Urbanity is a form of excess, our excessive accretion within the landscape at particular natural confluences. The paper discusses excess, popular culture and heritage within the city of Liverpool how particular excesses have seen the rise, demise and re-rise of the city.

Georges Bataille discusses excess in ‘The Accursed Share’ explaining the superabundance of light and consequently life which in its plenitude can be used for growth…. Nature therefore becomes superabundant as excess and confluences of this natural excess tend to be settled as cities which, by their own nature become excessive concentrations of our cultural activities, characterised by a proliferation of objects, messages and signs…. Baudrillard has postulated that we live in new era of simulation and seduction. Reproduction replaces production, and the media spectacle
proliferates and self-references as an “omnipresent screen of consciousness…. that becomes a carnival of mirrors” (Keller, D. 2005-7). Baudrillard anticipates this simulation society expanding and excreting ever more objects, messages and signs in a spiral of uncontrolled growth and replication. Excess has of course long been a characteristic associated with cities; Aristotle considered abundance-bestowed freedom whilst Plato postulated a divine plenitude…..

Popular culture is difficult to pin down. It does however refer to “beliefs, practices and the objects through which they are organised that are widely shared amongst a population” (Murkerji & Schudson 1991) its also enjoyable and we enthusiastically participate in it, otherwise it wouldn’t satisfy its own defining criteria. As a consequence popular culture is also excessive in that it is both overproduced and overconsumed. It does however tend towards a reciprocal cyclic imposition influence from both directions creating what has been termed a ‘circuit of culture’ (du Gay 1997).

Du Gay, Paul Production of culture, Sage in association with the Open University, 1997
Murkerji, Chandra & Schudson Michael; Rethinking Popular Culture; Berkeley: University of California Press. 1991 p03

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The central research interest is around our inter-relationship with our urban environment, how we perceive it and reciprocally design and intervene in it. All research interests are directly linked to and reciprocally folded back into the design studio. Past interest have centered on Traditional and contemporary Japanese spatial formats 1994-9. Visualisation frameworks for 3D patterns as aids to intervene in the urban environment 1999- 2005. Kinetic / morphing forms that are responsive or generative. 2005-10. Digital and analogue drawing systems as design aids 2005-2010. Recent interests (and outputs) have been related to ‘balanced asymmetry’ emerging from an interest in Japanese aesthetics and ‘edge phenomena’ influenced by Snohetta’s Opera House and relating to Liverpool’s geographic political and urban disposition.