THE CITY’S EDGE
-how architecture respond to different types of ground on a former landfill site in Lagos

Zhuoran Liu

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William Galloway
Donna Dunay
David Dugas

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THE CITY'S EDGE

In the progress of city development:
What's your position in a city?
What's an architecture's position in a city?
What's the condition of the city's edge?
WATER, OLD MAN, AND HIS HOUSE

Old man wakes up from his small bed in his room.
He opens the door panel on his floor and starts fishing.
Water level keeps going higher while the old man’s day haven’t changed for a long time.
A fried fish for dinner and a glass of wine.
He falls asleep with a whole wall of photos.
Those photos were taken during his life.
He wasn’t always this old man.
So as the water wasn’t always at this high level.
Memory brought him into a long dream.

In his dream,
He dives into the water through his panel door on the floor.
The underneath level of house was flooded by water.
Old man lived here ten years ago with his old wife.
He keeps diving deeper.
The level below has a TV and couch.
He enjoyed watching sports when he was younger.
There’s no room for his TV on his new level now.

He keeps diving deeper.
The space of next level was larger with nice big window.
He can’t build a large house like that anymore.
The nice window and furniture were left behind in these previous levels.
However, he always carries the memory along with those photos.
Memories all comes back to him as he dives deeper.
The deepest level was the first level of this house.
The old man built it in his 20’s.
When he just got married.
He chose this site beside a tall tree.
The tree was still there.
He can’t see the sky through the water.
LAGOS, YOUNG MAN, AND HIS JOB

The man came home looking tired and depressed.
His son had no clue what happened, he thinks.
His kid has no idea that they’ll have to move, AGAIN, soon.

He lost his job, AGAIN.
The landfill site he worked for is closed by the government.
He missed his home, a small village near the water.

He left his hometown for work opportunities with many other young men.
He found work on the construction site.
He knows how to build.
Life wasn’t easy for him to survive in a big city.
His wife left him a son then never came back.

They kept moving to new construction sites.
Few years earlier,
A coworker introduced the man to work on the landfill site.
He had no idea of the whole picture of the city or the landfill.

Other than his work,
He felt that he’s on the edge of the city.
His work is on one side and the town is on the other.

Everyone in that area was so occupied by work and didn’t bother to build a neighborhood.

He felt like he doesn’t belong to this place or any other place in the city.

He felt lost.
The kid was so excited today. Teacher said the garbage burying area will turn into green space in the future. That there will be a community center built right behind their school as the first building on the edge of the landfill. Kid likes the idea of green space. He can play sport with his friends. He likes sport, just like his dad. But what is a community center? Teacher said a community center is a place for them and their families to meet their neighbors, to have meetings about neighborhoods problems, and to welcome new people who comes to this area. Then she asked them to think what a community center should have. The kids in the class started sharing their idea. “There should be a place to hide from hot summer!” “There should be a place to sing and dance!” “There should be a place to climb!” “There should be a place for toys!” “Then there should also be a place for grown up, too.” “There should be a place for open cinema in summer nights!” “There should be a place to display the memory and dreams.” Teacher encouraged their thoughts and showed them the conceptual model and drawings of the ongoing project. At the end of the class, she asked everyone to draw a picture about the idea of community in their mind. The kid liked what he drew and can’t wait to show it to his grandpa when he comes to visit.