

Parallax

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■ Ryan Lionel Loh Fu Men

This project is about revitalising the vivacity and regenerating a new image of a cardinal street involving the reinterpretation and expression of the local culture in the form of art. The project urges users to reconnect the spirit and soul of Georgetown to the new interpretation of urbanism in a contemporary setting. Hence, the 'parallax', an approach that exudes the exuberance and dynamism of the site, is implemented to give energy and dynamicity to the site.

The design objective is to re-interpret and re-establish the image and character of the Penang Road as the cardinal road in Georgetown. 'Parallax' is an approach that alters and changes the physical landscape but keeps the spirit and soul of the road. With this, the cardinal road of Georgetown was reinterpreted and re-established through mimesis and antagonistic physical intervention and enhancement. This is achieved through several approaches namely 'unfold the obscurity', 'paroxysm transmutation', 'spaced out to space in' and 'environmental deterioration reversal'.

In unfolding the obscurity, Ryan Loh reveals and interprets the history and culture through an artful repose to generate the philosophical and metaphorical experiences. In 'paroxysm transmutation', the stretch of the building facade is given a treatment to establish the zeitgeist with respect to the past, present and future. Spatial and activity extensions from the interior space of the building to the exterior space provides more opportunity for social interactions. Furthermore, visual and experiential connections between the landscape and architectural spaces are established through 'spaced out to spaced in'. In 'environmental deterioration reversal', the designer has substituted the heavy traffic road onto a liveable pedestrian space. This is not only done by changing the physical use of the road but by altering its physical treatments and experiences.