

## **Sustain what? by Kyong Park**

What is sustainability? Is it a technology, the build environment, the natural ecology, a social and political ideology, or simply a current and popular life-style? Sustain what? In the fields of architecture and urban planning, will that be houses, buildings and cities? Sustain them for how long? Forever? Is it tied to the life span of objects that we produce and consume, or is it about systems and process of life and existence in which we participate?

It is difficult to imagine the reality of sustainability within a globally dominant economy that can only sustain itself only by endless growth in production and upgrading? Not only the obsolescence and replacement of objects are integral to the globalizing economy, even cities are disposed, moved or replaced. Will functionality of human species, in the realm of sustainability of life forms, become unsustainable, as our technologies extends, duplicate, perform and emulate us, to replace us with a bodiless existence, society and culture.

If extinction, if opposite to sustainability, is tied to resources, then does this means that we should no longer make new buildings, or even renovate them? If tied to energy, does this means that we should stop moving industries, labors and economies from dying territories to green or dead ones? Is life only sustainable as a theory, not as a reality? What and where is the balance of existence and extinction? Sustainability? Then what is sustainability.

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