Quirky in Ordinary: Urban Stacking

Exploring personal expression in the built environment.

A city is lifeless without the markings of use, change and ideals of those whom occupy the space. It is the relationship between the banal repetition of the urban landscape and alterations to the mundane which create a building that is unexpected, unique and relatable.

With an overabundance of homogeneous high-rise buildings, the vertical city is the embodiment of sameness and uniformity. Buildings without the capacity to adapt their interior and exterior to a user reject an opportunity for the city to reflect the diverse population within urban environment.

This thesis interjects life into the urban landscape through the ability of the mundane to become quirky. Through experimentation of expressive habituation in the vertical city, Quirky in Ordinary: Urban Stacking proposes open frame structures which are occupied over time. Individual owners infill the structure by self-selecting parts and create an ever-changing building that is the result of multiple individuals not a singular design.

The gridded structure serves as a new type of city plot. These plots are built and serviced by a municipality and contain all the services a city would deliver to an average lot of land such as water, waste and electricity. The structure allows for the owner to “plug-in” their selected unit and expand the city grid vertically.
THE ORDINARY
Building forms and materials that are repeated through the neighborhood. In their repetition they form the ordinary which make the unique stand out.

BUILDING CONCEPT
Buildings found interesting from their original construction. It is not an addition or cosmetic alteration to the exterior of these structures that are found to be unique.

BUILDING INTERVENTION
These spaces have noticeable interventions to their original exteriors. The interventions have disrupted the original structure and are irreversible.

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Research - Personal Expression in an Existing Neighborhood
Quirky in Ordinary: Urban Stacking
Aspirational Drawing of a Vertical Neighborhood
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Building Density
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Unit Matrix
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Kit-of-Parts
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Building Narrative
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Architecture Model