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Julia Chang

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The rise and demise of the garment industry in Montreal brings to light several unsustainable aspects of the current clothing production system. A linear model which exploits in both the local and global context, the distance between garment worker and consumer expands in a way that cheapening labour and clothes.
THE MANUFACTURING OF CLOTHING IN MONTREAL IS CONTINUOUSLY DIMINISHING. FACTORIES SHUT DOWN AND LOCAL JOBS ARE LOST DUE TO COMPETITION FOR CHEAPER PRODUCTION. SIMULTANEOUSLY, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE EXPLOITED FOR CHEAP LABOR WHILE THE PLANTATION AND REFINEMENT OF MATERIALS EXHAUST RESOURCES AND LAND. TRANSCONTINENTAL TRANSPORTATION OF OUR CLOTHES BETWEEN MANUFACTURING TO RETAIL STORES CREATES POLLUTION. WE CONTINUE TO JUSTIFY THE GOLD IN MASS PRODUCTION AND CHEAP, DISPOSABLE CLOTHING. ULURING IN CONSUMPTION WHILE TURNING A BLIND EYE TO THE RISE IN LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND PROFIT-TAKING FROM LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. AT THE FINAL STAGE OF DISTRIBUTION, THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES PURCHASE THE CLOTHES THAT WE CONSIDER TO BE WASTE.

SITE AERIAL VIEW: GARMENT/TEXTILE FACTORIES IN MONTREAL
MY PROPOSITION TO THIS PHENOMEN AIMS TO RECLAIM ITS EFFECT IN THE CONTEXT OF MONTEBELLO. BY PROPOSING A MODEL THAT CAN BE ADAPTED TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD. THE CITY IS SATURATED WITH CLOTHING RETAIL STORES, RANGING FROM NASH-PRODUCED BRANDS (ABN) TO LOCAL (TRAPAS) FROM HIGH COUTURE TO DEPARTMENT STORES (SCILLY) TO DISCOUNT (WINNERS). THIS IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR TO RECTIFICATION. AS THE DENES COLLECTION OF STORES, TRANSLATED INTO LARGE QUANTITIES OF UNWORN CLOTHING. TAKING THIS AS OUR PRIMARY MATERIAL, WE CAN REINVENT THE SYSTEM OF CLOTHING PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION. SHORTENING THE DISTANCE BETWEEN PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION. REAPPOROTING VALUE TO CLOTHING. BY RECLAMING ABANDONED GARMENT FACTORIES AND REDESIGNING THEM TO HOUSE CONTINUOUS CYCLES OF DESIGN, PRODUCTION, MARKETING, AND SALE. LOCAL EMPLOYMENT WILL BE STIMULATED WITHOUT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT TO THE SYSTEM. A NEW HUB FOR FASHION WILL EMERGE FROM REAPPRAISAL OF CLOTHING BY RECYCLING CLOTHES, JOBS, AND ARCHITECTURE.
Refabrication is an immediate response to the needs of Montreal's vanishing garment workforce, but the underlying purpose of this proposal is to generate consumer awareness and educate people towards the true value of and resources required to produce clothing. It is only through exposing the public to the historical, economic, and cultural significance of garment-making that will inspire a will to break away from the exploitative production chain.

Similarly, I would only be able to push forward with this proposal if I were to become familiar with the multiple facets of the garment industry, from the harvesting of raw materials, weaving of fabrics, manufacturing, to designing. My itinerary for travel will hopefully bring me to experience sheep shearing in Australia, silk harvesting in India and China, cotton production in Texas, and fashion designing in Paris and Italy. I also plan to visit cities historically dependent on the textile and garment industry, such as Leicester (UK), Lowell (MA), and Lisbon (Portugal), which will help me adapt refabrication to fit the needs of the city. It would also be of significance for me to travel to societies that view clothes as an important part of their cultural identity.

It is my hope to acquire knowledge from my journey to successfully design a viable closed-loop garment production system, which will combine vernacular and culturally rich textile wisdom with current technological abilities. In fact, our current system of garment making is considerably new in relation to the long history of clothing production. Which valued the people who undertook the tasks. It is only in the recent centuries that, through industrialisation and globalisation, clothing has become disposable to us and the workforce hidden. An architectural intervention for rectification can have very minimal impact by reviving the abandoned factory space leftover from the decline of manufacturing in developed countries. As we in our part of the world learn to reduce our own clothing waste, we can redesign the garment production chain to be sustainable.