

## Of Continuity and Disruption: Through Lived Space and Representation

Tihomir Viderman

The four posters presented here were developed by Saskia Wacke and Ruqian Sun, Master's students in architecture and planning at BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg. They were created as part of a study excursion to Naples, undertaken from 2 to 9 October 2023 and jointly conceived by the Chair of Urban Management at BTU and the Institute for Research on Innovation and Services for Development of the National Research Council in Naples (CNR-IRISS). Framed around the conceptual tension between continuity and disruption, the excursion explored how this tension is inscribed in the material, social, and symbolic textures of the city.

The posters were developed as two complementary pairs. One poster was produced before the excursion, responding to the narrative representation of Naples in Elena Ferrante's novel *My Brilliant Friend*. The other was produced afterward, drawing on situated encounters with the city. Together, these paired posters explore how perceptions shift through embodied experience of urban space and its representation. They also reflect how visual methods in architecture and planning can support relational understandings of urban space, shaped by overlapping discursive, spatial, and temporal layers. Creating two posters, before and after the encounter with the lived space of the city, invited students to reflect on how interpretations are shaped by positionality, situated experience, and the act of representation itself. The 1925 essay on Naples by Walter Benjamin and Asja Lacis served as a conceptual anchor for this explorative exercise. Blending personal observation with critical reflection, they describe the city as porous, challenging compartmentalised views of urban life by showing how spatial and temporal conditions unfold through the interplay of solidity and fluidity, visibility and concealment, sensed and formal hierarchies, tangible and imagined boundaries. The notion of porosity foregrounds the city as a field shaped through the

entanglement of lived space, representation, imagination, and interpretation. This attention to contingency also unsettles the boundary between experience and its representation. The posters produced before and after the excursion visualise this relational topology. Translating impressions from text and from encounter with lived space into visual form shows how interpretation not only reshapes what is represented and experienced but is also reshaped by those engaging with it. This interplay between experience and representation formed the conceptual foundation of an open-ended process, where interpretation shaped and expressed students' understanding of how urban space is produced. Instead of closure, it invited attention to temporal fragmentation and the imagining of future possibilities.

Fig. 1 Visualisation of a house in Naples based on the reading of Elena Ferrante's novel. [Author: Saskia Wacke, 2023].

Fig. 2 Visualisation of a house in Naples based on experience from the excursion. [Author: Saskia Wacke, 2023].

Fig. 3 Perception of urban life in Naples from the reading of Elena Ferrante's novel. [Author: Ruqian Sun, 2023].

Fig. 4 Perception of urban life in Naples from situated encounters with the city. [Author: Ruqian Sun, 2023].

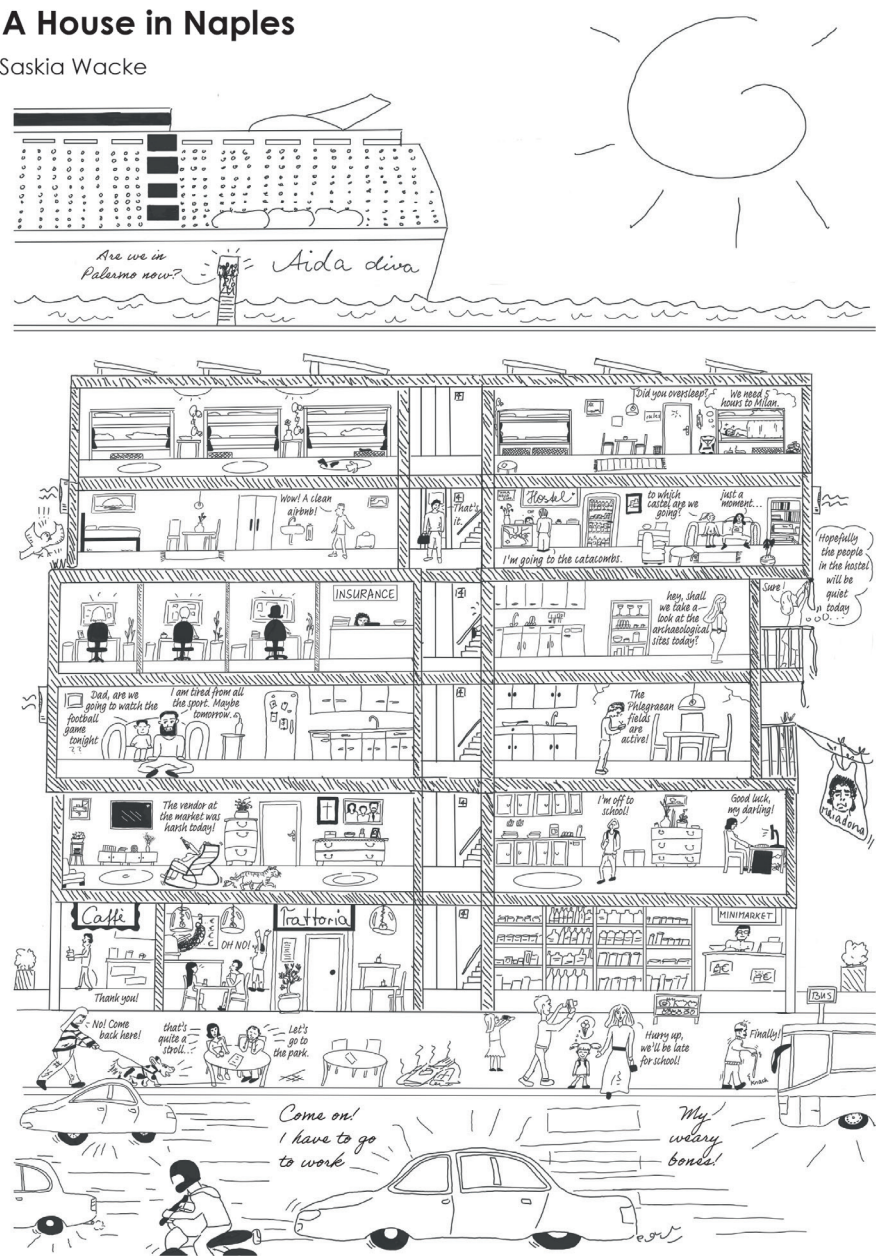
# A House in Naples

Saskia Wacke



# A House in Naples

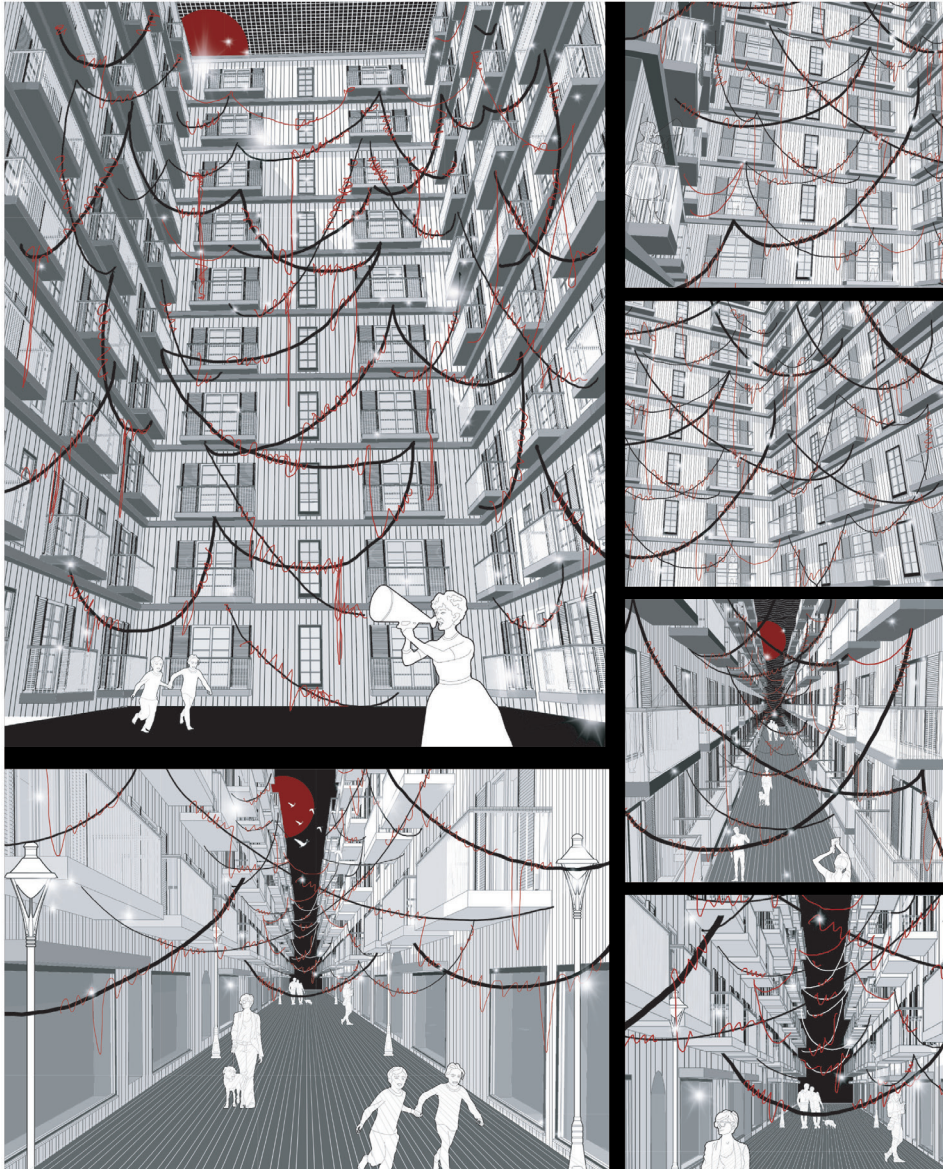
Saskia Wacke





## Naples' Nets

Ruqian Sun





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