RICE UNIVERSITY

MANHATTAN'S ANNEX: the crosstown [\*] excess

by

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IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

Master of Architecture

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MANHATTAN'S ANNEX: the crosstown [of] excess is a proposal that reconsiders what excess means in the contemporary city. Our society now just has glimpses of individual indulgence – from singular buildings to individualized junkie-ism – and does not allow the space for collective, urban experience of excess. Our present times demand for new paradigms that confront once more the sphere of normalcy on a metropolitan scale. This thesis envisions the future metropolitan condition of excess through juxtaposition of endless identification + exhibitionism [the network + the pool]. Manhattan's Annex will create urban conditions of void and identification where each subject will be able to abandon the atomized space of the skyscraper and join the collective space of flow.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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to DF // for your questions and making sure I (and others) understand what I was trying to say,

to my classmates // for your continuous inspiration, all the late-night epiphanies and for making architecture school constantly entertaining,

to SF / TD / VR // for each showing me a beautiful vision of architecture,

to teachers / critics / people in the past, present and future // for persuading me to learn from my mistakes + appreciate differing opinions,

to CA // for making me walk the line and US // for making me pick a side,

to my brothers // for always being my brothers + never letting me opt (wimp) out

to my parents // for your unwavering support + your assurance that being a nerd is not (necessarily) a bad hereditary trait,

and finally, to my extended family // y'all make me stronger, thank you.
CONTENTS

1 1.0// INTRODUCTION
5 2.0// MAJOR THEMES / CONCEPTS
15 3.0// CARTOGRAPHY of MANHATTAN'S ANNEX
21 4.0// the SIXTH ANNEX
26 5.0// VIGNETTES of THREE ZONES
36 6.0// FINAL (re)PRESENTATION
46 APPENDIX i - DEFINITIONS
49 APPENDIX ii - THESIS part 1 RESEARCH
56 APPENDIX iii - PREVIOUS STATEMENTS
59 APPENDIX iv - HYDRO-MANHATTAN
63 APPENDIX v - ENVIRONMENTAL STATES
1.0 // INTRODUCTION

Firstly, it is important to note that Manhattan's Annex: the crosstown [of] excess, is an entirely theoretical proposal that addresses issues of individualized indulgence and collective identification in our current Culture of Excess. Because it is a metropolitan proposal of celebrating collectivity and excess, it is a project meant to have multiple interpretations – in fact, the more interpretations the more interesting the possibilities. Therefore, it is suggested that this thesis should be seen completely subjectively.

Secondly, the site of this thesis is the entire Island of Manhattan and is meant to exist as the final chapter of Delirious New York – in other words, Annexed to the end. The notion of the Culture of Excess is used as a method of re-evaluating the legacy of the preceding Culture of Congestion (Koolhaas, 1994).

Lastly, the eventual direction of this thesis was formed through the initial research of the pharmaceutical industry in our current society. Though the resulting proposal was not directly related to the pharmaceutical industry, it was inspired by the research and would have taken an entirely different position without it. Therefore, a portion of this analysis is included as an appendix.
MANHATTAN'S ANNEX is a proposal that reconsiders what excess means in the contemporary city. The twentieth century's *Culture of Congestion* – materialized in the skyscraper megablock – epitomized the metropolitan condition of excess through notions of profit [vertical density] and endless repetition [horizontal grid]. The skyscraper, born out of the material capabilities of steel and the mechanical properties of the elevator became the typology of urban excess and with it the *typology of exception*.

Now, after a hundred years of profitable repetition, the exception has become the rule. Urban excess now just has glimpses of individual indulgence [from singular buildings to individualized junkie-ism]. Our present times demand for new paradigms that confront once more the sphere of normalcy on a metropolitan scale.

This thesis envisions the future metropolitan condition of excess through notions of loss [voids] and endless identification + exhibitionism [the network + the pool]. The waterscraper, born out of the environmental situation of rising waters and our need to address the Culture of Excess, will create urban conditions of void and identification where each subject will be able to abandon the atomized space of the skyscraper and join the collective space of flow.

A new typology has been born.
2.0 // MAJOR THEMES / CONCEPTS

Manhattan's architecture is a paradigm for the exploitation of congestion.
-- R. Koolhaas in Delirious New York

Although exploitation has a negative connotation, this statement is effectively one of the critical points of the thesis. Just as the classic Manhattan skyscraper can be seen as the epitome of the Metropolitan Condition – which is a study of past performance – Manhattan's Annex attempts to create a new typology for an altered way of experiencing the city using the 'blueprints' from the 'Culture of Congestion' (Koolhaas, 1994). The following section covers five vital ideas of the proposal. The issues considered in this section are themes, concepts and modes of representation that were necessary steps in the formulation of the future performance of the 21st century city.
2.1 // INDIVIDUAL INDULGENCE vs. COLLECTIVE IDENTIFICATION

The terms *Individual Indulgence* and *Collective Identification* are essential to Manhattan's Annex. Individual indulgence refers to excess behaviour — such as drug use, gambling et cetera — practiced hidden in the atomized space of the Manhattan skyscraper, while collective identification is the transferring of behaviour from the private, singular enclosure to the public realm. The diagram shown above depicts the translation of excessive behaviour from the segregated collectivity of a remote institution to the atomized model of current practice. What we are missing in our society — and is an issue this thesis attempts to address — is the lack of a constant space for public excess that is not an enclosed institution such as a rehabilitation centre or mental hospital. The diagram below is a conceptual diagram of Manhattan's Annex; essentially a constant, non-temporal space for the celebration of excess in all forms. The proposal here is a critic on our society's need to 'sweep things under the rug' and our need to 'treat' that issue by bringing excess back to the public sphere.
Water reflects far more than just a physical need to sustain life – it is a means to achieving anything from physical recuperation to mental rejuvenation. The use of water as the focus to a communal gathering space had early beginnings. At the height of the Roman Empire, the public bath was a very prominent communal component in most cities or towns and they existed to provide citizens with a venue for bathing, socializing and exercise (Fagan, 1999). Turkish Baths, Scandinavian/Nordic saunas and the like are still very popular today as places of collective leisure. This is the premise of Manhattan’s Annex – it is a collective network that leads the water surrounding the island into the centre; thereby allowing each individual subject to abandon the atomized space of the skyscraper and join the collective space of flow.

The section vignette to the right shows a cut through the building at One Times Square where Manhattan’s Annex intersects this congested intersection. Holding centre stage of this spectacle is the Times square diving platforms [A] with the lap pools running over West 42nd Street [B].
This thesis proposes a new 'topia' of public space for a utopia of excess. An Exotopia: an essential place in that is ideologically outside 'normal' society.

**FIVE PRINCIPLES of EXOTOPIAS**

**ONE** Above all, an exotopia is the manifestation of excessive extremes. It is an *empty vessel* containing plenty of nothingness and based around the notion of the *Culture of Congestion* [delirious new york].

**TWO** It is a physical place that must exist in every society (if it does not already) as a form of escape from reality. Both *The Strip* in Las Vegas and *Central Park* in Manhattan have components of an exotopia as they are physical areas of release and escape.

**THREE** It is not outside the 'confines' of the city as the name might suggest, in fact an exotopia would ideally exist within the city centre where excessive behaviour is both most 'visible' and most needed.

**FOUR** An exotopia is not necessarily (but can be) something that is completely 'new'. There already exists components in most societies that are portions of an exotopia, which can often be confused for spaces of vice.

**FIVE** An exotopia does not necessarily consist of several spaces, although it does function better if there are multiple components.
As stated in the introduction, the current state of this thesis has diverged from the original research of drug misuse in our society to a much broader definition of what constitutes excessive. This study of the ‘Excess Junkies’ is part of the transition and translation from research to design. The word ‘junkie’ can effectively be annexed to any human condition or behaviour to create the excessive user [Excess Junkies] of Manhattan’s Annex.

### THE GENERALIZED ‘JUNKIE’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RISK TAKERS + PLEASURE SEEKERS</th>
<th>[some] ‘JUNKIE’ sub-SPECIES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>those who need that extra feeling of danger in everyday life</td>
<td>the <strong>GAMBLING</strong> junkie</td>
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<td>the <strong>ADRENALINE</strong> junkie</td>
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<td>the <strong>[ILICIT] NARCOTICS</strong> junkie</td>
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<td>the <strong>Tattoo</strong> junkie</td>
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<td>The <strong>fetish</strong> junkie</td>
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### OVER-ACHIEVERS

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<th>ANXIETY AVOIDERS + PLEASURE SEEKERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>those who just need that escape every now and then</td>
<td>the <strong>[RX] NARCOTICS</strong> junkie</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the <strong>GAMBLING</strong> junkie</td>
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<td></td>
<td>the <strong>EXERCISE</strong> junkie</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>the <strong>OVERWORKING</strong> junkie</td>
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### ANXIETY AVOIDERS + PLEASURE SEEKERS

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<td>the <strong>ADRENALINE</strong> junkie</td>
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<td>the <strong>INTERNET/MEDIA</strong> junkie</td>
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<td></td>
<td>the <strong>SHOPPING</strong> junkie</td>
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<td></td>
<td>the <strong>FAST-FOOD</strong> junkie</td>
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<td>the <strong>NICOTINE</strong> junkie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the <strong>fetish</strong> junkie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...
EXCESS JUNKIES

The MAUDIFIED junkie often needs a quick fix, after which they are able to focus their mental capabilities to their fullest potential. The level of social interaction varies depending on the situation and wanted outcome. Typical public locations for the maudified junkie: train stations, parks, clubs, hospitals, clubs, alleys.

The GAMBLING junkie is a quick and calculate thinker. The level of social interaction varies depending on the actual form of gambling. However, the gambling junkie often frequents local bars, or where others congregate. Typical public locations for the gambling junkie: casino/card halls, racetrack, internet cafes.

The SLOWLY junkie is the lone wolf, and not just on small packs, but also includes cats, dogs, etc. If it is planned using, the level of social interaction could likely be some sort of gang-based formation. It is spontaneous, it is often a solitary junkie, or a junkie in a pack-like formation. Typical public locations for the slowly junkie: solitary,. Typical public locations for the slowly junkie: mals, strip malls, streets, box stores. The level of social interaction is quite high. Typical public locations for the in-store/media junkie: office, internet cafes, media walls, media stations, etc. However, it is at these times...

The INTERJUNCT junkie keeps odd hours in order to be up-to-date on information. This means a physical social activity is very solitary and virtual social activity, a drive home high. Typical public locations for the in-store/media junkie: office, internet cafes, media walls, media stations, etc. However, it is at these times...

The KIDNEP junkie can be essentially be anyone in our society, as the advertisements for this type of junkie is so prevalent in most, but all, inhabitable areas. The level of social interaction varies depending on the other junkie involved. Typical public locations for the kidney junkie: city centre, rear offices, downtown, large malls, homebase public walks.

The SLOTTED junkie gets a higher out of taking risks, which does not necessarily apply to any extreme outdoor activities. The level of social interaction varies depending on the other junkie involved. Typical public locations for the slotted junkie: city centre, rear offices, downtown, large malls, homebase public walks.
Manhattan has always been an inspiration to graphic and filmic representation of the generic metropolis. The following narrative describes a scenario with three endings, each of a distinct scale of action.

**2.50 // GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION**

X has a banal nine-five job at the Times Square branch of the consumerist chain known as TOYS 'R' US. He often dreams of work and this is when his mind becomes cluttered with thoughts of being there forever, wandering around the circles that are his life. Realizing that he is late *as usual*, X rushes to the closest metro station, not ready to begin yet another day in the excessiveness that is Times Square. His arrival at work is uneventful as usual and he feels that he's being locked away restocking for the next few hours. X's punishment for being late today is far worse than every other day – he gets the Ferris Wheel duty. Crying kids, angry parents – this shift has it all. In X's attempt to create order where chaos festers, a kid can't take the ride and her lunch becomes X's new fashion statement.
Immediate action is needed to cleanse himself; so X goes to the Times Square Annex(ed) Showers [TSAS], in the heart of one of the busiest intersections in the city. Its location is not by mere chance; the TSAS plays on the transparency of the shower ‘windows’. It becomes an exhibitionist spectacle in an excessive location of voyeurism, where the subject (on the ground below or in the water above) is simultaneously being watched and watching in each variation of the same intersection.
X has had more than enough. The order of the night is entertainment. The Annex(ed) Hubs are larger areas devoted to entertainment involving water, which remain open year-round for the *excessively excess*. X decides that today was intense enough to make use of two such hubs. The first is the high-dive platforms at Battery Park where the merging of the skyline view and the economic centre of the city create a moment of explosive excess. The second stop is the Sixth Annex pools at the edge of Central Park, which also serves as a jumping platform, but for the more faint-of-heart.
While immediate action is needed, X opts to simultaneously cleanse, exercise and travel to his next destination (the bar). Similar to the MTA subway system, The Annex(ed) Lanes bundled together create a network of swimming lanes high above the city of Manhattan. It serves as an alternate mode of transportation as well as a different way to view the city/the city to view the subject.
...it is no longer a matter of precisely delineating stable continents, but of changing architecture and urbanism.

-- G. Debord on Situationist Cartography

The intention for the entire set of drawings was to create them at three distinct scales. The largest scale consists of three site drawings in this section, which are termed ‘cartography’ because each are concerned with the representation of Manhattan in a different and specific way. Carte 1 and 3 are more abstract due to the mapping of dynamic users and water currents; while Carte 2 is a more static satellite aerial of Manhattan’s Annex as an infrastructural element in the midst of other modes of transportation. The intention is that the combination of these three cartographic drawings allows for the understanding of the proposal at the metropolitan scale.
With a new way of navigation across the island of Manhattan comes the altered user of excess. They no longer rely on one form of excess, but embrace all and use it to their advantage. Inspired by the series in Radical Cartography, the map to the left demonstrates how three New Excess Junkies integrate Manhattan's Annex into their typical day. Detailed accounts to follow on the subsequent pages.
the NARCOTICS NETWORKING junkie

1. START _E 25th ST + 3rd AVE
2. the THIRD ANNEX access @ 3rd + E 31st ST
3. [lapswim] ANNEX EAST END drops #1-2
4. [lapswim] 5th + BROADWAY drops # 3-5
5. [lapswim] GREENWICH VILLAGE drops # 6-10
6. MTA®@®_ SPRING ST
7. [lapswim] quick detour for drop #11
8. MTA®@®_ FULTON ST
9. the FIRST ANNEX: collective individual indulgence
10. meet up with some friends
11. the FIRST ANNEX ferry port to
12. the THIRD ANNEX, point ®

the SHOPPING JUNKIE: junkie

1. START _E 116th ST
2. MTA®®®_ E 96th ST
3. MTA®®®_ E 77th ST
4. the SIXTH ANNEX access @ E 77th ST + 2nd AVE
5. UPPER EAST lap lanes_ between 5th AVE + FDR
6. swim to 5th AVE
7. store bags @ the FIFTH ANNEX locker stop
8. collective space @ FIFTH ANNEX/Times Square
9. return to the locker stop and hail cab to point ®
the GAMBLING*DUO junkie

1 START_ E 17th ST + 1st AVE
2 the SECOND ANNEX access @ E 9th ST + 1st AVE
3 lapswim to BOWERY access
4 MTA©©©_ ASTOR PL
5 meet gambling cohort @ GRAND CENTRAL STATION
6 MTA©©©_ HERALD SQ.
7 MTA©©©_ TIMES SQ.
8 SIXTH ANNEX access @ W 55th ST + BROADWAY
9 lapswim to the WEST WHARF for gambling boat
10 disembark at the SEVENTH ANNEX after winning big
11 post-victory lap along the SEVENTH ANNEX
12 private water taxi to the SECOND ANNEX + point©
As with every metropolis in the world, New York provides multiple methods of transportation. However, the shear density of the city allows for a larger and more complex network to develop. The cartographic drawing to the left layers the major infrastructural networks of Manhattan:

[1] MTA
[2] Railroad lines
[3] NY Ferry waterway
The overall network of Manhattan's Annex consists of ten channels flowing east-to-west across the entire length of the island. Similarly to other types of infrastructure, the Annexes function as both a destination as well as a means of navigation across town. The focus of this last drawing is the water surrounding the island and its new network through Manhattan. The whole set of cartographical drawings show the impact of this proposal on the existing layers of Manhattan and that it is part of the holistic experience and spectacle of the city.
While the overall site cartography is essential to understanding the network of Manhattan's Annex as a whole, the magnification of interest in this section focuses more specifically on the dissection of the Sixth Annex at the scale of a district or neighbourhood. The main concern was for the proposal to exist as both a sought out location of interest and a space any subject was able to stumble upon while manoeuvering through the city. Therefore, the resulting master plan of the networks was a combination of created new space and incorporated existing urban fabric. While the form does seemingly slice through the city, area's of intersection with existing structure allows for new collective spaces to emerge. The programmatic elements of these new collective spaces of the Sixth Annex correspond to the surrounding urban environment, which will be further discussed in section 5.0.
full site of the SIXTH ANNEX // SITE SECTION [top] // SITE PLAN [bottom] // details on following pages
Representation of the world, like the world itself, is the work of men; they describe it from their own point of view, which they confuse with the absolute truth.

-- S. de Beauvoir

The representation of Manhattan's Annex relied heavily on the use of multiple scales to expand upon the issues of the thesis. This strategy was needed in order to fully explore the impact of an urban proposal in an established dense metropolis. This smallest scale of dissected representation begins with the original experiential images followed by further examination into each vignette location. They are interpretations of specific locations along the Sixth Annex.
IN THE TROES AKA GOTHAM CITY

THE GREAT FLOODER 54th ST. - 5th AVE. winter conditions at The SIXTH ANNEX pool
Located above the Lincoln Tunnel, the West Wharf is a re-interpretation of the existing Midtown Ferry Terminal at W 34th and 12th Avenue. The Sixth Annex takes advantage of this a moment of convergence by providing a unified concourse for the activities associated with transportation hubs: watching and waiting. Users are able to wait for their ferry [A], watch cars enter Manhattan from New Jersey [B] and take part in the water-based programs located along the south wall of the hub [C]. As the surrounding urban environment has few residential buildings, the West Wharf is more of an urban condenser for the gathering of users than both the Central Park pools + rinks and the East End 24hr access gym seen in the next sub-sections.
5.2 // LOCATION B // the CENTRAL PARK POOLS + RINKS

The site for this focus of the Sixth Annex was chosen to explore the ephemeral nature of water and how a program alters with seasonal changes. Located across from The Plaza, these pools are essentially places of and for public spectacle. The lap pools [A] in this section are shorter allowing for busy users to exercise and return to their activities. The Olympic sized pools in the front [B] can be rented for specific group activities ranging from synchronized swimming demonstrations to a gathering location for avid Polar Bear Club members. In the warmer months these are the Central Park Pools, which exist along each Annex that intersects with Central Park. In the colder months, the pool is flooded and the sides are lowered to allow for skating rinks to spill into Central Park allowing part of the Sixth Annex to merge with the natural.
experiential vignette details // v.4 [The Great Ice-Over]
This particular study of the Sixth Annex is an interpretation of the created space when the proposal intersects with the existing urban fabric. The swimming lanes [A] – as with every other segment of Manhattan’s Annex – continue to cut straight through the complex while voids are created in the existing structure. The void here is then filled with an underwater hockey rink/pool [B] to allow for a community organized space for collective excess. Exercise facilities are located close to the east end of the Sixth Annex due to the abundance of residential buildings in the surrounding urban environment. Placing the main lap pools and a 24 hour facility here encourages the users to take advantage of the convenience of Manhattan’s Annex.
MANHATTAN'S ANNEX: the crosstown excess is a proposal concerned with the multiple scaled representation of an urban infrastructural insertion/injection. Therefore, the intention of the presentation layout is simply another, smaller experiential scale. The boards are intended to stand out as individual and unique representations of the Manhattan's Annex as well as connect with adjacent boards to comprise a single collected entity. The subsequent pages relate to the Master of Architecture thesis review, which occurred early January 2009 in the Farish Gallery at Rice University, Houston TX. The jury panel consisted of the thesis committee – Dawn Finley, Farès el Dah-dah, and Eva Franch Gilabert – as well as the following guest critics and in-house critics, respectively: Geoff Manaugh, Nadir Tehrani and Sarah Whiting / Lars Lerup, Albert Pope, John Casbarian, Nana Last, Troy Schaum.
SITE ANALYSIS AND CARTOGRAPHY BOARDS [LEFT TO RIGHT] // General Site Board // New Excess
Junkies Board // The Current Network Board [COMBINED ORIGINAL DIMENSIONS 108" x 108"]
BOARD 1 // The Transportation Networks of Manhattan – MTA / NY Ferry / the Annexes

[ORIGINAL DIMENSIONS 36" x 108"]
BOARD 2 // The New Excess Junkies Board
[ORIGINAL DIMENSIONS 36" x 108"]
BOARD 3 // The Current Network Board

[ORIGINAL DIMENSIONS 36" x 108"]
SCALE 3 - 2 BOARDS [LEFT - RIGHT] // Axonometric drawings of elements of the South Addition + Scratch // Site Plan [COMBINED ORIGINAL DIMENSIONS 144" x 108"]
BOARDS 4 + 5 // the West Wharf + Central Park Pools [ORIGINAL DIMENSIONS 72" x 108"]
APPENDIX i-1 // DEFINITIONS // words or phrases specific to Manhattan's Annex

Agencies // an organization, company, or bureau that provides some service for another: a welfare agency // the condition of being in action; operation.

Annex // to attach, append, or add, esp. to something larger or more important.

Asylum // (esp. formerly) an institution for the maintenance and care of the mentally ill, orphans, or other persons requiring specialized assistance // a place offering protection and safety; a shelter // any secure retreat.

Behaviour // manner of behaving or acting // observable activity in a human or animal // the aggregate of responses to internal and external stimuli // the action or reaction of any material under given circumstances

Collective // assembled into or viewed as a whole

Collective Identification // the gathering of society to practice the art of excess in the midst of others of the same interest // opposite of individual indulgence
**APPENDIX i-2 // DEFINITIONS //**

words or phrases specific to Manhattan's Annex

*Crowd* // a metropolitan condition // congregation of excessive amounts of people, often to the point of uncomfortable situations

*Congestion* // the aggregation of crowding often resulting in an opposite effect than intended

*The Culture of Congestion* // “proposes the conquest of each block by a single structure...it will arrange new and exhilarating human activities in unprecedented combinations” Delirious New York, 125

*Consumption* // the act of consuming, as by use, decay, or destruction.

*Commodification* // if a product becomes less differentiated, so that buyers care less about who they buy from // the transformation of goods and service

*Excess* // the state of exceeding what is normal or sufficient

*Extreme* // of a character or kind farthest removed from the ordinary or average // one of two things as remote or different from each other as possible

*Exhibitionism* // a tendency to display one’s abilities or to behave in such a way as to attract attention // attract attention or display his or her powers, personality, etc.

*Exhibitionist* // a person who behaves in ways intended to attract attention or display his or her powers, personality, etc.

*Immersion* // state of being deeply engaged or involved; absorption // concentrating on one course of instruction, subject, or project to the exclusion of all others for several days or weeks; intensive

*Individual Indulgence* // a distinct and unique being practicing singular desire or form of escape in their atomized space away from crowds or congestion

*Identification* // process of recognizing something or someone by remembering
APPENDIX i-3 // DEFINITIONS // words or phrases specific to Manhattan's Annex

Junkie // a person with an insatiable craving for something

Madness // the condition of being insane // intense excitement or enthusiasm

The Metropolitan Condition // "Manhattanism is the one urbanistic ideology that has fed, from its conception, on the splendors and miseries of the metropolitan condition -hyper-density-without once losing faith in it as the basis for a desirable modern culture." -Delirious New York, 10

Network // any net like combination of filaments, lines, veins, passages, etc // a complex, interconnected group or system

Post-Post-Asylum // Manhattan's Annex: the crosstown [x] excess

Reaction // a reverse movement or tendency; an action in a reverse direction or manner // the action caused by the resistance to another action

Recovery // restoration or return to any former and better state or condition

Social Norm // an expected form of behavior in a given situation

Spectacle // anything presented to the sight or view, esp. something of a striking or impressive kind // a public performance or display, especially one on a large or lavish scale

Urban Excess // extreme metropolitan condition [individual consumption, collective congestion, individual spectacle, collective crowd] existing in a finite area // Manhattan is the epitome of urban excess in the North American society.

Urban Interruptions // brief and distinct break in an endless repetitive pattern, i.e. a grid

Water // a transparent, odorless, tasteless liquid, a compound of hydrogen and oxygen, H2O, freezing at 32°F or 0°C and boiling at 212°F or 100°C, that in a more or less impure state constitutes rain, oceans, lakes, rivers, etc

White // if there were a colour associated with this thesis, it would be white.
APPENDIX ii-1 // THESIS-PT1 RESEARCH SPRING 2008

Manhattan's Annex currently stands as a metropolitan-scaled infrastructural network to the island from which it's name is derived. Prior to the proposal existing at the urban scale, the issues researched during Thesis: Part 1 with Albert Pope are of a more specific nature. Although the current state of the thesis is more concerned with excess on the cultural and global scale, it is important to also note the research prior to this point. The main focus of study falls within the field of the pharmaceutical industry and its correlation with the demise of traditional asylum institution. In this Post-Asylum era, Manhattan's Annex addresses our cultural treatment of excess, the origin of which is stated here to be founded in the research of drug misuse in our society.
The period between 1800 and 1920 is referred to as the *Pharmaceutical Century*, with innovations constantly being explored and tested. However, for most of the 19th Century the common 'cure' or 'treatment' consisted of drugs that were mainly toxic potions and diluted poisons. The common drugs used at the end of the 19th Century were similar to drugs now; the difference only being the method of production. It was not until the Industrial Revolution, when the pharmaceutical industry was able to systematise the manufacturing of drugs in a ground up, capsule-ized and convenient format.

A century later, The Pharmaceutical Industry has become one of the strongest and most influential economies in the world. We are now constantly subjected to advertisements about drugs and how they can/will change our lives.

Plate 98.
Historically, the 18th and 19th century attitude towards the psychiatric hospital and its inhabitants was to place them away from 'normal' society in a remote, confining and enclosed environment located in the fringe wasteland of the city. ...separation in the form of the mad/sane and the ill/healthy had its basis in the normal/abnormal dichotomy which had emerged in the mid-eighteenth century (Armstrong, 1997). Although, the rise of the State Asylum at the turn of the Twentieth century coincided with the emergence of mass produced pharmaceuticals, the same medical revolution also brought about the demise of this institution. The remainder of this appendix section discusses the presence of our current culture of excess in the world of medical/pharmaceutical.
In the mid-seventies, the term MEDICALIZATION emerged in reference to applying a 'condition' or illness to any behavioural issue. "Doctor's are not needed (anymore) to medicalize a society's drugs" (Illich, 1976). Medicalization was further pushed into our culture by excessive advertising claiming to have the proper cure or at least a treatment for illness. It was at this point where the direction of the thesis began to take a more broader sense of excessive behaviour into question.
reduce psychic tension

Valium (diazepam)

Herbal

why resumption of interrupted sleep is important to all your patients

Quaalude (methaqualone)

BRAIN CITY

Ativan

躁
Though the first anti-psychotic drug was introduced in the fifties, it was not until the late-sixties to mid-seventies when drugs in general became the truly preferred form of self-medication. The sketch below by a sociology and historian professor at Middlesex University in the UK describes the traditional (old) location of the mental institution.

The de-institutionalization of mental institutions in the sixties and seventies was a direct reflection of the emergence of self-medication and its impact on our culture. We no longer felt the need to enclose patients, because drugs could control behaviour. Since the demise of the old institution, we no longer have the same model for an asylum. As Foucault states, there is no room for the old disciplinary society; and as Deleuze states, the social mechanisms of the old institution are no longer in control. **A new asylum must be instituted in order to compensate for the demise and loss of the old.**
Society is invariably modified with each fluctuation of what constitutes the sphere of normality. Deviance is always outside the norm yet inescapably attached to it. However, there is an overlapping commonality between these two seemingly disparate and complimentary spheres: EXCESS.

Excess – whether a habit in the sphere of normality or deviance – is traditionally associated with the realm of the private in a society that only supports select forms of individualized indulgence.

In a time and society where fleeting moments of personal excess is our only release from the everyday, this proposal is a call for a new type of urban space. This thesis constructs a public bath annex in Manhattan – the post asylum; a place for the exhibition of excess. Through notions of privacy, transparency and degrees of excess, the public bath house is a revival of an old typology of publicness for a new function and purpose.

Society... only supports select forms of individualized indulgence.

In a time where public excess has become deviant and there are only fleeting moments of personal excess, this proposal is a call for a new type of urban space. This thesis constructs the contemporary asylum – a public sphere of excess. It is a critique of how we operate in our consumerist society and creates the public space for a new normality.
The administering of drugs in a pill format was to solve the problem of madness in civilized society, just as the insane asylum (a single location for collective excess) was the 'answer' to the confinement of vagrants a century earlier. In counteracting the effects of societal anxiety, escape is a necessity; which is the reason why nobody is truly 'sane' anymore. If excess can be seen as a means of escaping social normalcy, why is it that there are some addictions which are tolerable while others are shunned and the participants must be locked away?

This thesis is proposing the contemporary asylum. It is a place of escape and for refuge. It is the 'city' of constant and hyper excess integrated to an existing urban fabric. It is a critique of how we operate in our consumerist society and how, historically, we have treated spaces for collective excess. Manhattan's Annex of (Hyper)excess provides this means for escape; a place for collective excess in a society that only supports select forms of individualized indulgence. It is the contemporary asylum that we need in order to provide ourselves with an escape that defines a space for a new normality.
We live in a consumerist society of excess. Some invisible and omnipotent force informs us how to fit in, how to spend our free time, what to do in this free time, how to dress, how to live, whom to admire, what we should see, what we should buy, what we should eat, and most importantly what we should take for whichever illness we have. Is anyone truly 'normal' anymore? It is not surprising that so much of our society uses some sort of drug, be it illicit or not, to escape from that which is deemed 'normal' reality.

The administering of drugs in a pill format was intended to solve the problem of madness in civilized society, just as the insane asylum was the 'answer' to the confinement of wanderers and vagrants a century earlier, a single location for collective excess. Why is it that in this consumerist society of individualized excess there are some addictions that are tolerable while others are shunned?

This thesis is proposing the creation of a contemporary asylum. It is a place of and for escape. It is the City of constant and hyper excess that is integrated within an existing urban fabric of Manhattan. It is a critique of how we operate in this the current consumerist society and how, historically, we have treated the spaces for collective excess. Excess is our way of escaping the social norm or the normalcy we think we need to fit into on a daily basis. Manhattan's Annex of (Hyper)excess provides the means for escape; the place for collective excess in a society that only supports select forms of individualized excess. It is the contemporary asylum that we need in order to provide ourselves with an escape and a defining space for a new normality.
There are a few student projects from my trip the other week to Rice University that I'm going to be posting here over the next week or so - beginning with "Memorial's Beam: The Downtown Lift Access" by W. Amanda Chin.

For her thesis project at Rice, Chin proposed ten "watercones" that would slice across the urban space of Manhattan, cutting through buildings, through parks, and through the urban grid itself, forming strange aquatic intersections with the city.
Inside would be routes for scuba-diving, new aquariums, and multi-seasonal sites for public swimming.

These above-ground pipes of water - like hydro-boulevards, one might say the hydrological Snoqualmie system of Manhattan - are less an actual proposal for construction than a sort of architectural dream: the city cross-cut by amniotic Utopias through which people can wander at all hours of the day.

As you can see in the short comic strips that accompanied the project - see the larger Fluide for more - the project is themed around overlapping ideas of excess, self-indulgence, and addiction, as if these Voluntary Prisoners of Architecture-like scenes might be therapeutic, a new psychotherapy of space.

It's 3am and you're depressed, you can't sleep. You go out wandering across Harlem, inside one of the Annexes, completely alone, not a single other person in sight - when a group of people goes scuba-diving over your head. As if they've attained flight through an artificial river in the sky.

In a city of insomniacs, the city itself becomes the dream.

See more: Architecture Dream. The Compendium (Jeff Crouch) by W. Amanda Chin.
APPENDIX iv-4

HTML IS BOTH OKAY AND ENCOURAGED FOR LINKS.
THIS IS HOW TO INSERT LINKS. THANKS!

5 COMMENTS:

Alexander Trevisaid...
For second image - what's happening around the edges? Those overy contours.
This project reminds of (from your archives) Velo-City. H.B. The 5th comment from the bottom. :)
JANUARY 22, 2009 2:41 AM

Geoff Monmouth said...
I've always liked that coiamait,, actually. Quoting the original, from Alex Trevi:
"Why not fill it with water? An aquarium in the sky. A deep oceanic reservoir
but on stilts and shutter. Watch eels slithering their way through
the interlocking tubular loop-de-loop-de-loop. Or a pack of migrating humpback
whales - the latest leg on their Darwinian odyssey...from sea to land then back
again and finally to the stars. And if the entire structure collapses, well...back
to land again in a cost of Douglas Adams: Starship. And why not some bio-hydiamic
beasties, perching in the night sky where stars have long been blitzed out by
urban light pollution. Surely a very romantic evening can be had under the
the shimmering Aquarium in the Sky. Until...of course...a 40-ton humpback whale
comes plunging down."
JANUARY 21, 2009 1:04 AM

Anonymous said...
beautifal madness
JANUARY 20, 2008 1:55 AM

modeler said...
I thought this was going to be about harnessing hydro-power. It's entirely
possible, I think, especially at certain times of day, because the Hudson
flows generally south though it is also, of course, tidal, but the East River is
entirely tidal - what flows into it from streams etc. is insignificant. So each of
these cross-streams could have a little water turbine. But I wonder if you couldn't
instead just put a big turbine (or tidal capture plant) into the river which would be
more efficient?
JANUARY 20, 2009 9:05 PM

Anonymous said...
If everyone would remember that the water isn't blue... maybe only at the cote d'asie
in france...
JANUARY 21, 2009 2:26 AM

Anonymous said...
I'm guessing the rest of the world hasn't seen tight ad yet. Then...
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZAhAjQW4Qw
JANUARY 23, 2009 1:52 AM

To said...
There actually have been turbines in place near Roosevelt Island generating tidal
power for the past few years as part of a pilot project. I'm not sure how successful
it's been.
JANUARY 31, 2009 3:17 PM

FreedomFist said...
Very cool, but the idea of actually being inside that thing makes me
claustrophobic. Of course, I don't know how to swim either. I guess it's safe
to assume that Ms. Chin is an avid swimmer or diver?
JANUARY 31, 2009 2:53 PM

Anonymous said...

An issue that has always been hovering, but was not realized current state of the proposal is the idea of Manhattan's Annex as a main transportation or infrastructural network in the event of major environmental events and catastrophies. Our environment is constantly changing and there is a very real possibility of flooding or seasons of drought throughout the world. In the case of Manhattan – being a coastal metropolis – flooding is definitely an issue. The intention for continuing this thesis research was to make Manhattan’s Annex a viable alternative for the survival of the city. This inquiry into the environmental concerns is an issue that is currently being developing as post-thesis work, the start of which is seen here.
OVERFLOW // Hypothetical situation of severe flooding conditions surrounding Manhattan

PARCHED! // Hypothetical situation of severe drought and arid conditions surrounding Manhattan
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