BBC Welcome to Lagos
• London-based Geographer
• Cross-disciplinary attitude
• PhD in Urban Environmental Policy in London
• Teaches at University College London
urban metabolism

cyborg urbanization

cinematic landscapes
Liquid City
water, landscape and social formation in 21st century Mumbai

Directed and produced by Matthew Gandy
"My essay "Learning from Lagos" in New Left Review is a response to spurious claims about the "distinctiveness" of African cities and conceptions of chaos as an alternative to more socially just forms of modernity with functional infrastructure systems."
Koolhaas / Harvard Project

1. Academia's bewilderment with new forms of accelerated urbanization in developing regions and the heavy redevelopment in existing urban areas.
2. The failure of design professions to adequately cope with these changes.
Koolhaas / Harvard Project
GANDY'S REACTION
"To treat the city as a living art installation, or compare it to the neutral space of research laboratory, is both to de-historicize and to depoliticize its experience. The informal economy of poverty celebrated by the Harvard team is the result of a specific set of policies pursued by Nigeria's military dictatorships over the last decades under IMF and World Bank guidance, which decimated the metropolitan economy."
Fetishization of Slum Life

\(a\) : an object (as a small stone carving of an animal) believed to have magical power to protect or aid its owner; *broadly* : a material object regarded with superstitious or extravagant trust or reverence

\(b\) : an object of irrational reverence or obsessive devotion : prepossession
Is it a Prototype?
Very little Waste.
Fluid.
Innovative.
Lack of infrastructure.

>70% Lack regular employment.

"A combination of external debt, currency collapse and capital flight has contributed towards an investment crisis across virtually every sector of the Nigerian economy"
A case study in dealing with exploitation.
Structural Adjustment Policies are economic policies which countries must follow in order to qualify for new World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans and help them make debt repayments on the older debts owed to commercial banks, governments and the World Bank. Although SAPs are designed for individual countries but have common guiding principles and features which include export-led growth; privatisation and liberalisation; and the efficiency of the free market.

Africa spends more on debt repayment than health care.
Al Jazeera Nigeria Financial Report
Human Cost of African Debt