Braced! Architecture on the Fringe of Collapse

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Manifesto

We live in a world, from countries like Mexico to India, full of cities densely populated by buildings that are structurally unstable. Taiwan, among the list of countries, has one of the most dense population of buildings at risk officially identified by the government. Starting by compiling a large list of most at risk buildings in Taipei city, I observed a lack of intervention in downtime recovery from natural disasters due to economic and materialistic restrains. While buildings that were falling apart were immediately taken down after natural disasters, those that are still standing are stuck in a limbo of renewal process. With natural disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons, and many more, these at risk buildings are at the fringes of collapse; there is an urgent need to address this problem. Braced! investigates the issue of structural instability through a design intervention that reimagines the structure and space of buildings by bracing rather than demolishing.