

03 Memory Community

A Memory Factory for Living Community based on Abandoned Factories

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Individual Design Development based on Collaborative Studio Work with Yang Han

95% Individual Idea and Drawing

2019 Spring, Chongqing

"**Invented Tradition** is taken to mean a set of practices, normally governed by overtly or tacitly accepted rules and of a ritual or symbolic nature, which seek to inculcate certain values and norms of behavior by repetition, which automatically implies continuity with the past."

Eric Hobsbawm, *The Invention of Tradition*, 1992

"**Community is Imagined** because the members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow-members, meet them, or even hear of them, yet in the minds of each lives the image of their communion."

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Community*, 1991

[1] Community Production Mechanism - Deconstruct the Replacement of Public Community in China

Based on the community theory of Anderson, the imagined community is not a type of community, but a cognitive process to perceive the existence of the whole community. The process is stimulated by repetitive self-organized activities and traditions, and it is also a part of the community production. Without related process, community may not be built or formed successfully.

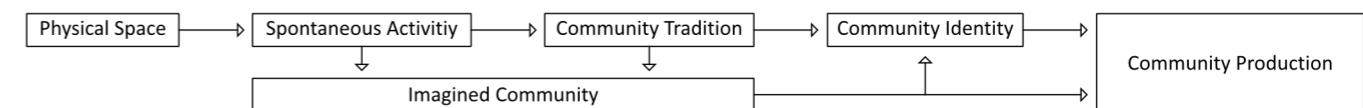


Figure. Community Production Process based on the Imagined Community Theory

When we try to use the community production theories to understand status quo of nowadays physical public community in Chinese cities, we could find that real estate is the most common and modern community built with strict capital interference and calculation, which finally makes it fail to be a good living community. Generally, the developer will not care about whether residents in the real estate living community do have the same spontaneous behaviors, interests or traditions with other residents or not, based on their business benefits. On the other side, residents also don't have the right to choose their ideal neighbors. Moreover, out of economic thoughts, real estate is always designed to be a block with lots of compact living units without large public living space and open boundary to other street blocks. All these factors lead to the lack of self-organized activities and traditions in most real estate living communities in China.

Internet community is replacing the living community to serve as a public sphere, as the real estate living communities are not built successfully. Although with some limitation to the global internet, the internet community and several domestic social media provide open platforms for citizens to have spontaneous discussion and invent internet-based traditions for their online community. The internet community is also one with commercial mechanism, which is not a system with strict capital control and interference, making netizens have better chances to generate repetitive activities and traditions and finally build a community.

[2] Memory Factory as a kind of Medium - Reconstruct Physical Community through Community Imagination Construction

This project explores to reconstruct the local physical community based on the imagined community theory. Through the community imagination construction, physical community is expected to be built within a series of mechanical processes. Each mechanical process in the imagination construction is based on Production, Transportation, Exchange and Storage of citizens' individual memory.

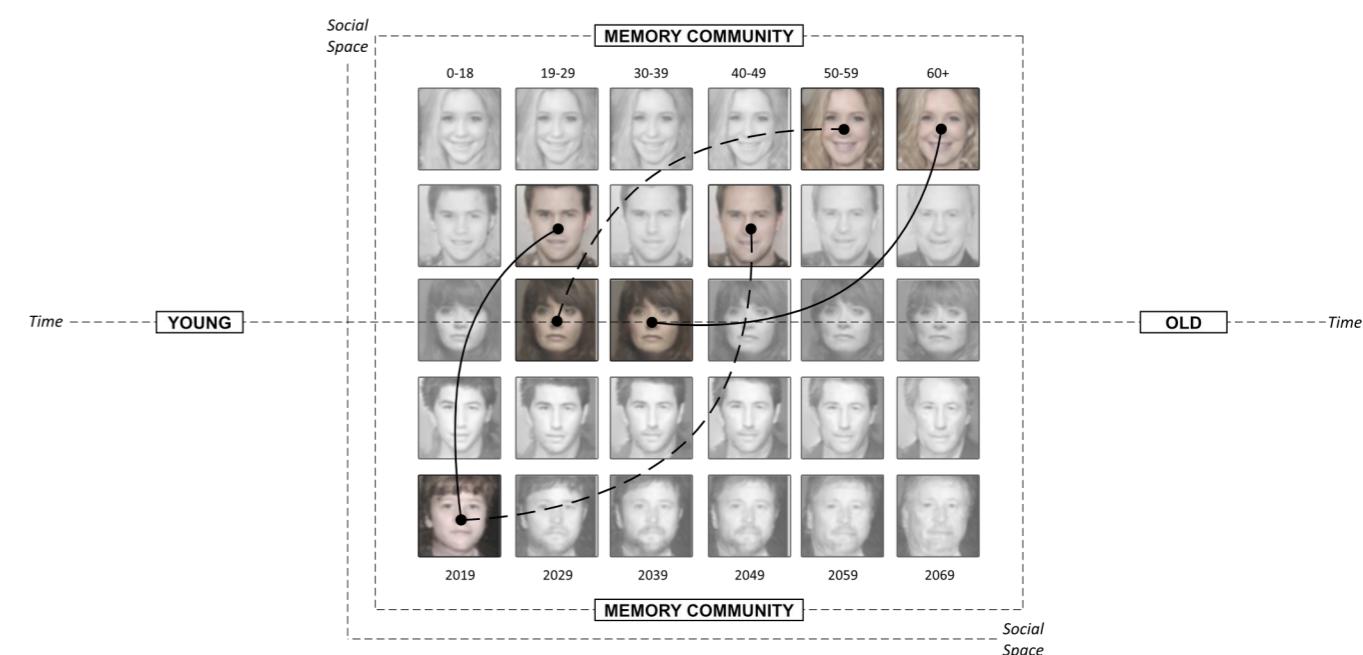
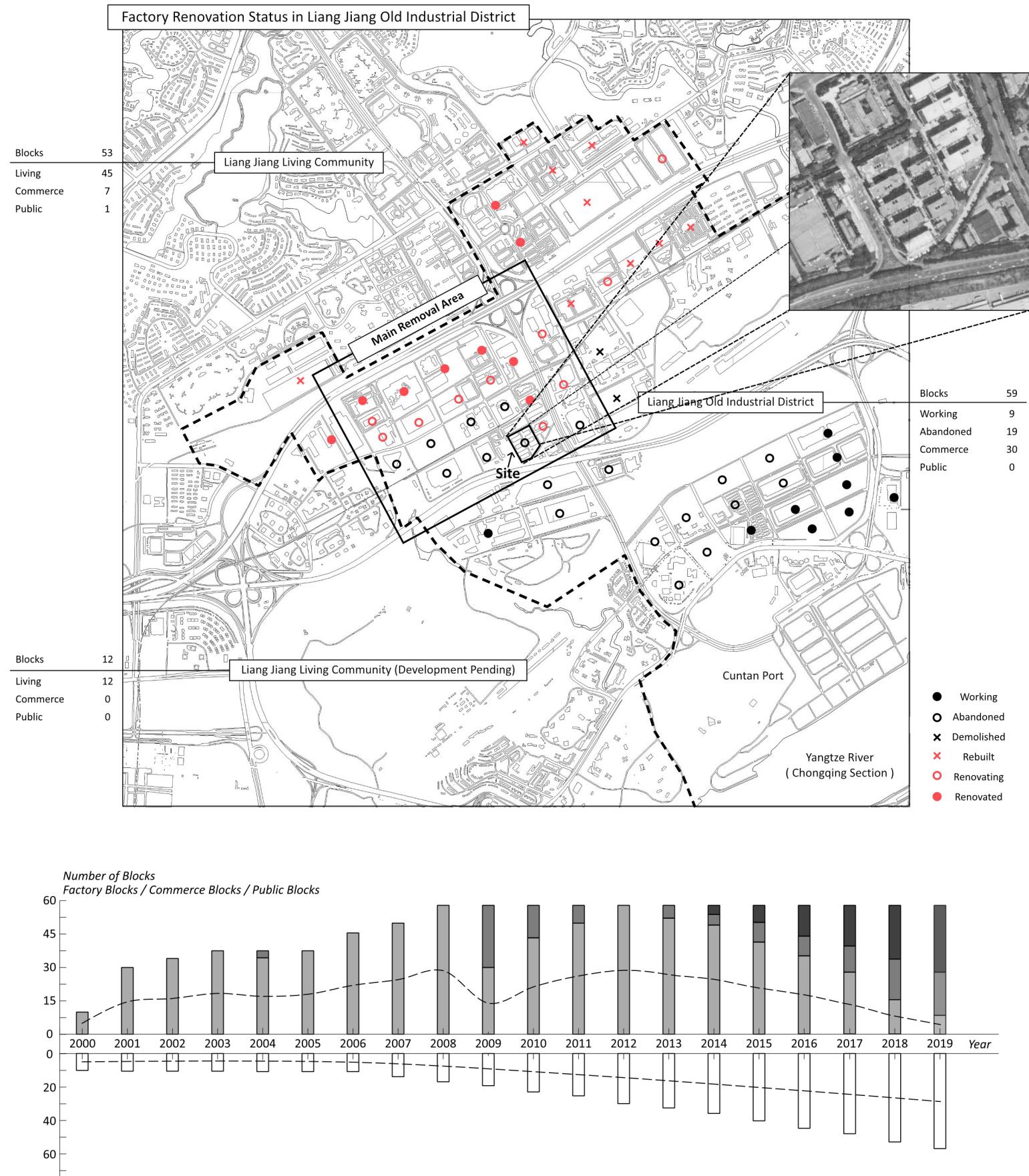


Figure. The Connection among Citizens in Memory Community crossing Space-Time

Removal of Industrial District and Growing Real Estates in Liang Jiang New Area (Space-Time Reality)

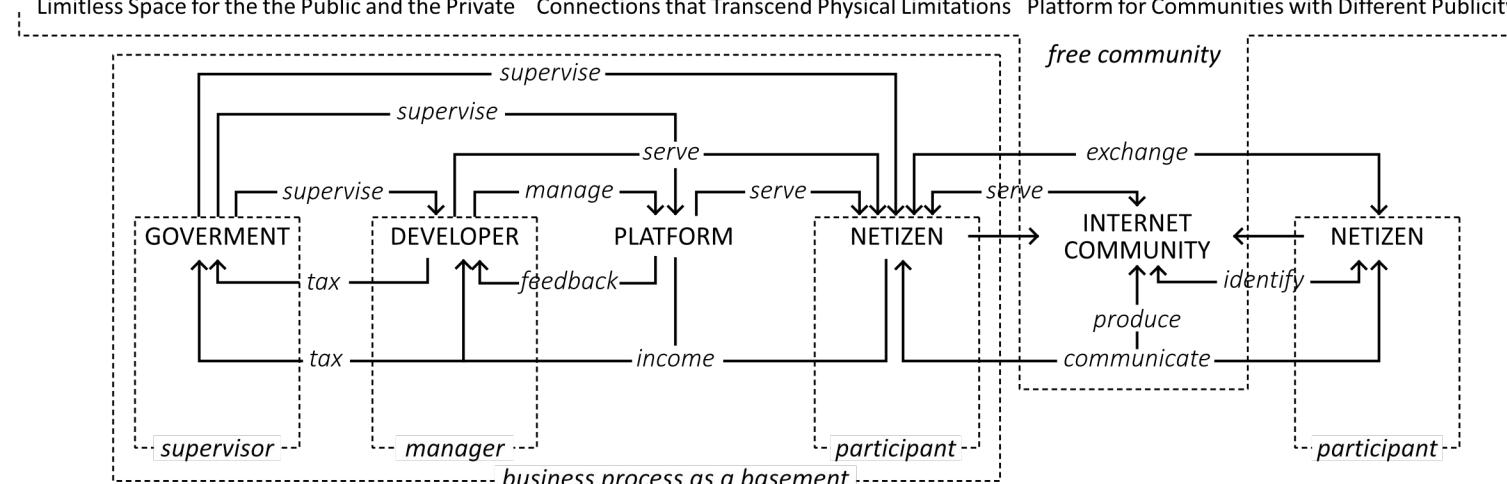
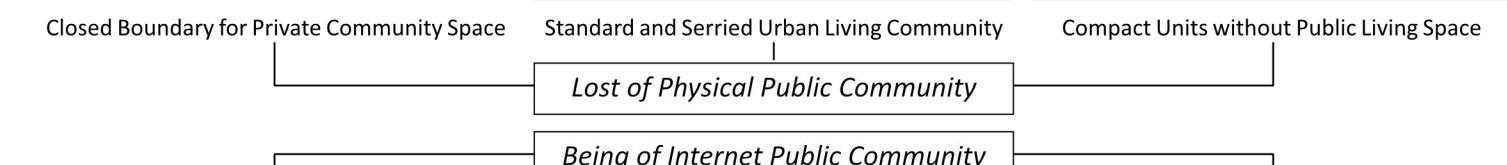
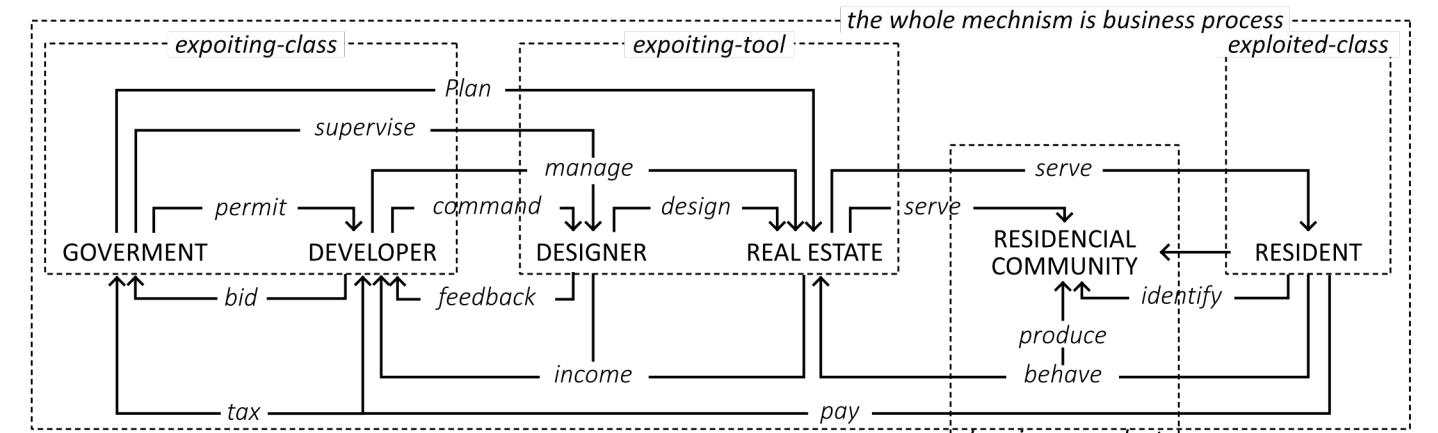
With the expansion of Chongqing's urban boundaries, the old industrial area, Liang Jiang New Area are facing migration and are gradually replaced by modern high-density residential communities, the real estates. Many industrial plants have been demolished or renovated to serve new residential communities. In this process, many old Danwei (working unit) communities built around factories will be or have been replaced by residential communities, and public community relations in the region are faced with new organization and planning.



The Lost of Physical Public Community in the Real Estate and Internet Development (Deconstruction)

China's real estate industry is a pure capital housing system. In order to gain more economic profits, developers often try to cram as many residential units as possible into a limited area. As a result, the design of settlements tends to become utilitarian and mechanistic, which indirectly reduces the possibility of physical public space and communities construction. The development of the Internet industry has provided another possibility for the establishment of regional communities. Eventually, community space in Chinese towns and cities is being shifted.

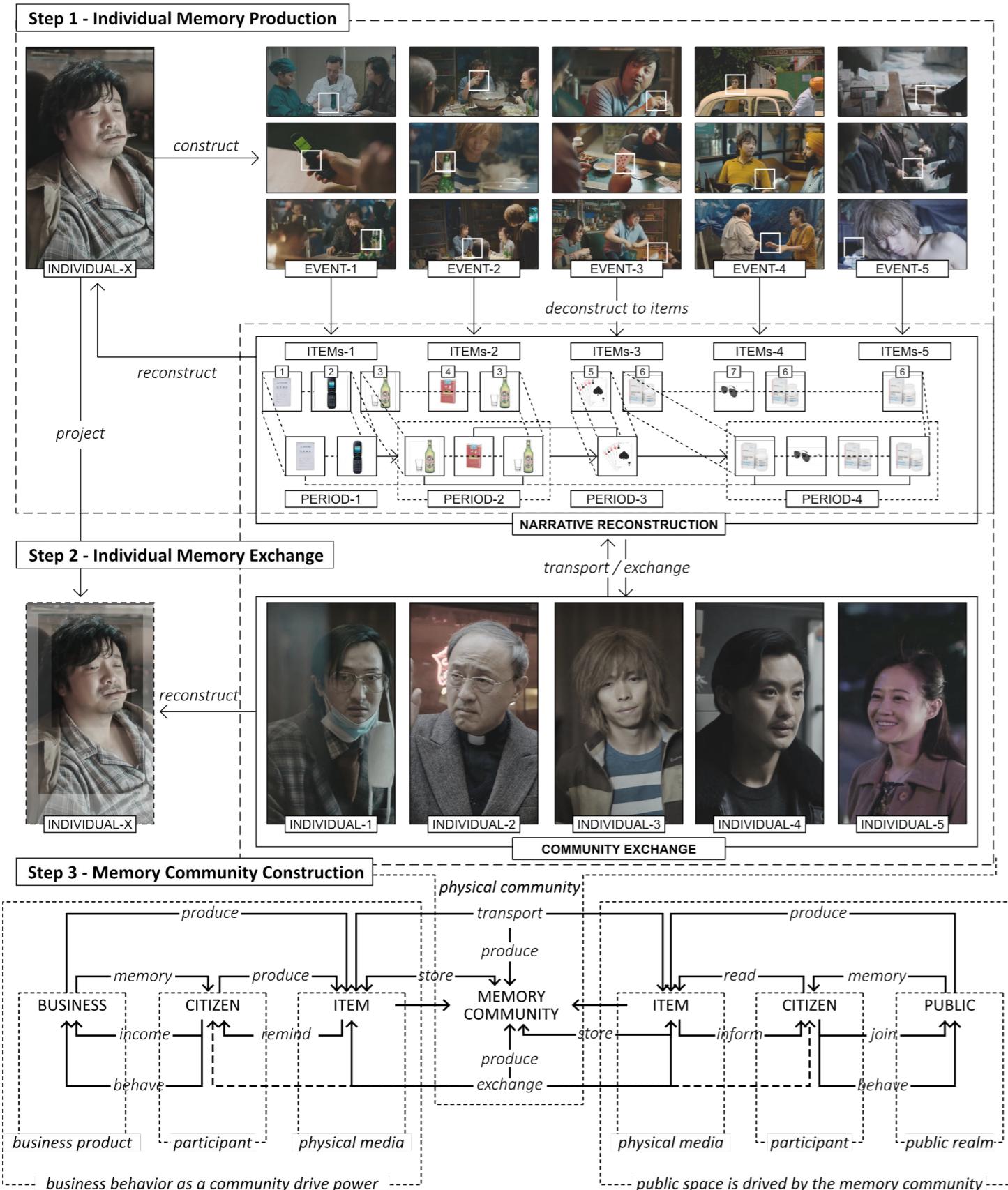
[1] Modern Urban Real Estate Mechanism Leads to Exploit of Public Interests



[2] Internet Replaces the Missing Public Community because of Free Open Community

New Physical Public Community based on Individual Physical Media Memory System (Reconstruction)

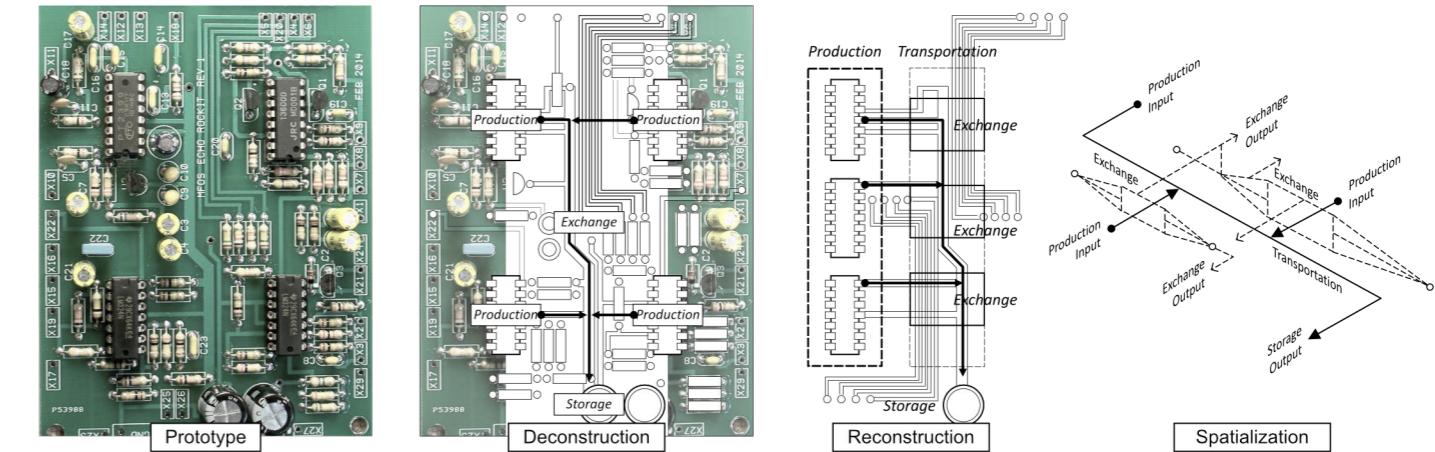
This design attempts to propose a new model for the establishment of physical public communities. In an era where human connections are being virtualized, the production of personal material media connects people in a physical way. The production of physical media is based on individual memories and experiences, which are reorganized and then transported, exchanged and stored to complete the construction of the entire physical public community. Community behavior is defined as a series of mechanized processes that help individuals to perform community imagination and complete community production.



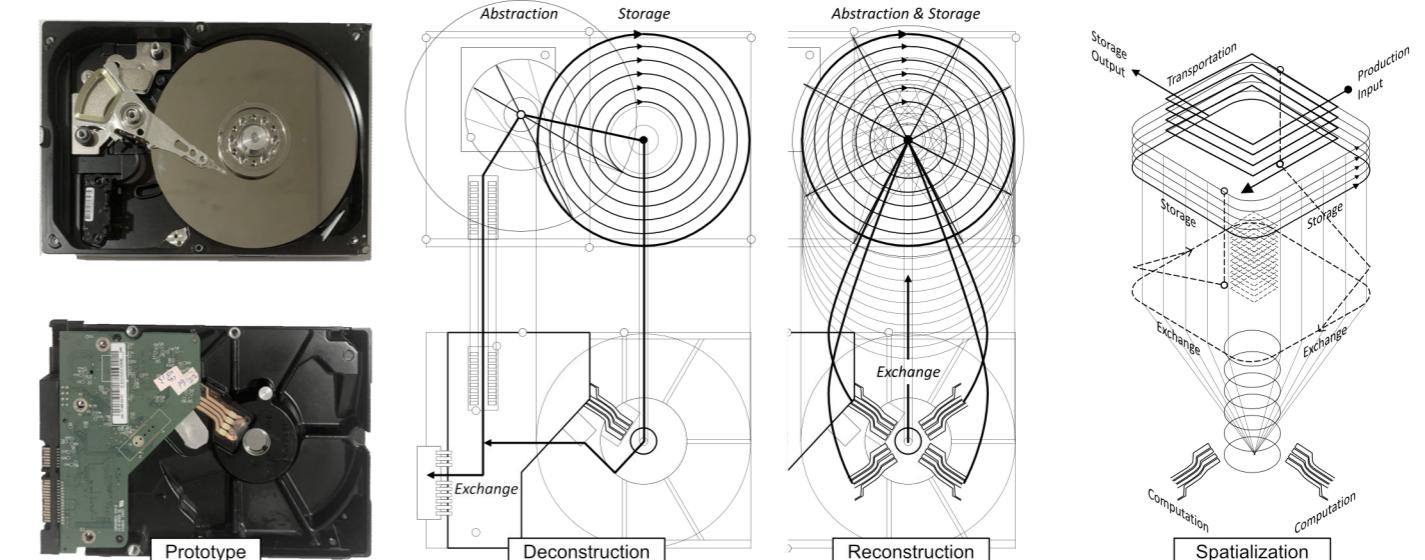
From Medium Prototype to Community Space

The specific spatial mechanism in the design stems from the systematic study of memory media. Through the deconstruction and reconstruction of three typical memory production media, namely circuit board, mechanical hard disk and stack printer, the prototype of mechanical process with production, transmission, exchange and storage as the main core steps was obtained and spatialized, finally becoming an important part of community space. These prototypes are pieced together and organized on the whole based on the community production theory, and finally form the whole memory community system.

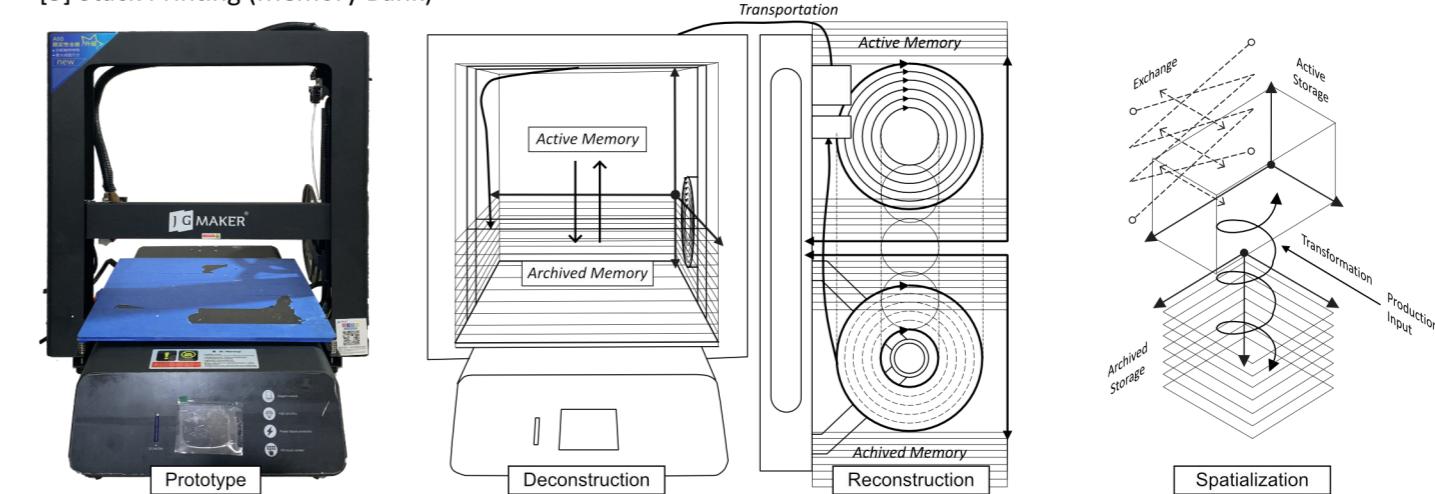
[1] Circuit Board (Memory Production Line)



[2] Mechanical Hard Disk (Memory Sphere)

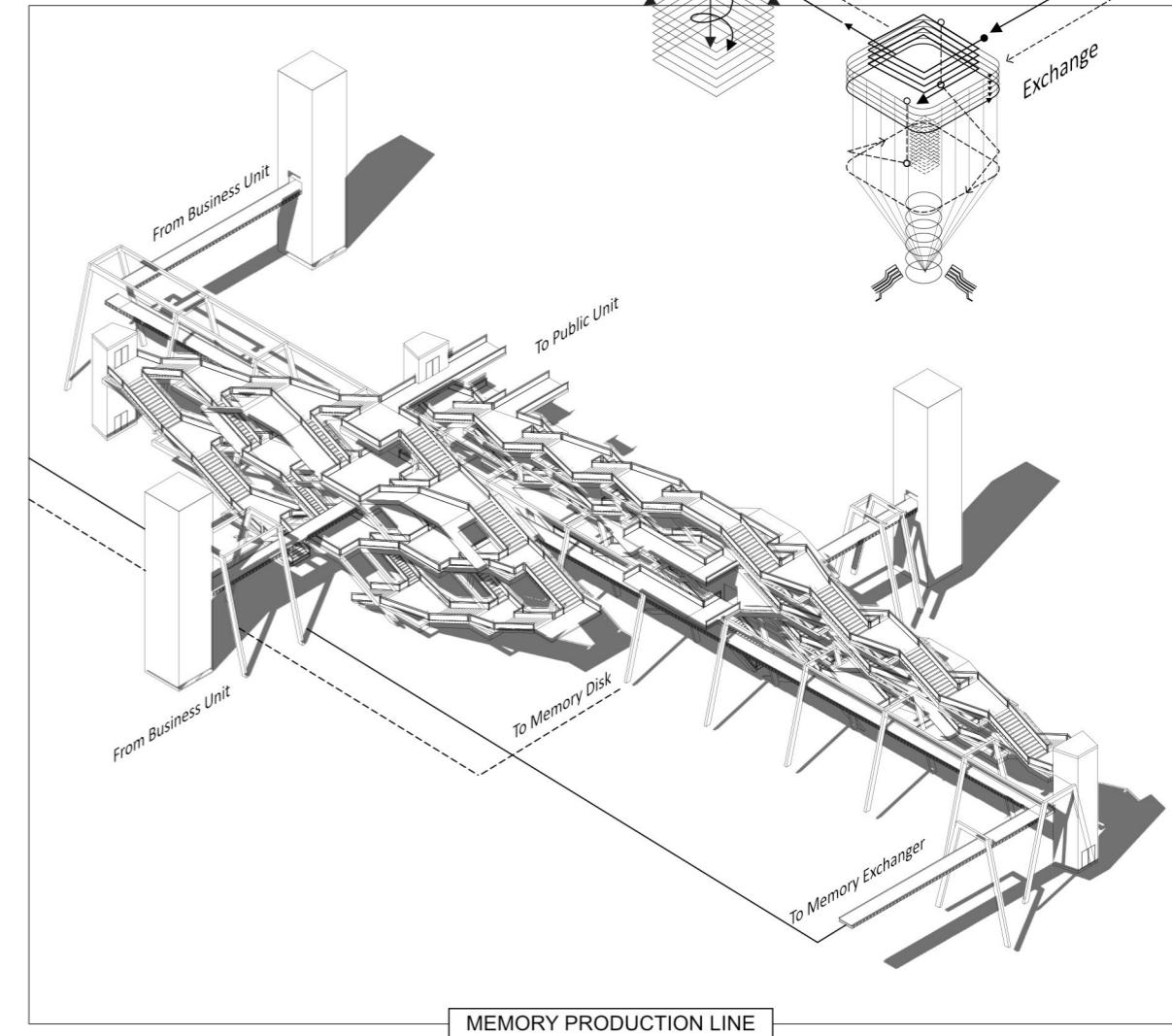
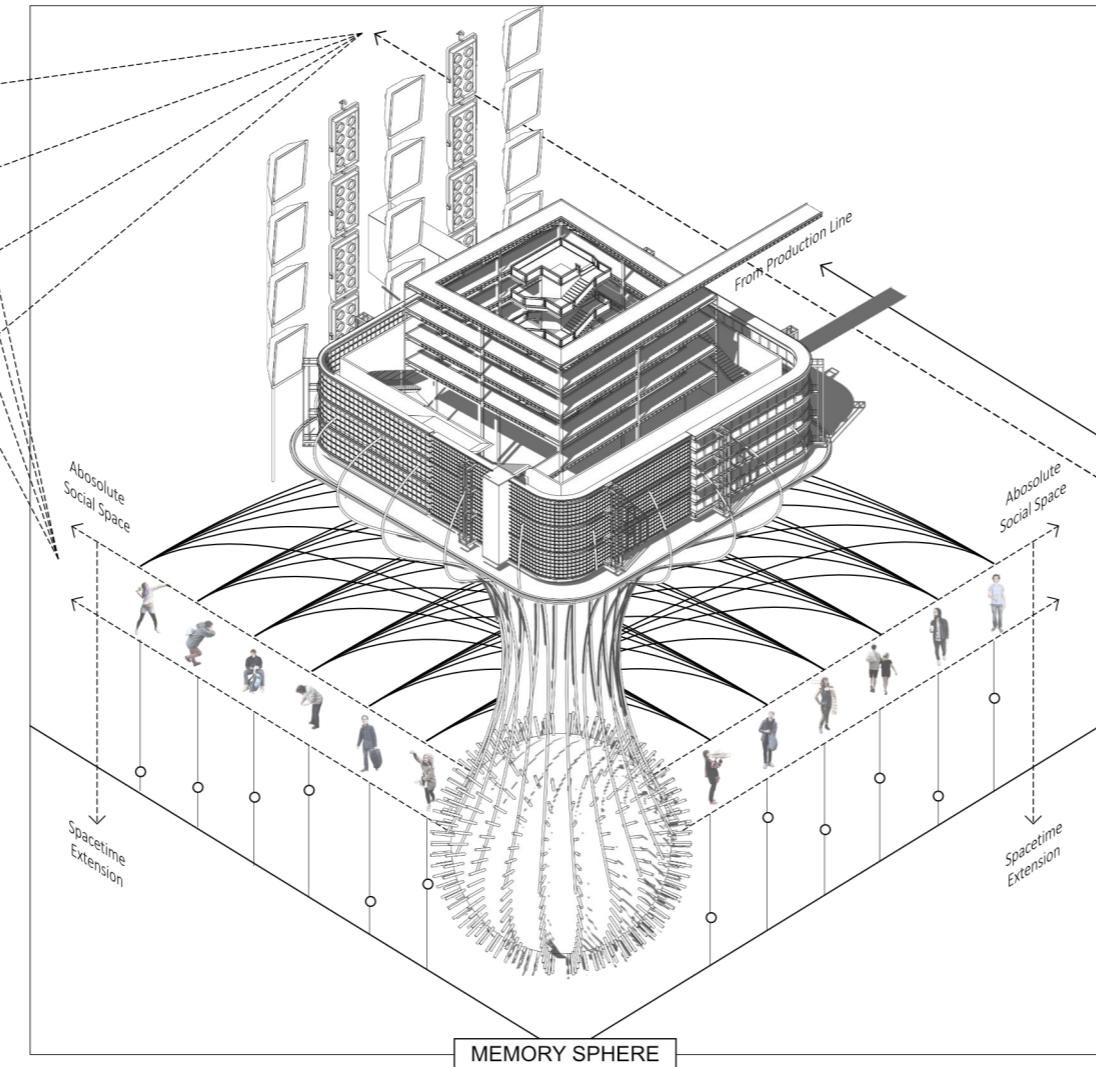
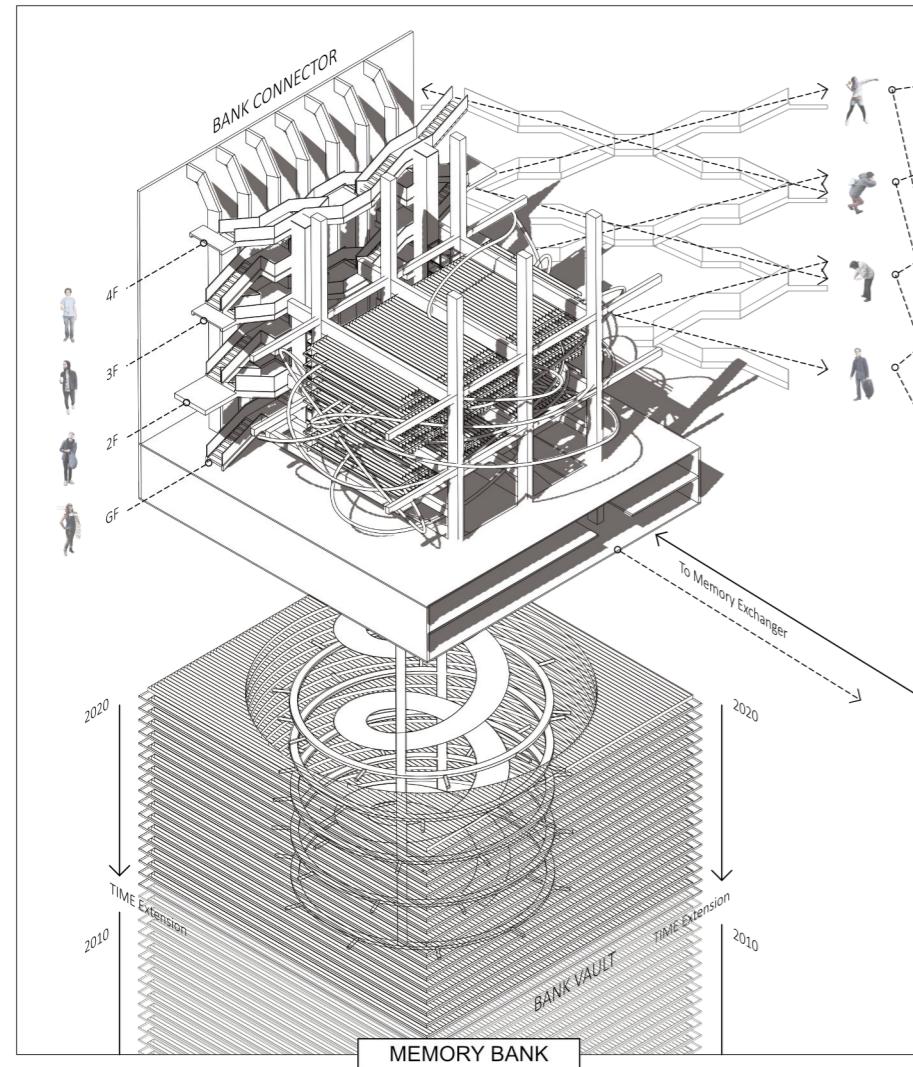


[3] Stack Printing (Memory Bank)

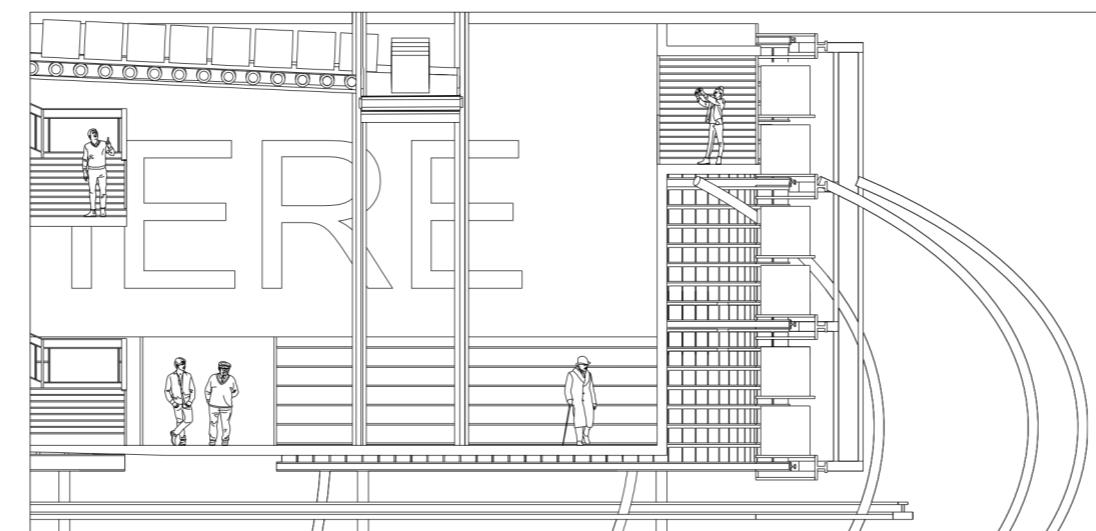
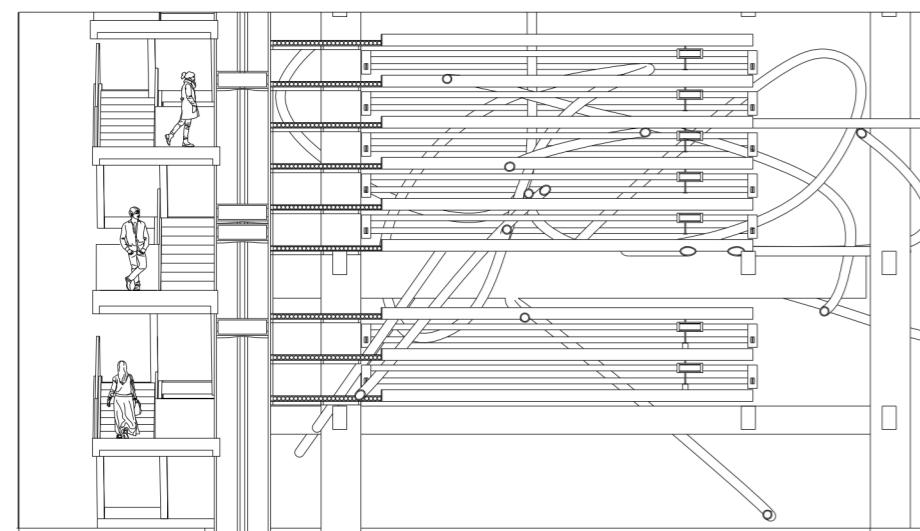


Memory Community System Reconstruction

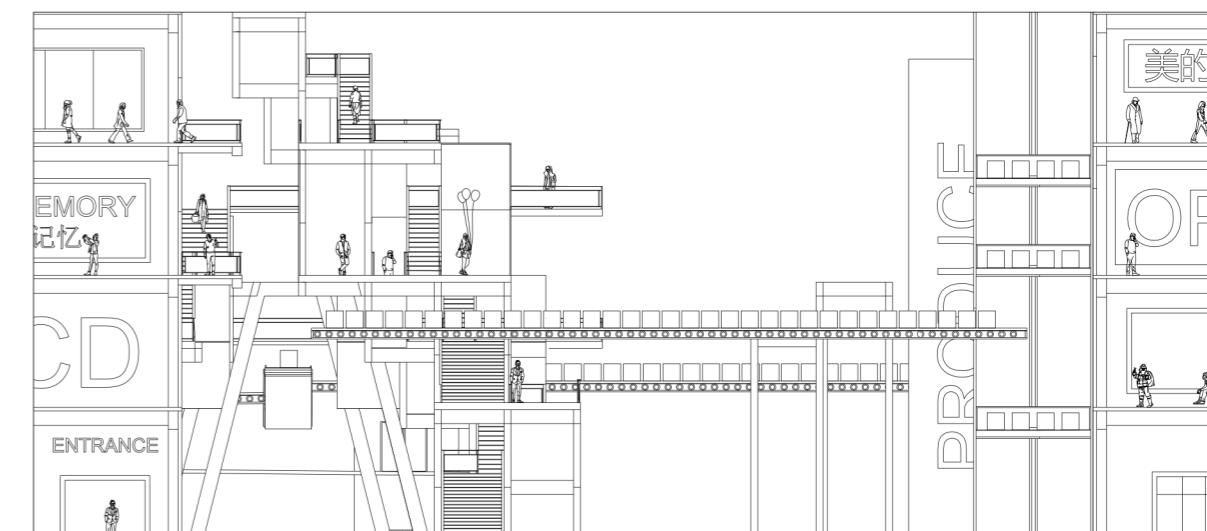
Based on the prototype of three kinds of memory media, the memory community system with production, exchange and storage as the main body is generated. In such a system, person-to-person communication is transformed into person-to-thing communication and becomes part of the overall community production. From a macro point of view, physical media streamlines and crowd streamlines interweave through the whole system, fully providing people-to-thing communication opportunities in different forms in each process of community production.



The storage system provides both active memory and archived memory, which can be selected by the physical media owner. The active memory is built into the structural framework of the original factory, combined with a staircase system, which can be visited by anyone at any time. The archived memory is built underground, accessible only to the owner, providing an individual privacy service to the physical medium.



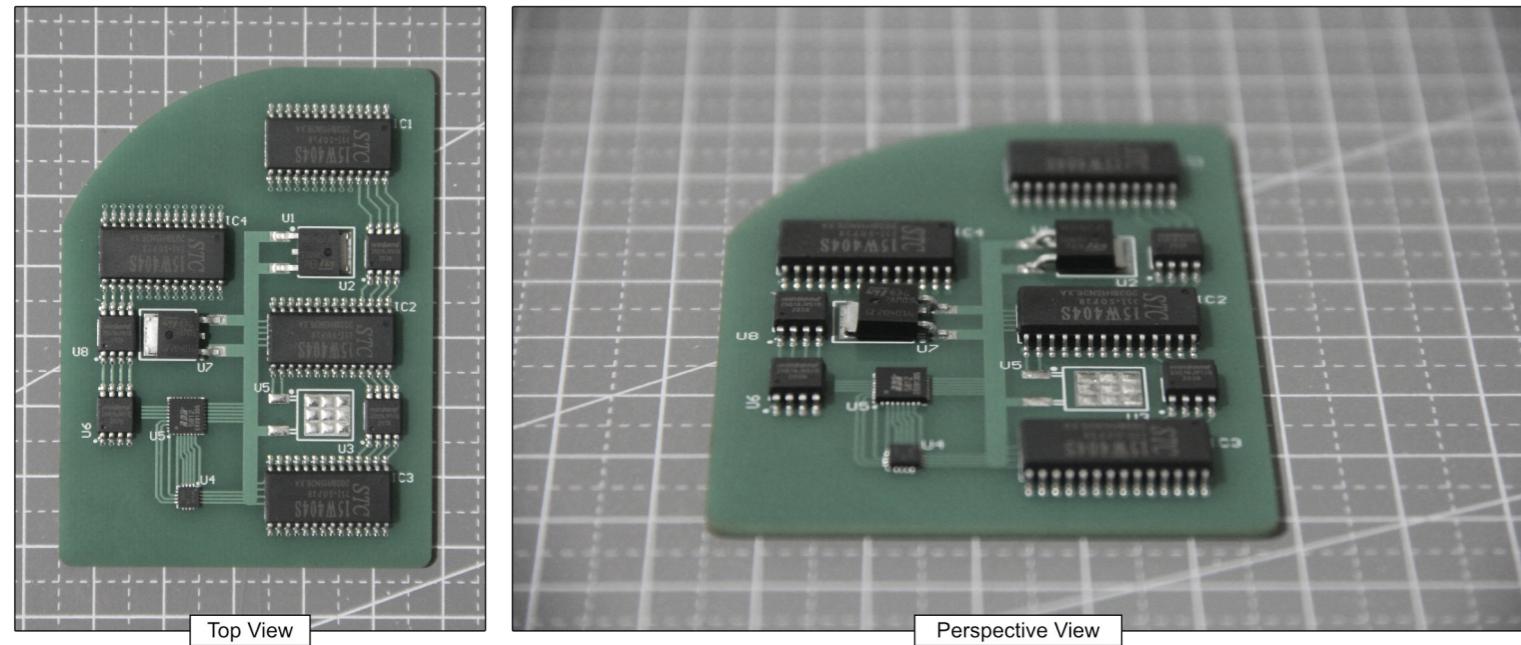
The Memory Sphere provides open space for the exchange of material media. As a kind of public sphere, it is used for public communication between people and between people and things. It is also a place for the transition and display of material media. All physical media, after produced, are publicly exchanged and displayed here, and eventually stored in the Memory Bank. The circular transportation track forms an open platform in the middle, providing space for people to communicate.



Site Model of Memory Community - Site Systematic Design from Circuit Principle

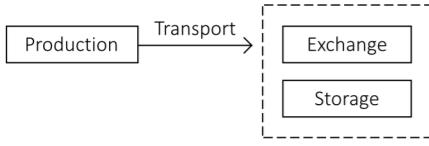
The memory community production mechanism, which is based on production, transportation, exchange and storage, is transformed into the circuit board design, and finally applied to the site by projection. The circuit principle provides a good framework for the systematic design of the site. Combined with the existing environment and memory community production mechanism on the site, the circuit schematic diagram was designed, providing an important reference for the systematic design of the site in terms of form and function. The two form a mapping relationship.

[1] Site Circuit Board Model

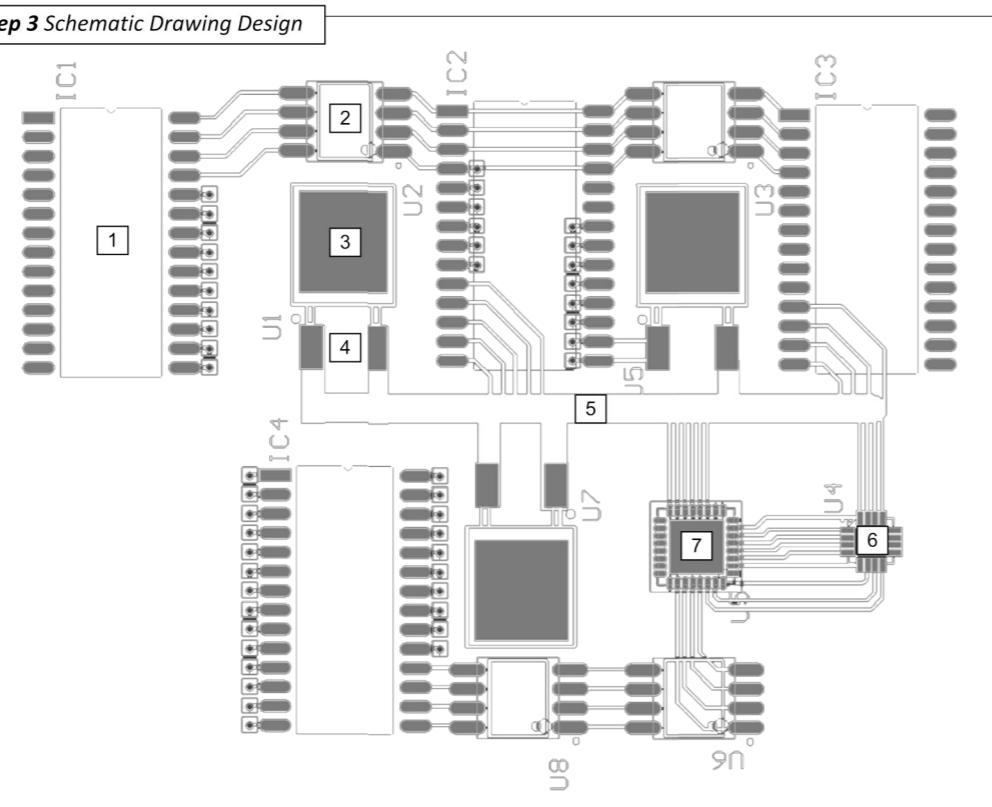


[2] Site System Schematic Generation

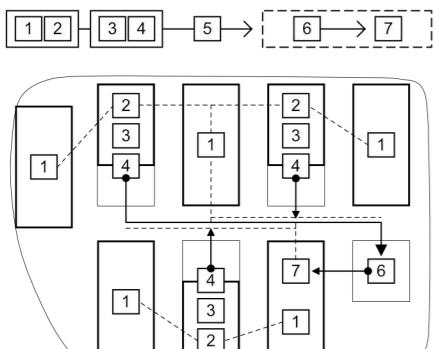
Step 1 Main Mechanism



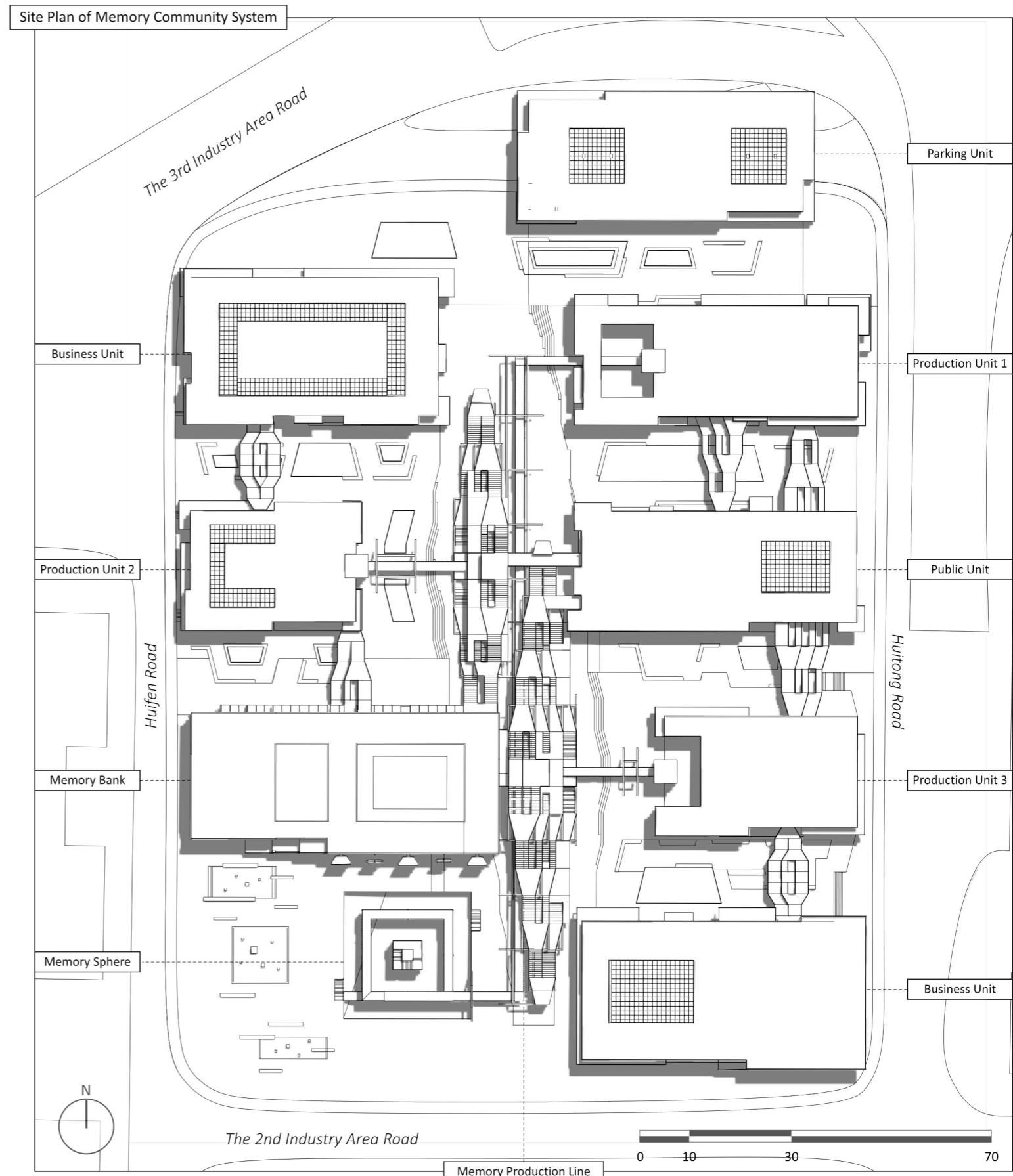
Step 3 Schematic Drawing Design



Step 2 Site Subtask Arrangement



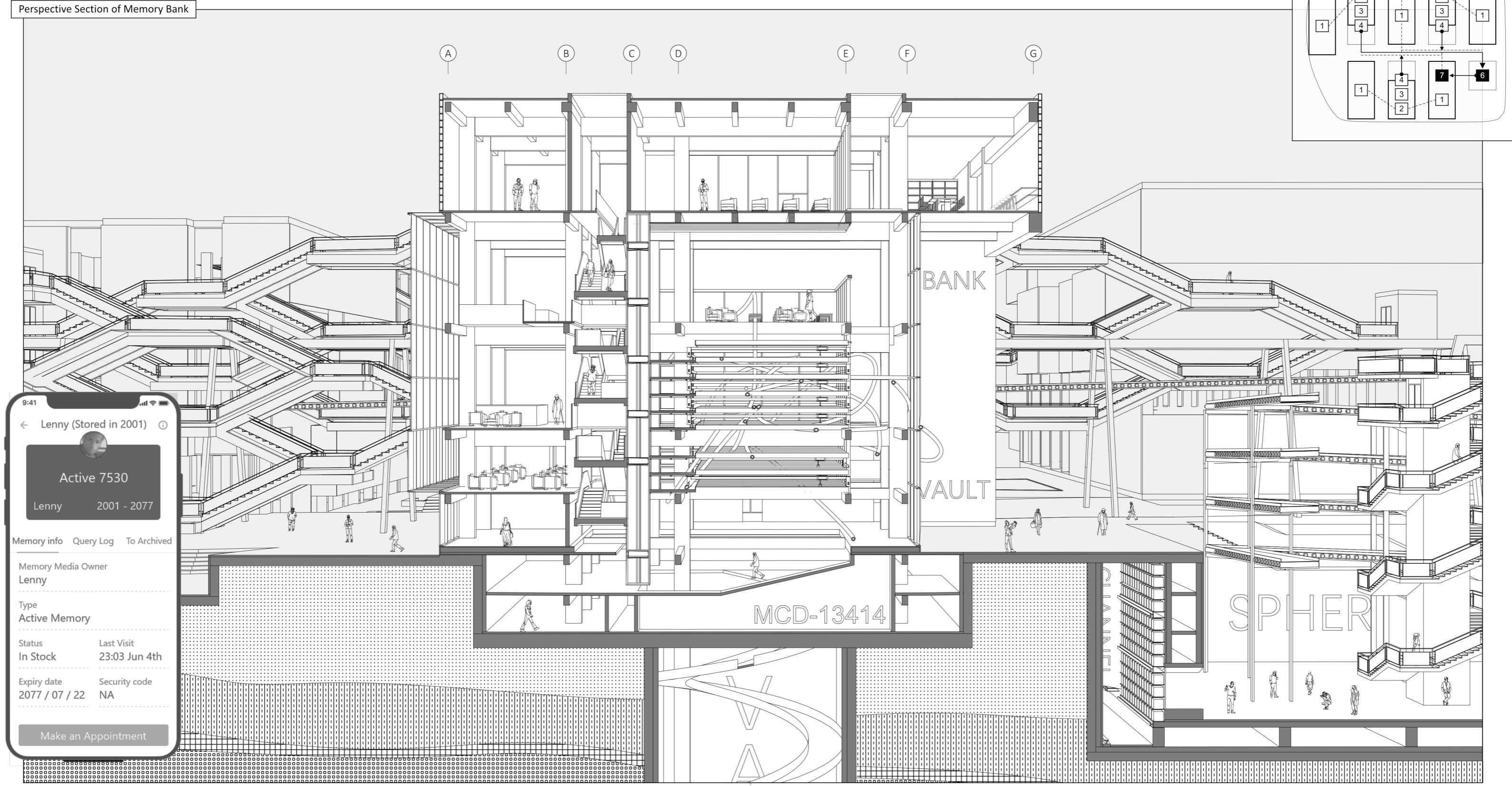
1 Public / Business Space
 2 Transition Space
 3 Production Factory
 4 Factory Outlet
 5 Transportation Bridge
 6 Memory Sphere
 7 Memory Bank



Memory Bank - Storage Device in a Framework of Abandoned Factory

The Memory Bank is built within the structural framework of an old factory building. As the terminal of the entire memory production line, the Memory Bank is responsible for the final storage of individual memories. People can come here to query and extract the physical medium of memory from the memory community. There are two main types of storage. The first is Active Memory. For Active Memory, these physical media can be extracted and read by anyone at will, which is a completely open system and provides open areas of communication in conjunction with various service Spaces and public Spaces within the building. The second is Archived Memory, which is stored in such a way that the memory can only be retrieved by a limited person, as a way of storing the memory as a medium, either individually or collectively.

These two storage modes can be flexibly converted at any time, depending on the personal needs of the memory media owner. In terms of spatial organization, the Memory Bank and Memory Sphere are connected by underground channels. Underground channels are not only the transmission channel of Memory material media, but also the channel for people to walk through the two places. As the two most important places in the whole memory community, the strengthened traffic connection is conducive to the operation and production of the whole memory community.



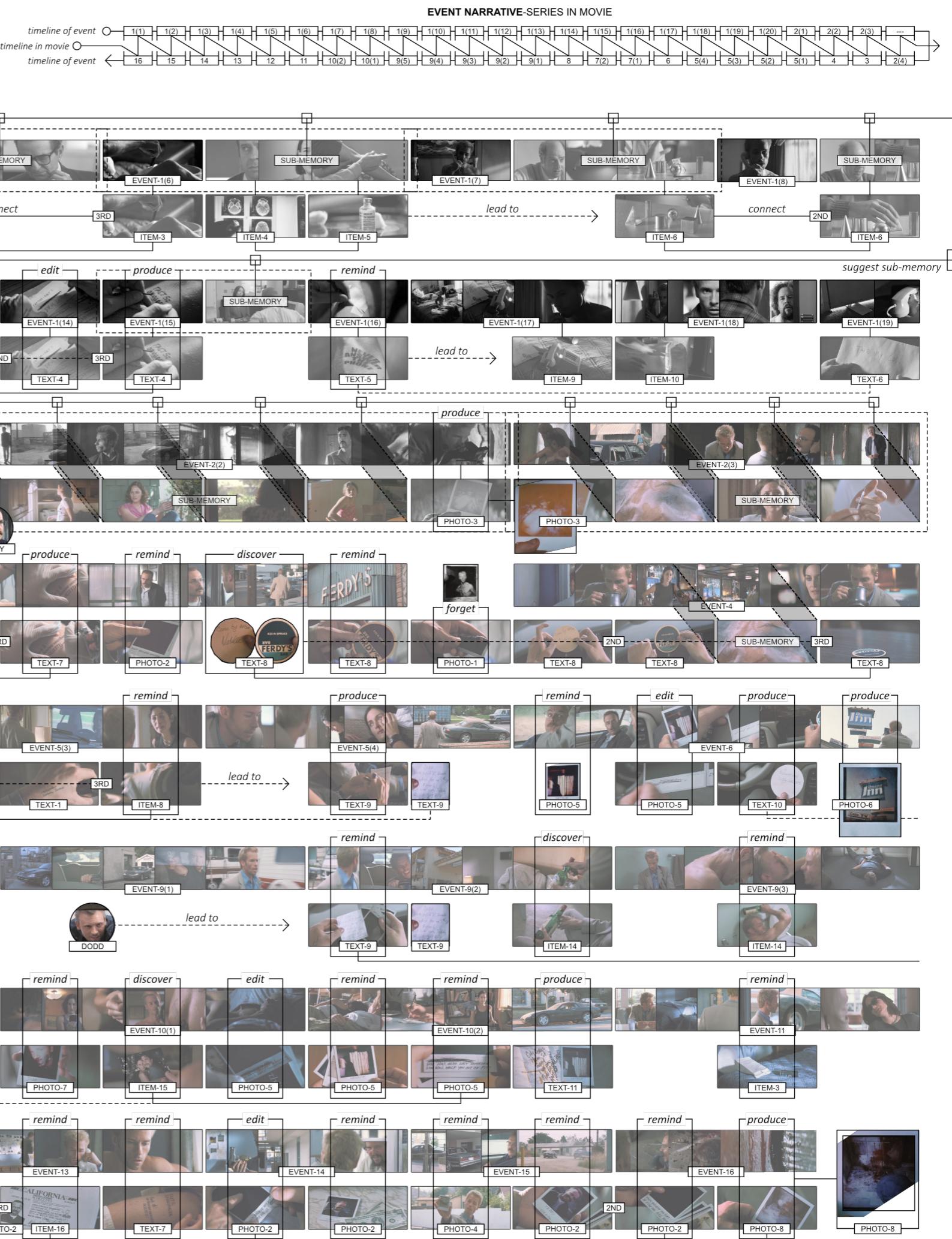
People can use apps on smart phones to maintain information connection with the Memory community. One of the functions is to query the storage of Memory media in the Memory Bank. People can make an appointment with the App to receive a specific Memory media.

To Archived Memory Space - Memory Vault

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Individual Physical Media Memory System in Memento - A Literary Projection of Personality

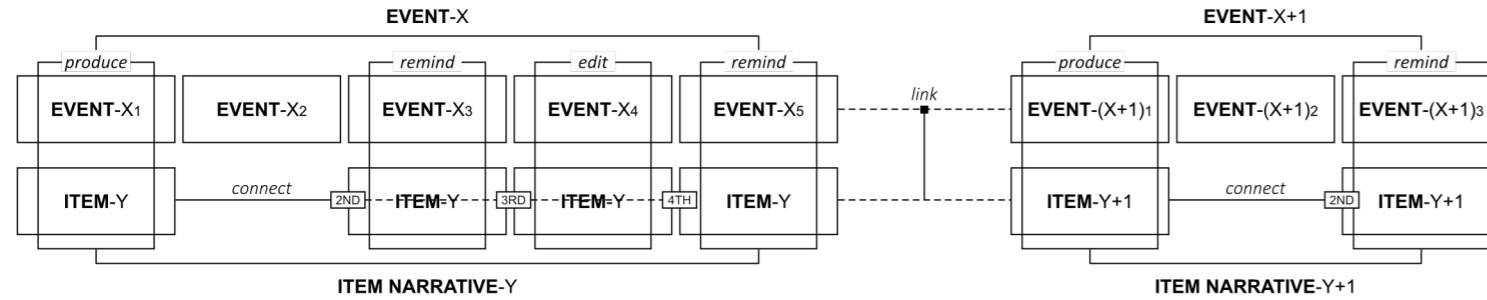
In the film *Memento*, Lenny, the hero, as a patient with traumatic memory loss, loses his ability to remember after a certain point. Although he has only a short memory, he has created a memory system for himself using physical media such as photos, texts and items, which is a process of reconstruction and deconstruction of reality. There is a huge deviation between his personal narration and reality, but it is a good literary projection and transformation of his individual personality.



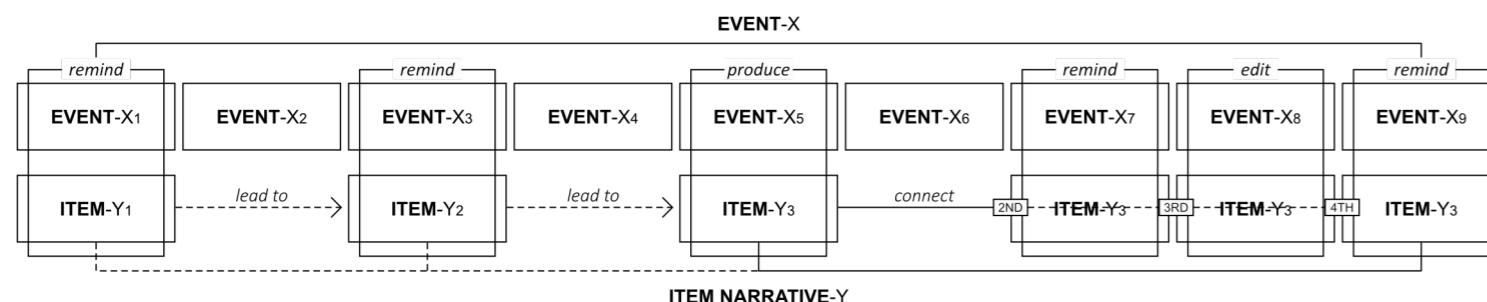
Narrative Structure of Individual Physical Media Memory System in Momento (Deconstruction)

The physical media memory system created by the hero Lenny in the movie Momento has a hidden grammatical structure. Lenny takes photos as the main physical medium, and combines text and other types of objects to complete the reality reconstruction with strong self-attributes. Director Nolan combines this grammatical structure with the film narrative, and reconstructs Lenny's life for us. In the film, an event can be projected onto one or more objects and eventually strung together into a complete narrative.

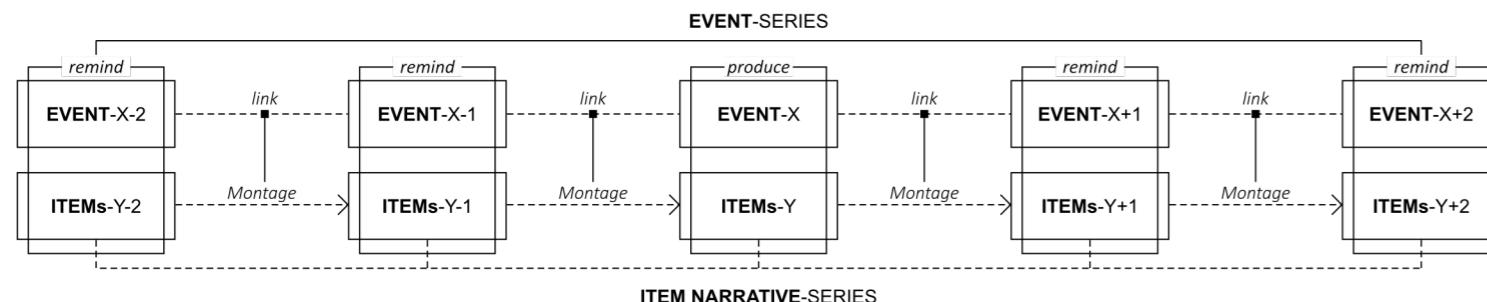
[1] Single Item for a Single Event: Produce, Edit and Remind



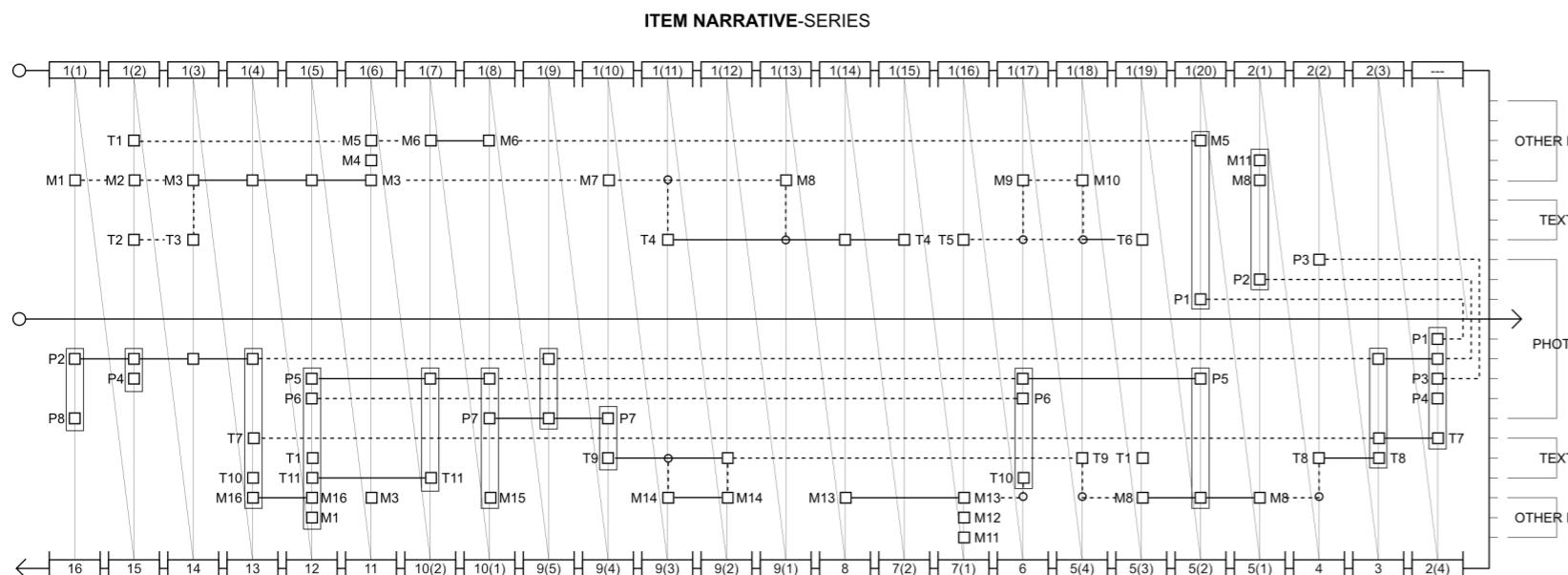
[2] Multiple Items for a Single Event: Casual Relationship



[3] Multiple Items for Multiple Events: Event Narrative and Item Projection



[4] Reconstruction of Events from Items: Item Montage Narrative



Individual Memory Production - Narrative Reorganization (Reconstruction)

After completing the narrative deconstruction of physical media in series in Momento, individual memory production started from the eight photos made by Lenny himself to find the connections between different material media and reconstruct the whole narrative. The whole memory production device is divided into two modes. The Main Narrative mode leads the bystanders to read the narrative forward, while the Hidden Narrative mode leads the bystanders to explore the hidden narrative line through the laser pointer to explore the positions of different photos.

