Recombinant Urbanism
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DONGGUAN

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Timeline of Dongguan

1949 Foundation of PRC
The founding of the People's Republic of China was formally proclaimed by Mao Zedong, the Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), on October 1, 1949 at 3:00 PM in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, now Beijing (formerly Peking), the new capital of China.

1978 Chinese economic reform
China’s open-door policy and economic reforms jumpstarted the development of nine municipalities designated by the Guangdong government as the Pearl River Delta Economic Zone, in addition to Hong Kong and Macau. Industrial development and export processing zones, as well as technology parks, have proliferated, with domestic and foreign enterprises in various industries establishing major operations and headquarters in different cities.

1985 Start of Semi-urbanization
Dongguan earned city status in 1985, and was upgraded to prefecture city status three years later. During this period, the city changed its focus from an agricultural town into a manufacturing hub, with an average annual growth of up to 18%.

2015 China’s “Sin City”
In February 2015, the government launched a crackdown on the sex trade in Dongguan, which has been dubbed China’s “Sin City.” More than 2,000 hotels, saunas, and massage parlors that catered to the city’s migrant workers and visiting businesspeople were shut down, according to state media.

2018 Guangzhou–Hong Kong high-speed train greater bay area development
The high-speed train services between Guangzhou and Hong Kong was commenced on 23 September 2018, as the G6501/6508 trains formerly operated between Guangzhou and Shenzhen were extended to Hong Kong West Kowloon, when the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong high-speed rail was opened.

1930 - 1842 First Opium War
The destruction of opium at Humen began on 3 June 1839 involving the destruction of 1,000 long tons of illegal opium seized from British traders under the aegis of Lin Zeu, an Imperial Commissioner of China. Conducted on the banks of the Pearl River outside Humen Town, Dongguan, which provided capitol for Great Britain to declare war on China. What followed is now known as the First Opium War, a conflict that initiated China’s opening for trade with foreign nations under a series of treaties with the western powers.

Construction of Humen Pearl River Bridge
The Humen Pearl River Bridge is a bridge over the Pearl River. It connects the Nanhu District of Guangzhou to Humen Town of Dongguan. It is part of the G9411 Dongguan–Foshan Expressway. A newer bridge, known as Humen Bridge, opened to traffic in April 2019.

Urbanization in 34 years
The diagram shows the urbanization process in Dongguan over the past 34 years, highlighting the significant growth and development of the city.

The interplay of historical events and economic reforms has shaped Dongguan’s rapid transformation, making it a hub of industrial and cultural significance in the Pearl River Delta region.
1830 Enclaves.
The first Opium War Destruction of Opium at Humen.
Taiping Handbag Factory
China's first enterprises of "Three Import and Compensation Trade" policy.

Wanjiang Aozhou Ancient Pagoda
Dongxin Hotel

Xiaoping Deng
TIME magazine—Man of the Year

1978 Armatures,
Chinese economic reform
1997 Enclaves + Amature, Construction of Humen Bridge Connection between SW to SE
2015 Amatures, micro heterotopias
‘Sin City’, ‘China’s capital of sex’
Between Guangzhou and Shenzhen
2018 Armatures, Guangzhou-Kowloon Railway officially opened