In the Dalang neighbourhood on the periphery of Shenzhen, we encountered this massive, vacant, shell of a 5-star hotel. As part of Dalang's transition from blue-collar to white-collar society the surrounding steel and garment factories are currently being transformed into design offices, housing and museums under the banner of Fashion Valley.

Our intervention questions the ability of such a top-down approach to planning to fully regenerate the neighbourhood whilst maintaining its identity. Our proposal considers how the hotel structure could be repurposed to create some of the socio-economic conditions necessary to regenerate the neighbourhood whilst also incorporating the needs of the existing population of migrant workers. To achieve this, an accessible space catering for all the daily activities of a migrant worker is provided. Spaces for education, production, consumption, dwelling and leisure are provided, as well as the urban circulatory infrastructure needed to engage with the surrounding area. Through the integration of different programmatic functions we believe an active, collaborative environment may be nurtured giving opportunities to migrant workers to acquire the necessary skills and equipment to become entrepreneurs.

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FASHION VILLAGE