

The Map of RMB City



01. People's Palace – City Hall

The first institution which greets the visitors when they arrive at RMB City. This resemblance of the Forbidden City in Beijing possesses yellow tiles and red walls which remind one of the architectural style of the Qing Dynasty. The first floor of People's Palace is an information center where RMB City's basic information, news and facts about ongoing projects can be obtained. The second and third floors of the palace are used respectively as the law court and VIP meeting room for RMB City. People's Palace is also the venue for the city's special announcements, official events, and monthly meetings between its citizens and Mayor.

02. UCCA – People's Aerial Castle

This virtual futuristic architecture bears the appearance of a spaceship that is cloaked under the cold color of metal. People's Aerial Castle will be used by UCCA (Ullens Center for Contemporary Art) for the coming two years. We are looking forward to many virtual, artistic surprises jointly initiated the established art space and its interaction with RMB City.

03. People's Observation Wheel

The wheel, an emblem of revolving operations or even eternal return, is always related to motion. At the People's Observation Wheel, this symbol of movement is attached to a monument - an icon of eternity and also, static. What will the viewers see under/on the wheel? The digital fragments that unfurl every single moments into aeons, or the hyperreality that is compressed into a split-second of pixels?

04. People's Slum

This village encompassed by a city seems like a mirror of Chinese lower class' lives: food stands on the streets, tiny, handwritten advertisement half-hung on the walls flaking off... it seems like people may even feel the humid tension which are common in densely populated Southern Chinese cities. Yet, in this virtual analogue of Chinese small cities, the absence of crowd in real life acts as the biggest difference between real and virtual life. In a virtual venue which presents the fragments of grass-root wisdoms and labors, what is coming up next?

05. People's Bank

At first glance, People 's Bank appears to bear an extreme likeness to the Hong Kong headquarters of a Chinese state-owned bank. Yet after a closer look, you will see that this building which stands towering under the digital sky is composed of (virtual) gold bars. Gold, noticeable for its outstanding stability, contrasts the cold randomness, speculativeness and transience of the virtual world and modern financial systems. Seems like the gold's warm color is colder than the steel and window panes.

06. People's Love Center

Find your way into the panda-shaped architecture through a secret entrance on RMB City's crane, and feel the love from the city!

07. People's Factory

Factories are everywhere in China - the world's factory. Globalization and exploitation are questioned in RMB City, as this factory is placed in the crevice between the real and virtual world.

08. People's Waterpark

Literally People's bathhouse in Chinese. This recreational aqua-fun reminds people of China's public bathhouses that were ubiquitous when private bathrooms were luxuries for common people. Just like saloons and coffee houses in the West, Chinese bathhouses form true "public spheres" (as defined by Habermas) where discourses of freedom are produced and disseminated. We hope that People's Waterpark is not only an extension of this space, but the extension of freedom itself.

09. People's Park

Looking like a rustic twin of Beijing Olympic Stadium ("Bird's Nest"), People's Park is a sports venue open to every citizen in Second Life. For your information, no entrance fee for this Bird's Nest. People's Park will become a place for various types of "social competitions." In the post-Olympics China, when "competition" has taken off its glorious gown of countries, when nationalism is not the only legitimacy of a match, should we take the virtual world as our new starting point?

10. People's Temple

With the appearance of a golden bodhisattva in a supermarket cart, People's Temple is the spiritual center for RMB citizens to re-invent their religions. Young artist Huang He buried one of the most respected Buddhist (Mahayana) texts - the Vajra Prajna Paramita Sutra (the "Diamond Sutra") - into the bodhisattva's right eye, as both a blessing to the city, and an inquiry to religion itself.

11. People's Patron Saint

Inspired by heroes and dance troupes during the Cultural Revolution, the statue examines heroism and anti-heroism in modern China.

12. People's Big Elephant Center

Mimicking one of the unfinished buildings that are ubiquitous in Chinese cities (due to investors' pulling out of capital halfway through construction), the rustic structure subtly reveals the complex exchange between urbanism and capitalism.

13. People's Worksite

Set in a (virtual) typical Chinese construction site, the worksite, where many RMB events have taken place (including "Play with Your Triennale" as part of the international Yokohama Triennale), allows juxtaposition of a grass-roots daily reality and exciting art happenings.