We usually assume that a building gets first designed, then built, then inhabited. From Ingold’s alternative perspective however, a ‘building is a process that is continually going on’ and it is always about calibrating the balance between human, organic and non-organic components. This talk applies this thinking to the large, bureaucratic, mass housing ‘system’ in Singapore. I demonstrate that once built, a high-rise starts on its journey of decay. To keep a building built as it was intended requires constant maintenance and repair work, a kind of everyday building.

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