

B2:1/3
Title: A Note
By: Tobias Berger
From: somewhere in Hong Kong / China



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A Note

Tens of millions of people in China live in dormitories. These are living and sleeping quarters for the employees of the small, medium, and big companies. Hardly a factory does not provide these free places for their employees. Eight to twelve people live and sleep together in each room. A common kitchen provides food for all, only the cutlery is private property. But that's it. No private space, not even a cupboard. I don't know if the people love it or hate it. I can't comment on it—I can only describe it. I know that daily thousands of people move to areas where this working and living situation is provided. Especially for young people this is reality and it seems much better than where they come from.

For me as one of these cultural jet setters this proximity between working place and living places and the non-existence of private space (other than a bed) seems very limiting. But observing it for the first time also makes it a bit strange to talk about displacement and non-places like hotels and airports—places that are in fact really luxurious, exciting, and stimulating.