

Makkasan: (Re)claiming Architecture for Bicycle Society Future

"Thai democracy belief has shown itself on our city street" summary from สยามวาระ ThaiPBS

With urban biking booming in many cities around the world, how Architecture design respond to needs of these new urban bikers (vs. car drivers); who commute to-from home-work-relax places.

In the past decades, many cities have invested in bicycle paths as a process to increase bike commuting and reduce automobile usage, but little attention has been given to change in home, office, shop and public places functions until recently. Instead of just adding the typical bicycle racks and lanes, cities should now turn to focus on a new typology of architecture which can give identity and encourage more bicycle commuters.

Redevelopment of 700 Rais of government land in Makkasan as "TOD or transportation hub" may have a new meaning if we have in mind this bicycle society future!

The area of Makkasan is owned by the State Railway of Thailand (SRT). Since the actual land is underdeveloped, the SRT has proposed the Makkasan area for commercial purposes in order to correspond to its status as the Central Business District (C.B.D.).

It is further awaiting its development as a transportation hub, connecting Suvarnabhumi International Airport to other areas of Bangkok.

The proposed planning for Makkasan project compromises commercial purpose and the recreational purpose following three approaches:

#### 1 commercial Approach

Commercial center includes department store, office and residential space for rent in SRT land

Maximizing Floor Area Ratio (FAR)=1:10

#### 2 Architectural Approach

Alternative designing high rise building

#### 3 Natural Approach

Open space ratio (O.S.R) comparing buildable area = 90:10

Studio question:

-How will bicycle use in daily life effect city/community architecture and how will it effects this redevelopment in Makkasan area?

-Will current bicycle culture shape new architecture in the same way as automobile culture in the past? What can we learn from it?

-What kind of building or space the city will need if much more citizen use bicycle every day? What kind of transportation hub and supporting space we will need in Makkasan project?

Using Architecture design studio process (problem/issue of interest, what has been done/design on the issue, where is the site/context, who are the user, create specific design solution), this work will summarize how to create knowledge inventory and typical design of space and building for future bicycle city.