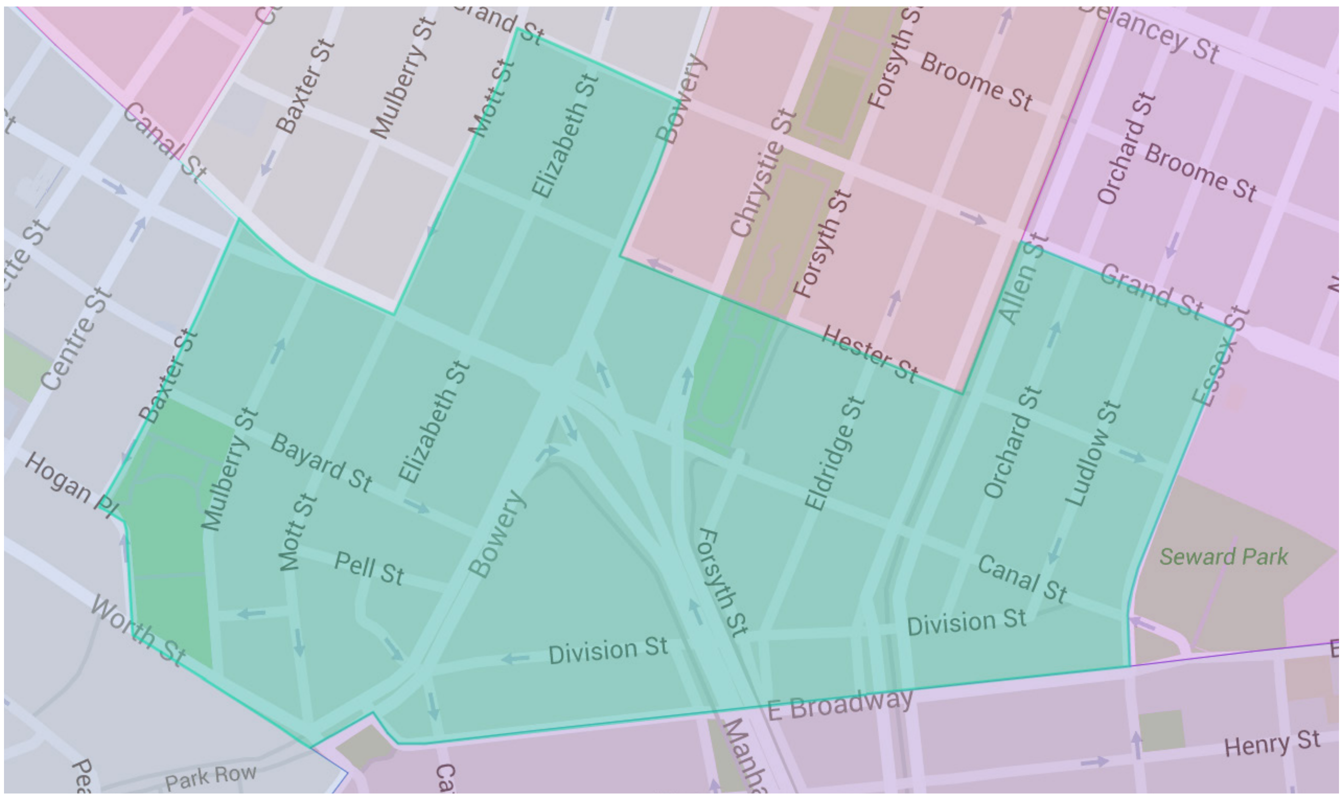
Resilience.

Illustrating the many personalities of a neighborhood on the rise.

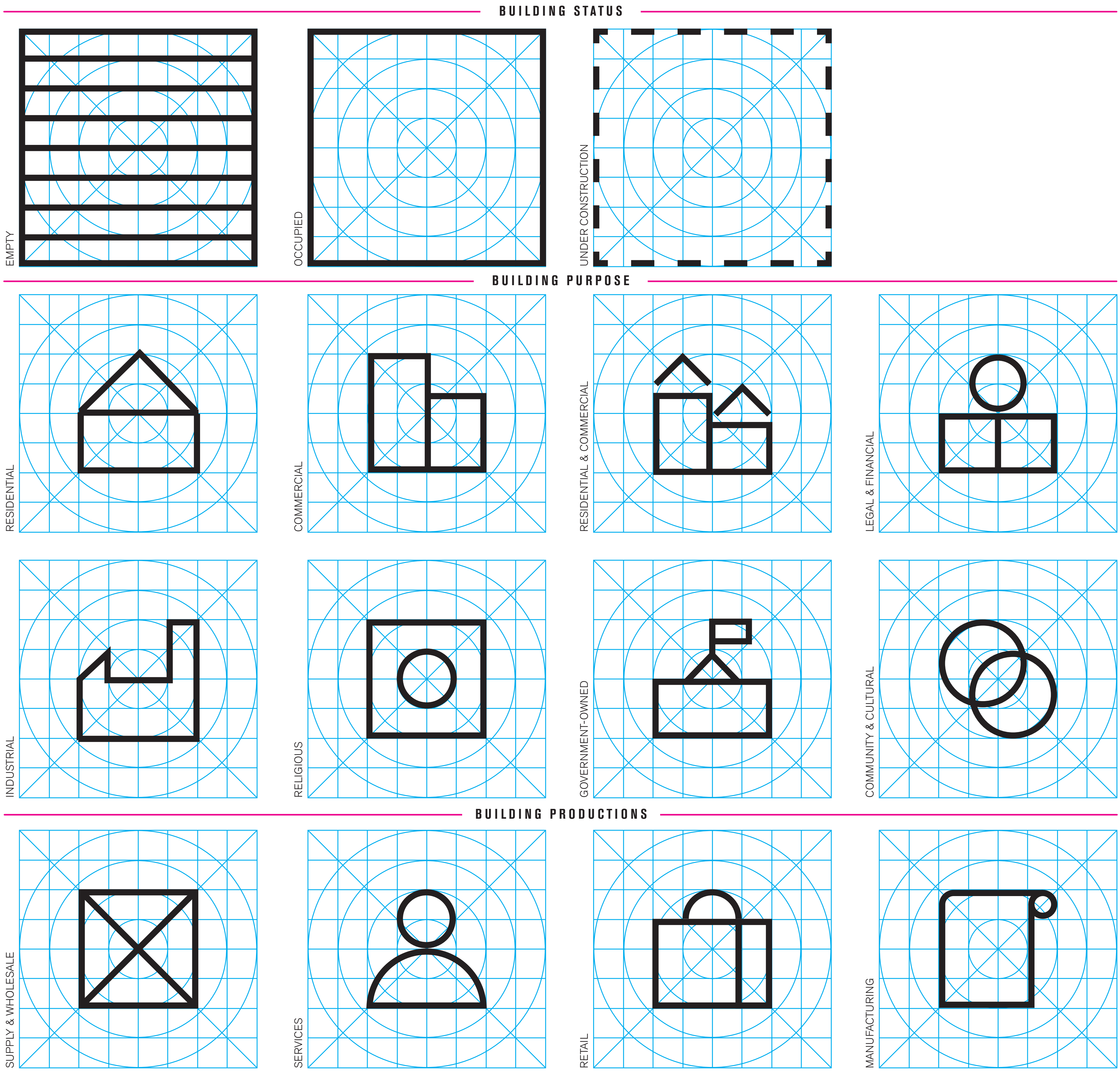
From the sunday dim-sum rush to the habitual mah-jong game in the park, New York's Chinatown is a place all its own. To a portion of the city's immigrant population, the area even seems like a home away from home. However, with negotiations against new zoning regulations gone awry, the exact definition of Chinatown seems to be shifting. Ancient awnings of laundromats and construction suppliers are being replaced with scaffolding and real estate advertisements as interest piques on the area's potential in the market. What then of the neighborhood pharmacy and of the neighborhood 99 cents store?

In the effort to illustrate this shift, this alphabet will try to manifest as an illustration of the area and what might be an untold resiliency in maintaining Chinatown as a home rather than the latter.

BELOW
An image capture from realtor.com.
http://www.realtor.com/local/Chinatown_New-York_NY/lifestyle


Grand St
Baxter St
Mulberry St
Mott St
Elizabeth St
Bowery
Chrystie St
Forsyth St
Broome St
Delancey St
Orchard St
Broome St
Canal St
Centre St
Forsyth St
Allen St
Grand St
Essex St
Hester St
Baxter St
Eldridge St
Orchard St
Ludlow St
Mulberry St
Bayard St
Elizabeth St
Hogan Pl
Mott St
Pell St
Bowery
Forsyth St
Canal St
Seward Park
Division St
Worth St
Division St
E Broadway
Henry St
Park Row

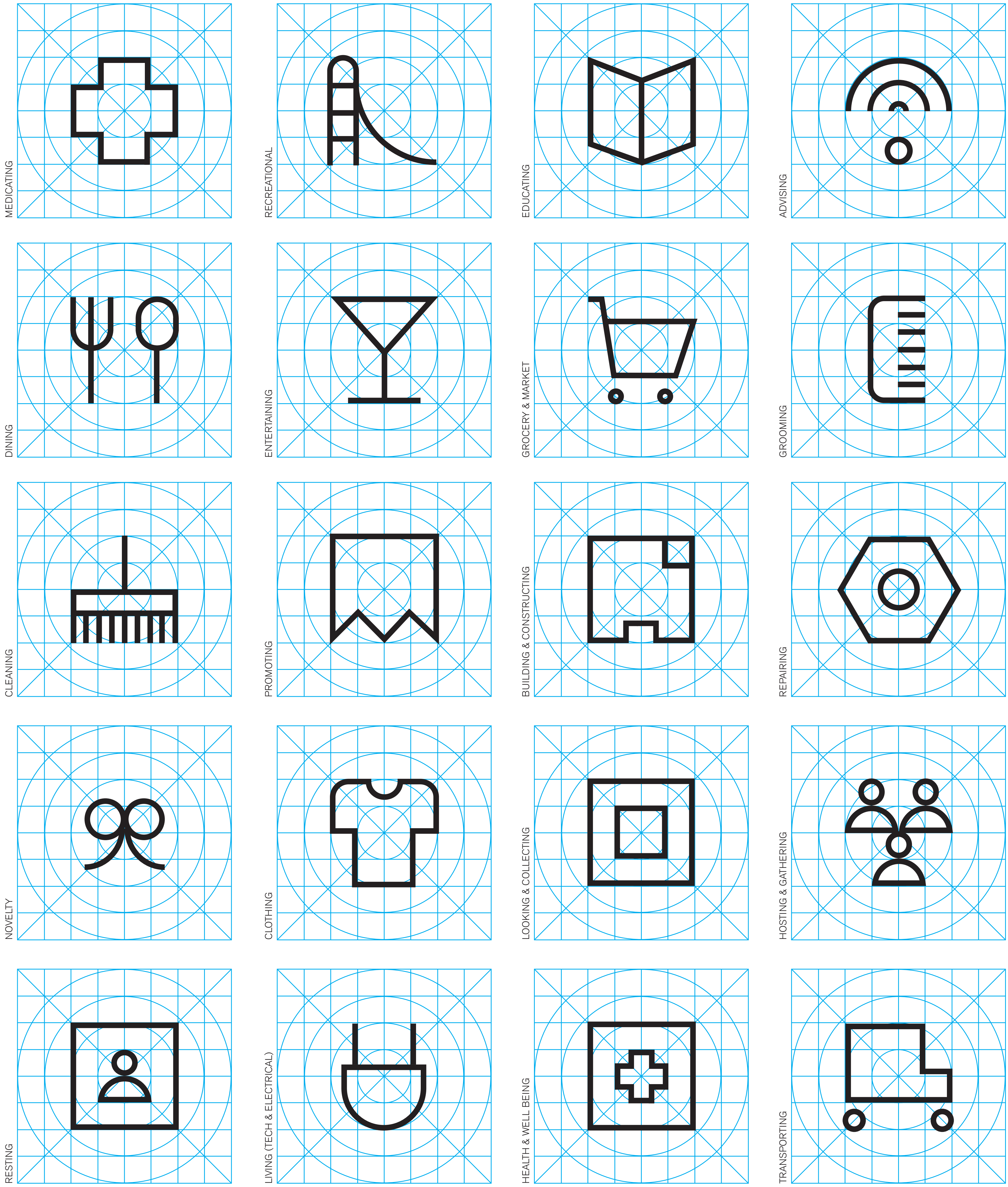
A.


BUILDING STATUS
EMPTY
OCCUPIED
UNDER CONSTRUCTION
BUILDING PURPOSE
RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
LEGAL & FINANCIAL
INDUSTRIAL
RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT-OWNED
COMMUNITY & CULTURAL
BUILDING PRODUCTIONS
SUPPLY & WHOLESALE
SERVICES
RETAIL
MANUFACTURING

ABOVE
Alternative Icon Sketches, ‘Borrowed from Chinatown’
Using the grid for the NYC Logo to jumpstart alphabet construction.

A.

BUILDING PERSONALITY


MEDICATING
RECREATIONAL
EDUCATING
ADVISING
DINING
ENTERTAINING
GROCERY & MARKET
GROOMING
CLEANING
PROMOTING
BUILDING & CONSTRUCTING
REPAIRING
NOVELTY
CLOTHING
LOOKING & COLLECTING
HOSTING & GATHERING
RESTING
LIVING (TECH & ELECTRICAL)
HEALTH & WELL BEING
TRANSPORTING

ABOVE
Alternative Icon Sketches, ‘Borrowed from Chinatown’
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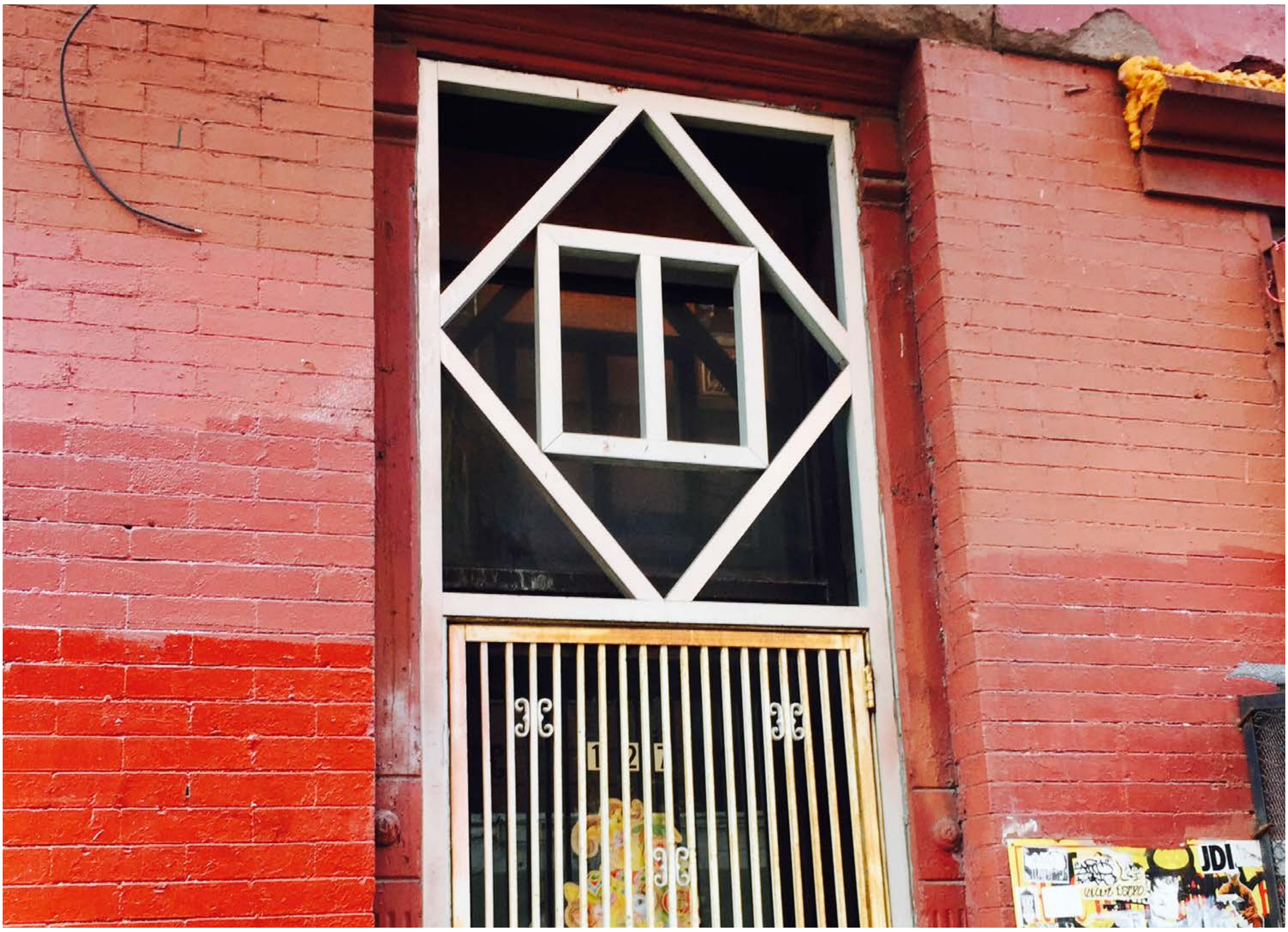
A.

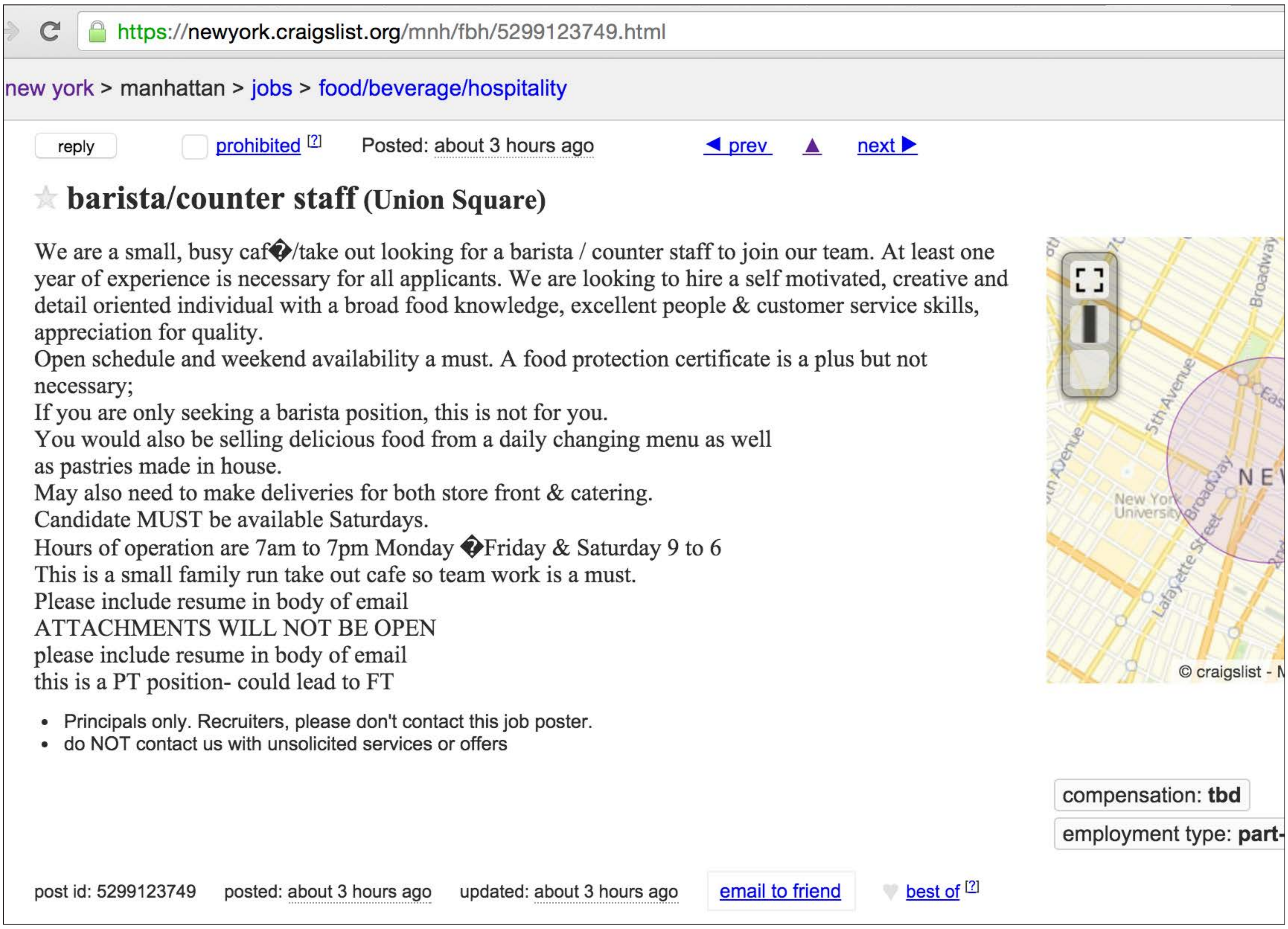


ABOVE
An image of a doorway in one of Chinatown's streets.

Finding context as a patchwork.

While exploring, I had it in my mind to look for 'texture' in the context of any cultural, yet graphic form. Eventually, I ended up finding this 'texture' in the area's spatial variation. While some buildings still maintained a look which is inherently Chinese, others seemed to reject this notion. Through this juxtaposition, Chinatown almost took form as a patchwork of the old and new. All seemed to coexist as a certain point and I decided the alphabet system would strive to take on this quality.

A.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5th Avenue
Broadway
New York University
Lafayette Street
NEW
© craigslist - M
email to friend
best of [?]

Posted: about 3 hours ago

barista/counter staff (Union Square)

We are a small, busy caf�/take out looking for a barista / counter staff to join our team. At least one year of experience is necessary for all applicants. We are looking to hire a self motivated, creative and detail oriented individual with a broad food knowledge, excellent people & customer service skills, appreciation for quality.
Open schedule and weekend availability a must. A food protection certificate is a plus but not necessary;
If you are only seeking a barista position, this is not for you.
You would also be selling delicious food from a daily changing menu as well
as pastries made in house.
May also need to make deliveries for both store front & catering.
Candidate MUST be available Saturdays.
Hours of operation are 7am to 7pm Monday �Friday & Saturday 9 to 6
This is a small family run take out cafe so team work is a must.
Please include resume in body of email
ATTACHMENTS WILL NOT BE OPEN
please include resume in body of email
this is a PT position- could lead to FT

- Principals only. Recruiters, please don't contact this job poster.
- do NOT contact us with unsolicited services or offers

compensation: **tbd**
employment type: **part-**

post id: 5299123749 posted: about 3 hours ago updated: about 3 hours ago

ABOVE
A screenshot of a Craigslist Ad.

Finding patchworks in the web.

While killing time by browsing on Craigslist, I stumbled across a timely scenario: the ‘é’ in café wasn’t being displayed in the and was instead replaced with a symbol. More or less after seeing this, I immediately found some correlation with the notion of a patchwork as well as the dialogue between invasiveness and resilience occuring throughout the ‘progress’ of gentrification. In other words, the written advertisement itself is an illustration of a more deliberate existence where as the replacement is more obstructional.

B.

Interesting points to note: (The ‘Craigslist’ Illustration)

1.) The negotiation between intentional vs. accidental.

2.) Alternatively, intentional could be attributed to the existing environment whereas the accidental could be attributed as obstruction against the existing environment.

3.) You know the word still says cafe from context clues or previous knowledge of the article.

4.) Words vs. Symbols. If words, what words?

B.

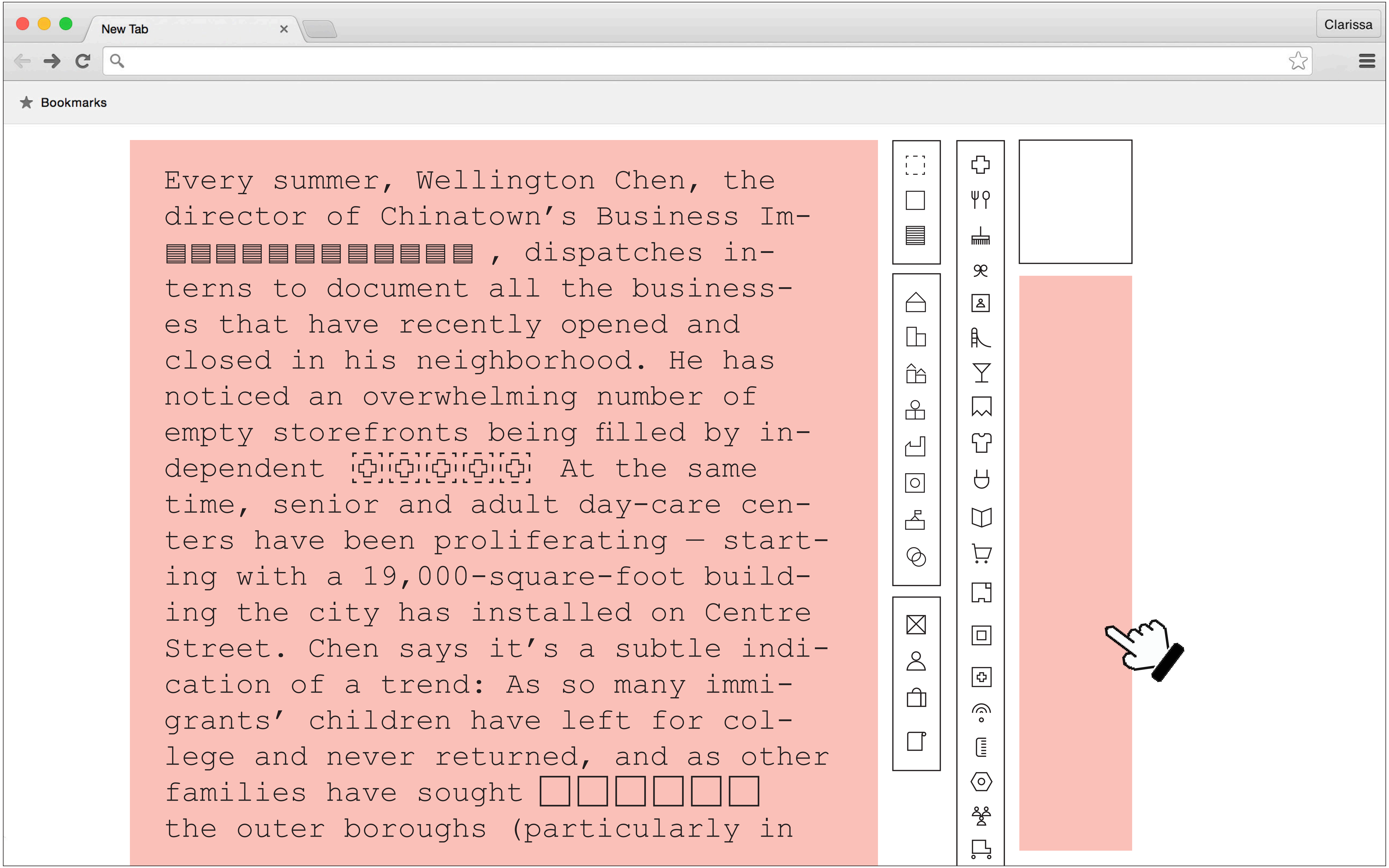
In and out of Space: Copy and Paste Mechanisms

For this idea, I wanted to replicate the experience of the ‘Craigslist’ illustration using the symbols illustrated previously.

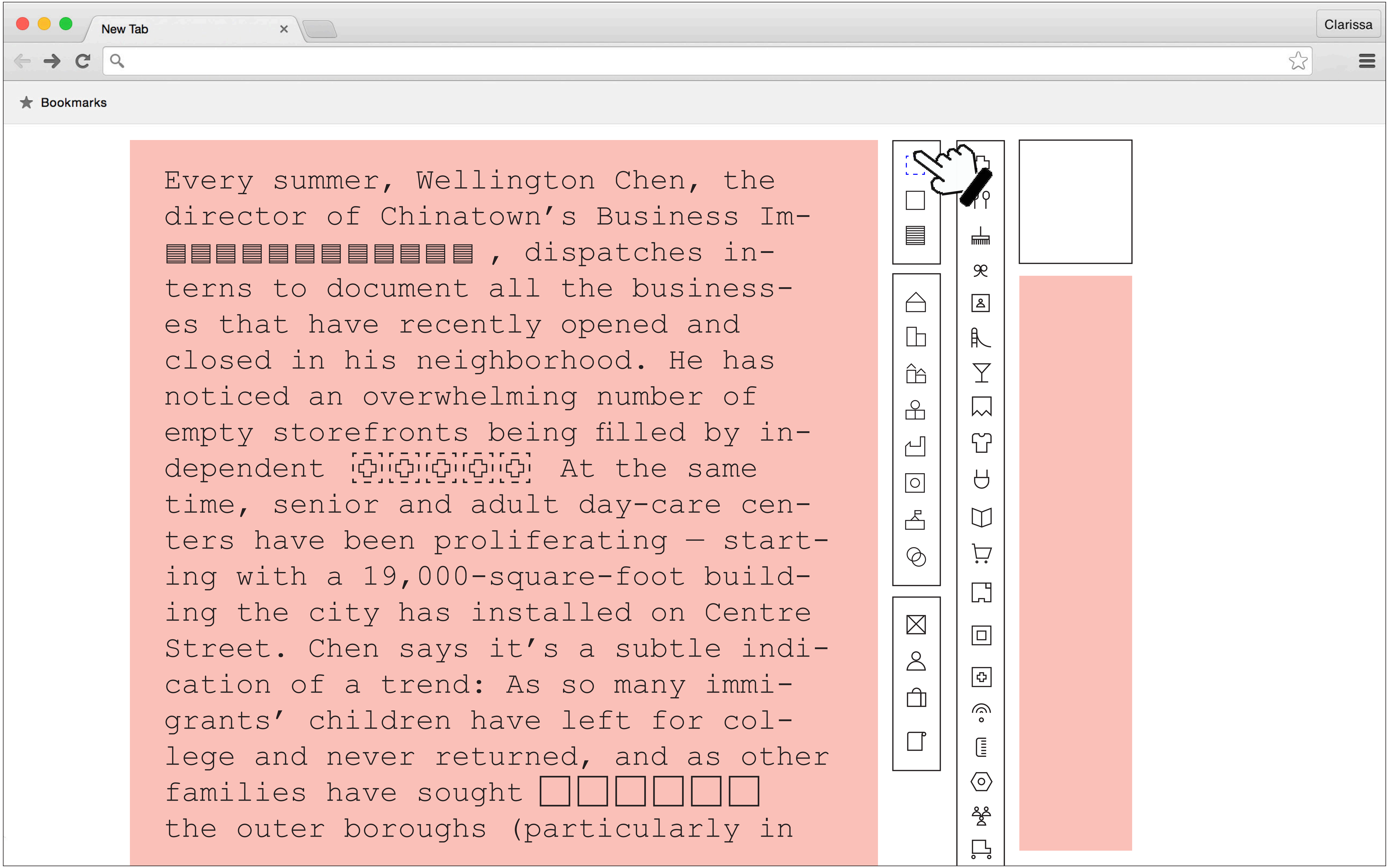
Before the user fully interacts with the site, he/she witnesses some changes in progress in the form of a piece of writing (about Chinatown) with some words being replaced by symbols. Each of these symbols will be attributed appropriately to words that most evoke that said symbol even if it is not a direct translation. For example, the word ‘is’ could also mean ‘to be’ and could also be translated into a space being ‘occupied.’ □

After witnessing the transformation of this document, the user can then copy and paste any article he/she wishes and enter it into the program. The program would then transform the document in the same way the previous article was transformed.

Depending on the article, the surface of the screen would change in the same way neighborhoods can change whether or not the change is made deliberately. Similarly, the words also function as an illustration of recognition, essentially whether or not the user can still recognize their article or their ‘neighborhood’ in the process of this change. The article may still be discernable, but it is no longer the same article per se. In its manifestation, the program becomes an illustration of the negotiation between the invasiveness of gentrification, but also its unpredictability.



Every summer, Wellington Chen, the director of Chinatown's Business Im-▤▤▤▤▤▤▤▤▤▤▤▤ , dispatches interns to document all the businesses that have recently opened and closed in his neighborhood. He has noticed an overwhelming number of empty storefronts being filled by independent ✙✙✙✙✙ At the same time, senior and adult day-care centers have been proliferating — starting with a 19,000-square-foot building the city has installed on Centre Street. Chen says it's a subtle indication of a trend: As so many immigrants' children have left for college and never returned, and as other families have sought ☐☐☐☐☐☐ the outer boroughs (particularly in



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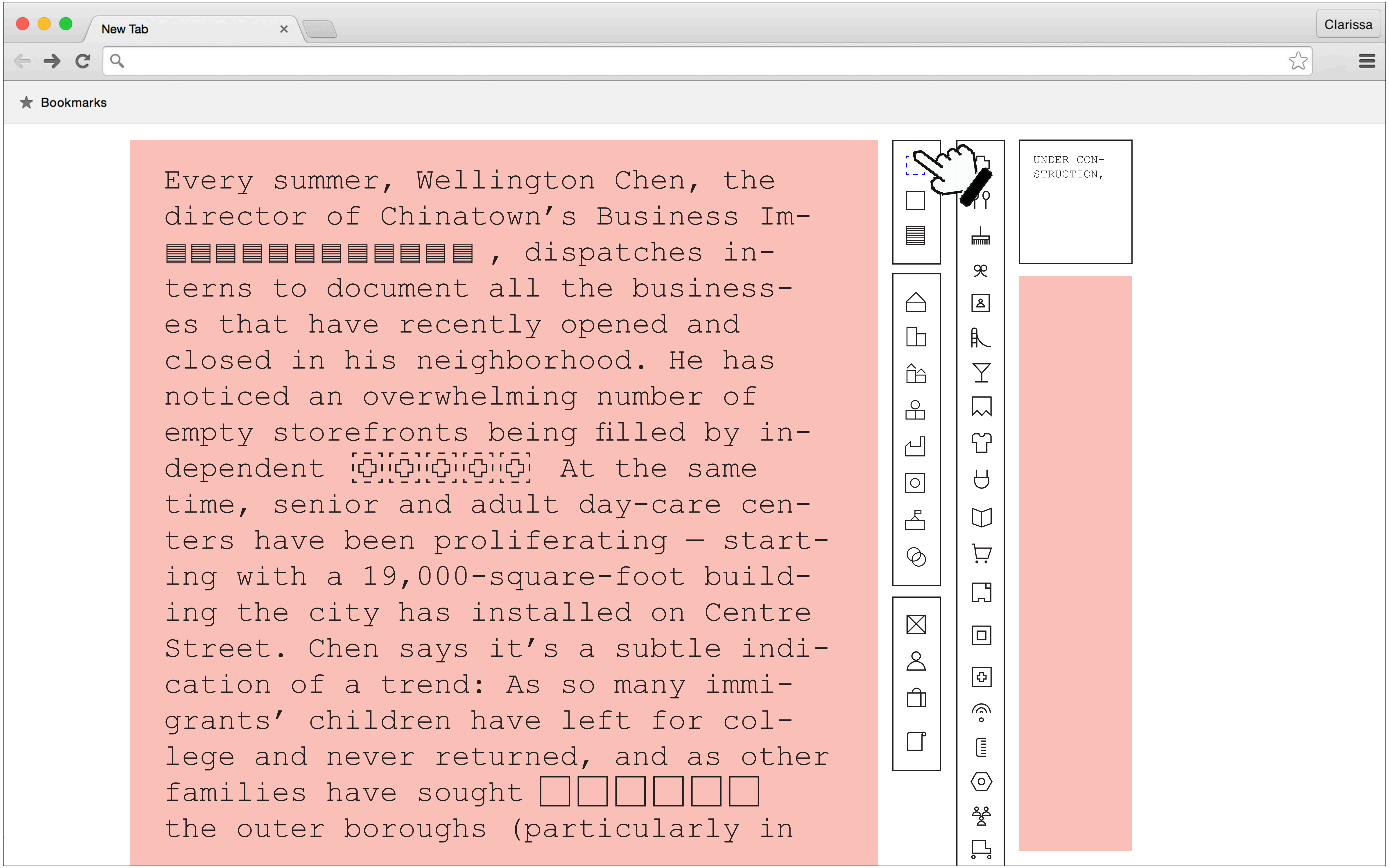

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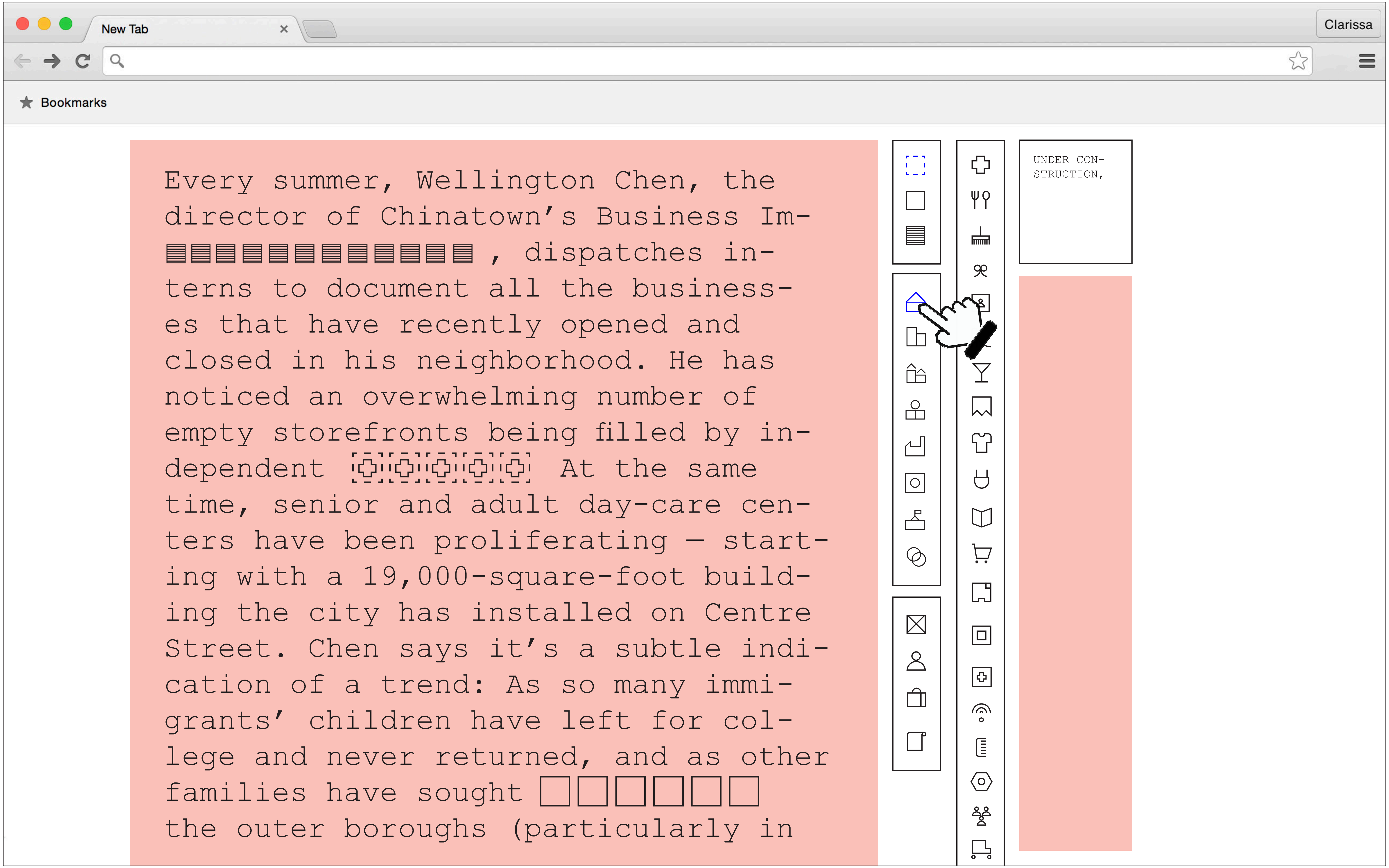

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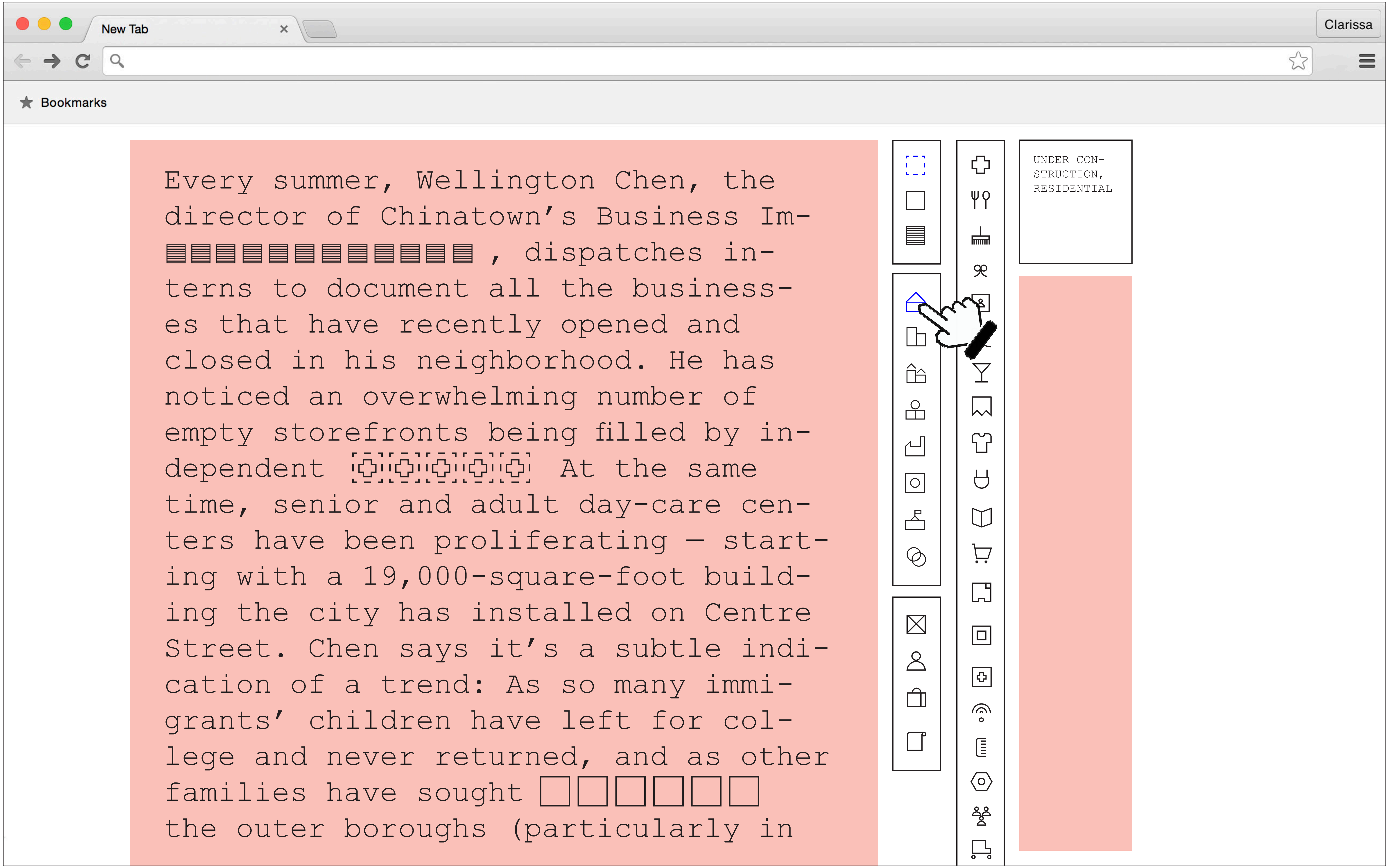

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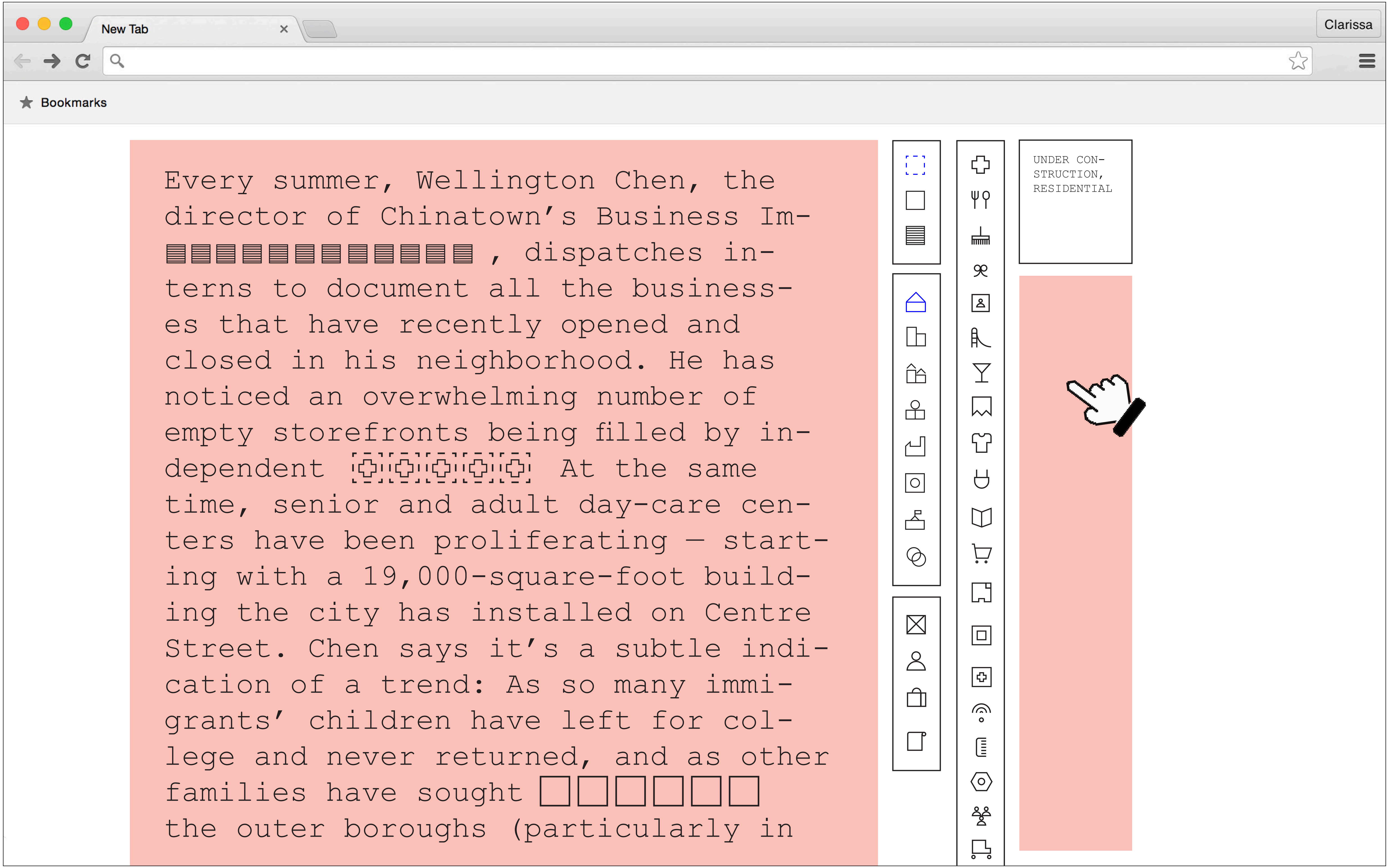
UNDER CON-
STRUCTION,
RESIDENTIAL



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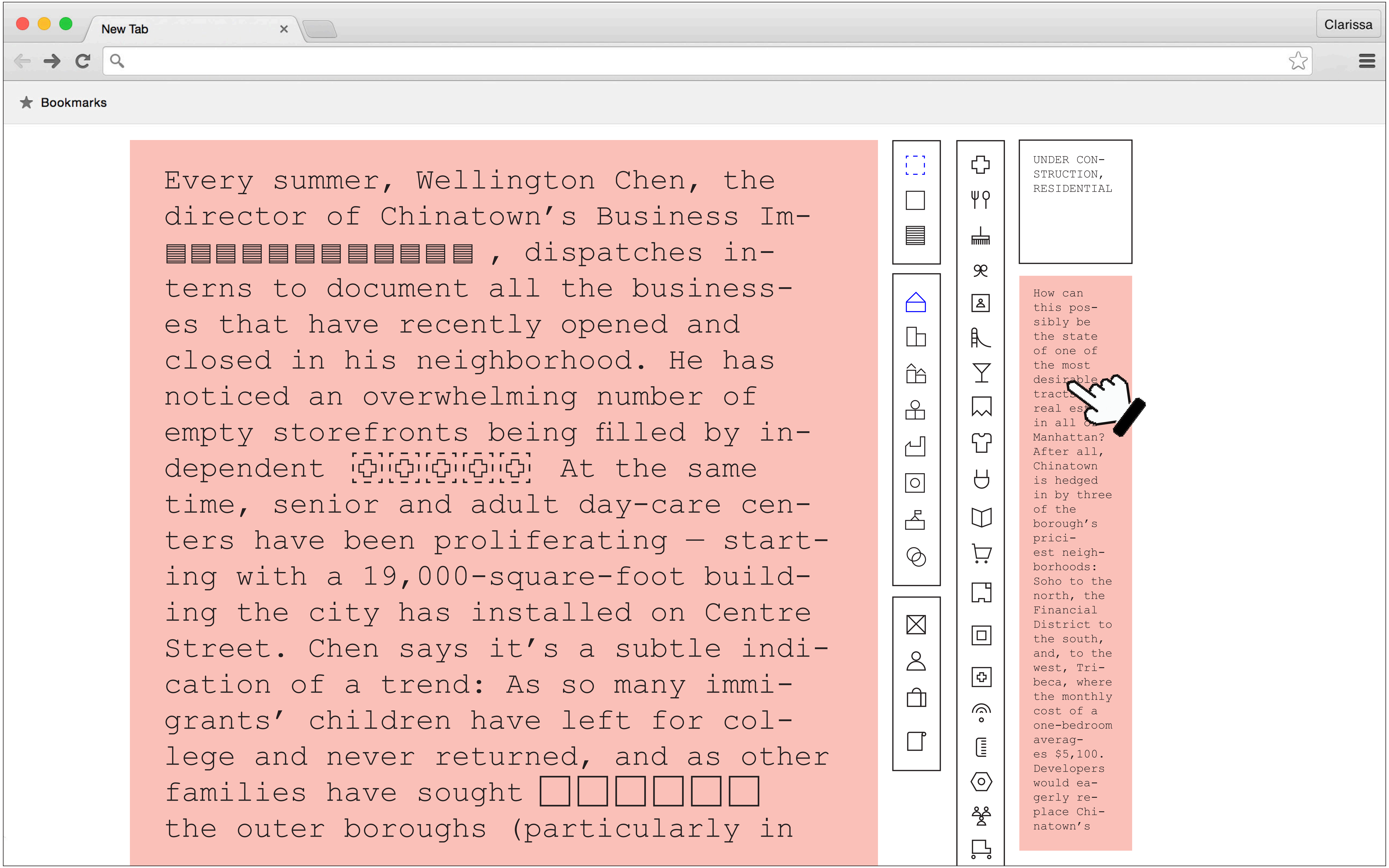

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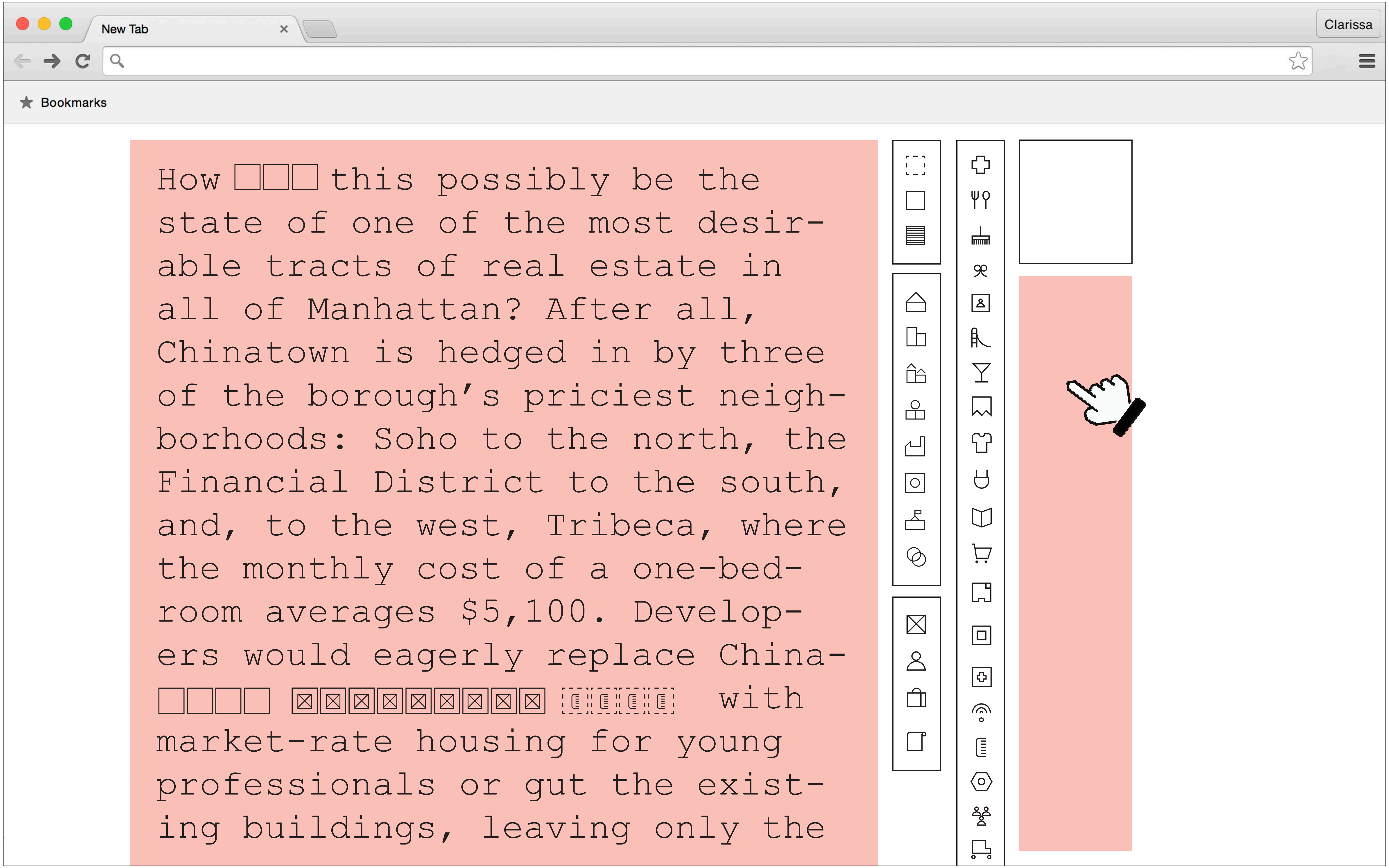
UNDER CONSTRUCTION, RESIDENTIAL

How can this possibly be the state of one of the most desirable tract real es in all o Manhattan? After all, Chinatown is hedged in by three of the borough’s priciest neighborhoods: Soho to the north, the Financial District to the south, and, to the west, Tribeca, where the monthly cost of a one-bedroom averages $5,100. Developers would eagerly replace Chinatown’s



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