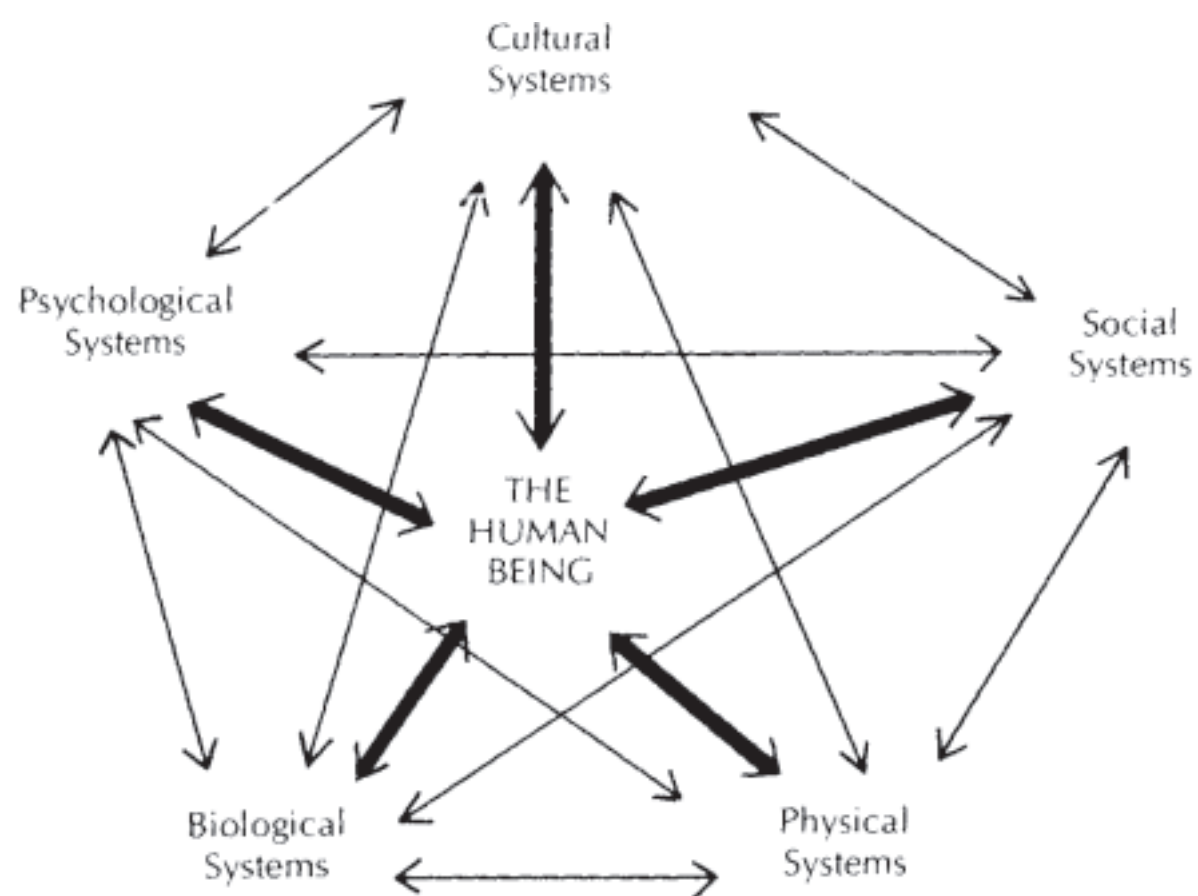
(1) Observations and thoughts (Participant Observation)

By keeping field notebooks that document their ideas and reflections as well as what they do and observe when participating in activities with the people they are studying

(2) Informal conversations and formal interviews (recorded and transcribed)

(3) Documents collection

Collecting letters, photographs, artifacts, public records, books and reports



Anthropology seeks to discover the interrelationships between various scientific models of the human being.

Etic / Emic perspectives

Emic perspectives refer to the descriptions of behaviors and beliefs in terms that are meaningful to people who belong to a specific culture. To uncover emic perspectives, ethnographers talk to people, observe what they do, and participate in their daily activities. It is essential for anthropologists' efforts to obtain a detailed understanding of a culture and to avoid interpreting others through their own cultural beliefs.

Etic perspectives refer to explanation for the behavior made by an outside observer in ways that are meaningful to the observer. Typically the descriptions arise from conversations between the ethnographer and the anthropological community. It is informed by historical, political, and economic studies and other types of research. An emic lens gives us an alternative perspective that is essential to construct a comprehensive view of people.

Most often, ethnographers include both emic and etic perspectives in their research and writing. It is an usual approach to uncover a studied people's understanding of what they do and why and then develop additional explanation for the behavior based on anthropological theory and analysis.



Emic + Etic

from the perspective of the observer.

from the perspective of the studied culture

3. Social Segregation Precedent Cases

Social Segregation

It happens when people of varying social-economic groups in a city have little opportunity to be exposed to people different than them. The most prominent examples of such segregation besides geographical setting is the formation of ghettos.

Ghetto

It refers to a part of a city in which members of a minority group live, especially as a result of social, legal, or economic pressure. The term is generally referring to the impoverished areas in the city, each with their own forms, names, classifications and groupings of people.

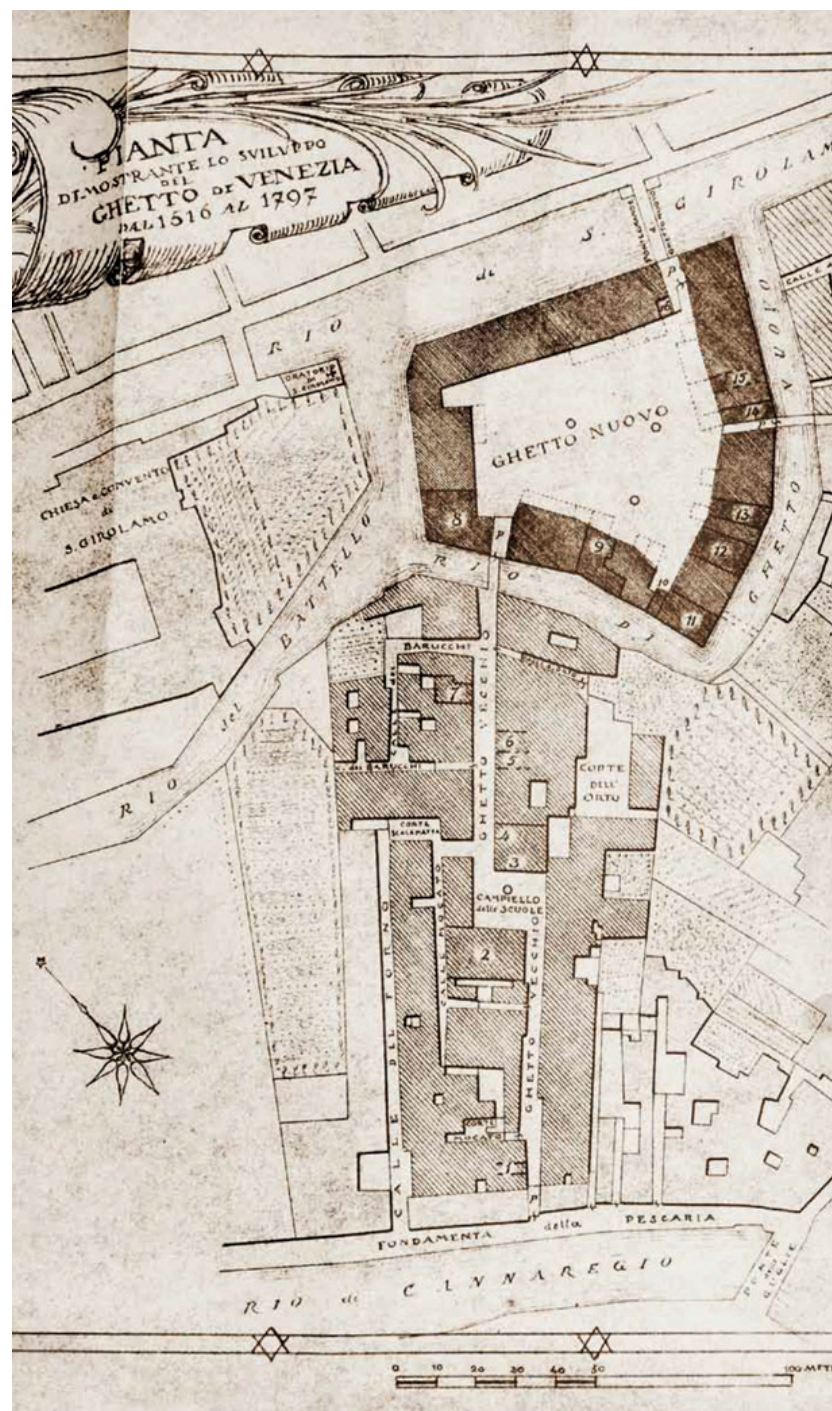
Venetian Ghetto

The term was originally used for the Venetian Ghetto in Venice, Italy, as early as 1516, to describe the part of the city where Jews were restricted to live and thus segregated from other people.

With its establishment, the ghetto became the only place Venetian Jews were allowed to live — a gated area within which its residents were locked at night. The Jews of the ghetto were surveilled, limited in their movements and the professions they could practice, and forced to wear yellow markings on their clothing when they left the ghetto. In the years that followed, similar ghettos were established in cities throughout Europe.



On March 29, 1516, the Venice Ghetto was established by decree of the Venice Ruling Council. The very first ghetto, it was a tiny 2 1/2 block area on a small, dirty island housing over 4,000 people. The name comes from the Italian ghetto meaning 'casting,' or Venetian geto meaning 'foundry.'



Plan of the Jewish Ghetto of Venice (1516 - 1797) by architect Guido Costante Sullam, late 19th century.

Venice's gated ghetto survived until 1797, when Napoleon stormed the city and tore down the ghetto walls, ending the restrictions on Jewish life.

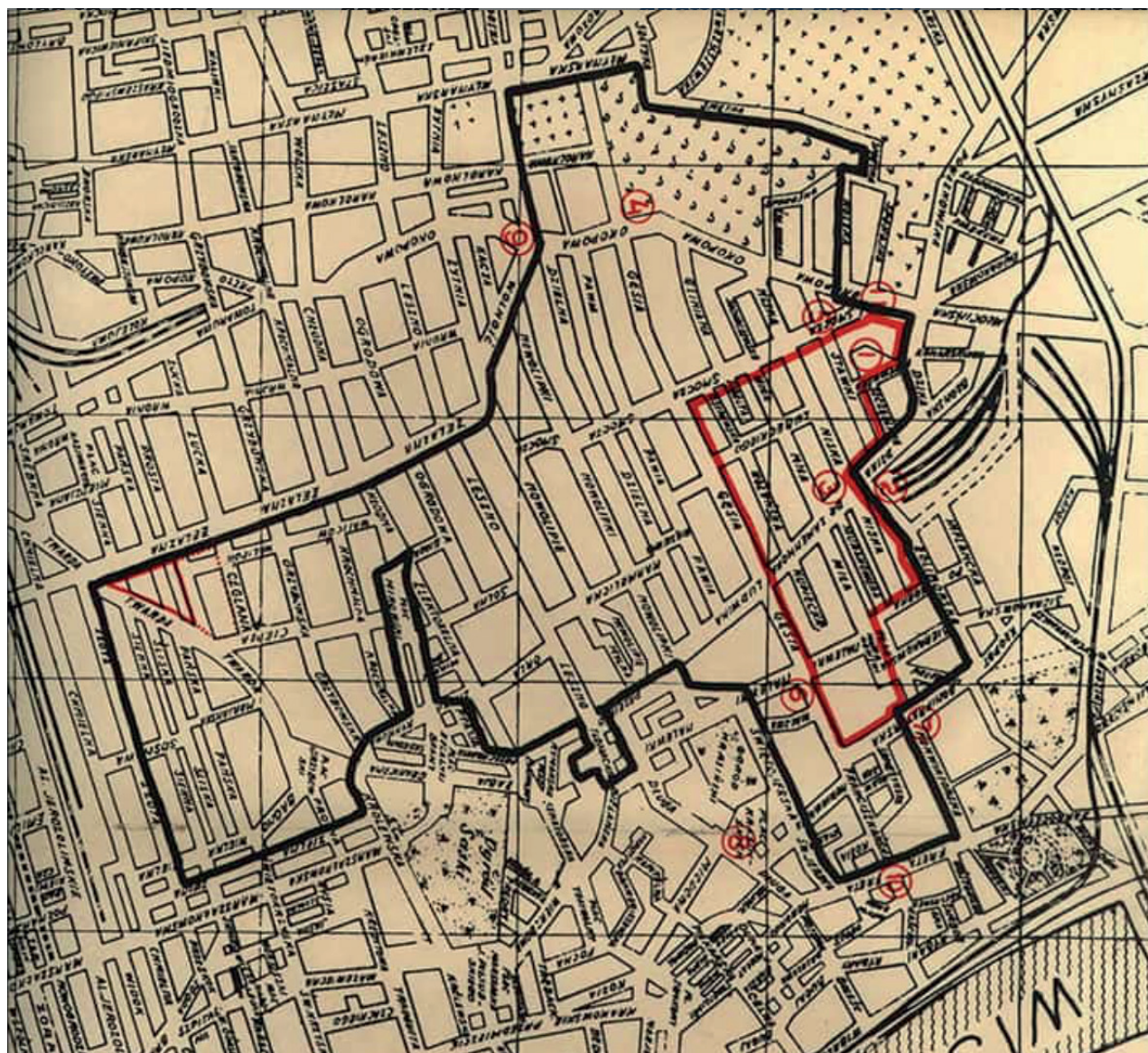
Warsaw Ghetto

As part of Adolf Hitler's 'final solution', the Nazis established ghettos in areas under German control to confine Jews until they can be deported to the death camp at Treblinka and executed.

The Warsaw ghetto, enclosed at first with barbed wire but later with a brick wall 10 feet (3 metres) high and 11 miles (18km) long, comprised the old Jewish quarter of Warsaw. The Nazis herded Jews from surrounding areas into this district until by the summer of 1942 nearly 500,000 of them lived within its 840 acres (340 hectares); many had no housing at all, and those who did were crowded in at about nine people per room. Starvation and disease (especially typhus) killed thousands each month.



An SS sergeant interrogating Jews captured during the suppression of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.



This map shows the boundaries of the Warsaw Ghetto, where 400,000 people were incarcerated. It was published by the Yiddish Scientific Institute in 1944.

From Diary of 1939
November 7, 1939
p. 39

Discussion of the General Governor with Reichminister Seyss-Inquart, Ministerial Director Dr. Buehler, SS Chief Leader Krueger, the Governor of Waechter, Lasch and Fisher and the representatives in Berlin. Dr. Heuber asks about questions concerning frontiers, refugees and the use of NSV.

Governor Dr. Fisher promised a national German supervisor of the institution of the Polish Help Committee in Warsaw.

He pointed out that a special ghetto has to be established for the Jews.

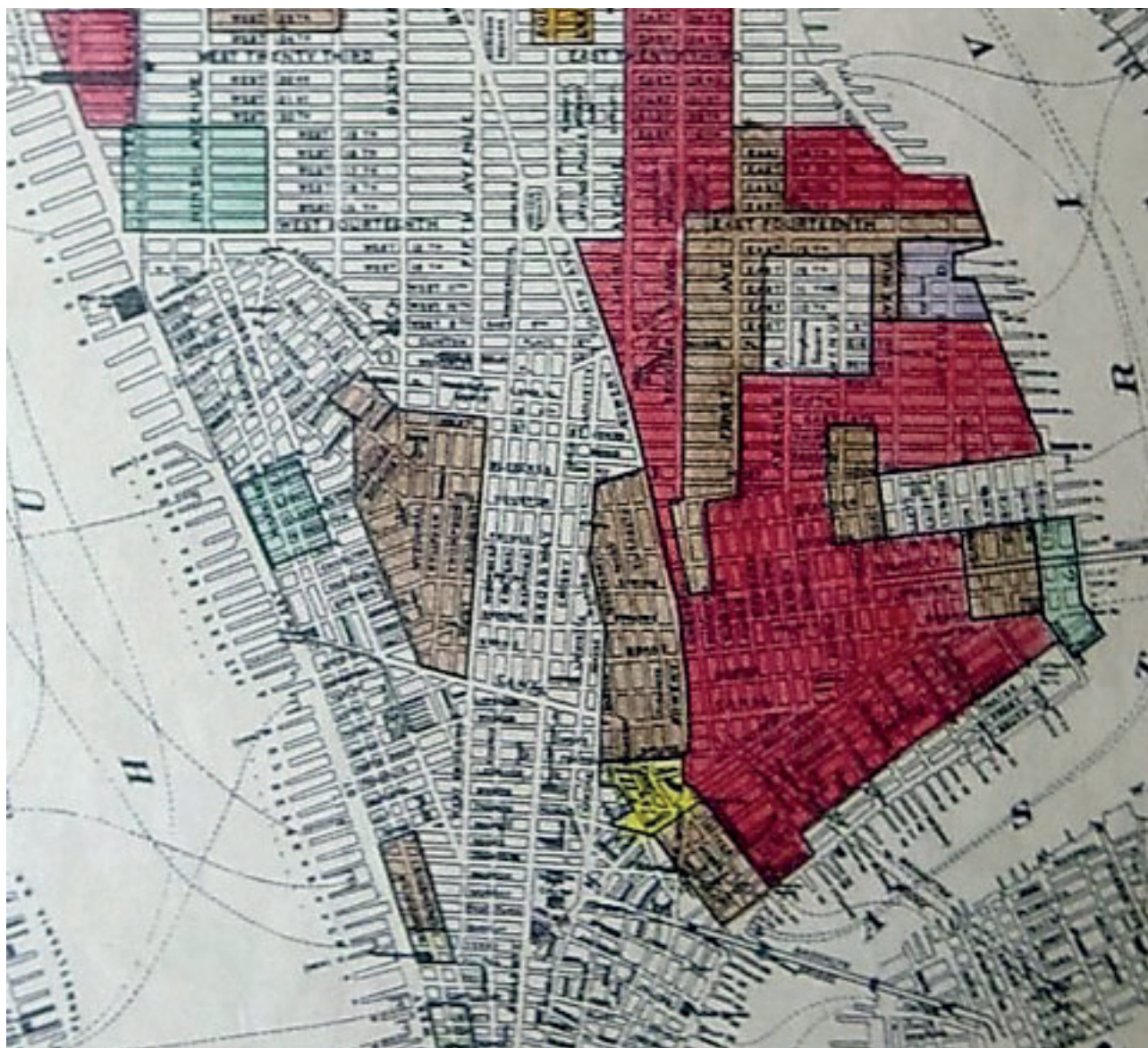
The Jewish Elderman Office gives the information that there are still 30,000 Jews in Warsaw — the General Governor approved this measure.

This excerpt from 7 November 1939 is taken from Hans Frank's diary. Hans Frank was the leader of the General Government. This was an area of Poland that was controlled by Germany after invasion in September 1939. The diary shows notes from a meeting between high ranking Nazis, and states that a special ghetto 'has to be established for the Jews' in Warsaw.

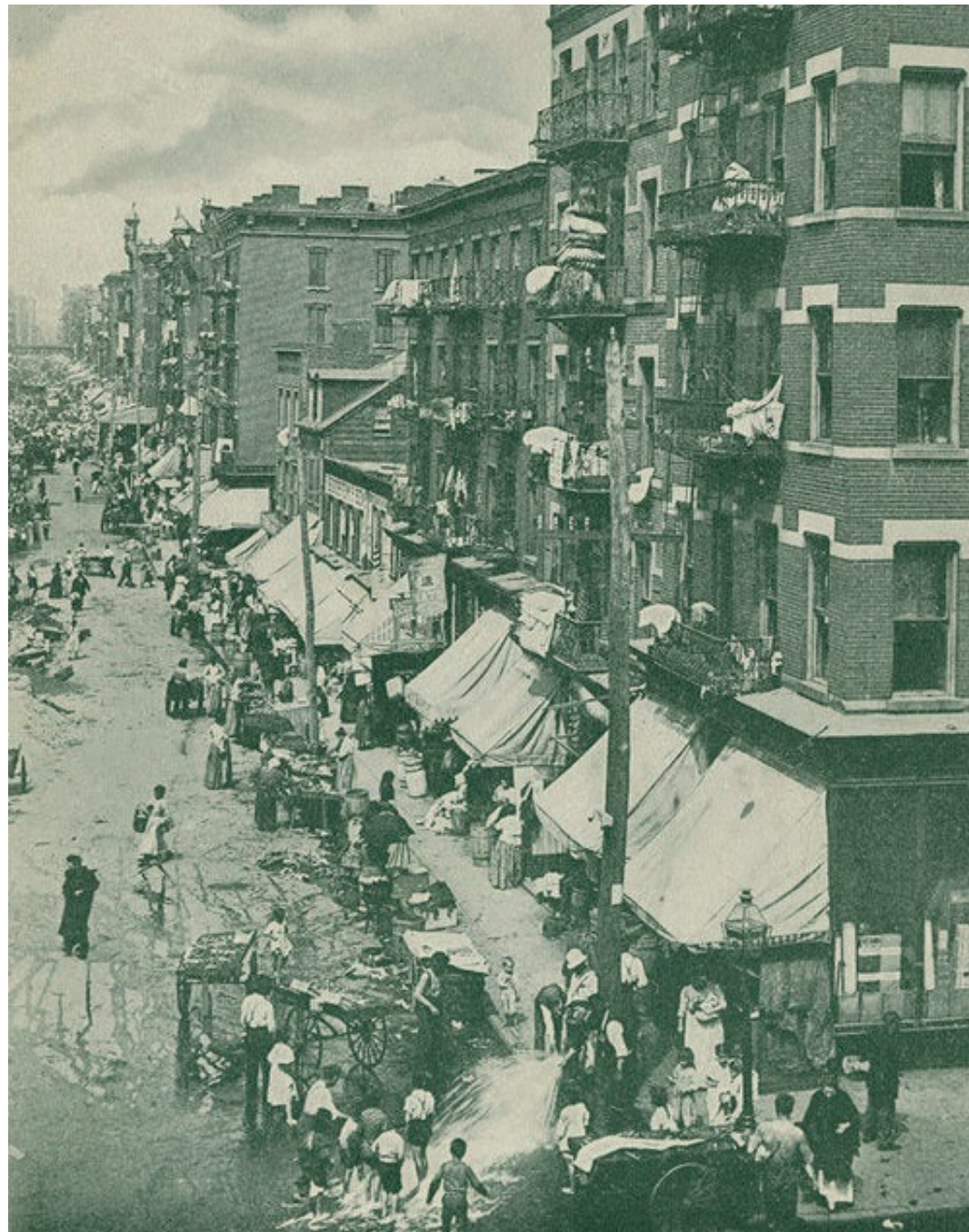
Lower East Side of Manhattan

In fact, four centuries later, the Lower East Side of Manhattan, covering the area from 14th Street to the Brooklyn Bridge, became a new type of ghetto. Home to nearly half a million Jews, by 1916 it comprised the world's largest Jewish community at the time. As in the Venice ghetto, the Jews of the Lower East Side lived in unimaginably crowded conditions; packed into just two square miles, this was one of the densest areas of human settlement on Earth.

A 1948 report on Segregation in Washington—published the same year that the Supreme Court banned judicial enforcement of restrictive covenants in *Shelley v. Kraemer*—contained a chapter on housing segregation entitled “*Ghettos in the Capital*.” The authors made no bones about their intent to evoke the specter of the ghettos of the Holocaust in the way they referred to the residential segregation of blacks. “Ghetto is an ugly word,” one chapter opened. “To a Dane it is ugly. To any Nazi victim. To anyone who saw how Hitler placed a yellow mark on Jews so they could be made to live apart, suffer apart, die apart. To an American it is ugly.”



1920 New York State Legislature map showing various “immigrant districts” of Manhattan. Red is Jewish; Tan is Italian; Lavendar is German; Green is Irish; Yellow is Chinese; Light Orange (top middle) is Scandinavians/Finns.



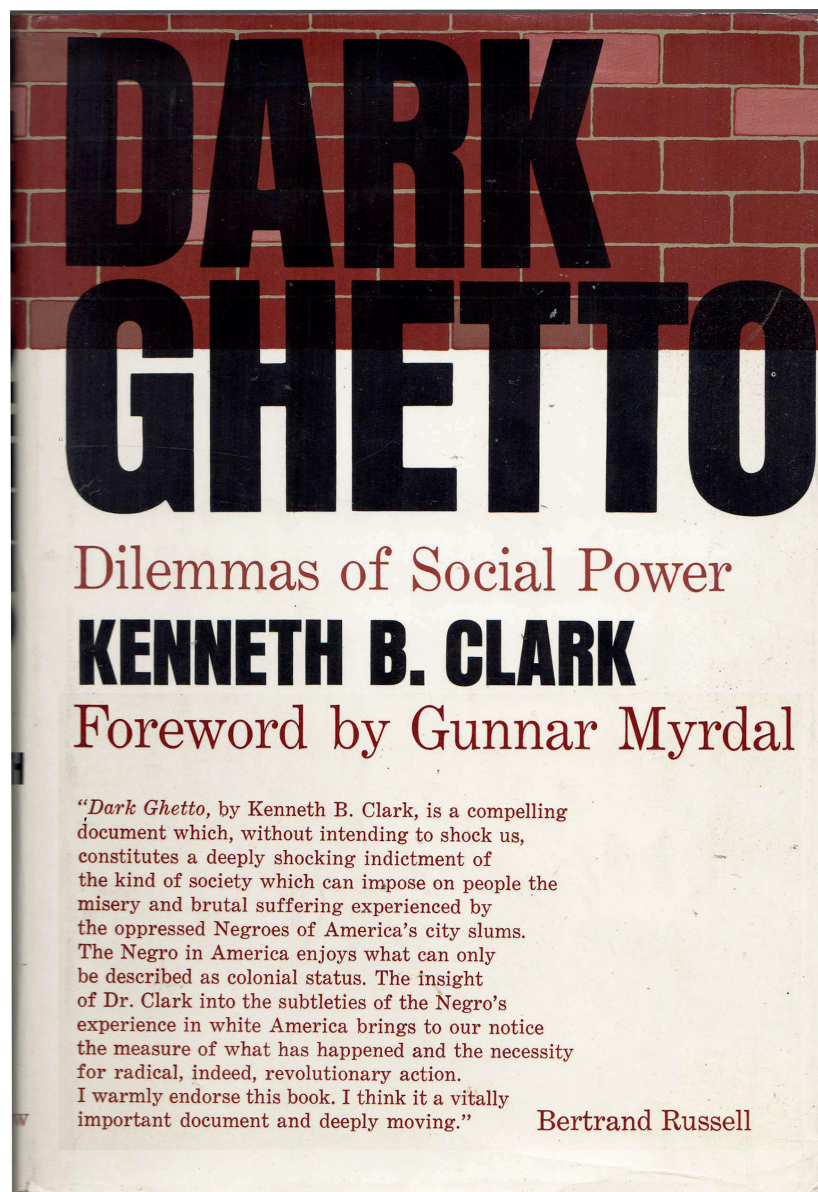
The Lower East Side Jewish 'ghetto', 1922

From Ghetto to Social Segregation

The new black referent for “ghetto” truly came to the fore in the 1960s, as urban race riots starting in the middle of the decade vaulted segregated areas onto the front pages of newspapers and onto television screens across the nation and the globe. Digital history resources reveal how usage of the word “ghetto” soared in the 1960s and 1970s and how phrases like “Negro ghetto” or, increasingly, “black ghetto” came to eclipse “Jewish ghetto.”

The African-American psychologist Kenneth Clark’s 1965 book *Dark Ghetto* probably did more than any other individual work to connect “ghetto” and “black” in the mainstream media. The title of the book was doubly appropriate. For Clark, the darkness of the “dark ghetto” was evident not only in the skin color of its inhabitants but in the fact that he saw such areas as bleak, desperate places, devoid of faith in a better future and awash in self-destructive behavior and social vices, even as they were defended by others as the home of vibrant culture and community

The transference of the word “ghetto” from Jewish to black enclaves stirred controversy. Some pointed to the lack of statutory laws restricting African Americans to prescribed areas, but that argument overlooked a whole range of state actions — from the enforcement of restrictive covenants before 1948, to support for redlining and the denial of home insurance for blacks in the suburbs, to the building of public housing in already segregated districts—that made black residential concentration far more than purely a case of de facto segregation.



The African-American psychologist Kenneth Clark's 1965 book *Dark Ghetto* probably did more than any other individual work to connect "ghetto" and "black" in the mainstream media.



4. Research in the Mansions

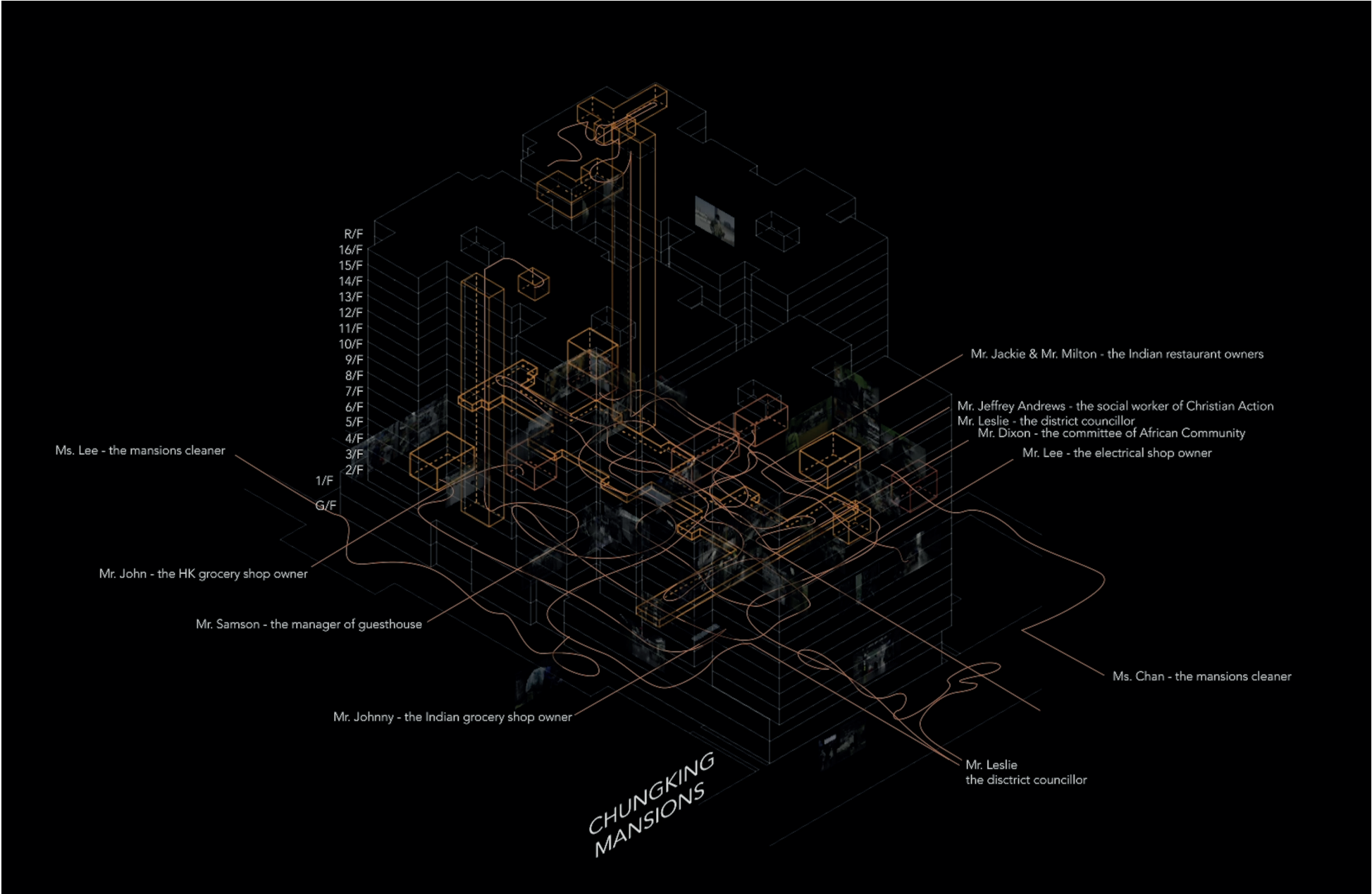
My Involvement and the Limitations of the Fieldwork

As part of the research from the emic perspectives, I carry out interviews and on-site observations for four months. The research is on an on-and-off basis, where I went to the Mansions whenever the conditions is available. By records, I went to the Mansions for 42 times with and without my cameras, as filming is always sensitive in the Mansions.

Whenever I go in the Mansions, I stayed in different places hoping to encounter someone who is curious about what I am doing, and willing to have a conversations for me to engage.

The following is the summary of the diary records, with the conversations and the spaces that I travelled in the Mansions, with and without the informants.

Informants	
(Name)	-
Ms Lee	the mansion cleaner
Mr Johnny Singh	the Indian grocery shop owner
Mr. Samson	the manager of the hostels
Mr Leslie	the district councillor
Mr. John	the HK grocery shop owner
Ms. Chan	the mansion cleaner
Mr. Lee	the electrical shop owner
Mr. Jeffrey Andrews	the social worker of Christian Action
Mr. Dixon	the commitee of African Community
Mr. Jackie	the Indian restaurant owner
Mr. Milton	the Indian restaurant owner
The names of the informants, like many of the informants' accounts in this booklet, are pseudonyms.	



I encountered Mr. Lee as the first store that I approached in the Mansions. He is an electrical shop owner who has owned the store since the beginning of the Mansions. I bought a shaver from him, to start the conversation more easily and comfortably to talk about his life inside and outside the Mansions. He then introduced Mr. Samson to me, who is the only one that is willing to rent me a guesthouse in C block. He also introduced Mr. John to me, who is a grocery store owner of the Edingburgh Grocery Store.

(Note: Mr. Lee is unwilling to be interviewed in any ways, not even video-taking or just a shot of his shop.)

Dates of conversations:

9/2/2021

11/2/2021

16/2/2021

23/2/2021

Mr. Lee, an electrical shop owner

I managed this shop since the 1960s, almost from the beginning. I'm divorced and in my thirties, I began to manage this store. I made a bit of money earlier by selling electrical appliances. Everyone needs electrical appliances! You see this! This is from the 80s and I still have it.

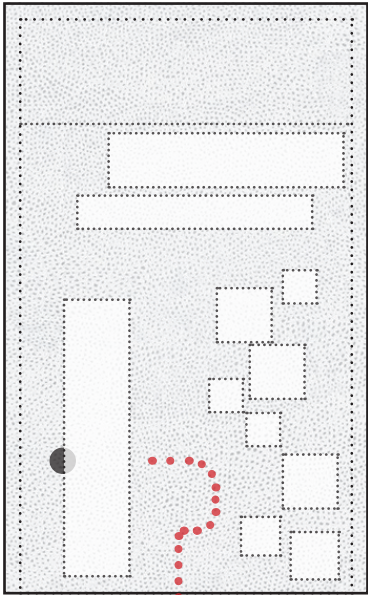
I don't like interviews, I don't like pictures. I have seen so much in here, beyond what you can imagine. I don't want to stand out from the crowd, even BBC has been here trying to ask me for an interview, I refused. I know that you like the interiors, the vintage view that was originated from 50 years ago. But you don't know the consequences, you don't know the hidden rules here. There will be troubles. Business is business - I wouldn't want to mix it with something else.

People call me 'Papa' here, because I sell electrical appliances to all of them. They are in good quality. But it is also an usual practice for Pakistanis to call someone elder to be 'Papa'. Not a rank or proper title, it is just how people call one another in the Mansions. But I think it is OK, everyone is just being friendly all the time.

If you want to carry on with your research, I can introduce you someone. I don't want to be involved, but I know there is someone that you can approach. Mr John, who owns a grocery shop, Edingburgh Grocery Shop at the far end. He is willing to talk all the time. I think he has a son who studies in the UK at the moment, so he would understand you more and offer a help perhaps.

There is just nothing I can help, and nothing I would like to offer. So please rather not to bother anymore. If this is about anything except video-shooting and research, then I am happy to talk all the time whenever you come and say 'hi' to me!

(summarized)



G/F Shop112

I encountered Mr. Mok, through Mr. Samson, who provided the hostel keys and places for me everytime I stayed in the Mansions for the research. Mr. Mok, is a guesthouse owners (also a boss of Mr. Samson) in the Mansions.

Dates of conversations:
24/2/2021

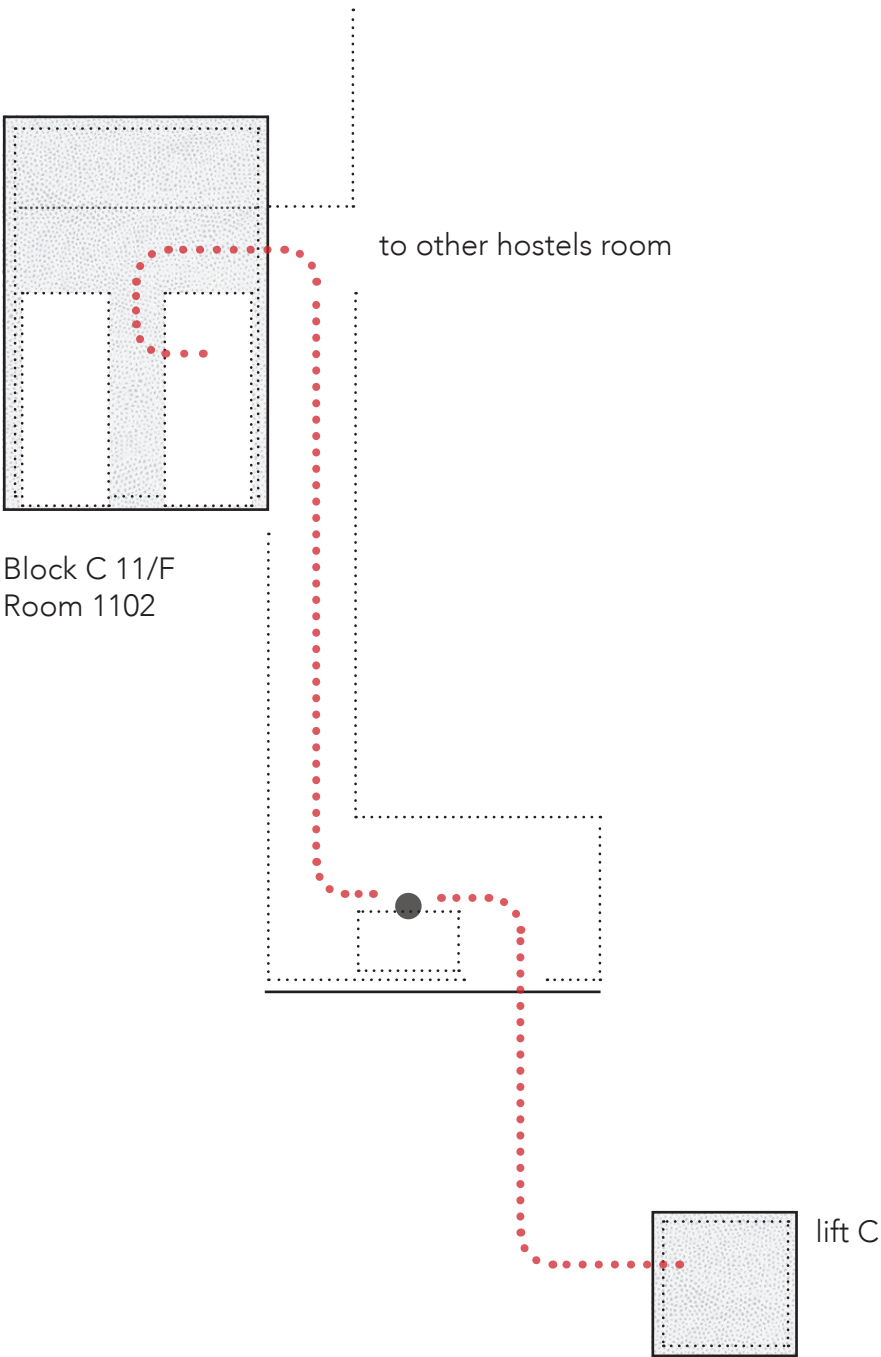
Mr. Mok

The guesthouse has been run by my family. There's lot of money to be made. From a two-bed room you could make HK\$400 to HK\$500 a night. One flat, ten rooms, occupied every night. There are a lot of Filipina maids and Thais - they're lesbians or are having a date with their boyfriends on Saturday or Sunday; you can rent them rooms for a short time. That's why a lot of people - Hong Kong Chinese and now Indians - want to open a guesthouse. There's no special skill required; all you have to do is work hard.

Hong Kong people are afraid of Chungking Mansions partly because in 1988 there was a serious fire in A block, on the eleventh floor. There was a tourist from Denmark - because of the smoke, he climbed out of a window and fell, and died. Before, the government did not pay attention to Chungking Mansions and its fire danger. From then on, people start to think that Chungking Mansions is a dangerous place. Inspections began, international press began to pay attention. Now all the guesthouses, the legal ones, are strictly open for inspections for fire dangers. Now, there are fire alarms everywhere.

There are hidden rules. The Chinese and Indian owners will usually never rent a room to a Hong Kong Chinese. Before we give them a room, they have to register. If they have a Hong Kong ID, 'Sorry good-bye.' We were worried that the triad societies - Chinese gangsters - would come in and try to take some protection money.

When you are local Chinese and walk into Chungking Mansions, you're so obvious! You can never hide yourself! Even the CID, the undercover police. If they walk in we can recognize them immediately, in one second.



Mr. John, with his wife are the ones who introduced by Mr. Lee after we had several conversations in his store. Mr. John has a son in UK, studying psychology in Bath. He later then introduced me to Mr. Singh, an Indian grocery store opposite to his to begin my first video interview.

Dates of conversations:

24/2/2021

25/2/2021

2/3/2021

3/3/2021

Mr. John, a local grocery store owner

This store is not owned by me originally, it is from my Dad at the time where the Mansions opened in 1956, I think. It has not been changed since then, basically everything keeps the same. We sell local products, coca-colas, local brands drinks VITA, clothes, shoes, many many little things. We sell them to the restaurants inside the building mainly. Restaurants need drinks; people needs clothes and shoes, so I can make a decent business here.

This is not my dream either, but who can really do what they want in their lives during 60s, right? Everyone just want to make a living and that is the only dream. Work harder, study harder so you can buy a flat and be successful. Only in this way, you can be successful, no other way.

Right now, young people like my son are lucky! They can do whatever they want. The world is different not, the place is different. If you want to go abroad, try not to come back anymore. Hong Kong is changing, and being a place that you would not want it to be. I guess your parents must have told that to you too. And because my son is studying in UK, I think I must help you on what you want to do for your research. But go back and have a look at the interviews that I had with TVB Broadcast, there are numerous of them! Go back and have a look! And tell me what you want to do so we start from there!

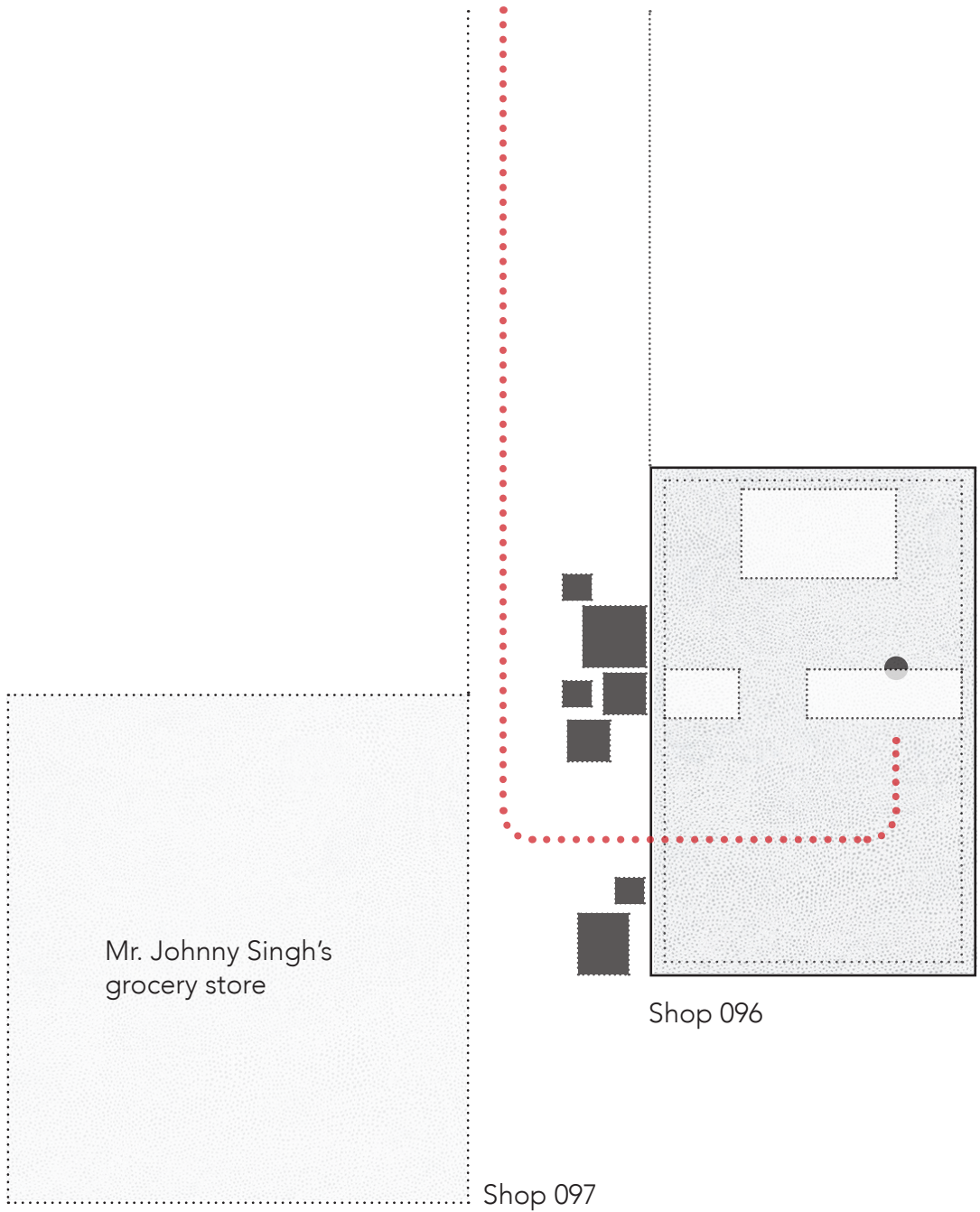
But I don't want to have any interviews anymore! We are being the minorities here and we will be in troubles! I have been there, so I don't want anymore. I had the kind heart to say everyone is my friend in the Mansions, but no one likes it. They think you are just promoting your own businesses, so more money goes to you. They think that you earn more without helping them, so they don't order things from you anymore. It is hard to gain the trust here once, and I don't want to lose it anymore.

In general, I think Pakistanis or Indians are more willing to talk. They are majority and nothing would harm if they have an interview with you. Ask them before you film anything, they are so sensitive to cameras and they want to know what it is for. People think it is easy to film here, but no! Not like Chungking Express, it is actually filmed in Mirador House.

Just a few months ago in November 2020, two drug dealers were caught here next to my store. We all knew it before, cause I am in the committee members of the Mansions. The police told us before coming in the Mansions. And we recognize everyone who does not belong here. It is just too easy to recognize anything if you have been here for ages. The undercover said they are students, so the stores trusted them and let them take pictures and answer their questions etc. I don't know what kind of evidences are lack of, but they ended up taking two black guys away with two whole teams of police force in front of my store.

Come back to do the research in late March or April, things will get better!

(summarized)



Mr. Singh, who came from Indian along with his family during the time of childhood. He has an Indian grocery store owned by his father originally. Everyone calls him 'Ah Singh', a general name to whoever comes from India.

Dates of conversations:
26/2/2021

Mr. Johnny Singh

I was born in India, but came to Hong Kong because my father was a Gurkha. He then started his businesses in the Mansions when locals are left in the 80s gradually. I don't know why they leave slowly, but we generally become the majority since then.

You have to tell what is the fear to me. What fear is that? There is no fear here in the Mansions. If you are talking about the little crimes, those crimes happen everywhere in Hong Kong, not just the Mansions. It happens in Mongkok, Yau Ma Tei ... everywhere. Of course, Chungking has its own problems, but there is no fear. Nothing to be fear of.

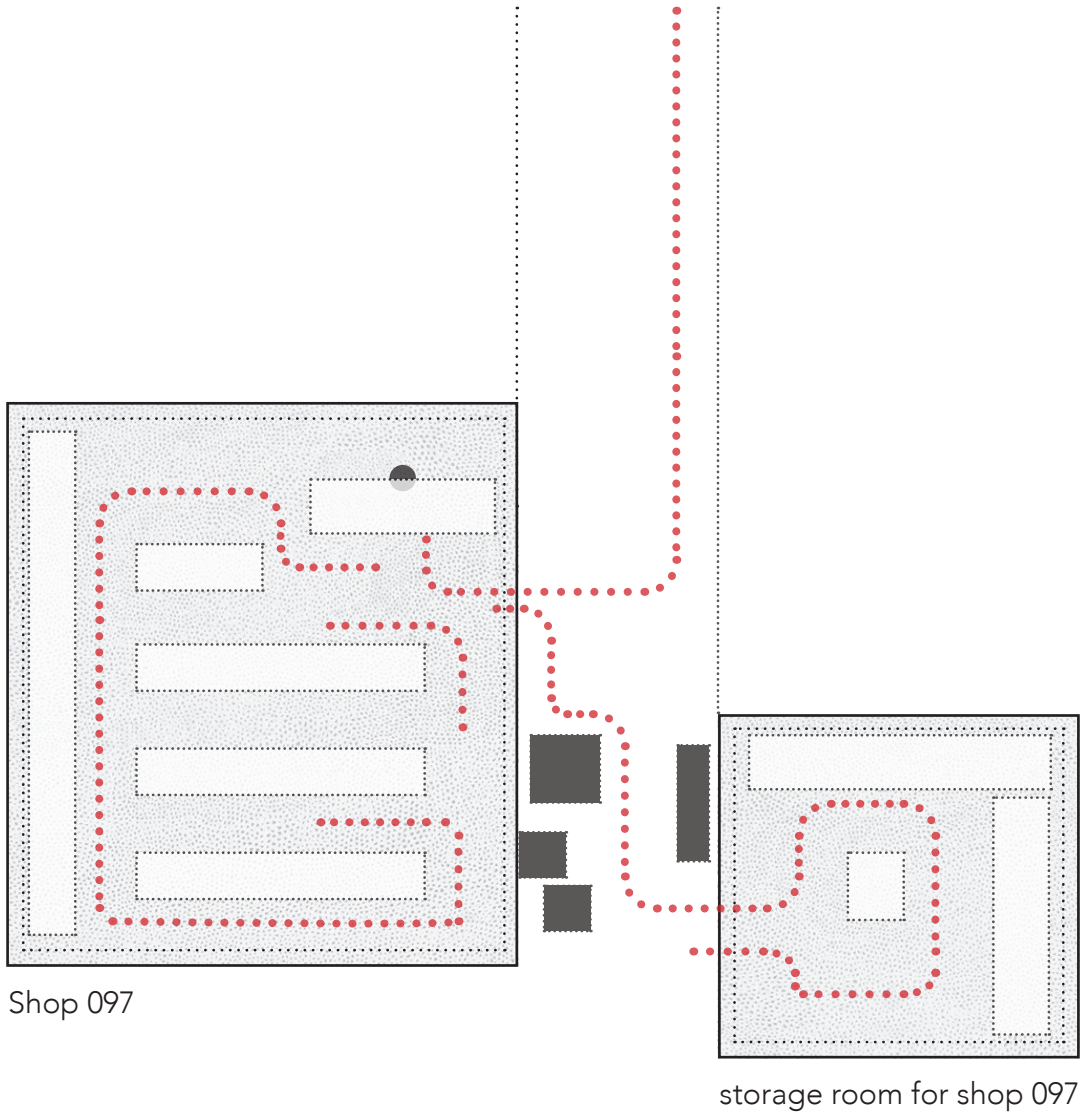
Business was better back then than it is now. Now you can make expenses, but you cannot make money with the store. Covid-19 has been a problem to the tourism, and less people are coming to Chungking.

My customers are African and Indian. I talk to everyone in a friendly way. If I talk to them nicely, they will buy something from me. I don't give a high price or a low price, but market price. My father own the company who sell the same products in Indian, so we have the entire production line. I am helping to sell the stuff here in Hong Kong. I am happy with that. It is better to do business in Hong Kong, better than India or UK. Chungking Mansions - everybody wants to try to make money here. You can sell something because different countries' people all come here.

I grew up in Hong Kong. I am a HongKonger, as you all say. I have been more than 30 years here in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is Chinese; I feel like an outsider in Hong Kong. But when I enter this buidling, I don't feel like I am an outsider; I feel like I'm home. Different people come here: Indonesian, Malaysian, Indian, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi, African, European. All countries can enter here. Outside is difficult, but Chungking Mansions is home!

There is discrimination in Hong Kong, but don't film what I am trying to say here. I speak Cantonese, I grew up in Hong Kong, but I have been treated badly by suppliers who keep putting me off concerning delivery. I told them, 'Look, I am not a delivery boy driving this truck. I own these shops!' When you speak Cantonese, the Chinese get scared! If they think you don't, they talk badly about you.

Chungking Mansions ... after two or three years, more mainland China people will be here. They'll open shops, and Pakistanis and Indians will all, one by one, leave Chungking. Even if there is no business, the rent will keep going up. Maybe African people will trust Chinese people more than Indians or Pakistanis, because they think they have factories. Yes, maybe the Indians and Pakistanis will vanish and only the Africans and Chinese will remain.



Mr. Samson, the manager of the hostels which is owned by Mr. Mok. He was an asylum seeker who worked voluntarily in Christian Action with Mr. Jeffrey Adrews before for 10 years. Alongside, he gained his permanent residence upon his marriage with his wife, who is a local social worker in the Mansions.

Dates of conversations:

22/2/2021

27/2/2021

8/3/2021

Mr. Samson introduced me to Mr. Dixon later, who is the committee member of African Community.

Mr. Samson, the manager of the hostels

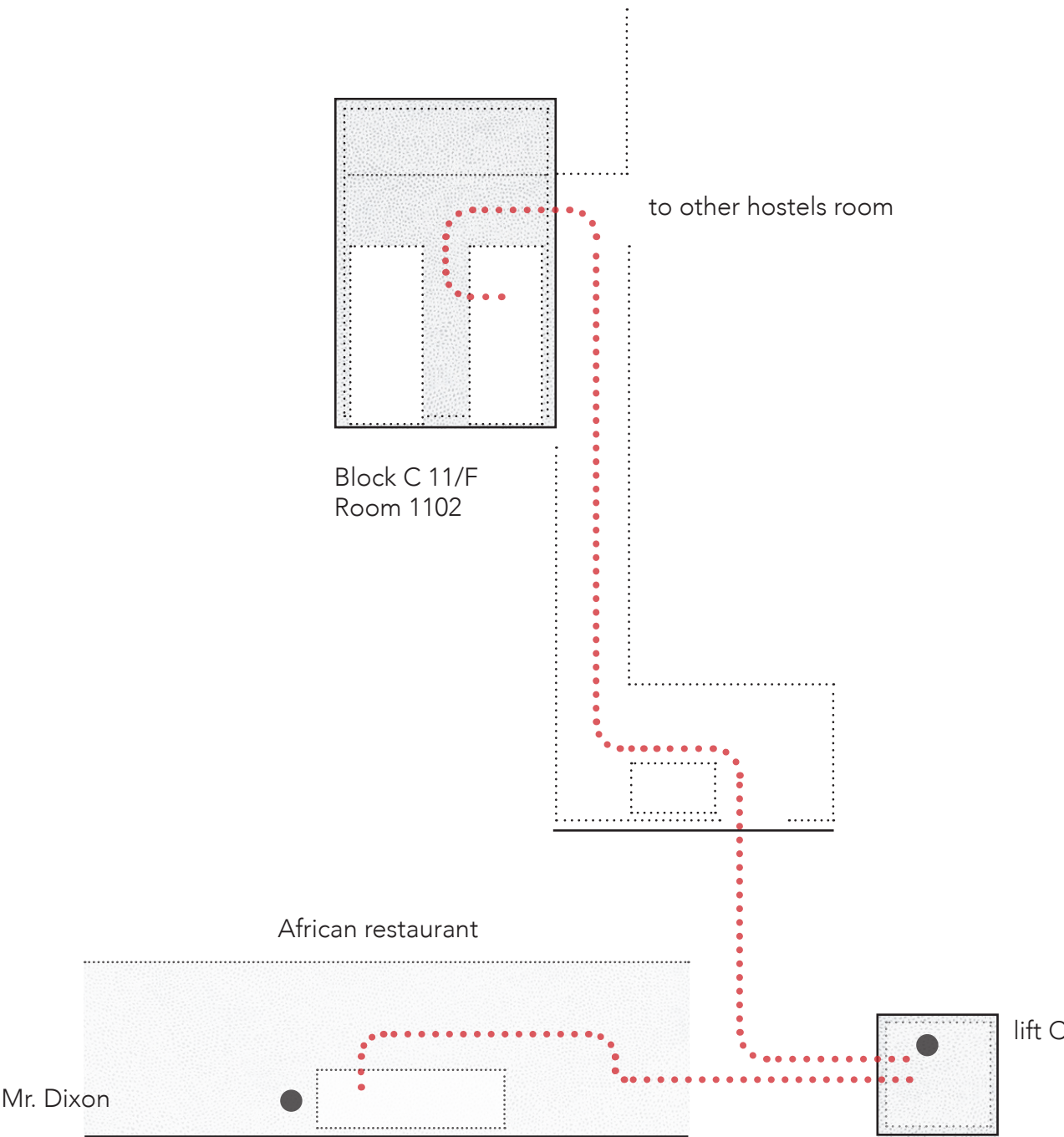
Don't film at here, I can see you filming all along the way through the cameras!

My boss wouldn't like it because this hostels is not part of the things that you can normally see from the guide on the wall. You know!

I was an asylum seeker since 20 years ago I think, this year is my 20th year in the Mansions. Mansion have given me so many things, from nothing to what I am now. I met my wife 7 years ago, we met in the activities that was held by the Christian Action. CA always hold some volunteer activities in the Mansions for the asylum seekers. Instead of being the one who is helped, I am always free to attend the services.

I see. If you want someone to interview, don't find me! Someone will be interested to face the camera, but not me! I can find someone for you. You said you are a student right? Have you met him yet?

(summarized)



Mr. Dixon, who I met because of Mr. Samson introduced me to him. He is a committee member of African Community, who manages and connects everyone who is from the community in Hong Kong, so as to provide support. He is also a youtuber who filmed many online videos to introduce the restaurants in Chungking Mansions. He is a close friend of Mr. Jefferey Andrews, and both of them have strived their best to promote the Mansions and cultures to locals.

Dates of conversations:

27/2/2021
2/3/2021
4/3/2021
6/3/2021
15/3/2021
29/3/2021
6/4/2021
22/4/2021

Mr. Dixon, a committee member of African Community

I am from Uganda. I studied with the Professor, Prof. Gordon Mathews, in CUHK and I am now working there on and off as an academic assistant. I often go back to the university to give lectures and help out the students to do their anthropological studies. I, myself study my Bachelor for Anthropological Studies, and Chungking Mansions was one of our projects with the Professor.

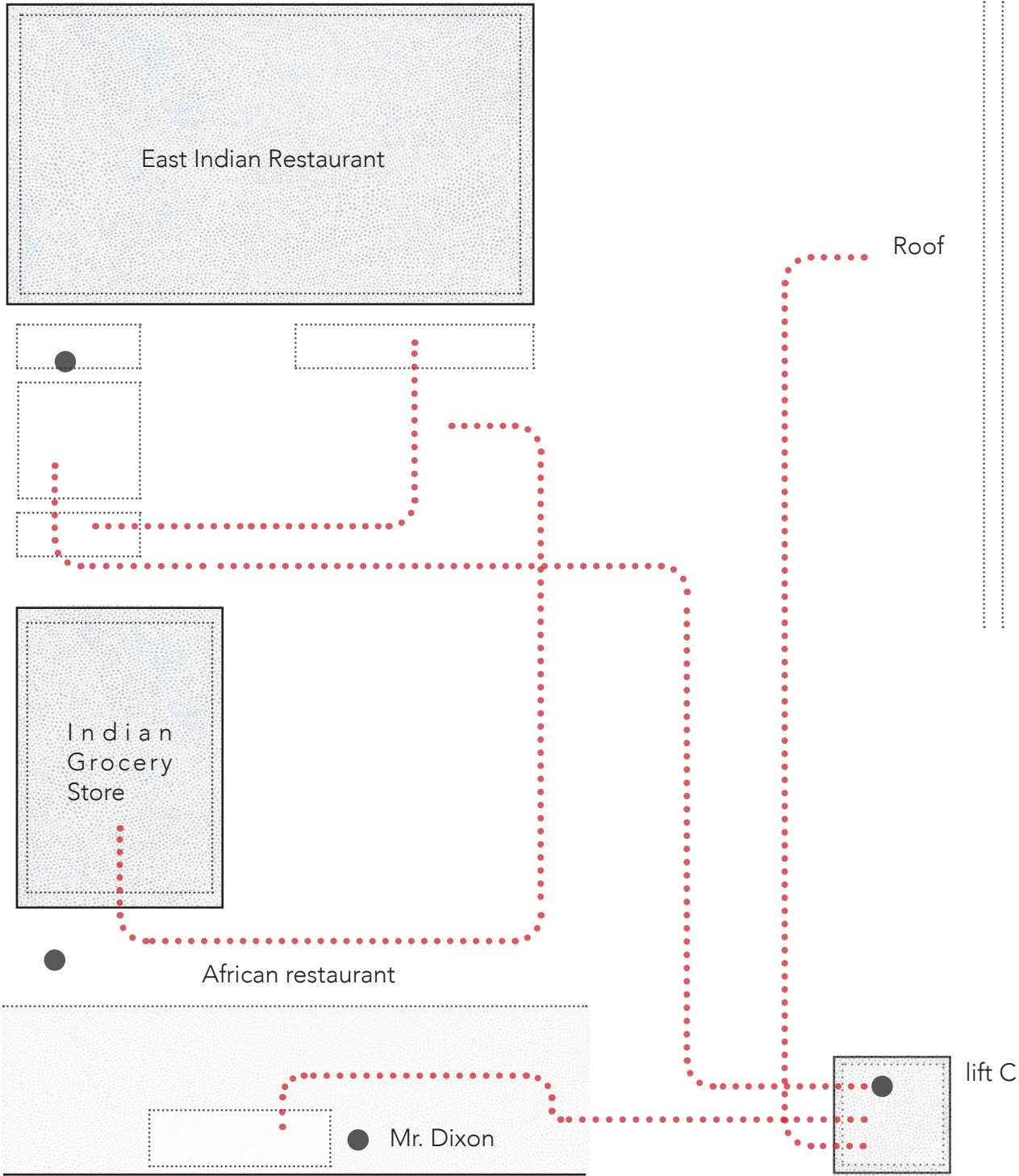
What do you want to know? You may just ask and see if I can have an answer with you. We often have a chat with the Professor every Sunday. It never stop, we talk about everything happen around the globe, from what happened last year in Hong Kong, to the wars in Israel and Palestine and the earthquakes. Anthropological Studies is about conversations and everything in the world. It trains how we talk and organize our ideas, and how we see the world differently with one another.

I think Chungking is special, if you ask the Professor, he would probably say the same. You can never find a place like this that embrace every cultures at the same time. You see, especially Ramadan. Everyone here are like brothers and sisters. Before sunrise, people share food; after sunset, people share food. No matter where you are from, what religions you believe in, we share what we have to everyone. This is brotherhood, man! This is a home to me! All my friends are here! Everyone comes here for their dreams, and we help each other like brothers!

If you say about discrimination, there surely is in Hong Kong. What I don't like about that is the leverage of the crime. For example, the locals steal one dollar, and the minorities steal one dollar as well. No one talk about the locals, but they exemplify what the minorities did. You say we are 'minorities', what crime are we committing? Too much?

See, this is what I don't like, a different perspective or lens to look at us. That's why I start the Community, and we become the bridge between us and the locals, Mansions and the Police. We go the the police stations to give talks; to the schools to give lectures in order to give a better understanding to the listeners. We want the image of the Mansions to be better, more positive. This is not a dark place, this is our home, everyone's home.

...



Ms. Lee, the mansions cleaner who doesn't want to be filmed at all. She is responsible for cleaning the entire Mansions, including the backstreet, where I met her for the first time.

Dates of conversations:
20/2/2021

Ms. Lee, the Mansions cleaner

Don't film me! What project are you working on? People always say so and they put everything on the internet. Videos and everything, so how would I know that you won't?

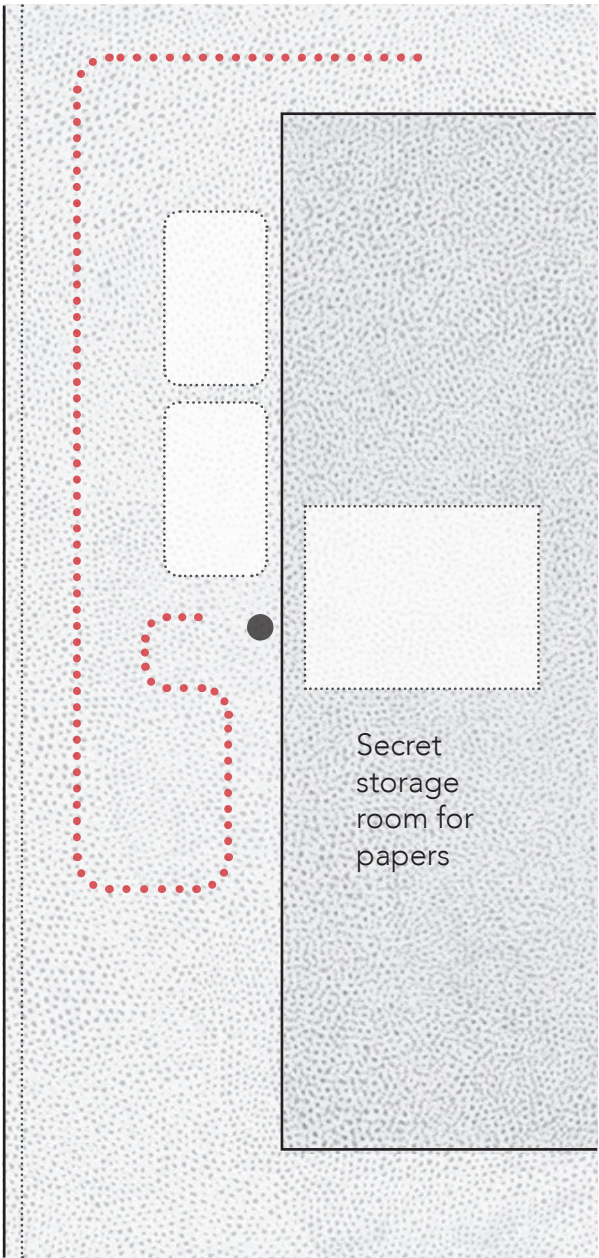
Afraid? No, I would not afraid anything! I have been here for 30 years already. You don't interfere anyone here, no one would try to hurt you. You don't say anything when you see something; you don't stop them when you see they are doing it, no one would say or do anything to you. No one.

So, nothing to afraid in the Mansions! Or else how would you think I can be here for that long!

I come here to to Mansions everyday at 7am. I come here to clean the Mansions with my colleagues from the top floors to the ground floors. It is not that hard, we do this everyday.

You see the boxes, don't tell anyone that I hide them here behind the door. They can make a bit of money, besides my job. I get them each time from different stores. It is a good place to collect the paper boxes, because traders and businessmen are using them and disposing them whenever there is goods. I am just taking the trash and use them while everyone don't want them anymore.

(summarised)



Mr. Leslie is a district council member of Tsim Sha Tsui District. He is in charge of the matters of the whole district ranging from providing free meals for the people to the approval of the construction of facilities. I met him the first time when he was in the Mansions distributing the red pockets to everyone. Then again for the second time when he was distributing the cleaning products to the people in front of the Mansions.

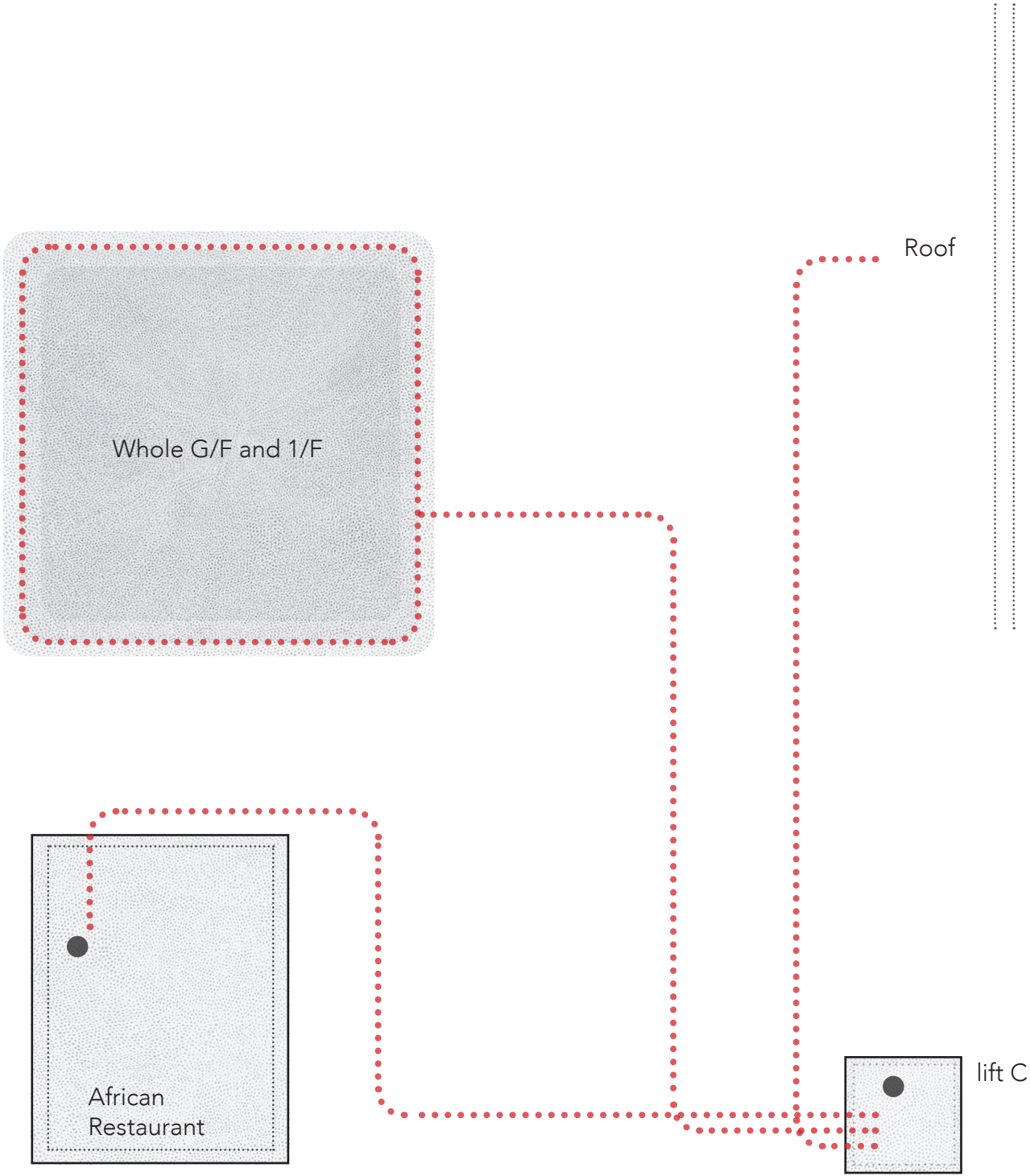
Dates of conversations:
16/2/2021

Mr. Leslie, the district council member

Have you been to these restaurants? They are from Indian, but from the last generation they are local-born Indian. They speak Cantonese, so if you are looking for someone to interview, they can be the one! You see here, the restaurants next to Jackie's one are his relatives' shops. They came to Hong Kong all together and began their businesses for a long time.

The people on the G/F and 1/F are nice. I was like an outsider before I become the district council member. I went to the Mansions and sit there for hours everyday. There is no other faster ways to get to know the Mansions. Only by getting yourself here in the Mansions, or talk to people, you know what is going on here in the Mansions. If you hide yourself, no one would open to you. They are sensitive, so you can't film casually. But I think you need to talk to them, try to do that!

You can see the buildings around the Mansions. You can find different people living inside those buildings. In Tsim Sha Tsui, you can always see people with different nationalities. They are no longer 'minorities' in TST, not anymore. So, what you see is what is special about Hong Kong. You can see the conflicts between Israel and Palestine, they fight because of religious and cultural differences. For Hong Kong, no matter you are from Palestine, Israel, Nepal ... no one will fight against each other because of religious beliefs. Everyone stay together peacefully, like brothers and sisters. This is what makes Hong Kong special, and different from other places that is with the similar cultural diversity.



Professor Gordon Mathews is professor of anthropology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is the author of Global Culture/ Individual Identity: Searching for Home in the Cultural Supermarket and What Makes Life Worth Living? and several books. I met him as CUHK is my alma mater and I have attended his course during my Bachelor studies. We got in touch again and he has been giving me comments on the project.

Dates of conversations:

1/2/2021

16/2/2021

Professor Gordon Mathews, Anthropologist

If you have read my book, I think there is nothing much to say about the Mansions. For how many times you have been to the Mansions? How many nights you have spent in the Mansions?

I think you should spend more time in the Mansions! Whenever you have the free time, go there! Talk to people! Spend time there!

I don't have anything to offer you, not the networks or anything! You have to do your work so we can talk about it! It is not how I think and feel about the Mansions, it is about what you think about it!

Stay in touch and let me know how your project goes later.

Email Conversations

27 January 2021

Dear Eric,

OK, let's talk. Either tomorrow evening or next Monday evening would be fine, by skype or zoom--

Best,
Gordon

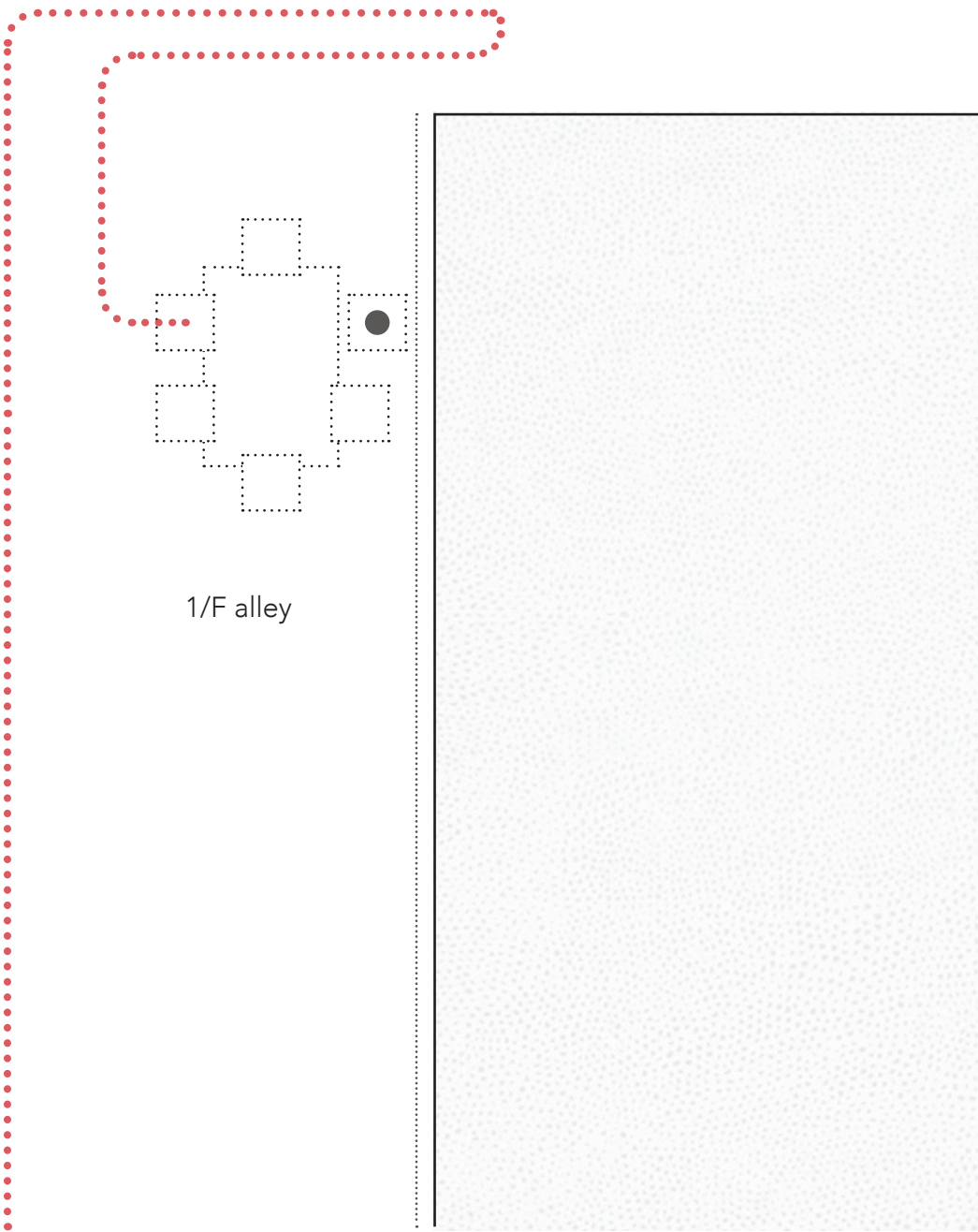
4 March 2021

Dear Eric,

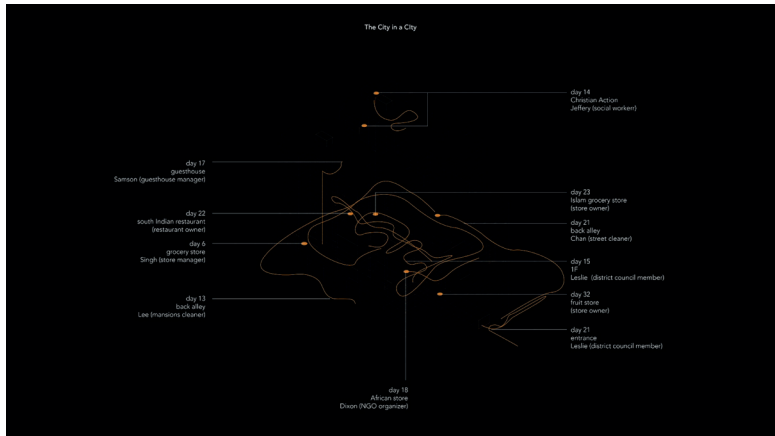
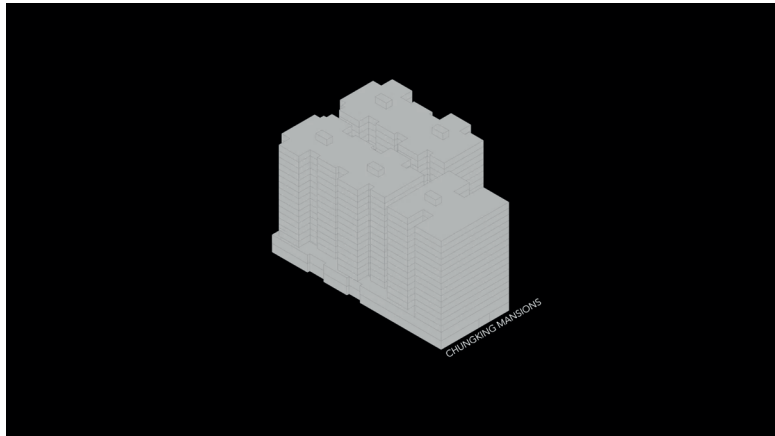
Good, I'm glad you're spending lots of time in Chungking Mansions now! Your video is interesting! Because it's a work in progress, I won't comment, except to say that I'm really happy that you're doing it!

Sure, we can talk any time about Chungking Mansions--just be in touch--

Best,
Gordon



Previous Form of the Documentary
'The City in A City'
(Numerous Revisions)



An interview-oriented film structured by the presumed spatiality of the Mansions. The spatiality becomes the guide to link up different elements recorded, in showing the stories and elements of the visual anthropological studies.

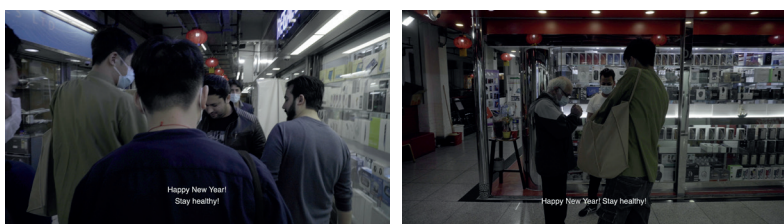
Locations

Animation

Animation to show the spatiality of the Mansions, and how it is structured.



Interview 1
Mr. John Singh - the Indian shopowner



Interview 4
Mr. Leslie - the District Councillor



Interview 1 - fear

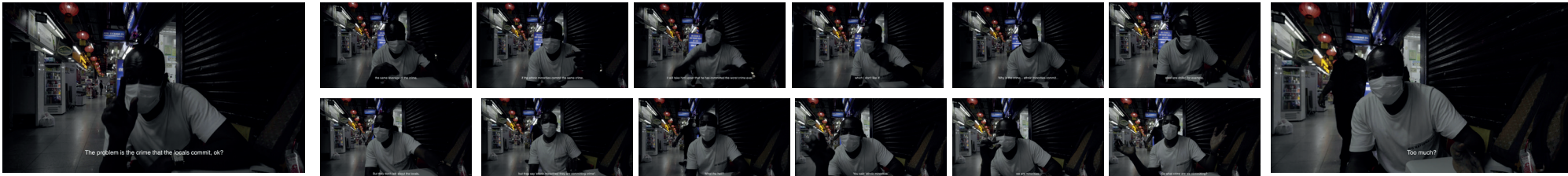
Interview 2 - products

Interview 3 - racism

Interview 4 - diversity



Interview 2
Mr. Simon - the Indian grocery shopowner



Interview 3
Mr. Dixon - the African Community Committee

Annex
The Research of 'The Rider'

'The Rider'

As the beginning of the studies of marginalisation, where people are neglected, ignored and labelled in the cities, 'The Rider' focuses on the people that are being put vulnerable in pandemic world.

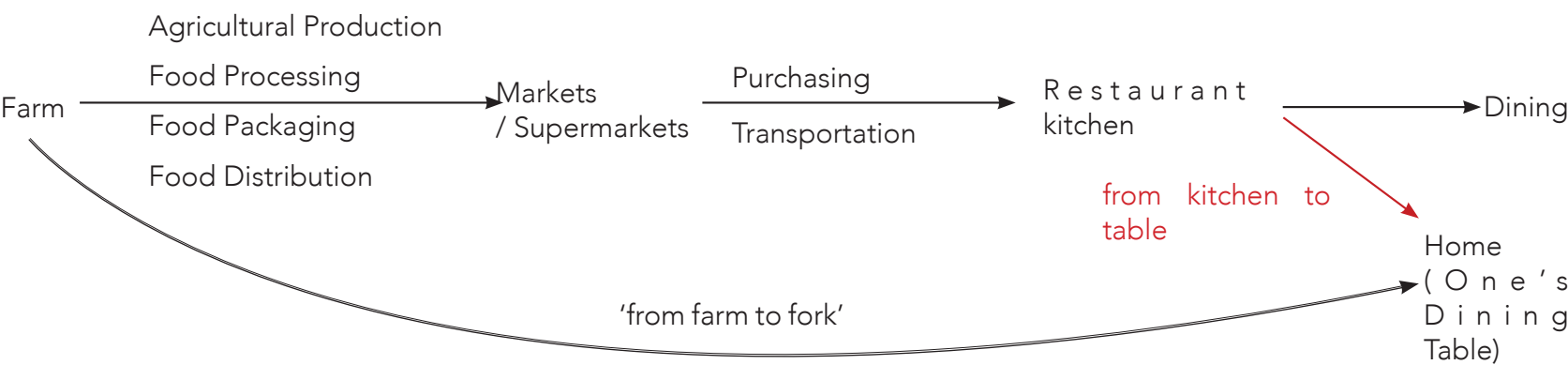
During the lock-downs, the kitchens become dark after 6PM. Food delivery connects the kitchen to the domestic space directly, it acts as a link between various people, as a cross-over of domestic and the public through a digital platform that works for profit. Yet it represents a rejection towards collective living, a sole isolation of oneself. For the rider, it is an isolation between him and the pandemics.

Food Delivery Services


During the lockdowns/ pandemics, the food industry has been great shifted to the delivery services. Deliveroo, for example, enjoyed increased orders and revenues as all the restaurants are forced to provide only delivery services, but not the dine-in services.

By statistics, the berlin-based company 'foodpanda' has an increased orders by 428% only in 2020, with a revenue of 518% in comparing with the previous years.

The change of lifestyle by the Covid-19 provokes a new formed typology and spatiality, much similar to the 'from farm to fork' typology. It omits the complex transportations and processing processes, and allow the two spaces (restaurant kitchens and home) connecting to one another directly.





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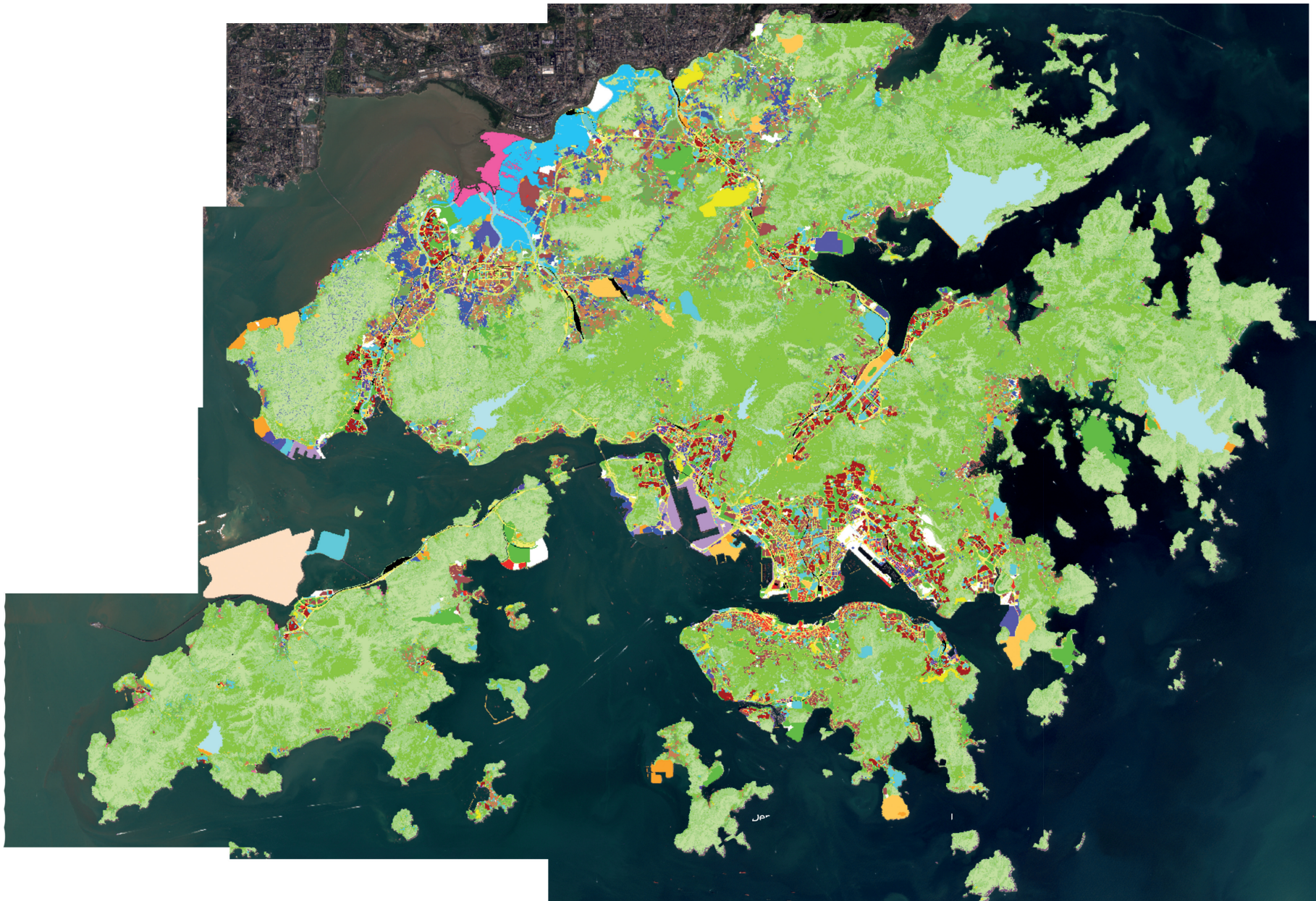
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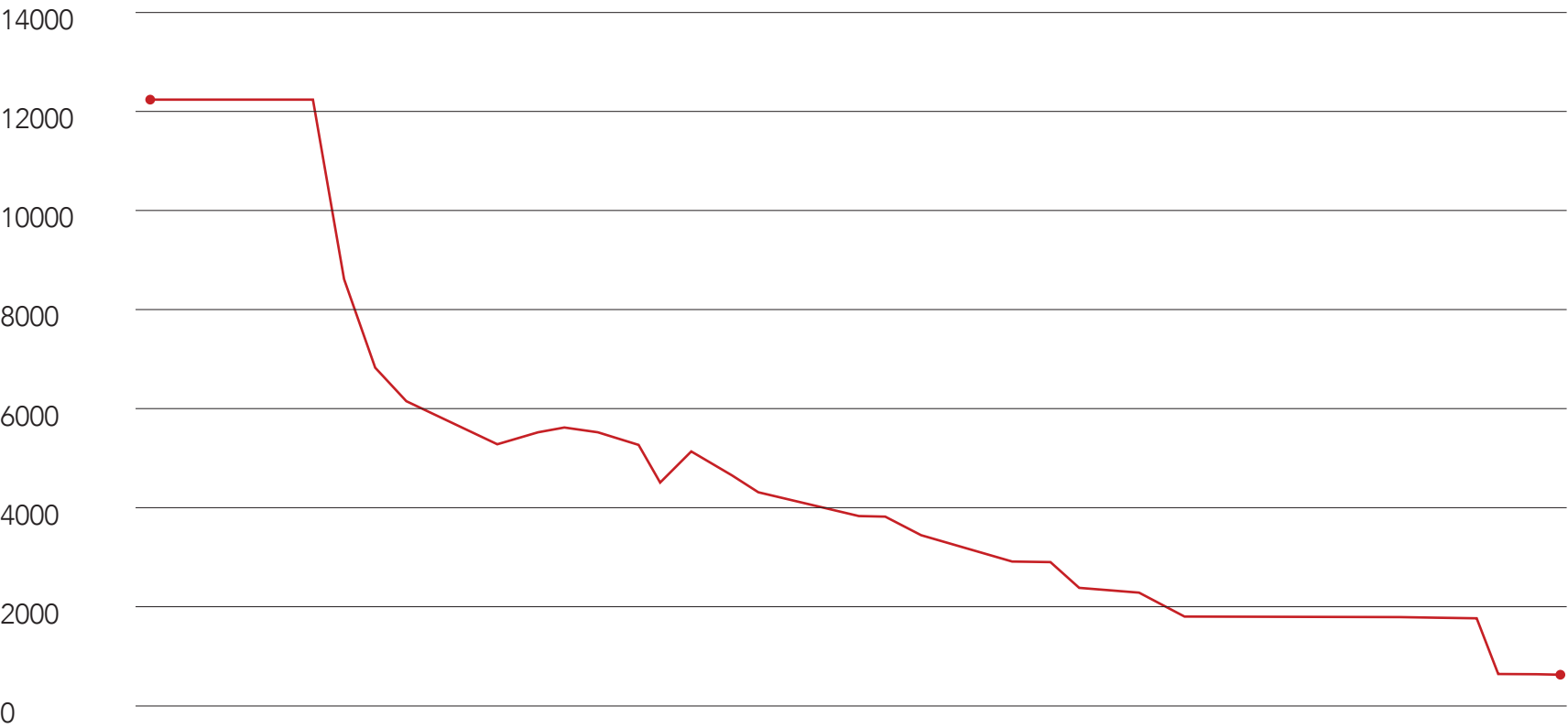
Farming and Food Industry in Hong Kong

Considering the farming and food industry in Hong Kong, Hong Kong has only less than 1000 hectares of farmland, while the major uses of land are either urban development or country parks due to the topographical context. With the tremendous decline in local food productions and self sufficiency ratio, food industry in Hong Kong is highly dependent on the imports and food catering industry.

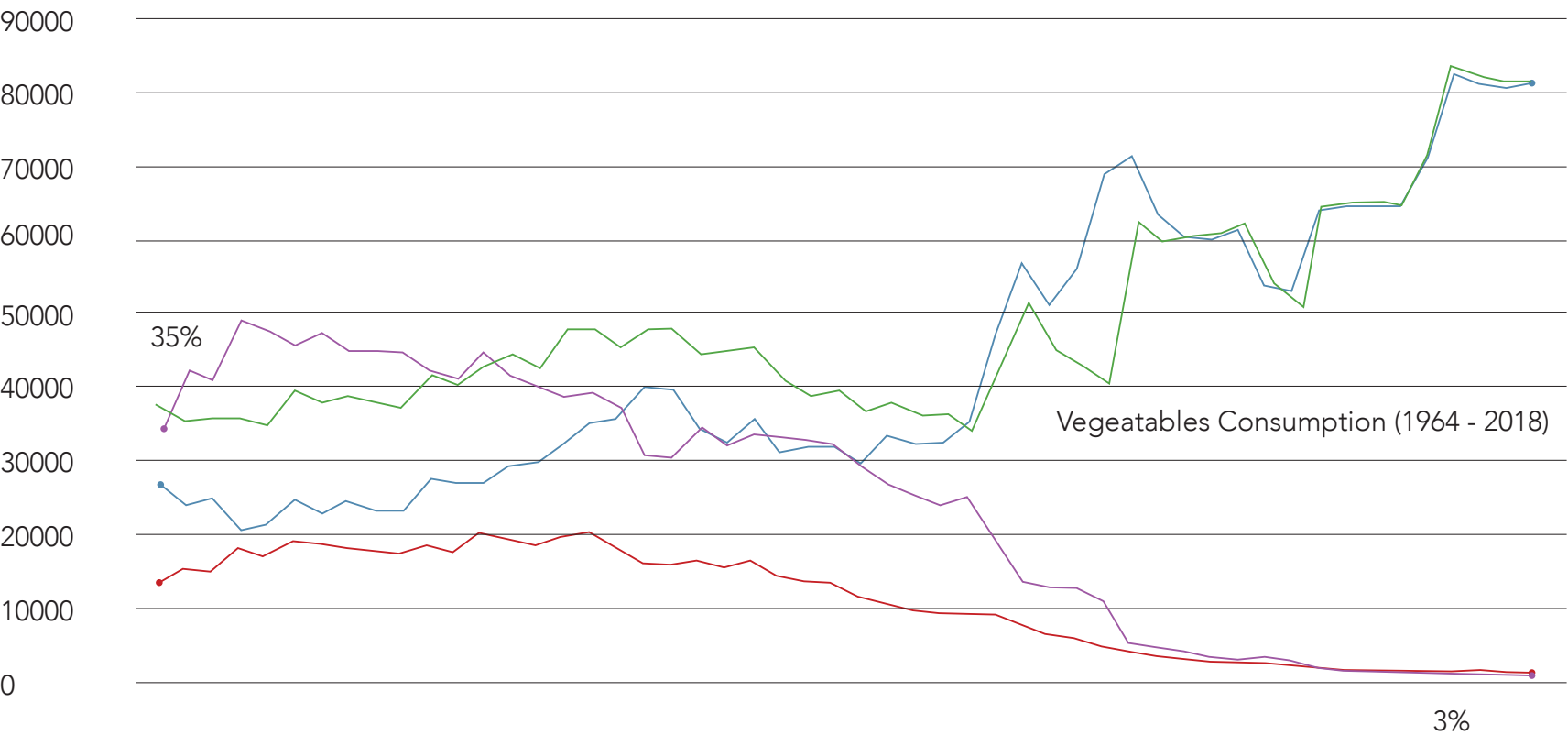


farmland

Farmed Land in Hong Kong (Hectares) (1964 - 2018)



Fresh Vegetables Imports vs. Fresh Vegetables Production in Hong Kong (Tonnes) (1964 - 2018)



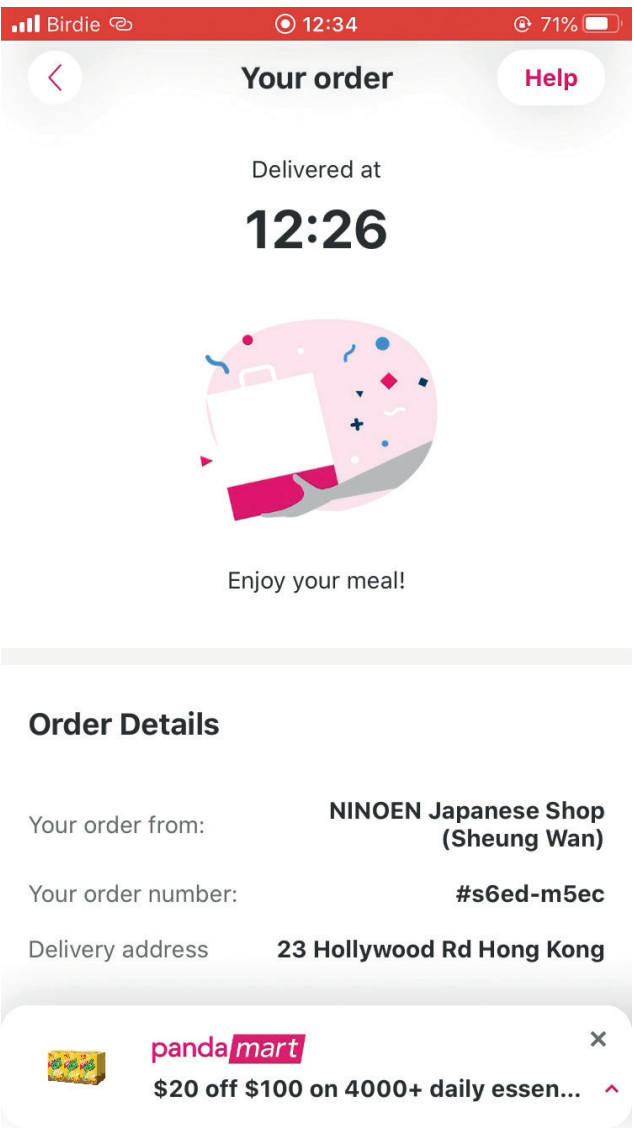
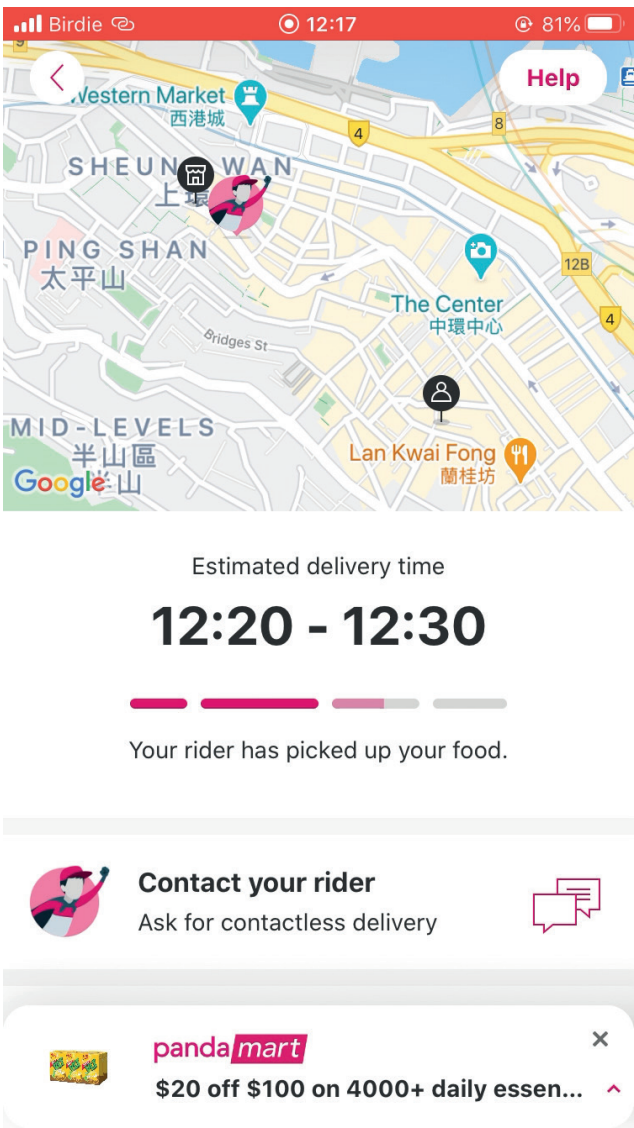
Hong Kong Fresh Vegetables Self-Sufficiency Ratio (%) (1964 - 2018)



Virtual Spatiality

The extensive use of phones in daily lifes suggest another spatiality, a virtual one that connects with the real world with symbols and signs. It was never real until ones take the orders from the real persons.

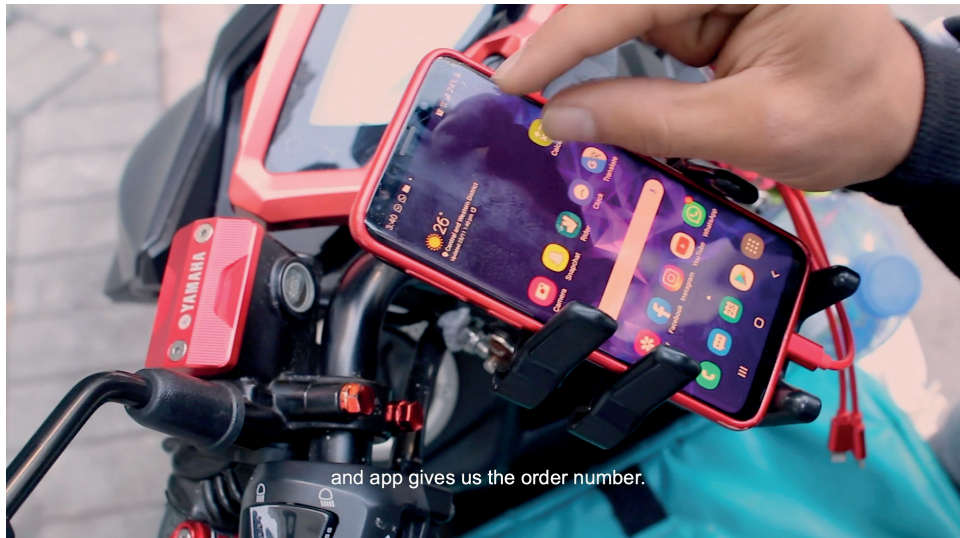
I interviewed Sam and MJ, who are working as a food delivery rider and walker for FoodPanda.





Still Images





and app gives us the order number.



but not a career to him.



We stuck in the traffic.



for ten to twelve hours per day.

I met a rider, on the street.

...

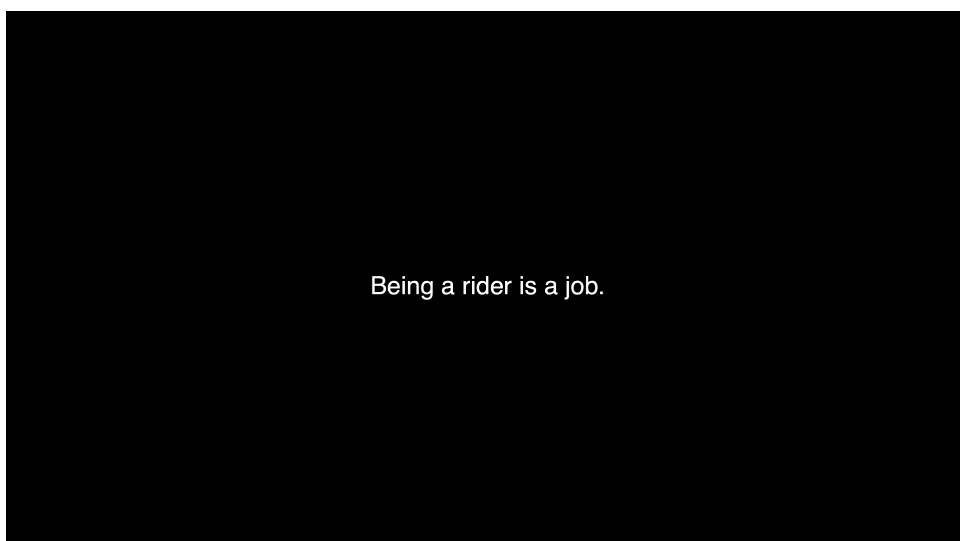
Being a rider is a job, but not a career to him.

He has a dream of being a physique trainer, but stopped by the limitations of the reality to purchase his dream in Hong Kong. Being a rider, is a professional job to him, but more like a job than a career that he wants to purchase.

<The Rider>

The world becomes strange, but a strangeness that we are getting more familiar.

During the lock-downs, the kitchens become dark after 6pm. Food delivery connects the kitchens to the domestic space directly. Such a food system acts as a link between various people, a cross-over of domestic and the public through the virtuality. Yet, it represents a rejection towards collective living, a sole isolation of oneself.



Being a rider is a job.

