

READING CONVENTIONS: GEARY BOULEVARD AT JONES STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

Julie Cloutier

This project proposes to displace and realign the horizontal and vertical street wall through shifting operations of architectural relationships of ground and face of one city block. Our perception and reading of the street wall will be manipulated, responding to conventions of the sidewalk, activating a dialogue between pedestrian [reader] and urban operations. By reassembling site and its encrypted networks, an exposed city environment will render conventions legible through the deconstruction and reorganization of the unnoticed.

Along the path of reading/seeing/experiencing a city, smaller instances within the sidewalk exchanges are shifted, in order to understand its entirety. Multiplicities of content and interactions will be re-presented through pauses within the sequence of the block. Alterations within typical spatial prescriptions dislodge and address a new perspective of the commonplace within the urban street. Boundaries of the street are questioned through interventions in public/private spaces with in or out of the façade. Moments of transfer between pedestrian/vehicle, parking/rental, and resident/tourists are reactivated within the planar face of the backside of the street. Re-appropriation of applied façade conditions create a new conversation with architectural components, drawing upon new programmatic uses within the streetscape.

Everyday places become absent, not because of their neglect but because of their relentless use. The space of the façade, sidewalk, and street become merely fixed coordinates; in-between places experienced daily as a mode of passing. Within these means of transfers, an abundance of systems overwhelm and contribute to the atrophy of public space. To heighten an awareness of overlooked networks within the built environment, this thesis intends to represent the city block to the public realm through a series of shifted architectural relationships, a collection of reading conventions.

