BEIJING IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE BICYCLE
OBSERVATIONS OF URBAN SYSTEMS DURING PEAK BICYCLE URBANISM.
LESSONS FOR PEDAL-POWERED FUTURE CITIES.
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BEIJING BIKE WEEK 2012

HYBRID BICYCLE CULTURE SPACE - BEIJING

BEIJING VINTAGE RIDE 2013

BUILDING A NEW CULTURE THROUGH THE MEDIA
1. WITNESSING OLD BEIJING
2. CULTURAL REMNANTS
3. A BICYCLE URBANISM
4. ANOTHER MOBILITY EQUATION
1. WITNESSING OLD BEIJING
THE WORLD’S LARGEST BIKE CITY?

WHAT WAS THE BICYCLE KINGDOM?

COMMUNISM THE DAWN OF THE NEW BICYCLE AGE
BICYCLES: ECONOMIC AND SOCALLY EQUAL

1949 - 1958: 58% ANNUAL GROWTH

1940's - 500,000 BIKES
1950's - 1 MILLION BIKES
1980's - 0.5 BILLION BIKES

500 MILL UNITS - MOST POPULAR VEHICLE ON EARTH PERIOD
BEIJING GOLDEN AGE - 70'S & 80'S
THE STATS - A MINI MEGA CITY ON THE BIKE

5.4 MILLION POPULATION
58% MODAL SHARE
3.3 MILLION MOVING BY BIKE

BEIJING 1986
3.3 MILLION CYCLISTS HAD TO SHARE THE SPACE

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1 JUNCTION PEAK FLOW: 20,000 CYCLISTS PER HOUR

INFRASTRUCTURE & SAFETY

A SCHOOL OF FISH

DOING IT ALL BY BIKE

Source: Wang Wen Lan
1980’S CYCLE CHIC

Source: Wang Wen Lan

2. CULTURAL REMNANTS
BEIJING’S BICYCLE LIVELIHOODS

Source: Wang Wen Lan
3. A BICYCLE URBANISM
4. ANOTHER MOBILITY EQUATION?

THE KEY SYSTEMS THAT MADE THIS TRAFFIC VOLUME WORK?

A DIFFERENT TRAFFIC FLOW

1.

2.

Source: Tomas Kozelsky
Is this relevant to our future cities?

People living in cities (billions):

- 0.2 billion in 1900
- 0.7 billion in 1950
- 3.2 billion in 2008
- 5.0 billion by 2050

In developing countries:

94%

Cumulative number of new trips globally 2014-2050

≈ 54,000,000,000,000,000
Thank you!