STALLED: A Platform for Temporary Occupancy of Stalled Sites  

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The stalled construction site represents a contested urban space caught between the conflicting agendas of many interest groups. From politicians and developers to architects and historic preservationists, ongoing debates around the demolition and redevelopment of existing urban fabric often leads to a stalemate, placing parcels of valuable land in a state of limbo for extended stretches of time, from a few months to over 20 years. Numerous stalled sites of context, many in central locations with functioning building and infrastructural systems such as intact structural frames and access to electricity, and plumbing exist in urban centers around the country. Their vacant status presents both an eyesore to adjacent developments and a wasted spatial opportunity.

Making use of the untapped spatial potential of these urban voids, Stalled is an adaptable architectural prototype for small-scale, temporary interventions on vacant sites and properties slated for demolition based on a platform for opportunistic occupancy. The system presents a modular, easily disassembled kit-of-parts, adaptable to different site constraints, durations of occupancy, and programmatic needs: from pop-up event spaces to co-working facilities. Building off the expanding network of sharing economies, this plug-in architectural system operates alongside a symbiotic, custodial membership model. Members receive safe and affordable access to the site’s underused infrastructure. In return, all-hours activity provides a deterrent to vandalism and an additional revenue stream for stalled sites. Through this exchange, Stalled hopes to transform a loophole within the rapid cycles of real estate development into an opportunity to reimagine new models of time-based ownership.