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 identified by the government. During the recent major earthquake in Taichung, I observed a lack of intervention in downtown recovery from natural disasters due to economic and municipal reasons. While buildings that were collapsing were immediately taken down after natural disasters, those that are still standing are stuck in a limbo of minimal process. With natural disasters like earthquakes, tornadoes, typhoons, and many more, these 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 imagines the structure and space of buildings by bracing rather than demolishing.