Abstract.

[Context]
Since the first intervention by the World Bank in 1956, external contributions to development in the Philippines have gradually increased and government spending has receded. While it can be argued that the contributions of such International agencies have been essential to the country's infrastructural development, the results are deeply flawed and have caused massive social backlash.

The economic development policies used to direct investments in international development have shown comparably problematic social and economic results in urban geographies throughout the developing world.

Though Manila has a long history of affordable housing initiatives, their strategies and architectures show a continuous failure or reluctance to address the *genesis* of its expanding slum populous. There is also a clear correlation between the form of urban growth in Manila and post-industrial market strategies that coincides with a reluctance to provide affordable housing *inside* the city. This means that despite government rhetoric, urban space is continually defined and redefined by a cyclical pattern of market-led displacement of the poor to outlying municipalities, followed by their return to livelihoods and social infrastructures of Manila. The violence of such processes is well documented, not only in the Philippines but as a global urban phenomenon. [Sassen, S. 2014]

[Focus]
This thesis will study the relationship between economic policy in international development and the increasingly polarising nature of resultant urban growth on social class. It will identify a correlation in urban strategies for rapid economic development and the growth of slums to identify and explore a problematic contradiction of policy in the development of 'world cities' and the provision of affordable housing.

The studies and questions explored in this thesis will contribute to the formation and operations of a collective research and design network that seeks to manifest as a critical architectural practice typology. That practice will be equally built on policy and case study research, and precedents of direct architectural engagement with political systems.

In joining geographic, anthropological and legal research with architectural design, this network will seek to arm architectural practice with an appropriate level of critical expertise whilst providing physical and legally actionable outcomes to the contributions of geographic and anthropological research on systems of evictions currently active in Manila and around the developing world. Through this process, this thesis will challenge architectural practice to confront emergent roles within modern international development by examining agency structures and policy against an historical ethnography of architectural professionals in the industry and their allegiances to either state or international agencies.

[Method]
To strategise a new role for the architect and consultancy that better engages civic parties, I will investigate aid programmes in the context of slum upgrading and affordable housing provision from various forms of agency - both international and local - considering historic influences in global politics and economic theory. I will investigate three types of affordable housing initiatives in Manila: the 'Smoky Mountain' relocation site tenements [the most common typology of affordable housing initiatives], the Tondo Foreshore slum upgrading programme and the Community Mortgage Programme in Napico, Pasig City.

Understanding the correlation between the products of agency output against their operational methods should help to mobilise new critiques on consultancy operations. Additionally, by cross-referencing strategies for housing provision with the broader urban-economic policies of the provisory agency or state department, this field work should highlight a contradiction in the very notion of affordable housing

in Manila with the macro-economic strategies at play, thus formulating arguments for new modes of production and management in housing projects that might happen at the local scale, and a disconnection from the operations of planning undertaken at state level. We will also use this research and the design strategies that emerge from it to suggest and demonstrate the legitimacy of legislative reform that would allow for new types of housing strategies to emerge in the Philippines.

The research network will utilise the networks of the academe to connect professionals from numerous disciplines and link universities, initially in the Philippines and the UK, with civic groups. Project operations will be designed to co-opt funds and resources from international agencies and redirect control towards civic collectives.

[Outcomes]

Early research into agency operations will inform the launch of the research and consultancy network as a registered company within the first year. The formation and output of this network will at once inform and be informed by the urban-legislative analysis throughout the remaining time of the PhD.

Forecast - Architecture & Urban Research Network will be an interdisciplinary consultancy that brings researchers and professionals together with civic groups. Its aim will be to contribute a critical perspective on urban development in growing market economies that will foreground issues of social polarisation and social housing provision to develop new modes of engagement for architects and consultant professionals in political systems. The modality of this practice will be built on the research in a way that intercedes legal and anthropological critique on modern development paradigms with an ethnographic understanding of architectural consultancy.

The primary objectives of the project will be to prompt political and legislative review of urban planning and housing policy and to test new housing prototypes *inside* the city. Operations will be designed to challenge eviction practices and provide residents with a democratic say in the design of their living environments. The architectural outcomes of this latter action will aim to provide individual solutions over typologies, that engage with the lifestyles of individuals and communities and their desires for urban living. Designs will use these inputs to project an outward image that challenges negative perspectives on the role of marginalised demographics in the functioning of the city, as well as the role of the informal economy in supporting the larger economic functioning of the country.

Finally, the research network will look to critique the privileged position and subsequent disconnection of the academe from civic realities by including and connecting to the work of civic action groups and homeowners associations. The research will be openly published online for all to access and plug into, providing civic groups with access to information that is often published in exclusively expensive academic journals or remanded within the actions and behind the walls of the academe. This should reinforce the form of agency as a civic action supported by state systems rather than state action on civic behalf.