Urban Photo Diaries: Ad-hoc Urbanism

L ARCH 362/598/ Urban Landscapes/ Winter 2010/ Hou/

[The future city] is neither a heroic demonstration nor grassroots resistance, as we know it today. Rather, we are forging in-between actions with micro-scale tactics to generate a better environment.

Ti-Nan Chi, from Urban Flashes Asia (2003)

The diaries present a way to listen to the stories and lives of neighborhood residents and see the tangible elements that create the rhythms and souls of the community. They remarry residents to the landscapes they inhabit.

Walter Hood, from Urban Diaries (1997)

This course will begin with your own observation of the city, the everyday experience and the tangible and intangible aspects of our urban environment. We will listen to the city with all of our senses to uncover social, spatial, and/or ecological phenomena and processes that constitute the everyday urban environment. This year we will focus our attention on the phenomenon of “ad-hoc urbanism”—focusing on improvisational approaches that utilize aspects of our everyday environment and enable individual and community actions that transform the urban landscape.

Take 4-10 digital photographs that document an aggregate urban landscape in Seattle. Examples include benches in the alleyway outside Café Allegro, and the ubiquitous espresso stands around the city.

Write a 300-word statement that provides your observations and information about the site (including location, time of observation and other pertinent information). Include a project title in your statement.

Submit a PowerPoint file with 4 slides via Collect-It (use the link on the course website).

See more examples on the course website and past blogs—

Due: 5pm, Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Pecha Kucha (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pecha_Kucha) -- Be prepared to talk about your work in class on February 3.