Shared Rhythms- A time based housing

Time-fused Housing is a co-housing project located in the Talat Phlu area, on the Thonburi side of Bangkok. It functions as a house for low income users who are active during different times of day. Additionally it utilizes abandoned areas, introduces green spaces and provides public space for the community. The project offers affordable, communal housing tailored to fit the needs of the community.

Talat Phlu used to be one of the biggest riverside markets in Bangkok. It was a key center for trade known for its main export which is betel leaves. The lifestyle of people was and still is directly intertwined with markets which are open throughout the whole day, it's a place where they gather, eat, sleep and work. Urbanization in Talat Phlu led to a significant shift in the community's dynamic, especially since the construction of Talat Phlu's Bridge, which led to new infrastructures, rising land prices and consequently the displacement of locals. Nowadays the area has a high density of infrastructure but a relatively low population. With many empty spaces in the area, locals have occupied abandoned places, making them their own and using them at different times, thus claiming both the physical space and the time they inhabit it.

The purpose of this housing project is to accommodate people who are active during different times of day. With varied living patterns, they can occupy different spaces at different times. This approach allows residents to feel that the environment and time is uniquely theirs.

The design is inspired by the traditional shophouse layout and people's living patterns. In shophouses, private activities such as sleeping and showering typically take place on the upper floors, while public activities like working, cooking, and gathering occur on the ground floor. I categorize the spaces based on their level of privacy, which is determined by the activities that take place there—sleeping, eating, cooking, cleaning, and gathering. This helps to allocate the spaces according to their functions and the needs of the residents. The new aggregation puts the private spaces in the center part of the structure creating a sense of privacy and safety, surrounded by shared spaces and green areas which are placed according to people's living pattern. I conceptualize each activity as a table structure, drawing inspiration from the lightweight structure of the site. These tables' concepts range from more private, inflexible spaces, like sleeping areas, to more flexible spaces, such as gathering areas, allowing for varying degrees of privacy and adaptability based on the activities they support. The housing sizes could vary, based on the number of activities each unit can accommodate within the available abandoned areas, with height limitation being the main constraint. In order to create a sense of community, larger units include areas for public activities, with usage varying by location. This approach allows residents to actively participate in the maintenance, tailoring spaces to their evolving needs, without specialized skills or costly materials. This ongoing adaptability could even lead into possible long-term occupancy and create an environment where housing can evolve with its residents' lives and community needs.

Time-fused housing is a solution to the consequences of urbanization in Talat Phlu. It complies with people's living patterns, utilizes unused spaces and provides public spaces for the community. The flexible layout allows residents to adapt spaces to meet their needs and could develop further into long-term occupancy. This adaptability supports the evolving needs of both individuals, the community and its environment.