

Design for This Century

Name: Zixuan Kevin Fan

NID: N00631555

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Response

For this week, the idea of *extratstatecraft* and the free zones are what interested me the most. Take Shenzhen, China as an example. Shenzhen was a small fishing village adjacent to Hong Kong decades ago. Through thirty years of development after being appointed as the first Free Economic Zone of China, Shenzhen went through dramatic changes both economically and culturally. It was no accident that such examples of free zones can be found in other parts of the world as well, Dubai for instance. The reason I think this kind of "extra state" or city outside of state is that countries do need the buffer, or grey area, for experimentation. It can be argued that all existing systems or institutions have flaws, therefore the philosophy behind such free zones is to create a experimenting land with relatively small area and small in impact in order to test out ideas or new forms of systems that would otherwise be too risky for the majority of the state. There is no difference between crafting a state and the research in science and technology. For long time, people have been separating the science of social issues as social science, different from the natural science, such as chemistry and physics. The success of free zones has proven that rigorous scientific approach and scientific thinking can be applied to any forms of design.