OVERTURETransitions from Permanent Uncertainty

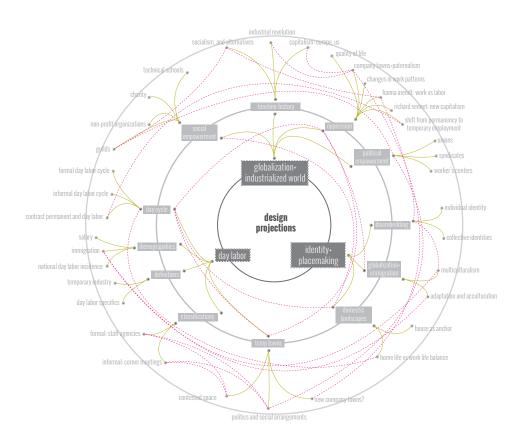
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2014 University of Virginia School of Architecture Thesis Design Research M.Arch Path 1







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Overture

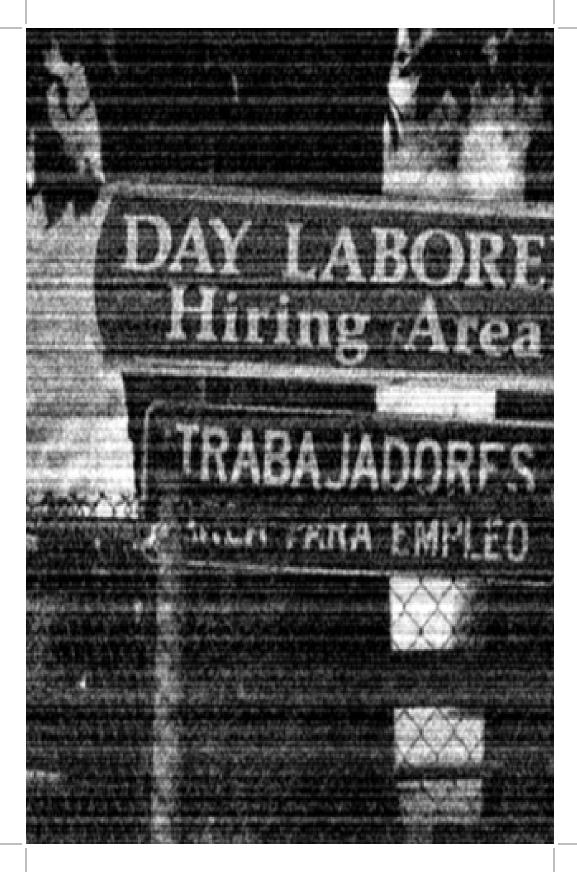
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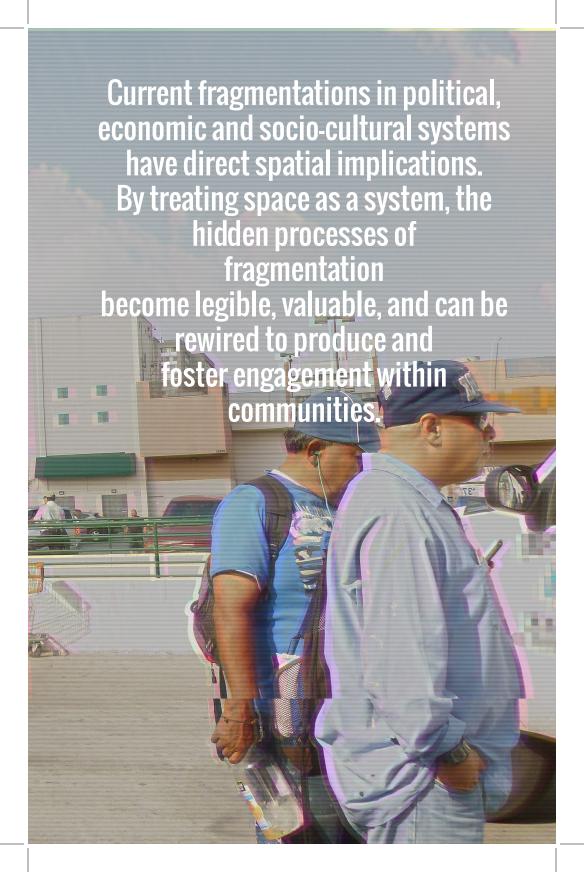
FRAGMENTED REALITIES

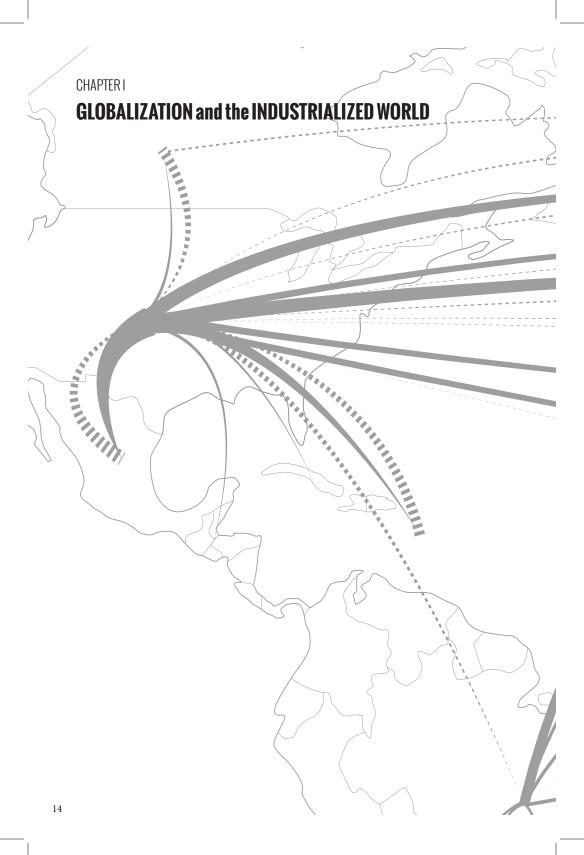
The exponential expansion of globalized markets and constant migration fluxes, have contributed to the ever-growing temp industry. The permanent, reliable and comfortable job is absolutely non existent, giving space for the transient and volatile realities of contingent work.

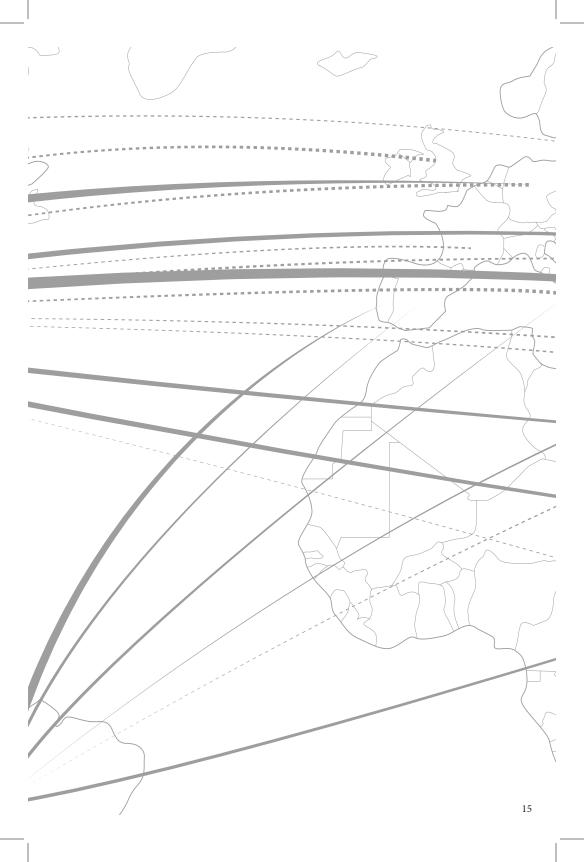
While the temp industry is not new, going back centuries to medieval times, it is in recent years that it has taken national importance through the proliferation of formal temp agencies and increasing immigration.

By framing these fragmented lifestyles through the lens of global trends, national dynamics and spatial territories, these research aims to provide the conceptual framework for a point of transition of the hidden territories of day labor, and presents an opportunity to recognize socio-economic conditions as informers of spatial relationships.

Through historical and economical references, and field observations, Overture investigates the forces behind the fastest growing industry in the public sector, and presents a proposition for future implementations through similar socioeconomic systems.







Automation and the Promise of Greatness

In the early 18th century, the idea of industrialization clashed directly with the existent conditions of the time: societies lived day by day, doing and making the necessary to subsist and exist. By the 18th and 19th centuries, England experienced a massive increase on agricultural production¹, which in turn, freed major sectors of the population from agricultural activities, and sparked the Industrial Revolution. As early as the mid 18th century², processes of automation presented new opportunities for the development of many industries and advancement of economic production.

The promise of rapid production equated to rapid economic gain, and accelerated the rate of industrialization in many parts of the world, but also planted the seed for new social, political and economic systems to develop. On one hand, the new revolution created new opportunities of employment, and on the other, it fostered new forms of oppression. With machines doing most of the hard work, workers saw the light at the end of the tunnel: less work, more leisure. In reality, now humans had to compete with the never-ending, never-tired abilities of machine processes, and the system gave space to ongoing worker oppression. While work injustice and cruelty were common in pre-industrial societies, automated systems and its excessive creation of wealth by the very few, created the ideal environment between employers and employees to rise against poor conditions. Unions, Worker's Centers, and other types of worker-support entities flourished during the 20th century, gaining rights for the worker, and gave obligations to employers. The illusion of better conditions, a better future, a better world, did not live to its expectations, at least not evenly: today, the top 85 richest people have as much wealth as the poorest 3.5 billion at the bottom of the economic ladder³. In the US, six of the original founders of Wal Mart own as much as the poorest 30% in the country⁴.

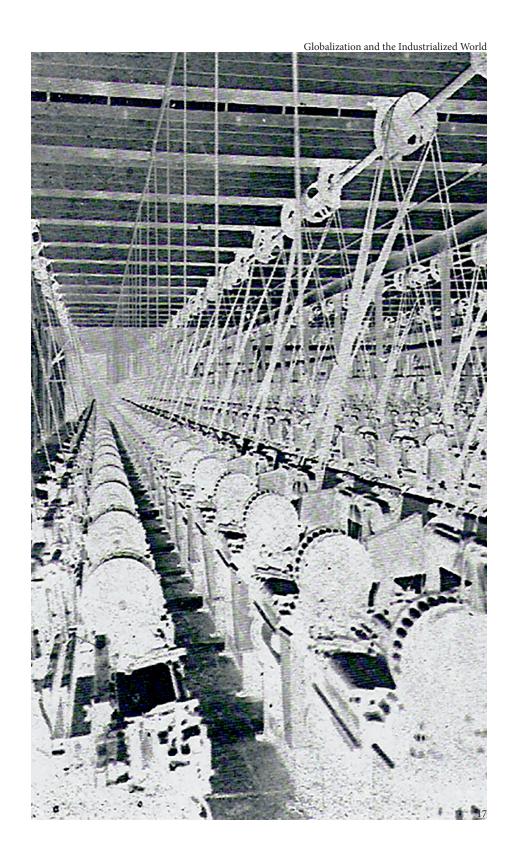
Going down in on the rise.

¹ Hills, Richard L (1996), Power From the Wind, Cambridge University Press

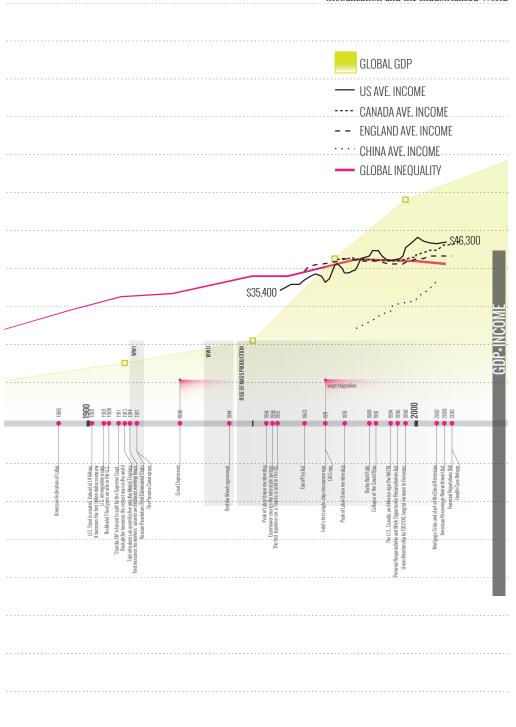
² Richards, Denis; Hunt, J.W. (1983). An Illustrated History of Modern Britain: 1783-1980 (3rd ed.). Hong Kong: Longman Group UK LTD. p. 7.

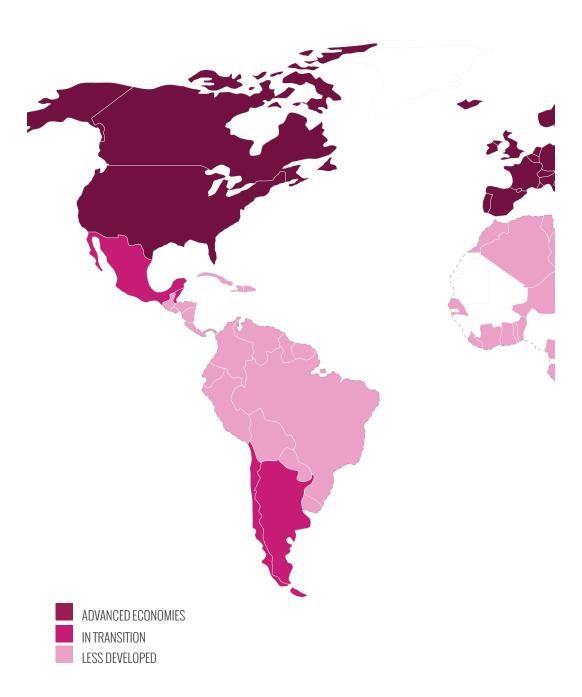
³ Obel, Mike. "World's 85 Richest People Own As Much As World's Poorest 3.5 Billion People: Oxfam." International Business Times. N.p., n.d. Web.

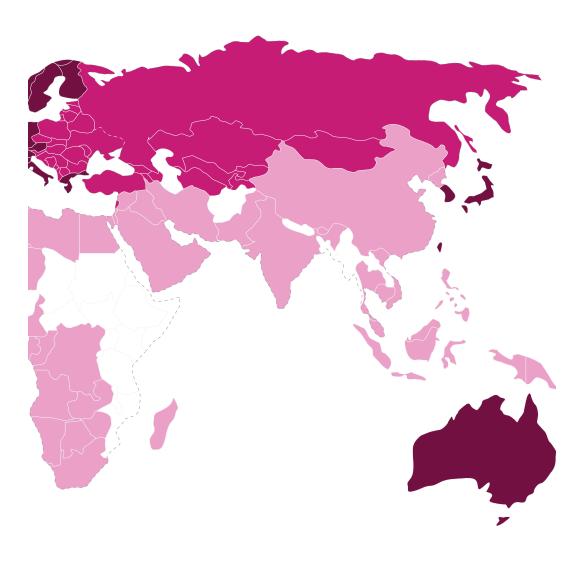
⁴ Worstall, Tim. "Six Waltons Have More Wealth Than the Bottom 30% of Americans." Forbes. Forbes Magazine, n.d. Web.



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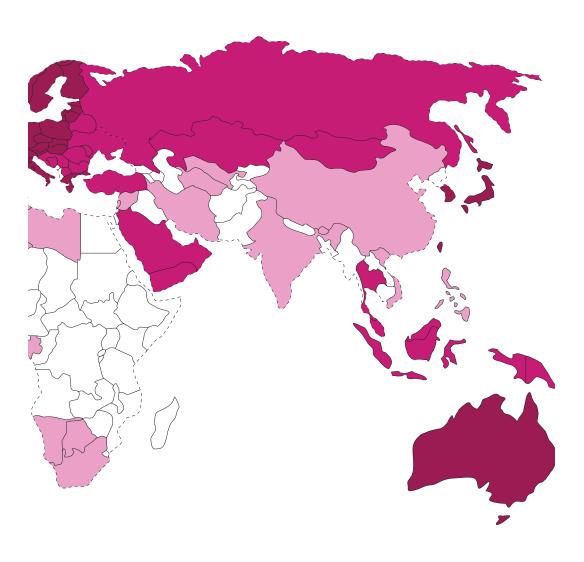




The Industrialized World

Today, most of the northern hemisphere is considered industrialized and economically advanced, while the southern hemisphere is slowly catching up. Many countries have close economic relationships to other countries. This constant flux of connections greatly contributes to the economical advancement of new technologies and processes, to the expense of other socioeconomic systems.





"Quality of Life"

Quality of life is defined as the general well-being of individuals and societies, including international development, health, politics, employment, recreation, etc.

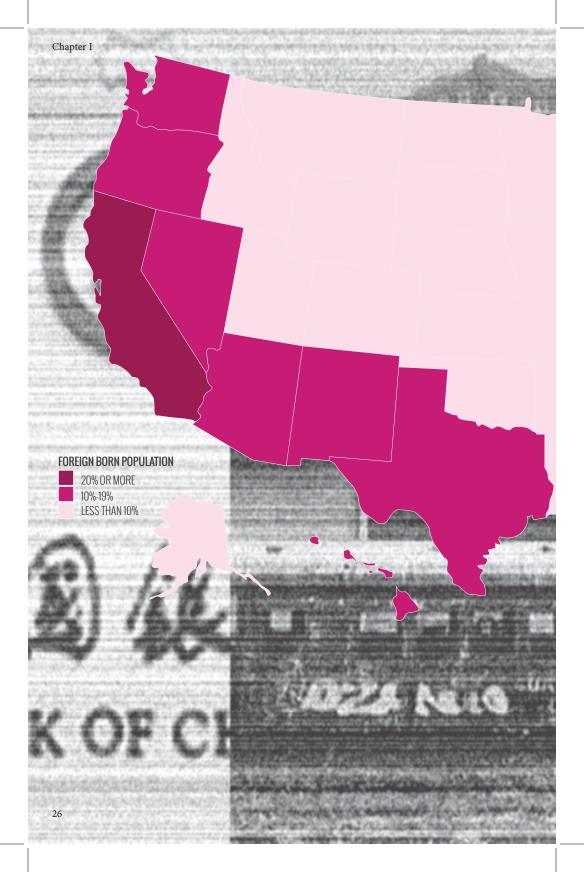
These indexes tend to give a generalized overview of countries or regions around the world, and fail to specify the poor conditions of many groups within these given societies.





3 Countries; Moving Patterns

The United States has one of the highest rates of both immigration and emigration. When closely analyzed, the world becomes a web of interconnected moving patterns that affect all systems: political, economic and cultural.





The web of interconnections created by globalization and the economic advancements of industrialized processes, have had great impacts throughout the world. Economic growth has been steadily going up for many decades, with certain downturn in the 1970s with the Oil Crisis, or the most recent recession of 2008. In return, economic growth ensures the overall wellbeing of societies, until certain extent. Communities around the world have more access to products from far and foreign places, as well as getting more access to information and knowledge, One of the ideal outcomes of globalization is the increase awareness of the many differences that constitute the human race, by promoting tolerance and cultural intermingling. Sadly, with economic growth, inequality has also been on the rise.



Beyond pollution: The Human Expense of Moving Forward

While the world has seen an increase in air, water and earth pollution as a direct consequence of industrialized processes and population growth, these should and must be obvious patterns by now. Contamination, global warming and the destruction of the environment are not fallacies, and it is not the intention of this book to prove that. These issues must be embedded into our daily conversations and thoughts, and many experts are certainly more suited to talk on the matter. This research looks at the other side of the coin: the effects of extreme capitalist systems of production on socioeconomic and cultural patterns.

Since the 19 th century, there has been a increasingly constant devalue of human work, increased by the hype of newer and better technologies, or so has been the narrative. Make no mistake, this is not an attack on said technologies, but rather a call for understanding the value of human input. Instead, the embedded economic systems of capitalist societies are the ones to blame, and deconstruct. The constant quest for wealth has created an abysmal canyon between those we employ and those who are employed, with an overarching detachment between each other. From the deplorable conditions of clothing and textile factories in southeast Asia, to the constant denying of better wages in the western world. the value of human production keeps decreasing at an alarming rate.

In an important (and deplorable) shift around the mid 19th century, the notion of *work* was replaced by *labor'*, further dehumanizing modes of production. *Work*, as equated to craftsmanship and durable goods, was pushed away by *labor*, the meaningless act of creation and ephemerality. With the eternal quest for lower labor costs, outsourcing trends, and ever-expanding technology, labor is just another word in the lexicon of a versed capitalist system in the search for (even more) wealth. The few benefit, at the expense of the many.

Machines and automated technologies are not the enemy, they are an extension of our abilities and the key to our re-valuation. After all, are we not their creators?

¹ Arendt, Hannah. The Human Condition. Chicago: U of Chicago, 1958. Print.

Globalization and the Industrialized World





Work is artificial, durable, adaptable.
Work is not embedded in necessity, it has an objective and value.
It is pleasure and endurance, it exhibits freedom.

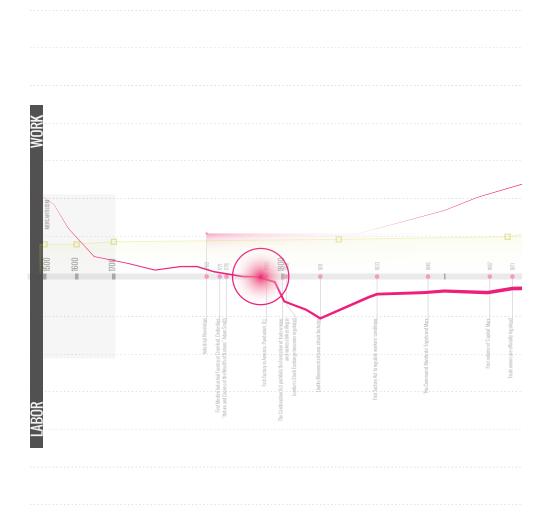
Homo Faber: creator

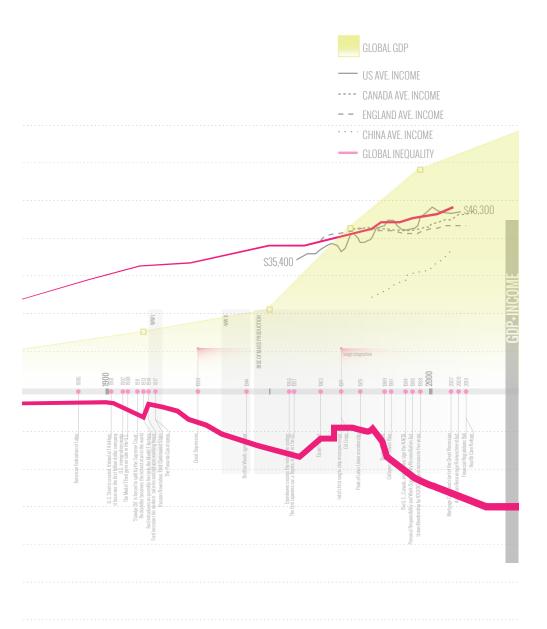
Labor is what is needed, what must be done.

It creates **no meaning**, no permanence, is quickly consumed and **gone**.

Labor must be done endlessly without respite.

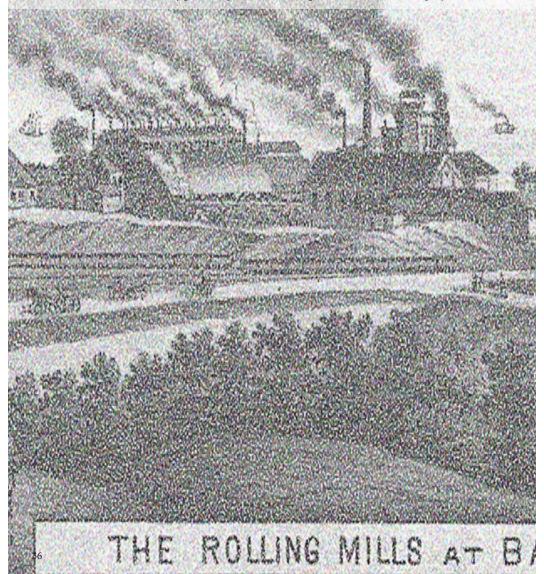
THE SHIFT: WORK vs LABOR

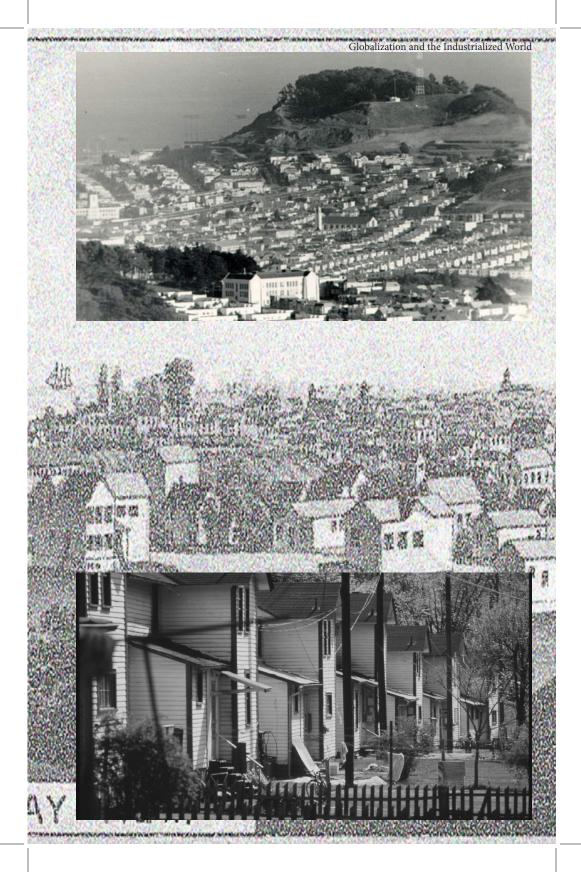




The Materialization of Control: Company Towns

Sparked by ideas of paternalism, Company Towns boomed in the late 1880s as a way of having complete control over the means of production and ways of living. Factories and hosing for the workers were developed in a specific site, with support spaces such as schools, stores, health services and entertainment facilities. Under the "noble" flag of moral responsibility, companies across the world sought to engineer landscapes that promoted well-being, efficiency and middle-class ideals. At its basis, company towns were deployed in the hundreds, attracting, and ultimately retaining workers. Families had little to none options in terms of where or what to buy, since most of the towns were fairly removed from any urban center in order to be near the resources needed for production (timber, minerals, etc). Sometimes, the administration retained a percentage of the worker's payment, and in turn, the worker could buy groceries, produce and other goods for "free" on the company's store.







The Caucus

The Politics and Government blog of The New York Times

Labor Unions Claim Credit for Obama's Victory

By STEVEN GREENHOUSE NOVEMBER 7, 2012 7:11 PM ■ 2 Comments

The nation's labor unions have not been shy about claiming substantial credit for President Obama's re-election.

In a news conference Wednesday, Richard Trumka, the A.F.L.-C.I.O.'s president, said that without the huge push by the nation labor unions, Mr. Obama never would have won Ohio, Wisconsi and Nevada — and their combined 34 electoral votes.

"We did deliver those states," Mr. Trumka said. "Without organi labor, none of those states would have been in the president's column."

A E L C LO officials said that during the last four days of the

Labor Unions.

Organized efforts on the part of laboring men are to be considered in the same light as any other organized efforts, religious, political or social. Societies abound in these There is no such thing as isolation. The man who separates himself from the community in which he lives is "dead as a doornail." The moment Christendom was born the initiative was moment of Christian society. and \mathbf{of} human organizations founded upon Christian motives. These organizations are based upon the principle of harmony. Poolitical economy grew out of this harmony. Society has thus come to be self-regulative. It is governed by no arbitrary rules. Neither the despotism of Government or the restraints of conventionality can prevail for any length of time. There is below all these a principle of harmony which works itself out in beneficent rezenfest others North. extendi and in games ing at

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Labor Secretary boosts unions, praises new models of organizing

by: MARK GRUENBERG october 27 2014

tags: unions, workers, labors, organizing, national

Print | Email to a Fri



WASHINGTON - F Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, unirepresent what's riwith the U.S.

In a stem-winding speech at the Natio Press Club on Oct. Perez, who grew up a working-class family in Buffalo, declared unions are responsible for creating and sustaining the mide.

class. And the decline in unions is bad for the nation, he added.

that in this City; but to mention all the that have been held in the cities of the West and South, would fill a column. In ing over the continent the love of music, troducing among the people athletic and exercises, the Germans are enlargence our moral and physical manhood.

are glad to see the better condition and ed prospects of the Southern States. The property of grain and cotton, the peonot only secure the means of livelihood dance, but will obtain the means necessary ageneral revival of business and prostre worst evil and danger of the South from the old politicians, who are keeping ple excited and uneasy, and preventing with of that good feeling which is the basis public welfare.

Pope is pushing on the fortifications of rith all possible expedition, and he has een receiving heavy armaments of siege om Toulon. His Holiness is fairly con-

Theatre has been marke the visit of Sheriff's off leading actor to avoid a very farcical "ineffect" caused so much laughte produced at the New-Yo scenes of the orginal p something more of comp also leaves the play bar tions. The advantage of intellectual sensations w gap. Nevertheless the ac piece depends at presen brains for its success wit ance is less liable of failu was upon such unreliable and painted canvas. Th Broadway differs in no original distribution other house. Wr. WHALL tres, sustains the part of that of Gen. Rolleston. scenery has been hastily

"Foul Play" at the Broomly during the present to be a majuse.

Against Oppression: Labor Organizations

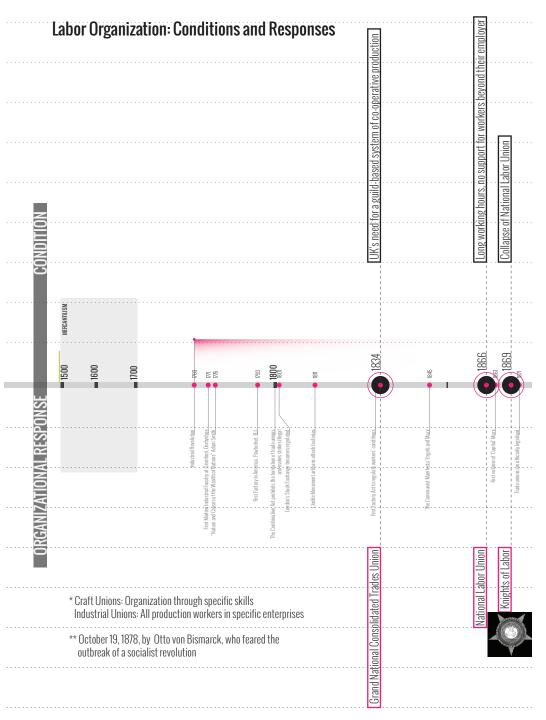
As a direct response to the poor conditions and underlying abuses in many industries around the world, labor organizations have consistently pushed against the establish rules of production. Important advances in the industrial sector, such as the 8 hour day, basic benefits and the right to protest exist thanks to the efforts of union organization. While certainly prompt to flaws and hunger for power, these organization keep reforming their processes to ensure that the overall wellbeing and justice for workers.

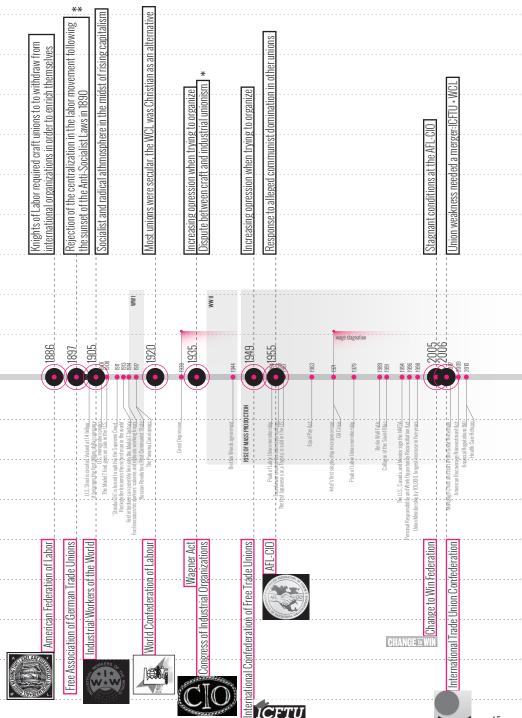
In medieval times, guilds acted as protectors of craft and knowledge and ensured the advancement of the work, but were an increasing obstacle in the development of industrialized process, and quickly vanished, exacerbated by their intrinsic secretive and exclusive ways. Unions took over the void left by guilds and offered workers a way to get together for a common good. With union membership in constant decline, we must ask, are they enough? Could there be a new model of protection and advocacy?





"Capitalism needs non-capitalist social organizations as the setting for its development" Rosa Luxemburg





Chapter I POLITICS NOT BARRED.

FOCIALISTS DOUBTFUL OF THE CENTRAL LABOR UNION'S SUPPORT.

The Socialists are evidently not very sure that a majority of the Central Labor Union will side with them against the United Labor Party or Henry George, for at its meeting yesterday Delegate George Block introduced a resolution calling for the appointment of a committee to draft suitable resolutions to prevent the discussion of politics in the Central Labor Union, at least for some time to come. Such a committee was appointed, consisting of Matthew Barr, George Block, and Hugh Whorisky. They retired to draft the resolutions, but could not agree upon any one point. So the Central Labor Union is still at liberty to discuss politics as much as it chooses.

The meeting elected John Morrison, of District Assembly No. 126. Grand Marshal for the Central Labor Union parade in September, but Morrison immediately tendered his resignation, which was forthwith tabled. A number of complimentary tickets were received from parishioners of St. Stephen's Church, who have a piculic at Jones's Wood on Aug. 26. Dr. McGlyrn is to deliver an address there. Credentials were received from delegates from the Lumber Handders and Truck Drivers' Unions and from the browers' engineers. It was announced that the

UNION

a continuous association of wage earners for the purpose of maintaining or improving the conditions of their employment

POOL RESOURCES

INFLUENCE POLICIES

HIGHER PAY AND BENEFITS

SAFETY STANDARDS

WORKING CONDITIONS

COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE IDENTITY

WORKER'S CENTER

non-profit community-based mediating organizations that organize and provide support to communities of low wage workers who are not already members of a collective bargaining organization

IMMIGRANTS

LOW-WAGE WORKERS

CONTINGENT WORK DAY LABORERS

HEALTH CARE

LEGAL HELP

ADVOCACY

EDUCATION

LONGER



GUILDS

associations based on trades such as textile workers, masons, carpenters, glass workers, etc. precursors of trade unions

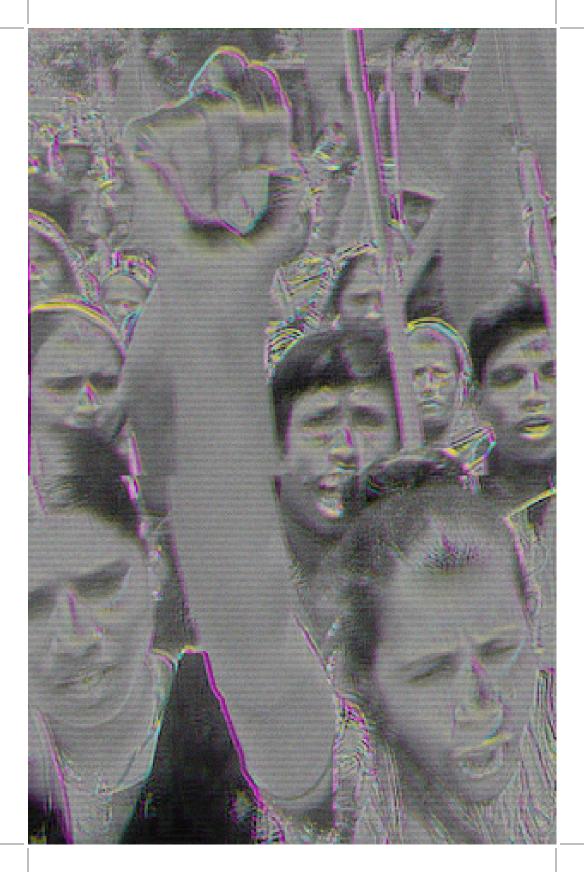
MODERN GUILDS:

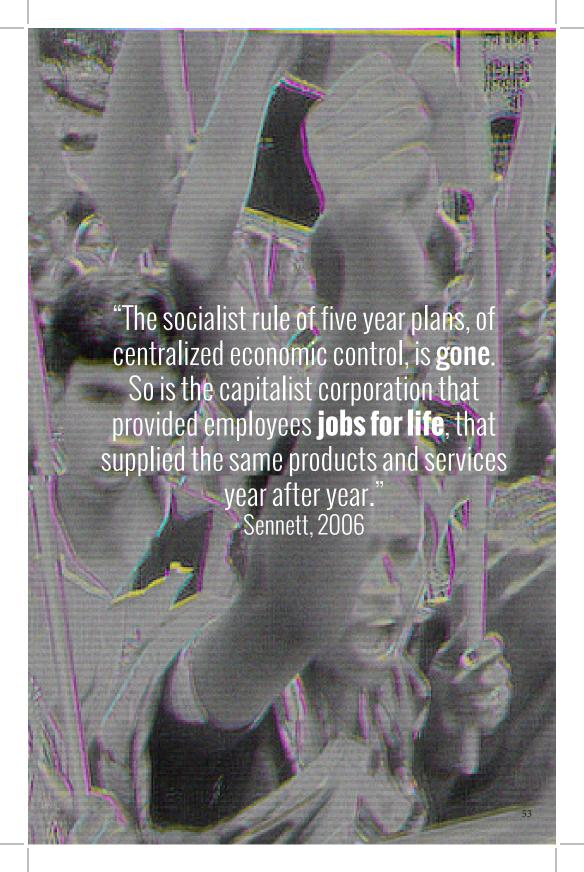
PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (Architecture, Geology, and others based on apprenticeships to gain professional certification)

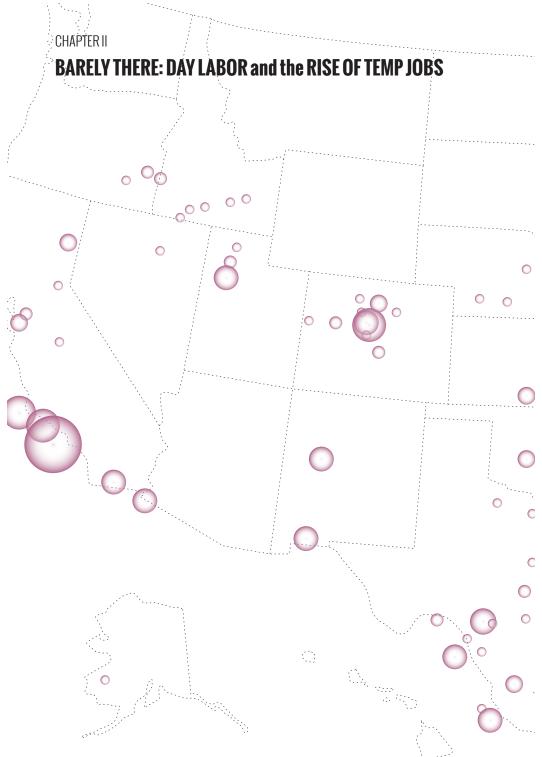
"E-LANCERS"

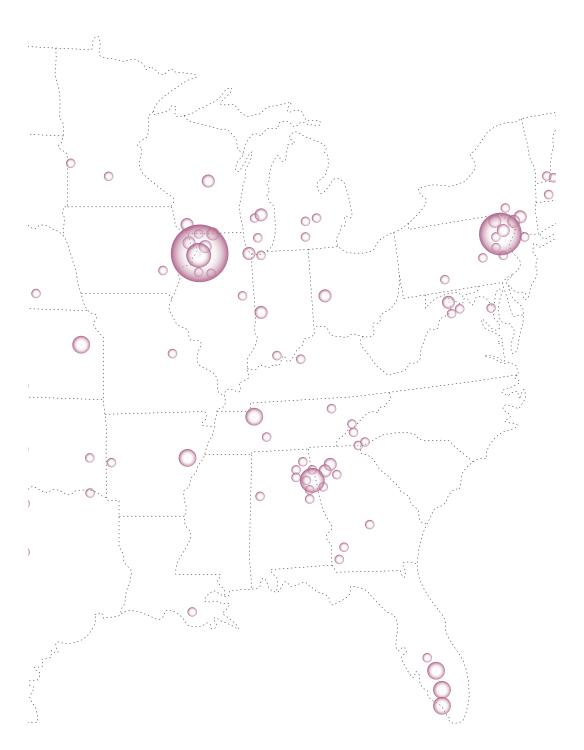
CONSULTANTS

ARE THESE EFFORTS ENOUGH?









One Day at a Time: The New Economies of Permanent Uncertainty

In the new sea of ever-changing economical waters, various economic modes flourish and die, and others grow exponentially to reach levels of legitimacy that prove to be problematic.

In one extreme of the employment spectrum, permanent and inherited positions ensure that the top few remain at there. On the other extreme, completely volatile and fragmented markets flourish as the means to cheaper and responsibility-free labor. In this extreme, we find day labor, contingent jobs, temp jobs, employment that accounts for more than a third of the workforce in the United States¹. Permanent, reliable and safe work is no longer a given. The causes and patterns are in constant flux and at the mercy of global economies, but the temp industry keeps gaining ground, growing nine times faster than any other industry in the public sector. On one extreme of this extreme, we find day labor. In the United States, about 300,000 day laborers look for job every day². This industry cuts benefits, regular hours and expected work by the root, and leaves the bare work to already vulnerable individuals. Day labor and temp jobs in general, lower production costs and increase profitability by skipping the regulatory processes that would otherwise, ensure the wellbe-

Living in fragmented social and economic conditions takes many adjustments and challenges; they have to manage short-term relationships, ever-changing environments, and the struggle to keep and sustain life outside of work. The disembbeding of identity, and the lack of equilibrium between the many facets in life, presents an opportunity to unify issues of employment and domestic spaces.

ing of the worker.

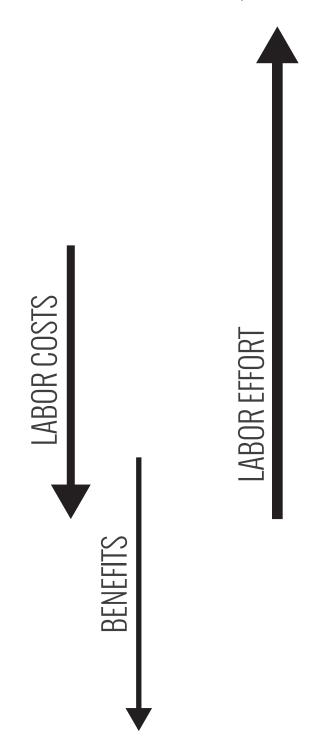
¹ Wilkbanks, Charles. "Temp Work Raises Long-term Questions for Economy." CBSNews. CBS Interactive, n.d. Web.

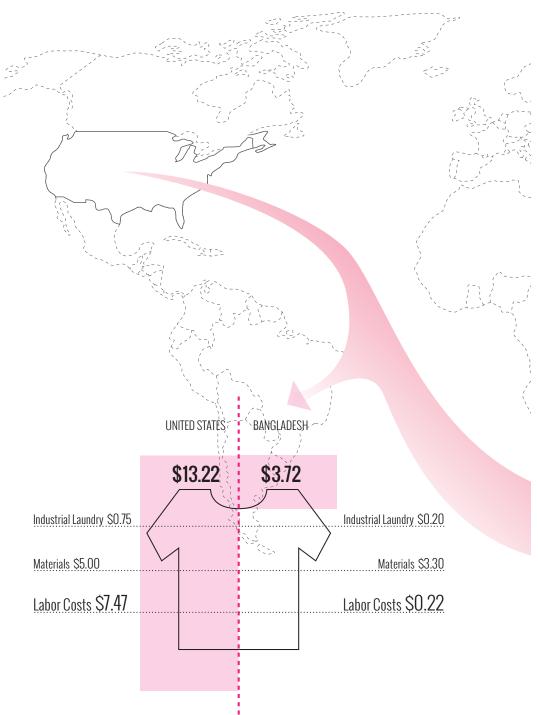
² Valenzuela, Abel, Jr. "Working on the Margins in Metropolitan Los Angeles: Immigrants in Day Labor Work." Migraciones Internacionales 1.2 (2002)

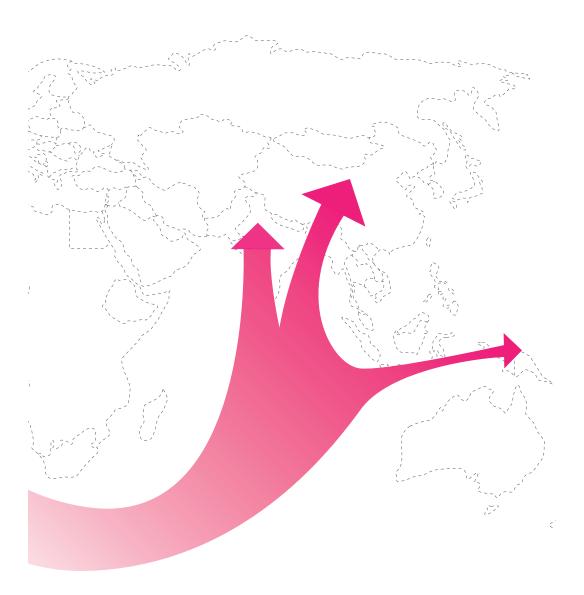
Day Labor and the Rise of Temp Jobs

"Day labor represents an extreme form of the type of flexible employment arrangements that increasingly are favored by employers: workers are employed strictly on an as-needed basis; employers avoid and evade responsibility for unemployment and workers' compensation insurance"

Peck, 2012







Cause and Effect: Outsourcing

The excesive need for work in underdeveloped and third world countries promtes outsourcing as an alternative to local industries of production. Outsourcing not only devalues local economies, but also promotes deplorable conditions abroad, and locally, where workers have to settle for lower wages and ephemeral jobs.





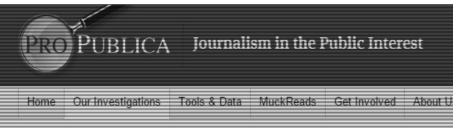
Cause and Effect: US Immigration

With the constant flux of immgirants to the United States since its inception as a nation, job availability is further classified. Those entering the country in vulnerable conditions, tend to take on jobs that are at the bottom of the economic ladder. The US is not only host to the largest "arrival cities" in the world, but it is the promise for millions of immigrants for a better life. More people, less jobs? On the contrary, more people, more economic incentives.

FORMAL DAY LABOR

Formal Day Labor is mostly organized through the implementation of temp agencies or recruiting offices through neighborhoods with a high population of underemployed or unemployed individuals. These communities are mostly formed by immigrants and other vulnerable groups that look for alternative ways of employment.

Agencies supply companies with workers on an as-needed basis, everyday. These workers are mostly male, immigrants, but also, women, homeless and non-immigrants.



Temp Land

Working in the New Economy

Feature Stories

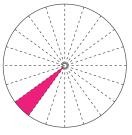
Temporary Work, Lasting Harm

U.S. Lags Behind World in Temp Worker Protections

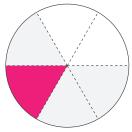
The Expendables: How the Temps Who Power Corporate Giants Are Getting Crushed

Taken for a Ride: Temp Agencies and 'Raiteros' in Immigrant Chicago

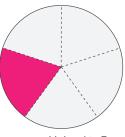








team assemblers 1 in 6



manual labor 1 in 5

Largest private employers (2010)

walmart

kelly services

IBM

mcdonald's

yum!

target

kroger

hp

the home depot

MOSTLY

Male

Migrants

BUTALSO

Women

Homeless

Non-migrants

average temp income

\$26,000

average american income

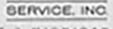
\$45,000



7,500 Kelly Girls typing for 5,000 clients in 150 cities nationwide. That's our typing average every day, and we have thousands of other Kelly Girls doing hundreds of other jobs. If you need temporary help in any white-collar-type skill, call for KELLY GIRL* service. Our employees are tested and screened. Our service is bonded, insured, and 100% guaranteed. You'll find our local office in your local phone book. May we lend you a hand?

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Never takes a vacation or holiday. Never asks for a raise.

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Never has a cold, slipped disc oloose tooth.
(Not on your time anyway!)

Never costs you for unemployment taxes and social security payments. (None of the paperwork, either!)

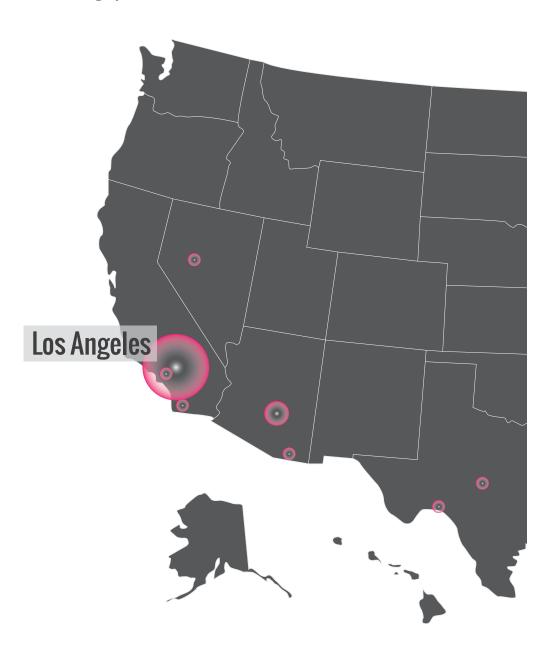
Never costs you for fringe benefits. (They add up to 30% of every payroll dollar.)

Never fails to please. (If our Kelly Girl employee doesn't work out, you don't pay. We're that sure of all our girls.)

Kelly Girl®

499 of last year's FORTUNE 500 use Kelly Services. (Number 500, we want you!)

The Geography of Formal Day Labor





INFORMAL DAY LABOR

Informal Day labor is mostly arranged around open space, parking lots, corners and other informally designated areas where potential employers stop every morning, and throughout the day to look for cheap labor. One of the most common abuses in this industry, is the failure to pay the worker at the end of the day, or underpay for their work. Because the majority of day laborers are immigrants, and their legal status not clear, they usually don't have the ways to fight in these types of situations. Most of them are married or living with a partner and/or have children, which posses a challenge to provide for their families.

While looking for jobs every day, they only get a job an average of 3 days a week, making the work time-income ratio very disparate to a regular permanent job.











MOSTLY Male Migrants

280,000 in the US

find jobs 3 days a week

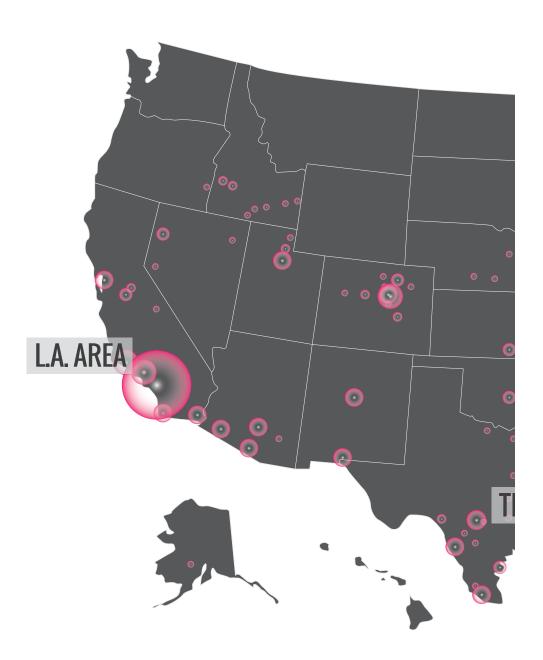


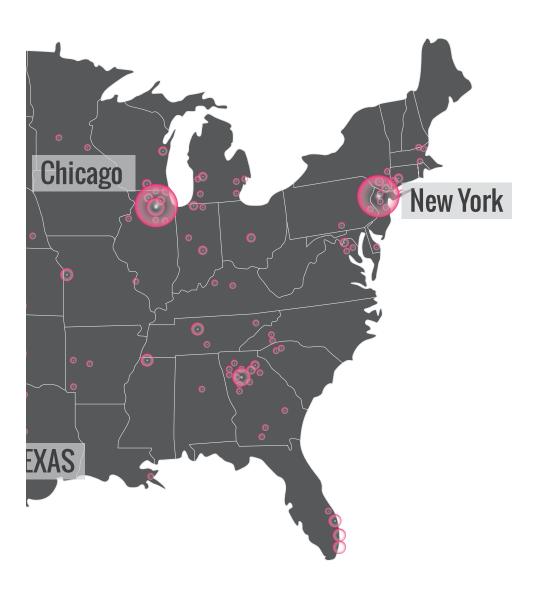






The Geography of Informal Day Labor





MORE THAN WAITING

Day laborers do more than waiting; their whole lifestyle dynamic moves around the fluctuations of day labor. Their home life gets interrupted and fragmented as a consequence of the constant flow of their work life, further promoting a sense of alienation from the rest of society. In contrast to a regular job, 8-5, the retribution of time invested is largely different. While an 8 hour workday brings a steady income, a workday where hours extend from very early in the morning to late at night, tend to greatly surpass the income retribution.





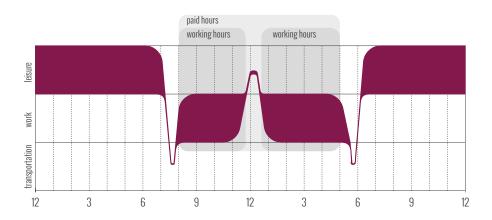
8 HOURS 8 HOURS 8 HOUR

LABOUR

S REST

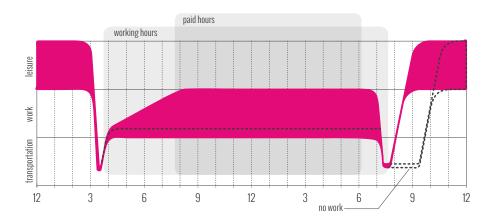
The 8 hour workday

A regular 8-5 work shift gives the worker an expected time of leisure, work and income, with well-programmed sections throughout the day. Paid hours correspond to worked hours.



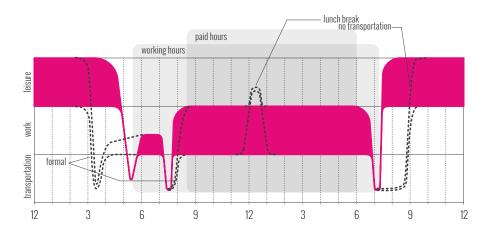
Formal Day Labor workday

In the setting of a temp agency, workers get to the waiting rooms very early in the morning, and a couple of hours have to go by for them to start work. The waiting time is considered worked time, but not considered when getting paid.



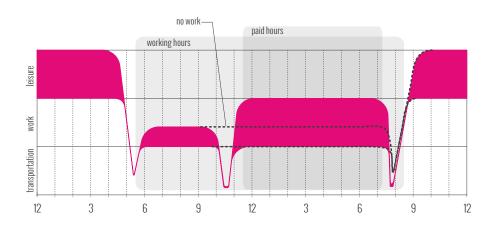
Informal Day Labor workday - Early pickup

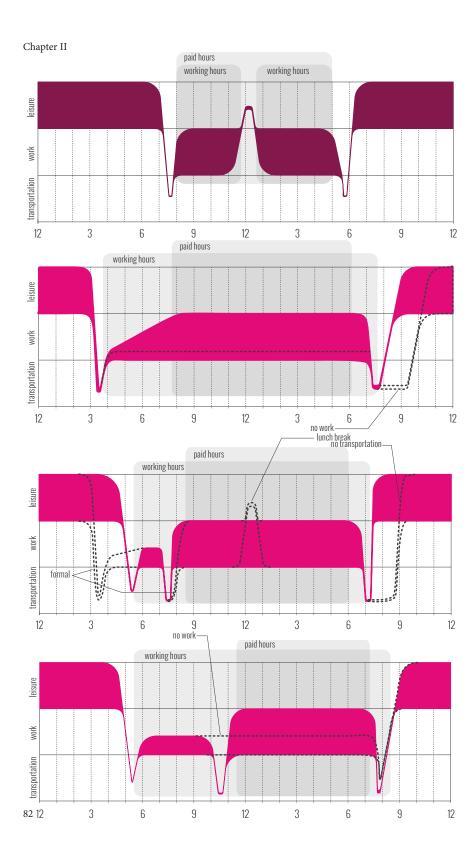
Informal day laborers tend to get to their informallyl designated areas at around 6:00 am, and just as formal temp workers, their invested time does not correlate to the paid time.



Informal Day Labor workday - Late pickup

Day laborers can stay in site well into the day, where the retribution ratio falls even deeper into disparity, and the fragmentation of work and leisure it's more pronounced.





Workday contrasts



PERMANENT regular job

work: 37% of the day paid: 90% of work time



FORMAL day labor:

work: 67% of the day paid: 66% of work time



INFORMAL day labor: early pick-up

work: 55% of the day paid: 70% of work time



INFORMAL day labor: late pick-up

work: 58% of the day paid: 55% of work time

"The idea that the production of space is central to how capitalism and other social systems operate and that **spatial praxis** is a fundamental element in **political and economic struggles** leads to a much deeper consideration of the **nature of space** and how social actors actively seek to shape its production."





TEMP TOWNS: New Company Towns?

Temp town:

"Across America, contingent work has become a mainstay of the economy, leading to the proliferation of what researchers have begun to call "temp towns." They are often dense Latino neighborhoods informally teaming up with temp agencies. Or they are cities where it has become nearly impossible to find factory and warehouse work without first being directed to a temp firm."Informal day labor sites work in the same way, where prospective employers arrive to informally designated spaces where day laborers gather, and wait.

Company town:

"A community inhabited solely or chiefly by the employees of a single company or a group of companies which also owns a substantial part of the real estate and houses".

Parallel to this definition, company towns have also been investigated through the phenomenon of 'multi-functional communities' as "towns in which most of the population depends heavily or exclusively on a single activity for jobs, but the company is not necessarily involved in the running of the community itself".

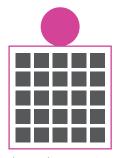
While the differences between company towns and temp towns are fairly obvious; one is formally controlled by a company, the other is not, they share a common sense of control through the means economic means. Company towns had control on a more systematic way, but temp towns also allow little to none horizontal and vertical economic mobility.

Proliferating economies create new types of spaces, and if the issue is not tackled and rewired, the physical manifestation of control will be reduced to an image that further pushes communities into marginal narratives.

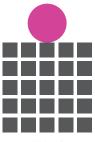
Day Labor and the Rise of Temp Jobs



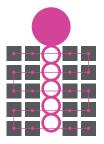
COMPANY TOWNS



planned: A PRIORI



1 STAGE



services PROVIDED

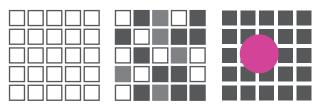


OUTSIDE of the city

TEMP TOWNS



unplanned: POST FACTO



timeline, SEVERAL STAGES

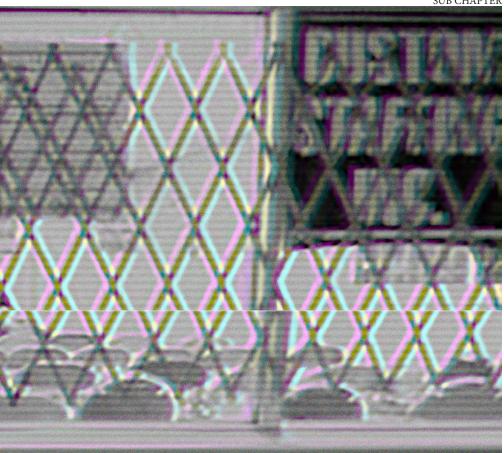


services NOT provided



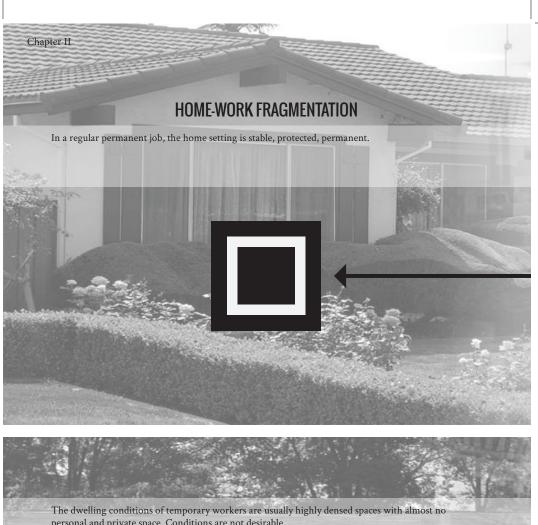
INSIDE the city

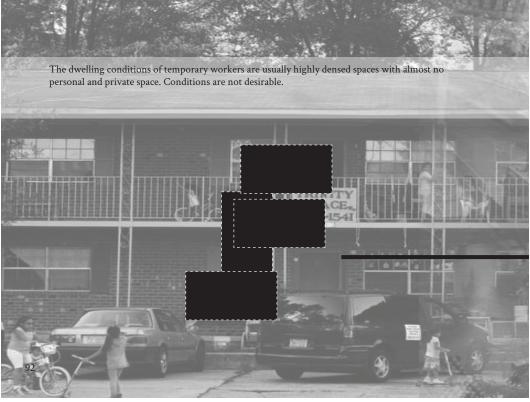


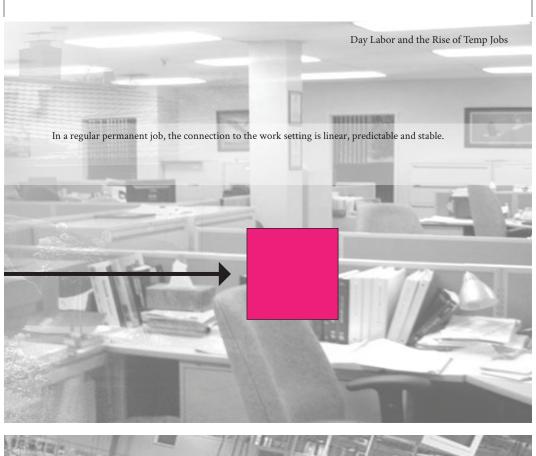


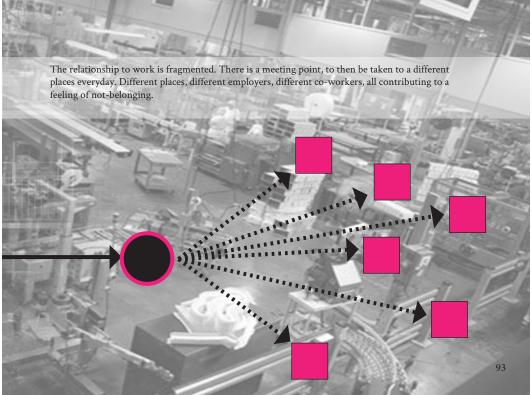
"The fragmenting of big institutions, has left many people's lives in a **fragmented** state: the places they work more resembling train stations than villages, as family life is **disoriented** by the **demands of work**."

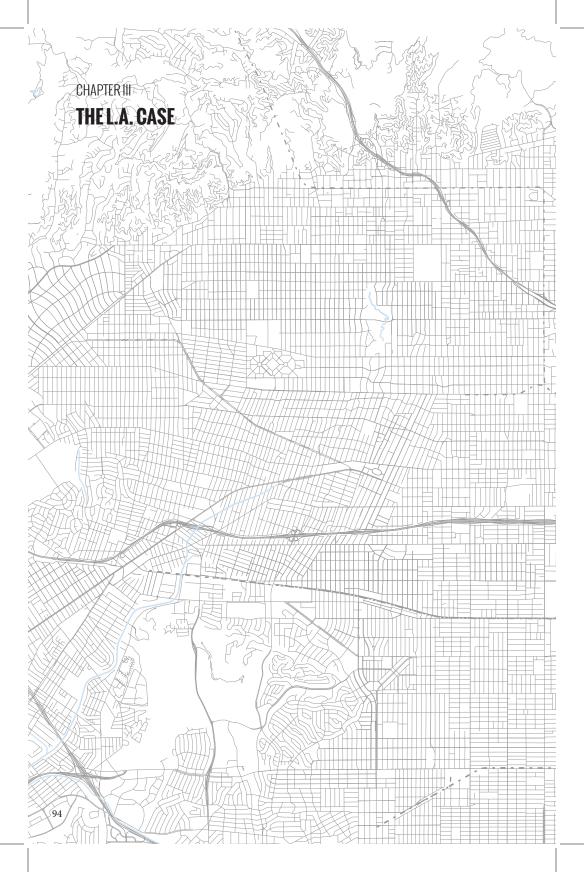
Sennet 2006

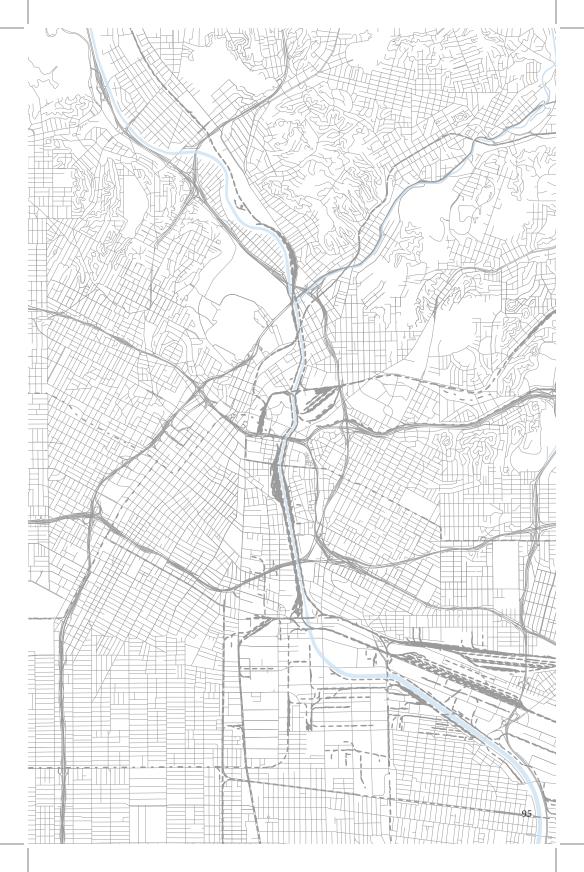












ARRIVAL CITY: L.A. and the Men in the Corner

By definition, an arrival city is a metropolitan area where immigrants find themselves at the beginninf of their jurney. New York, Chicago and Los Angeles serve this purpose within the continental US, and have specific characteristics that define them as arrival cities.

These places have specific areas, both urban and sub-urban, where cultural hubs are formed by ethinic communities. Historically disadvantaged, these places tend to have lower income averages, higher crime, and less propensity to inclusion to the overall city, but also have higher densities, stronger cultural pride and identity, and an overwhelming "sense of community".

Arrival cities also have the highest rates of social and economical mobility. because immigrants are mostly looking for a better life.

L.A., with its majority of the population being of hispanic origin and/or foreign born, has a special position as an arrival city in North America, with only Toronto equating the foreign born population. The city is a completely different one every generation, with people moving from neighborhoods to neighborhoods as they get wealthier. 25% of immigrants arrive in poverty, and after the first decade of residence, the poverty rate falls to only 4%. 'Los Angeles has also one of the highest concentration of day laborers, with about 25,000 workers on the streets on a daily basis². While government studies and media reports stress the negative effects of the "men in the corner", most of these groups work in systematic, well though-out and organized ways. They also bring many potential costumers to repair and home improvement stores because they know they will find reliable workers.

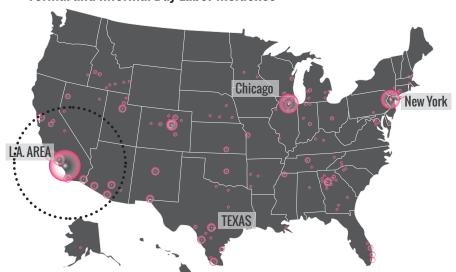
The day labor industry has seen an overhaul to the way they negotiate hours, payment and benefits, mostly because of the surge of worker's centers ensuring that workers are treated fairly, and that employers get quality work.

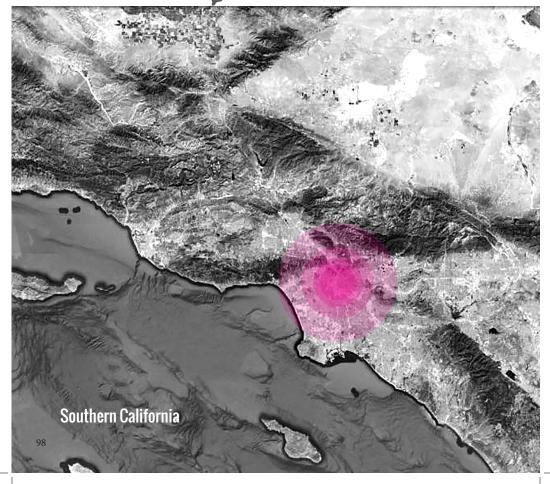
¹ Saunders, Doug. Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History Is Reshaping Our World. New York: Pantheon, 2010. Print.

² Valenzuela, Abel, Jr. "Working on the Margins in Metropolitan Los Angeles: Immigrants in Day Labor Work." Migraciones Internacionales 1.2 (2002)



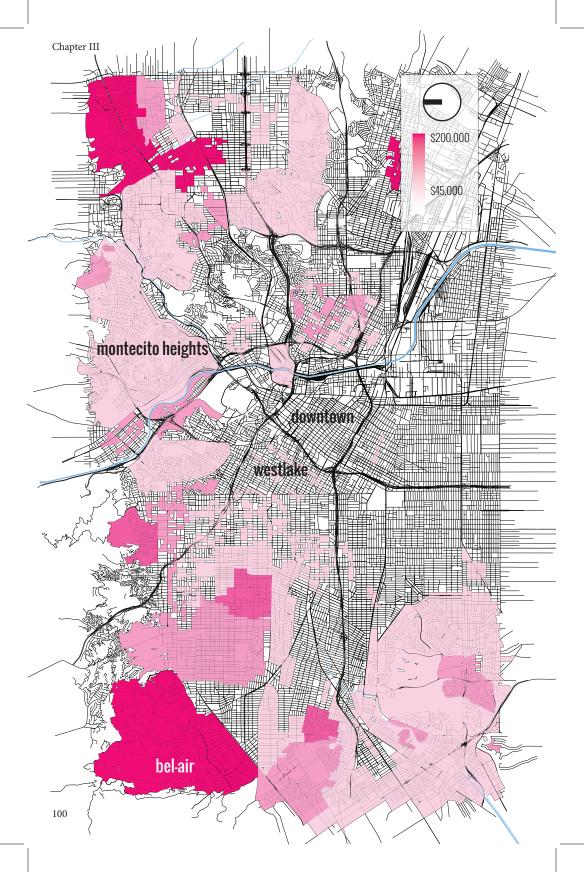
Formal and Informal Day Labor Incidence











Median Income

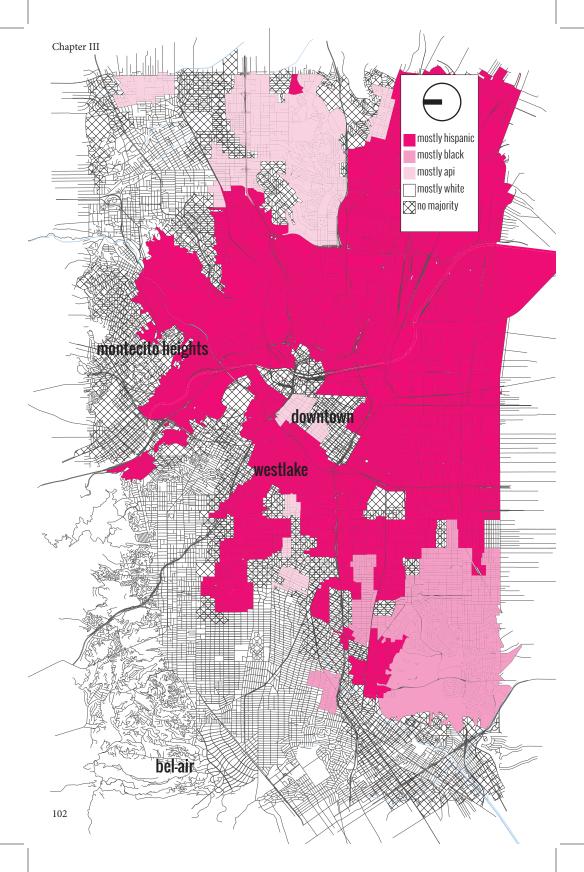
Bel-Air **\$207,938**

Montecito Heights **\$55,901**

Westlake **\$26,757**

U.S. **\$51,939**

Poverty threshold **\$23,550**



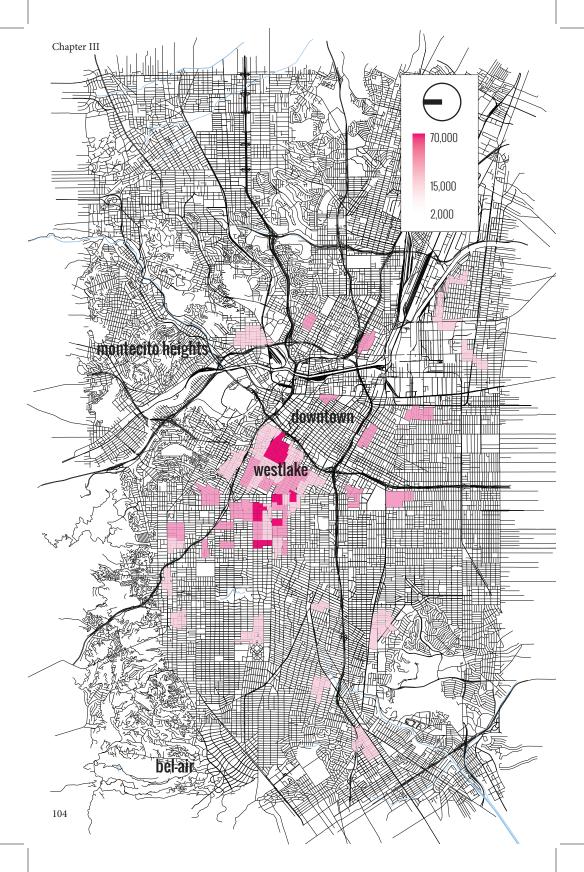
Ethnicity

Hispanic **47.5%**

White (Non Hispanic) **29.4%**

Asian **10.9%**

Black **9.8%**



Density: People per square Mile

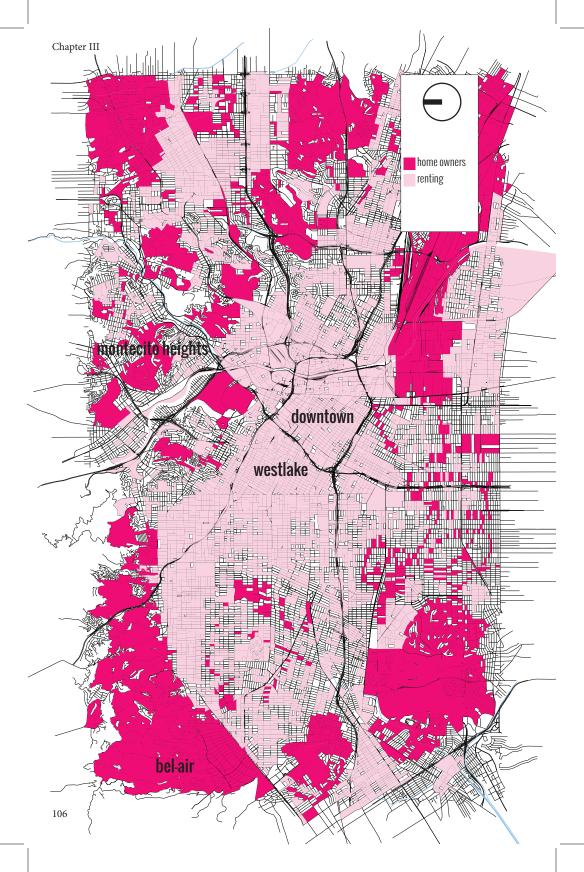
Los Angeles **7000 ppsm**

Westlake **38,214 ppsm**

Montecito Heights **6959 ppsm**

Bel Air **1207 ppsm**

New York **26, 403 ppsm**



Renting vs Owning

HOMEOWNERS

Median Mortgage Payment **\$2241**

Spending 35% of income on housing **30%**

RENTERS

Median Rent Payment 1b \$1769 2b \$2377

Spending 35% of income on housing **50%**

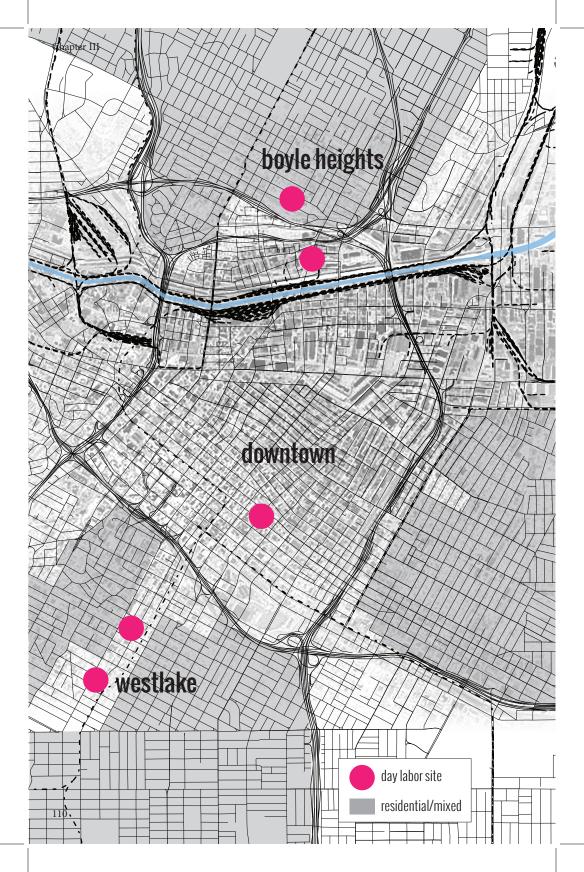
LA Median Home Price \$378,390 income to afford it \$72,730



In L.A. about **25,000** day laborers look for jobs everyday

'Do you need labor?'

Surrounding the core of L.A., two neighborhoods stand out for their concentration of day laborers; Boyle Heights and Westlake. These neighborhoods are mostly formed of immigrant communities that have transformed the landscape as a home away from home. Workers from Boyle heights are usually working in the industrial sector south of downtown and being employed through temp agencies, while workers on Westlake, tend to work in the Bel-Air area through informal arrangements.



WESTLAKE



BOYLE HEIGHTS



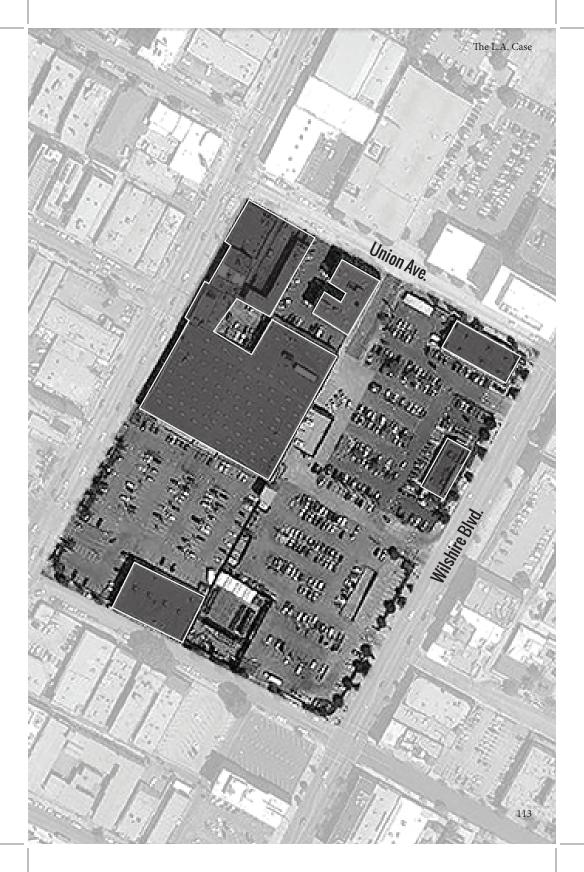
Case Study: Union and Wilshire

Through the support of the School of Architecture at the University of Arizona, a research trip to the core of the day labor industry in Los Angeles was done in November 13, 2014.

The main site of investigation was an informal worker's center site in the parking lot of a home depot in the intersection of Union Ave. and Wilshire Ave., west of downtown in the Westlake

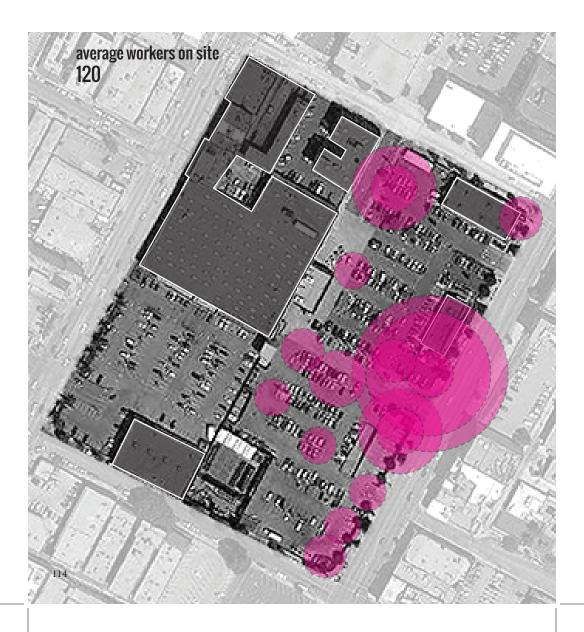
While cautionary tales were read and heard, the atmosphere was quite different: the men are extremely organized and respectful of customers and other workers, and are arranged in a rotational basis. One of the security officers was interviewed, and admitted that government portrayals of day laborers are exaggerated, and said "the store gets many more customers than others because people know they will find reliable workforce in site, they don't disturb anything or anyone, even though they stay well into the night waiting for someone to give them jobs to do".

The next pages tell the story of what was observed and analyzed.

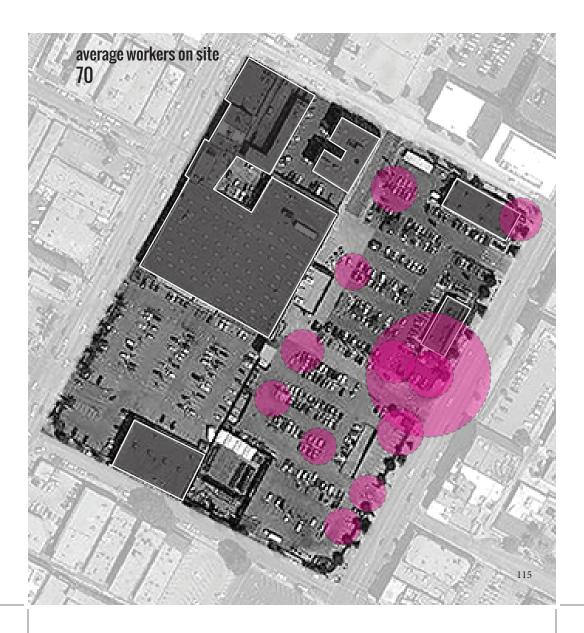


Observations

6 a.m.Most of the men are organized at the literal corner, where the entrance to the parking lot is. At the ends of parking stalls, a few others wait patiently for customers to get out of the store. The line of trees lining up Wilshire ave. serves as respite and communal spaces to talk about the whereabouts of the previous workday and what is expected for the current day.



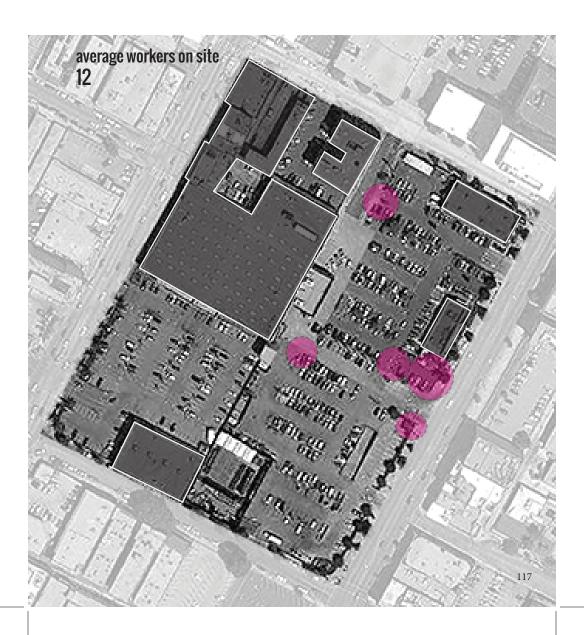
11:30 a.m. About half the workers have been picked up or have taken their own transportation to different sites around the city. The parking lot entrance is still the main point of gathering, and many individuals start walking arounf the parking lot waiting for potential employers to picked them up. One worker hands out his business card at asks in fairly well English "Do you need labor? Any job you need please don't hesitate to call, thank you very much, and God bless you".



3 p.m.By now, more than a quarter of the workers still remain, and many of them have come back from while others try to quickly eat in order to not disturb the system. Most of the workers are curious of many thins around them, and a sense of solidarity and good competition is palpable. There is a non-stop joke telling.



 $5\,\text{p.m.}$ Being a Saturday, I was told by a security officer that this is an usual scene, with over 10 workers still waiting in a few spots. I was also told that on a weekday, about 50 workers remaining until 7pm or later. The remaining workers share food and sing songs before leaving for the day.

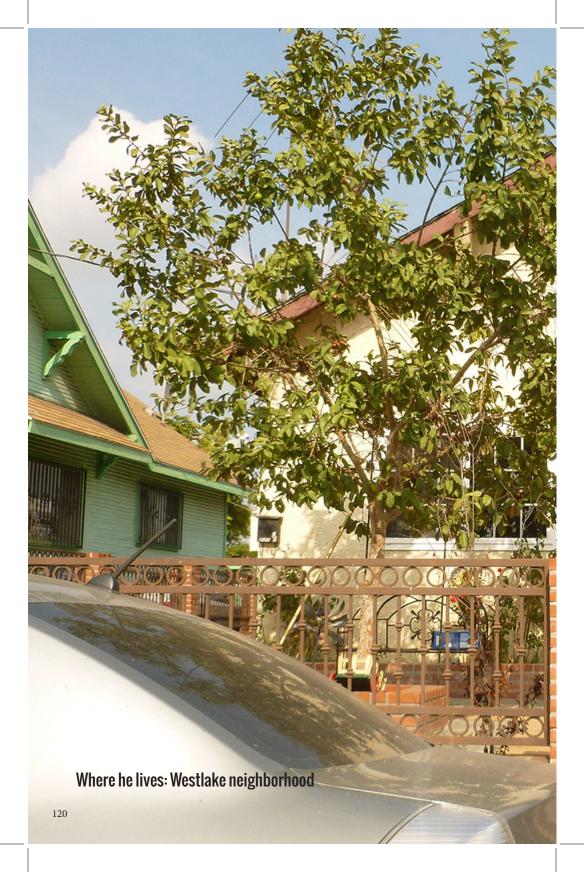


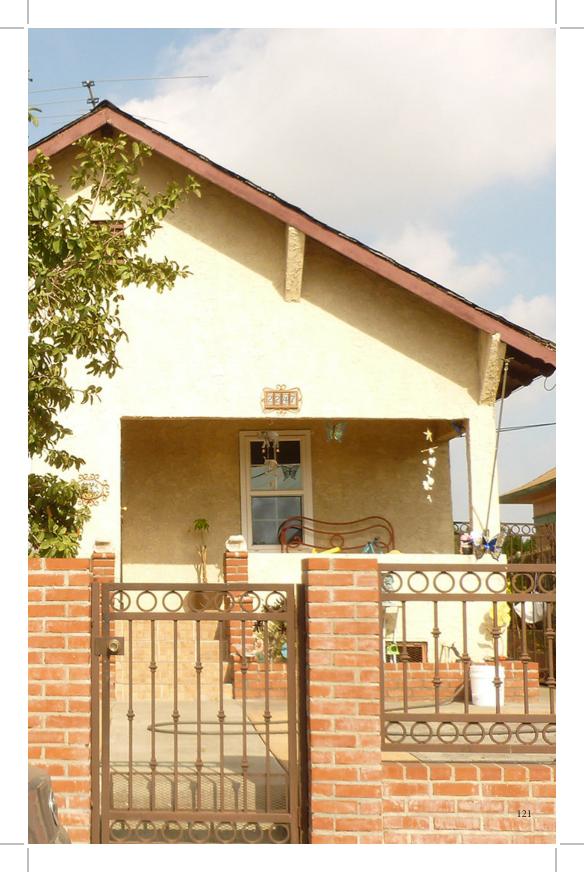
Beyond the corner: One man's journeyAt about 12 pm, one man was picked up for a gardening job. The journey took him from the parking lot, to a well-manicured neighborhood in Bel-Air.

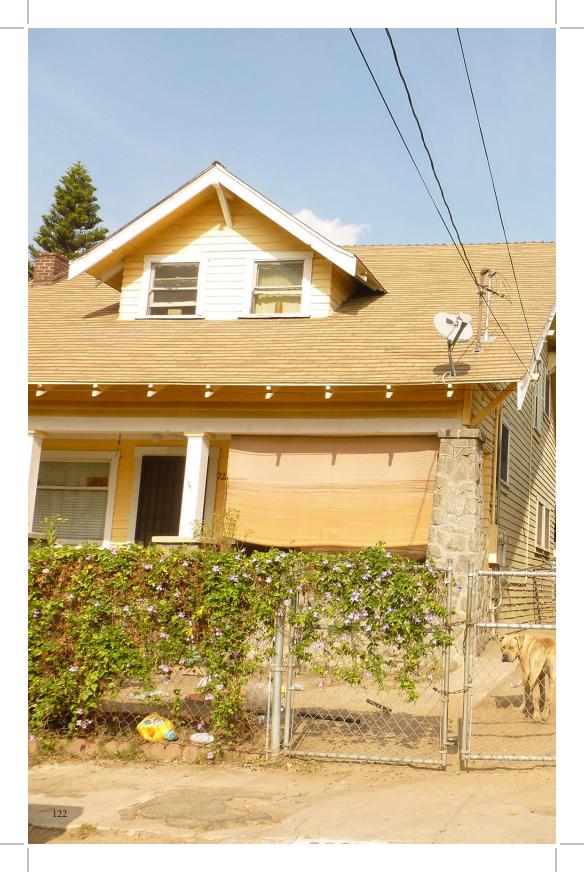
The next photos illustrate the disparities between where he lives (and most of the day laborers on site live there as well), where he waits, and where he works.

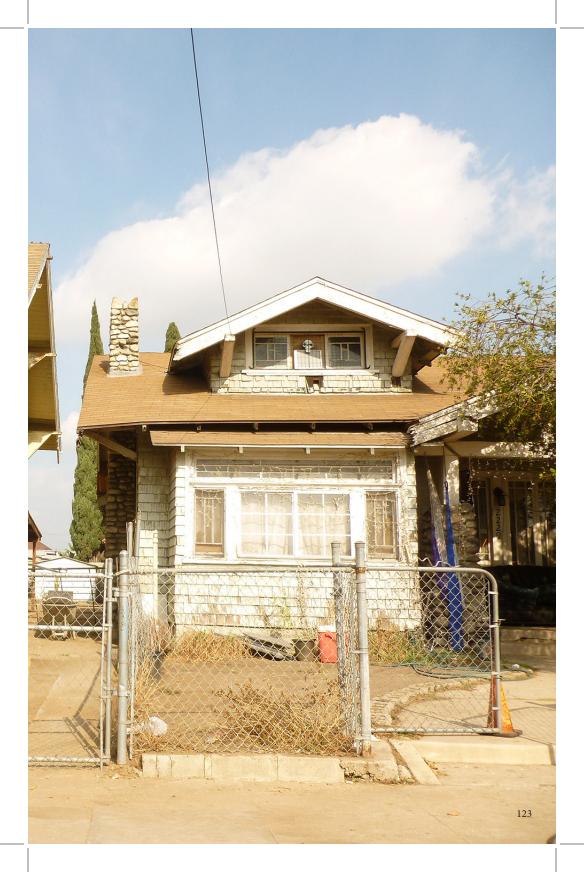


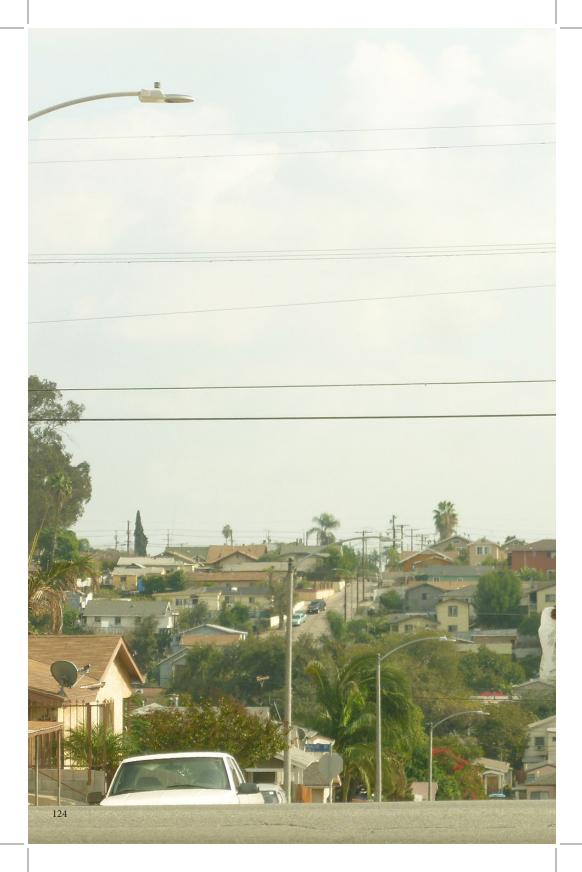


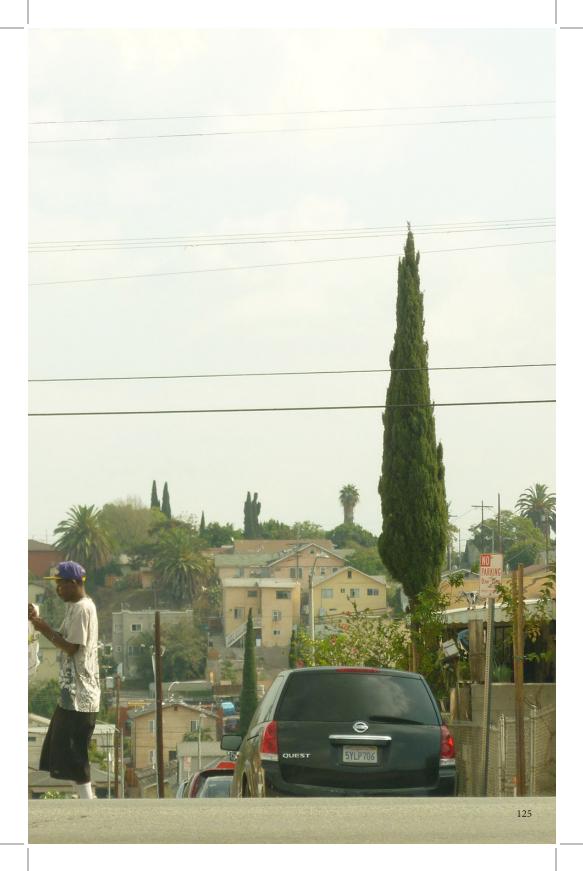


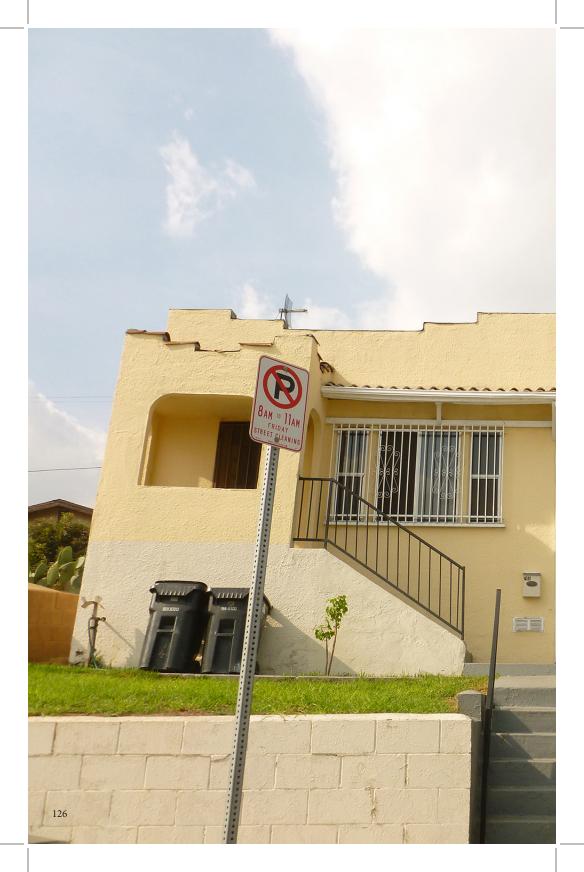


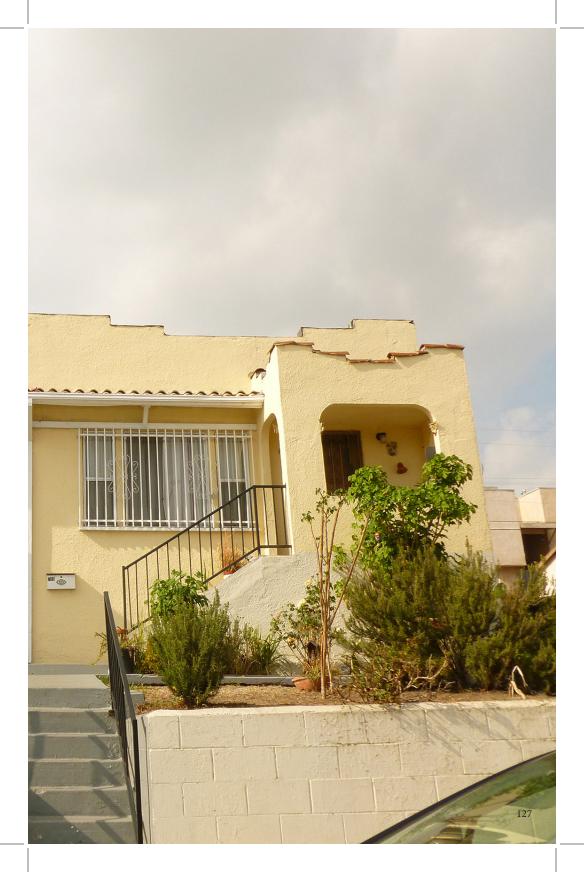




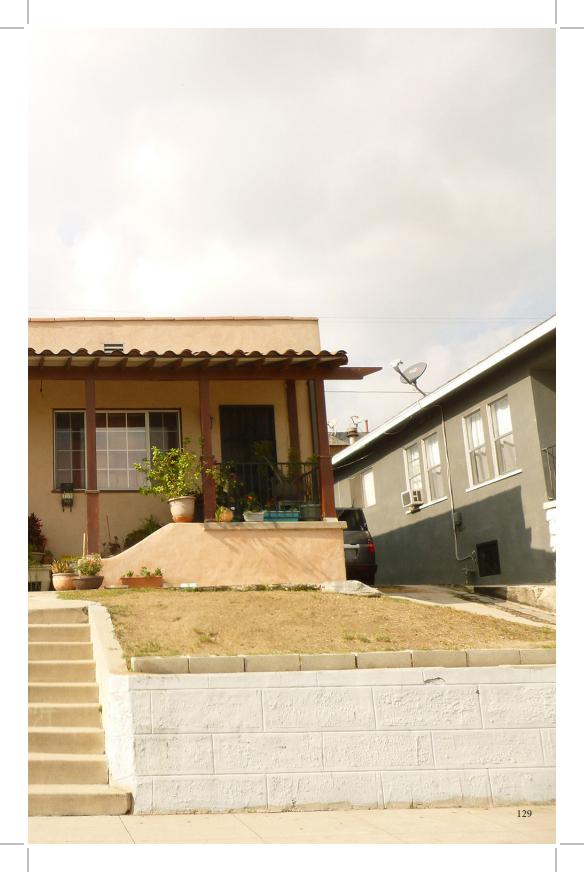


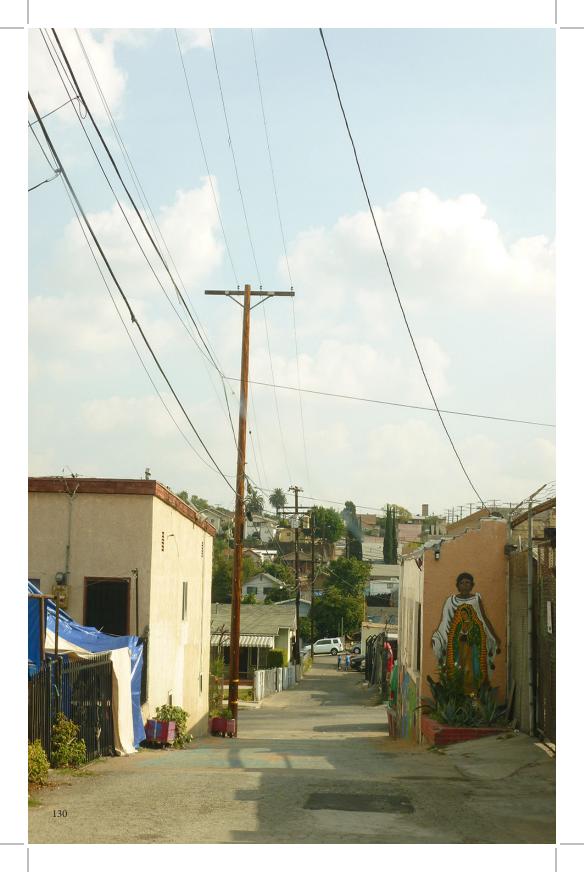


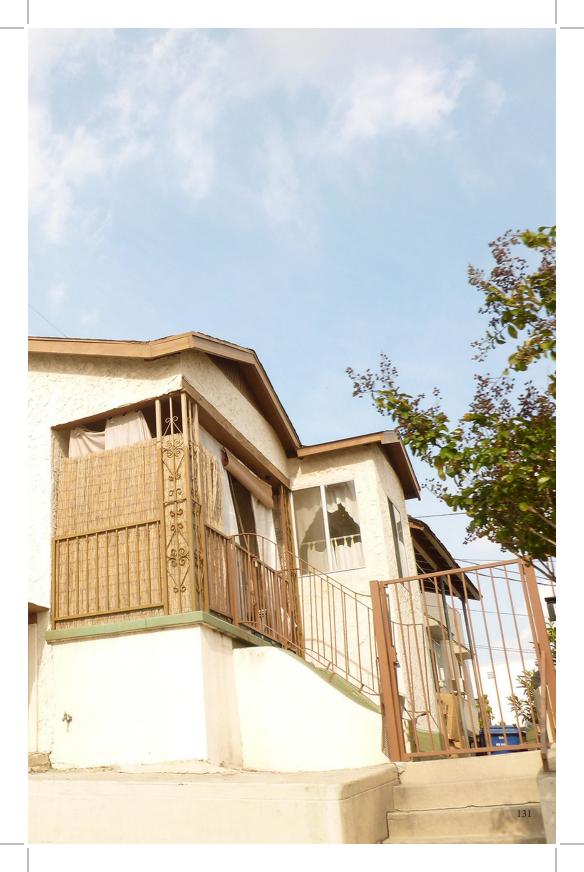


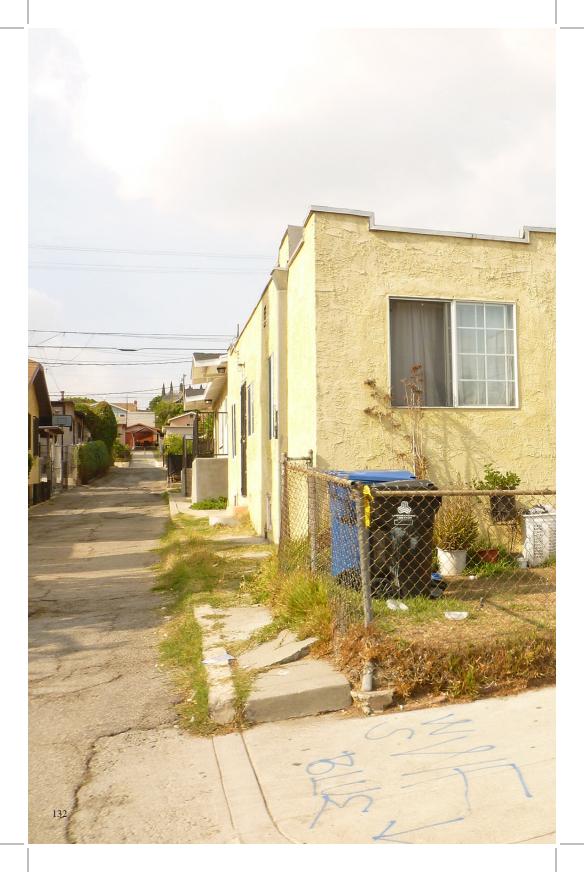


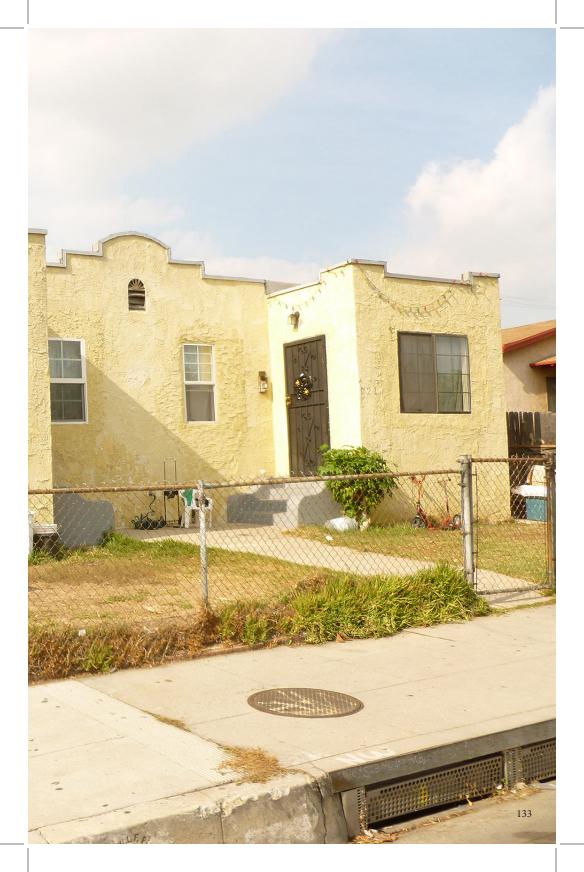


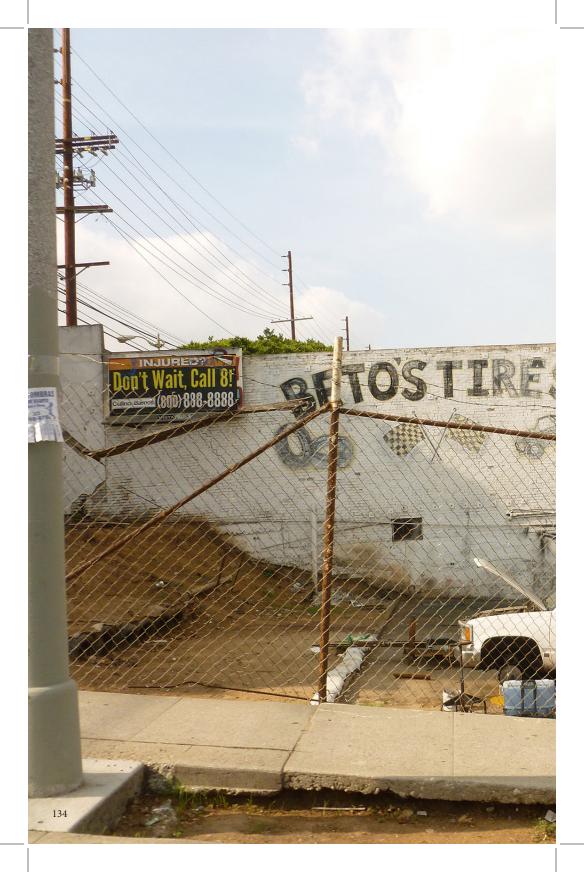


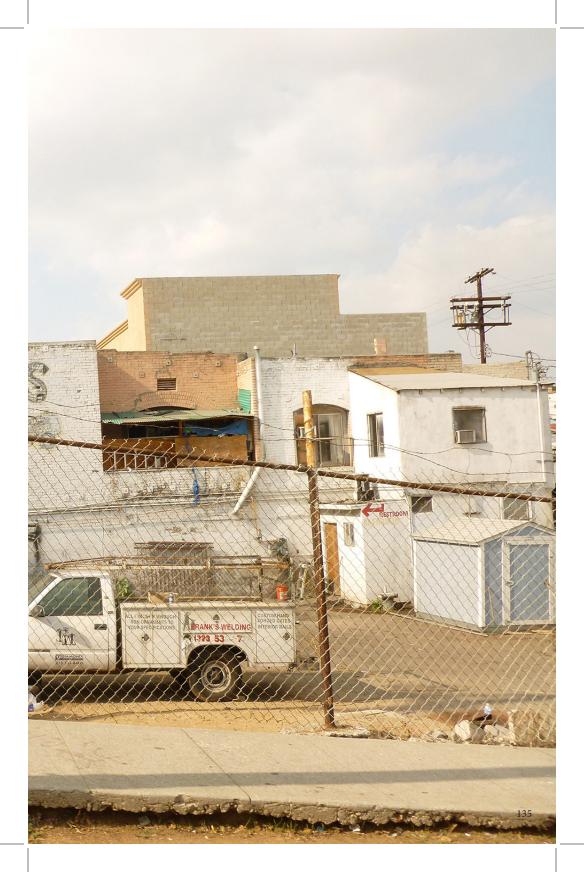


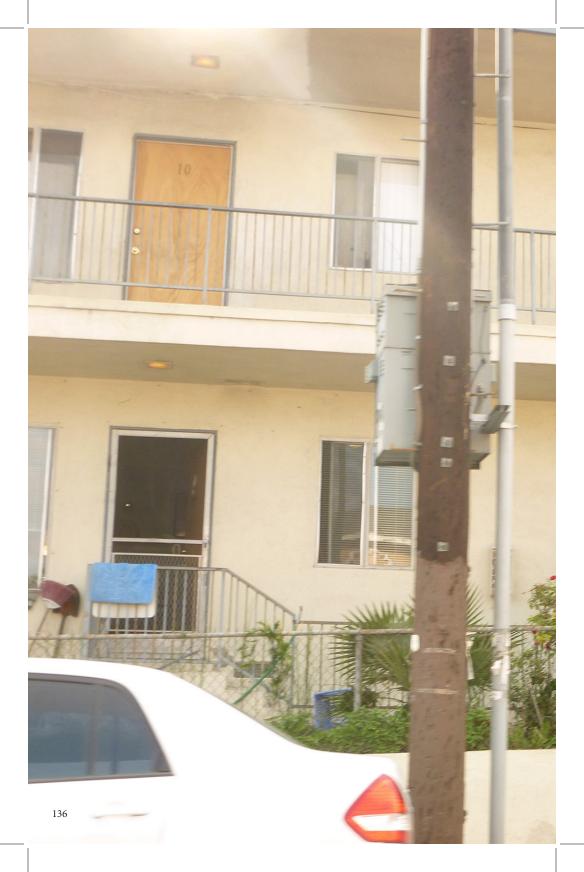


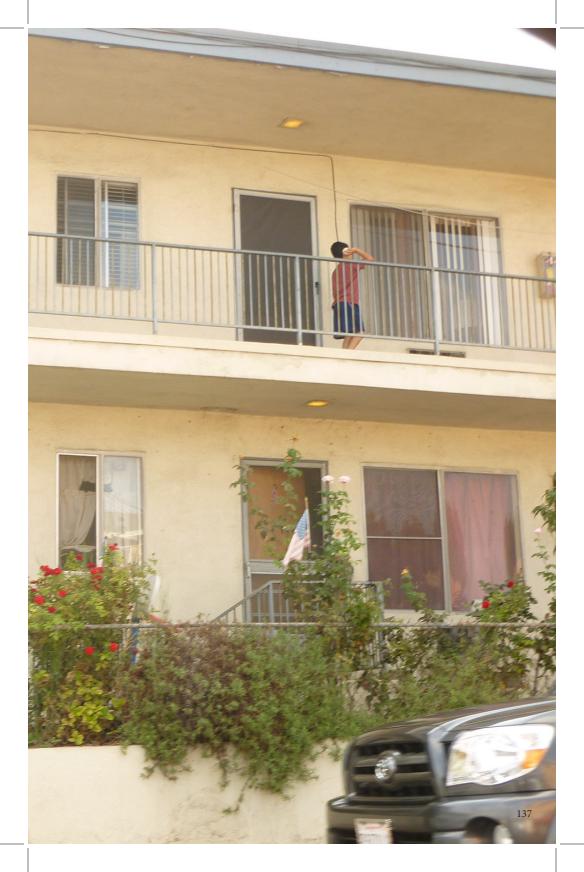


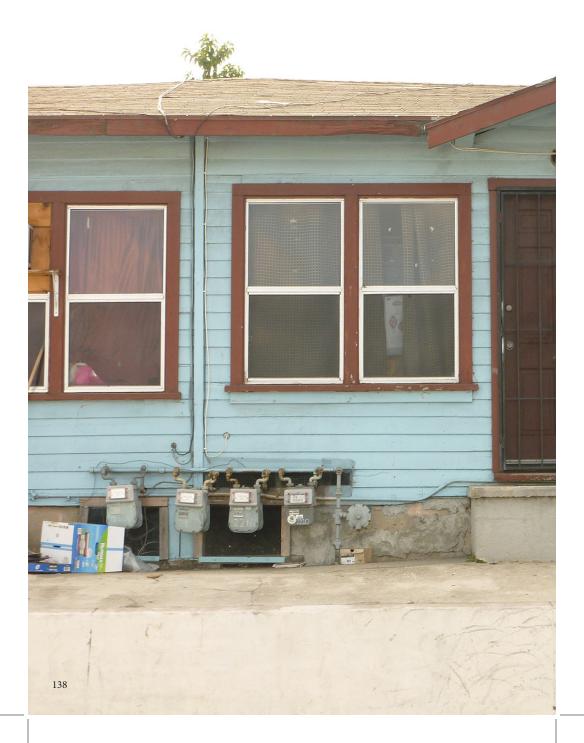


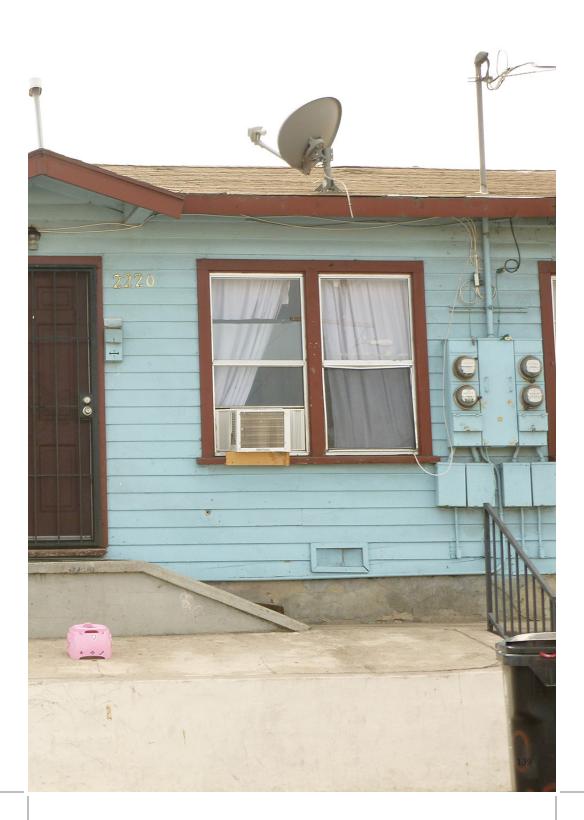


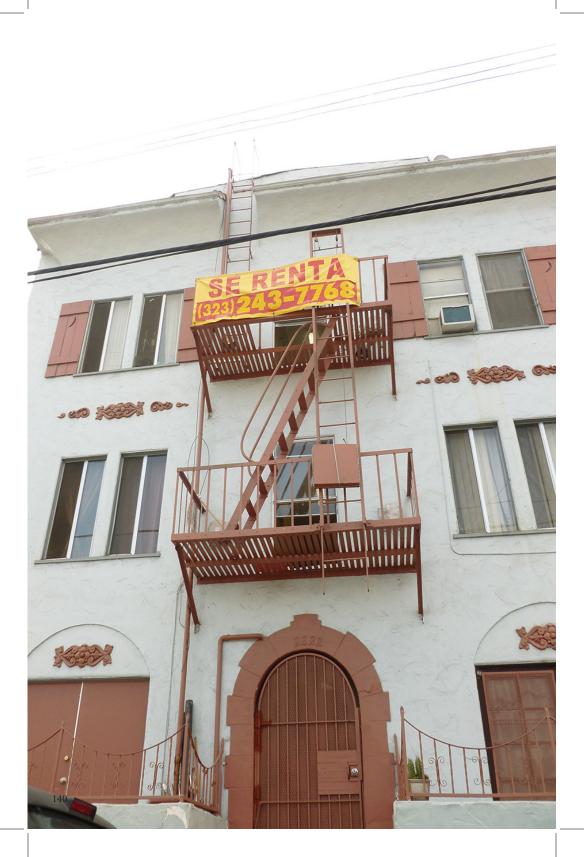


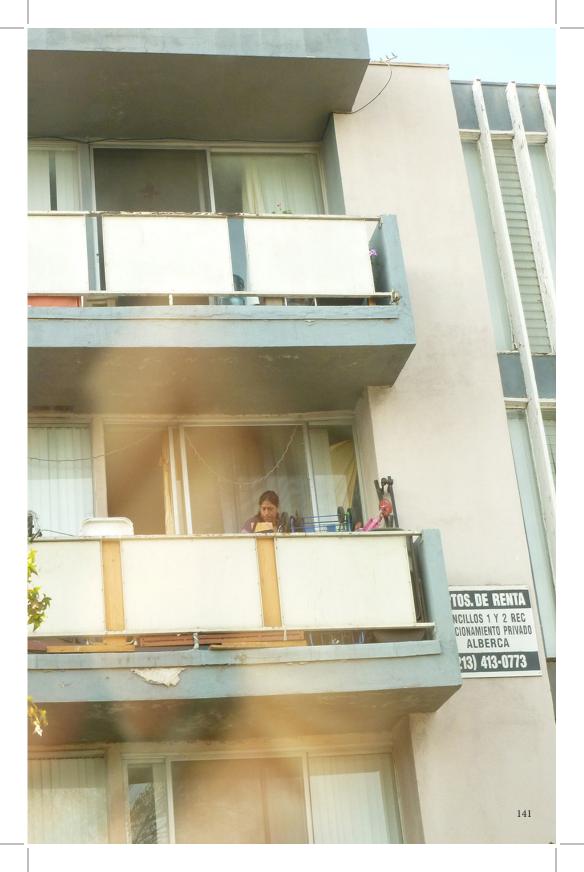




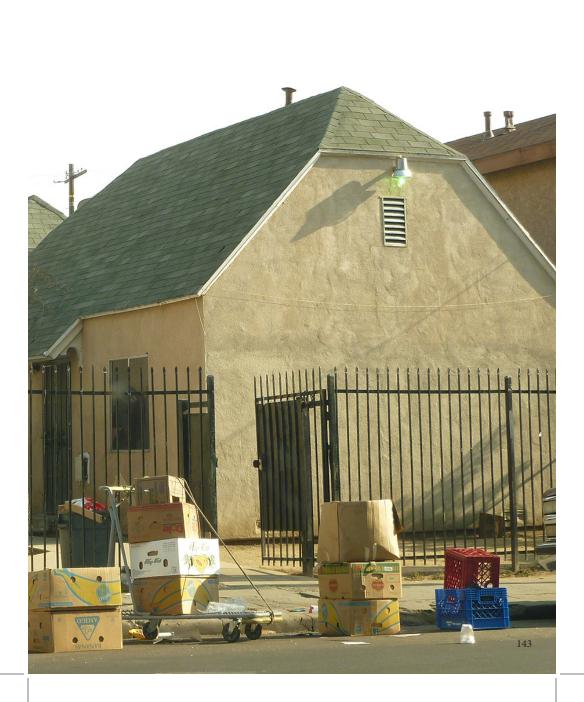






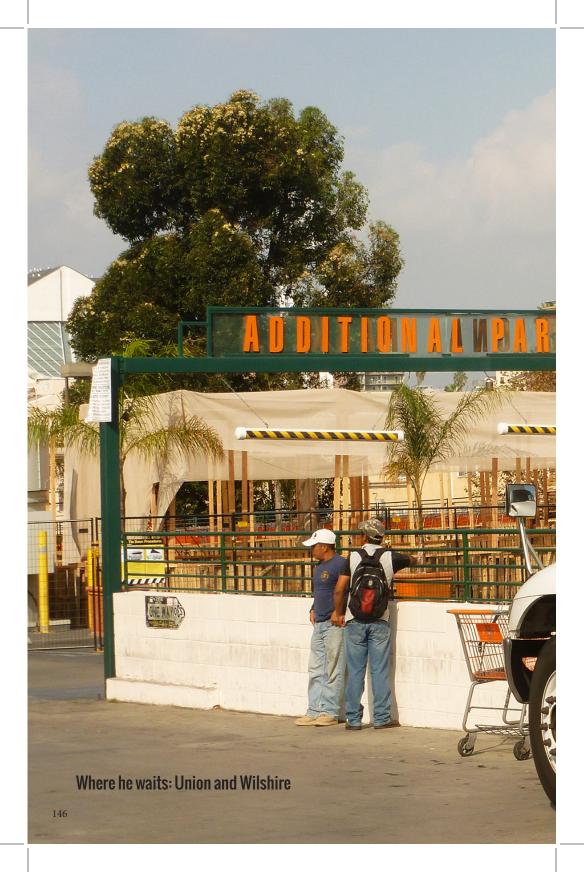


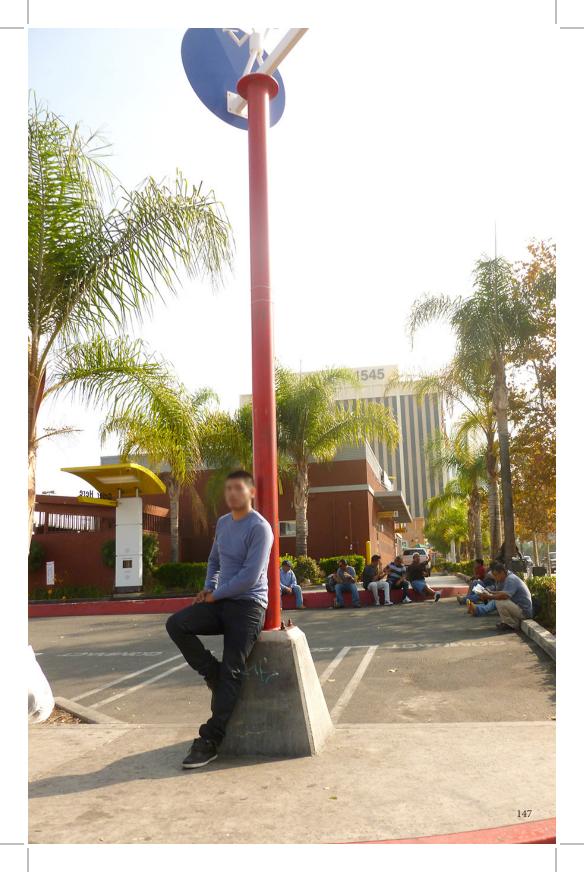


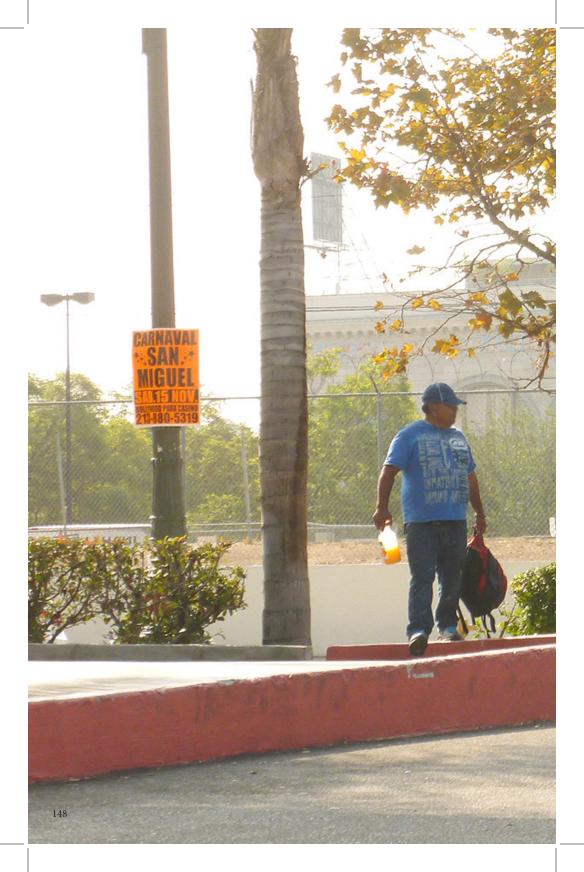


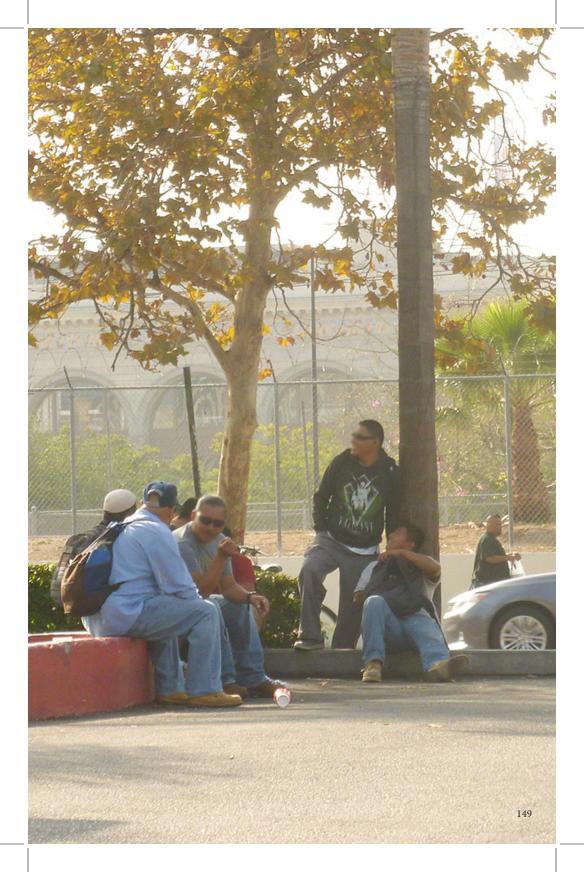


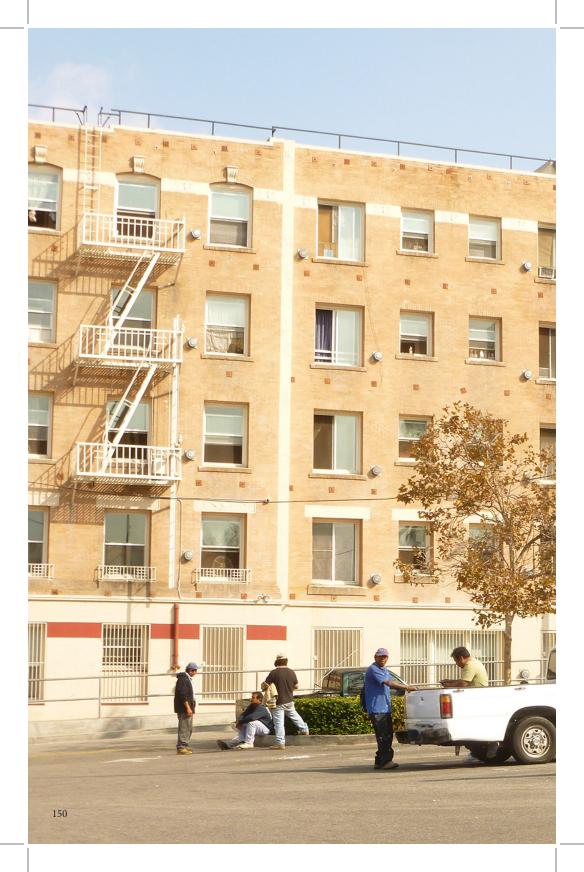


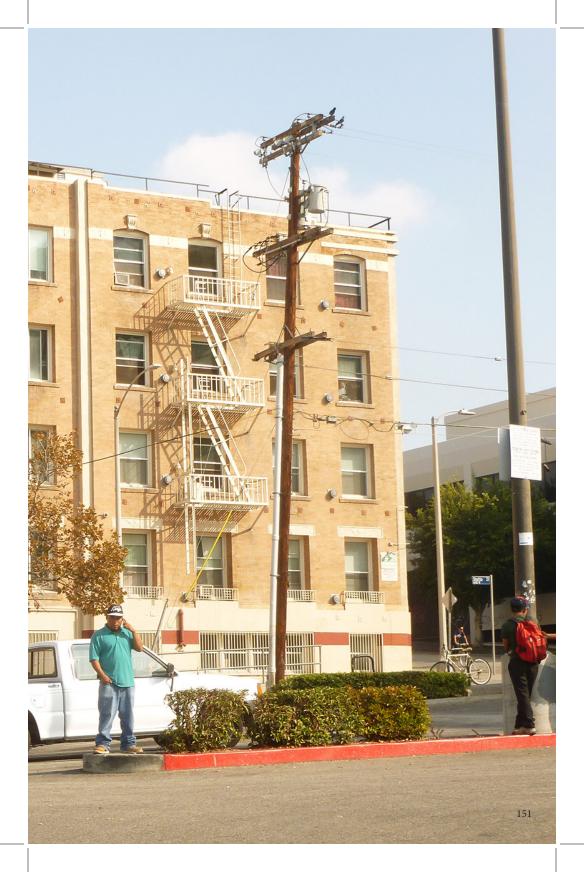




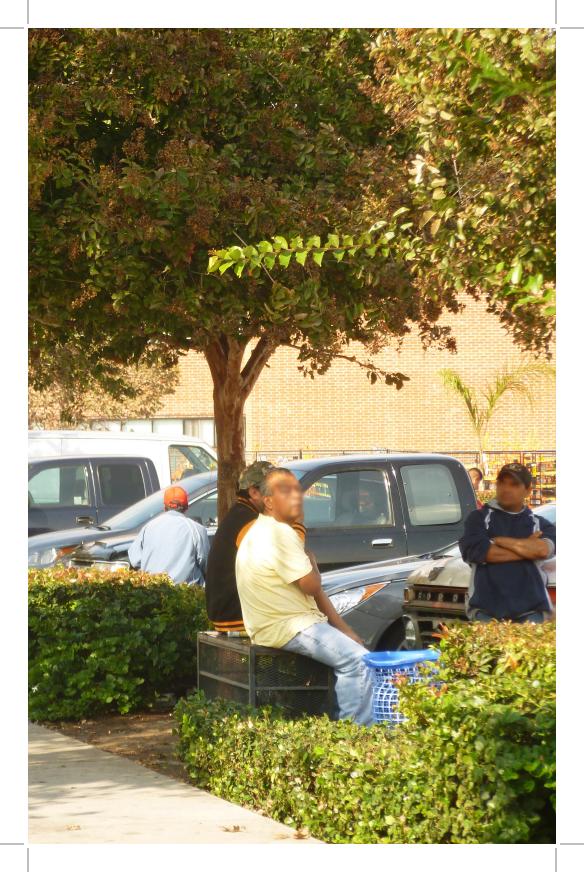


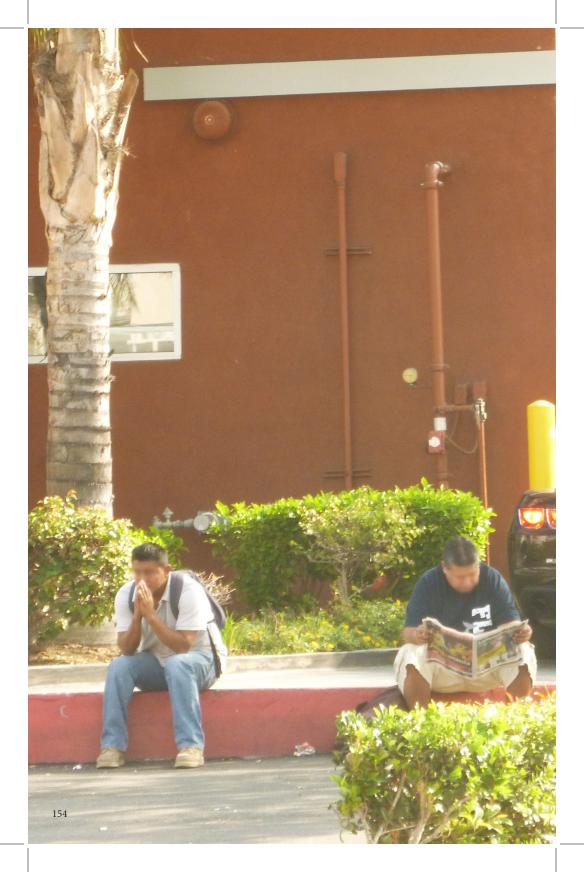


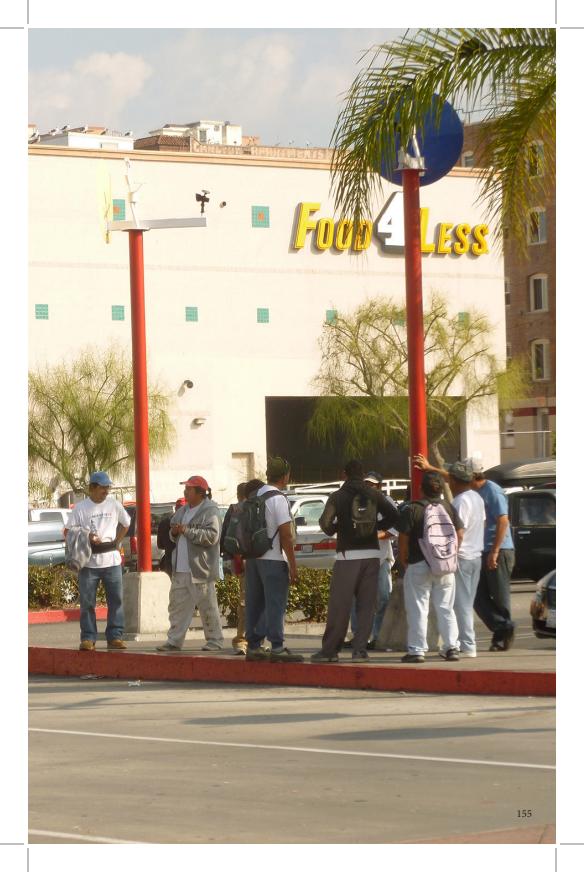










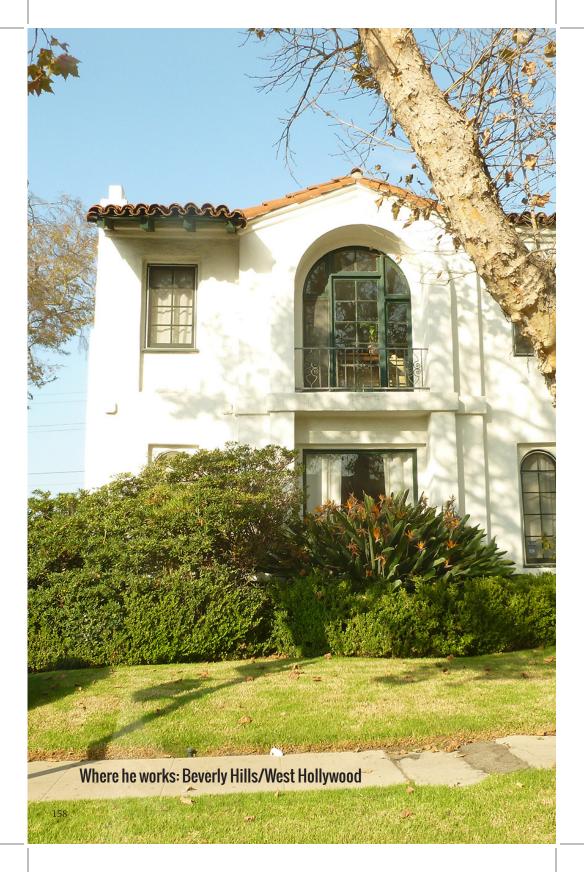


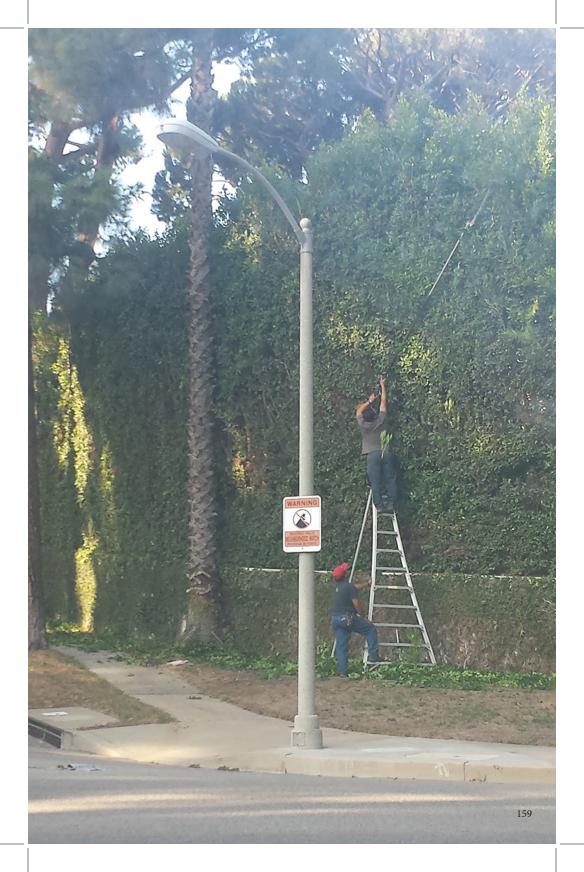


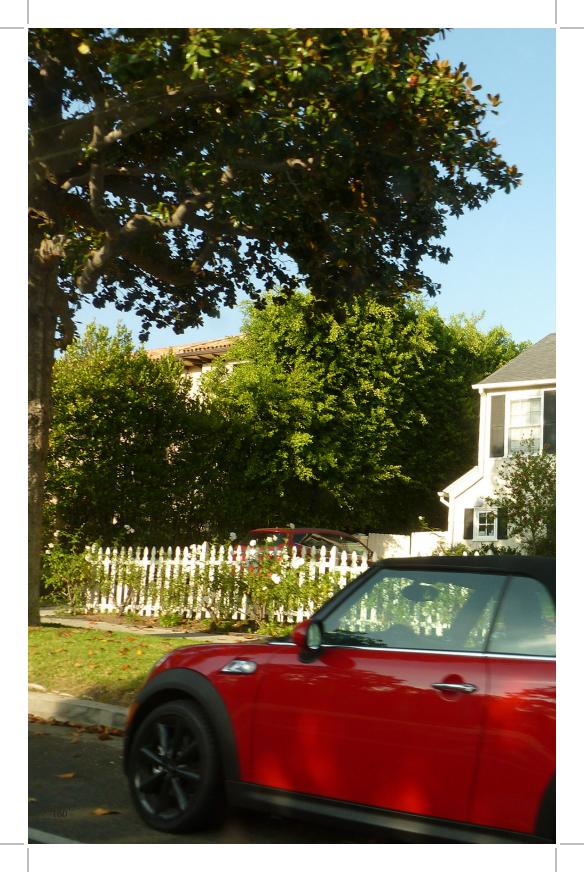


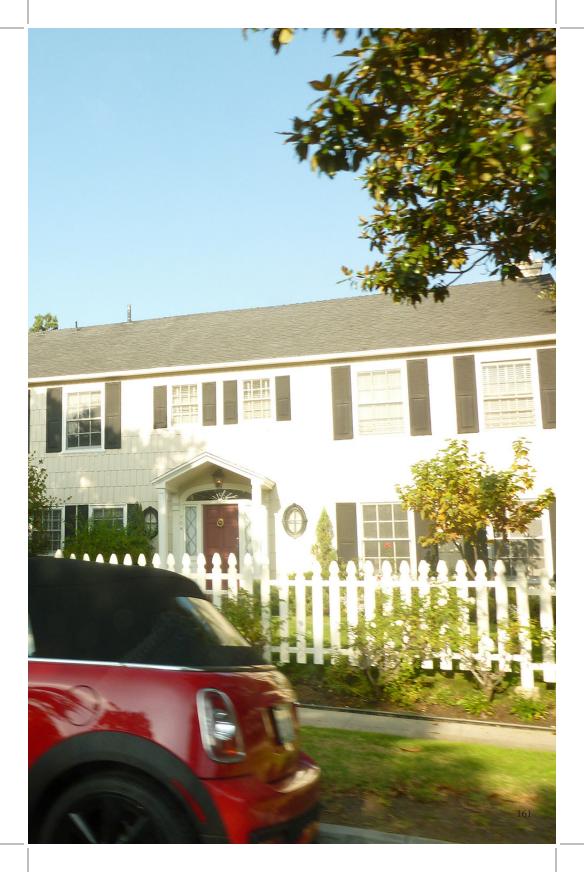


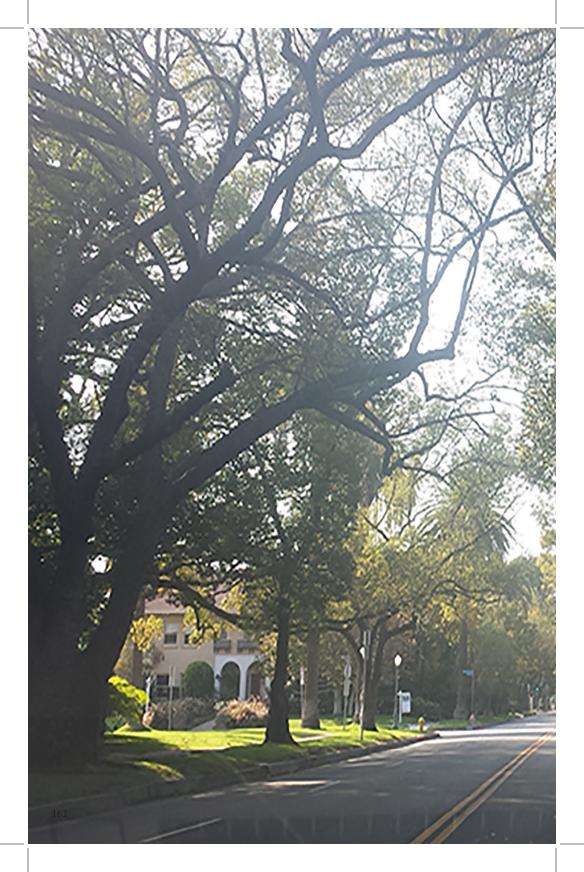


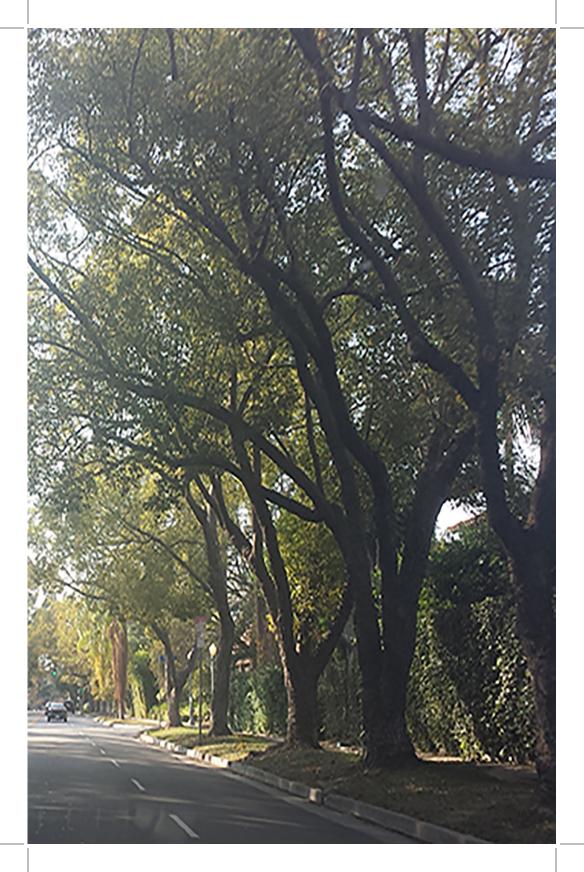


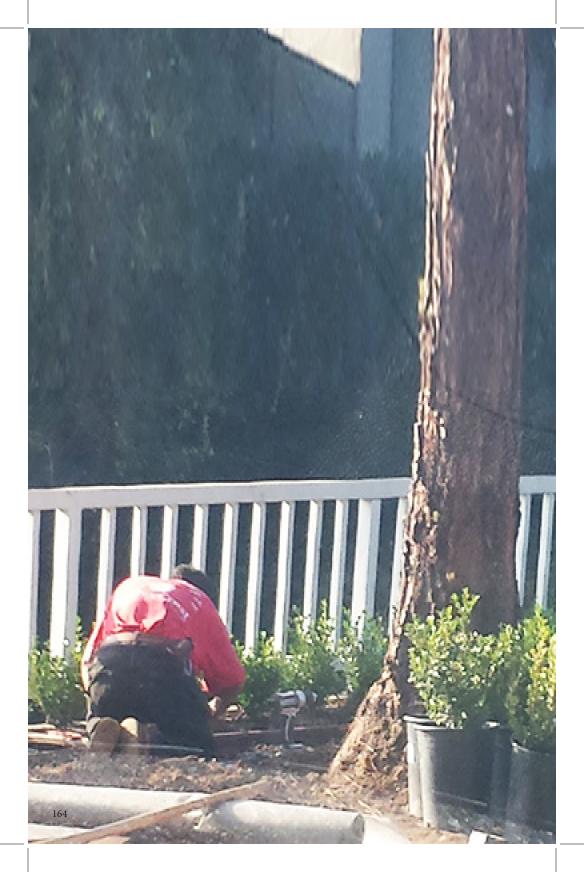




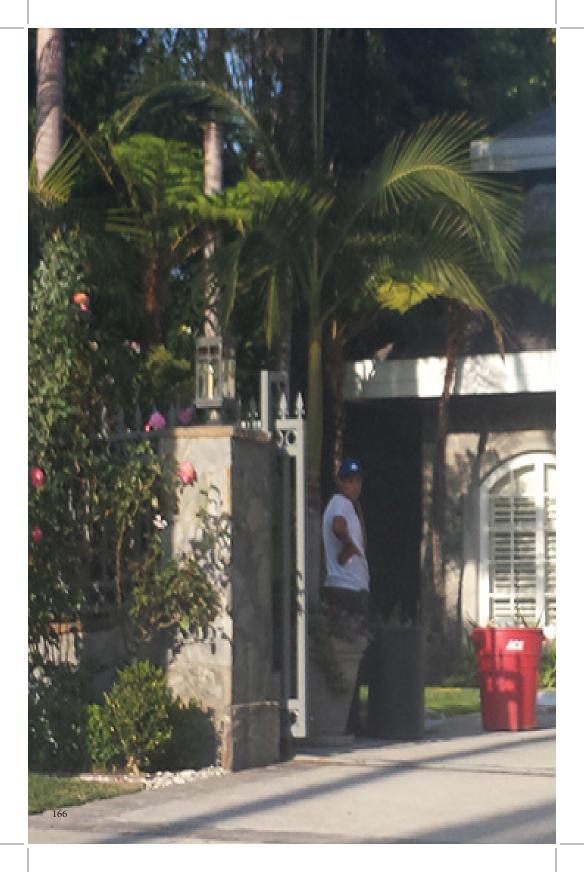


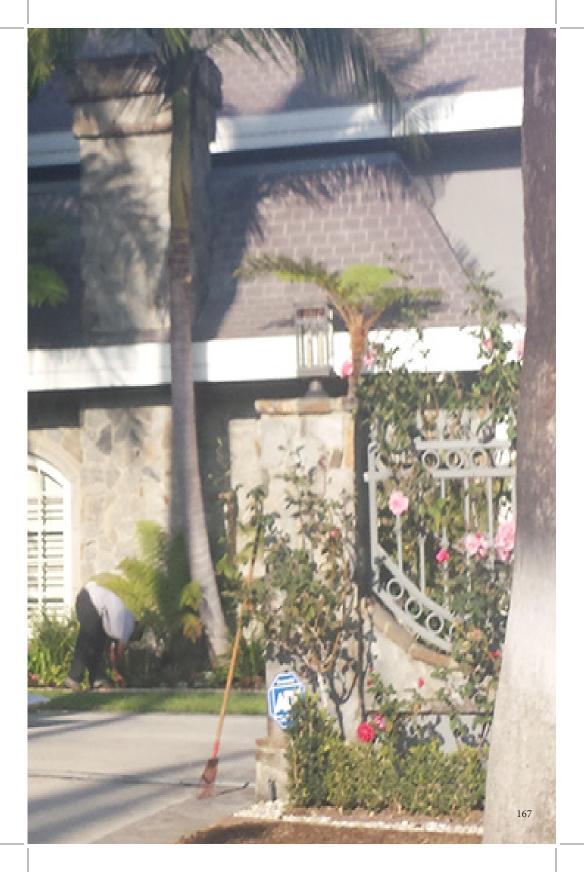


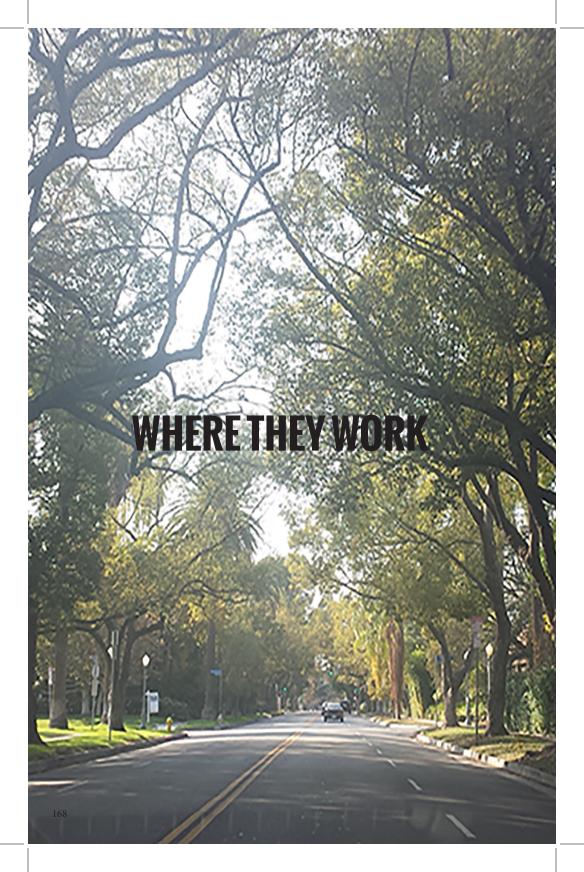


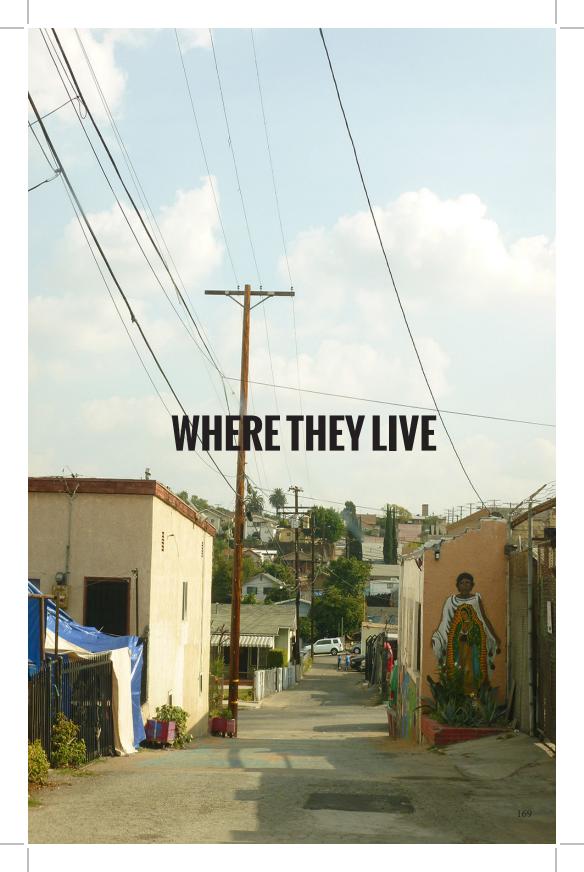












Reaching out: Worker's Centers in the L.A. Area

Given its big day labor population, Los Angeles is the birth place of two of the most important labor organizations in the country: the NDLON and the UCLA Labor Center. Both have advanced the quality of the day labor industry, and reached important political movements to get laborers certain recognition.



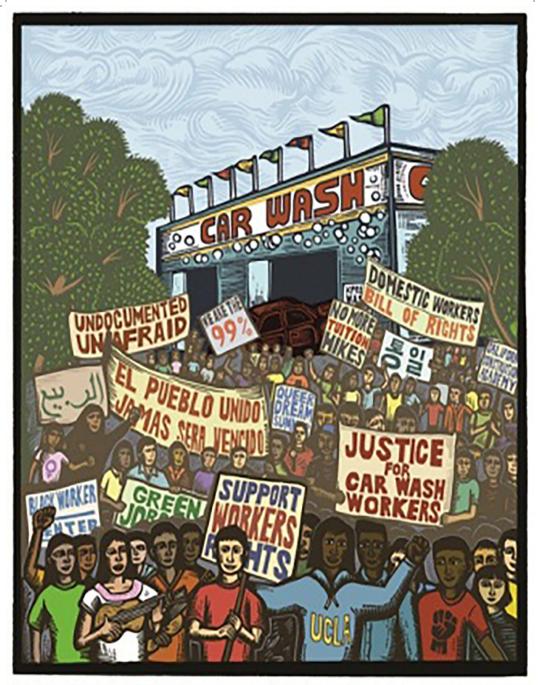
UCI A Labor Center

"The UCLA Labor Center believes that a public university belongs to the people and should advance quality education and employment for all. Every day we bring together workers, students, faculty, and policymakers to address the most critical issues facing working people today. Our research, education, and policy work lifts industry standards, creates jobs that are good for communities, and strengthens immigrant rights, especially for students and youth."

Major Projects:

- 1. The Dream Resource Center advances the leadership of students to promote equal access to higher education and pathways to citizenship.
- 2. The Global Solidarity Project collaborates with labor leaders, scholars, and activists to address common worker issues in the United States, Mexico, and the Pacific Rim.
- The Los Angeles Black Worker Center addresses the Black job crisis by developing grassroots leadership to improve access to employment.
- 4. The Re: Work Institute for Worker Justice partners with worker centers and unions to improve conditions in low-wage industries and strengthen the enforcement of existing workplace laws.
- 5. The UCLA Labor and Workplace Studies Minor trains students to tackle real-world community and workplace issues through interdisciplinary courses, leadership training, and internship opportunities.

http://www.labor.ucla.edu



WORKERS IN STUDENTS UNITE FOR JUSTICE UCLA LABOR CENTER 2012

NDLON: National Day Labor Organizing Network

"The National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) was officially founded in July 2001 in Northridge California at the first ever national gathering of day laborer organizations. It was formed as an alliance of 12 community-based organizations and worker centers dedicated to improving the lives of day laborers in the United States. In its 6 years, NLDON has grown nationwide to 36 member organizations and is supported by a strong staff of 10. Its beginnings and growth are remarkable in that it remains committed to an authentic grassroots connection to its base of member organizations and the day laborer community. This section provides a glimpse of NDLON's history and its development. However, in order to trace the roots of NDLON, one must begin with the history and evolution of modern day laborer organizing in the US."

Mission

NDLON improves the lives of day laborers in the United States. To this end, NDLON works to unify and strengthen its member organizations to be more strategic and effective in their efforts to develop leadership, mobilize, and organize day laborers in order to protect and expand their civil, labor and human rights. NDLON fosters safer more humane environments for day laborers, both men and women, to earn a living, contribute to society, and integrate into the community.

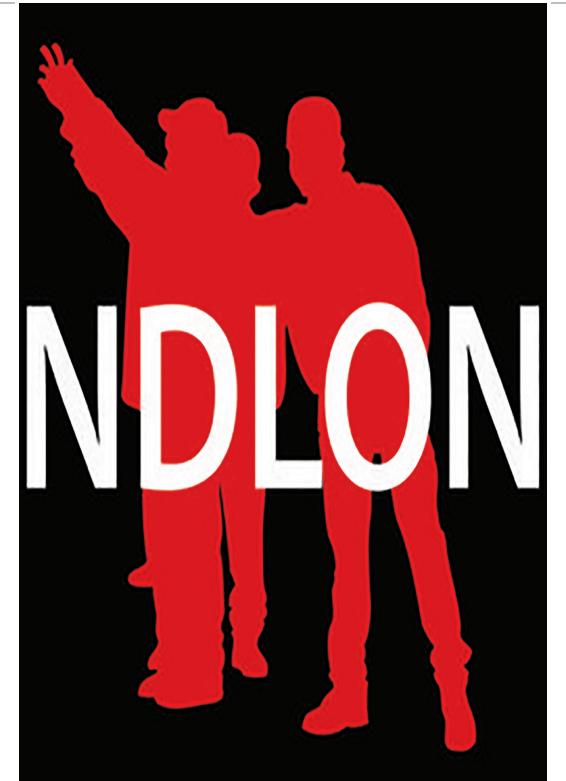
Vision

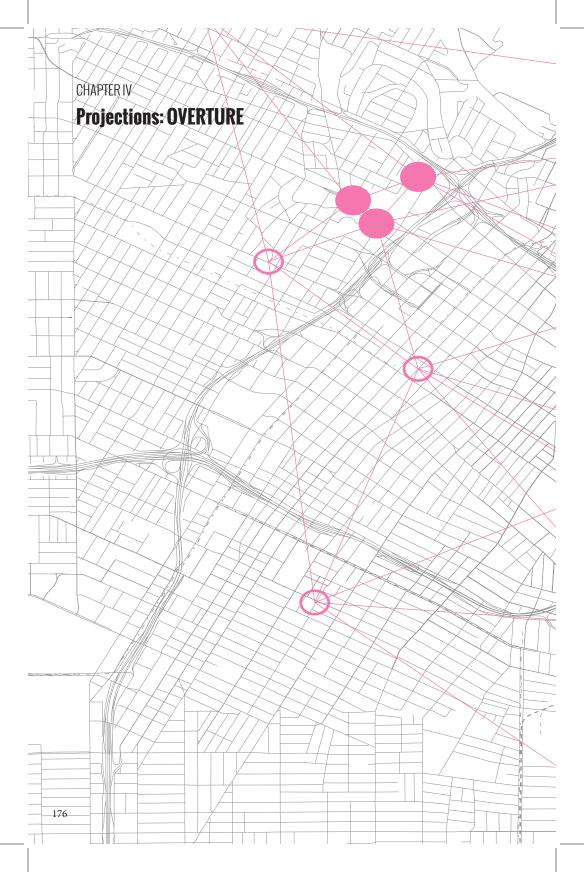
NDLON aspires to live in a world of diverse communities where day laborers live with full rights and responsibilities in an environment of mutual respect, peace, harmony and justice.

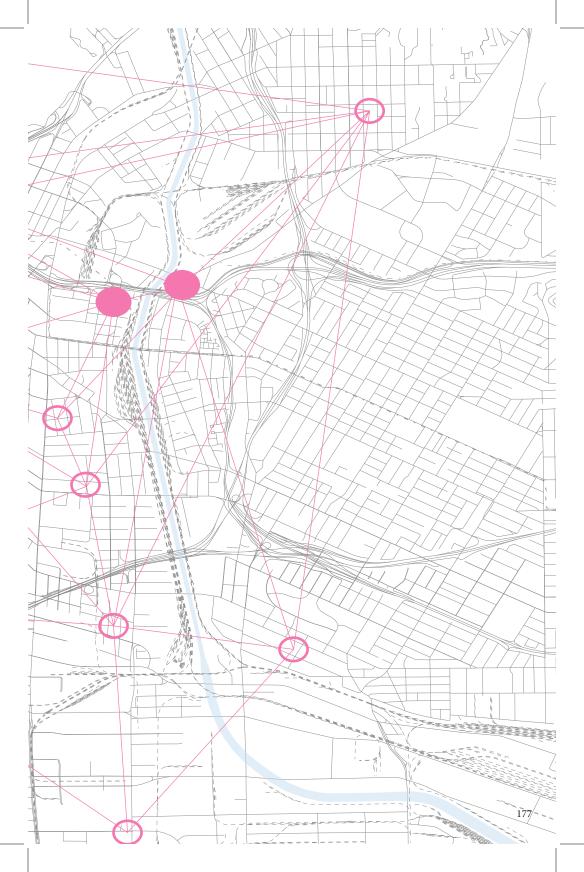
Principles and Values

Peace and Violence
Diversity
Democracy
Solidarity
Spirit of Service
Loyalty
Integrity
Discipline
Self-Critique
Gender Equality
Adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Commitment to Green Values and Practices

http://www.ndlon.org







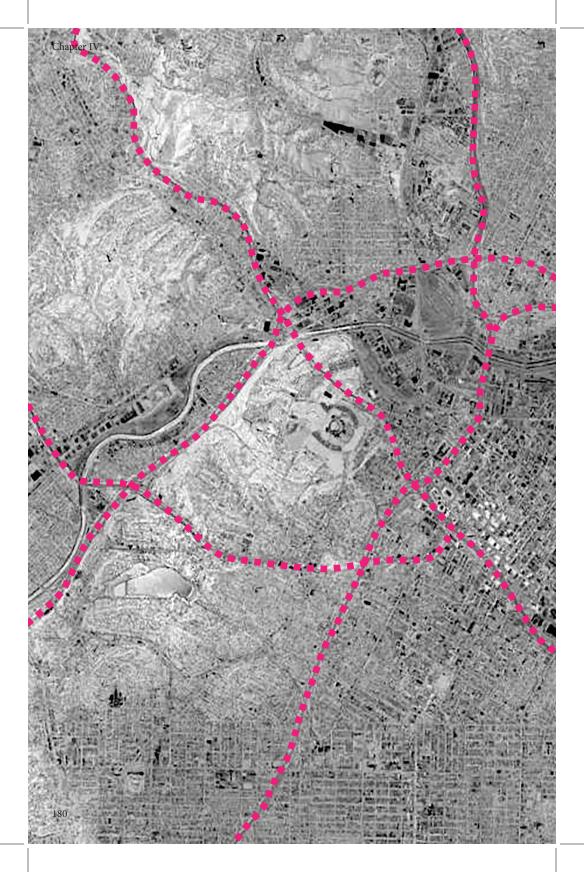
OVERTURE: Transitions from Permanent Uncertainty

As a prelude for what is to come, this book presents the past and present conditions in need of intervention. The eventual design thesis will serve two important purposes: first, to develop a new socio-economical enclave for fragmented societies beyond the specificities outlined in this book, and second, to present the spatial and formal realization of new systems.

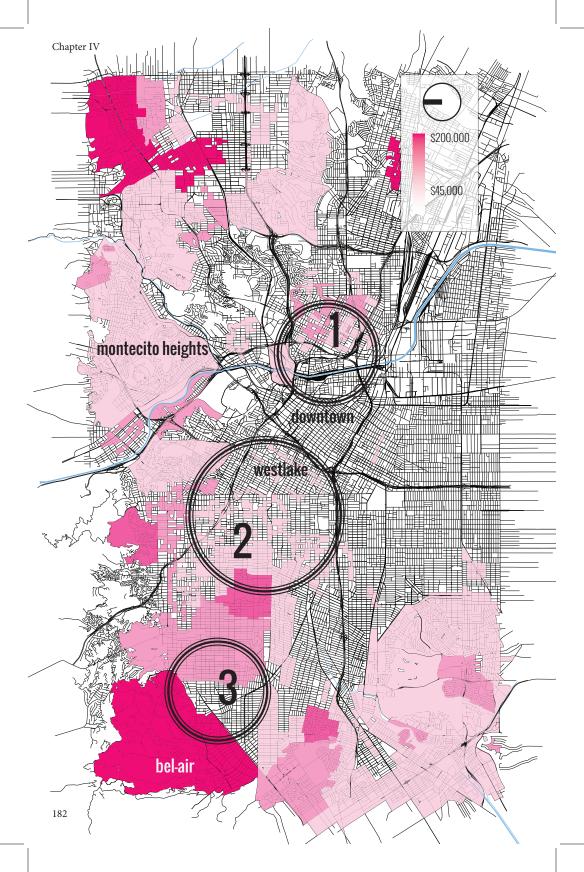
While socio-economic conditions do not develop form, they develop space and relationships, and in return, form is created.

By proposing new economic possibilities, the economics of uncertainty will be shifted into new directions with political and social consequences. The resolution of space and form is intrinsically linked to both site and program, especially in the creation of moments of permanency for societies in transition (immigrants, nomadic communities, etc).



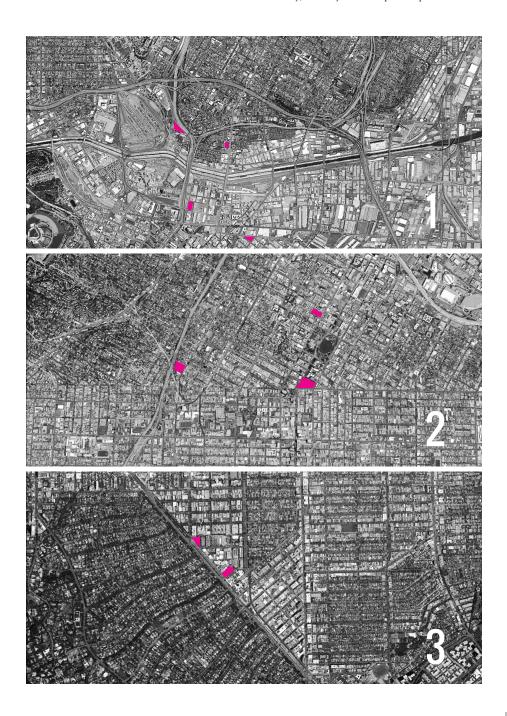


'A social revolution that does no **oduce** a **new space** has not realized its full potential; indeed it has failed in that it has not changed life itself, but has merely changed ideological superstructures, institutions or political apparatuses. This means that **class** struggle is fundamentally spatia



Site Options: EDGES

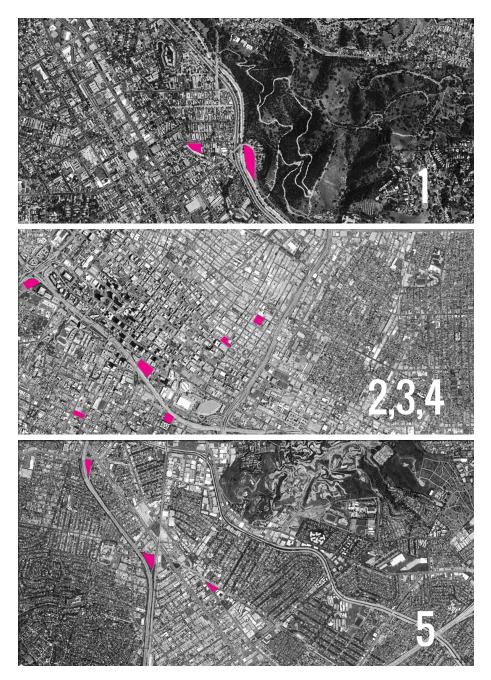
Possible sites include the areas among edges: places where social and economic conditions shift drastically. These regions present opportunities for action and intervention in order to provide mobility, visibility and conceptual importance.

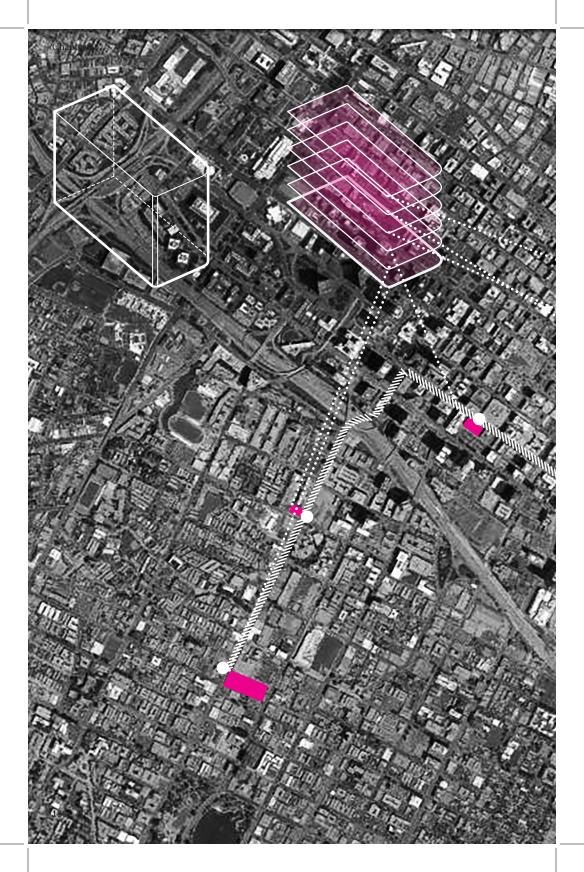




Site Options: ECONOMIC+CULTURAL HUBSEstablished cultural and/or economic areas present another opportunity for action, where new

Established cultural and/or economic areas present another opportunity for action, where new economic and social modes of living can be embraced, adopted and evolved. New types of economic modes can also cater to the existing: arts in the Highland Park and Arts District areas, set design in Culver City, or light industry in Boyle Heights and Downtown.

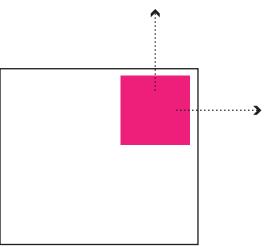




Program: LABOR DAY CENTER

The first step in the implementation of the program is the provision for the existing: space and political bodies that support the current day labor industry., as an overture for the next step in the transformation of their work-life systems.



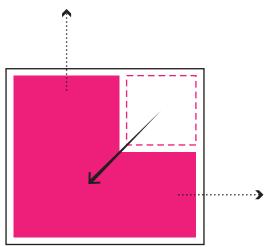


Provision for what exists: Day Labor

Program: TRANSITIONAL INCUBATORS

The second step includes the identification of key values and abilities in order to get maximum profit through enjoyment: many day laborers are carpenters, steel workers, etc. by trade and truly enjoy what, for many, is a tradition that has lasted for generations. Workshops, educational facilities and business incubators that cater to local economies, will connect the community to the local network of economic and social relationships, and will help with the transition from a temporary (what day labor is menat to be) industry into a permanent, contributing one.



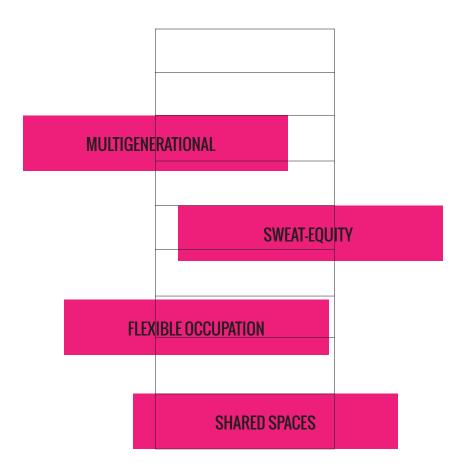


Provision for moving forward: Incubators

Program: HOUSING

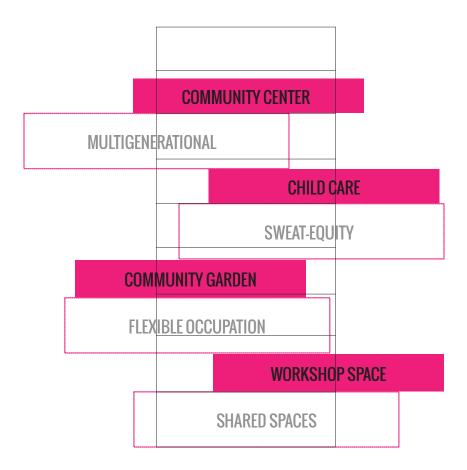
In an immgirant, transient communitiy, housing is always a top priority, as the very sense of stability is challenged every day. A multigenerational arrangement, following the existing hispanic traditions, will be the basis for decisions. Older generations are able to take care of children, and parents are able to invest time and effort into their new businesses.

By investing in the collective businesses, a system of sweat equity will be in place, where the effort and work put into the businesses will be directly invested into the collective housing development. Knowing that economic mobility leads to physical mobility, the concept of flexible occupation will be available for homeowners in order to keep moving forward. The idea of constant investment and the intriduction of shared, common spaces will provide an evolving sense of community while allowing for transiency when needed.

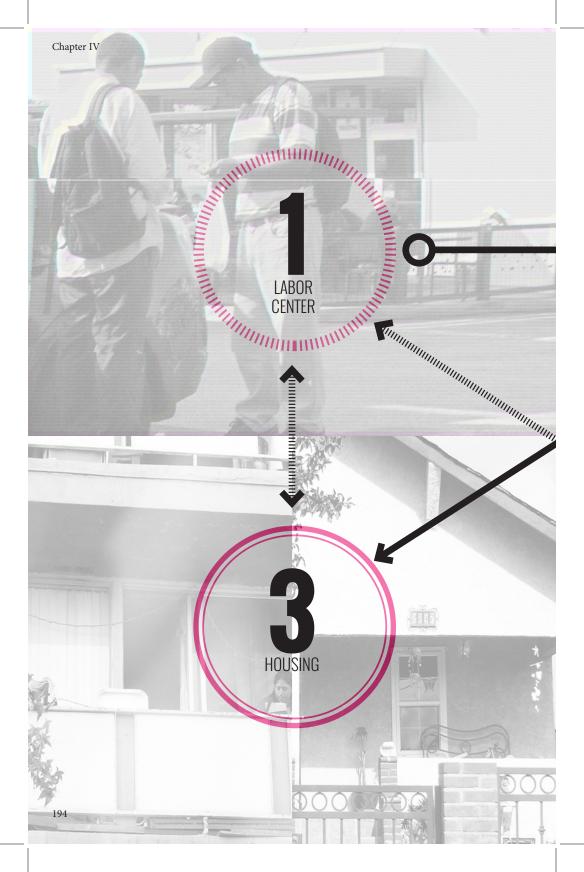


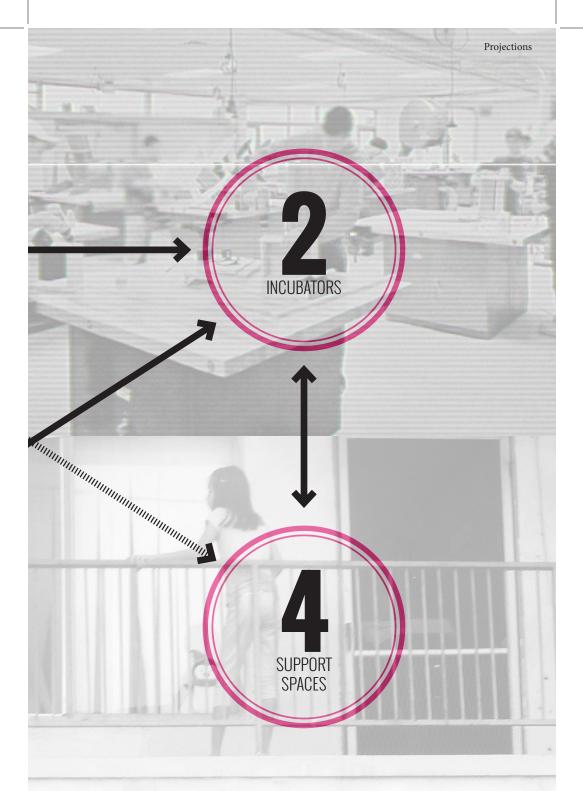


Program: SUPPORT SPACESIn addition to housing and economic modes, support spaces ensure the link between home and work, and allow flexiblitity within the system. Support will be introduced in the form of community spaces, child care facilities, community gardens and general workshop space for all ages.









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