

Project Abstract: UNFOLD BOBAE 1890

The Memory through Fabric: A Spatial Requiem for Bobae Market

In the heart of Bangkok, along the Khlong Saen Saeb canal, Bobae Market has long thrived as a center for textile trade and cultural exchange. Facing the pressures of modernization, its unique identity is slowly being forgotten. This design project reimagines a traditional Thai townhouse as a vertical museum, an architectural narrative that traces the memory of Bobae Market through time. Inspired by *Theatre of the Lost Species*, the project explores memory loss and extinction, using fabric as a symbolic and physical medium.

The four-story townhouse is wrapped in textiles, with each floor representing a different phase of the market's history. The ground floor, bare and ruined, symbolizes the forgotten early days of chaotic trade. The second floor, cloaked in silk, honors the arrival of Chinese silk through an interactive exhibition of its production process. The third floor, covered in sail cloth, evokes the night market, with fabric creating dim, maze-like paths where visitors discover hidden stalls and rest areas. Finally, the fourth floor is wrapped in burned cloth, symbolizing the potential erasure of Bobae's cultural identity as it's transformed into a commercial complex. Inside, the space becomes a contemplative museum, displaying artifacts and memories of the market's past.

This project serves as both a tribute and a warning preserving Bobae's cultural fabric before it disappears. Through immersive storytelling and material symbolism, the design invites visitors to reflect on what remains, what has been lost, and how urban spaces carry collective memory across time.

