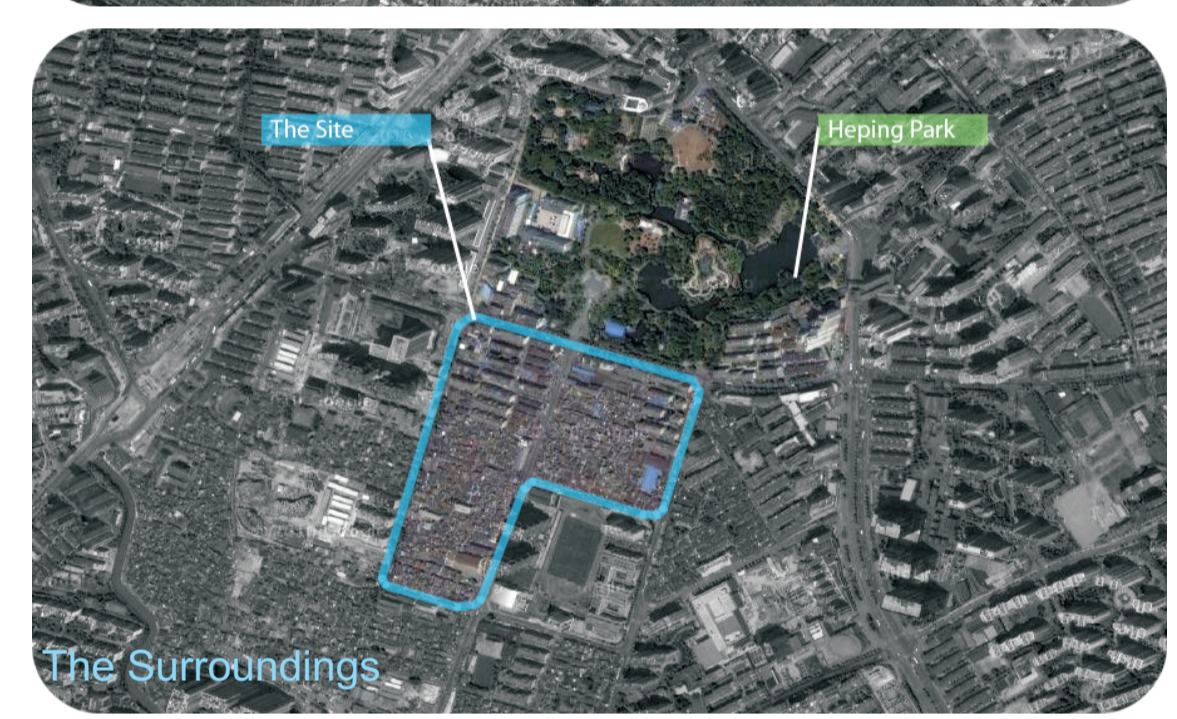
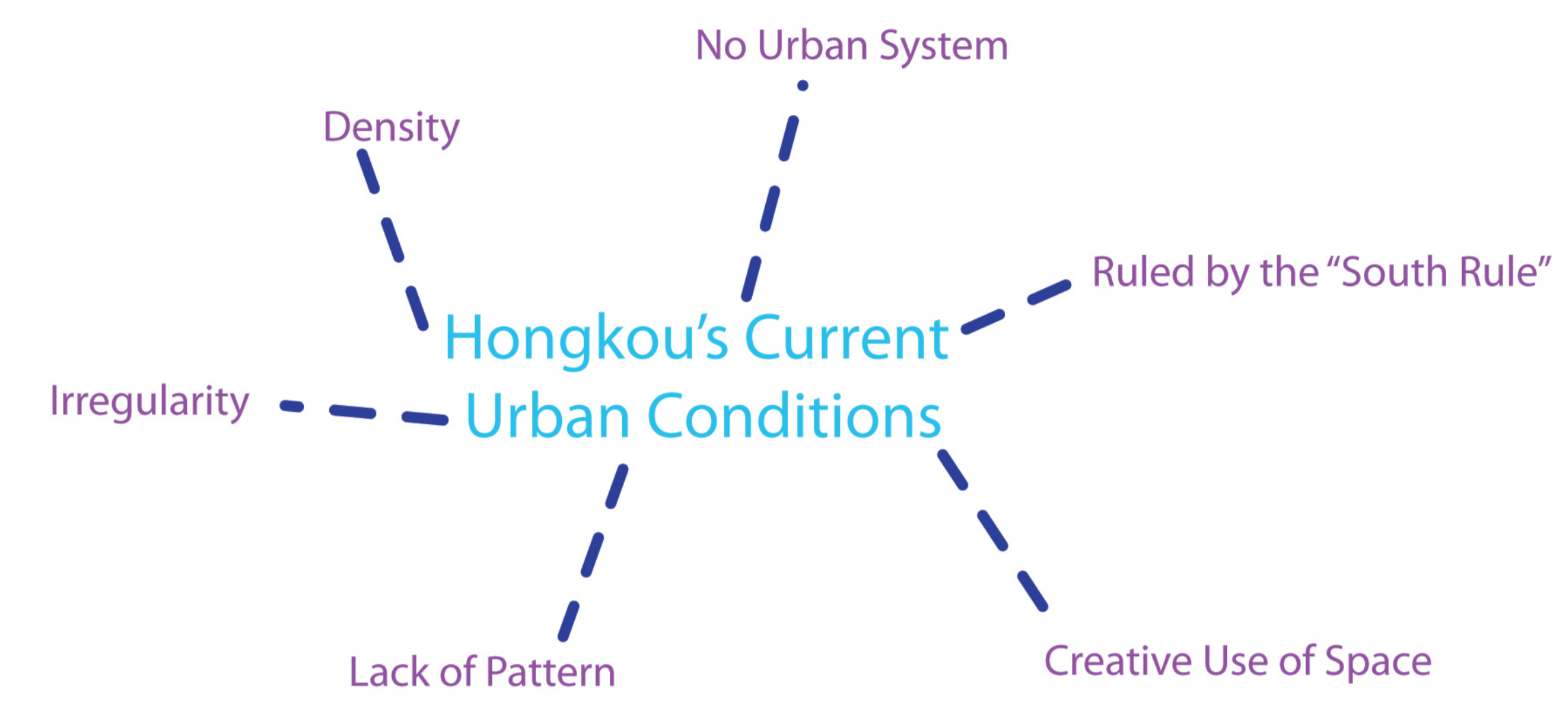


Location



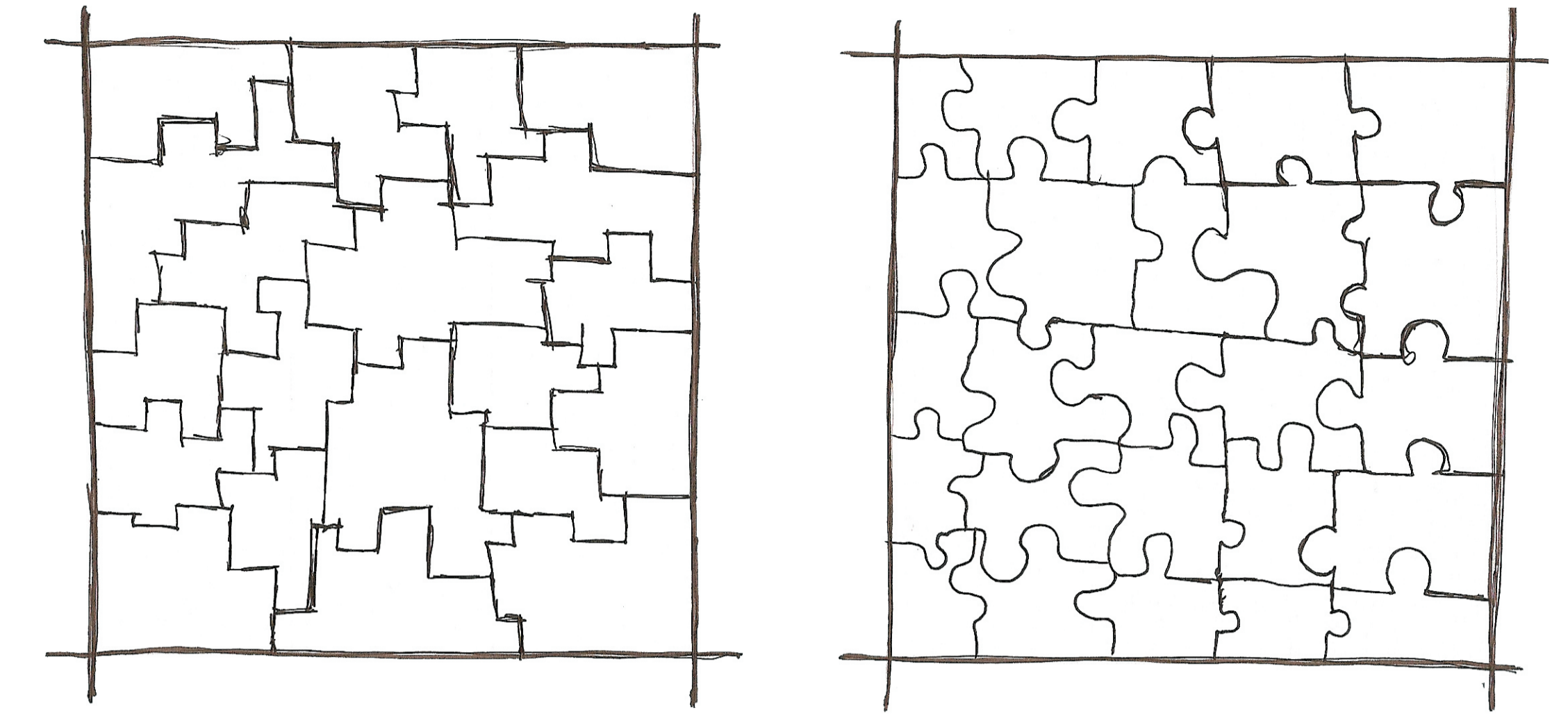
Current Situation



The area is very highly populated and it is in great need of urban resources.

People living in the area are from low-income families and they try to use the space as best as possible.

An Urban Puzzle



Walking through the narrow streets of today's Hongkou feels like walking into a puzzle of urban disorder.

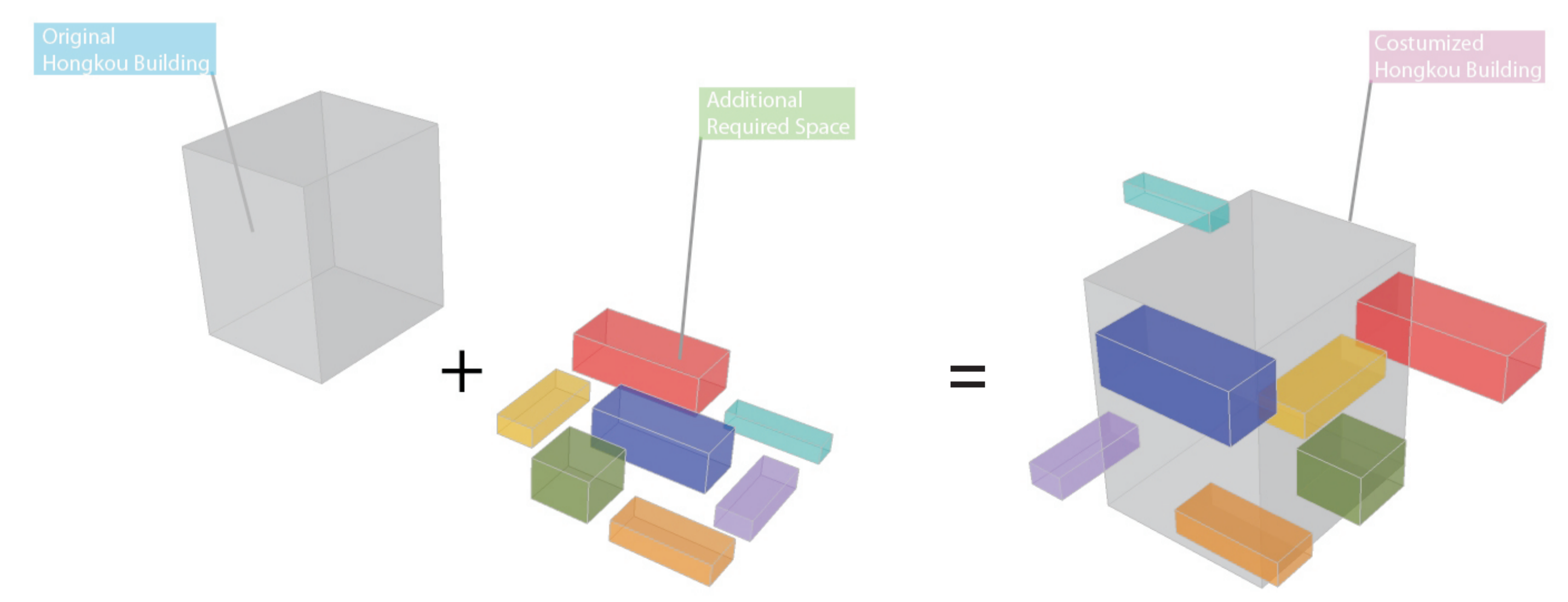
Due to the lack of space, every meter is used either as semi-private or public areas. These areas are created by the residents for themselves.

The alleys are like a complex maze that take you all over the neighborhood and even though every corner looks very similar, but it is almost guaranteed for the non-residents (visitors) to go back to place that they started from.

Photo Montage



Creating the Necessary Additional Space



In Hongkou it is very evident that the residents are taking care of their own needs by providing the necessary requirements for themselves. Kind of a «Citizen Urban Planning» or a «Citizen Architecture».

They create sanitary fixtures and public spaces for the community, and they provide pirate electricity and also perhaps water systems for the neighborhood.

But one of the most interesting features, is the creation of the necessary spaces on the existing buildings. In Hongkou, you can easily see the new additional bedroom, balcony, toilet on every possible space on the buildings; and in some cases these new additional spaces are not only violating every architectural, construction and safety rules, but they are also ignoring the existing boundaries between the buildings or even, private and public spaces.