

Project Title: Muay Metropolis

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Extrastatecraft Infrapolitics vs. the Critical Project

This project reimagines the infrastructure of the Muay Thai stadium not as a conventional building, but as a living vessel—an architectural embodiment of history, identity, and resilience. Situated adjacent to Bangkok's iconic Rajadamnern Stadium, the proposal responds to a site where generations of fighters have shaped a national legacy. Through a synthesis of narrative, ritual, and movement, the design transforms infrastructure into cultural expression, celebrating the enduring relevance of Muay Thai across Thailand. Referencing precedents such as the Downtown Athletic Club, which transcended its role as a mere sports facility to become part of the urban mythos, the stadium aspires to function similarly—as both an arena and a cultural landmark. It explores Muay Thai's evolution from a form of wartime defense to a globally recognized performance art, embedding both tangible and intangible heritage into its spatial framework. The program includes a central fighting arena, training facilities, medical and recovery zones, as well as public areas such as restaurants and merchandise spaces. Spatially, the design balances stillness and motion, ritual and spontaneity—reflecting the dual character of Muay Thai as both martial discipline and expressive art. Conceptually, the project draws inspiration from John Hejduk's *Masque*, adopting a narrative-driven, poetic approach to architecture. Initial design studies involved the reinterpretation of Hejduk's allegorical figures into three-dimensional forms—architectural “characters” that merge function with symbolism. These evolved into spatial elements that frame the stadium as a stage for cultural memory, transformation, and resilience. Ultimately, the Muay Thai Megastructure positions itself as a global architectural statement—one that resists passive contextual adaptation and instead asserts a distinct, mobile identity. As a cultural monolith, it stands as a living testament to Muay Thai's spirit and the power of architecture to convey universal human values through form, ritual, and narrative.

