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New Century Cities Research Interests

My interest in the New Century Cities class stem from my personal interest and stake in how rapidly developing countries, such as India and China, are embracing Western standards of living and technological advances in their pursuit to “catch up.” In relation to China in particular, an entire living generation is desperately trying to make up for the time, money and opportunities it has lost during the Cultural Revolution.

I am born of parents who came of age during that tumultuous time in China’s history. They immigrated to the United States when I was only seven years old, but I remember quite distinctly the “old China” of close-knit family and communities based on the work-unit. The “new China” of today, in contrast, is a society in transition, with record numbers of migrants moving to urban areas in pursuit of work and increasing disconnects with old traditional values and ties to family and home.

Within this framework, I am particularly interested in how New Century Cities, as defined by their scale, embrace of technology and information flows, create social capital and how we, as developers, designers, and critics, place value on what social capital has been created and how much has been dismantled or lost?

I am particularly interested in the symbols and signifiers of cultural heritage, and how one place feels distinctly different from the next. What makes one-Singapore culturally different and unique to its environment than Crossroads

Copenhagen? How are these differences reflected in the physical environment?

What aspects of these New Century Cities reflect and/or shape their societies'

(evolving) values?