Contested Spaces:
Constructing Sites of Resistance

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ABSTRACT

the issues

It is essential for us to unmask the contesting processes which occurs within the global city in order to begin to understand what our cities are about today and in the near future, in order to see what constitutes their complexity - in brief, to produce a new narrative, to re-build the city in the face of homogenizing forces of globalisation. That is why the un-covering and making visible, the crucial role of contesting processes that may appear as 'marginal' or 'imported', as backward and not belonging, is one step in the direction of such a rebuilding. It is recognition of globalisation as a process comprising people as well as capital, and seeing the city as a site where battles of identity, rights, space and life itself are being fought out.

the investigation

Therefore, the **objective of this proposal** is to surface the **various arenas of contested spaces** and **terrains**. This **investigation** aims to show how contested spaces have been used by **minority**
and marginalized communities, to change and impact the urban and social landscape, and more importantly, to construct a space and identity of their own.

The focus is to explore the degree to which ethnic minorities or marginalized communities maintain control over, and modify their distinctiveness [expressive] and hence, their own economy, culture, community and polity in the face of global forces.

To a lesser extent, the reading and analysis of these contested spaces will show that contested spaces inevitably do and can occur where the intentions of the dominant culture/power is incongruent with that of the people.

the aims

It is my belief that in the arena of contested spaces, these processes of negotiation actually allows the creation of different but yet meaningful spaces of identity and community in the urban environment. This is done despite the dominant influence and planning of the state and authority, thus reinstating what was lost due to neutralizing factors in this age of globalisation.

It is my hope that this investigation will provide a deeper and more wholistic understanding to the issues related to contested spaces, prompt further inquiry and serve as a platform to open possibilities of creative design responses to these unique urban landscapes.

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