

Baltimore: Divided City

Baltimore: Open City



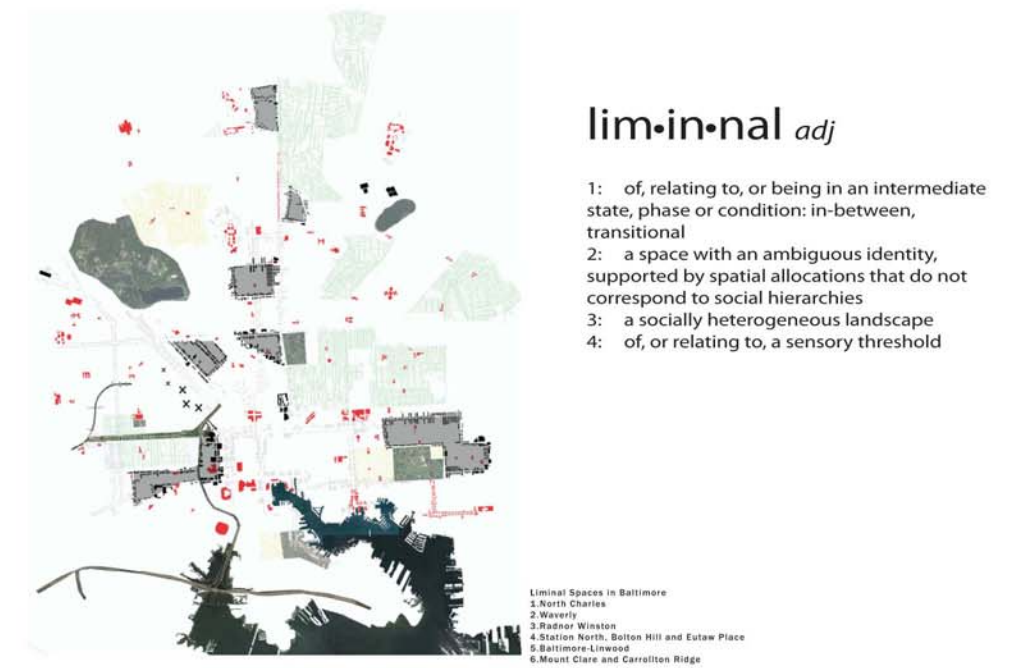
De-industrialization and the subsequent Terlarization and Globalization of the Economy has led to job loss & the relocation of Baltimore's production base to the suburbs and countries abroad



Industrial jobs have been replaced with jobs in the service industry, leaving low-skilled employees with only low-paying employment options

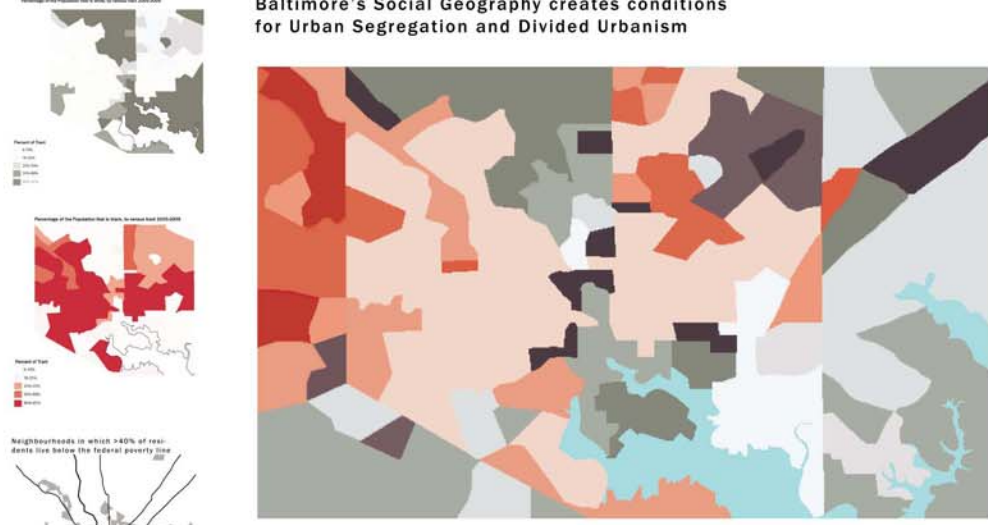


But, there are cracks in the social structure: **Liminal Spaces** in the city provide opportunities for interventions that seek to promote openness due to their fluid identities and their ambiguous position within the social hierarchy of the city



The city's spatial arrangements and urban conditions reflect its political and socio-economic hierarchies

Baltimore's Social Geography creates conditions for Urban Segregation and Divided Urbanism



Urban segregation creates conditions of social inequity in the city as poverty, crime, health and education become spatially concentrated and entire segments of the population become excluded from semi-nal resources and opportunities

Urban Segregation produces a divided city, in which resources are not equitably distributed

The social inequities produced by segregation create a city that is not Socially Sustainable



What Makes a Neighbourhood Liminal?

Bourgeois and Marginal Spaces co-exist with Marginalized and High-Crime Spaces



Centuries of Exclusionary Politics have shaped urban segregation in Baltimore

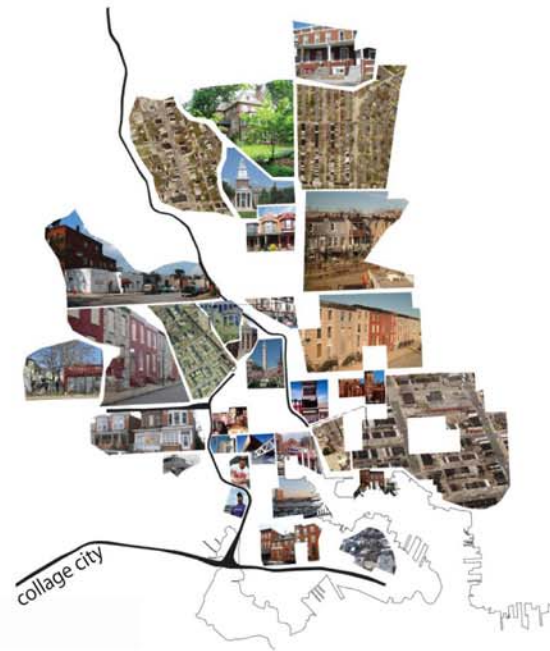
The Evolution of the Black Ghetto in Baltimore; its shape was determined by racial zoning practices, and once de jure segregation was deemed illegal, by redlining, racially restrictive covenants and white violence and coercion



Resistance to segregation and discrimination took many forms; one of its most violent articulations were the 1968 Baltimore Race Riots, which took place throughout the city, following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr

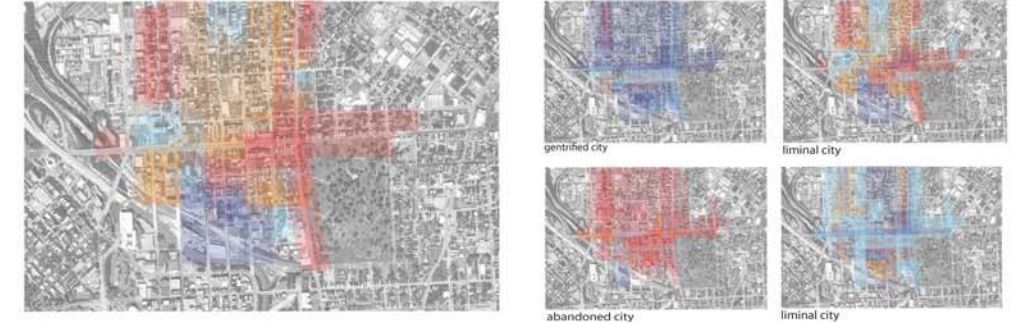


Baltimore's social division is one of the city's greatest shortcomings. But, it is not a tragic city, or a lost city, because alongside its divisions and its inequities, the city has a vibrant and diverse culture.

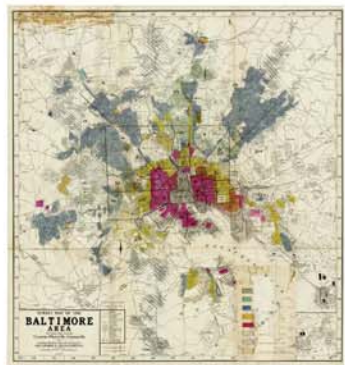


CURRENT CITY

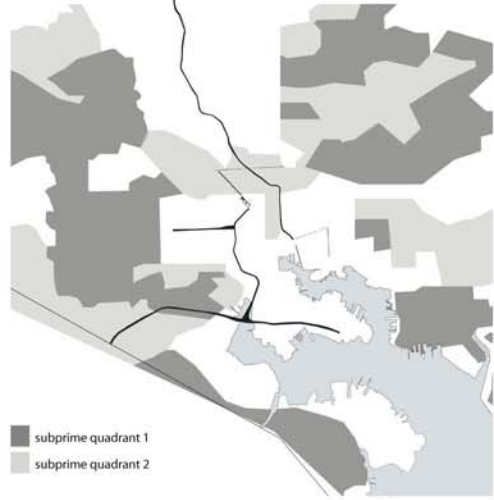
AFTER CITY?



A Racist Political Economy has laid the foundations and embedded blight and disinvestment in African American communities



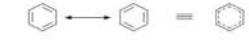
Sub-prime loans were concentrated in areas occupied by African Americans. Loan defaults have compounded the blight and disinvestment in these neighbourhoods that were set in place by discriminatory lend practices by banks that were endorsed by the state



resonance as an urban design strategy

The Goal is a Knowledge turned to Resonance, not dichotomy

In physics, resonance is the tendency of a system to oscillate with larger amplitude at some frequencies than at others.



Through resonance, groupings and accumulations confront each other, but also confront breakaways and escapes. This is where inversions of social order occur.

This project overlays a range of abstract and material social conditions onto the site; each suggest a particular program that promotes openness and access through resonance.

By creating encounters between diverse groups through programming, this project will create opportunities for friction and greater consciousness of the city's sociology.

Programming responds to social injustice in the city by addressing social needs of the neighbourhood and the city as a whole. Interventions are placed polemically to preserve the liminal quality of the area.

The goal is to open the city by encouraging the emergence and persistence of heterogeneous social landscapes.

