

Fragmented Spatial Realities: Urban AR and the Fracture of Public Space

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What is Urban AR Fragmentation?

AR mediates perception directly by overlaying digital elements onto people's sensory perception of the real environment. But not everyone shares the same AR layer. With AR, people in the same physical space can perceive incompatible spatial realities, where the shared references needed for communication and social interaction in public space dissolve. Urban AR extends existing urban social and political fragmentation to the perceptual level itself.

Driving Forces for Fragmentation

Platform Enclosure

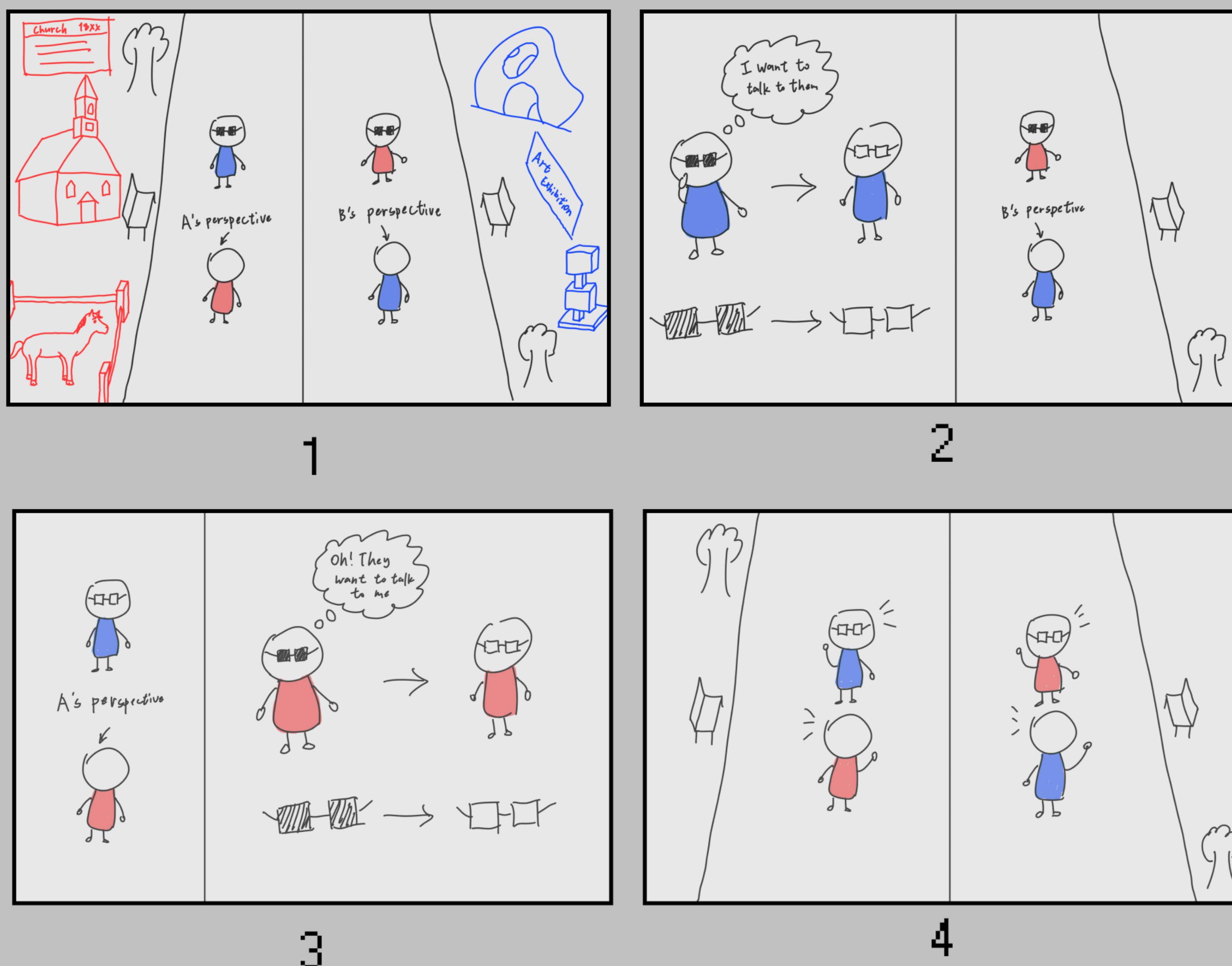
DIY & Individual Applications

Personalization Algorithms

Why NOT a Unified Urban AR?

Single AR System → State Surveillance / Corporate Monopoly → Eliminate Diversity & Plurality

Seamful Design for Legible Fragmentation



Beyond Legible

Reframe AR as
Perceptual Infrastructure:

shared perception can no longer be a design baseline

Meaningful Interaction
Across Realities:

placemaking, community building, civic negotiations

Understand Asymmetric
Perceptual Experiences:

new frameworks, methods, and design principles



Portfolio



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