





Namdaemun Market is a **borderland**.<sup>1</sup> It operates as an amalgamated 'other' somewhere on the perimeter of Seoul's aspired formal economy. Although designated and devalued as 'other' by corporate culture's dominant economic narrative, it is a thriving **organic machine**-- a perpetual work, operating twenty four hours a day to move 1,800 tons of goods in and 1,700 tons of goods out. Compressed into a 10 acre area, 10,172 registered independent shops, 1,250 street shops and stalls, and 300,000 to 400,000 customers, occupy a space which was once on the **perimeter** of the urban. Located adjacent to 남대문 Namdaemun (south gate) along the historic city wall, which once defined what was Seoul and 'other' -- sanctioned and non-sanctioned, Namdaemun Market is the **bastard child** of the 창고 chango (permanent storehouse) and the 장시 jangshi (temporary market).

to continue follow the orange line

image: reflection of Namdaemun Market off big box building surface



image: Namdaemun market temporary structures being assembled in dusk

<sup>1</sup> Saskia Sassen in "Analytic Borderlands: Race, Gender and Representation in the New City" (1991) regarding the City as the instrument through which ...to reread the city's economy in a way that recovers organizational, spatial, and cultural dimensions that are now lost in representations of that economy."

folded in on itself in such a way as to connect the center-front module to the corner-back module-- an oblique way of arriving at





to continue follow the road - to continue

the king's road, Chongno, was further spatially imposed upon this spine formed by 3,000 Chongno road, each time the king passed through this space. The store units which occupied the road changed were not spatially affected, the units occupying the center axis were in relinquishing their sites in deference to state power.



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The most important 시장 (commercial area) at the Eukeuljun, located centrally along the road. In contrast to the first character in number seven, the first character of Eukeuljun is the character of the six types of goods (선전, 연표집, 변주전, 지전, 저포전, 네외어) the government. Merchants registered with the government, were permitted to have units of stores that lined Chongno road. With only one item per store permitted goods tended to locate next to one another. The impact of this spatial discipline today: stores selling the same type of goods still swarm together to form one item



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