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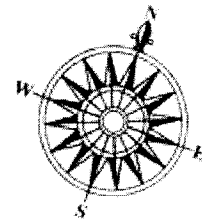
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Abstract

Casino Cities

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Abstract

The recent upsurge in licensed, themed gambling emporiums in Macao, South Africa, and Britain signals the emergence of the *casino city* as a global model of urban development and consumer culture. Casino cities thrive at the intersection of three complementary commercial spheres: the luxury goods and services industry, the corporate gaming (gambling) sector, and the international tourist trade. Critics have expressed concern that the casino city is encased in a straightjacket of blandness and predictability. Furthermore, it tends to steamroll indigenous culture and heritage, or alternately, co-opt it in order to create the illusion of the exotic. Finally, the casino city is a dual city where enclaves of conspicuous consumption and spectatorship are juxtaposed to areas of poverty and despair.

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