

META-Project

[META:HUTONGS]  
Beijing, China

META-工作室  
[超胡同]  
中国, 北京市



HUTONG ADAPTATION - Perpetual Dynamism



HUTONG EVOLUTION - THE TIMELINE

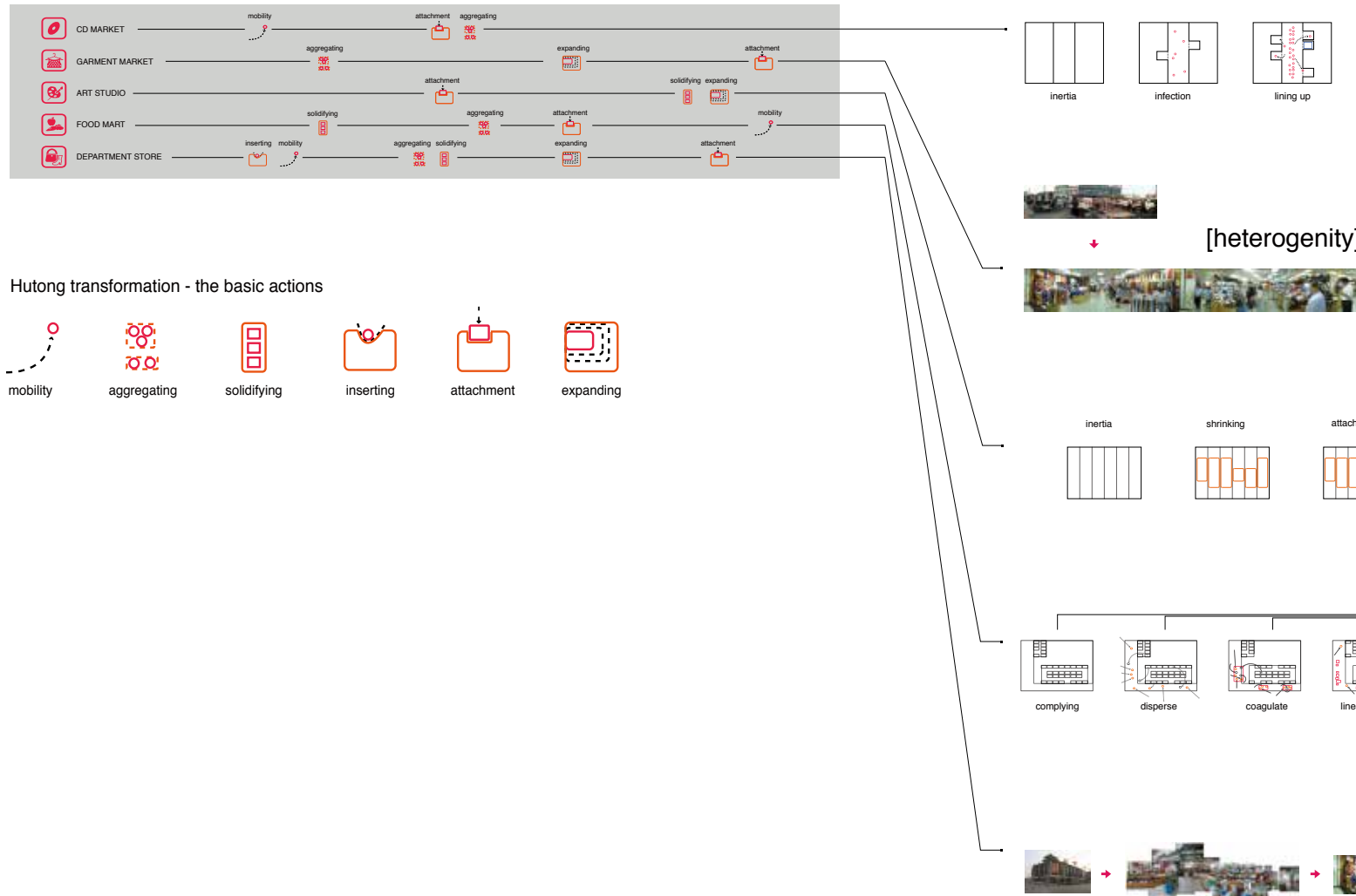
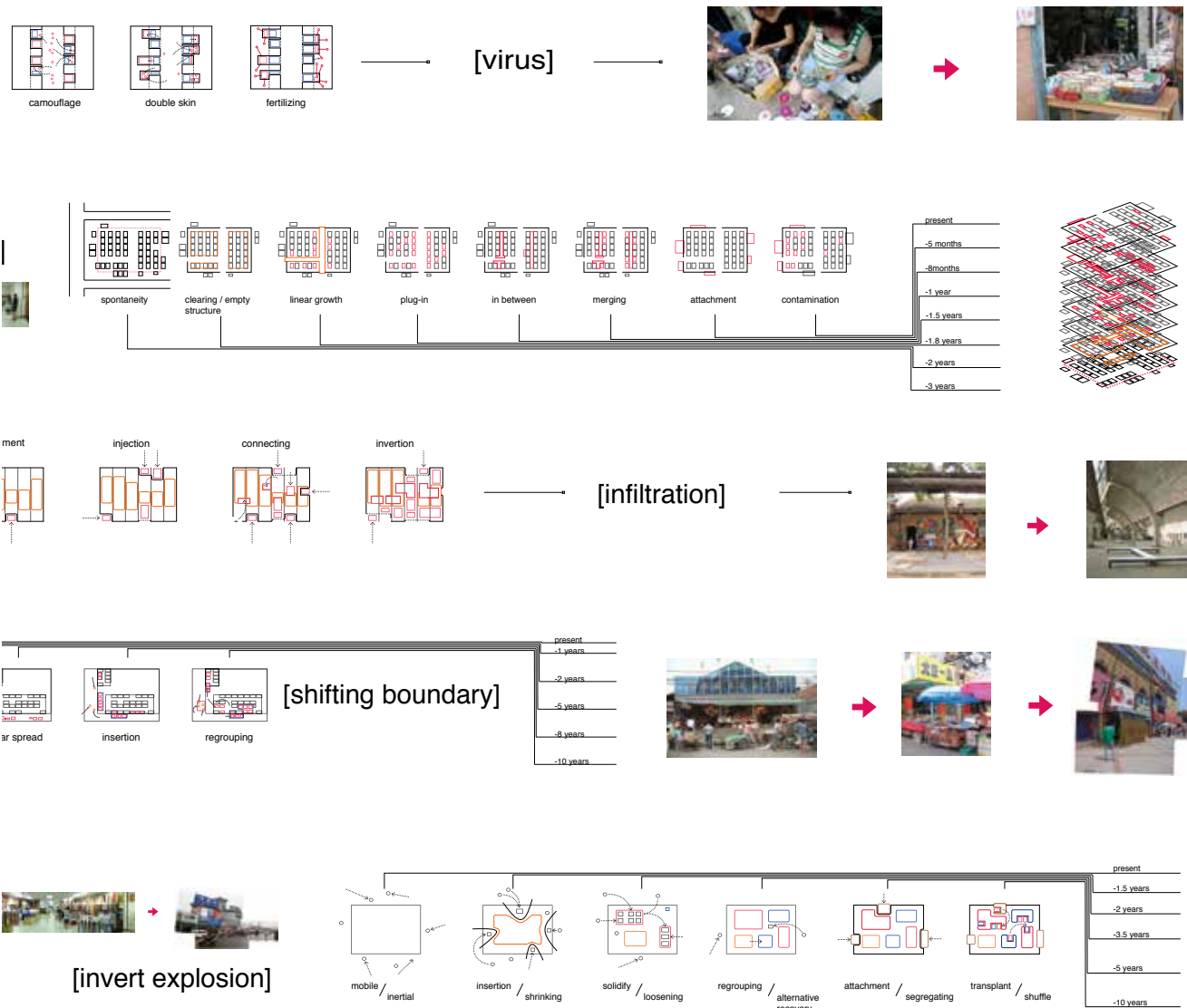


Diagram of Hutong's evolution / 胡同进化图





### Hutongs

The narrow alleyway connecting small courtyard residences, or Hutong, has been heralded as the definitive exemplar of Beijing’s urbanism since the city became the capital during the Yuan dynasty. To this day, legions of critics and writers have looked to Hutongs as a kind of architectural endangered species, evidence of how traditional urban fabrics have been crushed in the maw of modernization. This explanation is too convenient, too simple, however, and does not capture the reality of the situation in Beijing, a city that has been enduring massive political and social upheavals in ways others could not, one that continuously defies categorization or explanation.

### [META:HUTONGS]

Born in Beijing, and now based in the center of the old city’s core, Wang Shuo has been continuously concerned about the Hutongs’ evolution and regeneration. Since 2012, together with his friend Andrew Bryant, he initiated the [META:HUTONGS] project, which became an award winning, internationally recognized research collaborative. It has been sponsored by Graham Foundation and the Urban China Initiative (UCI) over a period of three years. [META:HUTONGS] is a collaborative platform that examines, reveals and envisions urban development as it unfolds in the Hutongs. It consists of a series of workshops, charrettes, symposia, and roundtable discussions that consider Hutong as a unique socio-cultural space, a locus of distinct urban data, as well as an exemplar of urban regeneration. Architects, planners, media artists, social anthropologists, and historians will all participate in this investigation with the goal of providing alternative models for decoding and instigating one of the world’s most dynamic and vital cities-Beijing. At this moment, Hutongs have become laboratories that exemplify the current reality of Beijing’s urban situation and are a key to potential future urban regenerative strategies. Public discussions in Beijing have become increasingly obsessed with the utopian idea of preservation, and yet pressure from developers is prompting massive demolition and rebuilding from a tabula rasa. In this relentless, dystopic reality, Beijing’s Hutongs are disappearing at a rapid pace with no alternative models for effective regeneration. Between the UTOPIA and DYSTOPIA, [META:HUTONGS] looks at the current reality. The goals of this cross disciplinary investigation are to generate dialog for understanding and evaluating the unique qualities of this urban emergence, and to provide alternative models for instigating projective possibilities.

### 胡同

那些连接着四合院的狭窄巷道——胡同，是从北京成为元大都时起就形成的鲜明的城市特征。迄今为止，大量的评论家和作家都将胡同视为一种即将灭绝的建筑“物种”，和“传统的城市肌理是如何夹裹在现代化的造城运动中被蚕食”的见证。然而，我们认为这样的解释太过方便，也过于简单，它无法捕捉到北京城真实的现状——一个曾经历过许多次政治和社会动荡的城市，也是一个不断拒绝被归类 and 定义的城市。

### [ 超胡同 ]

生长于北京的王硕，现在将工作室设立在旧城的中心，并一直持续关注着胡同的进化和再生。

自 2012 年起，他与建筑师安竹·布莱恩特（Andrew Bryant）发起并组织了 [ 超胡同 ]。[ 超胡同 ] 是一项备受殊荣的国际性研究合作项目，它获得格莱汉姆基金会（Graham Foundation）以及麦肯锡城市中国计划（Urban China Initiative）的连续 3 年的支持。

[ 超胡同 ] 是一个跨学科合作的城市研究平台，旨在调查、揭示和展望正在胡同中展开的城市转变。它由一系列工作坊、研讨会、专题报告会和圆桌会议组成，将胡同视为一种独特的社会文化存在、一个不同城市数据的集合以及城市自我更新的范例。建筑师、城市规划学者、媒体艺术家、社会人类学家和历史学家都将参与到这个活动中，他们的共同目标是通过一种非传统的模型来解译和激发这个

世界上最多变和最有力量的城市之一——北京。

当前，北京市中心的胡同俨然已成为了这座城市创新改造的实验场地，它们不仅可使人们对北京悠久而带有预示性的历史得以一窥，同时也作为一种文化与物质的存在，为人们提供了一把开启都市未来的钥匙。

当公众舆论正变得越来越沉迷于旧城历史保护的乌托邦的同时，社会发展的压力却使城市经历着快速而大规模的拆除摧毁。在毫不留情的错位现实下，胡同正在以飞快的速度消失着，并且其城市化的过程正在趋向于一种困境——悬置于两极之间而没有有效的解决方法。在怀旧的乌托邦和残酷的反乌托邦之间，[超胡同] 关注胡同当下的现实。这一跨学科城市研究的目标是引发讨论并建立一种对胡同这一“城市涌现”的新理解，并藉此揭示它所呈现的特质，以及投射未来的种种可能。

*Opposite: View from the forecourt toward the West Sea. Photo by Chen Su, ©META-Project.*

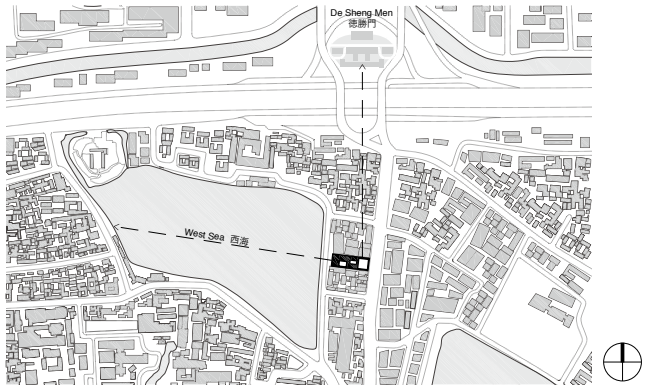
对页：从前厅看向西海。



META-Project  
Courtyard by the West Sea  
Xicheng District, Beijing, China 2015

META-工作室  
西海边的院子  
中国，北京市，西城区 2015

*Fueled by the numerous discussions and knowledge produced from the [META:HUTONGS] research, Courtyard by the West Sea is a parallel attempt on Hutong regeneration that sits in-between preservation and demolition. Unlike the introverted quality of the traditional courtyard house, the owner of this site asked for a variety of mixed-use programs, including tea house, dining, party space, office, and meeting, as well as dwelling and entertainment. The contemporary and sometime “public” program opened up the courtyard to become “extraverted”, so as to induce more human interactions. These required us to break the general understanding of the courtyard as an enclosed typology by introducing the experience of “meandering in the Hutongs” into the courtyard. We converted the narrow corridor between two rows of brick buildings to a mode compatible with the Hutong-courtyard typology by demolishing the temporary structure to the east and in the middle, so as to introduce cross-sectional changes along the 60-m long site. Then by adding three different types of “loggia” at the hinge of the expanded spaces, we reconstructed a “three-step-courtyard”. Here the “three-step-courtyard” is not an imitation of the traditional symmetrical courtyard pattern in the Hutongs, but a contemporary reinterpretation of the multi-layer courtyard space and its possible variation along the depth, and how it will shift the movement of steps and sense of space. All the mixed-use programs were sorted and divided by three courtyards full of vegetation, making the daily routine of walking in and out of the site a continuous spatial experience full of rhythm.*



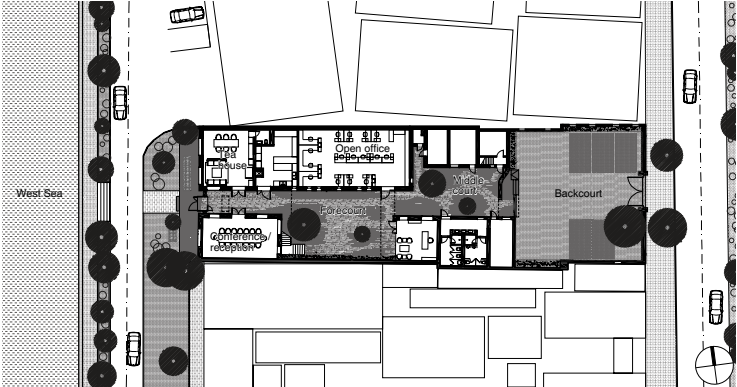
Site plan (scale: 1/10,000) / 总平面图（比例：1/10,000）

基于[超胡同]引发的诸多讨论和思考，从研究到平行展开的实践，“西海边的院子”就是META-工作室所进行的关于如何在保护与拆除之间进行改造的一次尝试。

与传统四合院完全“内向性”的居住状态不同，这一宅基地的业主提出了种种混合的功能需求，包括茶室、正餐、聚会、办公、会议以及居住和娱乐。这些现代化的甚至有些“公共性”的功能须在院内里呈现出“外向性”的姿态，从而引发更加开放的人为活动，这促使我们必须打破一般对院落空间围合边界的理解，将近乎于“行走在胡同中”的空间感受引入到院落中来。

META-工作室将形成于两排东西向厂房之间的狭窄、压抑的巷道空间，转化成与胡同院落模式相符的空间类型——选择将东侧破旧的房屋以及南侧厂房的中段拆除，并对一些临时性构筑物进行清理，为贯穿整个60m长的地块中间的狭长走道引入几处剖面宽度上的收放变化。之后，在扩展后的凹凸空间衔接处引入3个不同形式的悬挑门廊，形成了空间意义上的“三进院”。

这里所提出的“三进院”，并非是对传统四合院“中轴对称”的院落格局的模仿，但却力图通过错落有致、移步换景的空间层次，以当代的语言重新阐释“多重院落”这一概念在进深变化上的可能，同时构建了业主所期待的胡同文化生活的内涵。三进充满树木植被的院落将业主需要的各种混杂功能合理归纳划分，并使在整个基地内的日常行走成为一种连续而又充满节奏变化的空间体验。



Ground floor plan (scale: 1/1,000) / 首层平面图（比例：1/1,000）



Diagram of program growth in Hutong / 胡同功能的发展图