

Between abandonment and rebirth: Categories of Urban Space

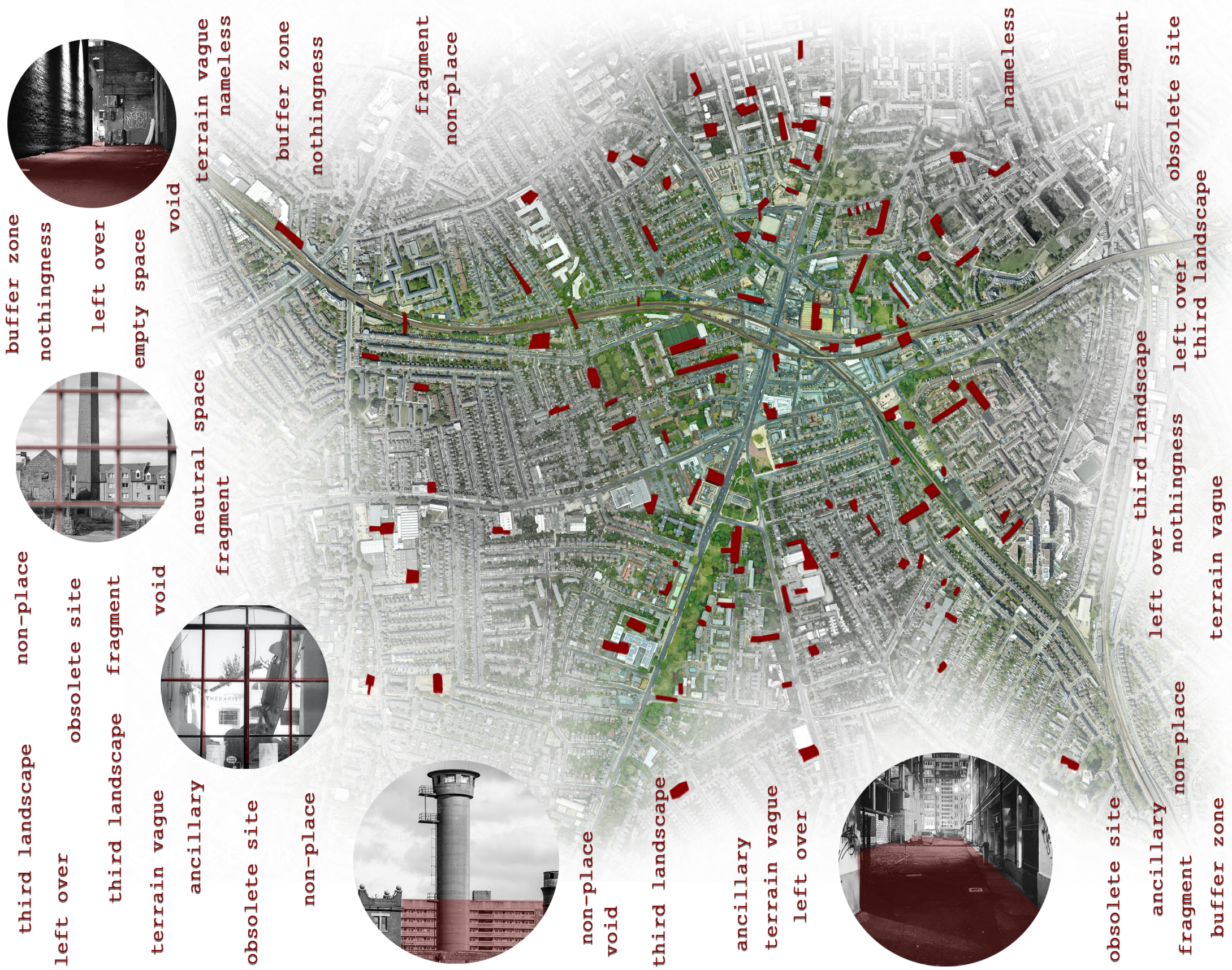
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Through the time, our cities are today the result of constructions, stratifications, interventions and a cycle of spaces and buildings abandonment. Surrounded by generic boundaries, those spaces are becoming predominant within the city, arguably to the detriment of local identities.

This work theoretically unpacks the concept of void across several categories: emptiness, urban fragments, non-places.

A central contention is that the way those spaces are conceptualised and classified intimately shapes the ways in which urbanists and architects intervene and engage with those spaces.

This research use a glossary as a theoretical toolkit to better understand their nature, differences and similarities, and see how they may be classified and understood. This is the view that language does not describe the world around us so much as it actively contributes to how we perceive, make sense of and classify the objects of experience. With this poster, only one example of voids, the urban fragment, is used as a case study.



Case study of Urban Fragment. Lambeth Town Hall



credit: Cartwright Pickard Architects



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Against the common action of constructing on any fragment available, we question how these typologies of voids may be regenerated. The potential of an urban fragment can be enhanced without filling it with new buildings but rather starting from its bi-dimensional connotation as a new public area where social interactions can take place. It can be an action of changing the perceived public significance of a leftover space rather than building and modifying its original characteristics. Only by explicating the urban voids meanings and differences, it is possible to recognise their opportunities and define a set of sustainable design principles that enhance diversity, social values and spontaneity.