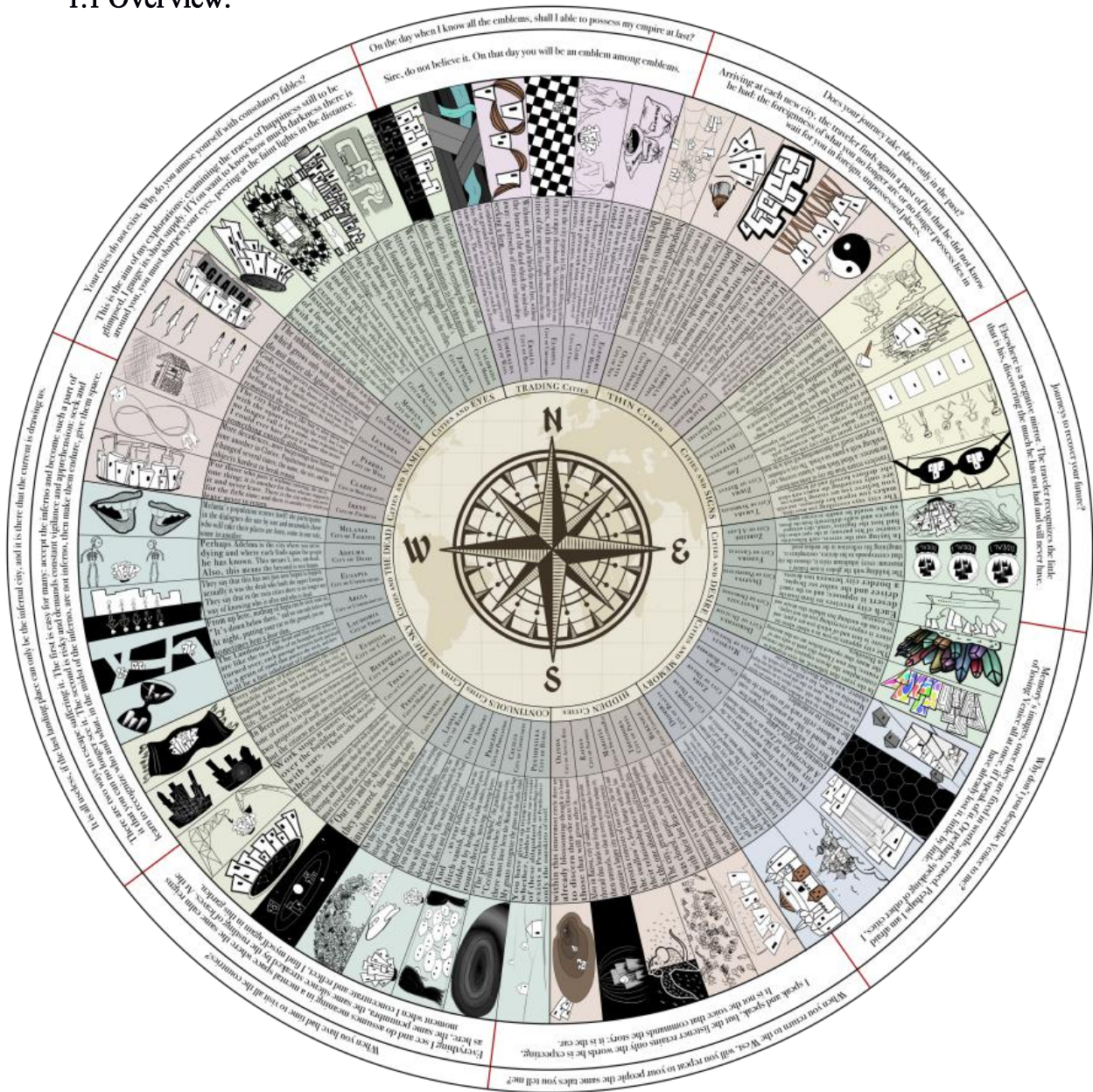


Pictogram: Invisible City (Italo Calvino)

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I. The Pictogram:

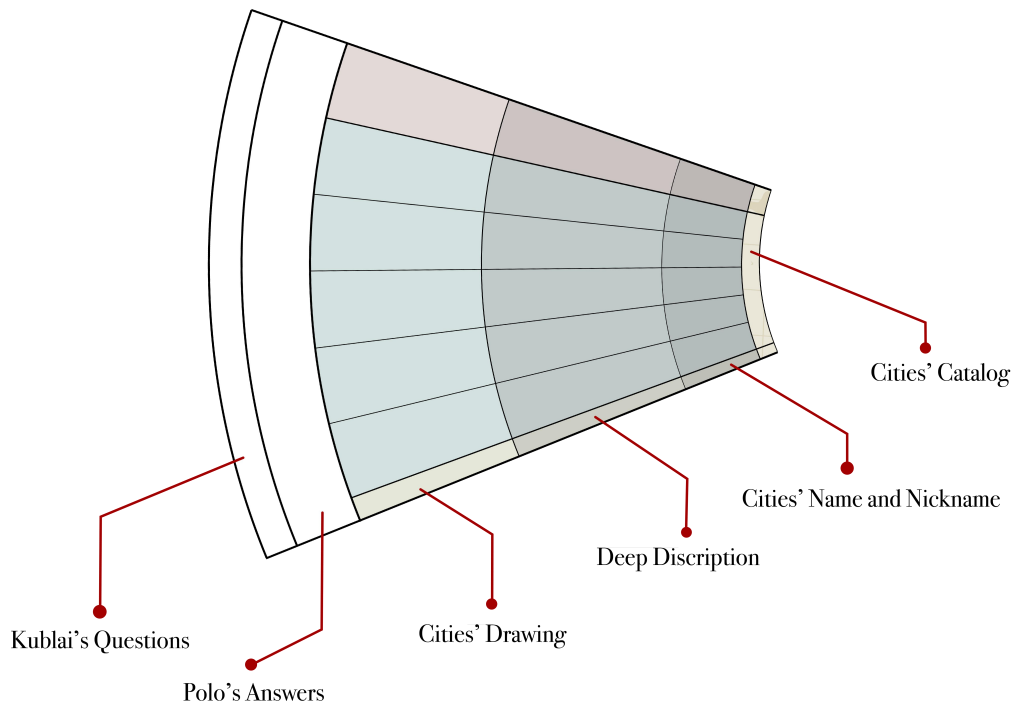
1.1 Overview:



Link to the original image:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1t76eTXb374sHqTbhHRBgDU78v6E0v9Jx?usp=sharing>

1.2 Legend



II. Artistic Statement:

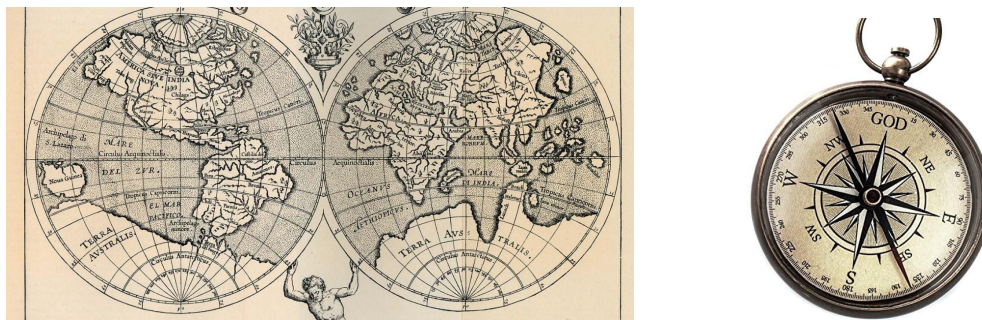
After reading the *Invisible City*, I was utterly impressed by Calvino's colossal construction. He not only described the fifty-five non-existent cities, but also expressed the philosophical understanding of the city, society, and individual between the words and lines. Although these cities are fictitious and exaggerated, we can always feel that the characteristics or metaphors in the cities seem to be familiar, as if we can find a correspondence in our lives one by one. In other words, the characteristics of these fifty-five cities add up to the real world, which makes this book more connotative and worth of study.

I made this pictogram for two purposes.

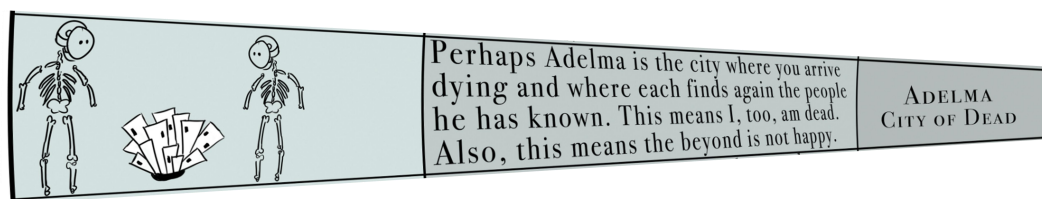
The first is to present this vast city construction system clearly. Calvino disrupted the city during the narrative, which makes them seem that they are all parallel and irrelevant. I want to sort out the cities and make them visualize. Meanwhile, I want to try to figure out one of the conversion relationship between images and text. Because Calvino only describe the cities with words, and different people may have different interpretations and imaginations of all the cities. I hope that I can find a common visualized interpretation of Calvino's text.

The second is to tap deeper connotations. In the text, both the communication between Marco Polo and the emperor and the cities' descriptions have very philosophical words. Polo and Kublai are the only characters appear in the book, with a historical origin. They have completely different personalities and identities, so they often collide with each other during discussions. Basically, the discussion was based on the emperor's text and Polo's answer. I want to dig them out to make people intuitively feel the philosophy aspect of this book. The above two points have contributed to the content appearing in the pictogram.

The form of this pictogram was inspired by two tools used in navigation, map and compass (羅盤) .



In my opinion, the map represents reality and the compass represents ideal. The map can only be drawn through continuous exploration, fieldwork, physical calculations, and the accumulation of explorers. The compass is linked to the unknown, while feng shui masters and navigators are all using the compass to try to explore what proves to be in their minds. I want to use this to imply the contradiction of reality and fiction from the book. And when these fifty-five fictional cities are merged on a map, where the compass points to is our present world.



The above shows all the information of a example city in the pictogram, from left to right is the visualized version, deeper foreshadowing from the text, and city name&nickname. Only the city hand drawings and nicknames are presented after my personal interpretation, the rest of the content is derived from the original text with my re-structure and combing. The reason why this is because I want to retain Calvino's own feelings in the book so that when viewers see my pictogram, they can expand the imagination the same as when reading the original text.